

Russia's Population Decreases for First Time in a Decade

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Alexander Avilov / Moskva News Agency

The Russian population has decreased in 2018 for the first time in almost a decade as the country battles a demographic crisis that threatens its economy, according to new data.

Declining birth rates after the collapse of the Soviet Union have resulted in a second demographic slump as the generation born in the 1990s reaches its prime childbearing years. A UN report [predicted](#) that by 2050, Russia's population will shrink by 11 million and will increasingly be concentrated in urban areas.

Related article: [UN Predicts Falling Population, Rising Urbanization in Russia Through 2050](#)

A new mid-year report from Russia's Rosstat statistics agency said the population had decreased by 91,900 people between January and July this year.

This half-year, migration failed to prop up the decrease as it did in the past, Rosstat [said](#) in the report published Wednesday.

Year-on-year population declines were recorded in 83 of 85 Russian regions and increases in mortality rates in 54 regions.

Russia had 10.9 births per 1,000 people in January–July in a consistent decline since at least 2011.

The 1.69 million babies born in 2017 [marked the lowest birth rate](#) since 2007.

In his 2018 election campaign, President Vladimir Putin pledged to spend \$8.6 billion over three years on programs including mortgage subsidies and payouts to families to encourage Russians to have more babies.

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