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

The table contains data on the number of households 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 households 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 households, it is vital to pay attention to the different treatment of the total population that was used from one census to the next.

Households in previou censuses

In all nine censuses, over 1948-2022, a unique definition of households was used: *A household is every family or other community of persons living together and sharing their incomes for the essentials (housing, food, etc.). A household is also every person living alone in the place of the census (so-called one-person household) and who is not a member of any other household, whether living in a separate or shared dwelling, as a single person-tenant, in an hotel for singles or similar establishment, or in the same room with another single person or with household members of the landlord, if does not share with them her/his income.*

Certain deviations in defining household members, which nevertheless occurred, resulted from the use of a different concept of the place of permanent/usual residence from census to census. For example, in the 1961 and 1971 censuses persons who lived for reason of work in one place and whose family resided permanently in another place were considered as one-person households in the place of work, whether they participated in supporting their family or they were the only family supporter. In the 1948 census, the students who attended school and lived outside the place of residence of their parents were treated as temporarily present in the place of schooling and temporarily absent from the place in which their household lived. In the 1953 and 1961 censuses students who lived outside their parents’ place of residence for reason of education were considered as permanent inhabitants in the place of schooling. Such methodological solutions for the definition of the place of permanent residence was abandoned in the 1981 Census, primarily because it was necessary to maintain the homogeneity of household and family, as well as because there were high risks that the census would not cover the persons temporarily present in another place for reason of work or schooling. Therefore, all their members were included in household composition, whether they were permanently in the place of residence of their household at the moment of the census or resided for a longer period of time in another settlement (for work or schooling) or were absent for other reasons (business trip, medical treatment, etc.). This concept was also used in the 1991 Census.

In the 2002 Census, the concept of permanent resident population changed, i.e. international recommendations were adopted, according to which permanent resident population comprises not only the population in the country but also our citizens who work, i.e. reside abroad for less than one year, as well as foreign citizens with residence abroad who work or stay in our country for one year or more. In contrast with the 2002 Census, in all earlier censuses permanent resident population included, beside the population in the country, all our citizens on so-called temporary work/stay abroad, irrespective of the lenght of their stay. It is according to the definition of permanent resident population applied in the 2002 Census that census results do not include in the total contingent of enumerated households those which all members were absent from the country for one year or more for reason of work/stay abroad. Except for the exclusion of complete households, during data processing, from the permanent resident population excluded were certain household members who did not meet the criterion of permanent residence in the country.

In the 2011 Census, the concept of „usually resident population“ was used for the first time to determine the total number of inhabitants of a given area. The same concept was applied in the 2022 Census. According to this concept, the results of the 2011 and 2022 censuses include also in the total number of households the households where at least one member, who met the criterion of usual resident, was enumerated. The mentioned methodological changes in treating total population, which occurred from census to census, did not impact considerably data comparability for the total number of households, but this should be certainly taken into consideration when analysing and comparing the changes in household structures.

Territorial changes

The data on the number of households 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 through a 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 households in the earlier censuses was done on the basis of the data on the number of households 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 households from one census to the next.