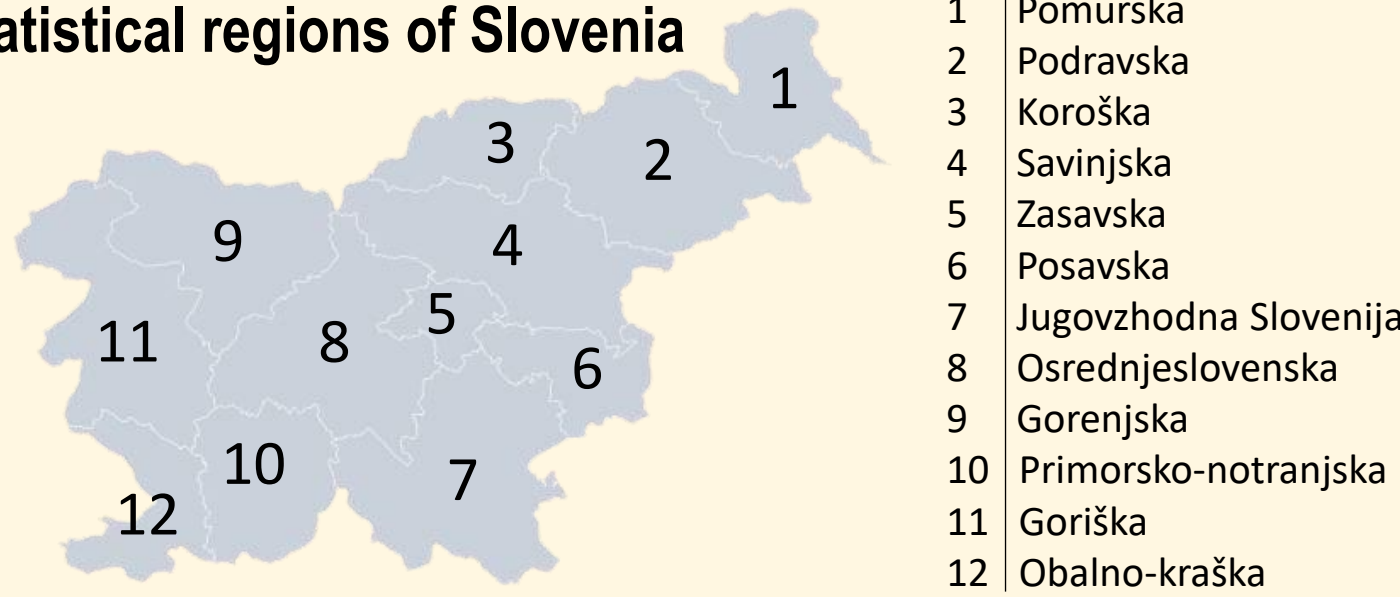# Hypothesis

HYPOTHESIS 1: The highest annual fertility growth rate is in the Osrednjeslovenska statistical region, while the lowest fertility rate is in the Pomurska statistical region.

HYPOTHESIS 2: The share of children born within marriage is higher outside the Osrednjeslovenska region, while the average age of first-time mothers is increasing in all statistical regions..

HYPOTHESIS 3: The highest number of divorces per 1,000 inhabitants in 2023 is in the Osrednjeslovenska statistical region, while the highest number of marriages is outside the Osrednjeslovenska region.

HYPOTHESIS 4: The trend in the number of deaths per 1,000 inhabitants in 2017, 2020, and 2023 shows differences between statistical regions. Different causes of death predominate in various statistical regions of Slovenia.

HYPOTHESIS 5: The Osrednjeslovenska statistical region has a low aging index in 2023 compared to other statistical regions of Slovenia. The mortality rate in all statistical regions exceeds the fertility rate.
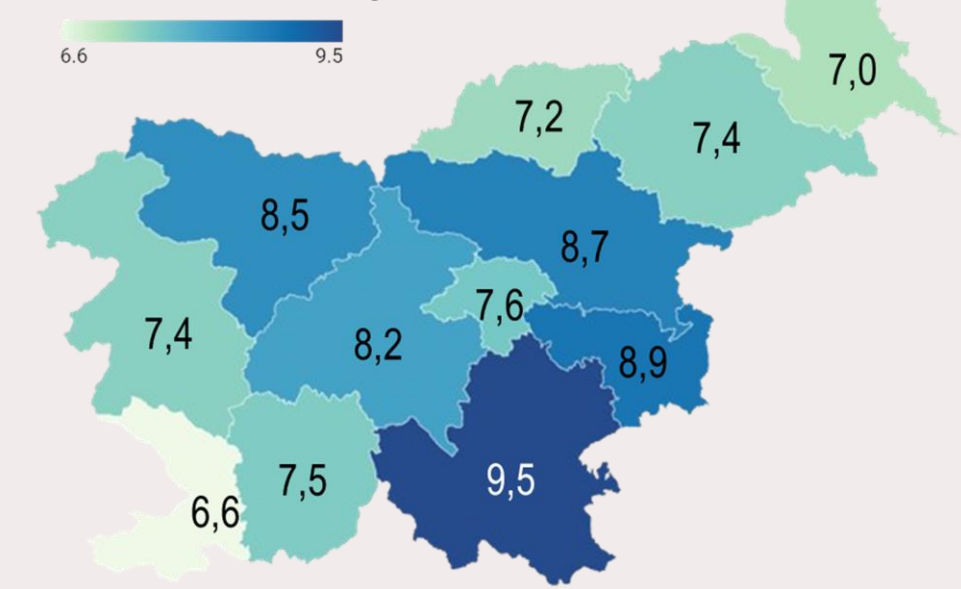
Purpose of the task

The aim of the task is to examine the demographic characteristics of the population across Slovenia's statistical regions, with a focus on the year 2023. We concentrate on births, marriages, divorces, and mortality, comparing key indicators such as fertility, the average age of first-time mothers, the share of children born within or outside marriage, causes of death, and the ageing index. The analysis also includes comparisons with previous years (2017 and 2020) to identify trends and regional differences.

FROM THE CRADLE TO THE GRAVE
IN SLOVENIA: 2023

Statistical regions of Slovenia

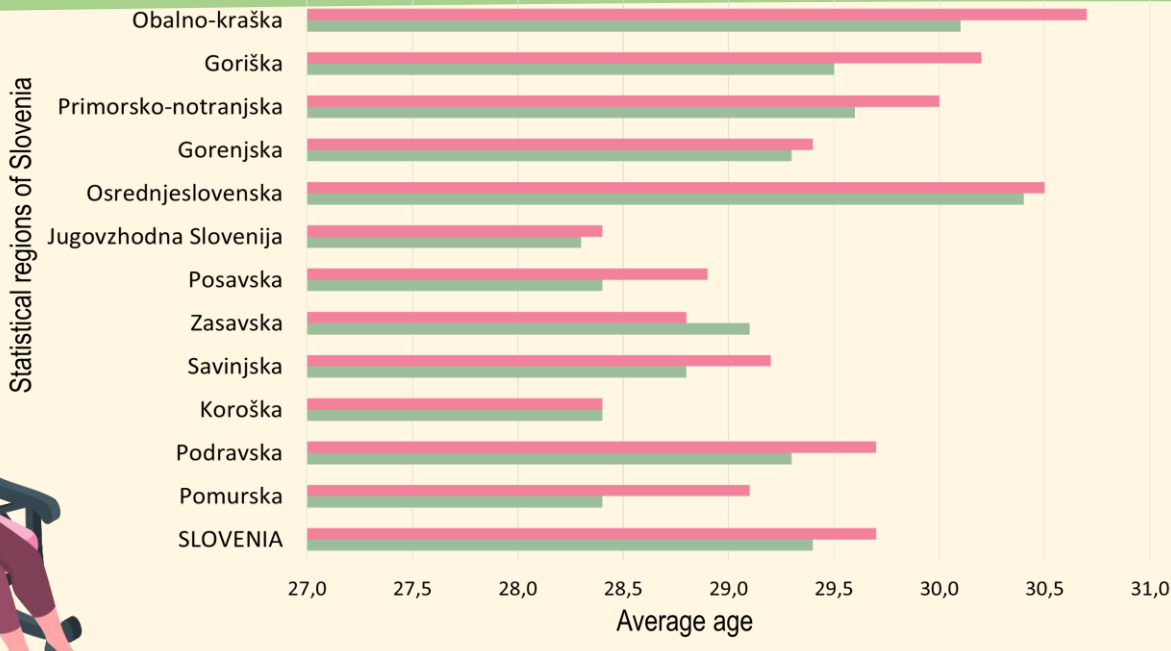|	
1	Pomurska
2	Podravska
3	Koroška
4	Savinjska
5	Zasavska
6	Posavska
7	Jugovzhodna Slovenija
8	Osrednjeslovenska
9	Gorenjska
10	Primorsko-notranjska
11	Goriška
12	Obalno-kraška

Number of live births per 1,000 inhabitants in 2023 by statistical regions in Slovenia
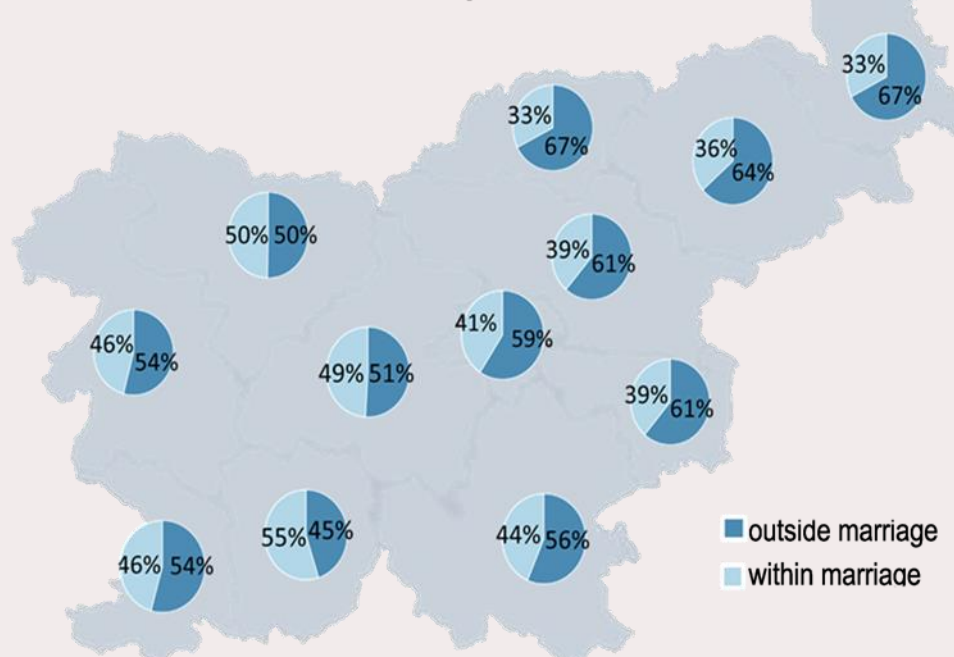

In all statistical regions of Slovenia, the birth rate in 2023 was below 10 ‰. The national average for the mentioned year was 8.0 ‰. The following regions had a birth rate below the Slovenian average: Obalno-kraška, Goriška, Primorsko-notranjska, Koroška, Podravska, Prekmurska in Zasavska statistical regions. The lowest birth rate was recorded in the Obalno-kraška region, with 6.6 live births per 1,000 inhabitants, while the highest was in Jugovzhodna Slovenija, with 9.5 births per 1,000 inhabitants.

The average age of first-time mothers in Slovenia was 29.4 years in 2017, increasing to 29.7 years by 2023. Most statistical regions recorded a rise in the average age during this period. Exceptions include the Koroška region, where the age remained unchanged at 28.4 years, and the Zasavska region, which even saw a decrease of 0.3 years. The most notable increases were recorded in the Goriška and Pomurska regions, both with a rise of 0.7 years. In 2023, the average age of first-time mothers exceeded 30 years in four regions—twice as many as in 2017.

Average age of mothers at the birth of their first child for Slovenia and its statistical regions in 2017 and 2023

Cause of death by statistical regions of Slovenia in 2023

Among the following causes of death (infections, neoplasms, circulatory diseases, respiratory diseases, digestive diseases, injuries, poisonings, and other causes)**, circulatory diseases are the most common cause of death in Slovenia, accounting for approximately 36% of all deaths.** Neoplasms (cancer) are the second most common cause, responsible for about 31% of deaths. A significant portion (21.5%) is made up of injuries, poisonings, other external causes, and various other causes. There are noticeable differences between statistical regions. In the Zasavska and Osrednjeslovenska regions, neoplasms are the leading cause of death, while in all other regions, circulatory diseases dominate. The Zasavska region stands out with the lowest share of deaths due to respiratory diseases (3.0%) among all regions.

The Pomurska statistical region stands out with the highest mortality rate in 2017, 2020, and 2023, while the Osrednjeslovenska region consistently maintains the lowest mortality rate across all the years considered. The Goriška region had a stable mortality rate throughout the years and is the only one where this rate did not significantly change in 2020. In the Savinjska and Jugovzhodna Slovenija regions, the number of deaths per 1,000 inhabitants in 2023 is lower than in 2017, while in the Goriška region, the rate remained unchanged.

Trends in the number of deaths per 1,000 inhabitants by statistical regions in 2017, 2020, and 2023

Shere of live births within and outside marriage in 2023 by statistical regions in Slovenia

The map with structural pie charts shows the share of live births within and outside marriage in 2023. **In Slovenia, more children are born outside of marriage, which is true for the majority of statistical regions.** The most balanced shares are found in the Gorenjska region. The lowest share of children born within marriage is recorded in the Koroška and Prekmurska regions, while the highest is in the Primorsko-notranjska region. This is also the only region where more children are born within marriage than outside of it.

Ageing index by statistical regions in Slovenia in 2023

The ageing index is a demographic indicator that shows the ratio between the number of people over 65 years old and the number of people under 15 years old in a given population. **The ageing index for 2023 shows that the population in all statistical regions of Slovenia is aging.** The highest ageing index is found in the Pomurska region (189.9), followed by the Obalno-kraška, Goriška, and Podravska regions, indicating significant population ageing. The lowest indices are in Osrednjeslovenska (123.1) and Jugovzhodna Slovenija (123.2), where the age structure is more favorable. Women have a higher ageing index than men in all regions, meaning the share of older individuals is greater among women. This is expected, as women generally live longer than men.

On average, there were three marriages and one divorce per 1,000 people in Slovenia in 2023. The table below shows that the highest number of marriages per 1,000 inhabitants was recorded in the Podravska region (3.4), while the lowest was in the Goriška region (2.3). When it comes to divorces, the Zasavska region stands out with the highest rate (1.4) whereas the Koroška region (0.8) and the Obalno-kraška region (0.9) had the lowest divorce rates. The data suggest that the Koroška region shows the greatest marital stability, with an above-average marriage rate and the lowest divorce rate in Slovenia. In the Pomurska, Savinjska, Jugovzhodna Slovenija and Gorenjska regions, the number of marriages and divorces per 1,000 inhabitants aligns with the national average.
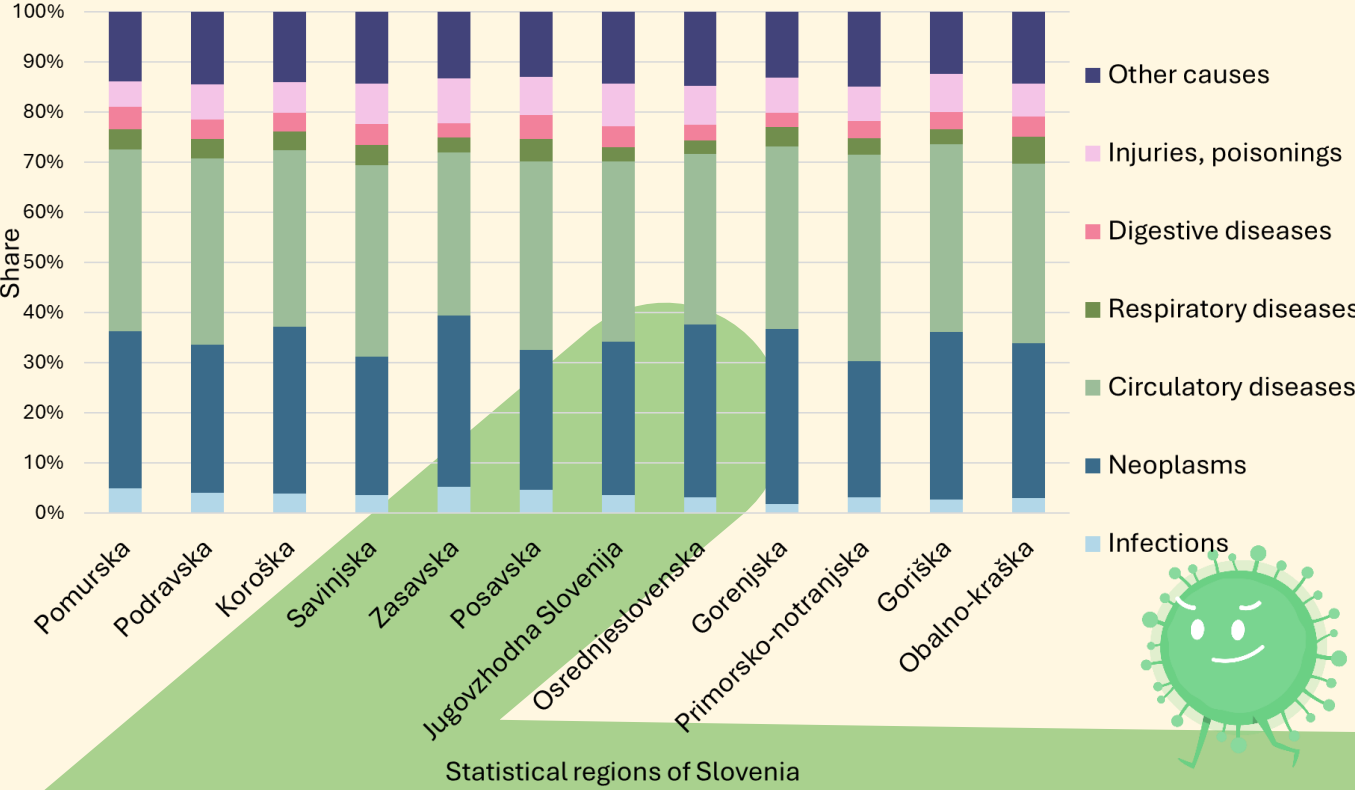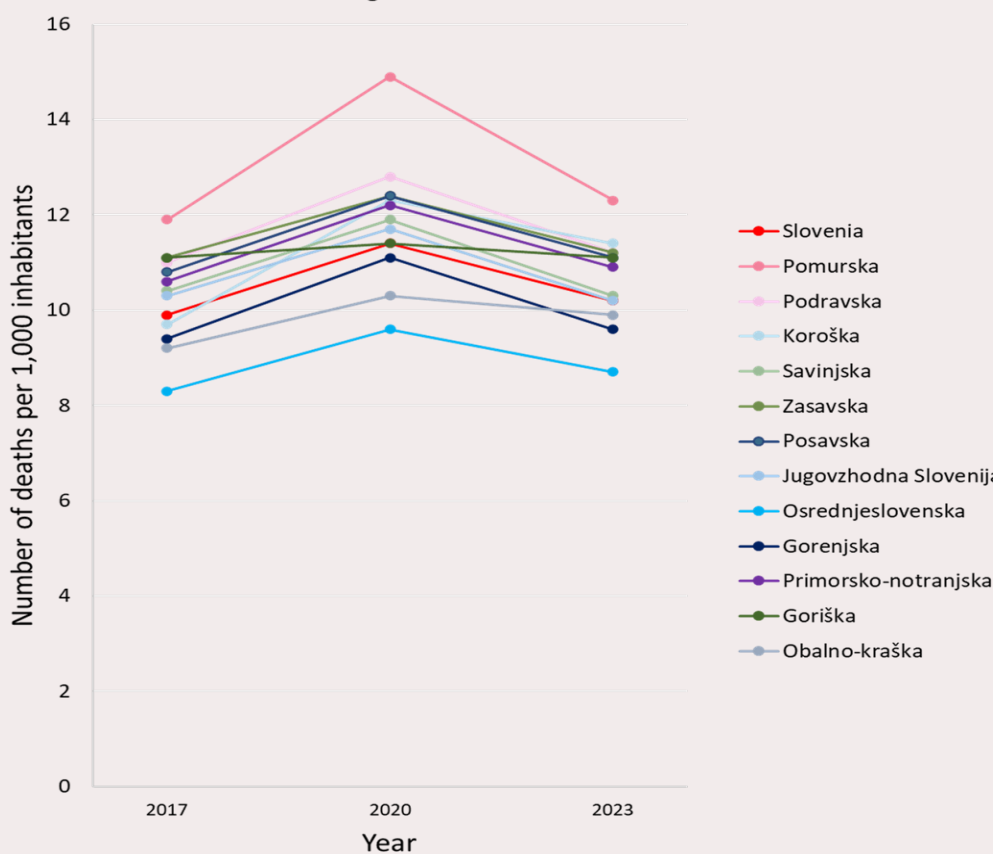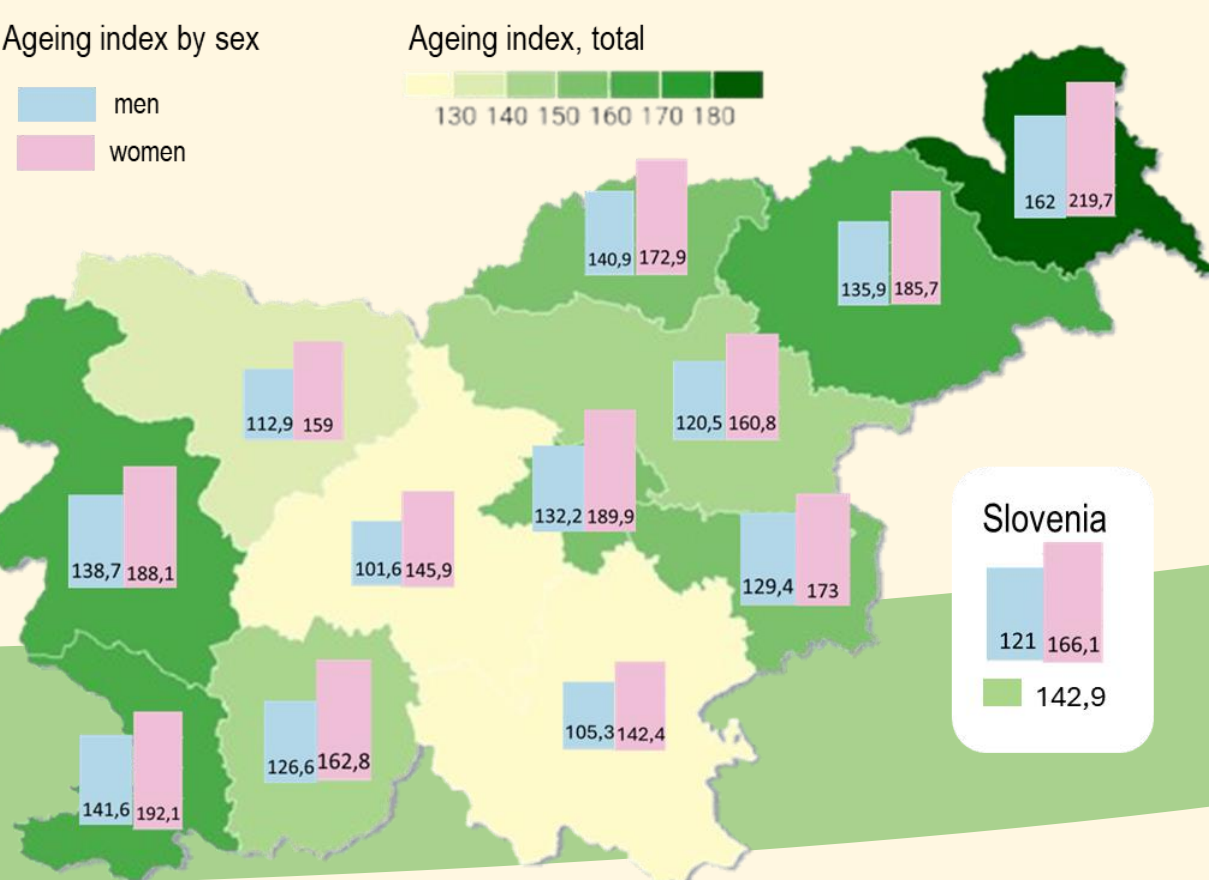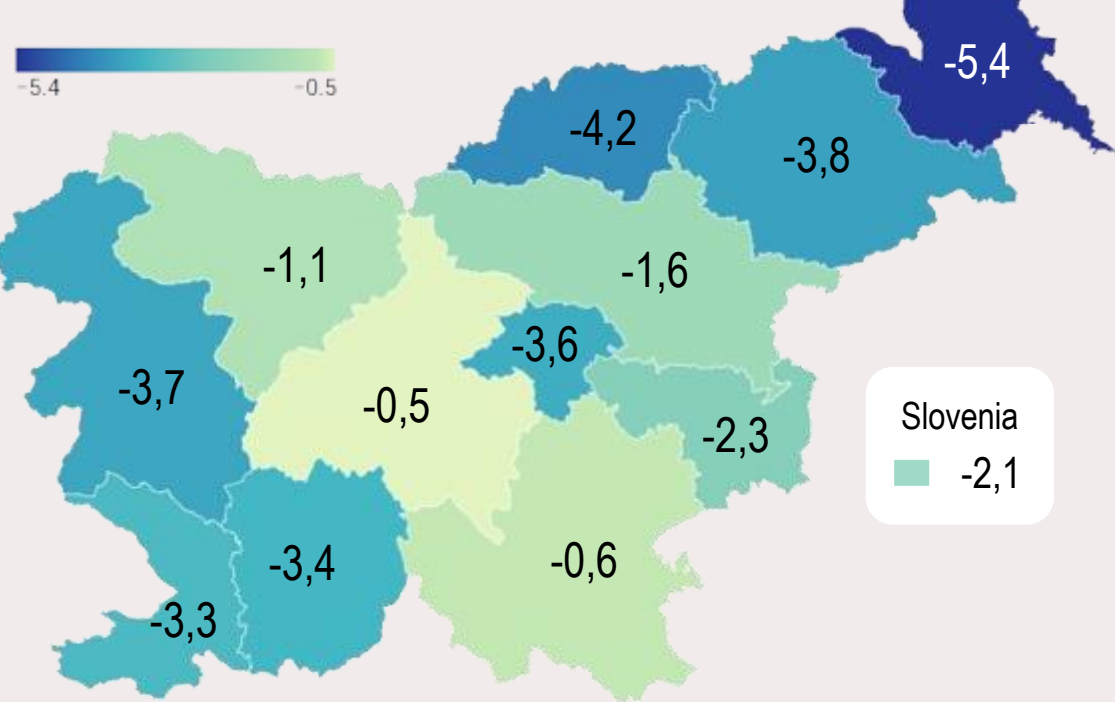
Number of marriages and divorces per 1,000 inhabitants by statistical regions in Slovenia in 2023

	Number of marriages per 100 inhabitants	Number of divorces per 1,000 inhabitants
Pomurska	3.0	1.0
Podravska	3.4	1.0
Koroška	3.3	0.8
Savinjska	3.0	1.0
Zasavska	2.7	1.4
Posavska	2.8	1.0
Jugovzhodna Slovenija	3.0	1.0
Osrednjeslovenska	3.1	1.1
Gorenjska	3.0	1.0
Primorsko-notranjska	2.4	1.0
Goriška	2.3	1.0
Obalno-kraška	2.6	0.9

Slovenian average:
- Number of marriages per 1,000 inhabitants: **3.0**
- Number of divorces per 1,000 inhabitants: **1.0**

below the Slovenian average | above the Slovenian average

The natural increase per 1,000 inhabitants is a demographic indicator that shows the difference between the number of births and the number of deaths annually, per 1,000 inhabitants. **In 2023, this indicator was negative in all Slovenian regions, meaning that the number of deaths exceeded the number of births.** The greatest decline was recorded in the Pomurska region (-5.4), with high negative values also observed in the Koroška, Podravska, Zasavska, Goriška, and Primorsko-notranjska regions. A smaller, but still negative increase was observed in the Savinjska and Gorenjska regions. The smallest decline was in Jugovzhodna Slovenija (-0.6) and Osrednjeslovenska (-0.5), where demographic conditions are somewhat more favorable.

Natural population change by statistical regions in Slovenia in 2023

Source: SURS

Conclusion

The annual growth rate of fertility in the periods 2017/2020 and 2020/2023 was negative in all statistical regions of Slovenia. In most regions, the average age of first-time mothers is increasing. The share of children born outside marriage is predominant in most regions. The number of marriages and divorces varies between regions. On average, in Slovenia in 2023, there were three marriages and one divorce per 1,000 people. The most common causes of death are circulatory diseases and cancer. There is also an observable trend of population ageing, as evidenced by a higher ageing index and negative natural growth. The mortality rate in 2023 exceeded the fertility rate in all statistical regions.