

ROMA DATA:

Estimates are produced by the World Bank and United Nations Development Programme, based on the UNDP-WB-EC Regional Roma Surveys (2011 and 2017). The sampling frame for Roma settlements was based on information from the most recent population census available in the country, using the lowest administrative units with the equal or higher than national average proportion of Roma population on its total population. By following a similar procedure as the 2011 survey, the 2017 Regional Roma Survey allows for a level of comparability across time. At the first stage of sampling, a list of settlements from census data was used. In a second stage, external or outsider's identification (local people, NGOs, and experts) was used to pinpoint areas where Roma households are located in a given municipality. In a third stage, the explicit willingness of the household's head to participate in a survey on Roma population (internal or self-identification) was requested. The sample was purposefully not representative of all Roma in these countries, but rather focused on those communities where the Roma population's share equals or is higher than the national share of Roma population, the "marginalised Roma". The "non-Roma" refer to non-Roma population living in close vicinity to the marginalised Roma and are not representative of the total population in the country. The sample size for each country in each year is around 750 Roma households and 350 non-Roma households. All figures shown are based on unweighted survey data. Data for Kosovo* is only available for 2017.

SERBIA: KEY INDICATORS, 2017**

	National	Roma	Non-Roma	Roma Female	Roma Male	Non-Roma Female	Non-Roma Male
Demographics							
Households with 4+ members (%)	14	42	14				
Dependency ratio: Children (0-14)/Working-age (15-64) household members	0.21	0.76	0.29				
Dependency ratio: Elderly 65+/Working-age (15-64) household members	0.24	0.07	0.20				
Share of households with female head (%)	32	19	29				
Average household size	2.81	4.13	2.71				
Education							
Adjusted net pre-primary enrolment rate (% of population, ages 3-6)	N/A	17	41	15	19	29	50
Adjusted net compulsory education enrolment rate (% of population, ages 7-15)	N/A	84	98	85	84	98	98
Completion rate in compulsory education (% of population, ages 18-21)	N/A	62	94	57	66	93	95
Completion rate in upper secondary education (% of population, ages 22-25)	N/A	14	89	8	18	93	84
Completion rate in tertiary education (% of population, ages 26-29)	26	1	23	2	0	35	7
Students attending segregated schools (% of students, ages 7-15)	N/A	9	12	9	8	8	15
Students attending special schools (% of students, ages 7-15)	N/A	2	0	2	3	0	0
Labour Markets							
Employment (% of population, ages 15-64)	55	21	40	9	32	30	50
Labour force participation rate (% of population, ages 15-64)	66	33	49	18	48	37	62
Unemployment (% of total labour force, ages 15-64)	16	37	19	50	33	18	19
Not in education, employment or training (% of population, ages 18-24)	N/A	73	42	88	59	37	49
Health							
Health insurance coverage (% of population aged 16+)	N/A	93	97	93	92	99	95
Self-reported unmet need for medical care (% of population aged 16+)	6	28	16	30	26	18	14
Self-perceived health (% of population reporting good or very good health)	57	52	56	46	57	54	60
Use of preventive care (% of population aged 16+)	N/A	59	73	66	52	82	63
Housing							
Access to piped water inside the dwelling (% of population)	N/A	79	96	80	78	97	95
Access to public sewerage or waste water tank (% of population)	100	62	76	63	61	77	75
Access to toilet inside the dwelling (% of population)	N/A	69	94	70	68	95	93
Access to electricity (% of population)	100	88	98	88	88	98	97
Electricity used to heat dwelling (% of population)	N/A	6	9	6	6	10	9
Solid fuels (coal or wood) used to heat dwelling (% of population)	N/A	90	80	90	91	80	81
Mobile phone or landline (% of population)	98	90	94	89	90	95	94
Computer (% of population)	68	36	63	35	36	63	64
Overcrowding rate (% of population)	53	65	21	66	64	21	21
Documentation							
Birth certificate (% of population)	N/A	99	100	99	99	100	100
ID card (% of population aged 16+)	N/A	94	97	94	94	97	97
Returned from abroad during the past 12 months (% of population)	N/A	2	1	1	2	1	0

*For the United Nations: All references to Kosovo shall be understood in the context of UN Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).
 **For the European Union: This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.
 **Data is from harmonised internationally comparable sources. Labour market national indicators are the latest available figures from World Bank, SEE Jobs Gateway (2016); for all other national indicators the source is World Bank, ECAPOV (2015). For Roma and non-Roma indicators, WB and UNDP estimates are based on 2017 UNDP-WB-EC Regional Roma Survey.

April 2018

ROMA AT A GLANCE SERBIA



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.



Photo: Jodi Hilton/UNDP

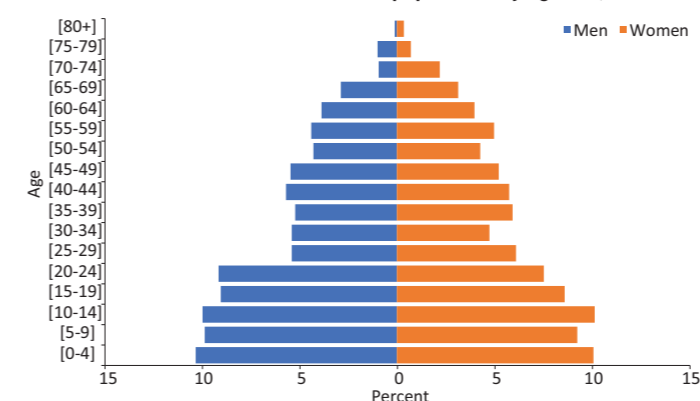
SERBIA

GDP per capita (current euros)	5,225	2017
Rural population (% of total population)	44	2016
Roma population (% of total population)	8.2	2012

Sources: Eurostat, World Development Indicators and Council of Europe

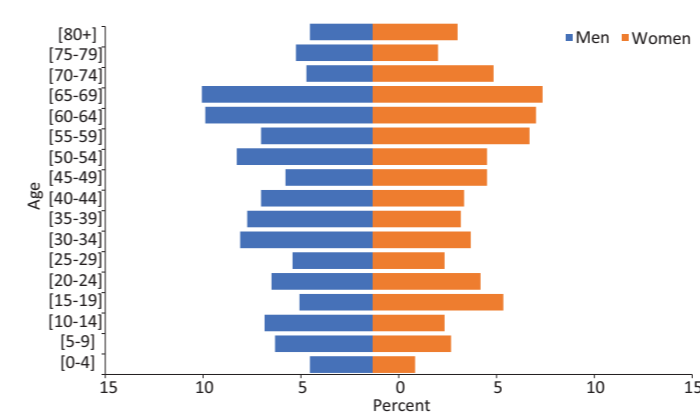
DEMOGRAPHICS

Roma distribution of male and female population by age (%), 2017



Source: WB and UNDP estimates based on 2017 UNDP-WB-EC Regional Roma Survey data.

Non-Roma distribution of male and female population by age (%), 2017

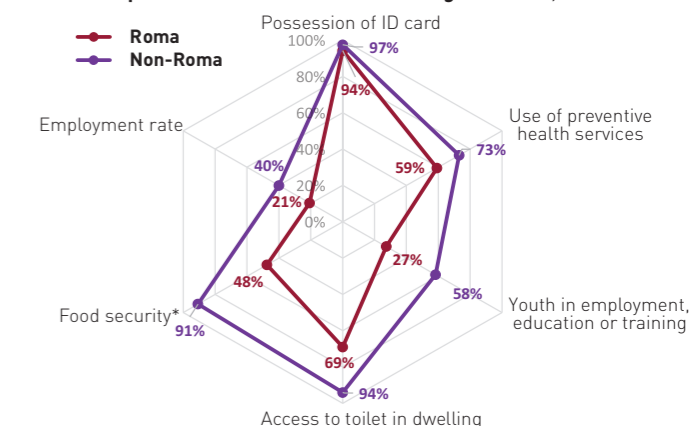


Source: WB and UNDP estimates based on 2017 UNDP-WB-EC Regional Roma Survey data.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT OF MARGINALISED ROMA

Marginalised Roma¹ face limited access to opportunities in virtually every aspect of human development, such as basic rights, health, education, housing, employment and standard of living.

Human capabilities and material well-being in Serbia, 2017



Source: WB and UNDP estimates based on 2017 UNDP-WB-EC Regional Roma Survey data.

*Food security refers to share of people living in households in which no one went to bed hungry in the past month due to lack of money for food

There is a wide gap between marginalised Roma and neighbouring non-Roma in terms of human capabilities and material well-being. The gap is especially wide for young people—marginalised Roma aged 18-24 are over half as likely to be in employment, education or training (27 percent), compared to 58 percent non-Roma youth. This has life-long implications, blocking further opportunities for decent employment. Marginalised Roma aged 15-64 are half as likely to be employed as neighbouring non-Roma.

Although both marginalised Roma and their non-Roma neighbours face high levels of severe material deprivation², the gap is stark between these groups. Eighty-three percent of marginalised Roma in Serbia face severe material deprivation compared to half as many of non-Roma living in the vicinity (41 percent).

Early marriage incidence for marginalised Roma women is persistent and the second-highest in the Western Balkans region after Albania. Forty-four percent of marginalised Roma women aged 20-49 years in Serbia reported to have been married before they were 18 years old compared to 9 percent of neighbouring non-Roma women.

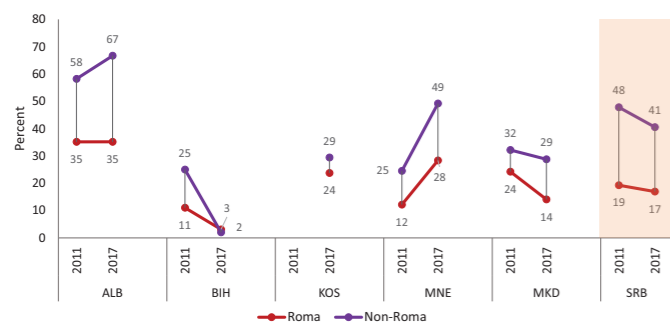
¹ The term "Roma" is used here to refer to a number of different groups (e.g. Roma, Sinti, Kale, Gypsies, Romanichels, Boyash, Ashkali, Egyptians, Yenish, Dom, Lom, Rom, Abdal) and includes travellers, without denying the specificities of these groups. All these groups are considered under the wider "Roma" umbrella term under the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies. The term "marginalised" Roma refers to Roma populations living in areas with higher densities (or concentration) of Roma population than the national average. The "non-Roma" refer to non-Roma population living in close vicinity to the marginalised Roma and are not representative of the total population in the country.

² EU severe material deprivation index

EDUCATION

Pre-primary school enrolment for marginalised Roma was low in 2017, and the gap vis-à-vis neighbouring non-Roma is the largest in the Western Balkans. In 2017, only 17 percent of marginalised Roma children aged 3-6 were enrolled in pre-primary education or above; the great majority of young marginalised Roma children were not at school. It is worth noting that the gap between Roma and non-Roma in Serbia is the second-largest in the Western Balkans.

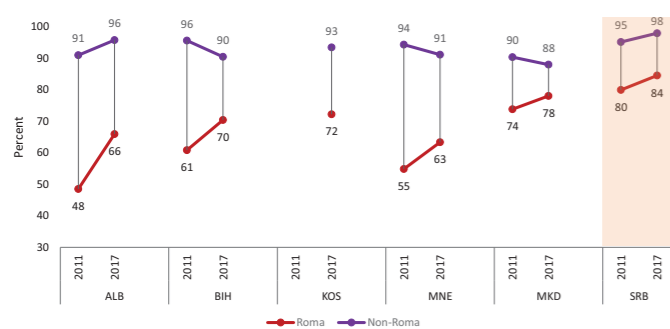
Adjusted net pre-primary education enrolment rate (% of population ages 3-6)



Source: WB and UNDP estimates based on 2011 and 2017 UNDP-WB-EC Regional Roma Survey data.

The proportion of marginalised Roma children of compulsory-school age who are enrolled in school is on the rise and is also the highest in the Western Balkans, but it has yet to catch up with near-universal enrolment among neighbouring non-Roma counterparts. Though the increase in enrolment is a sign of progress and this enrolment rate is the highest in the Western Balkans, about 1 out of 6 marginalised Roma children of compulsory attendance age are still out of the education system.

Adjusted net compulsory education enrolment rate (% of population ages 7-15)



Source: WB and UNDP estimates based on 2011 and 2017 UNDP-WB-EC Regional Roma Survey data.

The percentage of marginalised Roma aged 18-21 with complete compulsory education also shows signs of progress and the corresponding gap vis-à-vis neighbouring non-Roma is falling. Despite significant improvements, over one-third of marginalised Roma aged 18-21 lack a basic education. In contrast, nearly all neighbouring non-Roma counterparts had this level of education.

Among marginalised Roma, upper secondary and tertiary completion rates continue to be very low; the gap vis-à-vis neighbouring non-Roma in upper secondary completion is the largest in the Western Balkans.

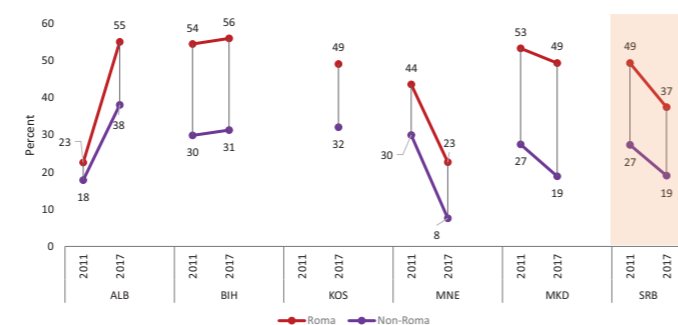
LABOUR MARKETS

Marginalised Roma in Serbia tend to have lower employment rates than neighbouring non-Roma, and the gap with respect to neighbouring non-Roma is the second-largest in the Western Balkans. Just over one-fifth of marginalised Roma aged 15-64 were employed in 2017, versus 40 percent of their neighbouring non-Roma counterparts. There are also considerable gender gaps: in 2017 the employment rate of marginalised female Roma was just 9 percent; among their male counterparts, it was over three times as high.

Marginalised Roma are less likely to participate in the labour market than their neighbouring non-Roma counterparts; both groups experienced a decline between 2011 and 2017 and the gap widened. Just one-third of marginalised Roma ages 15-64 participated in the labour market in 2017, down from 52 percent in 2011. The gap between the two groups doubled.

The unemployment rate of marginalised Roma is much higher than that of neighbouring non-Roma; unemployment fell similarly among both groups between 2011 and 2017. Thirty-seven percent of economically active marginalised Roma aged 15-64 were unemployed in 2011. The fall in the unemployment rate among marginalised Roma was largely driven by females: the unemployment rate among marginalised Roma women fell from 67 percent in 2011 to 50 percent in 2017 (for males, the corresponding fall was from 39 percent to 33 percent).

Unemployment rate (% of total labour force, ages 15-64)



Source: WB and UNDP estimates based on 2011 and 2017 UNDP-WB-EC Regional Roma Survey data.

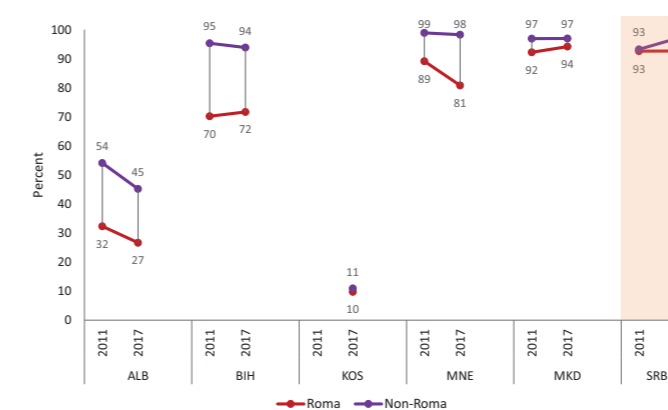
Informal employment continues to be high among the marginalised Roma population, and the informality gap is the highest in the Western Balkans. While 75 percent of employed marginalised Roma aged 15-64 were in informal jobs in 2011, this rate fell to 71 percent in 2017. Informal employment has also been decreasing faster in recent years among the neighbouring non-Roma, but a sizeable gap still exists: at 56 percentage points, the gap is the largest in the region.

The majority of marginalised Roma youth are still not in employment, education or training (NEET), placing them at risk of becoming socially excluded, but some progress has been observed recently, and the gap between Roma and non-Roma is narrowing. NEET rates for young (18-24) marginalised Roma declined slightly between 2011 and 2017—from 78 percent to 73 percent, closing the gap with respect to their non-Roma neighbours. The gap of 31 percentage points is the second-lowest in the region, after Bosnia and Herzegovina. Despite the positive recent trends, these rates remain very high. The reasons for the still high NEET rates among Roma are not difficult to determine: levels of educational attainment are lower among the Roma, and they have weaker labour market attachment. When looking at gender inequality among the Roma, data for 2017 shows striking gender disparities among young marginalised Roma: women are more likely than men to be NEET: 88 percent of women aged 18-24 were NEET in 2017 compared to 59 percent of their male counterparts.

HEALTH

The great majority of marginalised Roma have health insurance coverage, but a small gap vis-à-vis neighbouring non-Roma has emerged. In 2011, both marginalised Roma and their neighbouring counterparts had the same health insurance coverage rate: 93 percent; this coverage rate increased among the non-Roma neighbours in 2017 to 97 percent, while for the Roma it remained the same, resulting in a small gap.

Health insurance coverage (% of population aged 16+)



Source: WB and UNDP estimates based on 2011 and 2017 UNDP-WB-EC Regional Roma Surveys.

Slightly more than one-fourth of marginalised Roma aged 16 and over report having not accessed health services when needed, an improvement with respect to 2011; however, this percentage remains much higher than that among neighbouring non-Roma.

The use of preventive health care services remains high among marginalised Roma; the gap vis-à-vis non-Roma neighbours is relatively low compared to other countries in the region.

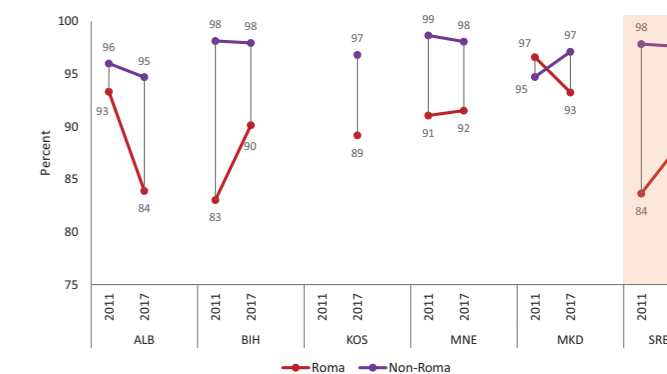
Fewer marginalised Roma are reporting to have very good or good health in 2017 than in 2011, but like in other countries in the region, the gap vis-à-vis non-Roma neighbours is narrow.

HOUSING

Even though overcrowding among marginalised Roma has been falling in recent years, the gap with respect to non-Roma neighbours is still the largest among Western Balkan countries. The overcrowding rate among marginalised Roma fell from 74 percent in 2011 to 65 percent in 2017. It is worth noting, however, that the gap is especially wide in Serbia: non-Roma neighbours had an overcrowding rate of 21 percent in 2017, 44 percentage points lower than that of marginalised Roma; the gap largest in the region, followed by Bosnia and Herzegovina (40 percentage points).

Access to electricity and piped water increased in 2017 for marginalised Roma and the gaps vis-à-vis neighbouring non-Roma are narrowing. Access to electricity among marginalised Roma was 88 percent in 2017 (up from 84 percent in 2011). Among non-Roma neighbours, access remained the same. The result was a narrower gap between Roma and non-Roma in 2017. Despite improvements, the gap of 10 percentage points is still the second-largest in the region, after Albania (11 percentage points). Access to piped water inside the dwelling for marginalised Roma increased significantly, from 70 percent in 2011 to 79 percent in 2017.

Access to electricity (% of population)



Source: WB and UNDP estimates based on 2011 and 2017 UNDP-WB-EC Regional Roma Surveys.

Among marginalised Roma, the gap in access to sewerage with respect to non-Roma neighbours is significantly narrowing, but coverage among the Roma is still low. Relative to the neighbouring non-Roma, a smaller share of the marginalised Roma population live in households connected to a public sewerage or waste water tank, but in recent years the gap has been closing significantly. Despite the improvements, Serbia is one of the countries in the Western Balkans where Roma population have the least access to sewerage.

A widening gap is observed in the case of access to waste collection, with no improvement among marginalised Roma. No collection of waste is still an issue affecting a larger share of the Roma population living in marginalised communities.

PERSONAL DOCUMENTATION AND RETURNEES

Nearly all marginalised Roma in Serbia now possess civil registration documents. In 2017, about 99 percent of the marginalised Roma population possessed birth certificates and 94 percent of those aged 16 and over had a national ID card.

In 2017, the percentage of marginalised Roma who reported having returned from abroad to Serbia during the past 12 months was 2 percent.