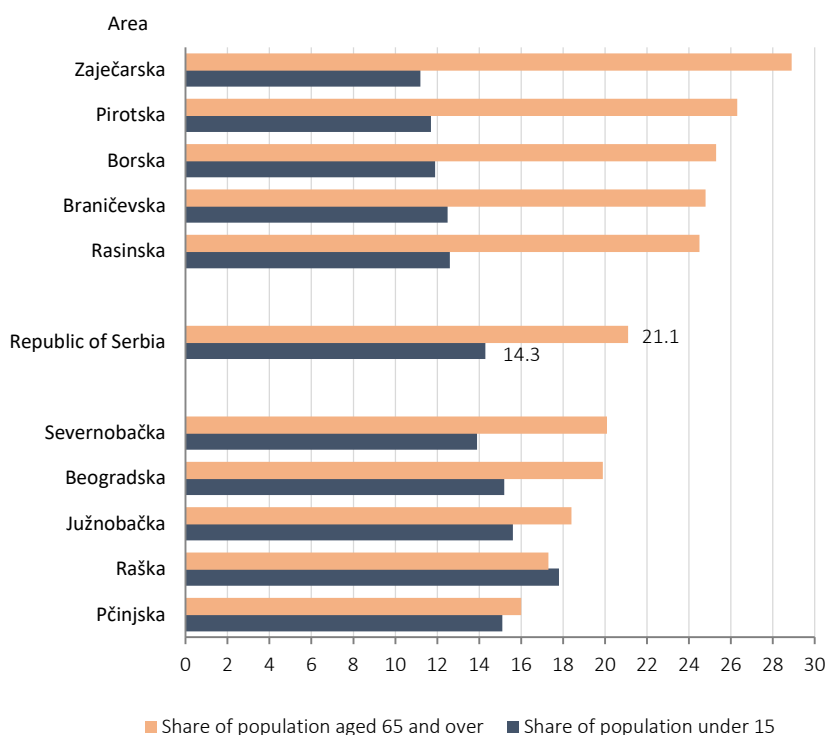## Estimates of population, 2020

The estimated number of population in the Republic of Serbia in 2020 was 6 899 126 (the estimations are based on the results of natural changes statistics and population internal migration). Observed by sex, **51.3%** were women (3 538 820) and **48.7%** were men (3 360 306).

The depopulation trend continued, meaning that population growth rate, compared with the previous year, was negative and amounted to **-6.7‰.** 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 2020 the share of persons aged 65 and over was 21.1% 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 (11.2%). On the other hand, the lowest share of persons aged 65 and over was noted in Pčinjska oblast (16.0%); however the largest share of population aged below 15 was found for Raška oblast (17.8%), and then for Južnobačka oblast (15.6%) and Beogradska oblast (15,2%). 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-2020 estimate

The impact of these demographic trends mostly reflects the dependence of elderly population (number of persons aged 65 and over per 100 persons aged 15 – 64), which is the most expressive in Zaječarska oblast (48,2) and in Pirotska oblast (42,3), while the smallest burden for labour force population was noted in Pčinjska oblast (23,2).

According to the estimations made for 2020 in the Republic of Serbia, the old-age dependency ratio equals 32.7.

At the level of city/municipality the values of this ratio were the highest in Gadžin Han, Crna Trava, Svrljig and Rekovac (over 60), and the lowest in Preševo, Bujanovac, and Tutin (under 15).

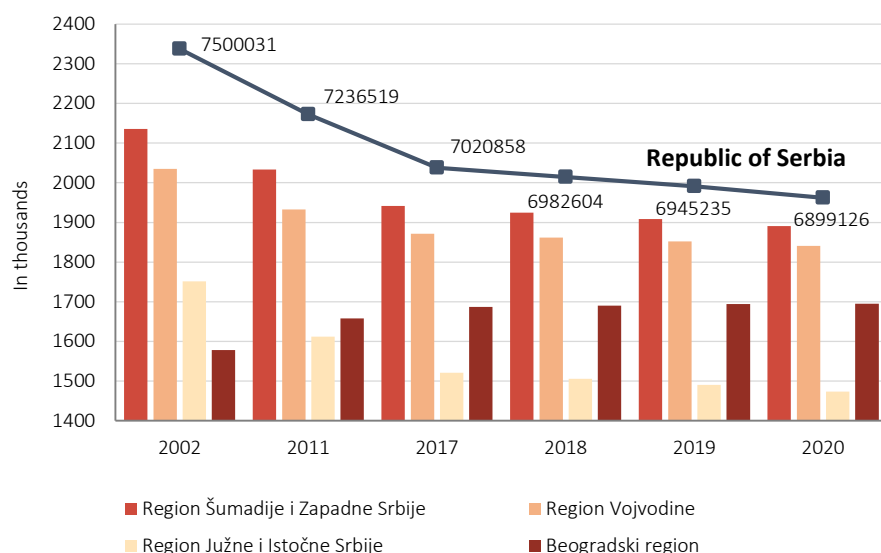■ Share of population aged 65 and over   ■ Share of population under 15

Estimated population change in the period 2002-2020

Over 2002-2020, the number of population in the Republic of Serbia was continuously decreasing. Observed at regional level, Beogradski Region was the only to have seen population growth, while the most pronounced decrease was recorded in the Region Južne i Istočne Srbije.

Table 1. Changes of the number of population, 2002–2020, 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	…
2017	7020858	1687132	1871515	1941130	1521081	…
2018	6982604	1690193	1861863	1924816	1505732	…
2019	6945235	1694056	1852093	1908641	1490445	…
2020	6899126	1694480	1840852	1890449	1473345	…
	Absolute increase – decrease					
2002-2011	-263512	79787	-101906	-102190	-139203	…
2011-2017	-215661	28981	-61430	-92073	-91139	…
2017-2018	-38254	3061	-9652	-16314	-15349	…
2018-2019	-37369	3863	-9770	-16175	-15287	…
2019-2020	-46109	424	-11241	-18192	-17100	…
	Growth rate (‰)					
2002/2011	-35.8	49.3	-51.4	-49	-82.8	…
2011/2017	-30.3	17.3	-32.3	-46.3	-58.2	…
2017/2018	-5.5	1.8	-5.2	-8.4	-10.1	…
2018/2019	-5.4	2.3	-5.3	-8.4	-10.2	…
2019/2020	-6.7	0.3	-6.1	-9.6	-11.5	…

Chart 2. Estimated number of population (annual average), 2002–2020

Beogradska oblast is the only one that in 2020 noted increase in the number of population compared with the previous year, while the biggest fall was recorded in Borska oblast.

Observed at the level of municipalities/cities, the largest increase in the number of population happened in seven Belgrade municipalities and in Novi Sad, but also in Novi Pazar, Tutin, Preševo and Čajetina, and the largest loss in Crna Trava, Babušnica and Gadžin Han.

Population age-sex structure over 2002-2020

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 aged 45-49 was the most represented, while in 2020 the largest shares in total population were those of men aged 40-44 and women aged 65-69.
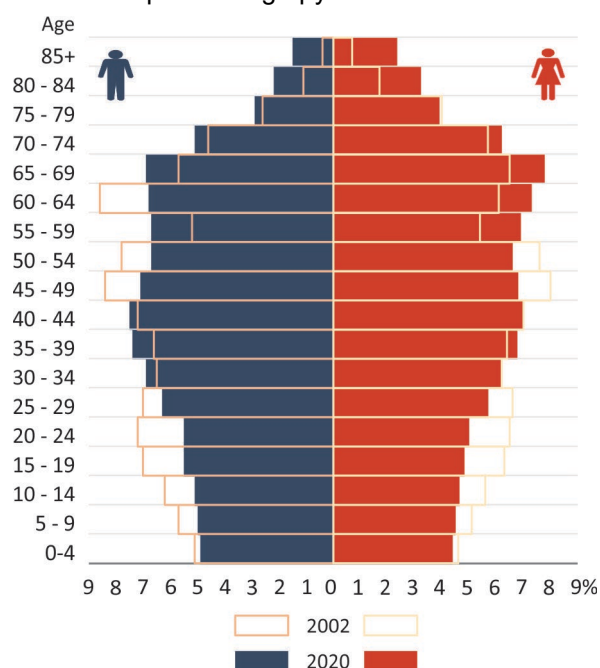
Chart 3. Population age pyramid

Table 2. Demographic indicators

	2002	2011	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of population, in thous.						
Total	7500.0	7236.5	7020.9	6982.6	6945.2	6899.1
Men	3647.2	3523.9	3419.8	3401.7	3383.7	3360.3
Women	3852.8	3712.6	3601.0	3580.9	3561.5	3538.8
Masculinity ratio	946.6	949.2	949.7	950.0	950.1	949.6
Age groups (%)						
0-14	16.1	14.4	14.4	14.3	14.3	14.3
15-64	67.3	68.3	66.00	65.5	65.0	64.6
65 and over	16.6	17.3	19.6	20.2	20.7	21.1
Fertile contingent	24.1	22.6	22.1	21.8	21.7	21.7
Dependency ratio						
Young-age dependency ratio	23.9	21.1	21.8	21.9	22.0	22.1
Old-age dependency ratio	24.7	25.2	29.8	30.8	31.8	32.7
Total dependency ratio	48.6	46.3	51.5	52.7	53.8	54.7
Age indicators						
Average age	40.2	42.1	43.0	43.2	43.3	43.4
Ageing index	99.1	121.9	141.6	142.9	144.1	144.7
Life expectancy	72.3	74.2	75.4	75.6	75.7	74.2

In the period 2002-2020 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 21.1%. 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 64.6% (2020). In the same time interval, the average population age increased by three years, from 40.2 to 43.4 years. The increase in the number of elderly was also affected by the extension of life expectancy, being 1.9 years for the total population, from 72.3 years in 2002 to 74.2 years in 2020.

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 2.7 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			2020		
	Total	Urban	Other	Total	Urban	Other	Total	Urban	Other
Population number	7500031	4233302	3266729	7236519	4275178	2961341	6899126	4223866	2675260
Share in total (%)	100.0	56.4	41.6	100.0	59.1	40.9	100.0	61.2	39.8
Average age	40.1	39.2	41.4	42.1	41.2	43.3	43.4	42.4	45.1
Ageing index	99.0	86.7	114.9	121.9	112.3	136.0	144.7	128.6	173.4
Old-age dependency ratio	24.7	20.1	31.4	25.2	22.1	30.0	32.7	29.8	37.2
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).

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