

# NATURAL CHANGE AND MIGRATION

A full list of references  
can be found here:

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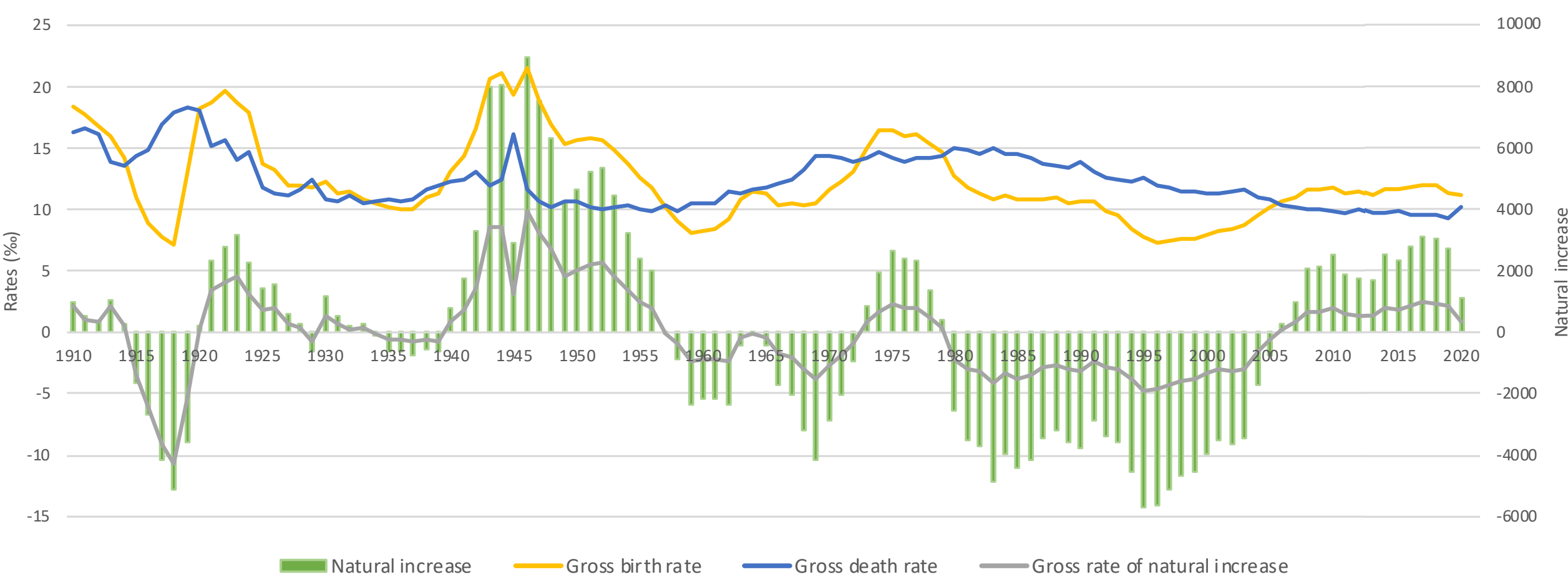


While the difference between the number of (live) births and deaths indicates the size of the natural change, the migration rate indicates the difference between the number of immigrants and emigrants. These indicators and their gross measures are basic demographic variables with which it is possible to assess the population change of the selected area. In the last hundred years, the population change of Prague has been shaped mainly by migration.

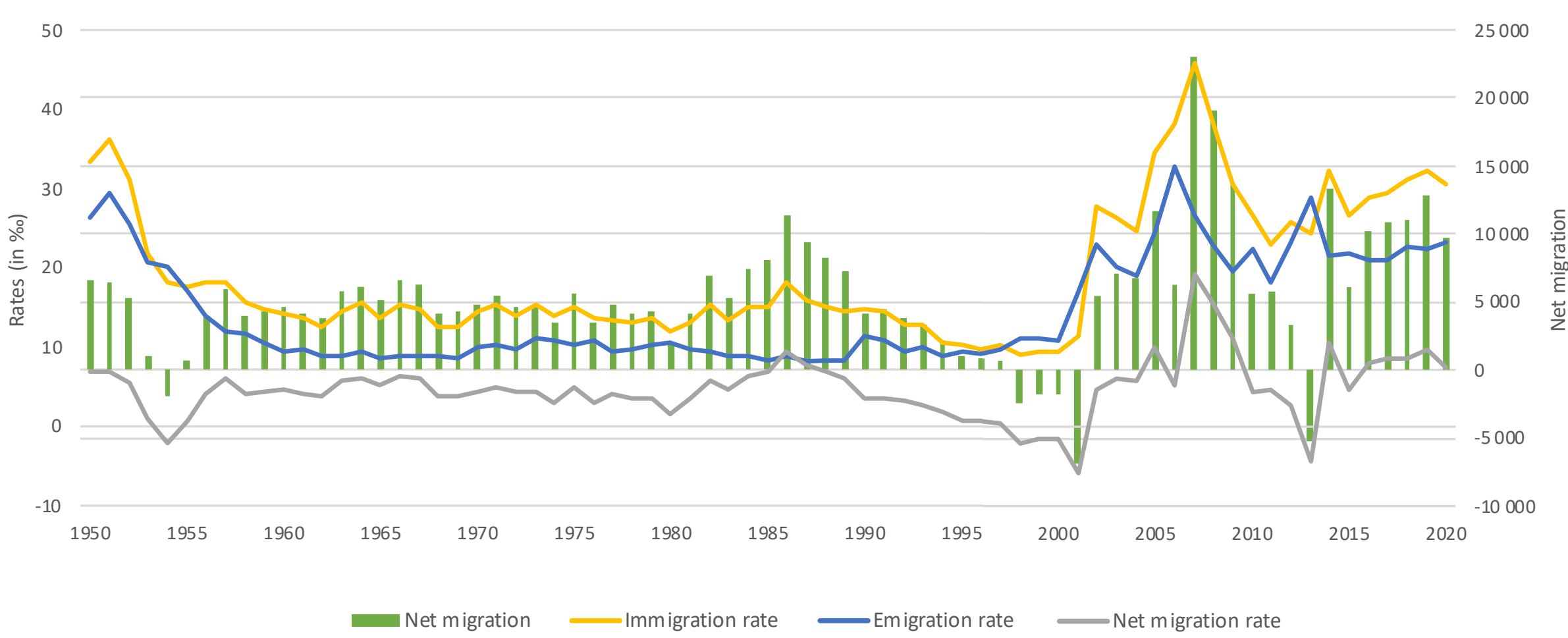
We investigated the development of natural change in Prague between 1910 and 2020. The effects of the First World War are reflected in the negative values of natural change between 1914 and 1920. The Great Depression and uncertainty associated with the beginning of World War II reflected in the negative values of population growth between

1929 and 1939. On the contrary, the highest natural increase and a significant increase in the number of children born occurred, as it did in all of the Czechia, at the end of the war, between 1942 and 1949. Since 1958, the number of deaths in Prague has exceeded the number of births, and this trend did not change over the next 47 years. The only exception was the period between 1973 and 1979. During this period, which saw a very high birth rate nationwide, Prague also regained its population for a short time due to the positive natural change. This situation occurred again in 2007, and the positive natural increase still persists. The increased number of children born in this period is mainly due to the strong age groups of parents born in the 1970s. At the same time, there has been a gradual decrease in the number of deaths, caused not only by the representation of individual age groups in the population but also by the increasing life expectancy. Since 2020, the number of deaths has increased as a result of COVID-19, and the natural increase is declining in Prague.

## Natural change within Prague's administrative borders, 1910–2020



## Migration in Prague, in administrative border, 1919–2020

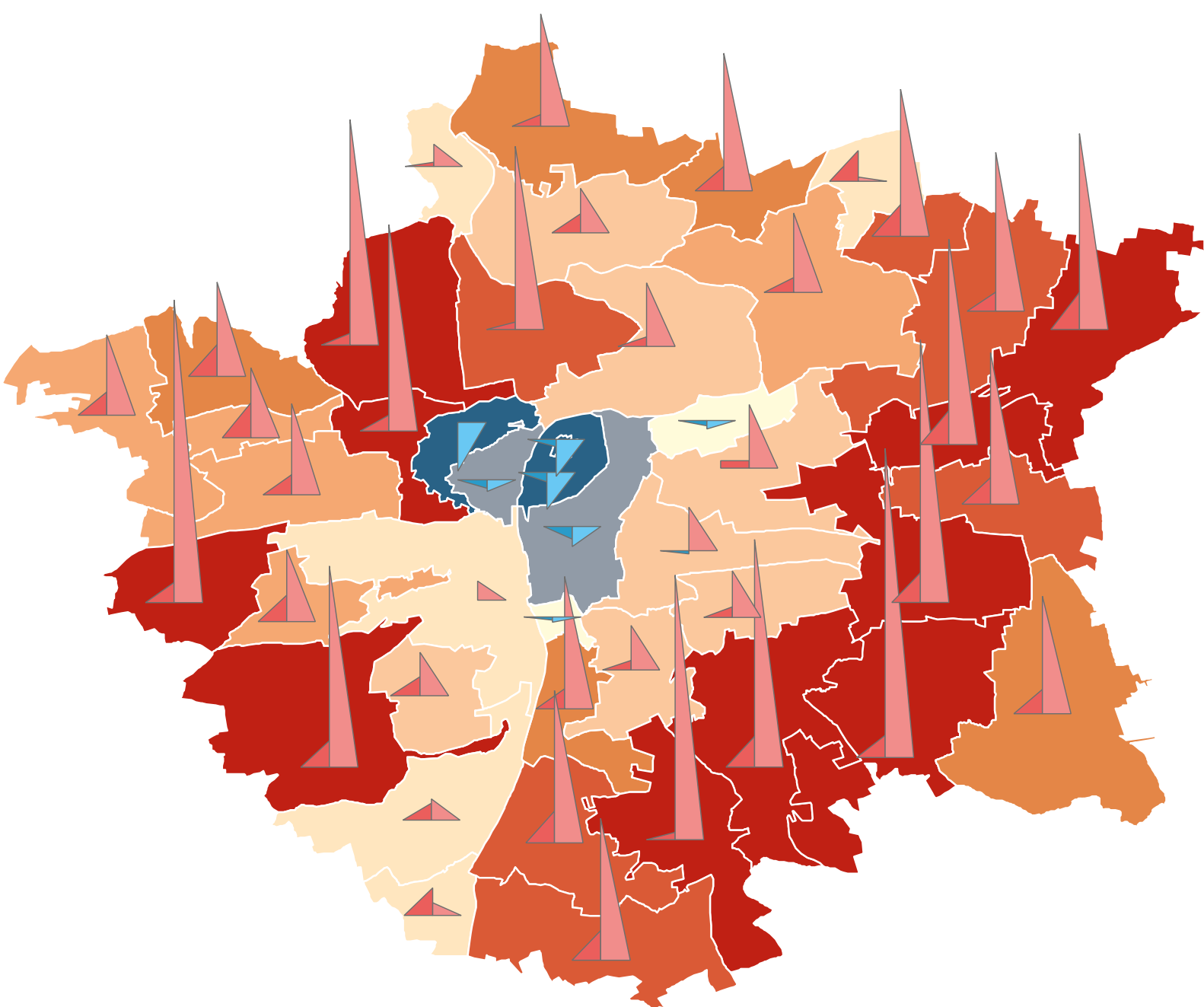


We have been observing the difference between the number of immigrants and emigrants in the territory of Prague since 1920. Between 1920 and 1949, the increase in migration is calculated using the difference between the total and the natural increase. Report-based migration records have only been in operation since 1949. Prague experienced intensive urbanisation throughout the 1920s, with an average immigration increase of around 15 000 per year. In the 1930s and 1940s, migration gains were lower, and Prague lost total population due to migration. Migration losses were also exacerbated by the expulsion of German citizens. By 1946, about 20,000 Germans had been forcibly expelled from Prague.

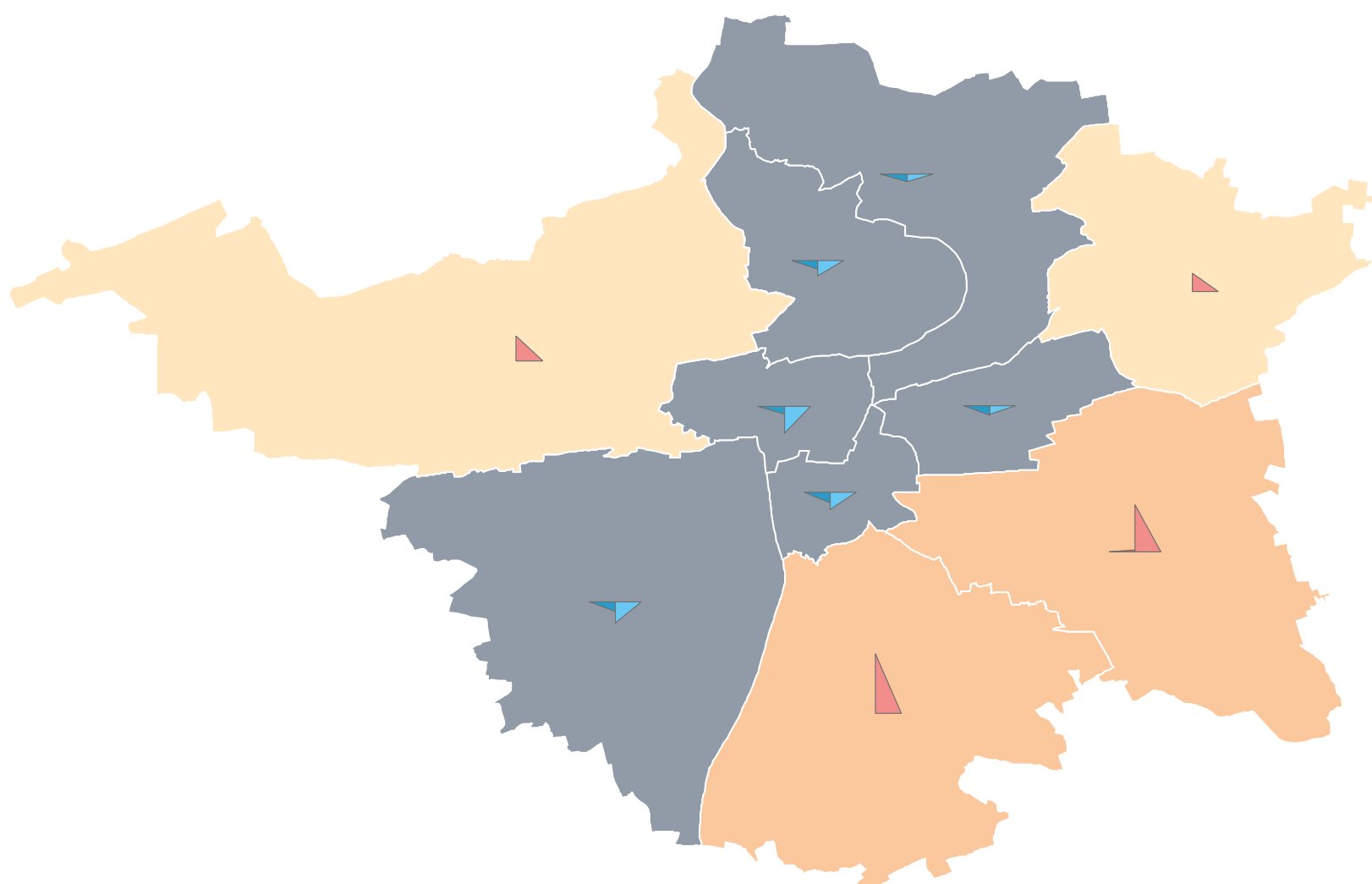
Although immigration prevailed over emigration starting in the 1950s, net migration was very low. The reason for the low migration gains was mainly long-term insufficiencies in housing construction and underfunded development in Prague during the two post-war decades. The saturation of non-Prague residents in newly built housing estates led to a slight increase in immigrants over emigrants in the 1980s. Again, insufficient housing capacity is reflected in negative migration growth in the 1990s. In the last 20 years, with the exception of 2014, Prague has gained in population due to migration, averaging less than 8 000 migrants per year in the last decade. Foreign migrants predominate in the migration stream over the Czech population.

## MIGRATION AND POPULATION INCREASE IN PRAGUE

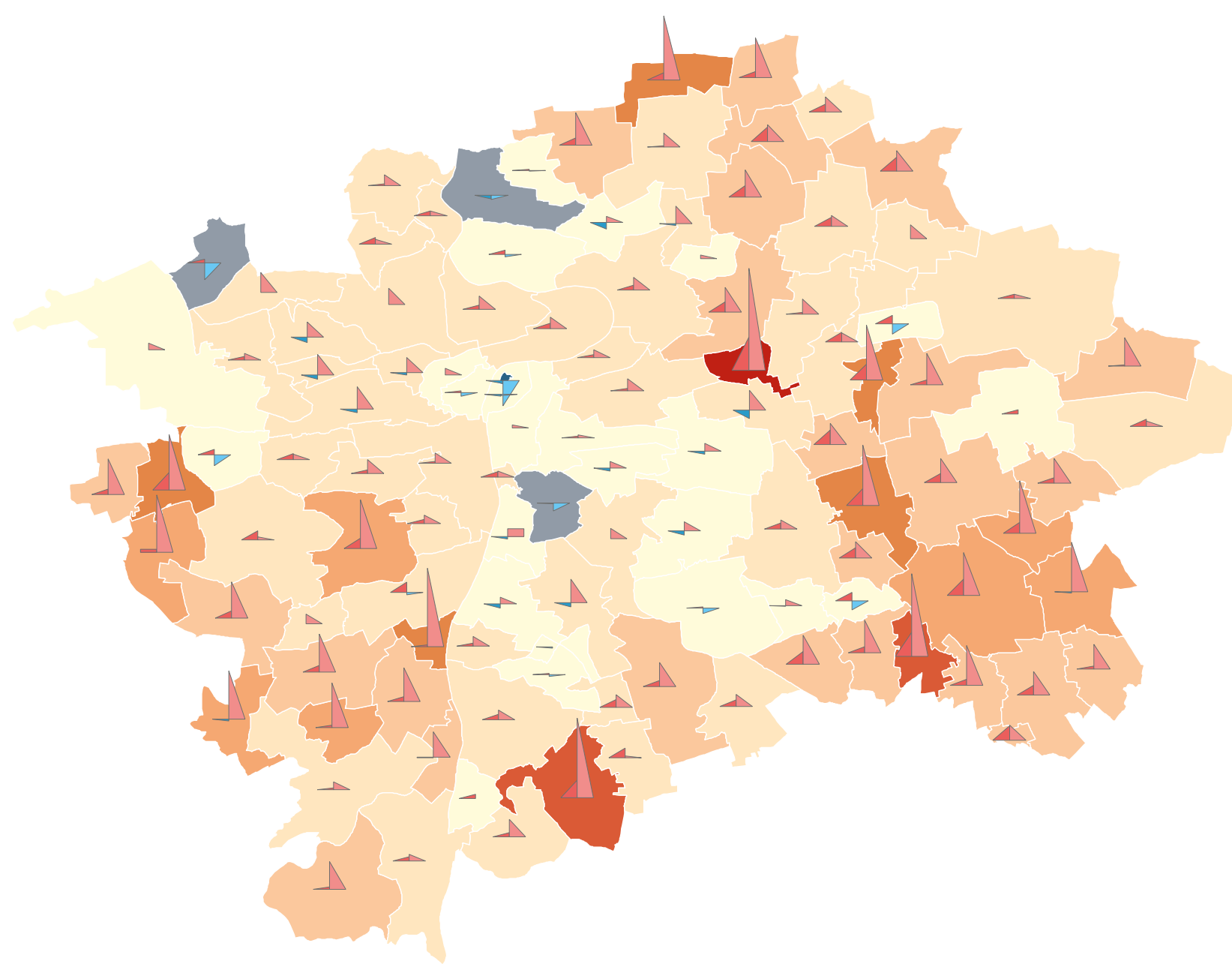
1921–1930



1960–1969

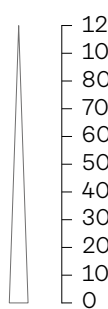


2011–2020

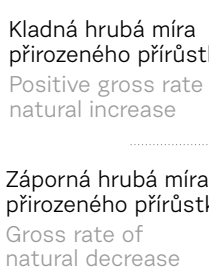


In the 1920s, the centre of Prague lost its inhabitants mainly due to both migration and natural change. On the contrary, Krč, Staré Střešovice, Motol and Záběhlce were among the most desirable cadasters in terms of population. In the 1960s, data on natural change and migration could only be obtained for city districts. Among those with a population increase were Prague 4, Prague 10, Prague 6 and Prague 9. In the last twenty years, the most popular parts of Prague have usually been the outer cadasters with new housing construction. On the contrary, Josefov is the cadastre with the largest total population decline, mainly due to the high number of emigrants.

Gross rate of natural increase and net migration rate



Natural growth and migration



Total population rate

