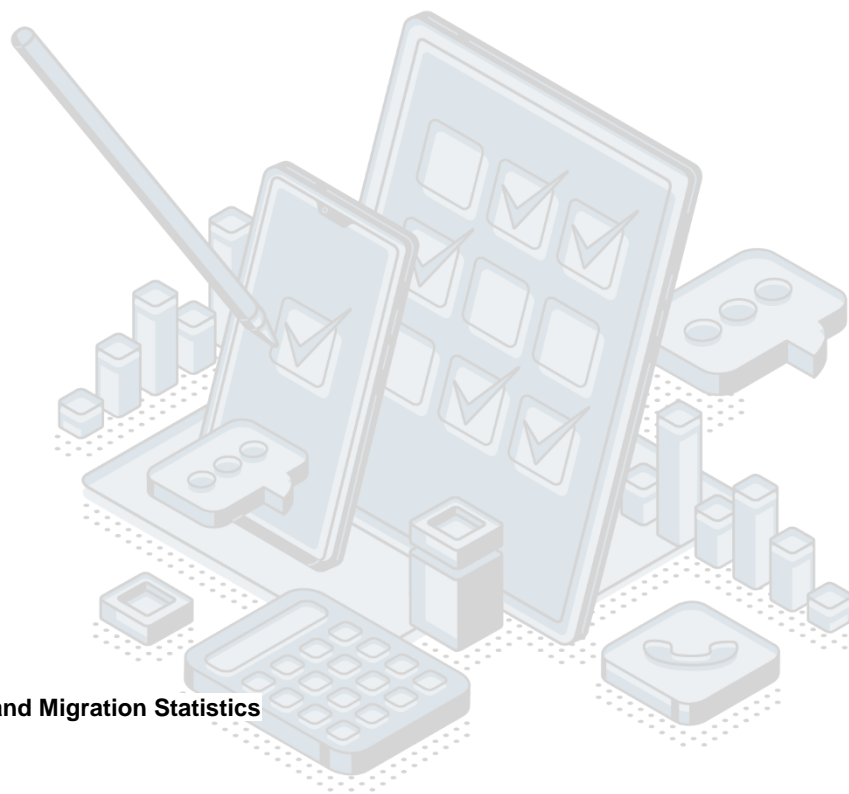


QUALITY REPORT

Population, Households and Dwellings Census 2023



Department name: Department of Demography and Migration Statistics

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Introduction – Basic information

1.1 Purpose, objective and scope of the census

The objective of the Population, Households and Dwellings Census is to provide data on the total number and territorial distribution of the basic census units (persons, households and dwellings), as well as on their main demographic, educational, migration, economic and other characteristics, at the level of the state, local self-government units and settlements.

In addition, the objective of the census is to obtain data on the number of households and their structure, as well as data on the number of families, the basic characteristics of individual types of families and the number of family members.

The enumeration of dwellings is conducted in order to determine the number of dwellings, their size and the availability of installations, as well as data on their occupancy status.

The scope of the census also includes data on households engaged in agricultural production, and these data will be used exclusively for the identification and updating of the register of agricultural holdings for the purpose of conducting the Agricultural Census.

Census results are used not only for the analysis of the situation established by the census, but also for the analysis of changes in relation to previous censuses, which represents a starting point for decision-making.

In addition to the above, the collected data will be used as inputs for the calculation of statistical indicators in the intercensal period, such as population estimates and projections of their future trends, as well as for the analysis and assessment of the state of economic and social development.

The collected data also serve as a basis for sample surveys, as they constitute a comprehensive database that serves as a sampling frame for all future surveys and research.

1.2 Legal basis

National legal framework

- [The Law on Official Statistics and the System of Official Statistics](#) (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 18/12, 47/19 and 23/25) defines the provisions for data collection, processing and dissemination. In addition, this Law provides for the adoption of a special law regulating the census.
- [The Law on the Population, Households and Dwellings Census](#) (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 140/22 of 16 December 2022, 105/23 of 28 November 2023). This Law regulates the rules for the preparation, organisation and implementation of the Population, Households and Dwellings Census.
- [The Regulation on Determining the Period for Conducting the Population, Households and Dwellings Census and the Census Reference Moment](#) (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 025/23 of 6 March 2023, 098/23 of 31 October 2023, 107/23 of 29 November 2023, 113/23 of 15 December 2023, 119/23 of 28 December 2023).

International legal framework

- [Recommendations of the Conference of European Statisticians for the 2020 Population and Housing Censuses, prepared by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe \(UNECE\).](#)

- [Regulation \(EC\) No 763/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of the European Union on population and housing censuses](#), as well as [other implementing regulations](#), in compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice.

1.3 Census units

The census covers the following units:

- 1) Persons
 - Montenegrin citizens who have permanent or temporary residence in Montenegro, regardless of whether they are present at their place of residence or are temporarily staying in another place in Montenegro or in another country;
 - Foreign citizens who have been granted permanent or temporary residence in Montenegro, as well as foreign citizens whose usual place of residence is in Montenegro;
- 2) Households;
- 3) Dwellings and other occupied housing units.

1.4 Census coverage and scope

1.4.1 Reference moment

The reference moment is 31 October 2023 at 24:00, representing the date and time to which the data on census units refer.

1.4.2 Statistical population

The enumerated population consists of all persons who are Montenegrin citizens with permanent or temporary residence in Montenegro, regardless of whether they are present at their place of residence or are temporarily staying in another place in Montenegro or in another country, as well as foreign citizens who have been granted permanent or temporary residence in Montenegro and foreign citizens whose usual place of residence is in Montenegro.

The population of Montenegro consists of the enumerated persons who have their usual place of residence in Montenegro.

1.5 Reference geographical area

The data collected by the census refer to the territory of Montenegro and may be presented at the level of municipalities or settlements, as the lowest territorial units.

1.6 Concepts and definitions

Reference moment is the date and time to which the data on census units refer.

Enumerated population represents the total number of persons for whom the Person Questionnaire (P-1) was completed.

In accordance with the Law on the Population, Households and Dwellings Census, the census covered the following persons:

- Montenegrin citizens who have permanent or temporary residence in Montenegro, regardless of whether they are present at their place of residence or are temporarily staying in another place in Montenegro or in another country;

- Foreign citizens who have been granted permanent or temporary residence in Montenegro, as well as foreign citizens whose usual place of residence is in Montenegro.

Population comprises persons with their usual place of residence in Montenegro.

Usual place of residence is the place where a person normally spends the day, regardless of temporary absence due to recreation, annual leave, visits to friends or relatives, business trips, as well as absence due to medical treatment or religious pilgrimage. It also refers to the place where a person has been continuously residing for at least one year prior to the census reference moment, or where the person arrived within 12 months prior to the reference moment with the intention to stay for at least one year.

Household is any family or other community of persons who live together in the same housing unit, regardless of whether all members are permanently present in the place where the household is established or some of them are staying for a longer period in another place or another country due to work, education or other reasons. A household also includes any person who lives alone in the place of enumeration (a single-person household) and does not have a household in another place or another country. A household also includes a collective household, i.e. a household composed of persons living in institutions for the care of children and adults, in healthcare institutions for the accommodation of incurable patients, monasteries, convents and other religious facilities.

Dwelling is a structurally separate and independent unit at a specific location, intended for housing persons, which at the census reference moment is used for habitation, is vacant, or is used for seasonal, temporary or occasional purposes.

Statistical concepts and definitions used for individual characteristics collected by the census are presented in detail in the Methodology for the Preparation, Organisation and Implementation of the Census (pages 43–99), as well as in the thematic release.

1.7 Classifications

In order to ensure full international comparability of census data, the following statistical classifications were applied:

- [Classification of occupations](#);
- [Classification of economic activities](#);
- [National Classification of Education](#) (levels of education and fields of education);
- [List of local self-government units](#);
- [List of settlements](#); and
- [List of foreign countries](#).

The classifications of occupations, economic activities and the National Classification of Education are used in official statistics and are published on the website of the Statistical Office at the following link:

<https://www.monstat.org/cg/page.php?id=104&pageid=104>

For the purposes of the census, the Statistical Office, in cooperation with local self-government units and the Real Estate Administration, prepared a list of local self-government units and settlements and their boundaries, which is also available at the above-mentioned link.

1.8 Frequency of data collection

As a rule, the census is conducted every ten years. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and specific social circumstances, the census was conducted in 2023.

1.9 Data dissemination schedule

The dissemination of census results is defined by Article 30 of the Census Law:

“Preliminary census results by settlements, local self-government units and for the territory of Montenegro, on the number of populations, households and dwellings and other occupied housing units, shall be published by the Statistical Office within 30 days from the completion of the census. Statistical data shall be considered preliminary (subject to change during statistical data processing) as long as they are subject to regular revisions. Final results shall be published by the Statistical Office in accordance with the Annual Plan of Official Statistics and the Statistical Data Release Calendar.”

In accordance with the above, the preliminary results of the 2023 Population, Households and Dwellings Census were published on 25 January 2024.

The final results of the 2023 Population, Households and Dwellings Census are published gradually by the Statistical Office, in line with the Annual Plan of Official Statistics and the Statistical Data Release Calendar for 2024 and 2025.

During 2024 and 2025, the following releases with census results were published:

2024

- Population of Montenegro by sex and age, Census 2023;
- Population of Montenegro by national or ethnic affiliation, religion, mother tongue and language usually spoken, Census 2023;
- Population of Montenegro by citizenship, Census 2023;
- Enumerated citizens of Montenegro working, studying or staying abroad, Census 2023;
- Most common names of the population of Montenegro by age and sex, Census 2023;
- Population of Montenegro by marital status, Census 2023;
- Population of Montenegro by knowledge of foreign languages, Census 2023;
- Population of Montenegro with disabilities/limitations in performing daily activities, Census 2023;
- Population by computer skills, Census 2023;
- Female population and number of live-born children in Montenegro, Census 2023.

2025

- Population migration, Census 2023;
- Educational structure of the population, Census 2023;
- Number of dwellings and their use by municipalities in Montenegro, Census 2023;
- Dwellings by floor area and number of rooms, Census 2023;
- Dwellings by availability of installations, Census 2023;
- Dwellings by number of floors, year of construction and type of construction material, Census 2023;
- Population by activity status in Montenegro, Census 2023;
- Economic activity and occupations of the population in Montenegro, Census 2023;
- Households and families in Montenegro, Census 2023;
- Structure of households in Montenegro, Census 2023;
- Structure of families in Montenegro, Census 2023.

Census data are also available upon users' request.

1.10 Methodology

Pursuant to Article 13 of the Law on the Population, Households and Dwellings Census (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 140/22 of 16 December 2022), the Statistical Office established a unified and internationally

comparable census methodology, with uniform definitions and characteristics of census units and unified classifications.

The methodology of the 2023 Census was developed in accordance with international standards defining common rules for the collection of population data, the most important of which are:

- the Recommendations of the Conference of European Statisticians for the 2020 Population and Housing Censuses, prepared by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE);
- Regulation (EC) No 763/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of the European union on population and housing censuses, as well as other implementing regulations, in compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice.

The census methodology is intended for all participants involved in the preparation, organisation and implementation of the 2023 Population, Households and Dwellings Census, including census organisers in local self-government units – census commissions, state instructors, instructors and all other participants in the preparation, organisation and implementation of the census.

In addition to explaining the procedures applied during enumeration, the census methodology contains detailed methodological explanations relating to:

- Objective of the census;
- Census units (persons, households and dwellings); and
- Their characteristics, i.e. explanations related to the questions in the census questionnaires: The Person Questionnaire (P-1), the Dwelling and Household Questionnaire (P-2) and the Control Form (P-3).

The census methodology also includes the basic principles for organising and conducting the census, as well as detailed tasks and procedures for all organisers and direct executors of the census. In order to ensure uniformity in the implementation of census activities, it was necessary for all census participants to thoroughly study and adhere to the census methodology.

The Methodology for the Preparation, Organisation and Implementation of the 2023 Population, Households, and Dwellings Census is available on the website of the Statistical Office.

<https://www.monstat.org/cg/page.php?id=2152&pageid=1992>

1.11 Base period

Not applicable to the census.

1.12 Unit of measure

The unit of measure is number.

For persons, the unit of measure is the number of persons. Furthermore, for dwellings, the units of measure are the number of dwellings and floor area, while for households the unit of measure is the number of households.

1.13 Data source

Data were collected on the basis of respondents' statements.

1.14 Data collection method

The census was conducted in a traditional manner, using the interview method with paper questionnaires, following the door-to-door principle.

2. Relevance – data users

2.1 Users' needs

International users include:

- Eurostat;
- World Bank;
- United Nations organisations;
- International Monetary Fund.

National users include:

- Ministries and other public administration bodies;
- Local self-government units and other local administration bodies;
- Central Bank;
- Non-governmental organisations.

International and national users include:

- Students;
- Researchers;
- Media.

2.2 User satisfaction

Within its obligations related to quality management in official statistics, and with the aim of measuring the extent to which it fulfils its obligations towards users, the Statistical Office conducts a user satisfaction survey. The results of the survey are available on the website of the Statistical Office at the following link:

<https://monstat.org/eng/page.php?id=1502&pageid=1>

3. Accuracy and reliability

In accordance with the Census Law, the Statistical Office conducted a **post-enumeration survey** in order to measure coverage and accuracy. The survey was carried out in the period from 22 to 28 January 2024.

The objective of the post-enumeration survey was to assess the coverage of census units as well as the quality of responses collected during the census. The post-enumeration survey was conducted on a sample of 66 enumeration areas, covering all local self-government units.

Two control methods were applied in the post-enumeration survey:

- coverage control (of dwellings, households and persons);
- quality control of responses.

Collective dwellings and households, as well as homeless persons, were not covered by the post-enumeration survey.

Coverage control assessed whether all census units were included and correctly classified in the census, i.e. whether any units were omitted or enumerated more than once.

Quality control of responses assessed the reliability of answers to selected questions in the census questionnaires. The post-enumeration survey questionnaires were also used to check the methodological

correctness of responses for the requested characteristics, i.e. to verify the consistent application of prescribed instructions, definitions and classifications provided in the census methodology.

In addition to the post-enumeration survey used to measure census accuracy, accuracy control was carried out at all stages of the census.

Data accuracy control began at the very start of the census. Municipal instructors carried out daily checks of questionnaires completed by enumerators and made corrections in cases of inconsistencies or errors. In addition, state instructors conducted random checks of census questionnaires throughout the entire census period.

Accuracy control continued during data entry.

During data processing, the accuracy and reliability of census data were ensured and controlled through the following instruments:

- matching data with administrative registers;
- statistical computational and logical checks.

Matching data with administrative registers

Access to administrative data sources for census purposes is provided for in Article 23 of the Census Law:

“For the purposes of preparation, organisation and implementation of the census, as well as for the processing and comparison with census-collected data, the Statistical Office has the right to access all administrative data sources. Authorities maintaining administrative data sources are obliged, upon request of the Statistical Office, to enable the transfer of data necessary for the census, including identifiers, in accordance with the law governing official statistics. The Statistical Office is obliged to take all data protection measures for data obtained from administrative sources in accordance with the law.”

During data processing, and for the purpose of controlling data on the enumerated population, data matching was carried out with:

- Central Population Register;
- Database of the Montenegro Education Information System (MEIS); and
- Database of employed persons from the Tax Administration.

Statistical computational and logical checks

By applying a set of statistical rules, computational and logical checks of census data by variables were carried out.

3.1 Accuracy – Overall assessment

Accuracy represents the degree to which the information collected by the census correctly describes a person with a usual place of residence, in accordance with the definition.

3.2 Sampling error

Not applicable to the census.

Sampling error indicators (A1)

Not applicable to the census.

3.3 Non-sampling error

Non-sampling errors include over-coverage errors, under-coverage errors, measurement and processing errors, data editing and imputation errors, as well as non-response.

3.3.1 Coverage error

Coverage control of enumerated units assesses whether all census units were included and correctly classified in the census, i.e. whether any of them were omitted or enumerated more than once. Coverage control for persons includes the identification of:

- persons and dwellings that were covered both in the census and in the post-enumeration survey;
- persons and dwellings that were covered only in the census but not in the post-enumeration survey (so-called over-coverage);
- persons and dwellings that were covered only in the post-enumeration survey but not in the census (so-called under-coverage).

Table 1: Coverage error indicators (A2)

| Montenegro | | Under-coverage rate | Over-coverage rate |
|------------|-------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Person | | 0.9% | 4.3% |
| Sex | Male | 1.0% | 3.7% |
| | Female | 0.9% | 4.9% |
| Age group | Under 15 | 0.9% | 4.8% |
| | 15 to 64 | 1.0% | 4.1% |
| | 65 and over | 0.7% | 4.6% |
| Dwelling | Total | 3.2% | 1.6% |

3.3.2 Measurement error

Measurement errors occur during data collection and represent differences between the recorded and the actual value of a variable.

These errors were identified in two ways:

- By matching census data with data from administrative registers; and
- Through statistical computational and logical checks.

By matching census data with data from the Central Population Register, it was possible to reduce errors related to sex and age for Montenegrin citizens. In this way, the data were verified and edited in accordance with the data from the Central Population Register. Matching of census-collected data on the population of Montenegro with the Central Population Register was achieved at a level of 98.77%, representing an exceptionally high degree of consistency.

In addition, through the post-enumeration survey, data were collected for selected questions to serve as a check of the methodological correctness of responses for the requested characteristics, which represents quality control of responses.

For the purpose of quality control of responses, 408 households were surveyed, in which a total of 1,164 persons were enumerated.

Quality indicators of responses refer to persons who were found and matched both in the census and in the post-enumeration survey. It should be borne in mind that the post-enumeration survey was conducted in January 2024, representing a period of three months' difference compared to the census reference moment, which directly affects the collected data.

Based on the post-enumeration survey, no data corrections were made, the survey served exclusively to measure census coverage and the quality of responses collected by the census.

Table 2: Indicators of response quality (post-enumeration survey)

| | Identical in the post-enumeration survey and the census | Different in the post-enumeration survey and the census where both data are available |
|--|--|--|
| Sex | | |
| Male | 100% | 0.0% |
| Female | 100% | 0.0% |
| Age group | | |
| Under 15 | 99.5% | 0.5% |
| 15 to 64 | 99.6% | 0.4% |
| 65 and over | 99.5% | 0.5% |
| Dwellings – use of dwelling | | |
| Only for housing | 99.5% | 0.5% |
| For housing and for performing economic activity | 98.4% | 1.6% |
| Only for performing economic activity | 96.9% | 3.1% |
| Temporarily unoccupied | 96.6% | 3.4% |
| For seasonal purposes | 97.3% | 2.7% |

3.3.3 Non-response error

The Statistical Office provided for the measurement of non-response recorded during fieldwork, distinguishing two types of non-response:

- Household non-response;
- Person non-response.

Unit non-response rate (A3)

Household non-response refers to cases where entire households refused enumeration, making it impossible to determine the number of members of those households. There were 180 such cases, which represents less than 0.1% compared to 217,441 (preliminarily enumerated households).

Person non-response occurs when a household accepted enumeration but an individual within that household refused to be enumerated. A total of 526 such cases were recorded, which represents less than 0.1% of the total enumerated population.

Topic-specific non-response rate

Topic-specific non-response is measured by the extent of missing responses for a particular topic and is published in the thematic census releases. In accordance with UNECE recommendations, imputation is performed for the topics of sex and age, and therefore these variables have no unknown values. For other topics, the number of unknown values has been determined and is available in the thematic releases. Examples of unknown values include: citizenship – 20 or 0.0%; marital status – 9,525 or 0.5%; computer skills – 1,155 or 0.2%.

3.4 Data processing error

Data processing was carried out by groups of related variables, i.e. by characteristics.

No imputation was applied for census units: persons, households and dwellings.

As access to the Central Population Register was obtained for the first time, unknown values were imputed and/or edited on the basis of register data for all matched persons. For unknown values of citizenship, imputation and/or editing were performed based on register data for all matched persons, considering the census reference moment.

Editing was also carried out for the variable of school attendance based on available administrative registers in the field of education.

For data relating to ethnic and cultural characteristics, neither editing nor imputation was performed, only the accuracy of data transfer from the paper questionnaires to the electronic version was checked.

Other variables relating to, for example, marital status/partnerships, knowledge of foreign languages, disabilities/limitations in performing daily activities, computer skills, number of live-born children and educational attainment were edited exclusively within the relevant characteristics, due to the absence of such data in available registers.

For the imputation of missing variables relating to dwellings, a deterministic imputation method was used, while editing was carried out exclusively within the relevant characteristics, due to the absence of such data in available registers.

Table 3: Examples of imputation and editing rates

| Variable | % imputation | % editing |
|----------------|--------------|-----------|
| Sex | - | 0.33 |
| Age | - | 0.86 |
| Marital status | 0.21 | 1.80 |
| Fertility | - | 0.66 |
| Citizenship | 1.17 | 0.33 |

3.5 Data revision

3.5.1 Data revision policy

The Statistical Office has adopted a Data Revision Policy, which is available on its website.

3.5.2 Data revision practice

The Census Law provides for the publication of preliminary data within 30 days from the completion of field data collection, relating to the number of enumerated units (persons, households and dwellings). Final data on the number of inhabitants were published in October 2024.

This represents a regular and planned revision by definition.

In 2024, there were no unplanned revisions of census data.

3.5.3 Average size of data revision

According to preliminary data, Montenegro had 633,158 inhabitants, while according to the final data this number was lower by 9,525, or 1.5%.

For the number of households, a decrease of 2,214 households was also identified compared to the preliminary data, representing 1.0%, from 217,441 households according to the preliminary results to 215,227 households according to the final results.

As regards dwellings, according to preliminary data there were 396,873 dwellings in Montenegro, while according to the final data this number amounted to 392,909 dwellings, which is lower by 3,964 or 1.0% compared to the preliminary data.

4. Timeliness and punctuality of data dissemination

4.1 Timeliness

Data are published in accordance with the Law on the Population, Households and Dwellings Census (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 140/22 of 16 December 2022, 105/23 of 28 November 2023), the Annual Plan of Official Statistics for 2024, and the Statistical Data Release Calendar of the Statistical Office for 2024. Data are published on the dates specified in the Statistical Data Release Calendar, in the form of press releases and Excel tables.

Timeliness represents the time difference (in days, months and years) between the reference moment to which the data relate and the date of data publication (preliminary and final).

Time lag of preliminary data release

Given that the reference moment of the Population, Households and Dwellings Census was 31 October 2023, and that the preliminary data were published on 25 January 2024, the time difference is 2 months and 25 days (Indicator TP1).

Time lag of final data release

Considering that the reference moment of the Population, Households and Dwellings Census was 31 October 2023, and that the publication of final data started on 15 October 2024, the time difference is 11 months and 15 days (Indicator TP2).

4.2 Punctuality of data dissemination

During 2024, there were no deviations between the announced dates in the Statistical Data Release Calendar and the actual publication dates.

Indicator TP3 is 0, i.e. there is no difference between the planned and the actual release.

5. Accessibility and clarity

5.1 Data release calendar

The Law on Official Statistics and the System of Official Statistics (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 18/12, 47/19 and 23/25) stipulates that producers of official statistics prepare, update and publish the Statistical Data Release Calendar. The Calendar is published on the website of the Statistical Office no later than 20 December for the following year and contains the dates of publication of statistical data.

5.2 Access to the Data Release Calendar

The Statistical Data Release Calendar is available at the following link:

<https://monstat.org/eng/page.php?id=12&pageid=12>

5.3 Releases

The preliminary data of the 2023 Population, Households and Dwellings Census were published in the form of a press release and are available on the website of the Statistical Office at the following link:

<https://www.monstat.org/eng/page.php?id=1915&pageid=1708>The final data of the 2023 Population, Households and Dwellings Census were published in the form of press releases and are available on the website of the Statistical Office at the following link:

<https://www.monstat.org/eng/page.php?id=1990&pageid=1708>

In 2024, the following press releases with census results were published:

- Population of Montenegro by sex and age, Census 2023;
- Population of Montenegro by national or ethnic affiliation, religion, mother tongue and language usually spoken, Census 2023;
- Population of Montenegro by citizenship, Census 2023;
- Enumerated citizens of Montenegro working, studying or staying abroad, Census 2023;
- Most common names of the population of Montenegro by age and sex, Census 2023;
- Population of Montenegro by marital status, Census 2023;
- Population of Montenegro by knowledge of foreign languages, Census 2023;
- Population of Montenegro with disabilities/limitations in performing daily activities, Census 2023;
- Population by computer skills, Census 2023;
- Female population and number of live-born children in Montenegro, Census 2023.
- In 2025, the following press releases with census results were published:
- Population migration, Census 2023;
- Educational structure of the population, Census 2023;
- Number of dwellings and their use by municipalities in Montenegro, Census 2023;
- Dwellings by floor area and number of rooms, Census 2023;
- Dwellings by availability of installations, Census 2023;
- Dwellings by number of floors, year of construction and type of construction material, Census 2023;
- Population by activity status in Montenegro, Census 2023;
- Economic activity and occupations of the population in Montenegro, Census 2023;
- Households and families in Montenegro, Census 2023;
- Structure of households in Montenegro, Census 2023;
- Structure of families in Montenegro, Census 2023.

5.4 Publications

No census publications were planned or published.

5.5 Online database

No census databases were planned or published.

5.6 Other

A special form of data dissemination consists of data provided in Excel tables, allowing users to download them in an electronically readable format for further analysis. They are available at the following link:

<https://www.monstat.org/cg/page.php?id=2342&pageid=1992>

In addition, data resulting from additional processing upon users' request are also published in the same Excel table format.

These data are available at the following link: <https://www.monstat.org/cg/page.php?id=2288&pageid=1992>

6. Comparability

6.1 Territorial comparability

The Population, Households and Dwellings Census was conducted in accordance with international standards. Based on these standards, common rules for the collection of population data were established. The most important are:

the Recommendations of the Conference of European Statisticians for Population and Housing Censuses of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE);

Regulation (EC) No 763/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of the European Union on population and housing censuses, as well as other implementing regulations, in compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice.

The application of these regulations and recommendations ensures comparability with all countries that apply them.

6.2 Time comparability

Census data are available for the years 1948, 1953, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991, 2003, and 2011.

Full comparability of the 2023 Census is ensured with population data from 2011. For the other years, comparability is partial due to the application of different population definitions, as well as different definitions and concepts for certain population characteristics.

7. Data protection

7.1 Data protection - policy

Data protection is defined by the following laws and secondary legislation:

- Chapter XIII – Confidentiality and Data Protection for the Purposes of Official Statistics of the Law on Official Statistics and the System of Official Statistics (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 018/12 of 30 March 2012, 047/19 of 12 August 2019, 023/25 of 11 March 2025);

- Articles 28 and 29 of the Law on the Population, Households and Dwellings Census (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 140/22 of 16 December 2022, 105/23 of 28 November 2023);
- Chapter 1.7 Confidentiality and Data Protection in the Census, as well as chapters defining the storage of materials, obligations of census participants and other provisions defining data protection obligations, as set out in the Methodology for the Preparation, Organisation and Implementation of the Census.

As well as the internal acts of the Statistical Office, including in particular:

- Rule on Strengthening Security, Safety and Data Protection Measures for the 2023 Population, Households and Dwellings Census (No 01-041/24-3002/1 of 31 August 2023);
- Plan for the Protection of Special Categories of Personal Data (No 01-041/23-4513/1 of 21 November 2023);
- Rulebook on the Protection of Personal Data (No 01-041/23-4590/1 of 24 November 2023);
- Plan for Physical Protection of the Information System of the Statistical Office (No 01-041/23-2026/1 of 1 June 2023);
- Rule on Procedures in Case of an Incident at the Statistical Office (No 01-041/23-2099/1 of 7 June 2023);
- Rule on Recording and Safekeeping of External Storage Media Containing Data from Administrative Sources (No. 01-041/23-2039/1 of 2 June 2023);
- Rule on Access to Databases of the Statistical Office (No. 01-041/23-2087/1 of 6 June 2023);
- Rule on Information Security Measures at the Statistical Office (No 01-041/23-2057/1 of 5 June 2023);
- Information and Communication Technology Risk Management at the Statistical Office (No. 01-041/23-2114/1 of 8 June 2023);
- Rule on Preventing the Identification of Census Units (Population, Households and Dwellings) (No 01-078/24-4380/1 of 11 October 2024).

The application of these documents ensured data protection at all stages of the census.

7.2 Data protection – data treatment at dissemination

In accordance with the Law on Official Statistics and the System of Official Statistics, Articles 54–61 (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 018/12 of 30 March 2012 and 047/19 of 12 August 2019), and the internal rules of the Statistical Office, data with a frequency of fewer than 10 occurrences are protected (primary confidentiality protection) and are marked with the symbol “z”. In addition, the same symbol is used to mark other protected data in order to prevent indirect identification of census units (secondary confidentiality protection). The symbol indicating protected data is “z”.

8. Quality assessment

Based on all quality dimensions – relevance, accuracy, timeliness, accessibility, comparability, coherence and efficiency – it can be concluded that the 2023 Population, Households and Dwellings Census in Montenegro meets high standards of statistical quality and is fully aligned with Eurostat requirements and international recommendations.

Relevance

The data obtained from the Census represent the primary source of information on the population, households and housing stock of Montenegro. They are of key importance for policy-making at both national and local levels, for planning infrastructure, educational and healthcare capacities, labour market development and the improvement of social policy.

Data users include state administration bodies, local self-government units, scientific and research institutions, international organisations, business entities, non-governmental organisations and the general public.

The content and coverage of the Census are aligned with the recommendations of the United Nations and Eurostat, enabling international comparability and the use of data within European statistical systems.

Accuracy and reliability

A high level of accuracy was ensured through the application of modern methodological and technical solutions, comprehensive training of enumerators, and multi-level control of the collected data.

During data collection and processing, validation procedures and logical checks were applied. Standardised questionnaires and instructions were used, while data processing was carried out using a specialised information system that enabled automated data control and processing.

Data reliability was assessed as high, with only minimal errors resulting from non-response or misinterpretation of questions. Additional checks and comparative analyses with administrative data sources further confirmed the quality of the results.

Timeliness and punctuality of data dissemination

The census was conducted in accordance with the planned activity schedule, and the dissemination of results was carried out within the deadlines set out in the Programme of Statistical Surveys of Montenegro.

Preliminary results were published within one month after the completion of field data collection, while final results were disseminated following the completion of full data processing and verification.

Data dissemination was fully in line with the planned schedule and without delays, confirming a high level of timeliness and punctuality in the release of results.

Accessibility and clarity

The results of the 2023 Population, Households and Dwellings Census are publicly available through press releases and Excel tables published on the website of the Statistical Office.

Data are presented in tabular and graphical formats, accompanied by detailed methodological explanations and definitions of the concepts used, enabling clear understanding and correct interpretation of the results.

The Statistical Office ensures open access to data for all users upon request, in line with the principles of transparency and equal treatment of users.

Comparability

The 2023 Census is methodologically aligned with previous censuses, ensuring time comparability of the data. Changes in questionnaires and classifications were implemented in accordance with international standards, without disrupting the continuity of the main data series.

At the international level, the Census is aligned with the recommendations of Eurostat and the United Nations, ensuring comparability with countries of the European Union and the region.

Coherence

The data obtained from the Census are coherent with the results of other statistical surveys and administrative registers. Methodological links have been established between the Census and surveys in the fields of labour, education, agriculture and social statistics.

Systematic consistency checks were carried out through comparisons at both aggregate and micro-data levels, with discrepancies reduced to a minimal level.

Costs and burden

The census is one of the most extensive statistical survey and requires significant human and financial resources. A traditional census is a costly activity that involves the engagement of staff of the Statistical Office, as well as the temporary employment of additional personnel in most census phases, including data collection, data entry, processing and, finally, data dissemination.

Overall, the Statistical Office continuously works on improving methodology and processes, with the aim of ensuring that future censuses and statistical surveys provide even greater accuracy, efficiency and usefulness for all stakeholders.