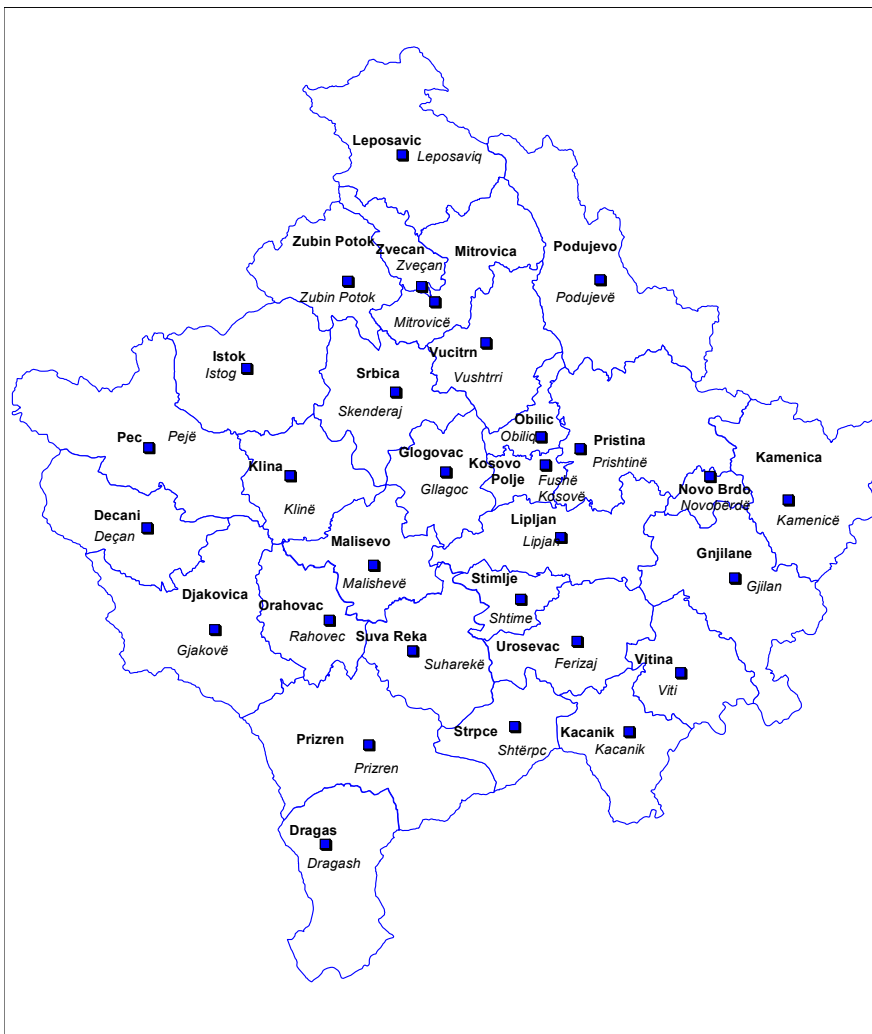


Kosovo and its Population

The Territory

Kosovo is a small and landlocked territory in the center of the Balkan Peninsula. Kosovo borders Macedonia (FYROM), Albania, Serbia and Montenegro. Its area is 10 877 sq. km. This is about one third of Belgium. Kosovo is at present divided into 30 municipalities. The capital city is Prishtinë/Priština.

Figure 1.1: Map of Kosovo



The climate in Kosovo is continental with warm summers and cold winters. Kosovo is densely populated with about 175 persons per sq. km. Kosovo is poor. According to LSMS (*Living Standard Measurement Survey 2000*), 12 per cent of the population is extremely poor and another almost 40 per cent is poor. Thus, according to LSMS, about

half the population in Kosovo was poor in the autumn of 2000 (World Bank (2001)). According to the HBS (Household Budget Survey) 6 months preliminary data there is no significant change in poverty situation compared with the autumn of 2000, when the first LSMS in Kosovo was carried out. However, it is recognized a small decrease in poverty since LSMS 2000 (SOK (2003c)). Thus, in autumn 2002 the poverty in Kosovo is still widespread but it is not very deep. The average net wages in Kosovo are about 200 Euros per month. The average wages are higher for men than for women and higher in the private sector than in the public sector (SOK (2003a)).

The Population

At the end of the Second World War, Kosovo was predominantly a rural society, with the rural population comprising 80 per cent of the total population. In 1991, the Kosovo population was still 63 per cent rural. In 2000 it was estimated in LSMS that the rural population was still over 60 per cent. It is difficult to predict future rural-urban changes, but if Kosovo follows the experience of other Balkan countries, it will experience a rapid shift toward urbanization.

The growth of the population was extensive from the end of the Second World War up till the beginning of the 1990s. From 1961 to 1991 Kosovo more than doubled its population. During this period of time it was mainly the ethnic Albanian population that increased while the ethnic Serbian population remained constant and amounted to around 200 000 people during the whole period even though its share of total population decreased.

Table 1.1: Total Population and Population by Ethnic Origin According to Population Censuses

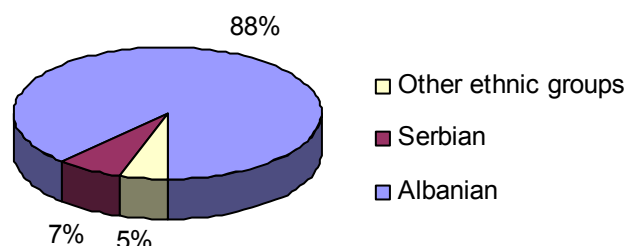
Population census Year	Total population	Of which in per cent			
		Alb.	Serbian	Others	Total
1948	729 000	68	24	8	100
1953	808 000	65	23	11	100
1961	964 000	67	24	9	100
1971	1 244 000	74	18	8	100
1981	1 584 000	77	13	10	100
1991	1 956 000	82	10	8	100

Source: Population censuses 1948 to 1991. The quality of the 1991 census is questionable.

The total resident population was roughly estimated at about 2 million persons in mid 2000 by UNMIK Department for Local Administration. In LSMS 2000 the population was estimated to 1 970 000. The population estimate was about 1.9 million in the Labour Force Survey (LFS) 2001. Other calculations indicate that the resident population in Kosovo is about 1.9 million (Funkhouser 2003).

According to LSMS 88 per cent were defined as ethnic Kosovo Albanians. The ethnic Serbian population accounted for 7 per cent while other ethnic groups together accounted for approximately 5 per cent of the total population. The same relative distribution on ethnicity has been found in other household surveys as LFS 2002 and HBS 2002.

Figure 1.2: The Ethnic Distribution in Kosovo in 2000



Source: Living Standard Measurement Survey (LSMS) 2000

Other ethnic groups consist according to LSMS mainly of Muslims/Bosniaks (1.9 per cent), Romas (1.7 per cent), and Turkish (1 per cent).

In an aging Europe, the population of Kosovo is an exception. The population is very young, about one-third under 15 years of age and more than half under 25 years. The median age is 22 to 23 years of age. By contrast only about 6 per cent of the population is 65 years and older. The level of the “active” population (between 15 and 64 years of age) is about 61 per cent. The dependency ratio is high, largely because of the large proportion of persons under 15 years of age.

Table 1.2: Age Distribution, per cent

	Females	Males	Total
0-19 years	40.2	44.8	42.5
20-64 years	54.0	50.0	52.0
65 and older	5.8	5.2	5.5
	100	100	100

Source: Demographic and Socio-economic Survey 1999

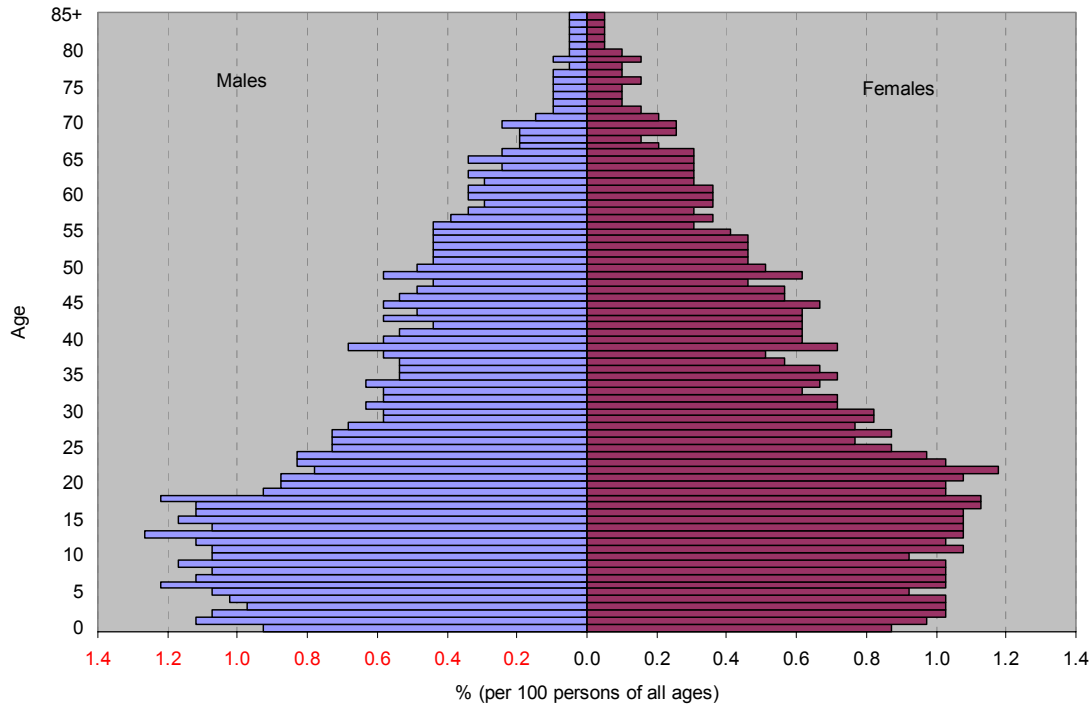
Table 1.3: Age Distribution 2000-2002, per cent

	2000	2001	2002
0-14 years	31.5	32.3	32.8
15-64 years	63.0	61.2	61.0
65 and older	5.5	6.5	6.2
	100	100	100

Source: Different household surveys

The population pyramid is still triangular, despite the squaring at the base due to the emigration of families with children. Another particularity of the population is the shortage of males aged 20 to 50 mainly caused by the emigration of males for economic reasons, leading to significantly more females than males in that age group. The high sex ratio for small children, with significantly more boys than girls, should also be noted. Household surveys, both LFS and HBS, show a slightly higher per cent men (about 50.5%) than women (about 49.5%) in the total population of Kosovo.

Figure 1.3: The Population Pyramid of Kosovo



Source: Demographic and Socio-economic Survey 1999

Table 1.4: Population by ethnicity and age, per cent

	Albanian	Serb	Others
0-14 years	33.0	19.2	33.6
15-64 years	60.9	68.0	59.2
65 and older	6.1	12.8	7.2
	100	100	100

Source: LFS 2001

As seen from table 1.4 the Kosovo Serb population is older than the Kosovo Albanian population.

The population of Kosovo differs from other European populations in many ways. As mentioned above the Kosovo population is very young. Households are still particularly large. The average household size is estimated at more than 6 members. Rural households are larger than urban households. Kosovo Albanian households are larger than Kosovo Serb households. The total number of households in Kosovo is estimated at about 300 000.

The number of live births per year is believed to be around 45 000 in 2001. Kosovo women have, on average, 2.7 children. Fertility remains high compared to the rest of Europe but is falling swiftly (*Demographic and Socio-economic Survey 1999*). Infant and maternal mortality are high, perhaps among the highest in Europe.

There are large differences in educational attainment in Kosovo. Women have a lower educational attainment than men in all age groups. The rural population is less educated. Unsurprisingly, the largest differences in educational attainment are found between rural women and urban men (SOK (2002b)).

Table 1.5: Population changes in Kosovo 1997

	Number	Per 1 000 population
Live births	43 000	19.3
Deaths, total	8 600	3.9
Marriages	12 000	5.3
Infant Mortality Rate	800	18.2 per 1000 live births

Source: *Statistical Yearbook of Yugoslavia 2000*

Of the 43 000 live born 1997, 22 600 (52.6 per cent) were boys and 20 400 (47.4 per cent) were girls. Natural increase per 1000 population was estimated at 15.0 in 1997. Preliminary results from the vital statistics indicate that this figure might even be a little higher today.

Table 1.6: Some international comparisons

	Population Million	Inh. per sq km	Pop. under 15 per cent	Crude Birth Rate (1)	Crude Death Rate (1)	Total Fertility Rate (2)	Infant Mortality Rate
Kosovo	1.9	175	33	19	4	2.7	18
Albania	3.1	110	32	17	5	2.1	12
Croatia	4.3	75	20	10	12	1.4	8
Slovenia	2.0	100	16	9	9	1.3	5
Greece	11.0.	80	15	10	10	1.3	6
Italy	58.1	190	14	9	9	1.3	5
Sweden	8.9	20	18	10	11	1.6	3

Source: 2002 World Population Data Sheet, Population Reference Bureau, USA. For Kosovo rough/old estimates.

(1) Per 1000 population

(2) Average number of children born to a woman during her lifetime

In UNDP (2002) a much higher figure on Infant Mortality Rate is given; 34 – 35.

Data gaps

A recent official estimate of the population size in Kosovo does not exist. Estimates range from 1.7 million to 2.4 million, partly depending what is meant by the Kosovo population. The **resident** population (persons living in Kosovo) is usually estimated at 1.8 million to 2.0 million. The “best” estimate is probably around 1.9 million. Consequently there are no reliable population figures for municipalities, towns and villages in Kosovo. The Statistical Office of Kosovo does not believe it is possible at present to produce population estimates of good quality for municipalities, towns and villages in Kosovo. Population estimates from the 1981 census and the 1991 census by ethnicity for the current municipalities are given in annex 1, page 8. It should be noted that these are historic data and the quality of the 1991 census is questionable. A new population and housing census is very much needed. A draft census law has been prepared and it was sent to the Assembly in May 2003. The census law was approved by the Assembly on July 11, 2003. There is no census date in the approved law. The census date will be decided by the Assembly in a special decision.

There are at present no reliable statistics on migration in Kosovo.

Data collection of vital statistics (births, deaths, marriages) started in August 2001 and there are so far just a few preliminary results. The Poverty Assessment based on LSMS will be followed up as a lot has happened in Kosovo since autumn 2000. SOK has started a Household Budget Survey (HBS) in June 2002. This survey will also be used for Poverty Assessment. Some preliminary data on poverty in Kosovo based on six-month data from HBS has been published (SOK (2003c)). When the complete data from HBS (one year) is ready a thorough poverty assessment will be carried out in cooperation with the WB. This new poverty assessment is planned to be published before December 2003. Since there will be no results from the population and housing census in the near future, there is also a great need to follow up the last Demographic and Socio-economic survey, which was carried out in late 1999. A follow-up Demographic and Health Survey (DHS 2003) was carried out during July 2003. First results from DHS 2003 are expected in November 2003.

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Population estimates based on Censuses 1981 and 1991

Code	Municipality	1981* Census	1991** Census	Albanian***	Serb***	Monten.***	Turk***	Muslim***	Croat***	Roma***	Others***
01	DEÇAN / DECANI	40,640	49,000	47,669	188	603	0	248	0	174	118
02	GJAKOVË / DAKOVICA	92,203	115,097	106,868	1,751	1,460	18	331	23	2,750	1,896
03	GLLOGOC / GLOGOVAC	39,141	53,618	53,562	23	3	0	19	0	6	5
04	GJILAN / GNJILANE	84,085	103,675	79,357	19,370	155	854	167	24	3,477	271
05	DRAGASH / DRAGAS	35,054	39,435	22,785	60	10	66	16,129	28	0	357
06	ISTOG / ISTOK	50,104	57,261	43,910	5,968	1,302	1	4,070	10	1,346	654
07	KAÇANIK / KACANIK	31,072	38,010	37,368	223	20	0	75	5	307	12
08	KLINË / KLINA	43,894	52,266	43,248	5,209	621	0	278	4	1,278	1,628
09	FUSHË KOSOVË / KOSOVO POLJE	29,805	35,570	20,142	8,445	1,033	17	1,678	39	3,473	743
10	KAMENICË / KAMENICA	48,320	52,152	38,096	12,762	58	0	83	9	986	158
11	MITROVICË / MITROVICA	87,981	104,885	82,837	9,482	1,216	431	5,205	89	4,851	774
12	LEPOSAVIQ / LEPOSAVIC	16,906	16,395	951	14,299	89	0	770	9	194	83
13	LIPJAN / LIPLIAN	56,940	69,451	53,730	9,713	272	5	892	2,914	1,673	252
14	NOVOBËRDË / NOVO BRDO	4,984	4,611	1,845	2,666	14	0	11	1	47	27
15	OBILIQ / OBILIC	27,161	31,627	20,971	5,490	421	0	347	12	3,956	430
16	RAHOVEC / ORAHOVAC	46,541	59,877	55,033	3,795	174	0	205	1	329	340
17	PEJË / PEC	111,071	127,796	96,441	7,815	6,960	16	9,875	51	4,442	2,196
18	PODUJEVË / PODUJEVO	75,437	92,946	91,005	1,118	320	4	89	1	387	22
19	PRISHTINË / PRISTINA	148,090	199,654	154,990	26,893	3,912	1,982	3,427	236	6,706	1,508
20	PRIZREN / PRIZREN	134,526	178,723	135,674	10,911	460	6,932	19,243	3	4,161	1,339
21	SKENDERAJ / SRBICA	46,777	55,471	54,437	713	99	0	49	1	133	39
22	SHTIME / STIMLJE	20,193	23,506	21,716	971	17	0	410	4	265	123
23	SHTËRPCË / STRPCË	12,115	12,712	4,300	8,138	17	0	16	4	74	163
24	SUHAREKË / SUVA REKE	50,444	64,530	61,230	3,001	23	7	35	0	166	68
25	FERIZAJ / UROSEVAC	81,372	113,668	100,144	8,314	313	9	1,810	167	2,068	843
26	VITI / VITINA	47,839	57,290	45,078	7,002	178	1	94	4,331	373	233
27	VUSTTRRI / VUCITRN	65,512	80,644	71,354	5,522	269	68	516	7	2,108	800
28	ZUBIN POTOK / ZUBIN POTOK	8,666	8,479	2,079	6,282	44	0	20	4	0	50
29	ZVEÇAN / ZVECAN	8,675	10,030	1,934	7,591	291	22	85	18	14	75
30	MALISHEVË / MALISEVO	38,892	47,817	47,318	475	11	0	12	0	1	0
Total		1,584,440	1,956,196	1,596,072	194,190	20,365	10,433	66,189	7,995	45,745	15,207

* Population Census in 1981, compiled by SOK in May 2003

** Population Census in 1991, Federal Office of Statistics,

*** Census 1991 "nacionalna pripadnost, detaljna klasifikacija" 3 BG 1993