

## DEMOGRAPHIC ASPECTS OF TERRITORIAL DISTRIBUTION AND URBANIZATION LEVEL IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

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The Republic of Macedonia, like other European countries, is following the trend of continuous decline of the population in some parts of the country. Along with this decline in population, there is also a decline in the rate of population growth and population density occurring in certain regions. On the territory of the Republic of Macedonia, regarding the distribution of population density, visible differences can be observed in some parts, and even regions. These demographic changes happened due to the economical opportunities within the country, and also to the migration movements. In this paper, beside the analysis of the data of the population movement and the density of the population (1953 – 2011), we shall also observe the basic marks of the urban and rural environments, in terms of the changes occurring in spatial distribution by regions as well as identifying the factors that influenced the formation of the disparity in today's asymmetric spatial distribution of the population.

**Key words:** Republic of Macedonia; number of citizens; population growth; urban and rural areas

### INTRODUCTION

Demographic development is a complex process [1] which constitutes natural growth of population (birth rate, fertility, mortality and migration), and changes in demographics structures (biological, socio-economic and educational). There is a strong connection between population movements and its structural marks which is characterized by the influence that these movements have on the structural characteristics and vice versa. On the other hand, there are numerous conditions that influence the changes indirectly and directly, which characterizes the dynamics of the population movement, as well as the demographic structures, considering the biological, socio-economic, ecological, cultural and socio-psychological factors of local, regional and global character. The mentioned factors and the intensity of their influence on the demographics trends are different concerning the dependence upon the situation of the social and economical development of the known territory, in this case, the Republic of Macedonia.

In other words, the population that lives on the territory of the country, from the aspect of demographic development, shows results and regularities, which are typical for economic and social development on the territory [2].

In the last few decades, the Republic of Macedonia has been facing numerous and serious challenges related to demographic development [3] which are consequences of social and economic trends at the moment and their historical dependence.

The analyses of population movement from the aspect of total number, its changes, territorial distribution and urbanization are very important and they show the basic for planning and leading the population policy of regions and countries, planning in agricultures, health, education, social security, special and urban planning and many other spheres of society.

### THEORETICAL BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

Changes and conditions of demographic development can be expressed in a positive or negative way

in the society [4]. The negative demographical tendencies are present in many parts of the world, and as a result of decreasing birth rates, migration and the ageing population, there is a high risk of demographic desertification, especially in Europe [5].

Demographic processes, such as depopulation has been present on the European continent for a long time [6], and are due to numerous challenges arising from current economic and social conditions, that have a direct impact on demographic trends [7]. These processes are part of a vicious circle of economic and social decline [8]. That is why, over the last several decades, researchers have explored various factors associated with demographic changes, and the scope of the scientific research on this topic worldwide is broad and miscellaneous.

The aim of this paper is to focus on the current situation with the demographic trends in the Republic of Macedonia and to analyze the population movement and population density, to observe the basic characteristics of urban and rural areas in terms of changes occurring in the spatial distribution of the population by regions and to identify the factors that influence today's uneven spatial distribution of population. For example, depopulation is not a recent phenomenon in the Republic of Macedonia and it is evident on the whole territory, however, the awareness of the importance of this phenomenon started to increase rather recently. Thereby, this research can contribute to the analysis and development of links between the demographic projections on the one hand, and socio-economic decision making, on the other hand.

When talking about population and its activities, it is obvious that we deal with complex phenomena [9] which require application of diverse methods that commonly necessitate a great deal of information, as statistical-demographic, geographical, method of comparative analysis, etc. That is why, for the purpose of this study, a combination of secondary and primary data sources research was carried out. The secondary data research aims: firstly, at defining the terms related to the research, and secondly, exposes the different points of view of experts. The primary data research is using the data from the Statistical Office of the Republic of Macedonia. The systemizing and analyzing of the available data from methodological point of view were previously well planned and thought out, which allows scientific approach to the issues. In the article there were used some specific methods, like statistical-demographic, geographical, method of comparative analysis, etc.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Total population – The territorial distribution and urbanization

#### *Dynamics of change in the number and distribution of the population*

The territory of the Republic of Macedonia covers an area of 25.713 km<sup>2</sup>, and according to the State Statistical Office, it estimates a population of 2.058.539 inhabitants (2011), or more than 80 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup> [10]. This population density is much lower compared with the European Union, as well as with the most countries in Europe. According to this indicator, Macedonia has ideal conditions for the development of all spheres of life, i.e. its density provides the opportunity for a normal existence and it has the potential to increase the number of population. The analysis of the population movement in the past six decades – totally and locally (at the level of regions and municipalities) shows those changes in population growth, particularly in the spatial distribution of the population in the country, that can be expressed through the continuous deepening of the uneven distribution of population.

In the period before the transition, between 1953–1981, the total population increased by 604.484 people or by 46,3 % (Table 1) [11]. During this period, the largest increase in population was recorded in Skopje region (290.242 people or 135,2 %), Polog region (94.181 people or 55,7 %) and Southwest region (66.169 people or 47,0 %). Below average, however, relatively higher population growth is seen in the East (23,4 %) and Southeast regions (32,9 %), and with significantly lower growth of the population stand out the Northeast (17,2 %), the Pelagonian (16,4 %) and Vardar regions (12,8 %). The uneven population growth that occurred before the beginning of the socio-economic transition in the country resulted in major changes in density of population and a large concentration of population in the Skopje region.

The analysis of the data between 1953–1981, indicates, more or less, pronounced differences in the dynamics of the population growth at regional level in between census periods, that were dictated by the different impact of the two components of population growth – the natural increase and the migratory movements of the population. The natural increase of the population contributed to a significant growth and rejuvenation of the population in the Southwest and Polog regions. However, in the Pelagonian region, intense migratory movements

abroad contributed to the reduction of the population growth and changes in its age structure with

far-reaching consequences for the future development of population in this area.

**Table 1.** The scale and the dynamics of the total population in the Republic of Macedonia, by regions (NUTS 3), 1953–1981

Region	1953	1961	1971	1981
<i>Republic of Macedonia</i>	<i>1.304.652</i>	<i>1.428.526</i>	<i>1.647.308</i>	<i>1.909.136</i>
Vardar	130.290	129.121	134.807	146.921
East	139.475	144.686	157.374	172.163
Southwest	140.678	164.770	181.323	206.827
Southeast	119.609	121.033	139.317	158.912
Pelagonia	249.492	260.524	273.476	290.486
Polog	169.225	187.971	213.711	263.406
Northeast	141.149	148.780	158.258	165.445
Skopje	214.734	271.641	389.042	504.976

Source: State Statistical Office, Republic of Macedonia, SYB, RM/1962; SYB, RM/1972; SYB, RM/1982

The data for some census years in the period between 1953–1981 by municipalities, are showing changes in the population number in some parts of the country (Table 2) [11]. According to the territorial organization in this period, population growth was recorded in all municipalities and in the area of Skopje, except in Berovo, Makedonski Brod, Demir Hisar, Kratovo, Kriva Palanka, Krusevo and Sveti Nikole where the process of depopulation was noticed. These changes at the municipal level has deepened the differences in the spatial distribution of the population at the local level and largely determined the development of the population in the next decades, especially in municipalities where a decrease in the total population was noted.

The data analysis from population censuses in 1994 and 2002 and the estimate population number for 2011 show that in the last two decades very major changes in population growth have occurred in the Republic of Macedonia. In the period 1994–2002, the total population of the country increased by 3,9 % (76.615 people), and the average annual growth rate was 0,48 % (Table 3) [12]. At the regional level these indicators show that the Pelagonian region was confronted with depopulation, where the population has decreased by 1,85 % (average annual growth rate is -0,23). During this period, lowest population growth was seen in the East region (0,48 %).

In the period 1994–2002, the Polog region differentiates with the highest population growth 8,48 % (23.773 people), with average annual growth rate of 1,02 %. In terms of population growth in the Polog region, it is important to

emphasize that for five decades, the population has increased from approximately 169.000 (1953) to 304.125 people (2002).

The uneven spatial distribution of the population in the country is confirmed by the indicators for population density and population concentration. In the period 1994–2002, the population density in the country grew from 78 to 81 persons per sq km (Table 4) [13].

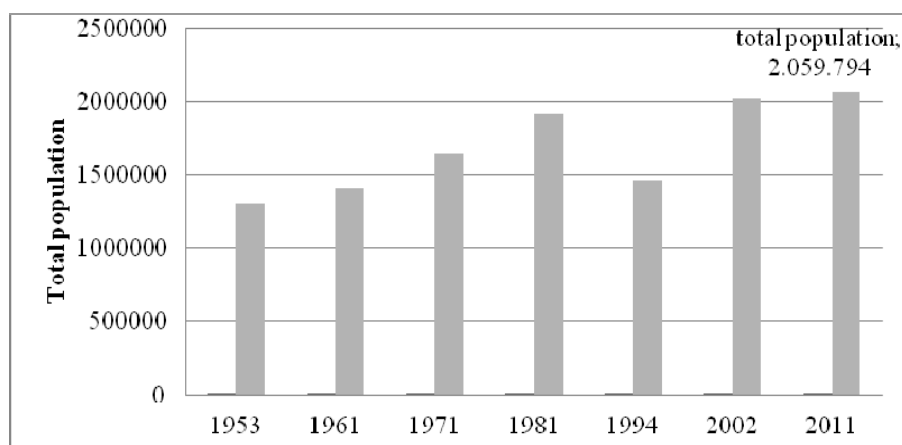
In regional terms the increase of the population density corresponds to the total population, or the smallest population density is in the East region, and the largest is in the region of Skopje. In 2002, population density was lowest in the Vardar region (33), and largest in the Skopje region (319 inhabitants per square kilometer). According to the population density, the region of Skopje stands out as one of the most densely populated areas in Europe, and it is almost at the same level as the density of the population in Netherlands, and other most populous regions in Germany, Belgium, etc.

Changes in the density of population in 2011 showed that in the country relatively small increase was noticed. After 2002, the population density was reduced in the regions which were facing the process of depopulation (East and Pelagonian regions), and significant growth was noticed in the Polog and Skopje regions. These regions are differentiated according to the indicators and the concentration of population. In 2011. the Polog, Northeast and Skopje regions accounted more than a half (about 53 %) of the total population in the country, an enormous concentration in a relatively small space, i.e. 26,2 % of the total territory of the country [10].

**Table 2.** Population growth in municipalities in the Republic of Macedonia, their area and number of settlements, 1953–1981

Municipality	Area in km <sup>2</sup>	Number of settlements	Number of population			
			1953	1961	1971	1981
<i>R. Macedonia</i>	25.713	1.750	1.304.514	1.406.003	1.647.308	1.909.136
Berovo	807	16	20.438	20.043	19.949	20.227
Bitola	1.699	128	102.907	111.581	124.512	137.636
Brod	924	54	18.678	18.034	15.811	12.227
Valandovo	331	29	11.305	8.784	9.200	11.176
Vinica	438	16	15.333	14.455	16.445	18.499
Debar	264	41	16.658	15.729	18.467	22.497
Delčevo	585	30	21.803	18.913	21.357	23.717
D. Hisar	431	38	19.414	17.218	15.653	14.434
Gevgelija	757	34	22.254	22.988	27.284	31.814
Gostivar	1.356	90	75.080	81.734	82.501	101.028
Kavardarci	1.134	50	28.106	30.981	35.128	39.731
Kičevo	852	81	41.240	39.883	44.188	51.422
Kočani	571	46	33.494	38.136	43.820	47.922
Kratovo	376	31	16.180	15.912	15.084	12.392
K. Palanka	720	52	33.844	31.536	29.833	26.935
Kruševo	201	24	13.514	13.367	13.015	13.286
Kumanovo	1.190	109	89.977	99.920	113.341	126.118
Negotino	736	34	17.381	15.682	17.784	21.131
Ohrid	1.031	57	43.565	47.295	54.019	64.230
Prilep	1.824	107	87.609	93.216	96.446	99.770
Probištip	326	37	14.557	15.283	15.128	15.188
Radoviš	736	50	25.887	22.358	25.925	28.575
Resen	739	44	24.400	23.730	23.840	25.360
Struga	541	52	38.067	42.417	48.838	56.451
Strumica	953	74	59.015	65.491	76.908	87.347
S. Nikole	645	45	25.272	23.169	21.142	21.260
Tetovo	1.081	93	92.997	104.825	131.210	162.378
Veles	1.536	90	58.241	57.877	60.753	64.799
Štip	810	73	32.702	36.444	40.675	46.610
Gazi Baba	489	39	–	–	–	92.472
Karpoš	319	23	–	–	–	121.746
K. Voda	729	48	–	–	–	114.176
Center	8	1	–	–	–	93.614
Cair	282	15	–	–	–	82.924
Skopje	1.840	126	213.586	270.299	388.962	504.932

Source: State Statistical Office of the Republic of Macedonia,  
SYB RM/1962, SYB PM/1972, SYB PM/1982

**Chart 1.** Population growth in the Republic of Macedonia, 1953–2011**Table 3.** Some indications of the scale and dynamics of the total population in the Republic of Macedonia, by regions (NUTS 3) 1994, 2002, 2011

Region	Total population			Population growth (1994–2002)		Rate of population growth 1994–2002
	1994	2002	2011	Number	%	
<i>R. Macedonia</i>	1.945.932	2.022.547	2.059.794	76.615	3,94	0,48
Vardar	131.035	133.180	153.764	2.145	1,64	0,2
East	201.525	203.213	179.083	1.688	0,84	0,1
Southwest	212.856	221.546	221.219	8.690	4,08	0,49
South East	168.481	171.416	173.083	2.935	1,74	0,22
Pelagonia	242.614	238.136	233.306	-4.478	-1,85	-0,23
Polog	280.352	304.125	316.517	23.773	8,48	1,02
Northeast	163.841	172.787	175.323	8.946	5,46	0,66
Skopje	545.228	578.144	607.502	32.916	6,04	0,73

Source: State Statistical Office, R. Macedonia, calculations are based on the data from the SSO, Demographic Statistics by regions and Census of population, households and dwellings in the Republic of Macedonia, 2002 (Book XIII)

**Table 4.** Population density and concentration of population in the country and at regional level, (NUTS 3), 1994, 2002 and 2011

Region	Total population			Population density			Concentration of population (RM = 100.0)		
	1994	2002	2011	1994	2002	2011	1994	2002	2011
<i>R. Macedonia</i>	1.945.932	2.022.547	2.059.794	78,1	81,2	82,7	100,0	100,0	100,0
Vardar	131.035	133.180	153.764	32,4	32,9	38,0	6,7	6,6	7,5
East	201.525	133.180	179.080	57,0	57,5	50,6	10,4	10,0	8,7
Southwest	212.856	203.213	221.219	63,7	66,3	66,2	10,9	11,0	10,7
Southeast	168.481	171.416	173.083	61,5	62,6	63,2	8,7	8,5	8,4
Pelagonia	242.614	238.136	233.306	51,4	50,5	49,5	12,5	11,8	11,3
Polog	280.352	304.125	316.517	116,1	125,9	131,0	14,4	15,0	15,4
Northeast	163.841	172.787	175.323	70,9	74,8	75,9	8,4	8,5	8,5
Skopje	545.228	578.144	607.502	300,7	319,1	335,3	28,0	28,6	29,5

Source: calculations are based on data from the State Statistical Office; Demographic Statistics by regions and Census of population, households and dwellings in the Republic of Macedonia, 2002 (Book XII)

Differences in the growth of the population are still more pronounced on the municipality level. In the period 1994–2002 from 67 municipalities (excluding those from the Skopje region – in

absence of population data for all 17 municipalities in the Skopje region in 1994, and according to the territorial organization from 2004, the population growth in certain municipalities cannot be recorded) population reduction was observed in 35, while population growth in 32 municipalities (Table 5) [12]. In 2002, 35 municipalities accounted for 42 %, and in 2011, 45 municipalities accounted more than a half (53 %) of the total population of the country. Prominent differences were observed in the Arachinovo municipality, where 362 inhabitants live on 1 km<sup>2</sup> (1km<sup>2</sup>/362i). On the contrary, in Makedonski Brod on 1 km<sup>2</sup> there is an incredible

number of just 8,3 inhabitants, that is less than in some Saharan regions, in Rankovce their number is 17.3, and in Kriva Palanka 41 inhabitants.

#### *Urban population and urbanization level*

Major changes in the distribution and re-distribution of the population, have considerably increased the heterogeneity in its internal distribution and have emphasized its spatial demographic polarization. It is expressed with high concentrations in the urban areas and with major reductions in the rural areas.

**Table 5.** The scale and the dynamics of the total population in the country, at regional level (NUTS 3) and municipalities (NUTS 5), 1994, 2002 and 2011

Region Municipality	Area in km <sup>2</sup>	Number of settlements	Total population			Population density		
			1994	2002	2011	1994	2002	2011
<b>R. Macedonia</b>	<b>25.713</b>		<b>1.945.932</b>	<b>2.022.547</b>		<b>78,1</b>	<b>81,2</b>	
<b>Vardar</b>	<b>3.263</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>131.035</b>	<b>133.180</b>	<b>133.125</b>	<b>38,6</b>	<b>39,3</b>	<b>40,8</b>
Veles	421	29	54.663	55.108	55.057	128	129,1	130,8
Gradsko	293	15	3.822	3.760	3.613	16,3	16	12,3
Časka	829	42	7.457	7.673	7.761	9,1	9,4	9,4
Kavadarci	935	40	37.699	38.741	39.011	38	39,1	41,7
Rosoman	132	10	4.238	4.141	4.129	32,1	31,4	31,3
Demir Kapija	301	15	4.815	4.545	4.135	15,6	14,7	13,7
Negotino	352	19	18.341	19.212	19.419	38,4	40,2	55,2
<b>East</b>	<b>4.162</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>201.525</b>	<b>203.213</b>	<b>199.682</b>	<b>48,1</b>	<b>48,5</b>	<b>48</b>
Berovo	598	10	14.179	13.941	13.337	23,7	23,3	22,3
Pehčevo	206	7	5.650	5.517	5.140	27,2	26,5	25
Vinica	432	16	19.063	19.938	19.542	44	46	45,2
Delčevo	432	22	17.726	17.505	16.848	42	41,5	39
M. Kamenica	179	9	8.084	8.110	7.810	42,5	42,7	43,6
Zrnovci	51	3	3.344	3.264	3.134	59,7	58,3	61,5
Kočani	362	28	36.775	38.092	38.155	102,2	105,8	105,4
Česinovo	134	14	7.896	7.490	7.172	59,8	56,7	53,5
Probištip	326	37	16.650	16.193	15.188	51,1	49,7	46,6
Lozovo	175	11	2.916	2.858	2.637	17,6	17,2	15,1
S. Nikole	477	33	18.528	18.497	18.060	38,4	38,3	37,9
Karbinci	239	29	4.342	4.012	4.061	19	17,5	17
Štip	551	44	46.372	47.796	48.598	79,5	82	88,2
<b>Southwest</b>			<b>212.823</b>	<b>221.546</b>		<b>63,7</b>	<b>66,3</b>	
Debar	145	18	18.978	19.542	20.329	126,5	130,3	
Centar Župa	123	23	6441	6.519	6.921	62,5	63,3	
Vraneštica	122	15	1.650	1.322	1.258	15,1	12,1	
Drugovo	369	28	3.555	3.249	2.987	9,3	8,5	
Zajas	155	13	10.055	11.605	11.867	62,5	72,1	
Kičevo	49	7	27.543	30.138	30.269	562,1	615,1	
Oslomej			9.136	10.420		75,5	86,1	
M. Brod	851	51	7.574	7.141	6.552	8,5	8	
Plasnica	54	4	4.449	4.545	4.774	82,4	84,2	
Debarca	414	30	6.272	5.507	4.555	14,9	13	
Ohrid	378	29	54.491	55.749	54.269	138,7	141,9	
Vevčani	35	1	2.448	2.433	2.433	106,4	105,8	
Struga	468	51	60.231	63.376	64.657	124,7	131,2	

Table 5 Continues

<b>Southeast</b>	<b>2.803</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>168.481</b>	<b>171.416</b>	<b>173.056</b>	<b>61,5</b>	<b>62,6</b>	<b>61,7</b>
Valandovo	331	30	12.092	11.890	11.944	36,5	35,9	36,1
Bogdanci	114	4	8.899	8.707	8.443	77,4	75,7	74,1
Gevgelija	532	17	22.267	22.988	22.934	46,1	47,6	43,1
Dojran	127	13	3.651	3.426	3.338	28,3	26,6	26,3
Konče	323	15	3.713	3.536	3.576	15,9	15,2	11,1
Radoviš	487	36	26.812	28.244	28.748	53,9	56,8	59
Bosilovo	149	16	14.348	14.260	14.114	88,6	88	94,7
Vasilevo	171	18	11.409	12.122	12.641	49,6	52,7	73,9
Novo Selo	231	16	11.954	11.567	11.038	50,2	48,6	47,8
Strumica	338	25	53.336	54.676	56.280	166,2	170,3	166,5
<b>Pelagonija</b>	<b>4.688</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>242.614</b>	<b>238.136</b>	<b>233.628</b>	<b>51,4</b>	<b>50,5</b>	<b>49,8</b>
Bitola	771	67	96.607	95.385	93.380	122,8	121,2	121,1
Mogila	251	23	7.333	6.710	6.504	28,8	26,3	25,9
Novaci	754	41	4.263	3.549	3.350	5,7	4,7	4,4
D. Hisar	492	41	10.610	9.497	8.734	22,1	19,8	17,8
Kruševo	183	19	9.821	9.684	9.585	51,4	50,7	52,4
Dolneni	404	37	13.669	13.568	13.817	33,2	32,9	34,2
Krivogaštani	86	12	6.464	6.150	5.805	72,6	69,1	67,5
Prilep	1.170	59	76.166	76.768	76.236	63,5	64	65,2
Resen	577	44	17.681	16.825	16.217	32,1	30,5	28,1
<b>Polog</b>	<b>2.327</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>280.385</b>	<b>304.125</b>	<b>315.964</b>	<b>116,1</b>	<b>125,9</b>	<b>135,8</b>
Vrapčište	185	15	23.408	25.399	26.963	148,2	160,8	145,7
Gostivar	409	35	74.730	81.042	82.725	145,7	158	202,3
Mavrovo I R.	655	42	10.076	8.618	8.874	15,2	13	13,5
Bogovinje	140	14	25.137	28.997	30.257	177	204,2	216,1
Brvenica	163	10	14.793	15.855	16.454	90,2	96,7	100,9
Želino	200	18	21.760	24.390	26.915	108,3	121,3	134,6
Jegunovce	174	17	10.283	10.790	10.869	58,1	61	62,5
Tearce	136	13	20.797	22.454	22.767	152,9	165,1	167,4
Tetovo	265	20	79.401	86.580	90.140	303,1	330,5	340,2
<b>Southeast</b>	<b>2.336</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>163.841</b>	<b>172.787</b>	<b>175.709</b>	<b>70,9</b>	<b>74,8</b>	<b>75,2</b>
Kratovo	376	31	10.898	10.441	9.784	29,1	27,8	26
K. Palanka	488	34	20.782	20.820	20.820	43,3	43,4	42,7
Rankovce	239	18	4.347	4.144	3.871	18	17,2	16,2
Kumanovo	526	48	97.487	105.484	107.632	191,5	207,2	204,6
Lipkovo	269	22	24.351	27.058	29.298	89,2	99,1	108,9
S. Nagoričane	438	39	5.976	4.840	4.304	13,8	11,2	9,8
<b>Skopje</b>			<b>545.228</b>	<b>578.144</b>		<b>300,7</b>	<b>318,9</b>	
Gazi Baba	112	14		72.617	75.893		648,4	
Aračinovo	40	3		11.597	12.838		374,1	
Ilinden	92	12		15.894	16.607		163,9	
Petrovec				8.255			40,9	
Gorče Petrov				41.634			621,4	
Karpoš	105	3		59.666	60.363		1.704,7	
Saraj				35.408			154,6	
Aerodrom	21	1		72.009			342,9	
Zelenikovo	176	14		4.077	4.587		23	
Kisela Voda				57.236			1.683,4	
Sopište				5.656			25,5	
Studeničani				17.246			62,5	
Centar	8	1		45.412			5.676,5	
Butel	55	6		36.154			657,3	
Čair				64.773			16.193,3	
Šuto Orizari	6	2		22.017			3.145,3	
Čučer Sandevo				8.493			36,0	

Source: State Statistical Office, Census of Population, Households and Dwellings in the Republic of Macedonia, (Book XIII), population estimates, [www.stat.gov.mk](http://www.stat.gov.mk)

In the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, under the influence of the intense internal migratory movements (from village to town), in the Republic of Macedonia rather large increase in the share of the total urban population was recorded, that in 2002 reached 56,7 %. The share of urban population in the total level of regions ranges from 29,2 % (Polog) to 71,8 % (Skopje region). By higher values of this indicator there are also distinguished the Vardar, Pelagonia and East regions. Low representation of urban population is characteristic of Southwest and Southeast (Table 6) [13].

Physical and demographic polarization reflected on the changes in the redistribution of popu-

lation in urban settlements by size. In 2002 Macedonia had 22 small towns (20.000 inhabitants), 7 medium (20.000–50.000) and 4 major cities (between 50.001 and 100.000). Skopje was the only urban settlement with over 100.000 residents. In terms of spatial distribution of the urban population an interesting fact is its concentration in cities according to their size. Thus, the share of the population of small towns in the total urban population accounted for 17,2 %, 22,8 % in medium and large cities in 23,8 % in large cities. In 2002, 36,2 % of the urban population lived in Skopje.

**Table 6.** Number and participation (in %) of urban and rural population in Republic of Macedonia, and by regions (NUTS 3) 1994–2002

	Census 1994			Census 2002		
	Total	Urban	Other	Total	Urban	Other
<b>R. Macedonia</b>						
Number	1.945.932			2.022.547	1.147.006	875.541
%	100			100	56,7	43,3
<b>Vardar</b>						
Number	152.479	104.143	48.336	154.535	106.207	48.328
%	100	68,3	31,7	100	68,7	31,3
<b>East</b>						
Number	180.081	111.345	68.736	181.858	120.547	61.311
%	100	61,8	38,2	100	66,3	33,7
<b>Southwest</b>						
Number	212.856	99.010	113.846	221.546	79.964	141.582
%	100	46,5	53,5	100	36,1	63,9
<b>Southeast</b>						
Number	168.481	74.497	93.984	171.416	77.632	93.784
%	100	44,2	55,8	100	45,3	54,7
<b>Pelagonia</b>						
Number	242.614	162.250	80.364	238.136	160.925	77.211
%	100	66,9	33,1	100	67,6	32,4
<b>Polog</b>						
Number	280.352	83.270	197.082	304.125	88.762	215.363
%	100	29,7	70,3	100	56,6	43,4
<b>Northeast</b>						
Number	163.841	87.420	76.421	172.787	97.757	75.030
%	100	53,4	46,6	100	56,6	43,4
<b>Skopje</b>						
Number	545.228			578.144	415.212	162.932
%	100			100	71,8	28,2

Source: State Statistical Office, Census of Population, Households and Dwellings in the Republic of Macedonia, 2002 (Book XII)

Regarding the representation of urban and rural populations we can separate two regions with significantly different characteristics. In the Pelagonian region the participation of urban population

dominates in the total population (66,9 % in 1994 and 67,6 % in 2002), and the participation of the rural population is significantly smaller and tends to reduce it to the rural population (33,1 % and 32,4 %).

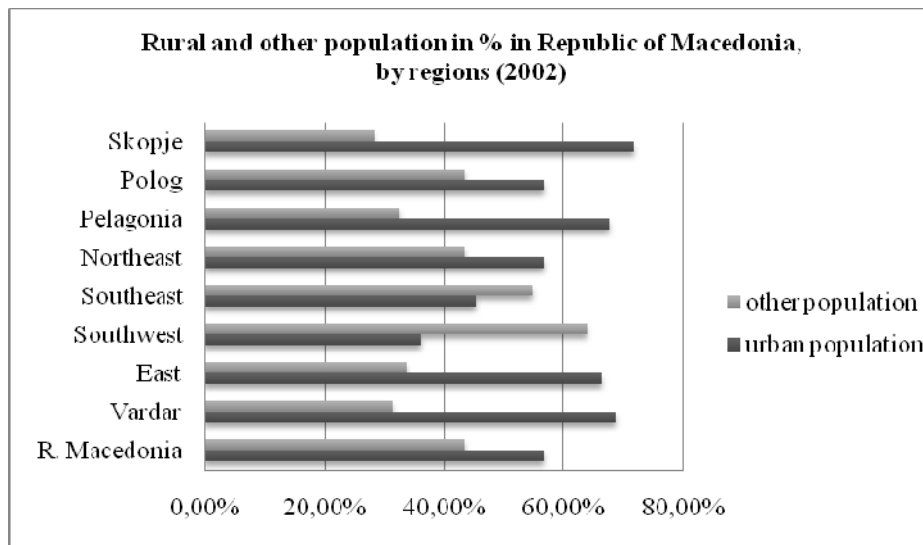


Reverse situation was noticed in the Polog region, where the representation of the urban population was 29,5 % (1994) and 29,2 % (2002), and the rural 70,5 % and 70,8 %. According to the territorial organization of the 2004 Pelagonian region has four rural municipalities (Dolneni, Krivogastani, Mogila and Novaci), while in the Polog region all municipalities are rural, except Gostivar and Tetovo.

The analysis of the urban and the other population shows that in the period 1994–2002 the urban population grew in all regions except in the

Southwest and Polog, areas that are distinguished by a small share of the urban population. According to the existing territorial organization in 2002, almost half (41) of the municipalities in the country had only rural population. Quite a large number of rural communities substantially determines the regional demographic and socio-economic development in the country. Therefore, special attention should be paid to the continued depopulation of small rural communities, and thus the increase in low-populated areas in most regions.

**Chart 2.** Urban and rural population in the Republic of Macedonia, by regions 2002



According to the population density we could differentiate six zones: areas with low concentrations of population density (50 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>), zones of medium concentration (51–100 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>), overpopulated zones (101–150 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>), significantly overpopulated zones (151–500 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>), very significantly overpopulated zones (501–1.000 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>) and extremely crowded areas (over 1000 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>) [14]. In 2002, in the Republic of Macedonia almost half (38) of the municipalities belong to an area with low population, 18 are characterized by a medium rate, 8 are overpopulated, 10 are largely overpopulated, 4 are major overpopulated, and in 6 municipalities the number of inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup> is greater than 1.000.

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## ДЕМОГРАФСКИ АСПЕКТИ НА ТЕРИТОРИЈАЛНАТА РАЗМЕСТЕНОСТ И НИВОАТА НА УРБАНИЗАЦИЈА ВО РЕПУБЛИКА МАКЕДОНИЈА

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Република Македонија како и останатите европски земји го следи трендот на континуирано намалување на бројот на жители во поедини делови од државата. Паралелно со намалувањето на бројот на жители се јавува и опаѓање на стапката на пораст на населението, како и густината на населеност во поедини региони. На територијата на Република Македонија во однос на распределеноста на густината на населението забележани се видливи разлики во поедини делови, па и региони. Ваквите демографски промени биле предизвикани од влијанието на економските прилики во државата, како и од преселничките движења. Во трудот, покрај анализата на податоците за бројното движење на населението и густината на населеност (1953–2011), ќе бидат опсервирани основните обележја на урбаните и руралните средини од аспект на промените настанати во просторна разместеност на населението по региони, како и идентификација на факторите кои влијаеле кон создавање на разликите во денешната нерамномерна просторна дистрибуција на населението.

**Клучни зборови:** Република Македонија; број на жители; густина на населеност; урбани и рурални средини