

Statistical release

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Statistics of population

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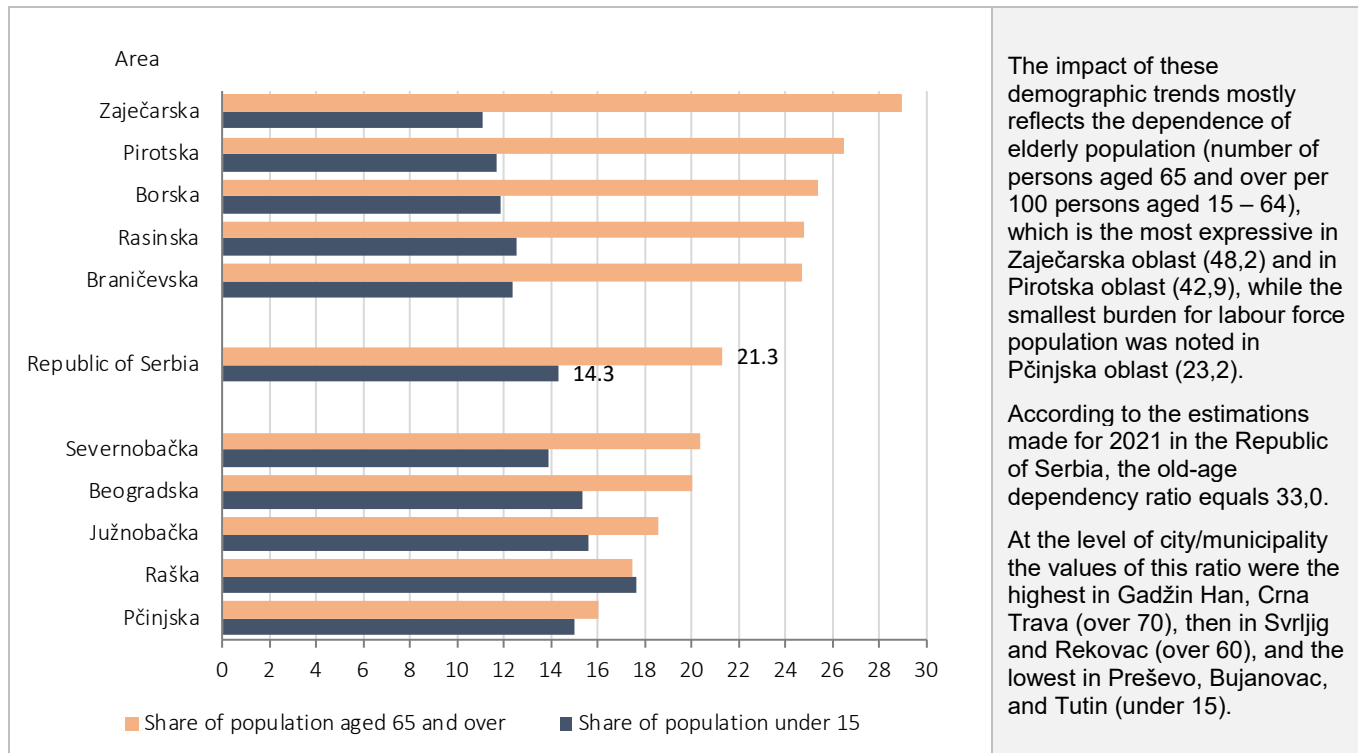
Estimates of population, 2021

The estimated number of population in the Republic of Serbia in 2021 was 6 834 326 (the estimations are based on the results of natural changes statistics and population internal migration). Observed by sex, **51.3%** were women (3 507 325) and **48.7%** were men (3 327 001).

The depopulation trend continued, meaning that population growth rate, compared with the previous year, was negative and amounted to **-9.4‰**. At the same time, the process of demographic ageing of the population is manifested by the low and steadily declining participation of young people and the high and continuously increasing share of the elderly in the total population. According to the data for the Republic of Serbia in 2021 the share of persons aged 65 and over was 21.3% and 14.3% for those under the age of 15.

Observed at the level of areas, Zaječarska oblast saw the largest share of persons aged 65 and over (28.9%) and at the same time the smallest share of population aged under 15 (11.1%). On the other hand, the lowest share of persons aged 65 and over was noted in Pčinjska oblast (16.1%); however the largest share of population aged below 15 was found for Raška oblast (17.6%), and then for Južnobačka oblast (15.6%) and Beogradska oblast (15.4%). Chart 1 shows the first and the last five areas where the share of senior population (65+) is the largest, i.e. the smallest, respectively. For the purpose of comparison, the share of the population under the age of 15 is also presented.

Chart 1. Share of young and elderly population in total population, mid-2021 estimate



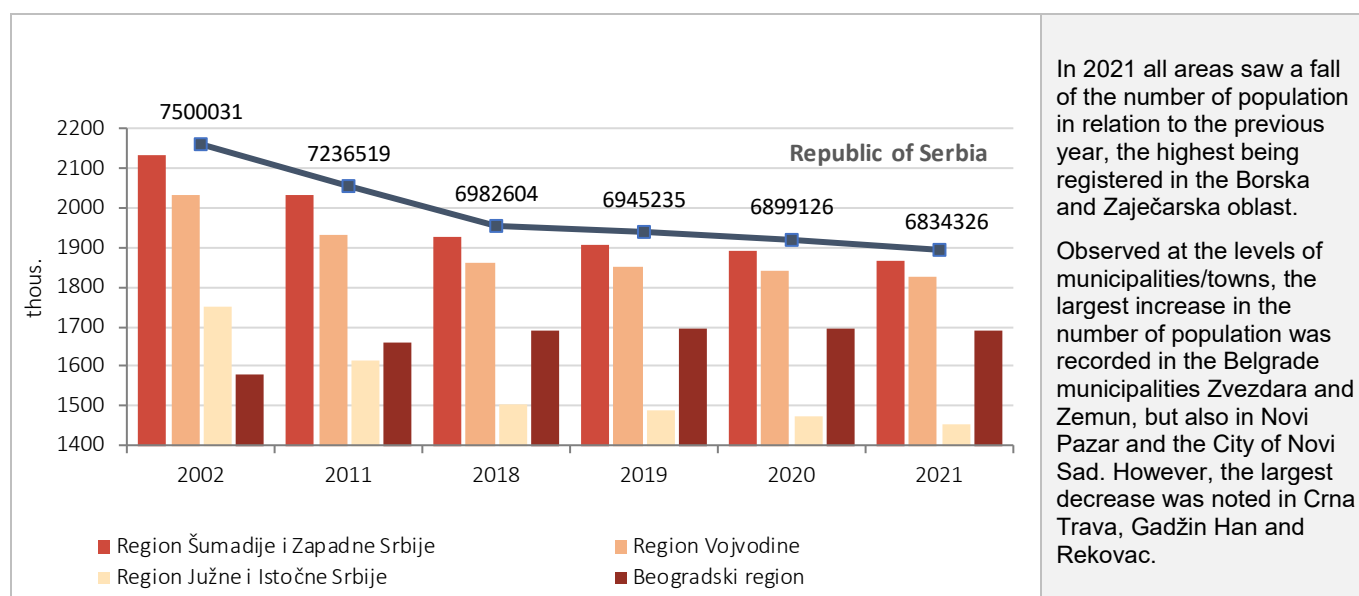
Estimated population change in the period 2002-2021

Over 2002-2021, the number of population in the Republic of Serbia was continuously decreasing. Observed at regional level, Beogradski Region saw population growth up to 2020, while this trend changed in 2021 (the number of population went down by 3,4‰ in relation to 2020). All other regions recorded a depopulation trend over the period 2002-2021, and the most pronounced decrease was seen in Region Južne i Istočne Srbije.

Table 1. Changes of the number of population, 2002–2021, by regions

| | Republic of Serbia | Beogradski region | Region Vojvodine | Region Šumadije i Zapadne Srbije | Region Južne i Istočne Srbije | Region Kosovo i Metohija |
|---|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Estimated number of population (annual average) | | | | | | |
| 2002 | 7500031 | 1578364 | 2034851 | 2135393 | 1751423 | ... |
| 2011 | 7236519 | 1658151 | 1932945 | 2033203 | 1612220 | ... |
| 2018 | 6982604 | 1690193 | 1861863 | 1924816 | 1505732 | ... |
| 2019 | 6945235 | 1694056 | 1852093 | 1908641 | 1490445 | ... |
| 2020 | 6899126 | 1694480 | 1840852 | 1890449 | 1473345 | ... |
| 2021 | 6834326 | 1688667 | 1825982 | 1867552 | 1452125 | ... |
| Absolute increase – decrease | | | | | | |
| 2002–2011 | -263512 | 79787 | -101906 | -102190 | -139203 | ... |
| 2011–2018 | -253915 | 32042 | -71082 | -108387 | -106488 | ... |
| 2018–2019 | -37369 | 3863 | -9770 | -16175 | -15287 | ... |
| 2019–2020 | -46109 | 424 | -11241 | -18192 | -17100 | ... |
| 2020–2021 | -64800 | -5813 | -14870 | -22897 | -21220 | ... |
| Growth rate (‰) | | | | | | |
| 2002/2011 | -35.8 | 49.3 | -51.4 | -49 | -82.8 | ... |
| 2011/2018 | -35.7 | 19.1 | -37.5 | -54.8 | -68.3 | ... |
| 2018/2019 | -5.4 | 2.3 | -5.3 | -8.4 | -10.2 | ... |
| 2019/2020 | -6.7 | 0.3 | -6.1 | -9.6 | -11.5 | ... |
| 2020/2021 | -9.4 | -3.4 | -8.1 | -12.2 | -14.5 | ... |

Chart 2. Estimated number of population (annual average), 2002–2021



Population age-sex structure over 2002-2021

Apart from the change in the total number of population, there is an evident change in the population age-sex structure, which is best visible in the age pyramid. In 2002, the population of both sexes aged 45-49 was the most represented, while in 2021 the largest shares in total population were those of men aged 40-44 and women aged 65-69.

Chart 3. Population age pyramid

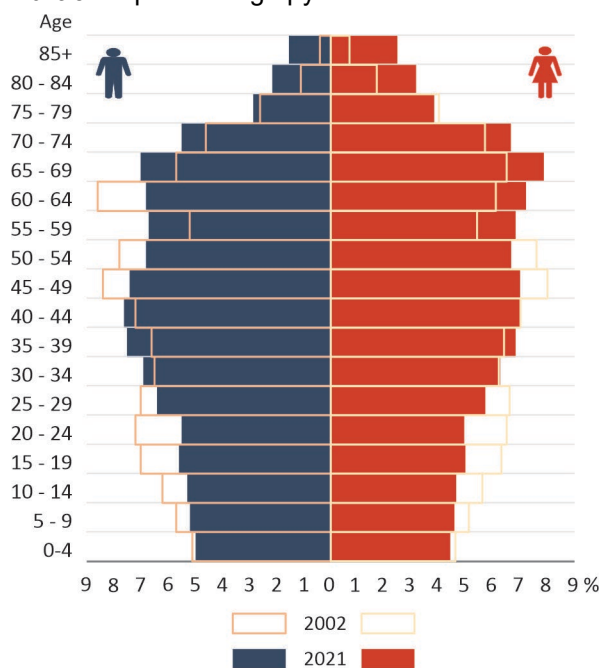


Table 2. Demographic indicators

| | 2002 | 2011 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Number of population, in thous. | | | | | | |
| Total | 7500.0 | 7236.5 | 6982.6 | 6945.2 | 6899.1 | 6834.3 |
| Men | 3647.2 | 3523.9 | 3401.7 | 3383.7 | 3360.3 | 3327.0 |
| Women | 3852.8 | 3712.6 | 3580.9 | 3561.5 | 3538.8 | 3507.3 |
| Masculinity ratio | 946.6 | 949.2 | 950.0 | 950.1 | 949.6 | 948.6 |
| Age groups (%) | | | | | | |
| 0-14 | 16.1 | 14.4 | 14.3 | 14.3 | 14.3 | 14.3 |
| 15-64 | 67.3 | 68.3 | 65.5 | 65.0 | 64.6 | 64.4 |
| 65 and over | 16.6 | 17.3 | 20.2 | 20.7 | 21.1 | 21.3 |
| Fertile contingent | 24.1 | 22.6 | 21.8 | 21.7 | 21.7 | 21.7 |
| Dependency ratio | | | | | | |
| Young-age dependency ratio | 23.9 | 21.1 | 21.9 | 22.0 | 22.1 | 22.2 |
| Old-age dependency ratio | 24.7 | 25.2 | 30.8 | 31.8 | 32.7 | 33.0 |
| Total dependency ratio | 48.6 | 46.3 | 52.7 | 53.8 | 54.7 | 55.2 |
| Age indicators | | | | | | |
| Average age | 40.2 | 42.1 | 43.2 | 43.3 | 43.4 | 43.5 |
| Ageing index | 99.1 | 121.9 | 142.9 | 144.1 | 144.7 | 144.5 |
| Life expectancy | 72.3 | 74.2 | 75.6 | 75.7 | 74.2 | 72.7 |

In the period 2002-2021 the share of persons under the age of 15 decreased from 16.1% to 14.3%, while at the same time the share of old persons (65 years and over) increased from 16,6% to 21.3%. The proportion of female fertile population (15-49 years) in total population in the same period fell by 2.4%.

Such trends affected also the decline of the share of the working-age population aged 15-64 in total population from 67.3% (2002) to 64.4% (2021). In the same time interval, the average population age increased from 40.2 to 43.5 years. Life expectancy over the period 2002-2019 increased on average by about 0.2 years, but as mortality level went up because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the total life expectancy fell from 75.7 years of age in 2019 to 74.2 years in 2020, i.e. to 72,7 years in 2021.

Population by type of settlements

Population estimates by type of settlements show that urban population (61.2%) is prevailing in the Republic of Serbia. Urban population is demographically younger than the population in other settlements. The average age of the urban population is lower than that of the population in so-called other settlements by 2.8 years.

The various age structures of population by type of settlement were caused by the differences in fertility, primarily by the differences regarding the direction and scope of migratory movements.

Table 3. Population by type of settlements

| | 2002 | | | 2011 | | | 2021 | | |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | Total | Urban | Other | Total | Urban | Other | Total | Urban | Other |
| Population number | 7500031 | 4233302 | 3266729 | 7236519 | 4275178 | 2961341 | 6834326 | 4193809 | 2640517 |
| Share in total (%) | 100.0 | 56.4 | 41.6 | 100.0 | 59.1 | 40.9 | 100.0 | 61.4 | 38.6 |
| Average age | 40.1 | 39.2 | 41.4 | 42.1 | 41.2 | 43.3 | 43.5 | 42.4 | 45.2 |
| Ageing index | 99.0 | 86.7 | 114.9 | 121.9 | 112.3 | 136.0 | 144.5 | 127.9 | 174.7 |
| Old-age dependency ratio | 24.7 | 20.1 | 31.4 | 25.2 | 22.1 | 30.0 | 33.0 | 30.2 | 37.7 |
| Fertile contingent | 24.1 | 26.1 | 21.6 | 22.6 | 24.0 | 20.5 | 21.7 | 22.9 | 19.8 |

Looking at lower territorial level, there are only eight areas where population of other settlements is prevailing (Mačvanska, Rasinska, Braničevska, Sremska, Kolubarska, Jablanička, Pčinjska and Pomoravska oblast).

Methodological explanations

Population estimates are calculated for the census and post-census years based on the results of population census and the results of processing the statistics of natural and mechanical movements of population (internal migrations). In the municipalities of Preševo and Bujanovac there was a reduced coverage of enumeration units due to the boycott by the majority of the members of the Albanian national communities, thus the starting point for calculating the number of population for these municipalities are the estimates produced by the international expert team on the number of usual population at the time of 2011 Census.

Population growth rate is the exponential rate calculated by the formula $\ln(P_t/P_{t-1})$, where P_t and P_{t-1} are the values of the average estimated number of population in the year t and $t-1$; the value is expressed per 1 000 persons.

Population ageing index is the ratio between the population aged 60 and over and population aged from 0 to 19, estimated in the middle of the reference year.

Population average age indicates average age of its members (arithmetic mean).

Total dependency ratio is the ratio between the population aged 0-14 and 65 and over, in relation to the population aged from 15 to 64, estimated in the middle of the reference year.

Young-age dependency ratio is the ratio between the total number of young people aged 0-14 and the number of working-age persons (aged from 15 to 64).

Old-age dependency ratio is the ratio between the number of persons aged 65 and over (age when they are generally economically inactive) and the number of working-age persons (aged between 15 and 64).

Masculinity ratio is the ratio of the number of men per 1 000 women.

Life expectancy of live births is a result of abridged approximate life tables and tells how long a live born will live if the mortality conditions are the same as at the time of tables production.

Starting from 1998 the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia has not available data for AP Kosovo and Metohija therefore these data are not included in the coverage for the Republic of Serbia (total).