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**DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF SPARSELY
POPULATED AREAS IN LITHUANIA**

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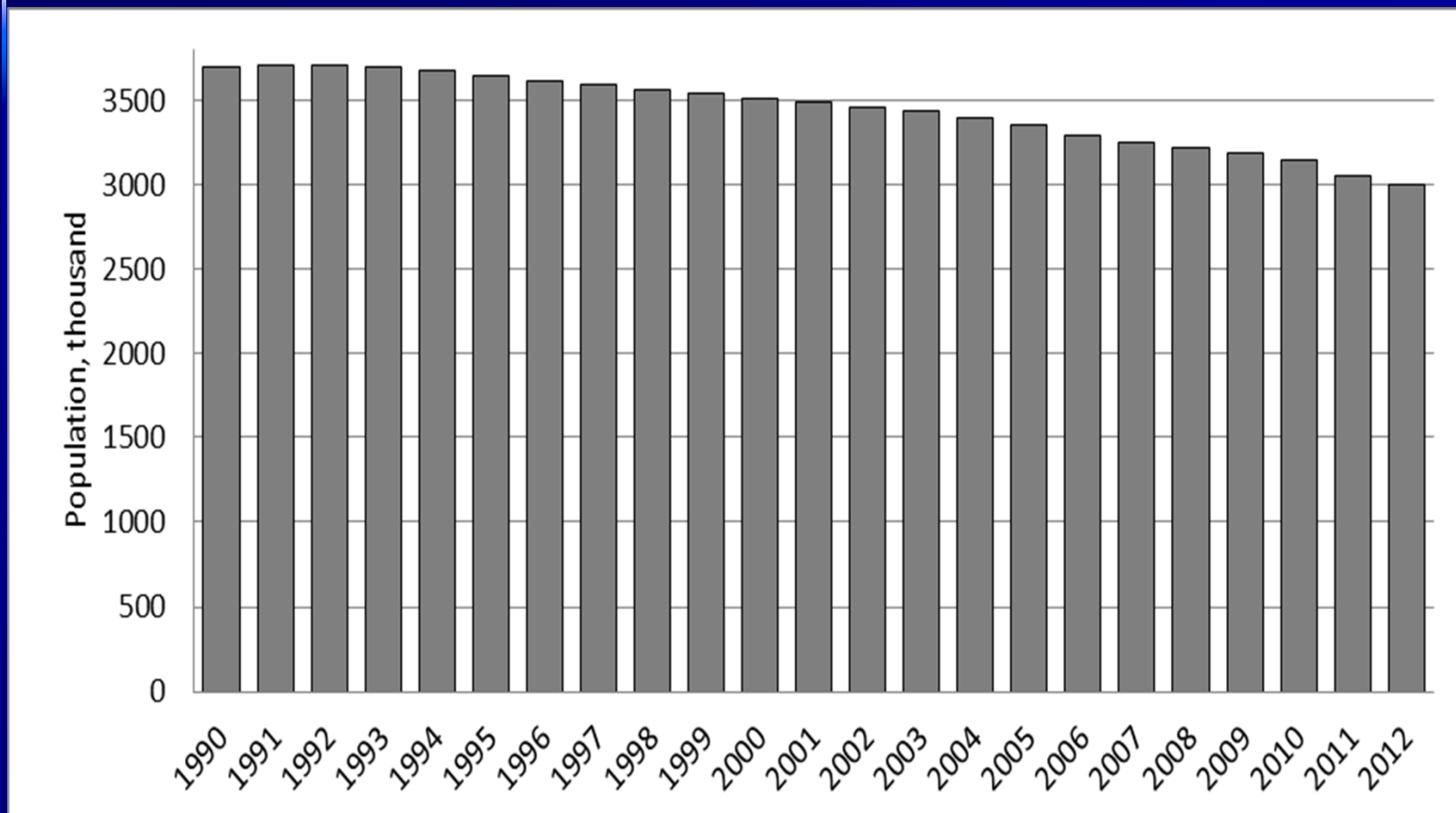
**Lithuanian Social Research Centre
Institute of Human Geography and Demography
Vilnius**

**“III CONGRESS OF LITHUANIAN GEOGRAPHERS”
Vilnius, 26-27th September 2013**

Decrease of population in Lithuania

2013 – 2 971 905 pop.

2014 – 2 944 459 pop.

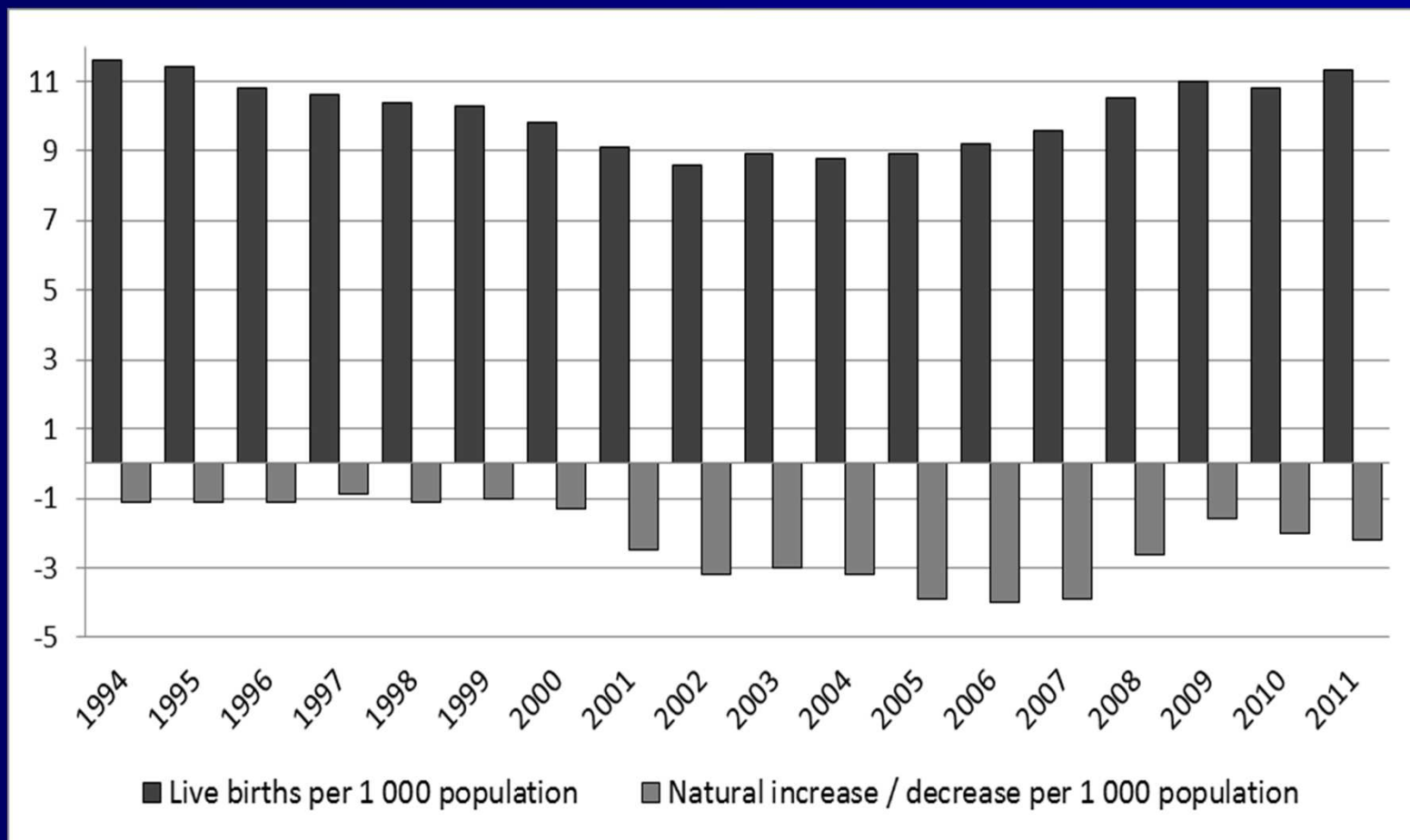


Sources: <http://db1.stat.gov.lt>

Natural decrease

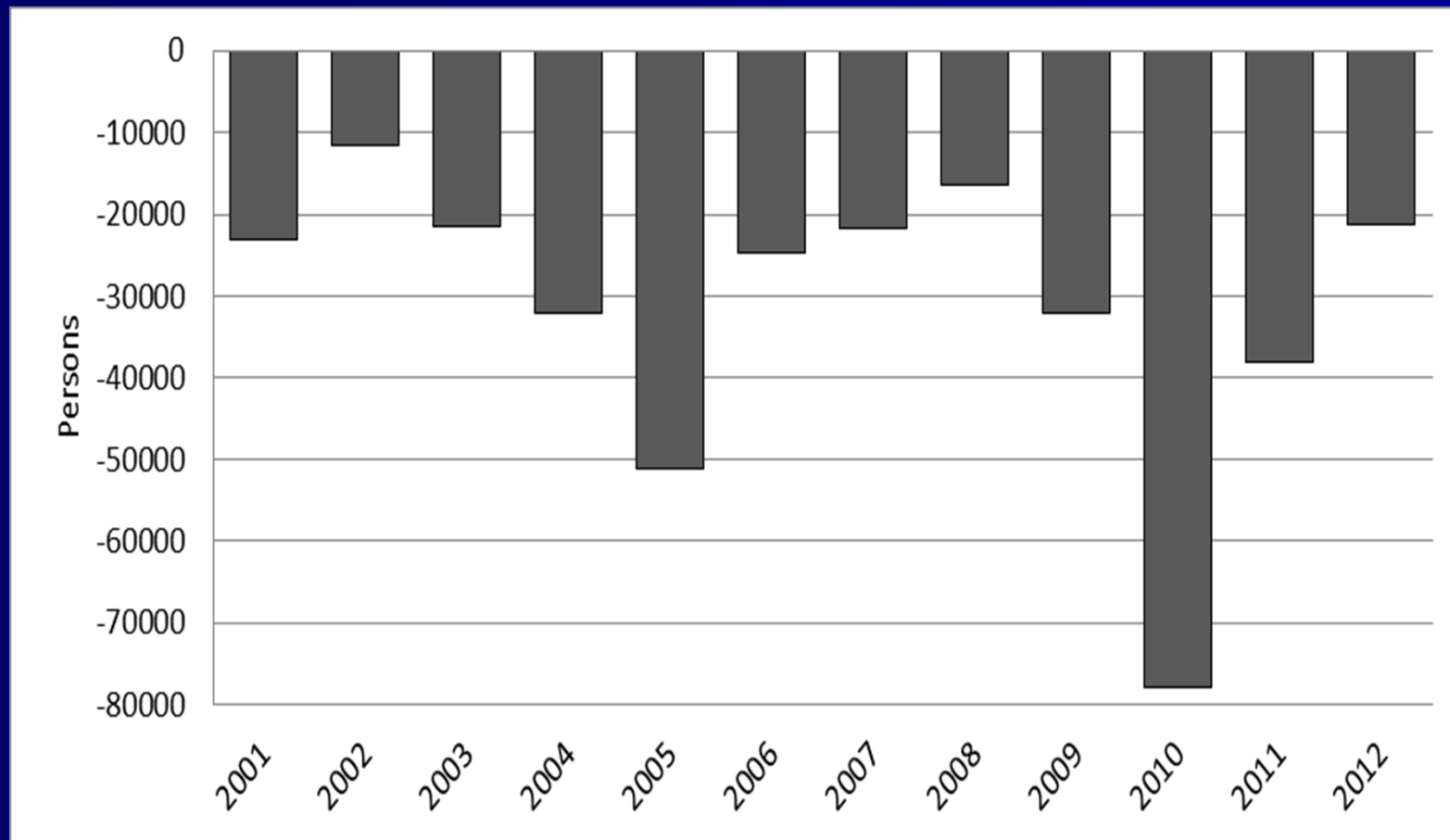
2012: Live births – 10,2‰, Natural decrease – - 3,5‰

2013: Live births – 10,1‰, Natural decrease – - 3,9‰



Net migration

**2013: Net migration – -16,8 thous.
Emigration – 38,8 thous.
Immigration – 22,0 thous.**

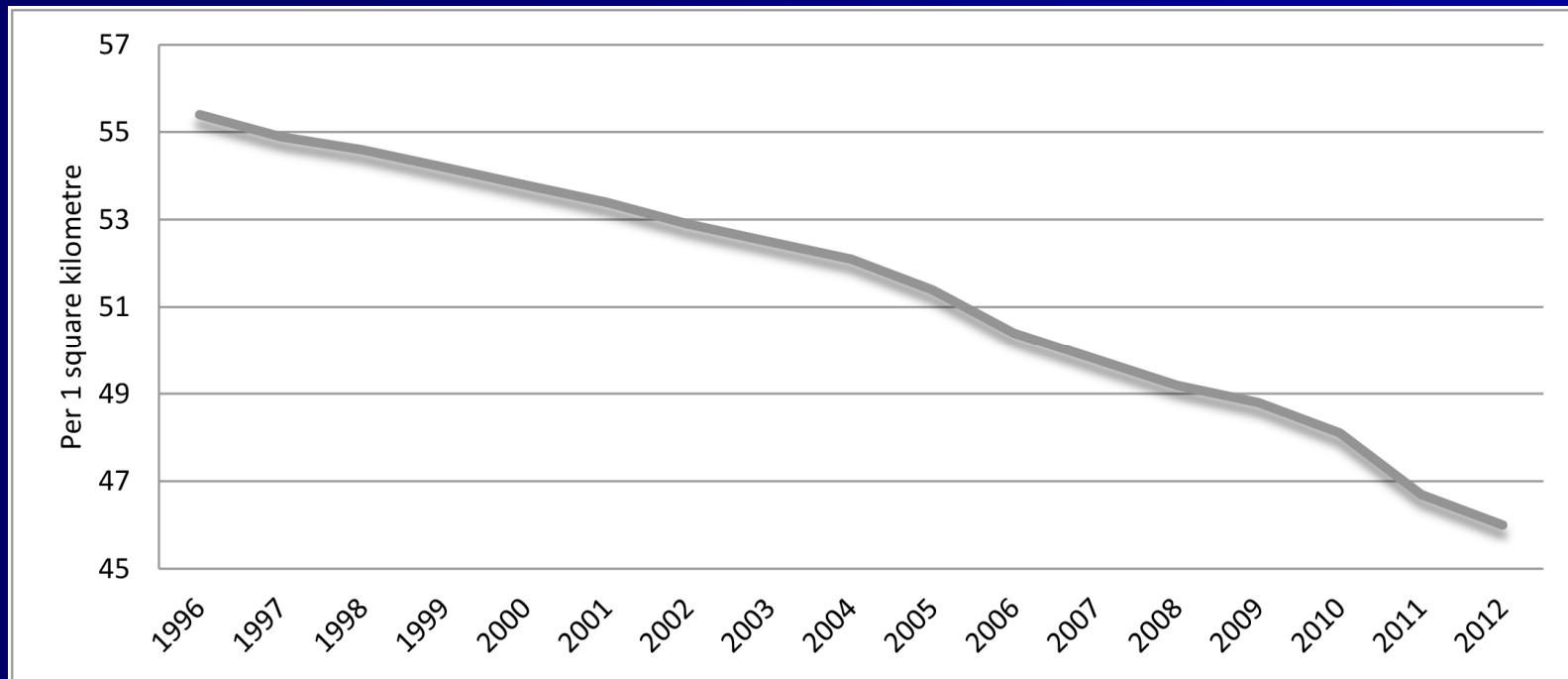


Sources: <http://db1.stat.gov.lt>

Decrease of population density

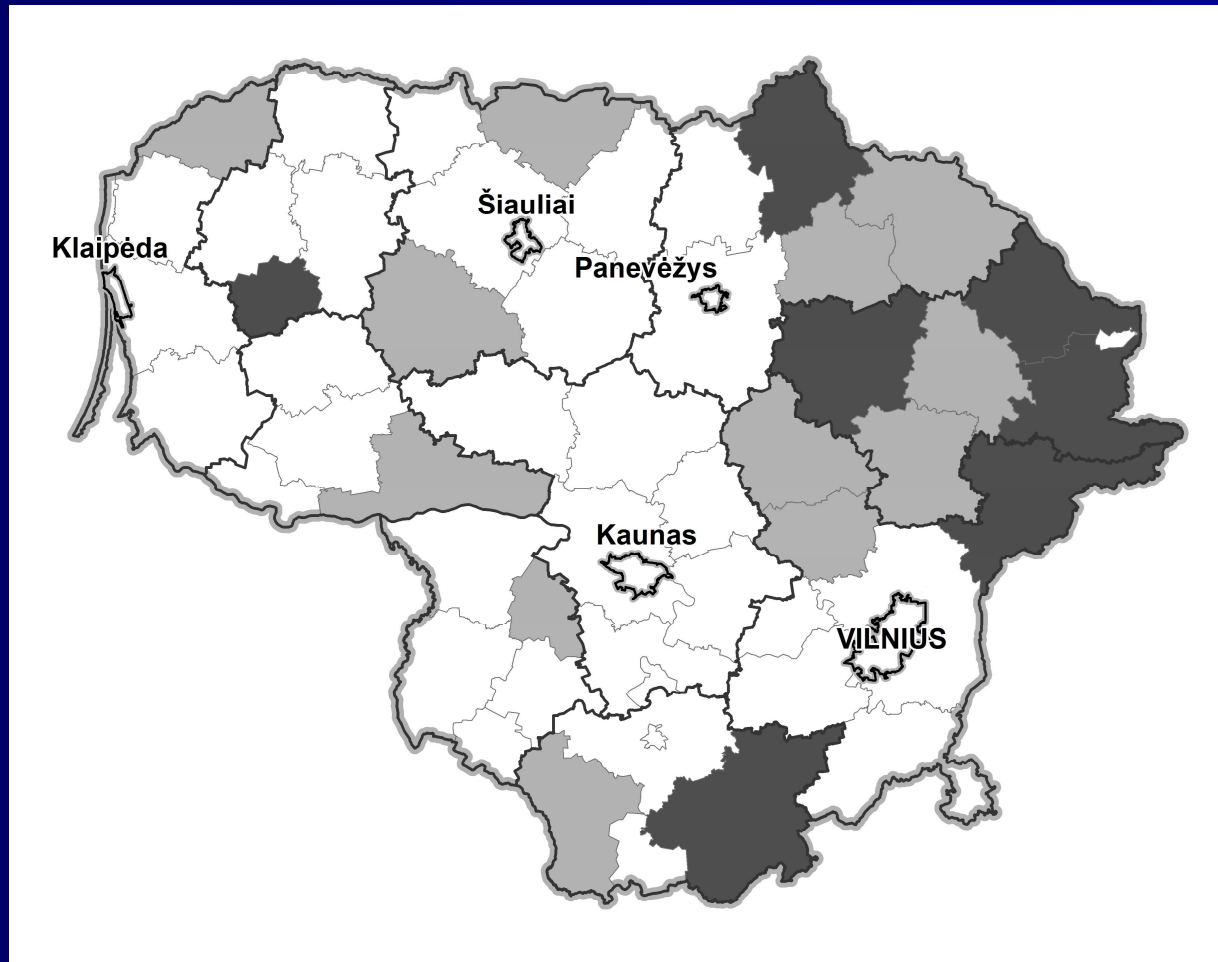
2013: 45,5 people per km²

2014: 45,1 people per km²



Sources: <http://db1.stat.gov.lt>

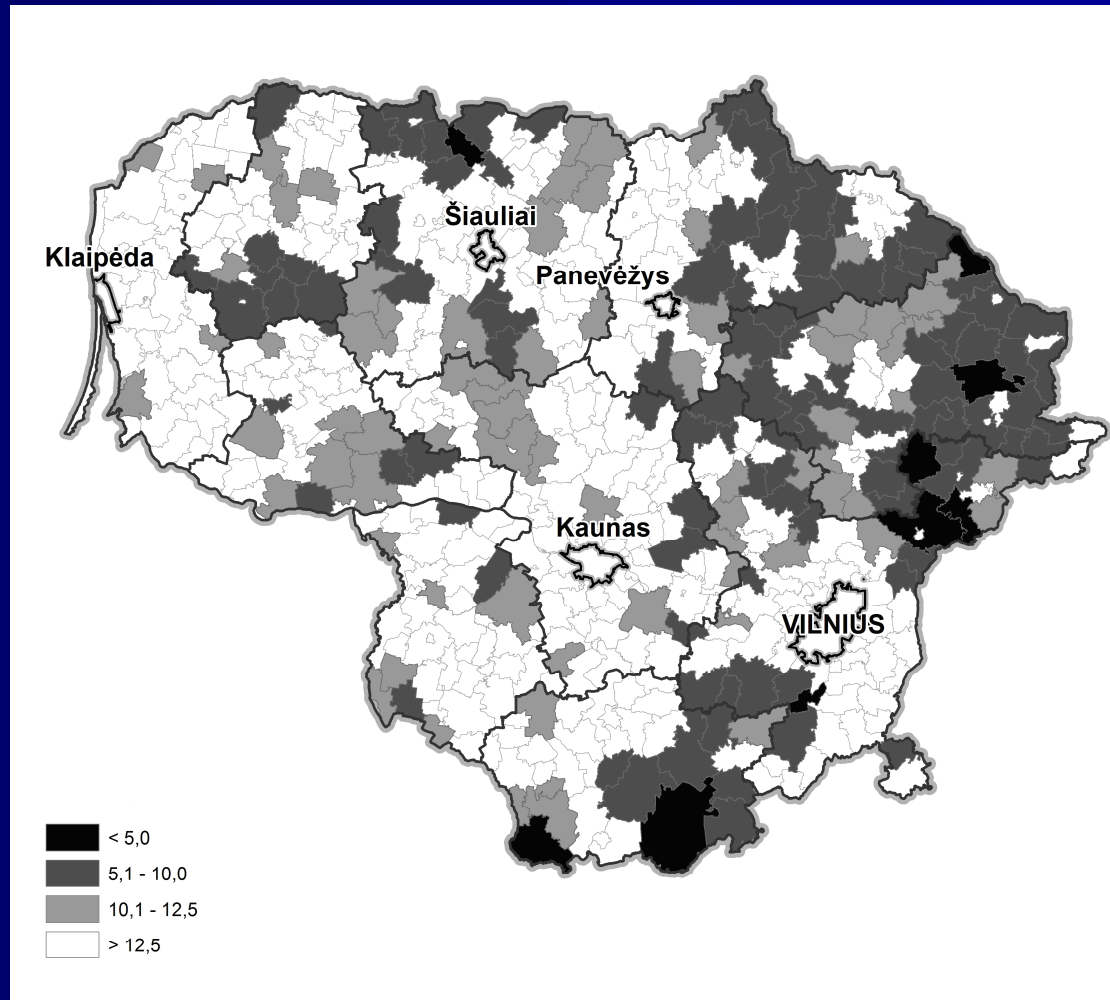
Sparsely populated municipality's in 2012 (where rural population density is less than 12.5 people per km²)



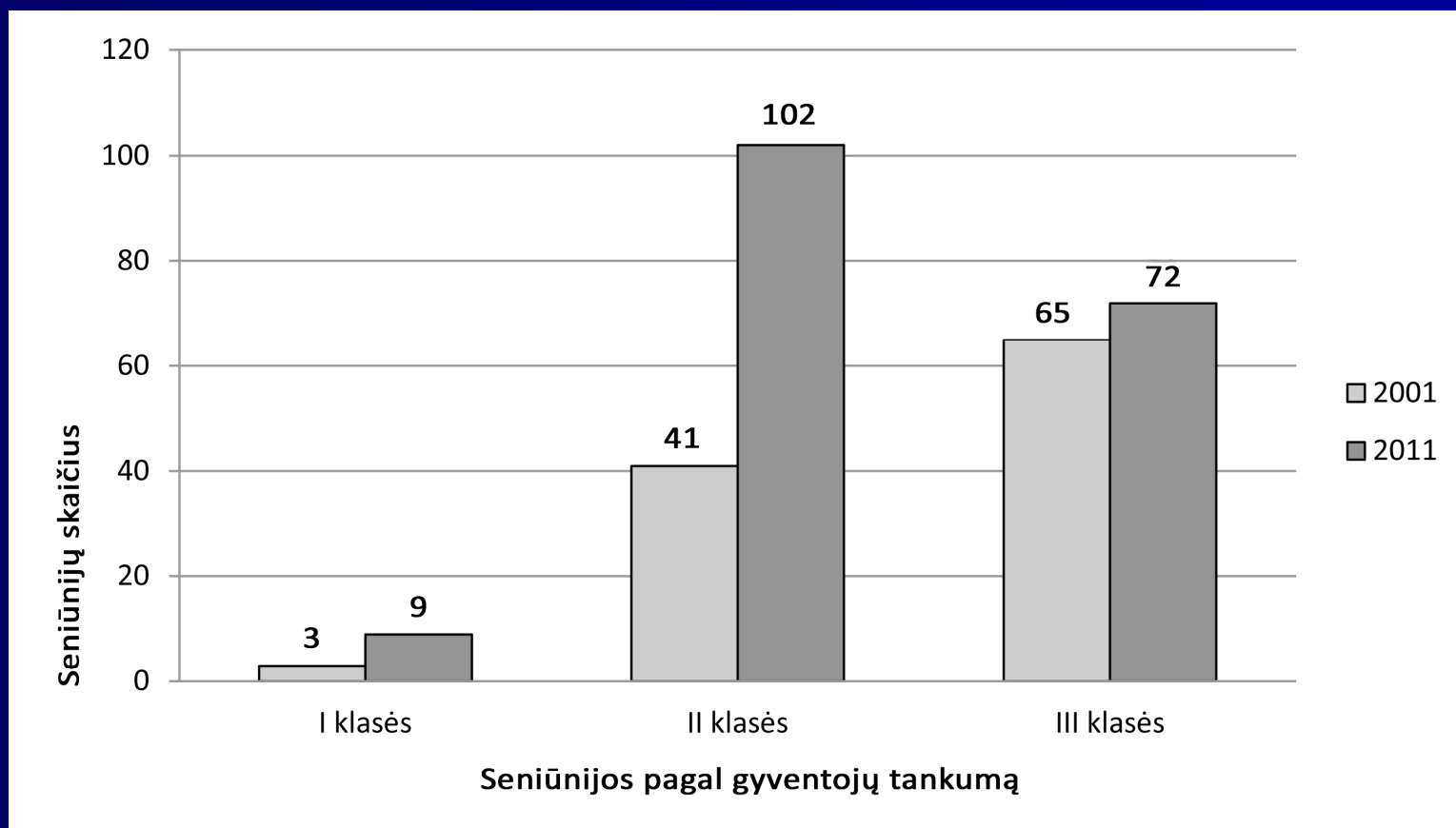
Sources: <http://db1.stat.gov.lt>

Sparsely populated territories in 2012

(where rural population density is less than 12.5 people per km²)



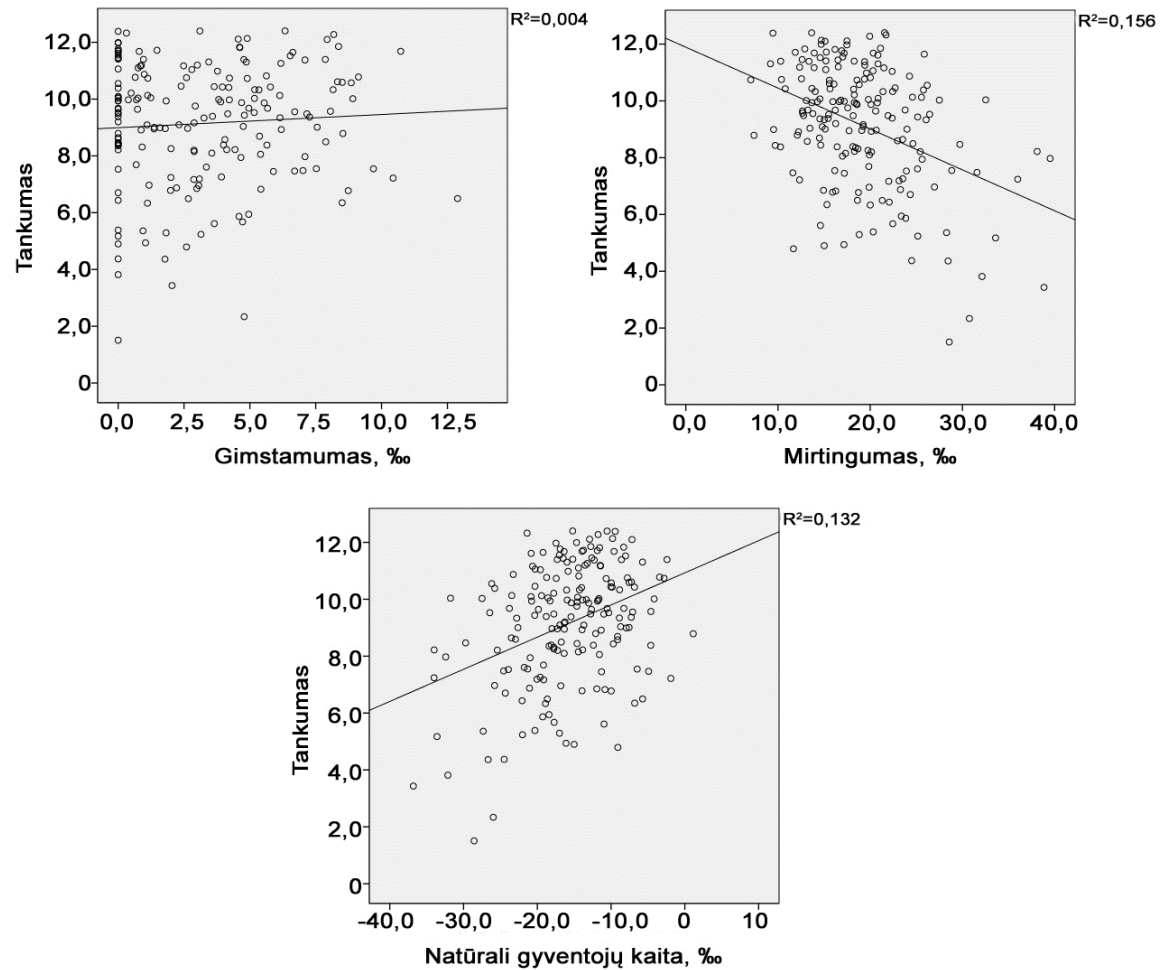
The number of sparsely populated local units in 2001-2011



Conclusion

- **Large part of Lithuanian territory might be assigned to the sparsely populated as it covers around 45 % of the country. The major part of SPT is concentrated in the infertile and forestry North-eastern and Southern Lithuania, where such territories compound continuous habitats. Currently, it might be considered 183 local administrative units as extremely sparsely populated. The number of SPT in the country is increasing and will increase due to intensifying depopulation. The depopulation rates have doubled, and in some municipalities have increased even 3 or 4 times. It is likely that over the next 15-20 years, the majority of Lithuanian rural territories (excluding the territories around major cities) will become SPT.**

Population density and demographic characteristics



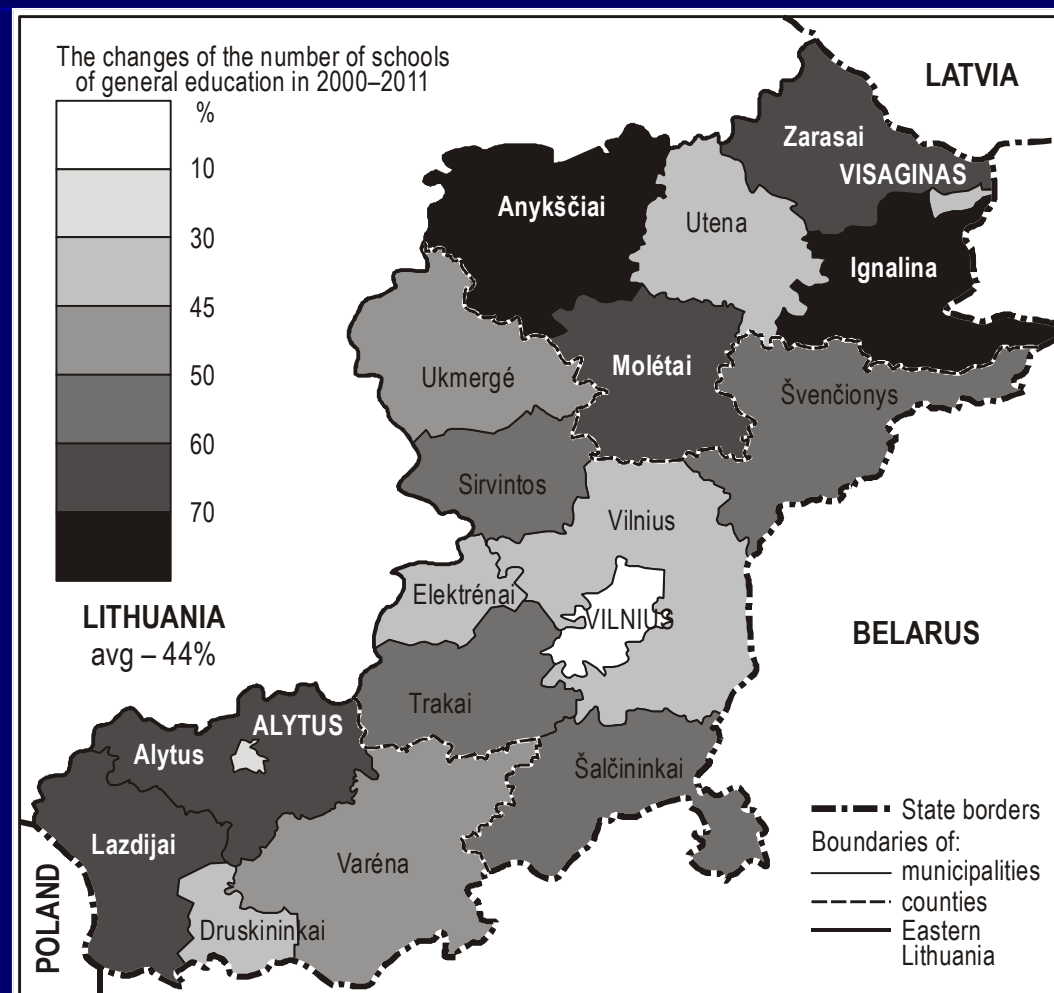
Demographic characteristics of sparsely populated areas

Live births – 3,3‰

Death-rate – 19,1‰

Natural decrease – - 15,8‰

Change of the number of school of general education in 2001 – 2011



Sources: <http://db1.stat.gov.lt>

Conclusion

- **Depopulation in SPT is followed by the decline of education and other social institutions. The closed circle is forming: decreasing population – declining social infrastructure – decreasing population... This increases social and territorial exclusion of SPT residents’.**





