**Comparative overview of the number of population 1948, 1953, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991, 2002, 2011 and 2022**

This table contains data on the number of population according to the all censuses conducted after World War II. The data are presented by regions, areas, municipalities, cities and settlements according to the administrative and territorial distribution of the Republic of Serbia as of 1 July 2022.

Census data from 1948 to 1981 refer to the whole territory of the Rebublic of Serbia, while the census in 1991, 2002, 2011 and 2022 do not contain data for the AP Kosovo i Metohija. Namely, the 1991 Census was boycotted by the Albanian population, and in 2002, 2011 and 2022 there were no conditions to conduct the censuses on the territory of the southern Serbian province. In the 2011 Census, the coverage of census units in the municipalities of Preševo and Bujanovac was reduced due to the boycott of the census by the majority of members of the Albanian national community, and for those municipalities only data on the census population were reported for the 2011 Census.

The data on the number of population by censuses are shown in line with the methodologies applied at the time when they were conducted. Therefore, when analysing the changes in the number of population, it is vital to pay attention to the different treatment of the total population that was used from one census to the next.

Total population in previous census

Seasonal workers who worked outside their place of residence in the 1948 Census were considered as the inhabitants of the place in which their household resided irrespective of the length of their absence. In the censuses 1953, 1961 and 1971 the same treatment was extended only to seasonal workers who were absent for less than a year, while the others were included in the total population of the place of work. Vocational students who did their schooling outside their parents‘ place of residence were included in the total population of the place of schooling in the censuses 1953 and 1961. Active inhabitants who worked outside their households‘ place of residence, and did not return to their household every day were included in the total population of the place of work in censuses 1961 and 1971.

The first decades following World War II, the stay of our citizens abroad was a rare phenomenon, thus was not the subject of monitoring in the census 1948, 1953 and 1961. In mid-1960‘s of the 20th century, the citizens of the Republic of Serbia massively departed to work abroad. According to the methodologies of the censuses 1971, 1981 and 1991, irrespective of their absence, our citizens who were abroad on account of temporary work, as well as their family members who resided with them abroad, were included in the total population of the Republic of Serbia.

In the censuses 1981 and 1991, the total population of a certain place included all the persons who resided in that place, whether they were in that place at the critical census moment or were temporarily absent for any reason (work, education, travel, medical trip, imprisonment, etc.).

According to international recommendations, in the 2022 Census the total population of the Republic of Serbia comprises our citizens who worked or resided abroad for less than a year, as well as foreign nationals who worked or resided in our country for a year or longer. In the 2011 Census the concept of „usually resident population“ was used for the first time, and reused in the 2022 Census.

When comparing the data on the total number of inhabitants in the 2022 Census with those from earlier censuses, it should be taken into account that the data collected through direct enumeration were complemented with those retrieved from administrative sources.

Territorial changes

The data on the number of population by settlements are shown in accordance with the territorial state of affairs at the time of when the 2022 Census was conducted. During the observed period (1948-2022) some settlements ceased to exist (they were abolished and their territory was merged with the other settlements), some new settlements were created from parts of the existing settlements (through a separation of a part of the territory of another settlement or merging of two or more settlements into one), some settlements were enlarged by expanding across the territory of the neighbouring settlements whose areas were consequently reduced, etc. Also, the names of the settlements changed, as well as the affiliation of some settlements to some municipalities and towns. The regrouping of the data from the earlier censuses, that is, their breaking down to the territorial state of affairs as of 2022 was carried out on the basis of the data from the Register of Spatial Units. For the settlements that underwent territorial changes in the last inter-census period (increased or decreased area), as well as for the newly-established settlements, the calculation of the number of population in the earlier censuses was done on the basis of the data on the number of population of lower spatial units (statistical and enumeration areas). However, in the situations when there was a correction of the border between two settlements, when the territory changing its affiliation with a settlement (moving from one settlement into another) could not be precisely identified using the lower spatial units, there are certain oscillations possible in the number of population from one census to the next. Therefore, the data for the earlier censuses presented in this table should be taken with a certain reserve, while the differences in the number of population that are noticed if comparison is made between the published results of the previous censuses and the data published in this book ought to be interpreted as the consequence of the territorial changes in the inter-census periods.