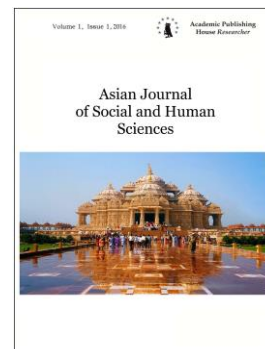


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Quick Facts about the Population and Population Age Distribution in Montenegro: Overview

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Abstract

Demographic movements in Montenegro are the result of natural and mechanical movements conditioned by various factors, but the crucial ones were: for the natural movement downward trend in the birth rate, which started in the 70's in the city and later in rural areas, and for the mechanical movement, industrialisation was crucial, industrialisation which from the 60's to the 80's was intense, causing mass migration from villages to the city, as well as economic conditions, which, unfortunately, have never been at such a level to keep the population within the Republic, so, besides interior, external migration from Montenegro was always present to a greater or lesser extent (Mijanović et al., 2017). Therefore, in the interests of overall progress, more balanced regional development and population distribution are necessary. Above all, this implies: development and distribution that will offer the population approximately similar living standards (personal, cultural, health-care...) and in which opportunities will not depend on place of residence and a distribution that will facilitate the utilization of the country's entire territory and all available natural and human resources (Nejamšić, Njegač, 2001).

Keywords: Montenegro, population, age distribution.

1. Introduction

Abandonment of villages is a problem that started in the late 19th century and reached its peak in the second half of the 20th century. One of the main reasons for depopulation of villages was industrialization (Baumann et al., 2011; Xie et al., 2014). During the last century, people massively came into cities for work (OFID, 2007; Gregory, 2012). Later, in developed countries tertiary sector of the economy has primacy, and in developing countries secondary sector prevailed. The reasons for disappearing villages and decreasing number of their inhabitants are similar all around the world (see Babović et al., 2016). Situation is not any different on the Balkan Peninsula, including Montenegro.

Dramatic demographic changes through which in recent decade's passes Montenegrin society, the consequences arising from the new realities require a serious socio-political engagement. Process of population aging, that began the seventies of the 20th century, represents a significant problem. The process of demographic change was accompanied by an internal migration to major urban centers, primarily Podgorica and Montenegrin coast, leading to emptying the interior of Montenegro. Unfortunately, this development of the population structure of

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Montenegro opens a series of questions and challenges that would the creators of the future you should put high on the scale of its priorities. In this text we will point out on quick facts about the population of Montenegro and on population age distribution, according to United Nations (2020) – Population of the world and countries.

2. Methodology

The core of the methodological method used in this research is an analytical and synthetic method. The analytical method considered the individual dimensions of the subject of the research, and the synthetic method of the whole, that is, the interconnections between objects and proposed measures deriving therefrom (see [Rajović, Bulatović, 2016](#); [Bulatović et al., 2018](#); [Bulatovic, Rajović, 2018](#)).

3. Results and discussion

Montenegro is located in South-Eastern Europe on the Balkan Peninsula. “During the second part of the 20th century, important changes in demographic development and distribution took place in Montenegro. Towns and urban settlements have enlarged 2.4 times or by about 202,000 people. Rural settlements, on the contrary, experienced demographic erosion. Thus in 2003 there were 28 settlements without permanent population (in 1961 only one); 100 settlements had up to 100 people, (in 1961, nil). 127 settlements had from 11 to 25 people (in 1961, 2), 140 settlements had 26–50 people (in 1961, 48), and 395 settlements or every third rural settlement had up to 50 people (in 1961, 51). These processes and tendencies are still present. It is necessary to define the aims and long-term strategy in demographic population politics and apart from all, its sub-variant in redistribute politics” ([Lješević, Doderović, 2020](#)). During 2020 Montenegro population is projected to increase by 772 people and reach 628,797 in the beginning of 2021. The natural increase is expected to be positive, as the number of births will exceed the number of deaths by 1,256. If external migration will remain on the previous year level, the population will be declined by 484 due to the migration reasons. It means that the number of people who leave Montenegro to settle permanently in another country (emigrants) will prevail over the number of people who move into the country (to which they are not native) in order to settle there as permanent residents (immigrants) ([United Nations, 2020](#)).

Table 1. Quick facts about the population of Montenegro

Current population (as of December, 2020)
628,795
Population rank
171 (0.01% of world population)
Total area
13,810 km ² (5,332 mi ²)
Population density
45.5 per km ² (117.9 people/mi ²)
Sex ratio
0.96 (308,574 men to 320,223 women)
Median age
37.7 years
Life expectancy

74.0 years (71.6 – men, 76.5 – women)
Literacy
98.7 %

Source: [United Nations, 2020](#)

According to our estimations, daily change rates of Montenegro population in 2020 will be the following: 20 live births average per day (0.85 in an hour); 17 deaths average per day (0.71 in an hour) and -1 emigrants average per day (-0.06 in an hour). The population of Montenegro will be increasing by 2 persons daily in 2020. As of 1 January 2020, the population of Montenegro was estimated to be 628,025 people. This is an increase of 0.02 % (129 people) compared to population of 627,896 the year before. In 2019, the natural increase was positive, as the number of births exceeded the number of deaths by 1,256. Due to external migration, the population declined by 483) ([United Nations, 2020](#)). The demographic consequences of migration are numerous and related. Changes in the number of inhabitants cause changes in the natural dynamics and structure of the population. They, in turn, reflect in the long run on the overall social situation, both in emigration, so too in immigration areas. Therefore, in addition to demographic opportunities, economic and social circumstances are changing, and this is causing a variety of problems. If we understand the population as the biological potential of the labor force, we notice that there is a change in the economic activity of the population, the transition of the population from agricultural to non-agricultural activities and a number of other changes. Labor market relations are changing, which has consequences in social issues and beyond. All presented data indicate the complexity of migrations as a phenomenon and their importance in society and therefore to the need for systematic migration research ([Pobrić, 2002](#)).

The sex ratio of the total population was 0.964 (964 males per 1,000 females) which is lower than global sex ratio. The global sex ratio in the world was approximately 1,016 males to 1,000 females as of 2019. Below are the key figures for Montenegro population in 2019: 7,453 live births; 6,197 deaths; Natural increase: 1,256 people, Net migration: -483 people; 307,604 males as of 31 December 2019 and 320,421 females as of 31 December 2019). In absolute figures (estimate): 97,633 young people under 15 years old (47,504 males/50,129 females); 445,703 persons between 15 and 64 years old (231,597 males/214,106 females); 84,689 persons above 64 years old (33,738 males/50,958 females). We prepared a simplified model of the population distribution pyramid, which is broken down into three main age groups ([United Nations, 2020](#)).

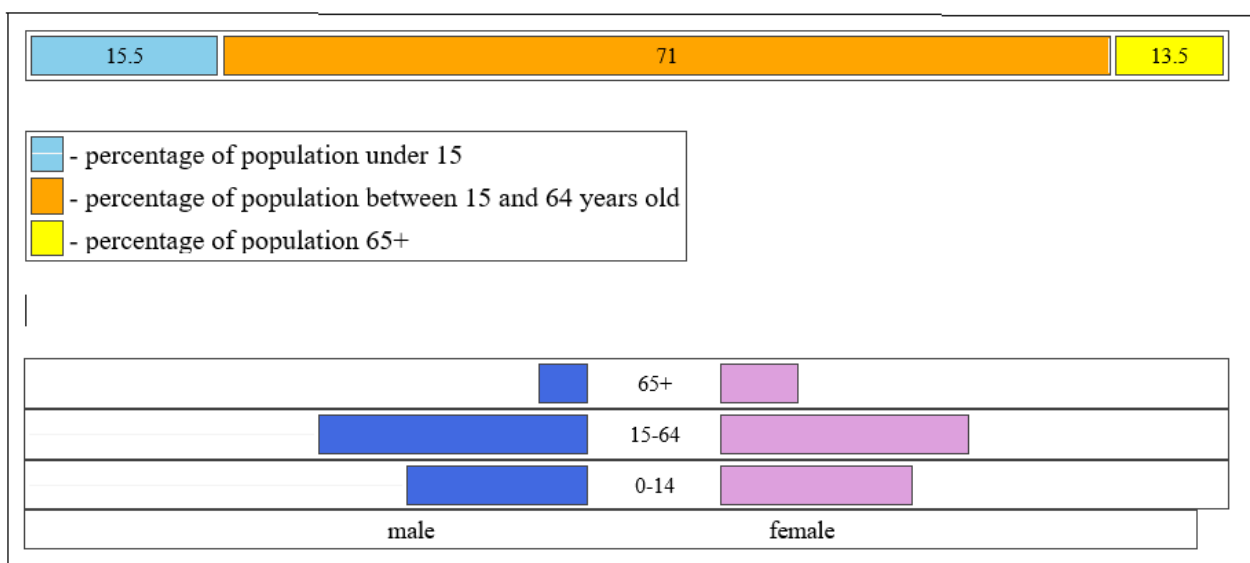


Fig. 1. As of the beginning of 2020 according to our estimates, Montenegro had the following population age distribution

Source: [United Nations, 2020](#)

As we can see the Montenegro population pyramid has a contracting type. This type of pyramid is more common for highly developed countries with low birth and death rates. Usually countries with such kind of population age distribution model have long life expectancy, high level of education and good health care. The total dependency ratio of population in Montenegro is 40.9 %. The value of 40.9 % is relatively low. It shows that the dependent part of population is less than a half of the working part. In other words, the working population (labor force) in Montenegro must provide goods for itself and cover expenditure on children and aged persons. Moreover, this part of population is less than 50 % of working population. The value of less than 50 % means that the pressure on productive population in Montenegro is relatively low. Child dependency ratio is a ratio of people below working age (under 15) to workforce of a country. Child dependency ratio in Montenegro is 21.9 %. Aged dependency ratio is a ratio of people above working age (65 +) to workforce of a country. Aged dependency ratio in Montenegro is 19 % (United Nations, 2020).

There can be little doubt that changes in age distribution have complex social and economic implications at the societal and individual levels. An excess supply of workers could for instance turn into an acute shortage of new entrants within a few years. Likewise, the departure of older workers from the labor force is a source of serious pressure on national economies through its impact on pension schemes. An important issue is the question of how best to allocate limited resources among public sectors (Mirkin, Weinberger, 2000). Given that large shifts in age structure are being compressed into a relatively short period in developing countries, these countries will have less time than the developed countries to adapt to the problems posed by the changing age structure. On the individual level, the goal is to enable older persons to maintain their dignity, self-esteem and physical and mental well-being in order to facilitate their continued participation in society and recognize their valuable contribution to their families and communities. The challenge for countries and communities is to provide conditions that promote quality of life and enhance the ability of older persons to work and live independently as long as possible (Mirkin, Weinberger, 2000).

Total life expectancy (both sexes) at birth for Montenegro is 74 years. This is above the average life expectancy at birth of the global population, which is about 71 years (according to Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations). Male life expectancy at birth is 71.6 years. Female life expectancy at birth is 76.5 years. According to our estimates 523,766 persons or 98.75 % of adult population (aged 15 years and above) in Montenegro are able to read and write. Accordingly, about 6,633 adults are illiterate. Literacy rate for adult male population is 99.45 % (263,886 persons). 1,449 are illiterate. Literacy rate for adult female population is 98.04 % (259,879 persons). 5,185 are illiterate. Youth literacy rates are 99.29 % and 99.01 % for males and females accordingly. The overall youth literacy rate is 99.15 %. Youth literacy rate definition covers the population between the ages of 15 to 24 years) (United Nations, 2020).

Conducted research on primary school determinants and outcomes in developing countries. According to author, in today's world, merely getting children to school is not enough; the government should also ensure that children complete their primary cycle to gain the basic knowledge and skills needed for their well-being and development as citizens. Many studies have been examined how total resources are devoted to education. Boissiere's research shows five main contributing factors to education effectiveness: curriculum, learning materials, instructions, teaching techniques and the learning capacity of students (Boissiere, 2004).

Conducted research on adult literacy rates and economic growth to show that sustained economic growth is a priority for the government and that investment in human capital, seen as economic growth, is an important contribution. His research also focused on raising the basic literacy rate in adults by increasing employment and labour productivity towards a positive economic impact. It contributes to scientific research project was carried out for human capital that is; knowledge, skills, personal literacy reflection, skills ability quality is one of the most important general cognitive skills. Literacy was once considered to mean the ability to read and write; those who cannot reach a very basic standard – for example, writing one's name – are considered illiterate. The basic definition of literacy includes not only reading and writing but also a range of skills used in work done at home, so-called "literacy" in a broader sense (Johnston, 2004).

According to Rahman and Uddin (2009), education is a fundamental need of all human beings and crucial to any country's development. Education is the effort of state and government, who should do everything in their means, in keeping with national resources, to provide on-going funding. The community should also play a role in educational development. Illiteracy is not only

an individual disability but also has an impact on society. Democratic institutions and values can hardly flourish in a society where half of the adult population is illiterate and where the majority voters cannot access information or read newspapers. This is particularly the case for women and those living rural areas. Literacy can not only lead to dependence, but it also allows people of different social and economic levels to participate in the decision-making process to the fullest.

4. Conclusion

According to Magdalenić and Galjak (2015) the Balkans is ageing quickly. The last couple of years are very important, since that is the period the baby boom generations born after WW2 began to reach the age of 65. The implications for society of this fact will be more obvious in years to come. These changes are mostly global, but the Balkans has underlying issues which will make it more sensitive to this change that is already happening. The underlying issues are low fertility and emigration, both of which shaped the age structure. Montenegro are well on a way of becoming old (ageing index above 1).

The scenarios of demographic development for Montenegro will surely depend on numerous factors. The predictions Vojković et al. (2014) point out only the general trends, based on the assumption that changes in the current demographic situation are highly unlikely to happen in the near future, and that rapid population aging will still be the main trend of demographic development (see Rajović, Bulatović, 2016; Bulatović, Rajović, 2018; Rajović, Bulatović, 2016). But in the long run, the population aging will undoubtedly present a threat to economic growth, because it leads to a decline of working-age population and aging of the labor force. Handling the situation on the labor market requires reforms of the pension system, educational reforms, policies referring to employment of old workers, appropriate migrations management and structural adjustments of the global economic system.

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