

2011 Census of Population, Households and Dwellings in the Republic of Serbia Book 4: Religion, Mother Tongue and Ethnicity

In the book "Religion, Mother Tongue and Ethnicity" the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia publishes the final results of the 2011 Census of Population, Households and Dwellings¹ on the ethno-cultural characteristics (religion, mother tongue and ethnicity) of the population of the Republic of Serbia, by municipalities and cities.

The 2011 Census was carried out during the period from 1st to 15th October, 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 2011 Census is financially supported by the European Union which has participated in the total costs with 60%.

Religion

During the period after the World War II, the question on religion was asked in the censuses of 1953, 1991, 2002 and 2011. The answer to the question on religion is the result of personal conviction of an individual based on his comprehension of religion and on the freedom of religious confession which is guaranteed by the Constitution.

According to the 2011 Census results, over six million people of the Republic of Serbia are the Orthodox (84.6% of the total population). The second most numerous group are the Catholics, with 350 thousand (5%), while the third most numerous group is Islamic religion, with more than 220 thousand members (3%).

In comparison with the 2002 Census, the number of persons who are not believers (atheists) has been increased by 40 thousand.

Population by religion, as per the 2011 and 2002 censuses

	Republic of Serbia	Christian					Islam	Judaism	Eastern religions	Other	Agnostics	Not believers (atheists)	Did not declare	Unknown
		total ²	orthodox	catholic	protestant	other Christian								
2011	7186862	6555931	6079396	356957	71284	3211	222828	578	1237	1776	4010	80053	220735	99714
2002	7498001	6876279	6371584	410976	78646	2191	239658	785	240	6649	-	40068	197031	137291

Mother tongue

In a census, mother tongue is the language which a person learned to speak in its earliest childhood, that is, the language the person considers as its mother tongue, if several languages are spoken at the household. The data on mother tongue are shown for 17 different languages which are most frequently spoken in the Republic of Serbia, that is, for those languages which at least 2,000 persons consider as their mother tongue.

Modality "Other languages" contains the aggregate data for the languages which less than two thousand persons consider as their mother tongue (Ukrainian, Goranski, Chinese, Czech, etc.).

Modality "Did not declare and unknown" contains the aggregate number of the persons who did not wish to declare, then the total number of illegible answers, the answers that do not represent a declaration on mother tongue (domestic, human, bi-lingual, polyglot, Cyrillic, Niški, Lalinski, etc.) and the total number of blank answers.

¹ The 2011 Census was not carried out on the territory of the AP Kosovo and Metohia, while the coverage of the census units in the municipalities of Preševo and Bujanovac and partially in the municipality of Medvedja was decreased owing to the boycott by the majority of the Albanian ethnic community.

² The difference between the total number of Christians (column "total") and the sum of the columns "orthodox," "catholic," "protestant" and "other Christian" comprises the persons who responded to the question on religion only with *Christians*.

Population by mother tongue, as per the 2011 and 2002 censuses

	2002 Census		2011 Census	
	total	%	total	%
REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	7 498 001	100	7 186 862	100
Serbian	6 620 699	88.30	6 330 919	88.09
Albanian	63 835	0.85	10 040	0.14
Bosnian	134 749	1.80	138 871	1.93
Bulgarian	16 459	0.22	13 337	0.19
Bunjevački	-	-	6 835	0.10
Vlach language	54 818	0.73	43 095	0.60
Hungarian	286 508	3.82	243 146	3.38
Macedonian	14 355	0.19	12 706	0.18
German	2 279	0.03	2 190	0.03
Roma language	82 242	1.10	100 668	1.40
Romanian	34 515	0.46	29 075	0.40
Russian	2 199	0.03	3 179	0.04
Ruthenian	13 458	0.18	11 340	0.16
Slovak	57 498	0.77	49 796	0.69
Slovenian	3 024	0.04	2 269	0.03
Croatian	27 588	0.37	19 223	0.27
Montenegrin	-	-	2 519	0.04
Other languages	83 775	1.12	39 463	0.55
Did not declare and unknown	63 877	0.85	128 191	1.78

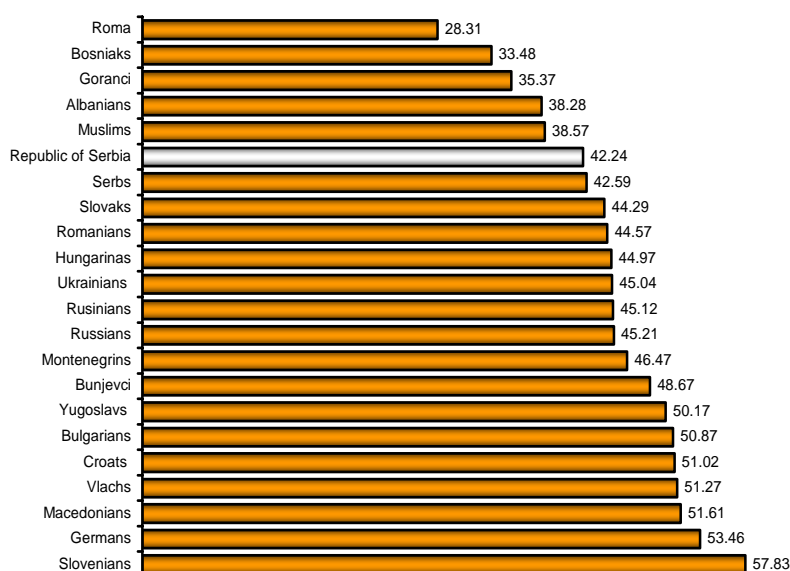
Ethnicity, age and sex

The book also provides the data for 21 ethnic communities in the Republic of Serbia with more than two thousand members. In addition to the data on the total number, there are also data by age, average age and sex of the ethnic communities' members. The data on the age are shown by large age groups, as follows: below 15, 15–29, 30–49, 50–64, 65–84, 85 and over.

Most members of the ethnic communities have average age above 42,2 years which is the average for the Republic of Serbia. The Serbs have almost the same average age (42,6), while the average age of the members of seven ethnic communities is even above 50 (Slovenians, Germans, Macedonians, Vlachs, Croats, Bulgarians and Yugoslavs).

Only five ethnic communities have average age below the republic average, as follows: Muslims (38,6), Albanians (38,3), Goranci (35,4), Bosniaks (33,5) and Roma, who only have an average age below 30 years (28,3).

Ranking of the ethnic communities by the average age of their members, the 2011 Census



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