

Croatia

Ethnicity in Croatia

Power relations

Data for 1991-1995 are from the 1991 Census. Data for 1996-2009 are from the 2001 census and include the demographic changes that occurred as a result of the war.

Croats are the majority ethnic group of Croatia. From independence in 1991 until 1995, during the war, they held a clear monopoly over political power while other ethnic groups did not play a role on the political parqu岸. Since the end of the civil war, there have been a few ministers of ethnic minorities included in the government. Thus, since 1996, the Croats are coded as "dominant".

During the war of independence against Serbia, the Serb ethnic group, although having lived on Croatian territory for centuries, was repressed and many Serbs were forced to flee to Serbia. Until 1995 there were large populations of Serbs living in the Krajina region centered around the city of Knin as well as in Eastern Slavonia. These regions had unsuccessfully declared independence from Croatia in 1991 after Croatia had declared independence from Yugoslavia, thus during the war the Serbs are coded as self-excluded. In August 1995 most of the ethnic Serbs were expelled. Since then, the Serbs are discriminated. Minority Rights Group International (⁹²⁶) reports that the Croatian government pursues a "nationalist policy mainly targeting Serbs, with Serbs exposed to denunciation, harassment, threats and killings, both inside and outside of the (former) war zones". Although the atmosphere for returning has improved, the government has been unwilling to end discrimination against returning Serbs, particularly over occupancy, property and status rights. More than a decade after the war, most ethnic Serbs from Croatia remain outside the country as refugees (⁹²⁷).

The Roma face many obstacles, including lack of knowledge of the Croatian language, lack of education, lack of citizenship and identity documents, high unemployment, and widespread discrimination (⁹²⁸). The U.S. State Department reports that "open discrimination and harassment continued against ethnic Serbs and Roma" (⁹²⁹).

The Italian minority is based in Istria. The Italian community is highly active in public affairs with many community associations. There are daily Italian radio broadcasts and Italian libraries (⁹³⁰). The Italian minority also has a representative in the Croatian parliament (⁹³¹, 10).

⁹²⁶ [Minority Rights Group International, 2003]

⁹²⁷ [Minority Rights Group International, 2003]

⁹²⁸ [U.S. State Department, 2006 – 2009]

⁹²⁹ [U.S. State Department, 2006 – 2009]

⁹³⁰ [Minority Rights Group International, 2003]

⁹³¹ [Tatalovic, 2006]

The Bosniaks are the second largest ethnic minority group in Croatia, but they are still in the process of constituting their identity and organizations. They organize cultural and religious events, traditional holidays and have a Bosniak library ⁽⁹³²⁾. In 2004, the Bosniak National Community in Croatia asked the Croatian parliament and president to solve the legal status of Bosniaks in accordance with the Constitutional Law on the National Minorities' Rights ⁽⁹³³⁾.

Traditionally, the Hungarian minority lives in Bjelovar, Osijek, Zagreb and Baranj. The Hungarian community has a publishing house, a central library, daily radio broadcasts in Hungarian, and associations that promote frequent visits and exchanges with neighboring Hungary ⁽⁹³⁴⁾. It also has a representative in the Croatian parliament ^(935, 10).

Update 2010 – 2013: No changes in the power states of the ethnic groups in Croatia are evident. The Croatians remain dominant in the government. In the Croatian parliament, eight seats are reserved to 22 recognized minorities. Serbian minorities are designated three representatives. Hungarian and Italian minorities are designated one representative each. Czech and Slovak minorities share one representative. Austrian, Bulgarian, German, Polish, Romany, Romanian, Ruthenian, Russian Turkish, Ukrainian, Vlach and Jewish minorities share another representative. Albanian, Bosnian, Montenegrin, Macedonian and Slovenian minorities share a third representative ⁽⁹³⁶⁾.

⁹³² [Minority Rights Group International, 2003]

⁹³³ [One World, 2012]

⁹³⁴ [Minority Rights Group International, 2003]

⁹³⁵ [Tatalovic, 2006]

⁹³⁶ [Election Guide, 2011]

Bibliography

- [Croatian Bureau of Statistics, 2011] Croatian Bureau of Statistics. (2011). Census results. Retrieved on 29.04.2014 from: http://www.dzs.hr/default_e.htm
- [Election Guide, 2011] Election Guide. (2011). Croatia. Retrieved on 29.04.2014 from: <http://www.electionguide.org/elections/id/1615/>
- [Minority Rights Group International, 2003] Minority Rights Group International. (2003). Croatia Overview. Retrieved on 29.04.2014 from: <http://www.minorityrights.org/2647/croatia/croatia-overview.html>
- [One World, 2012] One World. Platform for Southeastern Europe. (2012). Familjaret e viktimave dhe YUCOM kerkojne veprime nga Prokuroria per bombardimet e RTS. Retrieved on 29.04.2014 from: <http://oneworldsee.org/node/1148>.
- [Tatalovic, 2006] Tatalovic, Sinisa. (2006). National Minorities and Croatian Democracy. *Politika misao*, 18(5), 45–59.
- [U.S. State Department, 2006 – 2009] United States Government State Department. (2000–2009). Country Reports Croatia. Retrieved on 29.04.2014 from: <http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/>

Political status of ethnic groups in Croatia

From 1991 until 1995

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Croats	0.781	MONOPOLY
Serbs	0.122	SELF-EXCLUSION
Roma	0.0077	DISCRIMINATED
Bosniaks	0.0047	IRRELEVANT
Italians	0.0044	IRRELEVANT
Hungarians	0.004	IRRELEVANT

From 1996 until 2013

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Croats	0.904	DOMINANT
Serbs	0.043	DISCRIMINATED
Bosniaks	0.0073	POWERLESS
Italians	0.0042	POWERLESS
Roma	0.004	DISCRIMINATED
Hungarians	0.0033	POWERLESS



Figure 208: Political status of ethnic groups in Croatia during 1991-1995.



Figure 209: Political status of ethnic groups in Croatia during 1996-2013.

Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in Croatia

From 1991 until 1995

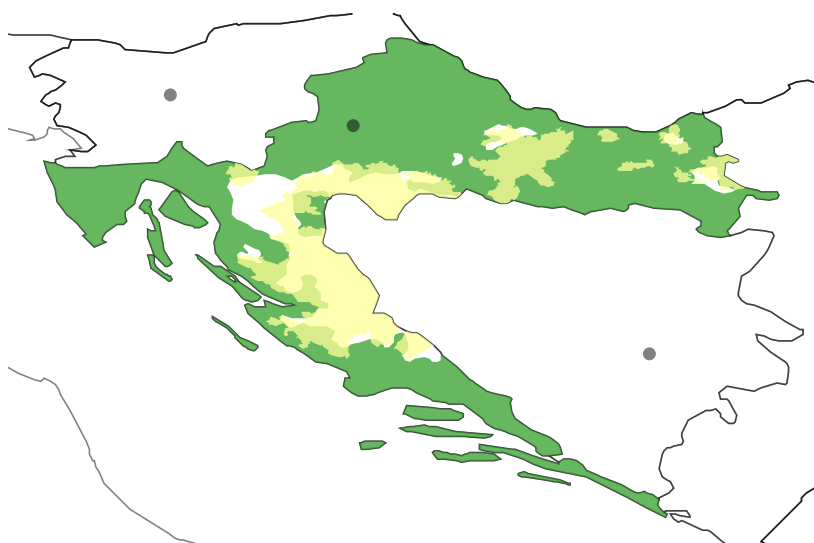


Figure 210: Map of ethnic groups in Croatia during 1996-2013.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
■ Croats	45 710	Regional & urban
■ Serbs	13 646	Regional & urban
Roma		Dispersed

Table 61: List of ethnic groups in Croatia during 1991-1995.

From 1996 until 2013

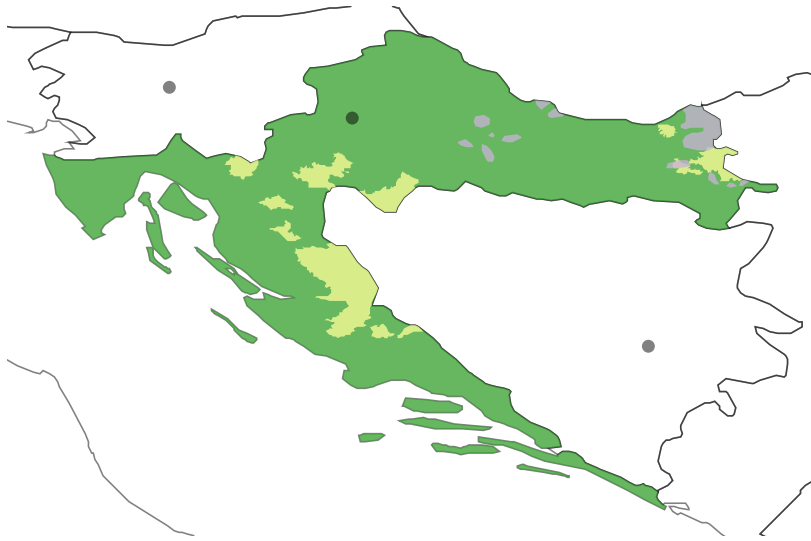


Figure 211: Map of ethnic groups in Croatia during 1996-2013.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
■ Croats	55 764	Statewide
■ Serbs	5055	Regionally based
■ Hungarians	1293	Regionally based
● Bosniaks		Dispersed
● Italians		Dispersed
● Roma		Dispersed

Table 62: List of ethnic groups in Croatia during 1996-2013.

Conflicts in Croatia

Starting on 1992-04-29

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Croatia	Serbian Republic of Krajina	Serbs	1992-04-29	Explicit	Yes	Yes
Government of Croatia	Serbian irregulars		1992-05-31			