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TRENDS AND OUTLOOKS

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R95 **Russian Economy in 2021. Trends and outlooks. (Issue 43)** / [V. Mau et al; scientific editing by Kudrin A.L., Doctor of sciences (economics), Radygin A.D., Doctor of sciences (economics), Sinelnikov-Murylev S.G., Doctor of sciences (economics)]; Gaidar Institute. – Moscow: Gaidar Institute Publishers, 2022. – 568 pp.: illust.

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The review “Russian Economy. Trends and Outlooks” has been published by the Gaidar Institute since 1991. This is the 43th issue. This publication provides a detailed analysis of the most significant trends in the Russian economy, global trends in the social and economic development. The work contains 6 big sections that highlight different aspects of Russia’s economic development, which allow to monitor all angles of ongoing events over a prolonged period: global economic and political challenges and national responses, economic growth and economic crisis; the monetary and budget spheres; financial markets and institutions; the real sector; social sphere; institutional changes. The work is based on an extensive array of statistical data that forms the basis of original computation and numerous charts confirming the conclusions.

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5.5. Demographic development in Russia in 2021¹

According to the Rosstat provisional data, Russia's population on January 1, 2022 was 145.5 million² (*Fig. 23*). The decline of the population in Russia has been observed since 2018 according to the pre-pandemic Rosstat median projection predicting that population decline will continue until the end of the projection period (2035). However, the spread of coronavirus infection had a significant impact on the population size in 2020—2021. According to provisional data from Rosstat, the Russian population has reduced by 692.900 compared to 2021.

In 2021, natural population decline in Russia reached 1 million people (3 times higher than in 2019). This is the maximum in the last 20 years (*Fig. 24*). The acceleration of natural decline was due to a significant growth in the number of deaths as a result of the spread of coronavirus infection and a continued decline in the number of births.

1 Author of section: *Khasanova R.R.*, Candidate of economic sciences, Senior researcher, ISAF RANEPА.

2 The All-Russian Population Census (ARP) took place in 2021. Population figures will be updated accounting results of Census.

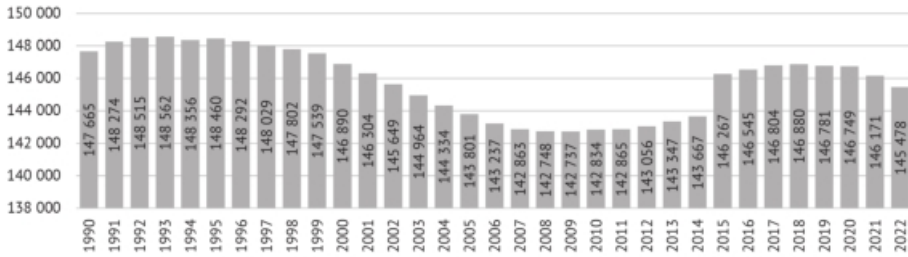


Fig. 23. Russia's resident population, 1990-2022, number of people at the beginning of the year

Source: Rosstat.

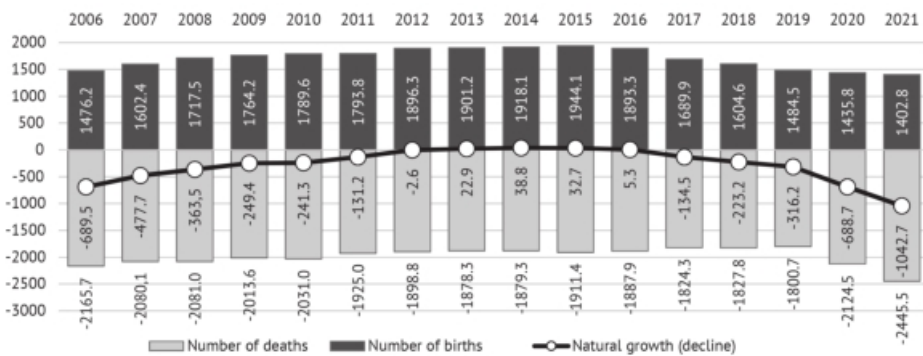


Fig. 24. Natural population growth (decline), 2006-2021, '000 people

Source: UISIS; Rosstat.

From January to December 2021, 1402.800 children were born in Russia, compared to 1435.800 a year earlier (a decline of 2.3%). The total fertility rate (TFR) was 9.6 ppm (9.8 in 2020). In March, June and November 2021, there was a slight increase in the number of births compared to 2020 (Fig. 25). At the start of the pandemic many experts predicted a significant drop in the number of births in 2021 due to the effect of coronavirus and its socioeconomic impacts.¹ However, this was not the case. The number of births is declining but does not show a significant drop.

At present, data on fertility rates are only available for the year 2020.² The total fertility rate in 2020 remained as in 2019, halting the decline that has lasted since 2016, with first births declining, second births remaining the same, and third births increasing. On the whole, the adverse age structure of the population is

1 Expert group meeting on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on fertility. URL: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/ru/event/egm-impact-covid-19-fertility>

2 Detailed data on the natural population movement in 2021 will be available in summer 2022.

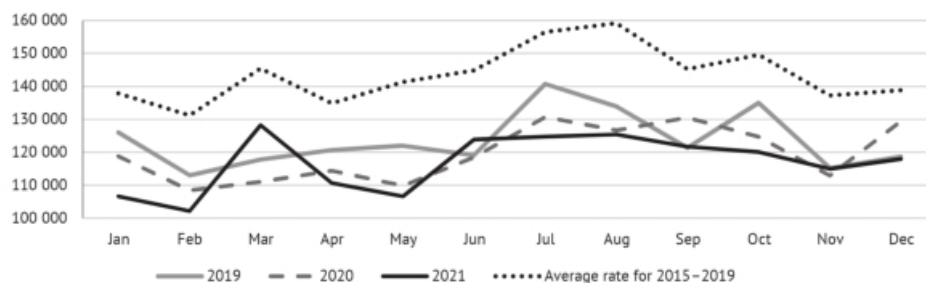


Fig. 25. Number of births by month in 2019-2021 and average for 2015-2019, number of people

Source: UISIS; Rosstat.

the main reason behind the decline in the number of births in Russia. The sparse generation born in the 1990s is at the peak of the reproductive ages. It will determine the birth rate in the next decade and the number of births will be consistently lower compared to the period when it was determined by a large generation of the 1980s. Another reason is the reproductive behavior of young women; in recent years there has been a shift in fertility towards older ages.

A decline in the birth rate in 2021 against 2020 has been observed in most of subjects of the Russian Federation, while eight regions maintain their 2020 levels and only four regions show an increase (Moscow by 6.1%, the Republic of Adygea by 3.1%, Pskov region by 2.5% and Chelyabinsk region by 1%).

The 2020—2021 pandemic of a new coronavirus infection has significantly altered the global demographic landscape. Most of countries have experienced a significant increase in mortality. Between January and December 2021, the global death toll was 2.2445.500 showing an increase of 15% compared to 2020. (2.124.500). The total mortality rate is 16.8 deaths per 1000 people (14.5 ppm in 2020), an increase of 15.9% compared to 2020 and 36.6% vs 2019.

Excess mortality is a key indicator of the direct and indirect impact of COVID-19 spread on population mortality and the effectiveness of countries' efforts to minimize the impacts of COVID-19. The excess mortality rate (population mortality rate for 2021 to the average rate per 1000 people for the same period 2015—2019) was 33%.

The highest absolute mortality rate was observed in November 2021 (257.300), which is 17% higher than in 2020 (*Fig. 26*). However, 28% of all deaths in November are attributed to COVID-19 (major cause).

The mortality rate per 1000 people increased in almost every region except the Chechen Republic and the Tuva Republic, where the rate was 4.8 and 1.1% lower than in the same period in 2020, respectively. Saratov region (+25.6% vs. 2020), Republic of Karelia (+24.8%), Kursk region (+23.7%), Voronezh region (+23.0%), Ryazan region (+22.9%), Novgorod region (+22.5%) and Rostov region (+22.1%) showed the highest increase.

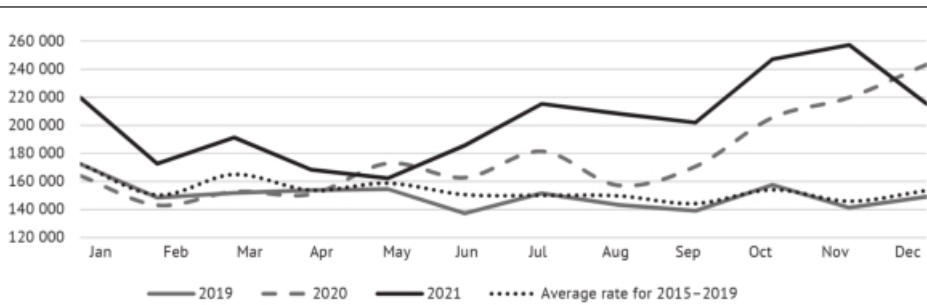


Fig. 26. Number of deaths by month in 2019—2021 and average for 2015—2019, number of people

Source: UISIS; Rosstat.

The infant mortality rate for 2021 was 4.6 per 1000 live births, showing an increase of 2.2% compared to 2020 (Fig. 27). Thus, growth was observed in 44 regions of Russia, while in 10 regions the indicator remained at the level of 2020. The maximum growth was demonstrated by the Komi Republic (5.2‰, a twofold increase), Magadan region (5.6‰, an 80.6% increase), Jewish Autonomous Region (10.9‰, a 78.7% increase), the Republic of Adygea (5.1‰, a 70% increase), Kirov region (5.9‰, a 55% increase) and Republic of Mordovia (4.4‰, a 51.7% increase).

A total of 21.2% of all deaths in 2021 were due to coronavirus infection:¹ COVID-19 accounted for 18% and 2.9% of all deaths were due to COVID-19 but it was not the main cause of disease. During this period, 446.400 died from COVID-19 as the main cause of death, showing a 100% increase in 2021 (321.000) compared to the same period in 2020, while 71.400 deaths resulted from a cause of death related to coronavirus infection but attributed to other major health conditions (Table 9).

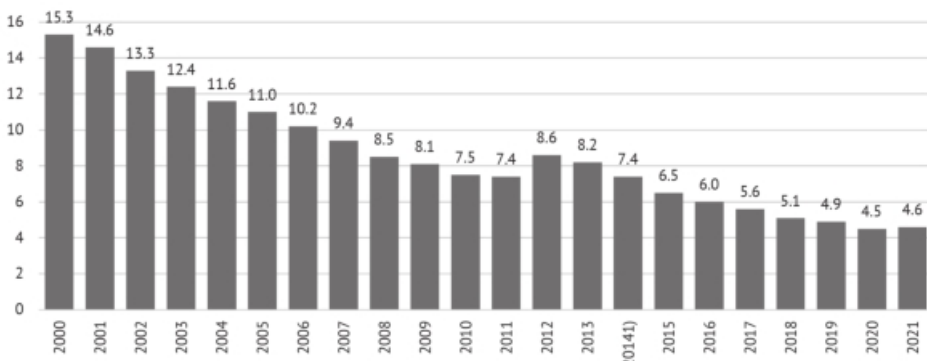


Fig. 27. Number of deaths under 1 year per 1000 live births, 2000—2021

Source: Rosstat.

¹ Other classes of death cause have not been published in Rosstat operational statistics since April 2020.

Table 9

Mortality from COVID-19 as the main cause of death and accompanied by COVID-19 (cause of death attributed to other major health conditions), 2020—2021

COVID-19 is a major cause of death						
	Total		COVID-19, virus identified		Probably COVID-19 but virus not identified	
	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020
January	27 455	—	22 747	—	4 708	—
February	17 120	—	14 791	—	2 329	—
March	17 795	—	15 411	—	2 384	—
April	15 973	1 748	13 839	1 350	2 134	398
May	15 259	7 603	13 077	5 926	2 182	1 677
June	23 775	7 317	20 447	5 825	3 328	1 492
July	44 955	6 084	39 942	5 063	5 013	1 021
August	44 217	4 018	39 332	3 436	4 885	582
September	40 172	5 438	35 174	4 579	4 998	859
October	69 645	15 103	60 357	13 077	9 288	2 026
November	80 888	25 107	72 425	21 262	8 463	3 845
December	49 122	32 408	44 390	27 012	4 732	5 396
Total	446 376	104 826	391 932	87 530	54 444	17 296
Cause of death is referred to other important conditions						
	Total		COVID-19 is not a major cause of death, but had a significant impact on the development of fatal complications of the disease		COVID-19 is not a major cause of death and had no significant impact on the development of fatal complications of the disease	
	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020
January	10 423	—	2 337	—	8 086	—
February	7 664	—	1 956	—	5 708	—
March	6 247	—	1 434	—	4 813	—
April	4 677	1 077	1 106	435	3 571	642
May	3 737	5 066	987	1 609	2 750	3 457
June	3 663	5 018	897	1 484	2 766	3 534
July	6 089	4 287	1 433	1 237	4 656	3 050
August	5 713	3 655	1 258	1 184	4 455	2 471
September	4 549	4 741	979	1 428	3 570	3 313
October	5 899	9 230	1 135	1 794	4 764	7 436
November	7 250	12 502	1 462	2 288	5 788	10 214
December	5 508	12 923	1 000	2 505	4 508	10 418
Total	71 419	58 499	15 984	13 964	55 435	44 535

Source: Rosstat.

Detailed mortality data for 2021 will be available only by summer of 2022. According to author's provisionally estimates, expected life expectancy at birth for 2021 to be around 70 years, well below the Rosstat projection (74.3 years in 2021 according to the 2020 medium variant).
