

# Depopulation in the Baltic states

## Geographical patterns of ageing in Latvia

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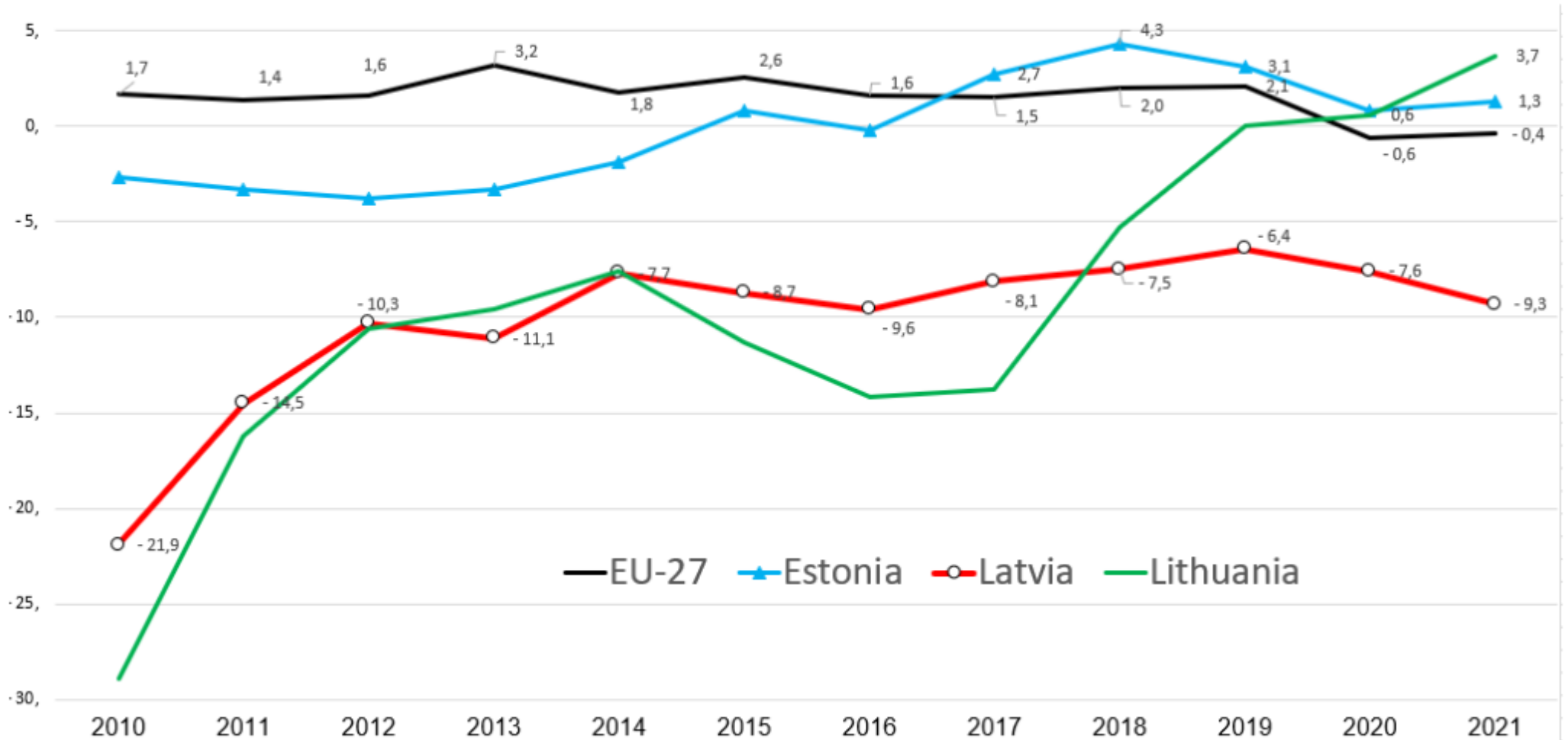
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# Topicality

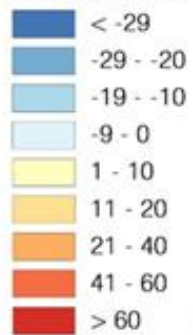
- Population ageing is one of the most important demographic phenomena of the 21st Century and worldwide phenomena transforming societies and having profound economic and social effects.
- Driven by **fertility decline** and the continuing **increase in the life expectancy**, the process of population ageing has not been even across time and space.
- Previous studies provide evidence that in many developed countries ageing growth rates are more pronounced in peripheral areas than in the core regions while development of metropolitan areas is associated with gentrification and suburbanisation predominantly driven by young in-migrants (Steinführer & Haase 2007; Kurek et al. 2017; Kurek & Wojtowicz 2018; Kazimierczak & Szafraska 2019, Wolff & Wiechmann 2018, Kashnitsky et al. 2021).
- Since the early 1990s, Latvia and other countries of Central and Eastern Europe have experienced sudden and simultaneous turnabouts in all the main demographic processes: fertility, mortality, and migration (Fihel & Okolski, 2020).

# Crude rate of total population change 2010-2021 (per 1000)

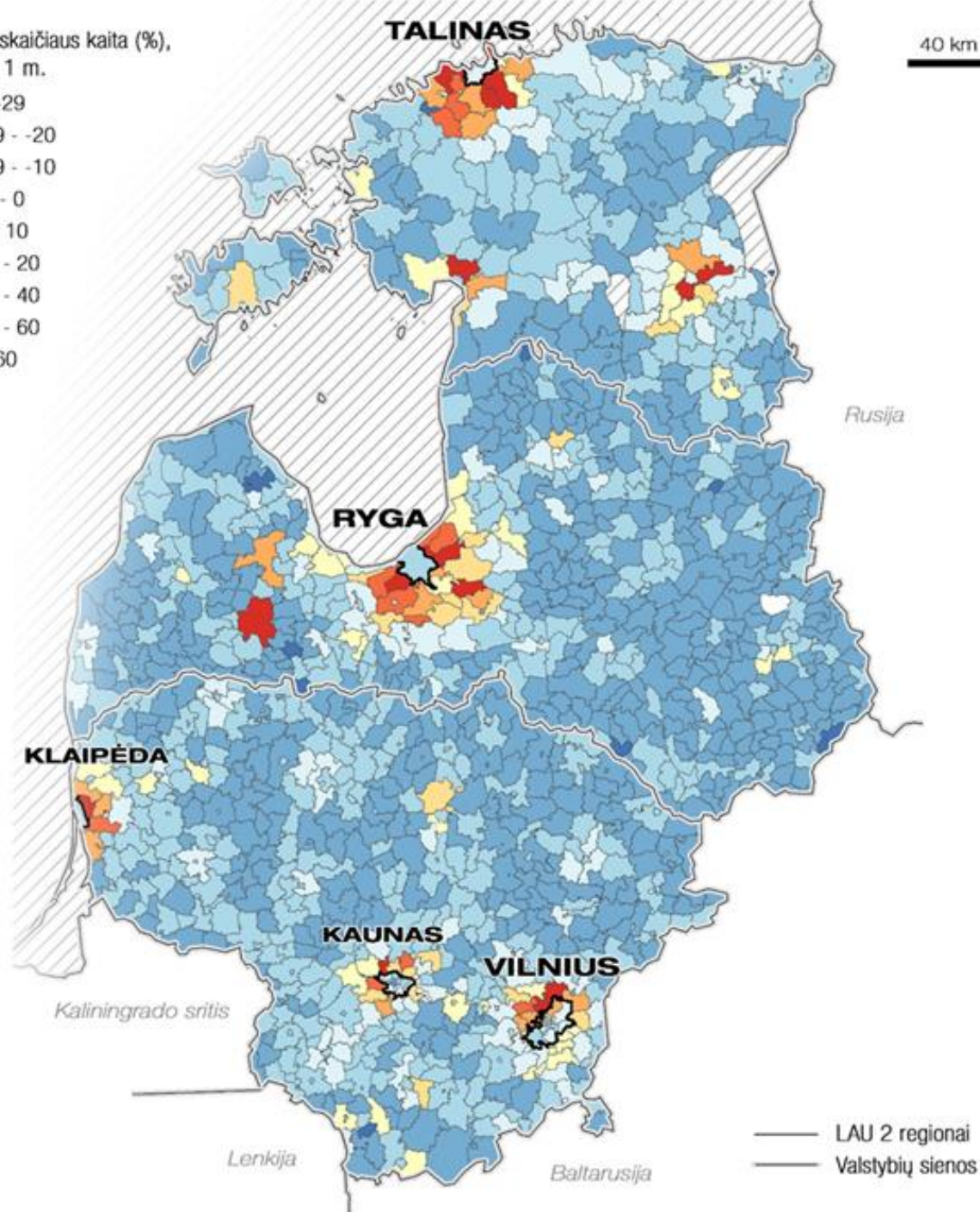


# Population changes in the Baltic states 2001-2011

Gyventojų skaičiaus kaita (%),  
2001-2011 m.

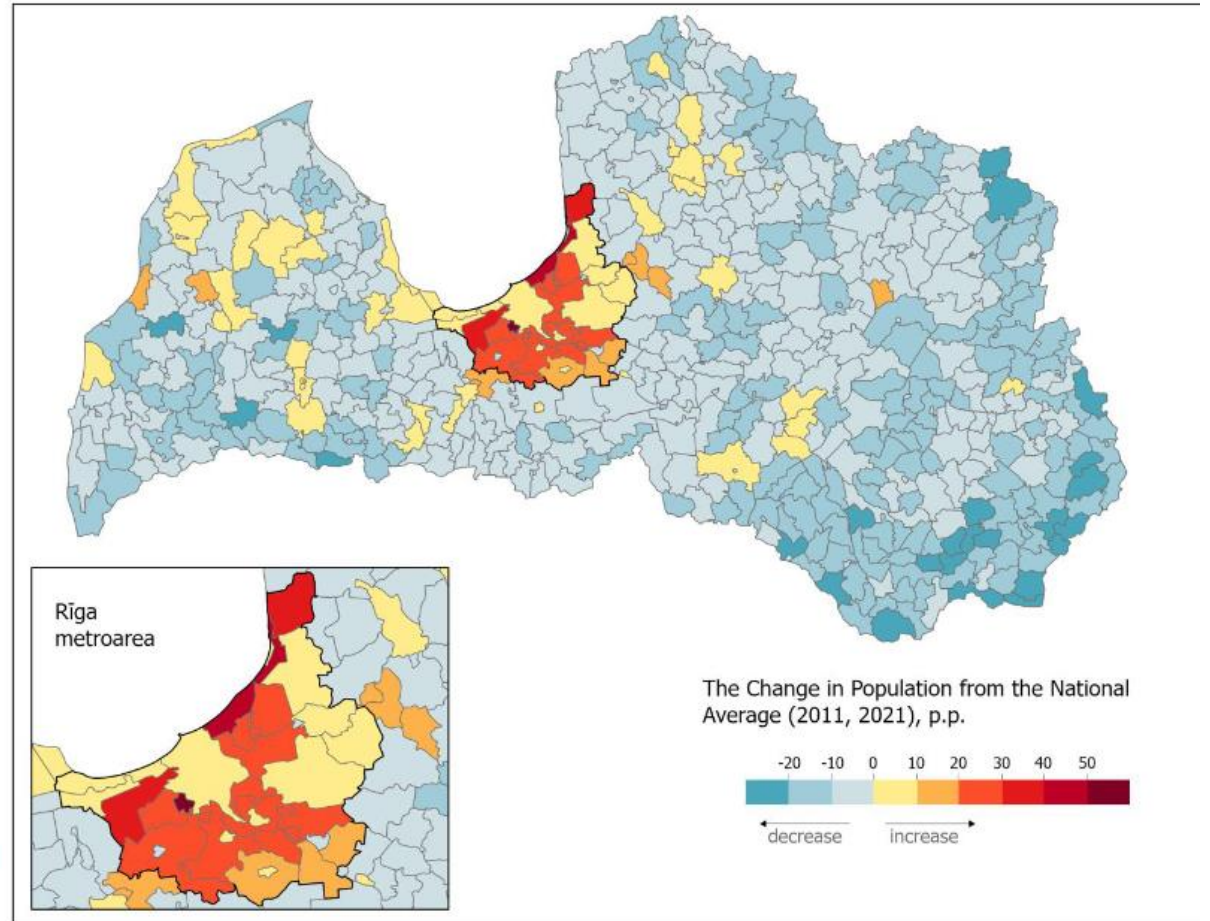
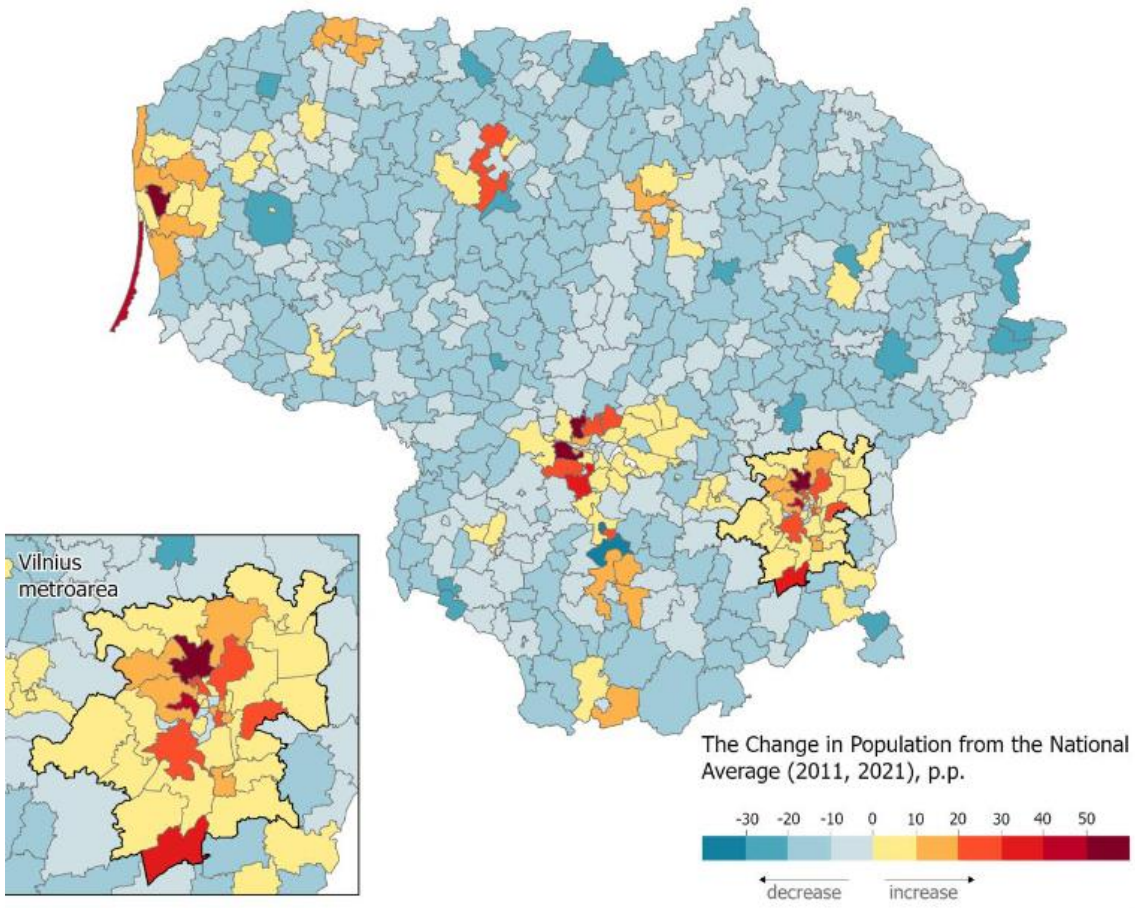


40 km



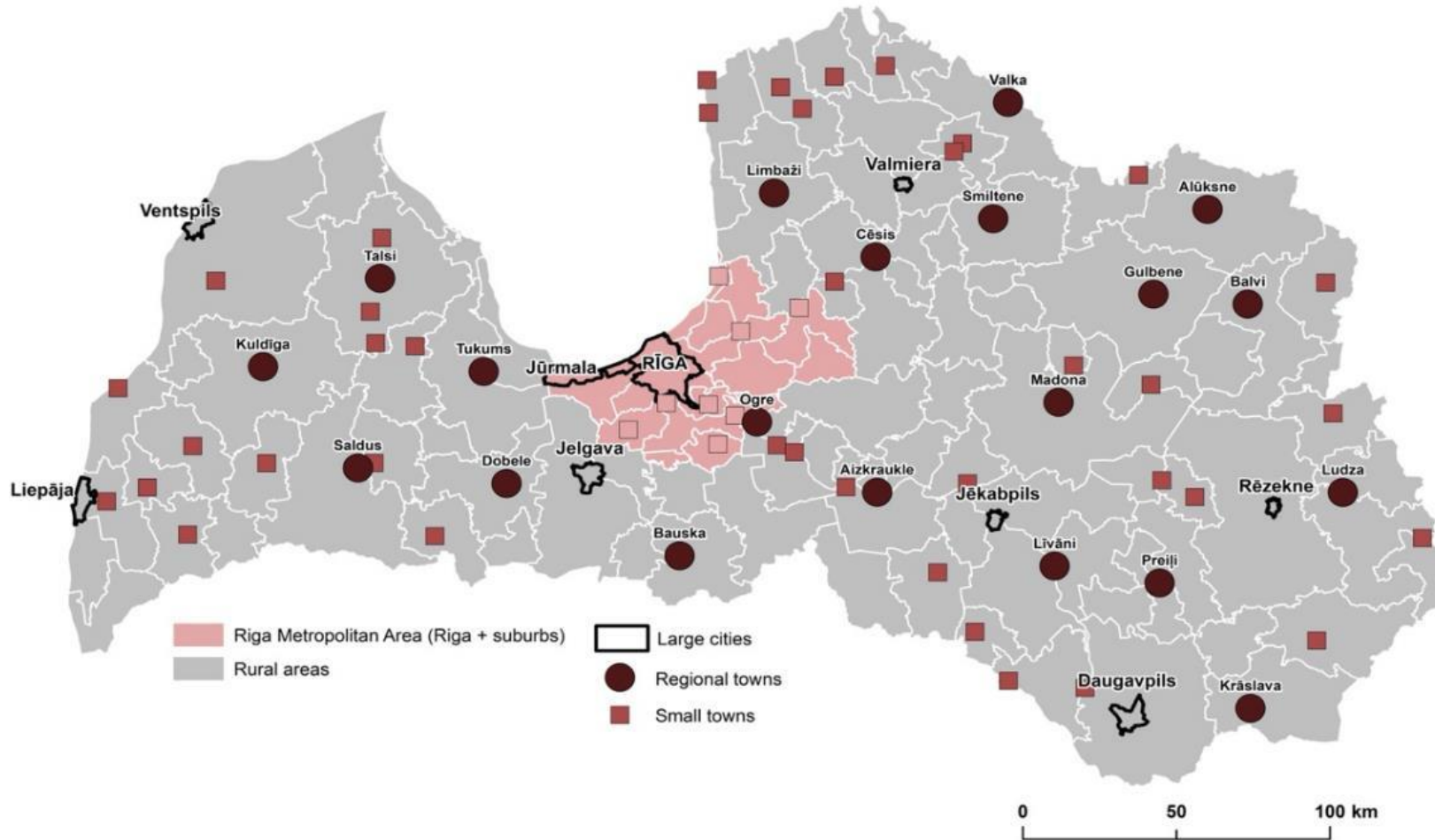
source: Burneika et al, 2023, Ubarevičienė 2018

# Population change in LT and LV in 2011-2021 (census data)



# Urban system of Latvia

geographical, administrative, functional divisions



**Riga Metropolitan Area /**  
(capital city Riga + suburbs)  
**Non-metropolitan Areas**  
(regions)

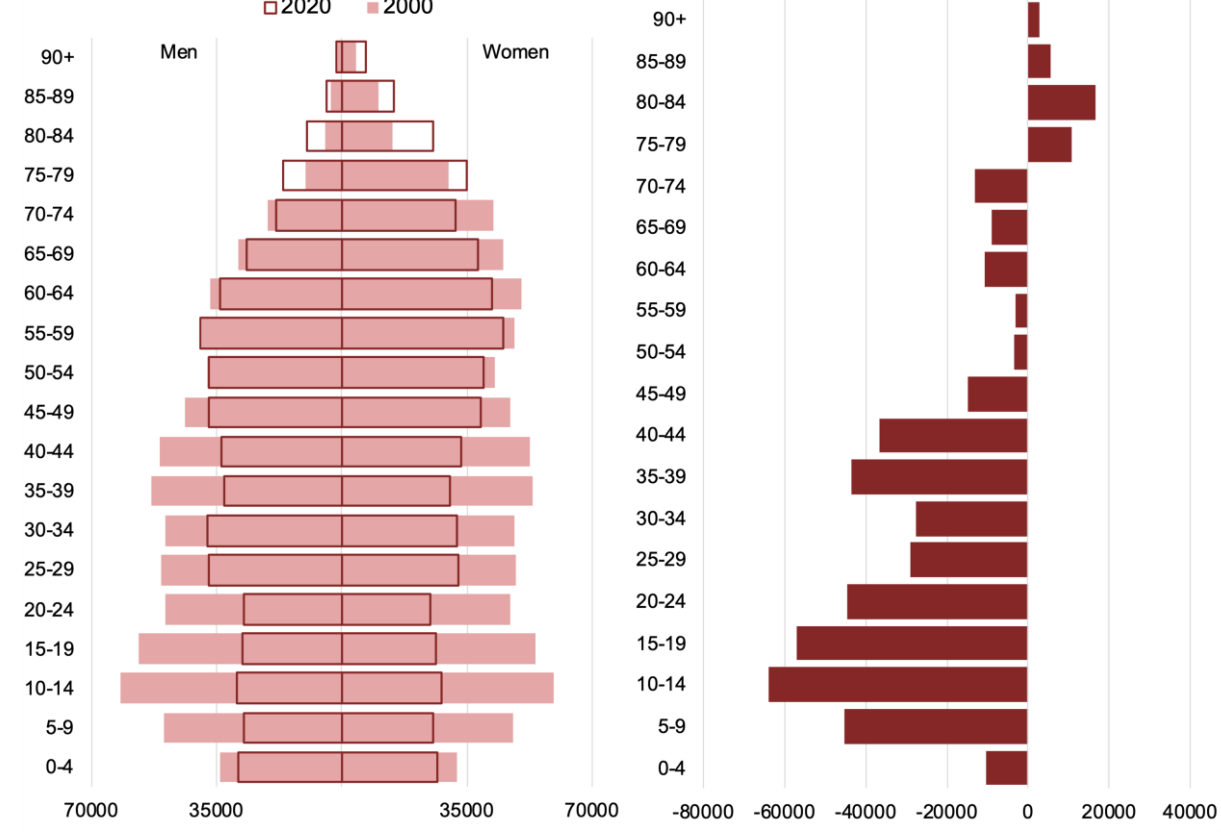
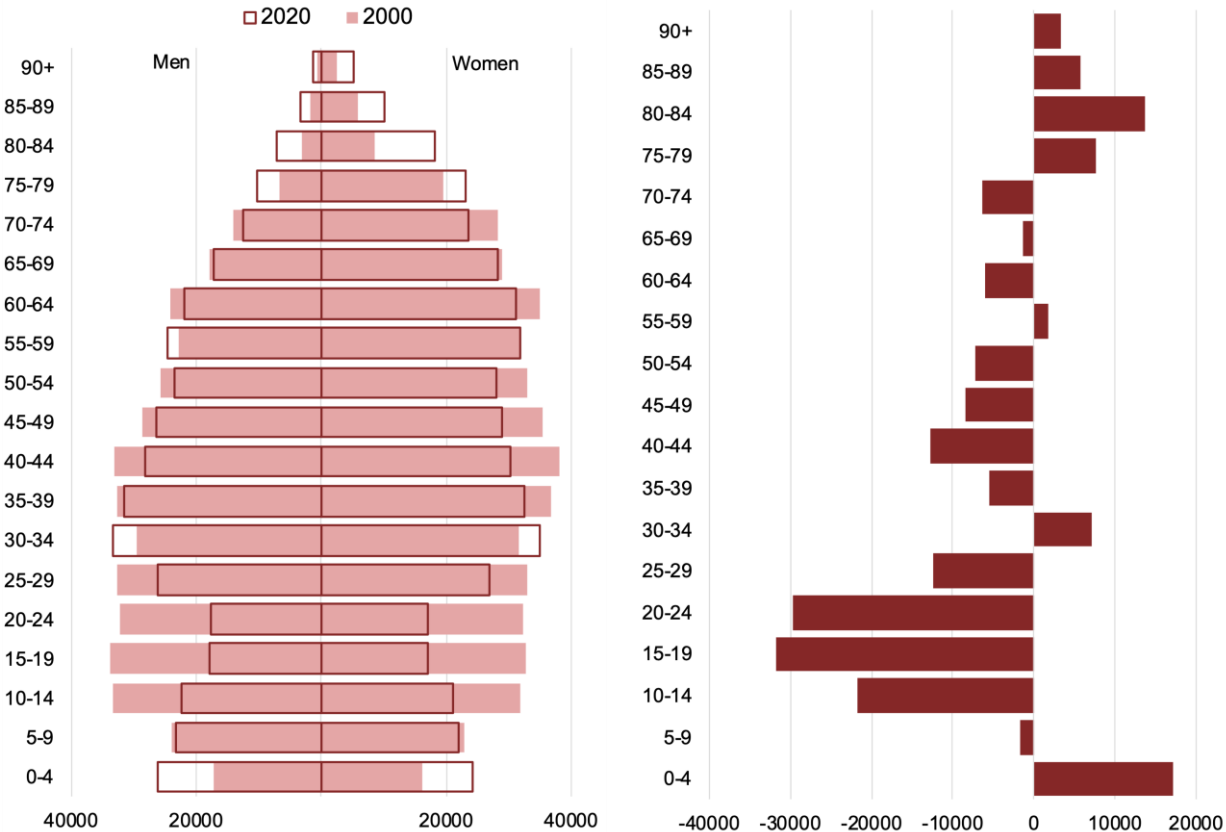
	population
<b>Riga Metropolitan Area</b>	43.4%
<b>Large cities (8)</b>	20.2%
<b>Regional towns (20)</b>	8.3%
<b>Small towns (39)</b>	3.7%
<b>Rural areas</b>	24.4%

# Geographical patterns of ageing

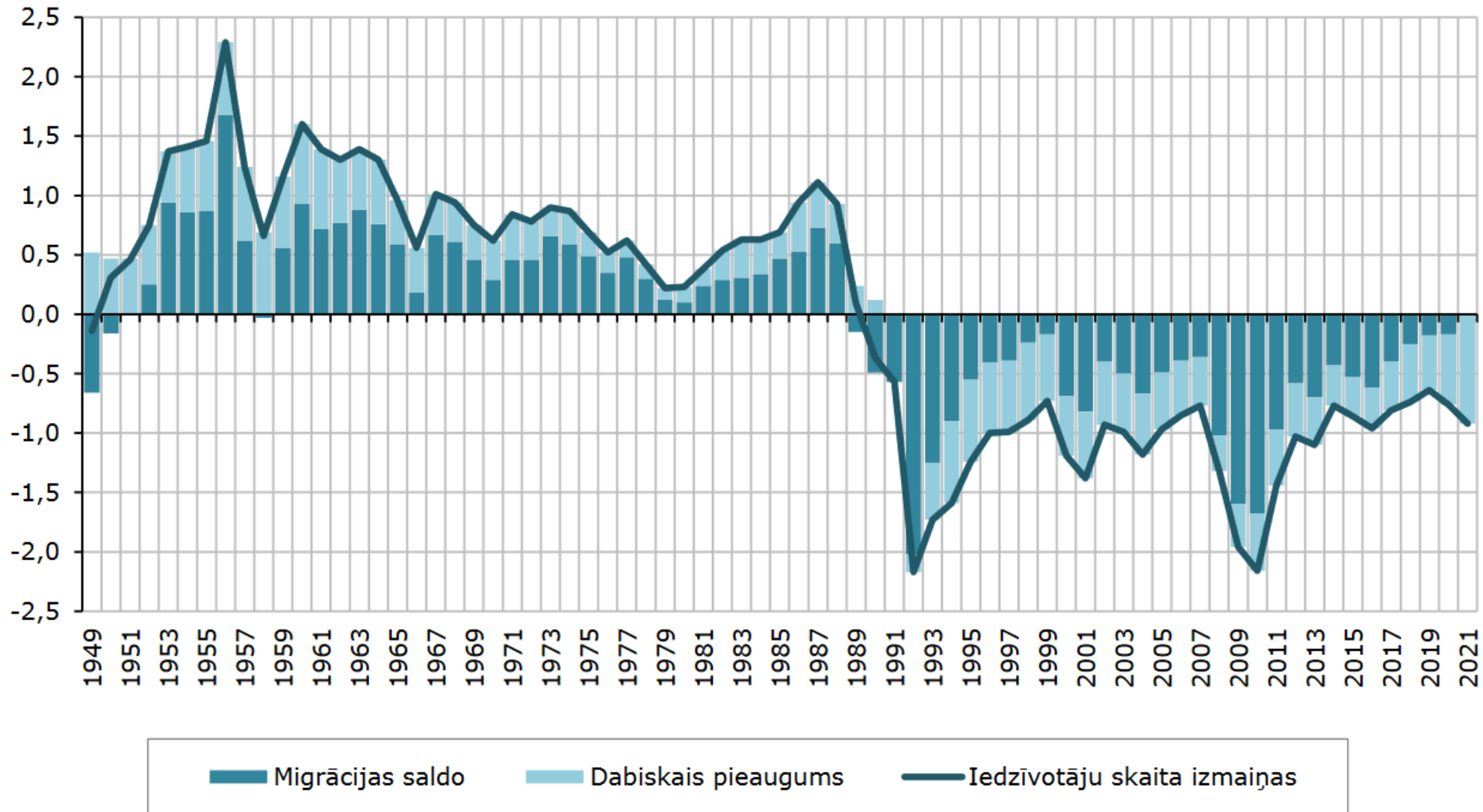
## Metropolitan / Non-metropolitan division

### Riga Metropolitan Area

### Non-Metropolitan Areas

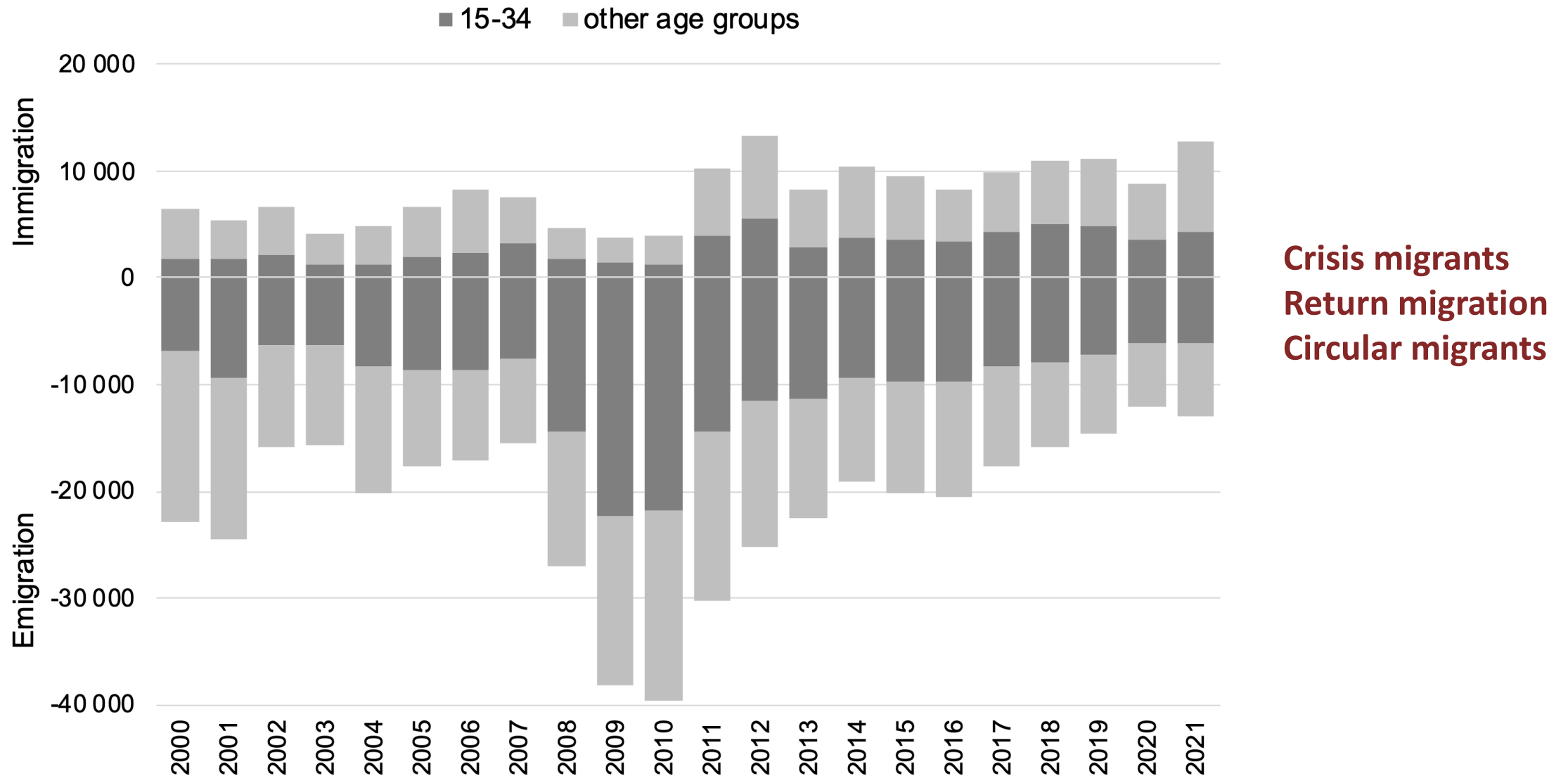


# Population changes in Latvia 1949-2021 (%)

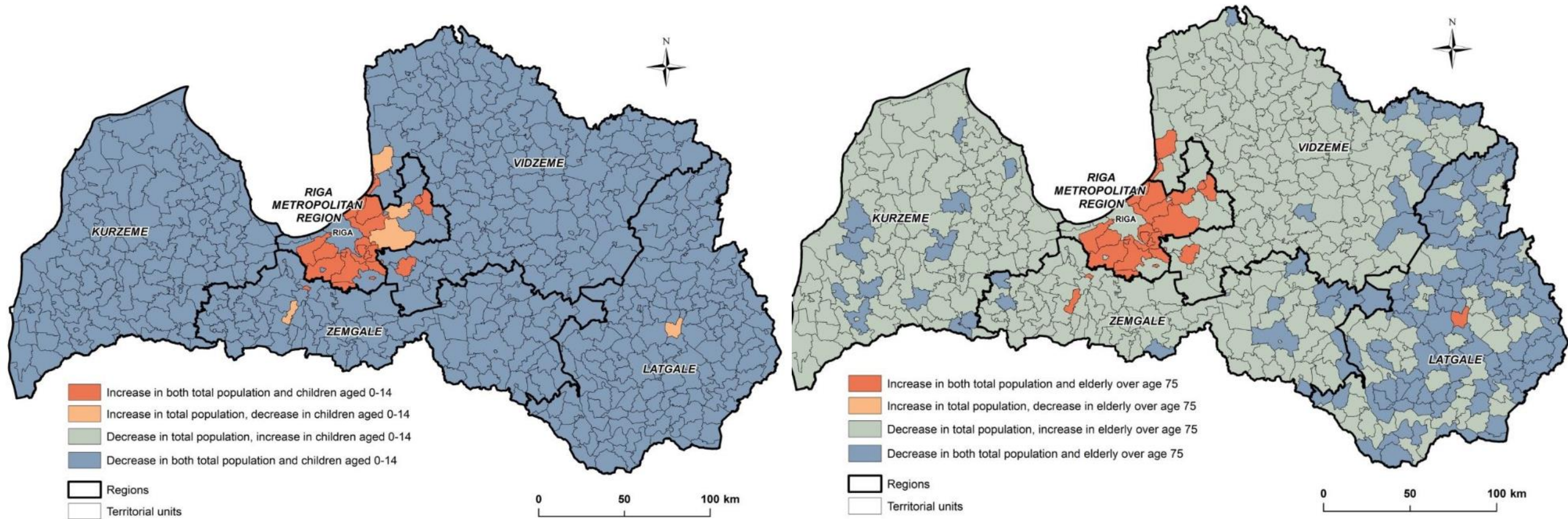




# International migration balance of Latvia 2000-2021

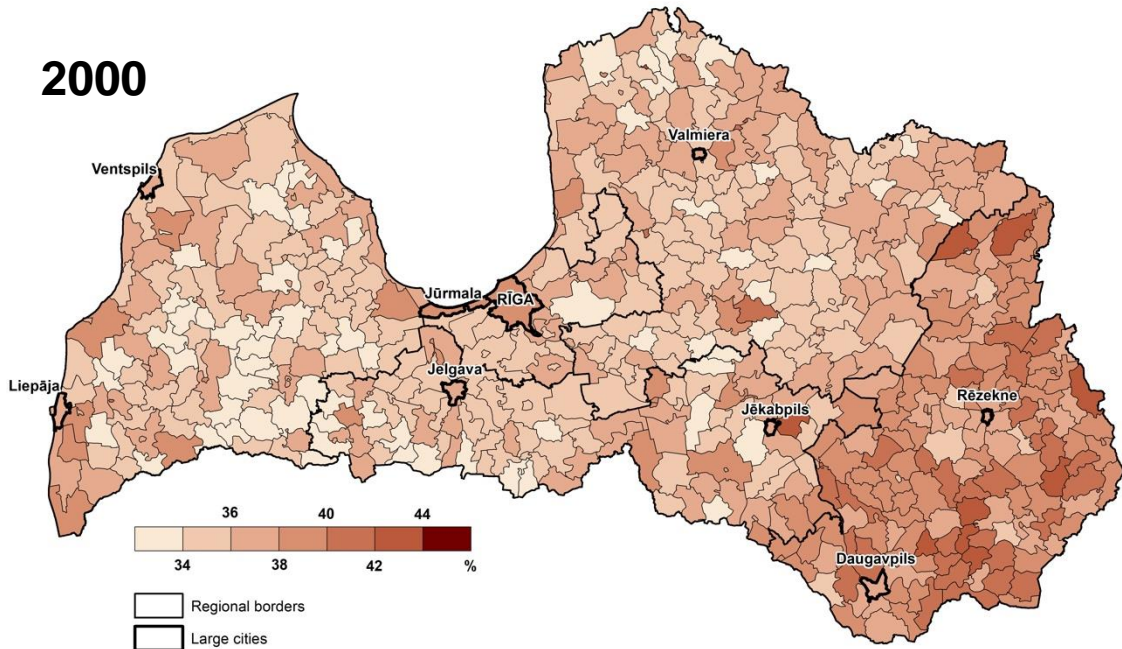


# Distribution of young population (0-14) and elderly (75+) population in Latvia (2000-2020)

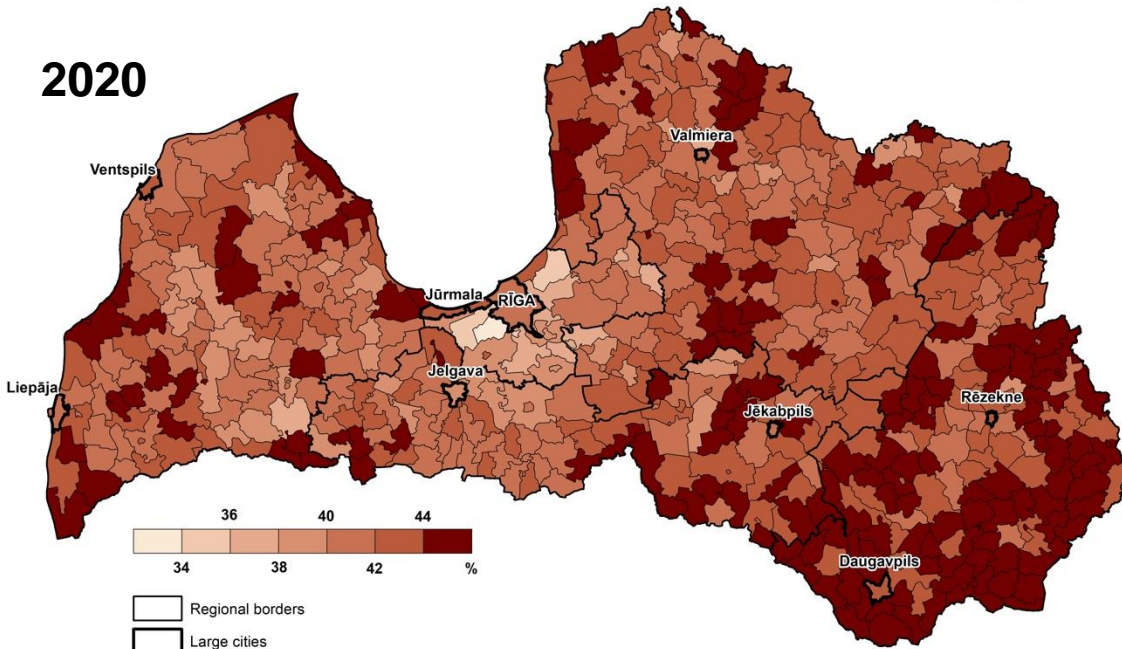


Krisjane et al. 2023, calculations based on CSB data

2000

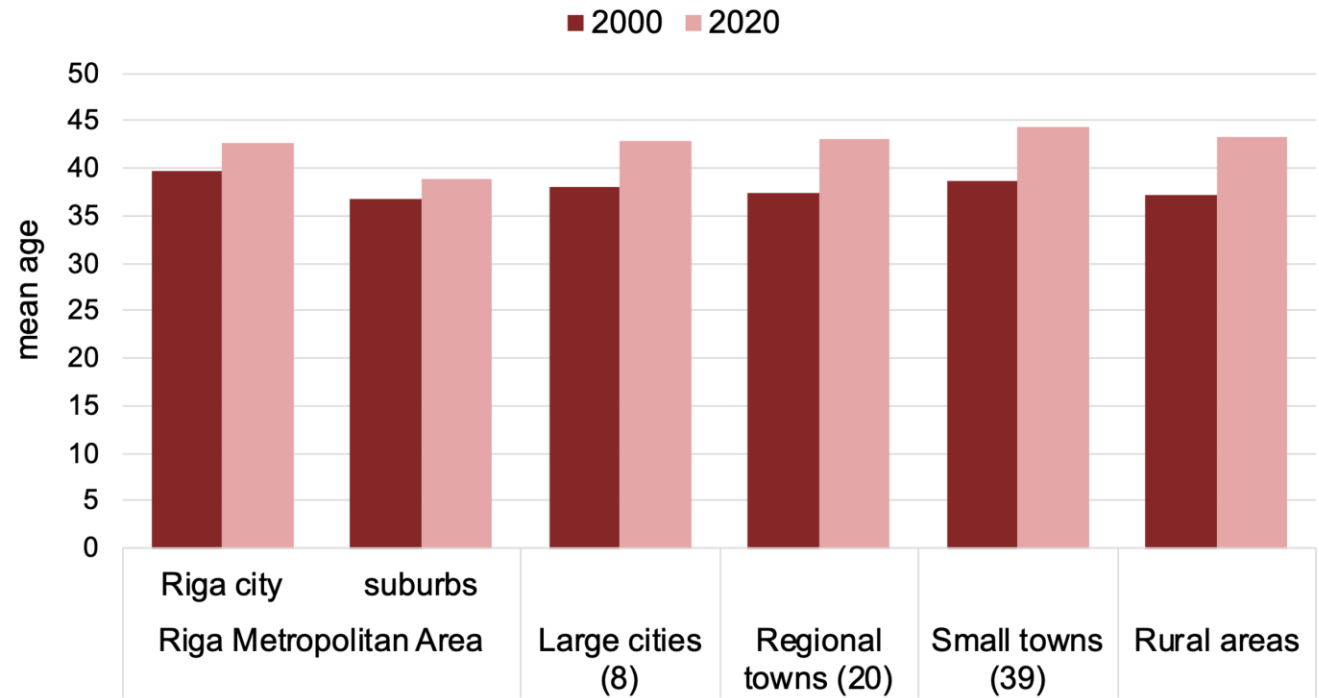


2020



0 50 100 km

# Geographical patterns of ageing Mean Age



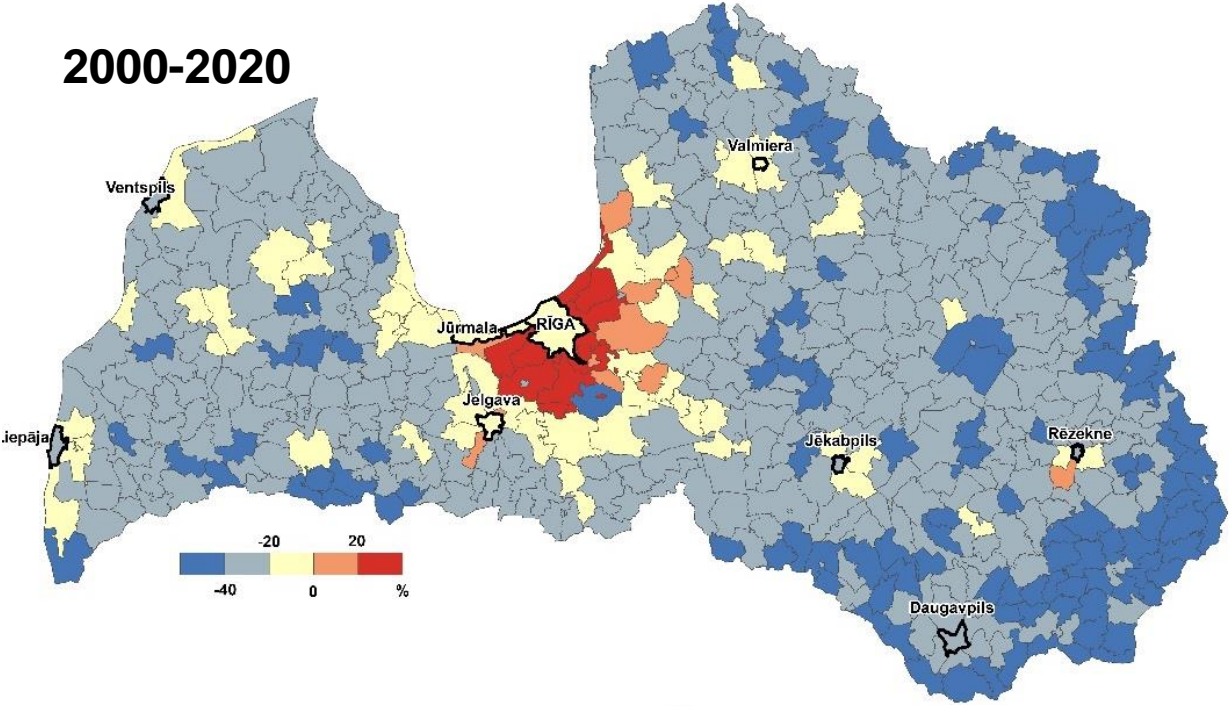
## Latvia

2000: **38.2**

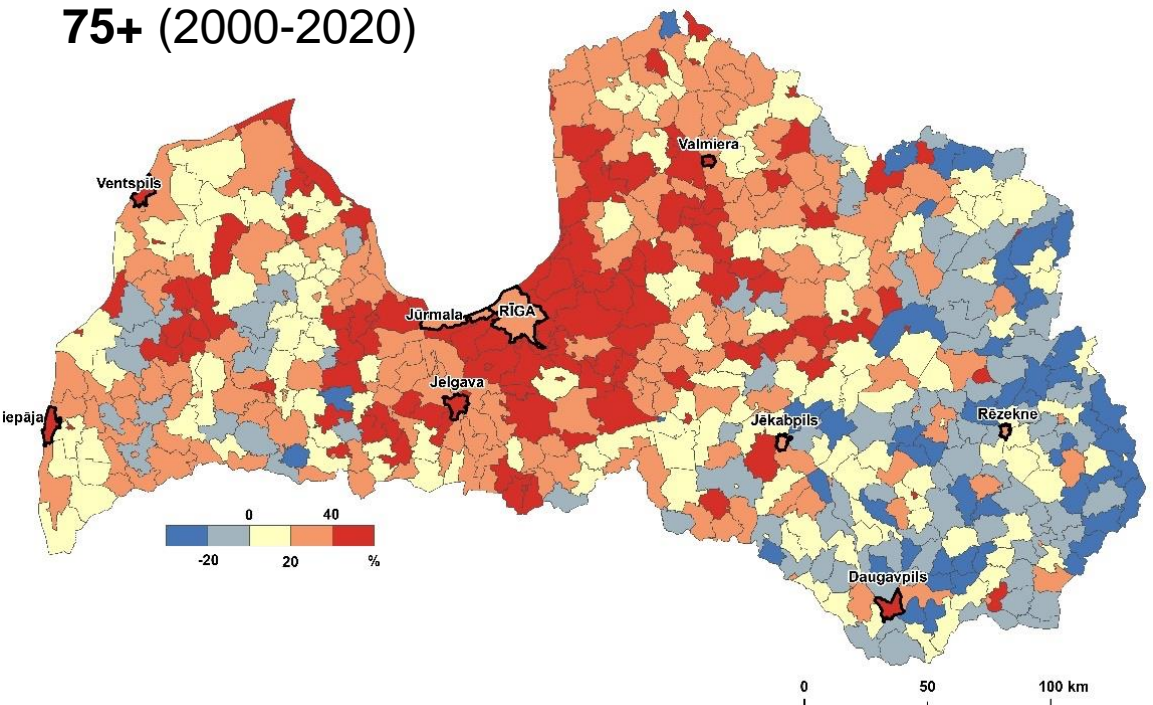
2020: **42.5**

source: elaborated based on data of the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia

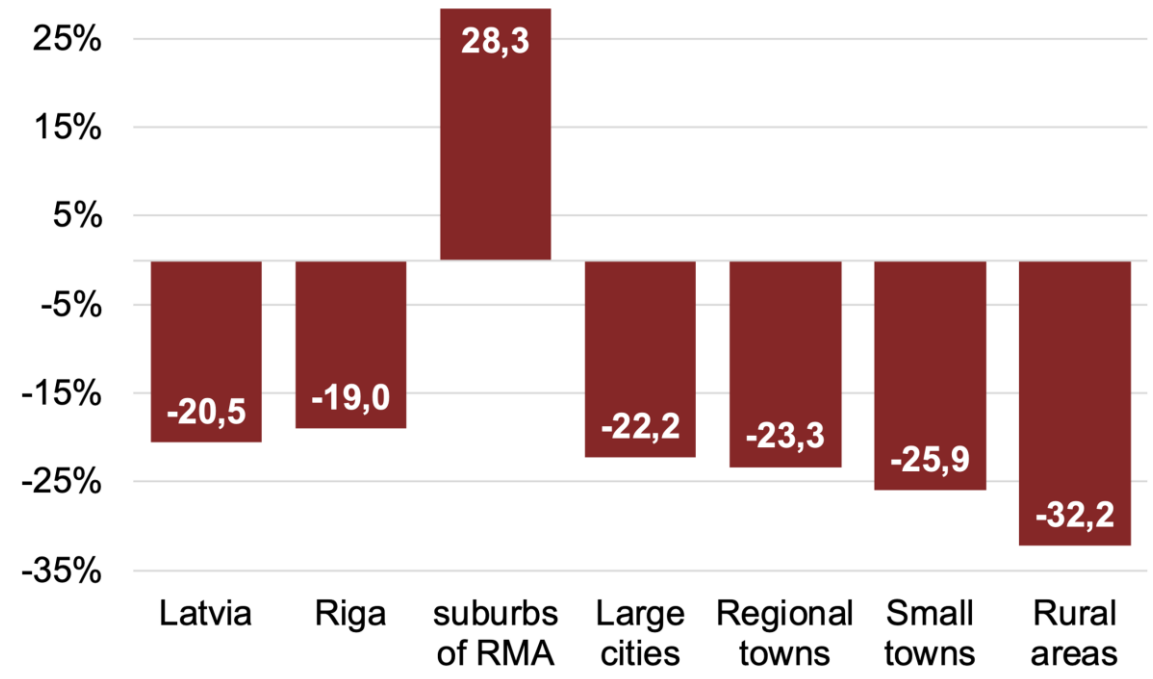
2000-2020



75+ (2000-2020)



# Geographical patterns of ageing Population change



The overall population of Latvia has declined by 20 %

source: Krisjane et al. 2023 elaborated based on data of the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia

# Geographical patterns of ageing

## Population change (75+)

		Total (%)	75+ (%)
Riga Metropolitan Area	Riga	-19.0	+34.1
	Suburbs	<b>+28.3</b>	<b>+57.2</b>
Non-metropolitan Areas	Large cities	-22.2	<b>+42.2</b>
	Regional towns	-23.3	+37.6
	Small towns	<b>-25.9</b>	+30.6
	Rural areas	<b>-32.2</b>	+21.2
Total		-20.5	<b>+34.5</b>

- The changes in the **number of elderly** show an **increase in the whole urban system.**
- The most obvious increase was in the **suburbs of the RMA** and the **largest cities.**
- **Rural areas have the lowest growth in the number of older people.**

source: Krisjane et al. 2023, elaborated based on data of the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia

# Concluding remarks

- **Gradual ageing** of Latvia's population has been increasing since the **first decades of the twenty-first century**.
- **Demographic processes in the urban system of Latvia**, i.e. changes in the total population and changes in the elderly groups, **show geographical differences**.
- Results indicate that **patterns of population ageing vary according to spatial location**.
- Less pronounced population ageing in areas with positive demographic dynamics, **driven by in-migration and relatively healthier fertility rates have been observed in the Riga metropolitan area**.
- **The results indicate that the residential patterns of the young and elderly tend to converge in the Riga metropolitan area**.

# Thank you for your attention!

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