

2011 Census of Population, Households and Dwellings in the Republic of Serbia

Book 29: Evaluation of the Content Error

In the book "Evaluation of the Content Error" the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia publishes the unweighted results of the evaluation of content error in the 2011 Census of Population, Households and Dwellings in the Republic of Serbia, by the type of settlement.

The Post Enumeration Survey of the 2011 Census was carried out directly after the Census, in the period from 22nd October to 5th November, 2011, in compliance with the Law on the Census of Population, Households and Dwellings ("The Official Gazette of the RS," no. 104/09 and 24/11). The Census (and the Post Enumeration Survey as a part of the Census) is financially supported by the European Union which has participated in the total costs with 60%.

A random sample of 250 enumeration areas (0.61% of the total number of enumeration areas in the Republic of Serbia) was selected for the Post Enumeration Survey of the Census. Approximately a 10-per cent sample of households was selected from among these enumeration areas for the evaluation of the content error.

The presented results refer to the errors that occur owing to shortcomings in the recorded responses to the questions on census units during the collection of data and the ones that lead to bias and inconsistency in the census data. The errors most frequently occur owing to irregularities in the work of the enumerators, impossibility or unwillingness of the persons to provide accurate responses, methodological uncertainties, ambiguous and unclear formulations of questions in the census forms, etc.

Based on the sample for the evaluation of content error for selected characteristics on the person, household and dwelling, the following has been calculated:

- two aggregate indicators that refer to the characteristic as a whole – the aggregate index of inconsistency (measure of the average simple response variance) and the rate of agreement, and
- two indicators that refer to the response quality by the modalities of the characteristic – the net difference rate (measure of bias) and the index of inconsistency (measure of the simple response variance).

The information on content errors is very important for the census methodologists. With their correct interpretation they may assess the quality of the conducted census activities and, on the basis of the observed errors and their causes, work on the improvement of the next census. For other users, it is, primarily, important to understand that statistical data could contain some errors.

A detailed presentation of the evaluation of content error is provided in the Census book 29 which is in its electronic form on internet pages: www.stat.gov.rs and www.popis2011.stat.rs.

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www.popis2011.stat.rs