Country: Republic of Serbia
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The Republic of Serbia

Population: 7,276,604 (July 2012 est.)
Gender Ratio: 1 male/1 female
Population growth rate: -0.464% (2011 est.)
Net migration rate: 0 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2011 est.)
Urbanization:
urban population: 56% of total population (2010)
rate of urbanization: 0.6% annual rate of change (2010-15 est.)

Infant mortality rate total: 6.4 deaths/1,000 live births

Life expectancy at birth
male: 71.71 yrs
female: 77.58 yrs
After the break-up of The Republic of Yugoslavia, Serbia is now land locked in the North by Hungary; East by Romania and Bulgaria; South by Macedonia, Kosovo, and Montenegro; and West by Croatia and Bosnia & Herzegovina.

Serbians are a proud ethnic and religious people who fought the Ottoman Empire Turks, the Austrians, and the Germans to keep their culture and religious traditions.

“Rightly or wrongly, the responsibility for the bloody break-up of Yugoslavia is usually laid at the feet of the Serbs. The fact that the nation split along religious and ethnic lines is also generally thought to be the result of Serbian influence.” (World wide Press, 2010, p.15)

Kosovo’s Independence divides the Serbians. They feel a strong religious and cultural connection to Kosovo, since their first Church, monasteries, 50,000 kin and the battle-field of Kosovo Polje are all in Kosovo.
Ethnic groups
Serb 82.9%, Hungarian 3.9%, Romany (Gypsy) 1.4%, Yugoslavs 1.1%, Bosniak 1.8%, Montenegrin 0.9%, other 8% (2002 census)

Religions
Orthodox Catholic 85%, Roman Catholic 5.5%, Protestant 1.1%, Muslim 3.2%, unspecified 2.6%, Jewish, other, unknown, or atheist 2.6% (2002 census)

Languages
Serbian (official) 88.3%, Hungarian 3.8%, Bosniak 1.8%, Romany (Gypsy) 1.1%, other 4.1%, unknown 0.9% (2002 census)

Literacy
definition: age 15 and over can read and write
total population: 96.4%

male: 98.9%
female: 94.1% (2003 census)

• Serbian is usually written in the Cyrillic alphabet. If Serbian is written in the Latin alphabet, then diacritical marks are used for sounds not in English.

• It is estimated that around 45% of Serbian population speak English with some degree of competence.
“Despite notable progress in expansion of the private sector, as a result of Serbia’s transition to a free-market economy, a more diverse, internationally competitive and favourable business environment needs to be promoted with consideration for the provision of enhanced job and diversified income generating opportunities. In the context of the global economic downturn, an inability to generate new jobs can have both long and short term implications for Serbia, as the risk and incidence of poverty increases. Certain populations, such as women, youth and ethnic minorities, face a particularly high risk of being excluded from the labour market.” (UNITED NATIONS, 2011, p. 26)

Work in Serbia
24% Agriculture
17% Manufacturing
14% Whole sale, retail
6% Education
5% Government and Military

Unemployment rate is at 41% between 15-30 year olds and is averaging 16% overall.

“The poverty rate in rural areas is 9.8% - a level that remains twice that of urban areas and which has led to 86% of villages in Serbia facing increased depopulation.” (UNITED NATIONS, 2011, p. 26)
Education in Serbia

Education for all…reform

• Serbia has recognized the importance of education and culture since its prosperous years in the 14\textsuperscript{th} century, but 500 years of Turkish Ottoman servitude reducing Serbians to peasant status, as well as the break-up of Yugoslavia and the wars that followed has slowed the progress.

• Serbia is in the beginning stages of Education reform as an avenue for economic growth and to develop a competitive workforce.

• The United Nations, UNICIF, United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), and The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) are assisting in many aspects of economic growth, education reform, and equality.

• The typical classroom were influenced by the mixture of German and Soviet influences consisted of chalk board and lecture style teaching.

• Reforms motivated by the desire to become part of the European Union include:
  – New approaches to classroom practices
  – Better and equitable education
  – Better and equitable access to Universities
  – Eliminating corruption in education
Common Education Practices

• In Serbia the government supports free education for all 7-16 year olds, which is mandatory. 10% of primary students and 30% of secondary students pay for private tutors including for English as a Second Language.

• A student’s family covers the cost of supplies and food, which leads to economically disadvantaged drop-out rates;

• Grade by grade progression occurs based on school marks 1=Failure-5=excellent, two failures=remedial in the summer, remedial failure or 3 failures repeat the grade.

• Access to education in the rural areas is also difficult and can lead to drop outs.

The InfoBus: A library on wheels to aide rural access to education. The InfoBus has scheduled locations and gives families access to books, DVDs, computers, information, and more.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year of study</th>
<th>Age Range</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Core areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Average 7-8 years)</td>
<td>17-25 years</td>
<td>Tertiary Level University (10) Vocational (63) (25% of secondary Level move to Tertiary Level)</td>
<td>Entrance exam; Free to qualified students (a select few)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-12</td>
<td>15-18 years</td>
<td>Secondary Level Gymnasiums: 1-humanities, 2-science/math Vocational: Business (3 yrs); university prep (4 years)</td>
<td>Entrance exams Specialized depending on track chosen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-8</td>
<td>7/8-14 years</td>
<td>Primary Level Grades 1-4 Grades 5-8 (90% of students move to Secondary Level)</td>
<td>General education Subject Specific education (ESL starts in 1st grade and continues every year)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7/8-10 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11-14 years</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0-7 years</td>
<td>Pre-Primary Level Pre-school preparatory (new 2006 mandatory nursery)</td>
<td>Unregulated *new mandatory 6months at age 6/7 pre-school</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Teachers in Serbia

• In 2000, the average teacher made $1 a day. (extreme poverty)

• In 2003, the average teacher makes $270 a month close to Europe averaging $300 a month.

• The low salary makes it difficult to attract specialists that can make more money in the private sector.

• Job opportunities exist in physics, foreign language, Serbian language, Information Computer Technology, and sports.

• Teaching standards are still under going changes at the University level

• It takes the average teacher 5 years to earn a degree to teach.
Teachers in Serbia

• Unions in Serbia helped create the reform act of 2003, but after the government change in 2004 have not been active.

• The average work week is 20 hours of instruction and 20 hours of preparation (i.e. grading, planning, parent meetings.)

• To be implemented soon: After the first two years of teaching, the teacher will take an exam, as well as be reviewed by a committee formed by the Master of Education and Science (MoES) for licensing.

• Teachers will continue in-service education.
Serbian Immigration

• Serbia was the largest group of people that made up Yugoslavia, therefore few Serbians from Serbia migrated during the break-up.
• More than 350,000 people claiming Serbian descent are living in the United States.
• Some of the largest settlements of Serbians include Chicago, Illinois; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and San Francisco and Los Angeles in California.
Serbian Attitudes towards the United States of America

• Serbia’s negative attitude increased towards America by 18% from 2006-2009.

• Out of the 42 countries surveyed, Serbia had the worst opinion of the United States.

• Negative attitudes towards Americans increase around the following dates or events:
  - March 24: marking the beginning of the NATO bombing campaign
  - February 17: Kosovo’s independence from Serbia
  - Ethnic Holidays
  - Sporting events
  - Large Demonstrations
Resources

Books


Websites


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