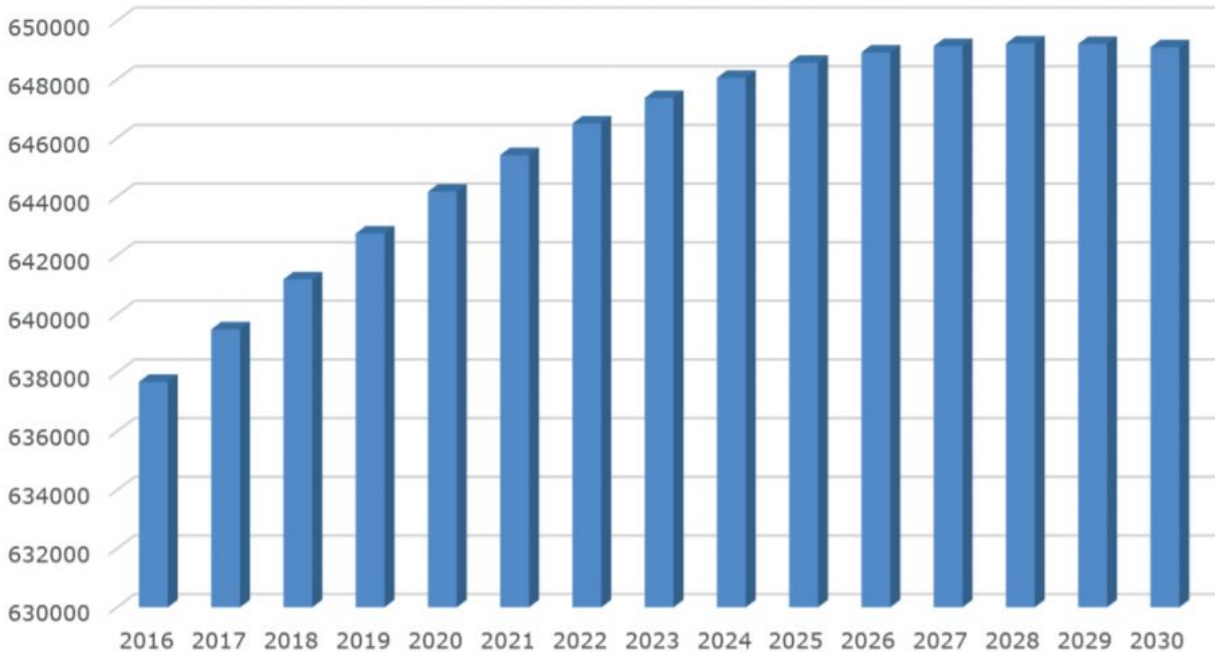


## Demographic situation in Wrocław

According to data from the Central Statistical Office, at the end of 2018, there were slightly over 640,000 inhabitants in Wrocław. For several years, **the population of the capital of Lower Silesia has been increasing**, mainly due to the positive balance of migration. Although from 2016 more Wrocław inhabitants are born than dies, the birth advantage over deaths is small and it is uncertain whether it will last in the future. According to the Central Statistical Office (GUS) forecasts, the number of Wrocław residents will be slowly, but steadily growing in the next several years, and in 2030 will exceed 649 000 people. The upward trend is and will be much stronger in communes located near Wrocław. The average annual increase in the number of inhabitants in these territorial self-government units treated in total is 4.5 thousand, while in Wrocław - 700. The above tendency is the result of suburbanisation processes characteristic of metropolitan areas of most more developed countries.



**Chart 1:** The forecasted number of inhabitants of Wrocław.

**Source:** Development of BRW based on GUS data.

The number of Wrocław residents in the working-age has been systematically decreasing for many years and the number of post-working residents in Wrocław is growing rapidly. These trends will be permanent. In turn, the share of residents in the pre-productive age increases slightly. In only a few years, the proportion of people in post-working age (men over 65, women over 60) will exceed 25% and will remain at this level for the next decade.

Until recently, the average life expectancy of the inhabitants of the capital of Lower Silesia was systematically growing. 2017 was the first year in which this positive trend reversed. For 2018 data is only available on a national scale. The data shows the continuation of the trend of the drop in the life expectancy of Polish women and men. It can be presumed that this trend has been also affecting Wrocław. Relevant data for our city for 2016 and 2017 are 76.0 and 75.6, respectively, for men and 82.3 and 82.2 for women.

Changes in the age structure of the population of the capital of Lower Silesia mean that the average age of the inhabitants of Wrocław grows. In 2018 it reached an average of 42.9 years, and in the future it will probably continue to grow, unless the collapse in the healthcare system deepens. The expected demographic future of Wrocław does not look too bright. However, it should be emphasized that the long-term forecasts developed by the Central Statistical Office for the largest Polish cities are more optimistic only in the case of Warsaw and Krakow. The demographic situation of Wrocław is and will be to a much greater extent derived from the long-term processes taking place nationally and decisions taken at central administration level or their lack than local conditions and policies implemented by the city authorities.

In the public statistics, foreigners who live in Wrocław for a longer or shorter period are included to a very limited extent. According to cautious estimates, they constitute approx 10% of the inhabitants of the capital of Lower Silesia. Their proportion is growing, which leads to the conclusion that they will increasingly influence the actual demographic structure of Wrocław and, as a consequence, population forecasts developed several years ago.