



REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
CROATIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS



QUALITY REPORT FOR STATISTICAL SURVEY
**The Census of Population, Households and Dwellings in the
Republic of Croatia 2021**

Organisation unit: Demographic and Social Statistics Directorate / Population Statistics Department

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0. Basic information

- Purpose and subject of the survey

The census of population, households and dwellings is the largest survey aimed at collecting basic data on the number, territorial arrangement and composition of population by demographic, economic, educational, emigrational and other topics. In addition, data collected by the census include households, dwellings and their topics.

The census is the most extensive source of data on population, households, families and dwellings. These data are necessary for conducting various economic and social development policies and scientific researches.

In the Republic of Croatia, the census is carried out every ten years and it is focused on three enumeration units: population, households and dwellings.

The 2021 Census was carried out in the period from 13 September to 14 November 2021, with the situation as on 31 August 2021 at midnight.

Census data are used strictly for statistical purposes and are given strictly in the aggregate form at the levels of the Republic of Croatia, counties, towns/municipalities and settlements.

- Reference period

Reference day of the 2021 Census was on 31 August 2021 at 24:00 hr.

- Legal acts and other agreements

National level:

- Act on the Census of Population, Households and Dwellings in the Republic of Croatia in 2021 (NN, Nos 25/20 and 34/21)
- Official Statistics Act (NN, Nos 25/20, 155/23 and 124/25 - corr.).

European level:

- Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/712 of 20 April 2017 establishing the reference year and the programme of the statistical data and metadata for population and housing censuses provided for by Regulation (EC) No 763/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 105, 21.4.2017)
- Regulation (EC) No 763/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 July 2008 on population and housing censuses (OJ L 218, 13.8.2008)
- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/543 of 22 March 2017 laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EC) No 763/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on population and housing censuses as regards the technical specifications of the topics and of their breakdowns (OJ L 78, 23.3.2017)
- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/881 of 23 May 2017 implementing Regulation (EC) No 763/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on population and housing censuses, as regards the modalities and structure of the quality reports and the technical format for data transmission, and amending Regulation (EU) No 1151/2010 (OJ L 135, 24.5.2017)

- Classification system

Register of Spatial Units (situation as on 31 August 2021)

National Classification of Activities, 2007 version (NACE Rev. 2)

National Classification of Occupations, 2010 version (ISCO-08)

International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011)

Code List of Schools

Code List of Countries

Code List of Citizenship

Code List of Ethnicities

Code List of Mother Tongues

Code List of Religions

- Statistical concepts and definitions

Total population in the 2021 Census

In the 2021 Census, according to the international statistical standards, the concept of place of usual residence is used in defining of the total population.

According to this concept, the total population of the 2021 Census settlement or country, respectively, consists of all persons whose place of usual residence is located in that settlement or country.

The place of usual residence is considered a place where a person spends most of his/her daily period of rest, irrespective of a short-term absence from it (e.g. due to going to vacation, trip, medical treatment, visit etc.).

In line with the definition of the place of usual residence, the total population includes the following persons:

- those who have lived in their place of usual residence for a continuous period of at least 12 months before the Census reference time
- those who arrived in their place of usual residence during the 12 months before the Census reference time with the intention of staying there for at least one year.

Therefore, the period of one year or longer and the intention of presence/absence of at least one year are the basic criteria for the inclusion or exclusion of persons in/from the total population of the 2021 Census country or settlement.

Age of population is expressed by turned years of age on the reference date.

Legal marital status

Never married persons are children under the age of 16 and all other persons who have never been married in accordance with valid regulations.

Married persons are those who got married before a competent body in accordance with valid regulations.

Life partnership is a union of family life between two persons of the same sex who have reached the age of 18, concluded before a competent body in accordance with the valid regulations.

Widowed persons are persons whose marriage ceased to exist by the death of one of the spouses or by declaring a missing spouse dead, respectfully.

Divorced persons are those whose marriage was terminated by a valid court decision.

Type of union a person lives in (de facto marital status) represents an actual way of living within the household, regardless of the person's legal marital status.

Marital union is a union of two persons of opposite sex who are mutually legally married and live together in the same household.

Consensual union is a union of two persons of opposite sex who are not mutually legally married and live together in the same household, regardless of their legal marital status.

Life partnership is a union of two persons of same sex who are mutually legally in life partnership and live together in the same household.

Informal life partnership is a union of two persons of opposite sex who are not mutually legally in life partnership and live together in the same household, regardless of their legal marital status.

A person who is not in marital / consensual union / life partnership / informal life partnership is a person who does not have his/her marital, consensual, life or informal life partner in the same household.

Place of birth refers to the place (settlement, foreign country) where a person's mother resided at the time of the person's birth.

Educational attainment refers to the highest level of completed education. There was no discrimination between the education completed in regular school or a substitute of one (e.g. schools specialising in adult education), providing that the school is acknowledged in the official education system of the Republic of Croatia.

Economic activity is any activity of persons who contribute, or are willing to contribute, to the production of goods or services in a reference period in order to provide means for life.

The 2021 Census measured the economic activity of the population in compliance with the methodological rules and guidelines of the International Labour Organization (ILO) adopted at the 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians.

In the 2021 Census, the economic activity referred to a one-week reference period, where the reference week was from 25 to 31 August 2021.

Data were collected only for persons aged 15 and over.

According to the status in economic activity, the population can be classified as active and inactive population.

Active population or labour force are employed and unemployed persons.

Employed persons are those who were in one of the following categories during the reference week:

- a) persons who during the reference week worked for **at least one hour** for pay in cash or in kind, regardless of their formal status
- b) persons who were **temporarily absent** from work or their own business, but will return to it after the reason for the absence ceases (e.g. annual leave, sick leave, maternity or paternity leave, etc.).

Accordingly, a pensioner, a housewife, a student or a person not in formal employment, but who worked at least one hour in the reference week for compensation in cash or in kind, will be classified as employed persons.

The category of employed persons consists of all employees, the self-employed and family members helping in some kind of a family business (family enterprise, company, craft, free-lance, farm) or in some other kind of gainful family activity, as well as persons who worked on a contract basis, author's agreement, on the basis of other type of agreement or for direct payment in cash or in kind.

Unemployed persons are those who meet the following three criteria:

- a) they did not work for payment in cash or in kind in the reference week
- b) they were actively seeking a job during four weeks prior to the Census or tried to start their own business
- c) they could start performing an offered job in the next two weeks.

Unemployed persons also include those who have found a job to start in the near future are also included.

Inactive population (persons outside the labour force) consists of persons under the age of 15 as well as those aged 15 and over who are neither employed nor unemployed.

Occupation is determined according to the type of work a person does and not (exclusively) according to qualifications or profession attained by education.

The classification of occupations was done according to the National Classification of Occupations, 2010 version – NKZ 10., which is in line with the International Standard Classification of Occupations – ISCO 08.

Industry refers to the economic activity of a company, trade, agricultural holding, institution, organisation or any other form of a business entity in which a person worked during the reference week (from 25 to 31 August 2021), regardless of the occupation or the work performed.

In classifying the employed persons by industries, the National Classification of Activities (NKD 2007) was used, which is in line with the Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community (NACE Rev. 2).

Status in employment refers to the status of employed persons during the reference week (from 25 to 31 August 2021). According to their status in employment, employed persons are classified as employees, self-employed persons and unpaid contributing family workers.

Employees are persons who work, according to a formal or informal contract/agreement, for an employer in the government or private sector and are paid for their work in cash or in kind.

Self-employed persons are employers who run a business entity and employ one or more employees as well as own-account workers who have no employees.

Contributing family workers are those who are not in paid employment or self-employment, but work in a business entity owned by a family member and do not receive payment for their work.

Data on the main sources of livelihood (income) were collected from all persons.

Persons could provide only one answer, which was given according to the criterion of the most important source of income earned during the 12 months prior to the month in which the 2021 Census was conducted.

Citizenship is a legal status of a person determined by the affiliation to the country, which means that person has rights and duties foreseen by the state, its constitution or administration for its people (citizens).

Ethnicity is a characteristic denoting a person's affiliation to a particular ethnic group.

Ethnicity is also interpreted as a sense of belonging to a society (nation), distinguished by ethnic, linguistic and cultural affinity of its members as well as awareness of the integrity of their own community and its special qualities in relation to other such communities.

Mother tongue means the language a person has learned in early childhood, that is, the language they consider to be their mother tongue, if the household was multilingual.

Religion is a characteristic denoting a person's affiliation to a particular religious system, irrespective of whether the person is a registered member of a particular church or religious community or not, or whether he/she practises religion or not.

Household is any family or other nucleus of persons who reside and live together, irrespective of whether all members reside in the settlement that is the place of usual residence of the household or some of them temporarily reside in another settlement in the Republic of Croatia or abroad for employment, education or other reasons.

Household also includes each person who lives alone in the Census 2021 settlement and does not have a household in another settlement in the Republic of Croatia or abroad (one-person household).

Household is also each person without a permanent address (e.g., homeless people, nomads) who was found at the Census reference time in the settlement of the Census.

Private households are divided in the following way:

- a) family households – those consisting of at least one family nucleus and could include members who do not belong to any family within the household.
- b) non-family households – those with no family nuclei. They are divided to one-person households and multi-person households.

Institutional household comprises persons for whom accommodation and food are provided by a certain institution. These are, as a rule, households established by a legal entity or a natural person for the purpose of the long-term accommodation and care for a specific group of people.

Family is a community within the same household consisting of:

- married / cohabiting couple without children, life partners / informal life partners without children
- married / cohabiting couple with children, life partners / informal life partners with children
- lone parent with children.

Housing units

The 2021 Census covered the following housing units:

- dwellings
- other housing units
- collective living quarters.

Dwelling is every structurally connected unit intended for housing purposes, consisting of one or more rooms, with or without auxiliary rooms (kitchen, pantry, hallway, bathroom, toilet, etc.) and having a separate entrance directly from the hallway, stairway, yard or street.

Other housing units are rooms and facilities that are not dwellings in the construction sense, but were used as dwellings at the time of the Census. These can be rooms in buildings, e.g. an inhabited basement, storage room, garage, occupied business premises (warehouse facilities, offices, hotel or hospital rooms), as well as certain mobile or immobile objects, e.g. a railway car, truck, ship, container, camping house, tent, hovel etc.

Collective living quarters are a group of rooms used for organised habitation by large groups of people or several households. For instance, these include retirement homes, homes for children and youth, institutions for permanent care and accommodation of persons with psychophysical and other illnesses, convents, prisons, military institutions etc.

Occupied dwellings are those that were used, at the time of the Census, for permanent habitation or habitation and performing of an activity by one or more persons.

Unoccupied dwellings are those that were not used, at the time of the Census, for permanent habitation.

Basis for dwelling usage means a basis on which a household uses a dwelling where it lives.

By the basis for dwelling usage, we distinguish:

- private property or co-ownership – if one of the members of the household is the owner or co-owner of the dwelling
- kinship with owner or tenant – if the household lives in the dwelling based on kinship with the owner or tenant
- tenant with a freely negotiated rent – for households who use the dwelling based on a written contract or verbal agreement with the owner of the dwelling
- tenant with a protected rent – if the household uses the dwelling based on the protected tenancy agreement of one of the household members according to which the household pays a protected rent (former tenancy right holder or other tenant with a protected rent)
- other bases for dwelling usage.

Other bases refer to the following cases:

- all private households occupying premises and structures not complying with the definition of the dwelling
- private households permanently living in buildings for collective dwelling
- institutional households in collective dwellings (retirement homes, convents etc.)
- institutional households in "ordinary" dwellings in residential buildings
- households of refugees and other persons who do not have a written consent of the competent authority on the (temporary) use of the dwelling or a written or verbal consent of the owner of the dwelling (natural person or legal entity).
- a homeless person can be generally defined as the person who, due to the lack of accommodation of his/her own, does not have any other options but to live on the street and without a conventional shelter that complies with the definition of the dwelling, or a person who frequently resides in various types of accommodation such as shelters, institutions for the homeless or similar housing units. Such persons were enumerated in shelters for the homeless or at places where enumerators found them that very moment.

According to the **usage of a housing unit**, the following dwellings were enumerated: dwellings intended for permanent habitation (occupied or unoccupied), temporarily used dwellings (dwellings used for vacation and dwellings used at the time of seasonal agricultural activities) and dwellings that were used, at the time of the Census, solely for performing a certain activity.

Occupied dwellings are those that were used, at the time of the Census, for permanent habitation or for habitation and performing of an activity by one or more persons.

Unoccupied dwellings are those that were not used, at the time of the Census, for permanent habitation. Those dwellings are unoccupied for the following reasons, for example: an unoccupied dwelling in a new building that is permitted to move into, a dwelling needs to be rented or sold, a dwelling is empty due to moving, carrying out construction works (reconstruction, repairs) etc. or a dwelling is empty for other reasons.

Dwellings used during seasonal agricultural activities are premises that fit the definition of a dwelling, but are used only at the time of seasonal agricultural activities (as a farm house, shepherd's or vineyard cottage and the like).

Dwellings used for vacation by all standards fit the definition of a dwelling, but are used exclusively for vacation, whether occasionally or for several months a year. They do not include dwellings used exclusively for renting during the tourist season, but only those used for owners' needs.

Dwellings used only for business activity are dwellings that fully fit the definition of a dwelling, but were used at the time of the Census solely for performing a certain business activity.

By **type of ownership**, there is private ownership, ownership by a company, state, town or municipality, church or religious community, and other ownership.

Surface area of a dwelling is the floor surface area measured within the outer walls of the dwelling.

A room is a space intended for residence, separated from other spaces by permanent walls, with the height of at least 2 m in relation to the majority of the ceiling surface area, has direct source of daylight and the floor surface of at least 4 m².

A kitchen is defined as a room with a surface area of at least 4 m² or 2 m wide, intended and equipped for preparing main meals. If a dwelling consists of only one room that is used for preparing meals as well, or the meals are prepared in an auxiliary space (hall, bathroom, etc.), such dwelling is considered to be without a kitchen.

A dwelling is considered to have a **bathroom** if there is a room equipped with a bathtub or shower, with a proper water supply and sewer system.

A dwelling is considered to have a **toilet** if such a sanitary appliance is located in a separate room inside the dwelling or in the bathroom.

A dwelling is considered not to have a toilet or a bathroom if these spaces are located outside the dwelling, in the same building or in a yard.

A dwelling is considered to have **water supply, sewage system, electricity and gas** if at least one room is equipped with proper installations, irrespective of whether they are connected to the community network or to certain households devices or facilities.

Dwellings with **air conditioning** are those with the air conditioning available in the housing unit, whether as an independent appliance installed in the dwelling or as a central air conditioning system in the entire building.

Type of heating refers to the type of heating used in an occupied dwelling (central heating from a community heating centre; central heating from an installation in the building or dwelling; heaters, fireplace, stove, air-conditioner; no heating).

Type of energy used for heating includes firewood, natural gas, fuel oil (extra-light), other non-renewable energy sources (coal, mazut, electricity, solar power, wood pellets or briquettes, heat pump (all types), and other renewable energy sources.

Type of building in which the dwelling is located

A dwelling is located in an "exclusively or prevalently residential building" if 50% or more of the total usable surface area of the building is intended for residence.

A dwelling is located in a "prevalently non-residential building" if 50% or more of the usable surface area of the building is intended for non-residential purposes (e.g. shops, hospitality establishments, banks, post offices, cinemas, private practices, branch offices of companies etc.).

A dwelling is situated in "students' or retirement homes, convents etc." if such buildings have a separate suite of rooms falling under the definition of a dwelling, with a private household residing there that does not belong to the institutional household, that is, it does not use the services provided by the collective dwelling.

Position of the dwelling in the building includes cellar, basement, ground floor, floor and dwelling at two or more levels.

Year of construction of a dwelling indicates the year of construction of the building in which the dwelling is located. For a completed dwelling located in an uncompleted building, the year of the completion of the dwelling was entered, while for a dwelling that was rebuilt as a new housing entirety or that was entirely built by changing the non-residential space into a residential one, the year of rebuilding or changing was entered. For buildings that had been mostly or completely demolished (e.g., in the war, earthquakes, landslides or fire), the year of reconstruction and

renovation was taken into account instead of the year of the initial construction. If it was impossible to determine the exact year of construction (e.g., for old buildings, unoccupied dwellings or dwellings (houses) not occupied by initial owners), the approximate year of construction was determined. If even that was not possible, the information was not entered, that is, it was entered as "unknown".

- **Statistical unit**

Population, households and dwellings.

- **Statistical population**

Total population, households and dwellings in the Republic of Croatia on the Census day, 31 August 2021.

1. Relevance

1.1 Data users

National users: ministries and other state administration bodies, local and regional self-government bodies, academic community, students, businesses, the media, the public.

International users: Eurostat (Statistical Office of the European Union), United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Internal users: expert departments of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics.

1.1.1 User needs

User categories:

Ministries, state administration bodies, bodies of local and regional self-government units – data are used for projects and strategies of national importance

Academic community – data for scientific research

Students – data are used for the preparation of master's and seminar papers

Enterprises – for market analyses, business purposes

Others – general information

National publications meet the needs of our users.

External users often require more detailed data than those that are published.

1.1.2 User satisfaction

The first user satisfaction survey of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics was conducted in 2013, the next ones in 2015 and 2022, and the last one at the end of 2024. The results of the surveys can be checked on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics – [User satisfaction surveys](#).

1.2. Completeness

Full coverage.

1.2.1 Data completeness rate

The indicator for this survey is not applicable.

2. Accuracy and reliability

2.1. Sampling error

Not applicable.

2.1.1 Sampling error indicators

Indicator for this survey is not applicable.

2.2. Non-sampling error

Not applicable.

2.2.1. Coverage error

Errors in the Census coverage and their sources:

There are various reasons for omitting persons and dwellings in the Census:

- Prior to the enumeration, the enumerator did not complete visits in his/her enumeration area and checked its limits according to the available documentation and therefore failed to enumerate all persons and dwellings located within the limits of his/her enumeration area.
- Temporarily empty dwellings were considered as abandoned.
- There were persons who either deliberately avoided to be enumerated, reluctantly responded to questions (out of their fear that information they provide may be used against their best interests) or did not want to open the door to unknown visitors.
- Persons were temporarily absent (e.g., at work, at school).

2.2.2. Overcoverage rate

The indicator for this survey is not applicable.

2.2.3. Measurement error

Not applicable.

2.2.4. Nonresponse error

Not applicable.

2.2.5. Unit nonresponse rate

The indicator was not computed for this survey.

2.2.6. Item nonresponse rate

The indicator was not computed for this survey.

2.2.7. Processing error

During the data processing, detailed logical and computational checks of all answers were applied. Errors observed when comparing data between administrative sources and the 2021 Census were removed by additional analysis and verification of variables related to the observation characteristic.

2.2.8. Imputation rate

The indicator for this survey is not applicable.

2.2.9. Model assumption error

Not applicable.

2.3. Data revision

2.3.1. Data revision – policy

The users of statistical data are informed about revisions on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics, on the link [General Revision Policy of the CBS](#).

2.3.2. Data revision – practice

Provisional data are not published in the survey; therefore, there are no regular data revisions.

2.3.3. Data revision – average size

The indicator for this survey is not applicable.

2.4. Seasonal adjustment

Not applicable.

3. Timeliness and punctuality

3.1. Timeliness

The 2021 Census results were published and disseminated in a timely manner.

3.1.1. Timeliness – first results

The first results of the 2021 Census were published on 14 January 2022, that is, two months after the completion of the field survey.

3.1.2. Timeliness – final results

The final results were published successively, as follows: on 22 September 2022, on 7 October 2022, on 31 January 2023, on 31 March 2023, on 31 May 2023, on 30 June 2023, on 14 July 2023, on 12 December 2023, on 12 April 2024 and on 13 June 2025.

Data were submitted to Eurostat in accordance with the required dissemination deadlines, that is, on 31 December 2022 and on 31 March 2024.

3.2. Punctuality

The data have been published in a timely manner.

3.2.1. Punctuality – delivery and publication

Delivery and publication is 1.

4. Accessibility and clarity

The first results of the 2021 Census were published on 14 January 2022 on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics. The publication Statistical Report 1711 (Census of Population, Households and Dwellings 2021, first results by settlements) was also published in printed and electronic form.

The final results of the 2021 Census have been published on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics after the completion of data processing and all users can access them via the link <https://podaci.dzs.hr/en/statistics/population/census/>.

The data have been published by the following units: population, households and families, and housing units.

Each unit is broken down by territorial levels and contains Notes on methodology (definitions and explanations from the tables).

All data have been announced in the Calendar of Statistical Data Issues of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics for the corresponding year.

4.1. News release

There are no First Releases published by the Croatian Bureau of Statistics that refer exclusively to the 2021 Census data.

On the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics, <https://podaci.dzs.hr/en/statistics/population/census/>, there are data sets (tables) in Excel format.

Levels: Republic of Croatia, counties, towns/municipalities and settlements.

4.2. Online database

Data are not available in the online database.

4.3. Microdata access

The conditions under which certain users can access microdata are regulated by the [Ordinance on Conditions and Terms of Access and Use of Confidential Statistical Data of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics for Scientific Purposes](#) (NN, No. 5/23).

4.4. Documentation on methodology

National documents:

- Methodological Guidelines, the Census of Population, Households and Dwellings in the Republic of Croatia in 2021, internal methodological document, CBS, Zagreb, 2021
- Organisational Instructions, the Census of Population, Households and Dwellings in the Republic of Croatia in 2021, CBS, Zagreb, 2021.

5. Coherence and comparability

5.1. Asymmetry for mirror flows statistics

Not applicable.

5.2. Comparability over time

The 2021 Census data are comparable to the 2011 Census data, but are not comparable to the data from previous censuses. The statistical definition of the total population (the concept of the place of usual residence) applied in the 2021 and 2011 Censuses differs from the definition applied in the 2001 Census and earlier.

Furthermore, a different definition of economic activity is used in the 2021 and 2011 Censuses (current activity in the reference week) compared to the 2001 Census, when the prevailing activity during the previous year was also used.

5.2.1. Length of comparable time series

The 2021 Census data are comparable to the 2011 Census data.

5.2.2. Reasons for break in time series

Different statistical definition of the total population in the 2001 Census.

5.3. Coherence – short-term and structural data

The indicator for this survey is not applicable.

5.4. Coherence – national accounts

The indicator for this survey is not applicable.

5.5. Coherence – administrative sources

The indicator for this survey is not applicable.

6. Cost and burden

6.1. Cost

The 2021 Census financing is defined by the Act on the Census of Population, Households and Dwellings in the Republic of Croatia in 2021 (NN, Nos. 25/20 and 34/21), PART FOUR (CENSUS FINANCING). On the basis of Article 44, Paragraph 4 of the Act, the Croatian Bureau of Statistics submitted the Final report on the activities done and funds spent on the Census of Population, Households and Dwellings in the Republic of Croatia in 2021 to the Croatian Parliament. In that Report, the Census financing is explained in detail in the chapter entitled Census Financing.

6.2. Burden

There was no major burden on respondents.