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DEMOGRAPHIC DEVELOPMENTS IN ALBANIA AFTER WORLD WAR II

For their geopolitical position of the Albanian lands historically have been subject to foreign invasion, which not only reduced and shranked the boundaries of the compact extension of the population, but also influenced on the mass exoduses and the continuous migrations of the Albanian population. As a result of this long historical process, only less than half the Albanian population in general live at home. The rest of the nation lives in Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, etc. A large number of Albanian population has migrated to Greece, Italy, Germany, USA etc.. This demographic feature is probably a unique case in the world. At the same time, major political, economic and social changes, that have happened, especially after 1990, have determined the course of many important demographic processes.

Until 1990 Albania had the highest rates of growth in Europe. After these years and in the future the Albanian population will grow slowly. Birth rate will continue to decrease, while the mortality will tend to increase as a result of the relative aging of the population.

International migration will happen with those dimensions that were noted in the last 15 years, while the process of urbanization will continue to deepen as a result of the objective trend of transition of the labor force from the **primary sector** (agriculture and mining) to **secondary sector** (industry and construction) and later to the **tertiary sector** (service, trade and transport).