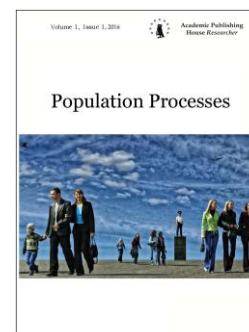


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### **Regional Aspects of the Population in Montenegro: Review**

<sup>1</sup>Goran Rajović  
<sup>2</sup>Jelisavka Bulatović

<sup>1</sup> International Network Center for Fundamental and Applied Research, Russian Federation & Academic Member ATINER based on Serbia, Serbia

E-mail: [dkgoran.rajovic@gmail.com](mailto:dkgoran.rajovic@gmail.com)

<sup>2</sup> College of Textile Design, Technology and Management, Serbia

Starine Novaka 24, Belgrade

E-mail: [jelisavka.bulatovic@gmail.com](mailto:jelisavka.bulatovic@gmail.com)

#### **Abstract**

Problems of regional development and regional disparities according to Dawkins (2003), Boudeville (1966) and Puljiz (2011) indicate that they have been for a long time the focus of research carried out by economists, sociologists, geographers, and scientists from other fields of scientific research. How do the regions grow, why some grow faster than others, why there are regional disparities in the social and economic sphere; these are some of the central issues of regional development theories and regional policies? Literature provides many answers and reflections on key issues and factors of regional development. The paper analyzes the regional problems of the population in Montenegro. In the North region are envisaged largest demographic problems, including peripheral, rural and post-industrial areas in which the population decreases. The territorial dimension of the demographic changes are most evident through the following: regional disparities in the population of the coastel – center-northern; division between urban and rural areas, where most of the urban areas reported growth of population; regional differences around the capital city Podgorica and coastal cities, which have "the effect of attraction," which is associated with greater employment opportunities... In Montenegro, it is necessary to develop a new concept – a comprehensive regional development, which will be based primarily on demographic potentials.

**Keywords:** Montenegro, population, regional aspects.

#### **Results and their generalizations**

It should be noted that most research on the topic of demographic regionalization indicate that the importance of certain elements of regionalization is variable and that is dependent on the regional level, and that the population change during demographic transition imposes a necessity for introducing new indicators and elements of regionalization (Vojković,2003). According to Lajović (2010) the main objective of regional development policy is a better life of citizens, through the overall development, reduction of the negative demographic trends and rising living standard and quality of life in local communities. The goal is balanced development of the region, which will enable all citizens to feel the rise in living standard, including investments, investments in infrastructure, job creation, and social consensus and cooperation of all subjects (stakeholders) at

the national and local levels. Regional development should be viewed as a process, during which development potential of each area is recognized and in which all available resources and funds are used for the purpose of economic, social and economic progress.



**Figure 1.** Map of regional classification of Montenegro according to the Law on regional development (Fabris and Žugić, 2012).

Regional development in Montenegro, over many decades was not viewed as an integral part of the overall socio - economic development. The issue of regional development is marginalized, analyzed as a separated off and not particularly important aspect of the overall development. Neglecting the facts that the development has its own specific spatial dimensions, or that defining of institutional development mechanisms was not regionally neutral. Regional differences have been observed mainly in terms of level of development, so that they neglected their economic development, social, community and especially the demographic specifics (Milanović et al, 2010).

When we talk about regionalization of Montenegro, although officially was not adopted, Montenegro is usually divided into three major regions: the Northern, Central and Southern. From a total of 21 municipalities (according to the census of 2011), Northern region belongs to 11 municipalities (Andrijevica, Berane, Bijelo Polje, Kolašin, Mojkovac, Plav, Plužine, Pljevlja, Rožaje, Šavnik and Žabljak); Central region includes 4 municipalities (Cetinje, Danilovgrad, Nikšić and Podgorica), while in the framework of the Coastal Region 6 municipalities (Bar, Budva, Herceg Novi, Kotor, Tivat and Ulcinj) (Statistical Office of Montenegro- MONSTAT, 2011).

**Table 1.** Changes of total population changes by regions, percentage participation (%), base and chain indices

Year	REGIONS								
	Coastal			Central			Northern		
	Participation in total population (%)	Base index	Chain in index	Participation in total population (%)	Base index	Chain in index	Participation in total population (%)	Base index	Chain in index
1948	18.5	100	-	34.2	100	-	47.3	100	-
1953	18.1	97.84	97.84	34.6	101.17	101.17	47.3	100	100
1961	17.7	95.68	97.79	36.1	104.34	104.34	46.2	97.67	97.67
1971	18.3	98.92	103.39	38.3	106.09	106.09	43.4	91.75	93.94
1981	19.8	107.03	108.20	41.0	107.05	107.05	39.2	82.88	90.32
1991	21.9	118.38	110.61	42.6	103.90	103.90	35.5	75.05	90.56
2003	23.5	127.03	107.31	45.1	105.87	105.87	31.4	66.38	88.45
2011	24.0	129.73	102.13	47.3	104.88	104.88	28.7	60.68	91.40

Source: Despotović et al (2015)

Calculated base indexes indicate that in 2011 in comparison to the based year of 1948, population in the coastal region increased by 29.73%, the central by 38.30%, while in the north it was reduced by 39.92 %. Chain indices show the changes from one census to another. In the coastal region in 1991 there was an increase in population by 10.61 % compared to 1981, in the central by 3.90 %; while in the north it decreased by about 10 %. The abovementioned has contributed to uneven regional development. Northern region (mainly rural) represents more than 50 % of the country, but it has less than third of the total population. On the other hand, almost one-quarter of the population in Montenegro covers over 10 % of the territory of Montenegro. These trends of population changes are not in line with the long term goal of Montenegro to develop as an agricultural country, bearing in mind primarily the development of livestock farming, fruit growing and crop husbandry in the north region (Despotović et al, 2015).

Although Northern region occupies more than 50% of the territory of Montenegro, in whole region alive only 28.68% of the total population, while itself Podgorica includes just as much. The North region in 1991 had 218.592 inhabitants and by 2011 that number fell to 177.837. The population of Podgorica is still on the rise due to an influx of young people from the other two regions, especially the Northern. One reason for this is economic stagnation of cities in north Montenegro. The trend of depopulation of the North region is the result of negative net migration, but also the negative natural increase. According to Statistical Office of Montenegro (2015) are in Montenegro in 2014 born 7.529 live births children. That same year died is 6.014 persons. In 2014, the natural population growth in Montenegro is positive and amounts to 1.515. In the Central region of Montenegro during 2014 is born is 3.797 children in North region 1.874, in the Coastal 1.858. That same year, in the North region is died 1.986 people, 1.425 in the Coastal, in Central 2.603. In the Central region (1.194) and the Coastal region (433) natural population growth is positive, while in the North region of negative (-112).

**Table 2.** Working age population (15-64 years) by region

Geospace	2003		2011		Change 2011/2003 Rate of growth (%)	
	Number	Participation (%)	Number	Participation (%)		
Northern	123.191	30.87	117.647	27.90	-5.544	-4.5
Central	186.086	46.63	201.695	47.83	15.609	8.4
Coastal	89.772	22.50	102.351	24.27	12.579	14.0
Montenegro	399.049	100.00	421.93	100.00	22.644	5.7

Source: Ministry of Economy Government of Montenegro (2012)

Working age population in the period 2003-2011 at the level of Montenegro increased by 22.644 inhabitants which represents a growth rate of 5.7%. Broken down by regions, growth was recorded in the Central (8.4 %) and the Coastal region (14.0%), while the number of working-age population decreased in the North region (- 4.7%). Such a trend may be a limiting factor for the development of the Northern region. At this point it is important to point out the research Stojiljković (2010) that a number of problems during the nineties characterized the economy of Montenegro, has reduced the number of the employed population. Nineties the last century - crisis, sanctions, wars and the informal sector have influenced the radical changes in the functioning of the state. At the beginning of the new millennium, there has been a transition, which included privatization and big layoffs, which only worsened the ratio of the number of employees, which was getting smaller, and the number of pensioners, whose number is ever increasing. Progressive reduction of employees and pensioners increase significantly impedes the functioning of the pension system, based on the transfer of contributions to pensions. The deficit incurred as a consequence of its available budget funds and increase the number of pensioners when outnumber the baby boomers who were employed for a long time become entitled to a pension will only intensify the problem. Population projections show clearly that the numerically larger baby boom generation affect "outflows" the significant size of the working age population after 2013, and that this generation is not fiction but actually significantly more numerous groups. Informing the public, as well as the specific preparation of this sudden transition is necessary, in order to avoid dramatic consequences. The problem of a large number of pensioners to be addressed by is integrating measures. A low fertility rate, which is actually the cause of increasing the share of pensioners in the total population also not be considered in isolation, but must be an awareness of a cause-and-effect relationship between these phenomena.

**Table 3.** Socio-economic differences at the level of three regions<sup>1</sup>

Indicator	Regions		
	Minimum	Maximum	Span
Total income of the region per capita (in €) in 2013	1.031.5	2.233.8	2.16
Budget revenues of the region (own and seconded to law) per capita in € in 2013	100.46	572.99	5.70

<sup>1</sup> Individuals with high school, college and university graduates in the total population aged 15 years and over.

Average unemployment rate at the regional level in 2013.	11.7%	21.9%	1.87
Share of educated population in the total population aged 15 to 64 years	71%	90%	1.27
General population movement in 2011. (2003=100)	92.8	105.8	1.14

Source: Ministry of Economy Government of Montenegro (2012)

In addition to population trends, important indicators of socio-economic development in Montenegro, employment and unemployment, which have a strong regional dimension? The problem is particularly acute in the Northern region of Montenegro. The decline in economic activity in the last two decades, depopulation of rural areas, migration of population from the north of Montenegro in Central and Coastal Region, affected the deepening of the problem and its difficult resolution. In the Northern region, the number of unemployed persons at the end of 2013 was 12.810, or 37.1% of the total number of unemployed. The number of unemployed as compared to 2010 increased by 9.4% while they are unemployment rate in 2013 was 21.9%. In the Central region, the number of unemployed persons at the end of 2013 amounted to 14.977, or 43.4%. The number of unemployed persons in 2013 increased by 3.8% compared to 2010. The unemployment rate in the central region at the end of 2013 amounted to 13.1%. The number of unemployed in the Coastal region at the end of 2013 totaled 6.727, or 19.5% of the total number of unemployed in Montenegro. It is in the reporting period saw an increase in the number of unemployed to 14.0%. The unemployment rate in the Coastal region at the end of 2013 was 11.7%. In the period 2010 – 2013 an increase was recorded the average number of employees in the central and Coastal region, while in the North decline millet number of employees by 6.3%, implying a further increase in the difference between the regions of Montenegro (2012).

Analysis of income per capita is shown in Table 6 shows that the obvious differences between the regions in the minimum and maximum values of this indicator per capita. Thus, in 2013 per capita income was the lowest in the Northern region and amounted to euro 1.031.5, or two five times lower than in the central region (euro 2.233.8). When we look at budgetary revenues per capita by region, the lowest value was also recorded in the Northern region (100.46 euro), which in 2013 was 5.7 times less than in the Coastal region (572.99 euro). Indicator of unemployment and average unemployment rate, the highest in the Northern region and amounted to 21.9% in 2013, while it was lowest in the Coastal region and amounted to 11.7% and 1.87 times less than in the North region. Indicator of education of the population of Montenegro is the largest in the Coastal region, where the rate of education, according to data from the 2011 Census was 90% and was 1.27 times higher than in the North region (where it amounted to 71%) (Ministry of Economy Government of Montenegro, 2012).

**Table 4.** Average age of the population in municipalities Montenegro, 2011

Municipalities	Average age of the population		
	Total	Urban	Other
Montenegro	37.2	36.6	38.4
Plužine	43.7	38.2	47.5
Šavnik	42.5	37.9	43.9
Žabljak	41.9	40.5	43.3
Pljevlja	41.8	39	46.6
Cetinje	40.3	39	47.2
Kolašin	40.1	37.6	41.3
Herceg Novi	40	40.1	39.7
Andrijevica	39.9	38.1	40.3
Kotor	39.5	39.8	39.1
Mojkovac	38.4	37.4	39.1
Danilovgrad	38.1	36.6	39.1
Tivat	38	38.3	37.3
Bar	37.9	37.8	37.9
Nikšić	37.8	37.1	40.2
Ulcinj	37.8	36.8	38.8
Budva	36.5	36.5	36.7
Berane	36.4	36.9	36.1
Bijelo Polje	36.1	35.1	37.1
Plav	36	35.6	36.2
Podgorica	35.7	35.3	37.5
Rožaje	31.7	32.2	31.3

Source: Statistical Office of Montenegro - MONSTAT (2012), Comparative overview of the population, Podgorica

On the basis of the Population Census for the period 1848 to 2011, it can be seen the process of aging of the population. The changes in the age structure of the population of Montenegro were mainly carried out in the direction of demographic aging, which is reflected in the increasing share of the elderly in the total population or in reducing the proportion of young people (see Rajović and Bulatović, 2015; Rajović and Bulatović, 2015; Rajović and Bulatović, 2015; Rajović and Bulatović, 2016; Rajović and Bulatović, 2016).

Across regions, the average age of the population is the largest in the north of Montenegro, apart from Rožaje. There are also significant differences in the relation city population and other settlements. City population is a bit younger, which is a result of migrations, whereas in other settlements of primarily rural type – the population age shows the influence of a range of factors, demographic and economic, which brought to senilization, rural depopulation, deagrarianization and area devastation. When the human factor engaged in agriculture is concerned, old population and elderly households prevail, which is a serious threat to the development. On the total 48.824 holders of family agricultural holdings, the most of holders (16.228) are aged 65 years and over, with the share of 33.24% (Božović and Đurašković, 2014).

**Table 5.** Medium variant of population projection by regions of Montenegro, 2020–2050

	Year			
	2020	2030	2040	2050
Northern	192.779	199.667	205.949	211.286
Central	313.772	334.218	352.987	370.703
Coastal	166.135	178.707	189.794	201.490
Montenegro	672.686	712.592	748.730	783.479

Source: Ćorović (2010)

The existing population projections for Montenegro until the year 2050 point to expected continuance of certain present tendencies in demographic development. Considering the variant of medium fertility (representing the moderately high fertility, expected death rate and expected migrations) in the period from 2005 to 2050 the population of Montenegro will increase to 783.479 inhabitants or to 23 % as a result of population increase of 7.1% in the Northern region, 28.3% in Central region and 33.5 % in Coastal region. As a result of these tendencies, ratio of Central region participation in total Montenegro population in 2050 would increase to 47.3%, Coastal region to 25,7 %, and participation of Northern region would be decreased to 27.0%. In hypothetical constant variant of the projection (constant fertility, death rate and migration levels), population of Montenegro would in 2050 (when compared to 2010) be lesser for 15.5% as a result of increase of 1.7% in Central region, decrease of 7,9% in Coastal region, and decrease in 48,2% in Northern region. In this case in the year of 2050 participation of North region in total population of Montenegro would be only 18.3%, participation of Coastal region would be 26.1%, and Central region of 55.6%( Ćorović, 2010).

The main reasons for internal migration are better conditions for business and life. Internal migration in Montenegro is mainly characterized by migration from rural to urban places. Rural residents face a range of challenges associated with lower population density, longer travel distances for the service users and providers, and a lack of economies of scale for healthcare service providers. In fact, towns and other urban places in Montenegro are the main centers of economic and social development. Internal migrants settle to urban regions in search for employment, particularly in the tourism and constructing sectors. As a result of internal migration, the share of the urban in the total population of Montenegro has increased from 54% in 1991 period to 62% in 2003. According to the census of 2003, 62 % of the population lived in urban areas and 38% in other areas. In 2012 this last share (population in rural areas) had fallen to 34.5% and the share of urban population had grown to 65,5%. There is also a tendency of internal migration from the Northern to the Central and Coastal regions of the country which has continued after 2003 (Migration profile, 2013). According to Grečić and Kaluđerović (2012) as a combined effect of internal and international migration, the population in some municipalities of the North region has been continuously declining since 1991, while the capital city Podgorica and municipalities of the South had a constant influx of inhabitants. As a result, the net migration rate for the whole North region constantly remained largely negative (-15.5% as compared to -1.6% at national level for 1991-2003). From the municipalities which feature an above average (over 10%) or a very high proportion of the population abroad (over 20%), most are located in the North region. This mostly rural, ex-industrial region lags clearly behind the two other ones as shown by all socio-economic indicators. As high unemployment is a major driving force of poverty and social exclusion, the region also faces biggest problems with poverty (highest share of population living below the poverty line – EUR 162/month – of 19.2% and high proportion of cases of multi-deprivation).

## Conclusion

Regionalization is an exceptionally complex and contradictory matter, and at the same time becoming very challenging in the last few years in conditions of accelerated changes in the world. It is believed that regionalization today is an unavoidable strategic action of directing development processes on a territory. One of the aims of regionalization is to bring economic, demographic and social development processes into accord. Discordance of demographic transition courses with economic development caused prominent changes and complex development problems on the territory of Montenegro, which indicate that appropriate attention should be devoted to demographic occurrences and processes in the approach to its regionalization (Vojković, 2003).

Our research records based on a study by Eurostat (2015) points out those demographic changes among the main movers which forms the life of the population. The structure and profile of the population of Montenegro have changed significantly, partly as a result of the following: low rate of natural increase, changes in the structure of the family, the desire for greater personal independence, the different roles of men and women, higher rates of migration, greater geographical mobility and longer lifetime. Because of these demographic changes have changed the characteristics of the family and has resulted in: decrease in the average size of households, various forms of coexistence (common-law marriage or registered partnership) and a large number of people who live alone. As a result of today way of life is significantly different from what before 50 years and significant changes are likely to continue in the future, such as the population of Montenegro is gradually aged.

The social and economic consequences of population aging are likely to have a profound influence in Montenegro and at national and regional level. For example, because of the low fertility rates will reduce the number of pupil, and then there will be fewer working-age populations that support the rest of the population so as to increase the percentage of elderly people (some of which will require additional infrastructure, health services and customized housing). Thus, the structural demographic changes could have an impact on the ability of the government to increase tax revenue, balance its own finances or provides adequate pensions and health care services.

Conclusion, current issues of regional development of Montenegro are reflected in the huge regional differences in the development and dispersion of urban - rural; underdevelopment of a large number of municipalities; structural inconsistency; institutional problems; unfavorable geographical movement; material limitations ... Therefore Vojković (2003) emphasizes that the isolated regions are homogeneous in the sense of functional interdependence, because each represents a region which is territorially-functionally connected to a regional center; and heterogeneous of structure, because each region represents a symbiosis of urban, rural and transitional type of structure, which are a result of differentiation of development and demographic processes, and which imply a corresponding demographic development, dynamics and composition of population. Every concrete requirement in future practice of planning or organization of geo-territory would require defining goals and principles of regionalization as well.

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