

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Whole country

Bosnia-Herzegovina's population size has been largely shaped by forced or voluntary population drift. Since 1992 it has lost still-incalculable numbers to death and emigration. What is known is that during the first half of the 1990s, nearly 900 000 Muslims, Serbs and Croats fled Bosnia-Herzegovina for neighbouring or more far-flung countries. UN High Commissioner for Refugees' (UNHCR) estimates



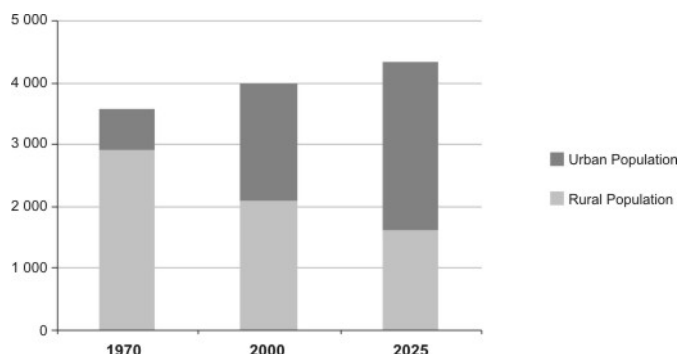
gives Bosnia-Herzegovina a population of 3.7 million (including 1.3 million displaced persons and 1.4 million war victims) in 1995. This discrepancy with the 4.4 million taken from the 1991 census suggests an estimated 700 000 refugees. But UNHCR's total population figure seems too high: other estimates put it below 3 million people.

In 1997, there were 584 000 Bosnia-Herzegovinian refugees in European Union countries (including 343 000 in Germany alone). Return migration of close to half a million during the latter half of the decade will dwindle to non-significant levels by 2025. In 2000, therefore, the population of Bosnia-Herzegovina fell just short of four million (3.972 million), just about its 20 year-ago level. The natural increases due to past high fertility have been cancelled out by excess mortality in the 1991-1995 war, and especially the resulting emigration.

Before the Bosnia-Herzegovinian war, the population structure as reported by the 1991 census was 44% Muslim, 31% Serb, 17% Croat, 5% Yugoslav and 3% other nationalities. In the absence of a post-war census, neither the ethnic makeup of Bosnia-Herzegovina nor its two component parts - the Bosnian Muslim-Croat Federation and the Bosnian Serb Republic - can even be guesstimated. Up to the 1970s, Muslim population growth was underpinned first by a high birth rate (70 to 80% higher than either Serbs or Croats), then by a continuing birth rate differential in their favour. But even pre-war, Bosnia-Herzegovinian fertility had already dropped below replacement at 1.9 children per woman (attenuated for national differences). Wartime and post-war events saw fertility plummet to a particularly low 1.35 children per woman. This is projected to gradually recover to 1.43 children per woman in 2000, then to 1.7 in 2025. Boosted by return migration, the population could continue to increase, therefore. The population of Bosnia-Herzegovina is projected to increase from 3.972 to 4.324 million between 2000 and 2025, i.e., almost recovering its 1991 census population. This barely 9% growth over 25 years will come mainly from return migration. It will peak in 2015 at 4.377 million, after which any halt in return migration will be enough to trigger a population downturn.

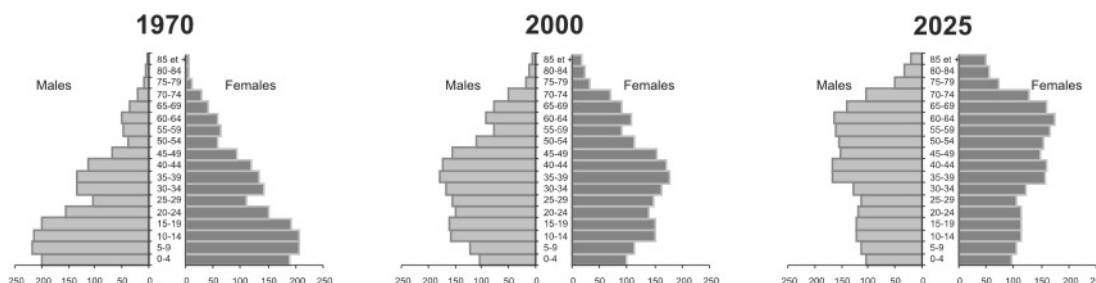
Under half Bosnia-Herzegovina's population (1.877 million) lives in urban areas of over 10 000 people in 2000 - an urbanization rate of 47.3%. Very rapid urban growth will increase this to 2.702 million in 2025, 62.5% of the total population. Bosnia-Herzegovina will move into negative population growth from 2015, but its urban population will continue to grow at a very brisk mean annual rate of 14.6 per thousand from 2000-25.

Figure 40. Rural population and urban population 1970-2000-2025 (in thousands)



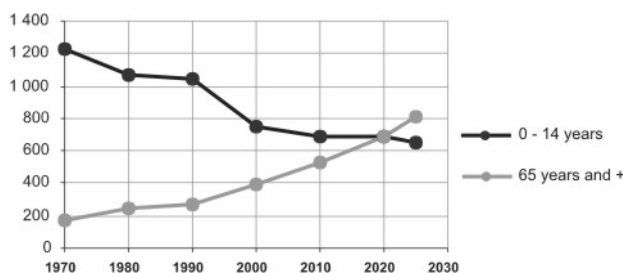
The population will also age very rapidly: the over-65s will double in number from 394 000 to 815 000 and in share from 9.9 to 18.8%, while that of young people will decline from 18.8 to 15.1%.

Figure 41. Population age structure (by 5-year age groups) 1970-2000-2025 (in thousands)



The labour supply may gain from turnover migration with entries rising from 58 000 to 65 000 a year then contracting. The labour supply entry-exit balance will be positive until 2010, worsening rapidly thereafter.

Figure 42. Populations aged 15-and-under and 65-and-over, 1970-2025 (in thousands)



Mediterranean coastal regions

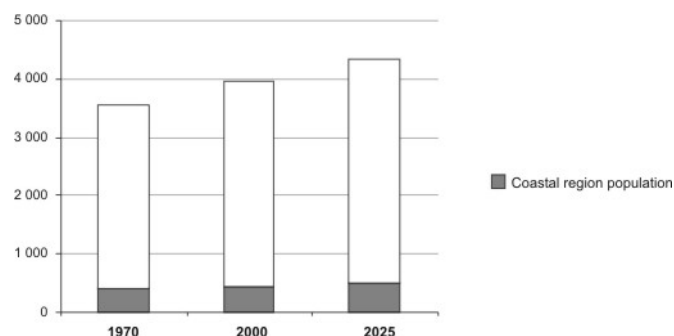
Bosnia-Herzegovina has only a small number of towns classed as Mediterranean, with a combined population of 452 000 in 2000, or just over 11% of the total population.

Its Mediterranean population growth is projected to be one of the lowest of the region, adding only 40 000 extra people in 25 years, at a rate of 0.34% a year, on



a par with the rest of the country, bringing the Mediterranean population to 492 000 by 2025.

Figure 43. Mediterranean coastal regions population as a share of total population 1970-2000-2025 (in thousands)



In 1990, Bosnia-Herzegovina had a total population of 1 32 000 people living in 5 urban areas of over 10 000 people in its Mediterranean regions, accounting for 9.6% of the total urban population. At 26.5%, the urbanization rate in the Mediterranean coastal regions was below the rest-of-country rate (32.3%).

The Mediterranean region urban population is expected to add 79 000 people between 2000 and 2025, rising from 180 to 259 000 at the same mean annual rate of 1.47% as the inland urban areas. Even so, the Mediterranean urbanization rate will lag well behind the rest-of-country rate (52.6% and 63.8%, respectively).

Figure 44. Rural and urban population of the Mediterranean coastal regions 1970-2000-2025 (in thousands)

