

CHANGES IN POPULATION OF MEZŐHEGYES

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1. SUMMARY

The number of the permanent population has been constantly decreasing since 1949. A natural reduction can be experienced. 23 % of the population lives in farms, in the outer areas. More boys are born than girls. This inequality changes into equal at the age of thirty. Later a surplus in the number of women develops because the death rate in the case of men is bigger. The age group between 45 and 49 is the most populous. 9 % of the population over 15 is divorced. 48 % of the women over 15 has two children. The highest education that the 32% of the population over 7 has is the certificate of final examination in a secondary school. The majority has Catholic religion in this town, but at the same time the proportion of those who does not belong to any religion is high. The majority of the population in Mezőhegyes is Hungarian.

2. INTRODUCTION

This study is attempting to describe the demographic development of Mezőhegyes. It examines its demographic features in 2001 in details.

3. MATERIAL AND METHOD

During the research work the following data have been treated: the relevant parts of the Collection of Place-names of the Hungarian Republic (Magyar Köztársaság Helységnévtára), the Historical Statistical Collection of Place-names of Hungary (Magyarország Történeti Statisztikai Helységnévtára) and the data of the national census took in 2001.

4. RESULTS

In 1579 according to the available data of the Turkish 'defterdar' (i.e. the manager of taxation in Turkish territories) 35 Slavonic families lived in Mezőhegyes, in the district of Csanád. Czibula {1} In 1898 the populated areas of Mezőhegyes were

the followings: Belsőfecsképuszta, Belsőkamarápuszta, Belsőmezőhegyespuszta, Belsőperegpuszta, Kovácsolópuszta, Külsőkamarápuszta, Külsőfecsképuszta, Külsőmezőhegyespuszta, Külsőperegpuszta, Nesze. On the basis of the census in 1952 it was extended with the following areas: Árkospuszta, Csatókamarás, farms in Csatókamarás, Fűperegpuszta, Kamarápuszta, Kendergyár, farms in Komlósfecskés, Komlósfecsképuszta, farms in Őrmezőhegyes, Peregpuszta, Petőfipuszta, Rákóczi-telep, Újmezőhegyes. In 1973 even József Attila Tsz (agricultural co-operative) was added to them.

It belonged to the county Csanád from 1240, then according to the data of the national census in 1936 to the county Csanád-Arad-Torontál. However, the census in 1952 mentions it as a settlement in the county Békés.

The number of population was 5379 at the time of the census in 1890. By 1949 it reached the number of 9861 persons. From this time we can experience a continuous reduction. (Figure 1)

Figure 1 : Changes in the number of population

Person
Time

The number of constant population was 8690 in 1970, 7689 in 1980, 7181 in 1990, 6407 in 2001. The density of population is 41,2 people per sq km. The number of residents was 8421 in 1970, 7416 in 1980, 7100 in 1990, 6399 in 2001. Czibula {2}

The natural reproduction was 391 people between 1970 and 1979. The number of birth was 1179, that of mortality was 788, and that of migration was -1395. The natural reduction was 60 persons between 1980 and 1989. In this period the number of birth was 857, that of mortality was 917, and that of the migration was -256. In the period of 1990 and 2001 the natural reduction was -386. The number of birth decreased to 710, the number of mortality increased to 1096, the number of migration was -315. {3}

In 2001 the number of night residents was 6399, 3326 of it did not work, did not learn, 2657 worked or learnt locally, 416 was commuter, 786 learnt or worked in other place. In 2001 the daily population of Mezőhegyes was 6769 altogether.

The number of students who live locally was 1004. 845 of it learnt locally and 159 in other place. The number of students

who arrived from other place was 395. The number of students who learn locally was 1240 altogether.

In 1240 Mezőhegyes was only a village. Between 1686 and 1864 it was a so called „puszta”, from 1898 a community, between 1913 and 1944 an incorporated municipality, from 1952 a community with local council, from 1973 an incorporated municipality again, from 1985 an incorporated municipality under the direct management of the county. It was declared town on 1 March 1989. Czibula {4}

The Table 1 shows how the population was divided on the area according to the data of the national census took in 2001.

Table 1 : How the population was divided in the area of Mezőhegyes in 2001

The area Census: its population (person)

Altogether

Source: A Magyar Köztársaság Helységnévtára 2003, (szerk.) Czibula Zoltán, KSH, Budapest p 624

The Figure 2 shows how the population of Mezőhegyes was divided according to sexes and ages in 2001. The number of persons between 45 and 49 is the highest. People over 85 are the less.

Figure 2: Division of the population of Mezőhegyes according to age

Woman

Man

The number of employed who live locally was 2069. 1812 of it worked locally, in other place 257. The number of those who were employed locally was 2203.

100 adult support 69 children or elder persons. The number of older persons who fall to 100 children is 153.

65% of men over 15 live in marriage, 27% is unmarried and 8% is a partner in matrimony. 7% of women over 15 is a partner in matrimony. 9% of the population over 15 is divorced. 48% of women have two children. The number of children who fall to 100 women is 186.

5% of the population over 7 have college or university degree, 16% have a school-leaving exam, 32% finished only the elementary school. 1,2% did not even finish the first class.

Division of the population according to its religion is the following according to the census in 2001: Roman Catholic:

39,7%; Greek Catholic: 0,3%; Calvinist: 10,7%; Lutheran: 2,6%; belongs to other church: 0,5%, does not belong to any church: 37,8%, unknown, did not answer: 8,3%.

The settlement was always populated by Hungarians. In 1949 and 1980 99% of the inhabitants was Hungarian (Table 2). Besides Hungarians there are Slovaks, Romanians, Southern Slavs, Germans and other minorities in a very small number. The proportion of Slovaks was the biggest in 1890: 10%. The most German (4,2%) was registered at the time of the same census. The proportion of Romanians was the biggest in 1910: 4,7%. The census in 2001 shows the following proportions in the number of minorities: Hungarian 96,8%, German 0,3%, Romanian 0,3%, Slovak 0,6%, unknown, did not answer 3,2%.

Table 2: Ethnic division of the population

Ethnic division of the population

Year	Number of population	Hungarian	Slovak	Romanian	South Slav	German	Other
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Source: A Magyar Köztársaság Helységnévtára 2003, (szerk.) Czibula Zoltán, KSH, Budapest, p624

5. CONCLUSIONS, SUGGESTIONS

Mezőhegyes is characterizes with the features that are valid to the whole country: its population is aging, the number of birth is getting less and less, a natural reduction can be experienced. The Catholic religion is in majority. However, the era before the change of the political system still has its influence. The number of those who do not belong to any church, religion is very high: 37,8%.

6. LITERATURE

1. Czibula Zoltán (szerk.),2003, A Magyar Köztársaság Helységnévtára, KSH, Budapest, 624, 1076 p.
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