
THE POST-WAR POPULATION CONSCRIPTION IN SLOVAKIA IN 1946¹⁾

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Abstract

The post-war situation in former Czechoslovakia was complicated. Suitable, reliable, and up-to-date data needed to address several urgent social problems were largely lacking. In 1946, more than 15 years had passed since the last population census 1930, and because of the major social changes and mass population transfers that had occurred in that time, it was not possible to make important decisions based on the previous census. Since for various reasons it was not possible to carry out a new population census in the first months and years after the Second World War, the decision was made to prepare an alternative solution in the form of two independent post-war population counts with different content and conducted at different times. In this article, we focus on the first of these two population counts, which was conducted on the territory of Slovakia in 1946. This article primarily sets out to identify the main purpose of the post-war population count in Slovakia in 1946, the method used to implement it, the content of the data it produced, and their processing and publication.

Keywords: post-war population conscription, Slovakia, 1946

Demografie, 2022, 64(4), 313–326

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.54694/dem.0309>

INTRODUCTION

The Second World War significantly affected the character and functioning of all of society in former Czechoslovakia. Its negative effects were felt by the population not just during the war years but in the period that followed as well. The situation was made worse by the damage to the economy, infrastructure, and housing stock, supply problems, and the mass population transfers at the end of the

war and in the first post-war years. Attempts to solve current and often acute problems, however, were complicated by the lack of up-to-date, reliable, and relevant information. In this regard, it is necessary to realise, especially with respect to necessary data on population structures, that the last Czechoslovak census was carried out in 1930. Although a planned census was carried out in Slovakia in 1940 (Tišliar, 2011) and in 1938 (Šprocha – Tišliar, 2012, 2018),

1) The article is a partial output from the VEGA project number 1/0097/ Small histories of big events: population censuses in Slovakia between 1919–1950 and APVV-20-0199 Transformation of population development in Slovakia in a regional perspective from the end of the 19th to the middle of the 20th century.

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in both cases the results obtained related only to the reduced territory of Slovakia after the Munich Agreement and the Vienna Arbitration. Moreover, only a very small part of the census material was processed and published (closer to *Šprocha – Tišliar*, 2012; 2018). The situation was even worse in the Czech Republic. The Population Census carried out in 1939 was only conducted in the territory that was separated from Czechoslovakia after the Munich Agreement, while in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia the census was not conducted at all (*Berrová*, 2008b). The intention to conduct a census earlier than the one planned in 1950 was quickly abandoned owing to financial and time constraints, as well as the associated heavy labour and financial demands involved in processing for processing and publishing the data (*Berrová*, 2008; *Kučera*, 1987). In addition, mass migrations of the population continued to occur in the post-war period, and that could have affected the quality of the census process. On the other hand, there continued to be a great need to obtain up-to-date population data. As *Jureček* noted (1951), there was an especially strong need for data on the economic and social structures of the population. In this situation, a compromise solution was reached, and two independent population conscriptions were carried out in the Czech Republic and Slovakia as a substitute for the population census (*Fajfr – Sekera*, 1951). Their main purpose was to provide enough content to satisfy the most urgent need for up-to-date data in selected thematic areas. Both population enumerations took place independently of each other, without any connection or communication with each other, with a certain time gap between them and differences in content, and they therefore represent two separate population conscriptions. This is one reason why we will not analyse both population conscriptions at the same time. In this paper, we will focus on the first one, which was carried out in Slovakia in October 1946. In addition, we note that in the Czech Republic post-war conscriptions of the population by occupation took place in May 1947. The aim of the article is thus to present this lesser-known survey to the wider scientific community, identify its main purpose, and describe its method of implementation, the data content, and the data processing and publication.

THE BACKGROUND AND PREPARATORY WORK ON THE POPULATION CONSCRIPTION IN SLOVAKIA IN 1946

The background to the count of ration recipients in the population conducted in Slovakia in 1946 was that there was a need to obtain information about the current situation in the labour market, primarily in the context of efforts to mobilise and redistribute labour in certain (and especially selected trade) occupations. In addition, the aim was also to make certain improvements to the records on ration recipients. It should be noted that this objective was probably also one of the reasons why the post-war surveys were conducted separately in the two countries, since the rationing systems in Czechia and Slovakia were different (*Štěpková*, 2011) and thus did not create a reasonable framework for conducting the conscription in both countries at the same time. As noted in the introduction, the conditions for implementing a population conscription were created earlier in Slovakia. The delay in the Czech Republic was primarily due to the ongoing expulsion of the German population and the settlement of the border areas (*Berrová*, 2008a; *Jureček*, 1951).

The initial impulse for implementing a conscription in Slovakia was a request from the planning department of the State Planning and Statistics Office (*Štátny plánovací a štatistický úrad, SPSO*) for data that were necessary to organise the labour market. Due to the above-described problems with obtaining data that would be up-to-date, complete, and of good quality, however, adequate data were not available, and therefore the idea arose to implement a population conscription. In order to find a way to practically implement the counting activity, the decision was made to cooperate with the Commission for Nutrition and Supply (*Komisia pre výživu a zásobovanie*). The population conscription itself was thus linked to improving the records on ration recipients. The basic legislation on which the population conscription was based was decree no. 168/1946 of 17 September 1946 on the registration of ration recipients. According to this decree, every holder of a ration book (*odberné knižky*) or other document authorising the receipt of food stamps was required to register all supported persons with the local national committee (*národný výbor*) in the Record of Ration Recipients form.

The completed form then had to be returned to the national committee in the vicinity of the person's place of residence. The time frame for this registration was set from 23 September to 4 October 1946. The penalty for failing to comply with this obligation was that the holder of the ration book would not receive food stamps. In contrast to properly planned population censuses, there were some important differences in the preparatory phase of the enumeration of ration recipients. The main difference was the absence of preparations in the field. Before the data collection itself, there was no review of house numbers or of the list of residences, and no census districts were even created. Since the implementation of the census was fully the responsibility of the Commission for Nutrition and Supply (and not the Statistical Office) and specifically its officials on local national committees, no census commissioners or census auditors were appointed. With some generalisation it can be said that 'the post-war population conscription did not come to the people, but the people to the conscription', since the receipt of food stamps was conditional on their participation in this statistical enumeration. In addition, the period for which the data on a person's registration card would be valid was not determined. The only instruction for the population enumeration was on the above-mentioned time frame in which the entire registration should be carried out.

CONTENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONSCRIPTION OF RATION RECIPIENTS

The content of the post-war population conscription itself was very modest compared to the planned population censuses. As mentioned above, an authorised member of the national committee indicated on the registration card all the persons on whose behalf the holder of the ration book was to receive food stamps. These were people who regularly took their meals in the household of the holder of the ration book. This included not only family members but also servants, maids, etc., for whom the head of the household received food stamps. However, anyone who was not present in the household at the time

of data collection for the reasons of study or work were not supposed to be listed on the registration card.

Absent members of a household were required to fill out and submit the registration card to the national committee in the area where they stayed, if they had their own ration book for food stamps. If their meals were provided by their employer, or if they ate in another household (e.g. if they sublet and ate at the residence of the lessor), they were supposed to be listed on the registration cards of those persons (e.g. their employer, the owner of the house, etc.). A different situation arose in the case of persons who were travelling at the time enumeration was carried out or were in a hospital or other medical institution. These people were supposed to be listed on the registration cards of the households in which they usually had their meals before they left.

Exceptions were also in place for the employees of such institutions. If they also took their meals at the institution, they were supposed to be listed in the book of the institution for food stamps or in the book of the head of the household of which they were a member. Soldiers were also in a specific position. Persons belonging to the military service were not allowed to be listed on the registration cards of the household they were from. Only soldiers who received food stamps had to fill in a registration card. It is clear from this overview of exceptions and specific cases that the post-war population conscription did not cover the entire population present in Slovakia. Thus, only those persons who, according to administrative records, received food stamps were required to participate in the population conscription. In a spatial perspective the criterion for inclusion in the conscription was that the person was the registered holder of a ration book.

Before the population enumeration itself, the registration cards were delivered by printers in Bratislava to individual rationing departments at the national committees. The national committees informed the population about this statistical enumeration through their 'usual' information channels, while they were also supposed to emphasise the penalties for failing to fulfil this obligation. The national committees were then supposed to ensure that each individual household had the opportunity to submit its registration card.

Figure 1 Registration card of the conscription of the population of ration recipients in Slovakia in 1946

Por. čís.	Priezvisko a meno	Rok narodenia	Rodinný stav	Povolanie (vyučenie)	Druh podniku, v ktorom pracujete a ako ste v ňom zamestnaný

Source: SÚS (1951), p. 27*.

As already mentioned, the national committee first listed on the registration card all the persons (household members) in order of age (from the oldest to the youngest) that the ration book (or other document) was drawn up to include. The number of registered persons had to be the same as the number of persons in the ration book for food stamps. At the same time, it was noted on the list of ration recipients that the registration card had been issued. This was to ensure that at the end of the conscription it would be possible to identify who had not participated in it. The list of these persons was to be sent separately to the Commission for Supply and Nutrition when the conscription was concluded.

In addition to the person's serial number, the person's first and last name, year of birth, marital status, and profession (apprenticeship), the type of company the person worked for, and type of work performed in the company were also recorded on the registration card. In the case of occupation, the instructions for the conscription indicated that the occupation for which the person had been trained should be recorded; therefore, it was not the occupation that the person actually working at when the conscription took place that was recorded. The type of company a person worked for, and type of work performed in the company were the facts to be stated. The economic sector in which people were employed and their occupational status were subsequently determined on the basis of these facts.

It was also explicitly stated in the registration card whether the person was unemployed.

After the end of the collection, all the submitted registration cards were sorted according to streets and house numbers. The inventory material sorted in this way was handed over to the distribution department of the Food and Supply Commission in Bratislava on 7 October 1946 at the latest. Thus, the post-war conscription of ration recipients differed from a properly planned population census in that no sub-steps were implemented in processing the census material. For example, no summaries for census districts or municipal or district overviews were created. As we mentioned, all the statistical material was automatically sent for central processing all the cards were collected and sorted. The absence of these steps was justified by the lower priority of data on the number of people in municipalities or districts. According to the central authorities, the reports on the number of food stamps issued were sufficiently high-quality and up-to-date. Thus, the structural characteristics of the population, which could not be obtained without central processing, remained key outputs.

THE STATISTICAL PROCESSING AND PUBLICATION OF RESULTS

Once collected and organised the enumeration material was machine-processed relatively quickly using punch cards⁴⁾ (Figure 2). The definitive results

4) The punch card was a common recording medium in this period. It was usually made of paper (thin cardboard). The information on it was encoded by the presence or absence of a hole at predetermined positions.

Figure 2 Punch card of the conscription of the population of ration recipients in Slovakia in 1946

Oblasť	Obec	Pageňiční číslo	Pohlavie	Rok narodenia	Rod. číslo	Povolanie vyučané	Čas priradenia	Povolanie ktoré zastáva	Podiel k povolaniu	Súpis zásobových osôb na Slovensku zo dňa 4.X.1946														
0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0	0 0 0	0	0 0 0	0	0 0 0	0 0															
1 1	1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1	1 1	1	1 1 1	1	1 1 1	1 1															
2 2	2 2 2	2 2 2 2	2	2 2	2	2 2 2	2	2 2 2	2 2															
3 3	3 3 3	3 3 3 3	3	3 3	3	3 3 3	3	3 3 3	3 3															
4 4	4 4 4	4 4 4 4	4	4 4	4	4 4 4	4	4 4 4	4 4															
5 5	5 5 5	5 5 5 5	5	5 5	5	5 5 5	5	5 5 5	5 5															
6 6	6 6 6	6 6 6 6	6	6 6	6	6 6 6	6	6 6 6	6 6															
7 7	7 7 7	7 7 7 7	7	7 7	7	7 7 7	7	7 7 7	7 7															
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1 2 3	4 5 6 7	8 9 10 11	12	13 14	15 16	17 18	19	20 21 22	23	24 25	26 27 28	29	30	31	32 33	34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45								

Source: SÚS (1951), p. 18*.

were also officially published quickly, which was unusual for that time.

In the summer of 1947, the SPSO was already able to publish a source publication entitled *Povolanie obyvateľstva na Slovensku podľa súpisu civilného obyvateľstva zo dňa 4. októbra 1946* (Occupations of the population in Slovakia according to the conscription of the civilian population dated 4 October 1946). It consisted of three main parts that presented data separately for Slovakia and for its districts. In the first part, data on the structure of the population by class and occupational group in combination with sex and main age groups were published.

The results were presented for 6 main occupation classes (A – F), based on the classification in effect at the time the post-war population enumeration was carried out, and for the 38 occupational groups within those classes:

- A – Agriculture, forestry, and fishing (2 occupational groups),
- B – Industry and trades (18 groups),
- C – Commercial trade, finance, and transport (7 groups)
- D – Public service and liberal professions (5 groups)
- E – Domestic and personal service (2 groups)
- F – Other occupations and persons without occupation data (4 groups)

The second part provided data on persons by occupation and data on occupational status (in selected trades) by sex.

From the vertical classification - the published data distinguished four groups of people by occupational status:

- 1) working in their occupation,
- 2) domestic servants,
- 3) family members without their own occupation,
- 4) unemployed.

Persons working in their occupation were further divided into:

- 1a) self-employed and hired workers,
- 1b) officials,
- 1c) specialist workers,
- 1d) apprentices,
- 1e) workers and day labourers.

In the case of family members without their own occupation, the conscription distinguished:

- 3a) children and pupils of national schools
- 3b) students of secondary and vocational schools
- 3c) others

The group of unemployed persons was further divided into:

- 4a) unemployed officials
- 4b) unemployed members of a profession
- 4c) unemployed workers and day labourers.

In the third part of the source publication based on the post-war population conscription, data on selected trades were presented. A total of 28 different trades were specified, such as blacksmith, mechanical locksmith, plumber, gunsmith, stonemason, concrete worker, mason, carpenter, scaffolder, etc.

Some of the definitive results on the economic sectors of the population in the districts of Slovakia and its social groups were also published in the Statistical Yearbook 1947.

In 1951, the State Statistical Office published a second source publication under the title *Soupis obyvatelstva v Československu v letech 1946 a 1947* (Population Conscriptions in Czechoslovakia in 1946 and 1947). As the title suggests, this publication contained the results of both post-war population conscriptions carried out in Slovakia and later also in the Czech Republic. In addition, since a new administrative arrangement was introduced in 1949, another aim of this second source publication was to publish the definitive results in reference to the new administrative divisions. In order to fulfil this objective, the census material had to be completely resorted and then statistically processed.

The published data were divided thematically into 28 tables and 3 supplementary tables. Due to the different content elements in the Czech and Slovak post-war population conscription, and especially the richer content of the conscription conducted in the Czech part of the republic, not all the tables included the territory and population of Slovakia. In the following overview, we present only the combinations of categories that related to Slovakia and came from the conscription of ration recipients from 1946.

Table 1 presents the area of regions, districts, and municipalities with more than 5,000 inhabitants (in km²), the total numbers of men and women, the total numbers of people in 1946 and 1930, and the increase / decrease in population size between the 1930 census and the 1946 population conscription, both in absolute and relative terms. The published data in this table also include the number of women per 1,000 men, as well as the population density expressed as the number of persons per 1 km² in 1930 and 1946.

In Table 2, the number of persons and the number of employed persons are published by region and

district. Table 2 also divides the employed (working) population into different sectors of economic activity (agriculture, forestry and fishing, mineral extraction, industry and crafts, other), in both absolute and relative terms (per 1,000 inhabitants, per 1,000 employed).

Table 4 presents the data on the number of municipalities by municipality size groups (-99, 100-199, 200-299, 300-499, 500-999, 1,000-1,999, 2,000-4,999, 5,000+ inhabitants), as well as the structure of the present population according to the size of the place of residence for regions and districts.

Table 8 presents the age composition of the population of Slovakia at the time of the conscription according to 5-year age groups (from 0-4 to an open interval of 95+) and by gender and marital status, in absolute (Tab. 8a) and relative terms (Tab. 8b). Because of the methods used to collect age data in Slovakia, the age groups are approximate, constructed from the year of birth.

Table 9 provided information on the age of the present population by 5-year groups of birth years and by sex for regions and districts.

Table 10 published data on the age structure of the present population of regions and districts, specifically by combining the categories of persons based on gender and selected age groups, which were then divided into the following categories: 0-2, 3-5, 0-14, 15-17, 18-20, 21-25, 25-49, 50-64 and 65+ years. This table also presented data for pre-school children (0-5 years), youth (15-25 years), persons eligible to vote (18+ years), adults (21+ years), and persons of productive age (15-49, 15-64 years). Table 11 provided data on the marital status of the present population by gender in regions and districts.

Table 12 presented the social stratification of the population in different sectors of economic activity by sex in absolute and relative terms for both Slovakia as a whole and the Slovak regions. The classification structure used in this source publication changed from the previous one. Since the Czech post-war conscription used a more modern classification that better reflected the reality of the time, a problem then arose when summary data were to be published for Czechoslovakia as a whole.

This problem already became apparent during the first efforts of the State Statistical Office to reclassify the data from the Slovak census. From the original statistical material, approximately 12,000 persons (more than 12%) could not be identified. Initially, they were included in the group of persons without gainful employment. The preparation of the second source work led to this question being raised and to the effort to further revise of the data, which was done by the Slovak Planning and Statistics Office. However, these changes were ultimately only reflected in the tables at the national level and specifically in Table 12 for the regions. This revision could not, however, be carried out for the districts or in other subsequent tables for the regions (see *Jureček*, 1951: 15*).

Table 12 presented in a horizontal view persons engaged in 9 sectors of economic activity:

- 1) Agriculture, forestry, and fishing,
- 2) Mining, industry, and trades,
- 3) Commercial trade and finance,
- 4) Transportation,
- 5) Public administration and service,
- 6) Free professions,
- 7) Personal and domestic services,
- 8) Persons without an occupation,
- 9) Other professions.

Within each economic sector category (vertical view), people were further divided into:

- A) Employed,
- B) Assisting family members of self-employed persons,
- C) Family members without their own occupation,
- D) Persons without an occupation⁵⁾.

Table 14 provided data on the number of inhabitants at the national level according to employment status and sector of economic activity in 1930 and 1946.

Table 15 presented information on people by employment status, sector of economic activity, and sex at the national level, while Table 16 presented the same information for the regions and Table 17 for the districts.

Two 'additional tables' were also included at the end of the source publication. Both tables provided

basic data from the post-war population conscriptions according to the administrative division that was valid in 1946 or 1947. The first of these two tables published data on the population by sex (for the years 1930 and 1946), population increases (or decreases) between 1930 and 1946, and population density by district. The second table provided data on the population by sector of economic activity (categories: agriculture, forestry, and fishing; mineral extraction, industry, and trades; others) also subdivided into occupation and employment status.

ANALYSIS OF THE MAIN RESULTS

According to the results of the post-war population conscription in 1946, there were more than 3.3 million civilian ration recipients in Slovakia. The largest number of people were counted in the western parts of Slovakia in the Bratislava and Nitra regions. Conversely, the least populated were the eastern regions: Košický and Prešovský regions (Tab. 1). The Banskobystrický and Prešovský regions also ranked among the east populated parts of Slovakia with 50–52 persons per 1 km². The opposite situation was observed in the above-mentioned western regions, where in the case of the Bratislava region population density was even as high as almost 107 persons per 1 km². The average population density in Slovakia in 1946 was 68 people per 1 km² (Tab. 1).

Compared to the last interwar Czechoslovak census from 1930, the post-war population conscription found a somewhat higher number of people in the territory of Slovakia, despite considerable emigration of the population (mainly ethnic Germans) at the end of the war and in the first months after the war's end. The biggest population increases between 1930 and 1946 were in the Bratislava region. The number of inhabitants increased slightly during this period also in the Prešov, Žilina, and Nitra regions. On the contrary, the Banskobystrický and Košice regions were characterised by a decrease in the number of inhabitants (Tab. I).

The results from 1946 also confirmed that women formed the majority of the population of Slovakia.

5) Persons living on benefits or annuities, students, pupils living away from home, persons in various social health institutions and facilities.

Table 1 Number of persons and population density in Slovakia and its regions in 1946 (in comparison with the population in 1930)

Region	Total population		Population density in 1946 (Person per km ²)	Population change (1946/1930)		Females per 100 males
	1946	1930		Abs.	Rel. (%)	
Bratislavský	801,114	768,967	106.5	32,147	4.18	104.8
Nitriansky	687,487	684,084	86.3	3,403	0.50	107.2
Banskobystrický	479,594	498,151	51.8	-18,557	-3.73	108.5
Žilinský	491,477	487,654	59.4	3,823	0.78	109.7
Košický	438,493	459,043	58.6	-20,550	-4.48	110.2
Prešovský	429,638	426,212	50.8	3,426	0.80	108.5
Slovakia	3,327,803	3,324,111	68.0	3,692	0.11	107.7

Source: SÚS (1951), authors' calculation.

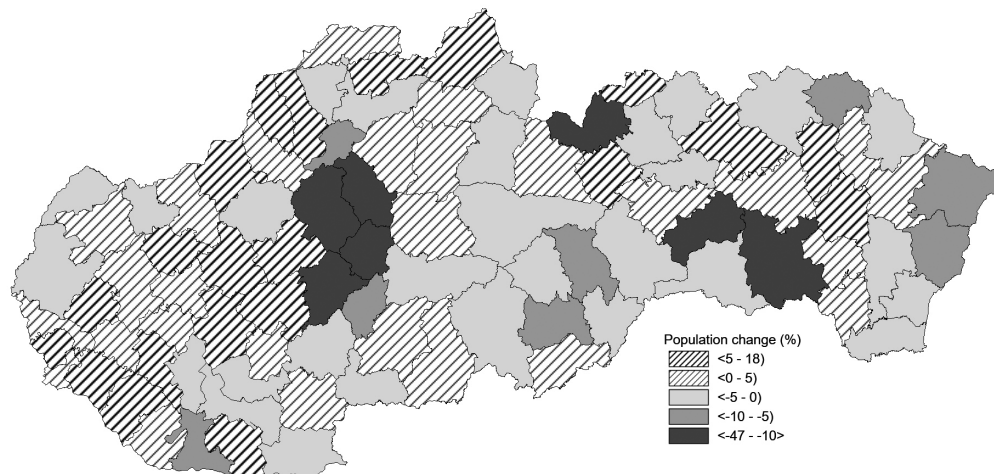
On average, there were almost 108 women per 100 men. The most significant predominance of women was identified in the north of Slovakia in the Žilina region and in the east in the Košice region. More balanced representation of both sexes, especially in the western part of Slovakia in the Bratislava region.

The largest decrease in the number of inhabitants was recorded in the districts of central (Turčianske Teplice, Kremnica, Prievidza, Nová Baňa) and eastern (Gelnica) Slovakia, which historically were areas with a large German minority. Significant decreases also occurred in the Vysoké Tatry and Košice districts (Figure 3). The most significant increase in the number

of inhabitants between 1930 and 1946 was observed in some districts in the western (Považská Bystrica, Partizánske, Trenčín), southwestern (Šamorín, Dunajská Streda), and eastern (Poprad, Sabinov, Giraltovec) parts of Slovakia, areas that experienced a significant boom in industrial production (Figure 3).

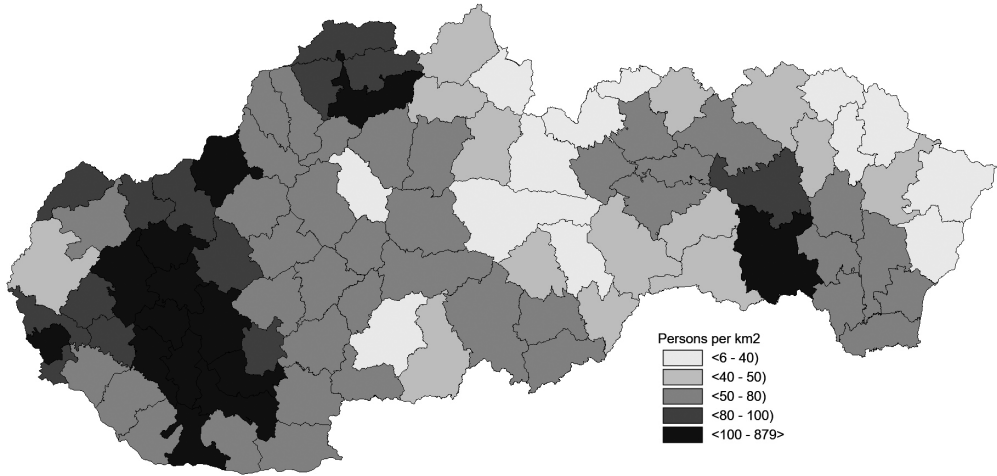
In terms of population density, the city district of Bratislava clearly dominated (with almost 880 people per 1 km²). In total, there were 13 more districts (out of 92) that were above the level of 100 persons per km². These were primarily agricultural districts in the western and southwestern parts of the country (Sereď, Šaľa, Galanta, Komárno), but also some

Figure 3 Changes in the number of inhabitants in the districts of Slovakia between 1930 and 1946



Source: SÚS (1951), authors' calculation.

Figure 4 Population density in the districts of Slovakia in 1946

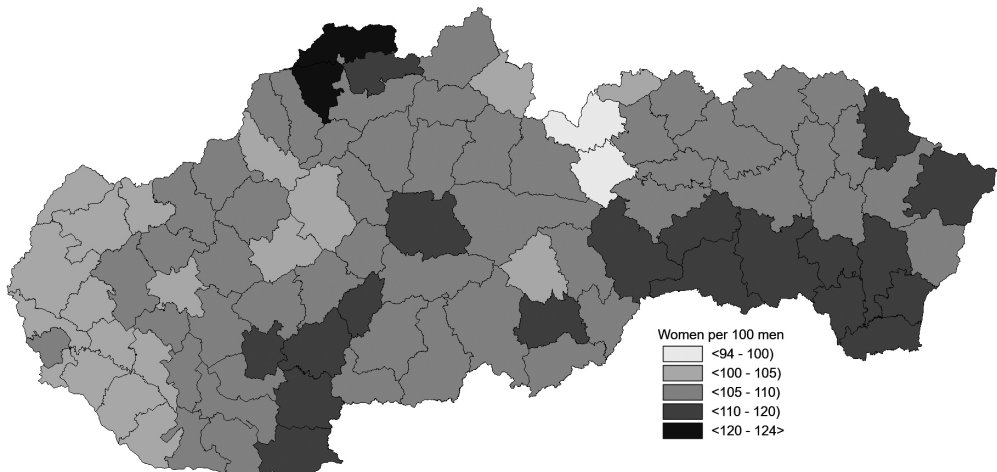


Source: SÚS (1951), authors' calculation.

districts with important economic centres (Trnava, Žilina, Trenčín). The lowest population density was in the mountainous regions of central and northern Slovakia (Vysoké Tatry, Liptovský Hrádok, Trstená, Brezno), and in the border districts in the northeastern part of the republic (Svidník, Medzilaborce, Sobrance, Stropkov) (Figure 4).

The biggest predominance of women in the population was found in the post-war population conscription in 1946. This predominance was especially apparent in the north of Slovakia in the districts of Čadca and Bytča. These are regions from which men traditionally emigrate to work elsewhere, not only abroad, but also to the nearby mining and

Figure 5 The number of women per 100 men in the districts of Slovakia in 1946



Source: SÚS (1951), authors' calculation.

Table 2 Age structure of Slovakia and its regions in 1946

Region	Proportion of persons in age (%)		Average age (year)	Ageing index
	0–14	60+		
Bratislavský	27.1	9.8	30.4	36.4
Nitriansky	27.4	11.0	31.1	40.0
Banskobystrický	25.4	12.1	32.2	47.5
Žilinský	30.4	9.2	29.4	30.3
Košický	29.4	9.3	29.5	31.7
Prešovský	32.7	8.0	28.0	24.5
Slovakia	28.4	10.0	30.2	35.1

Note: The ageing index indicates the number of persons aged 60 and over per 100 children under the age of 15.

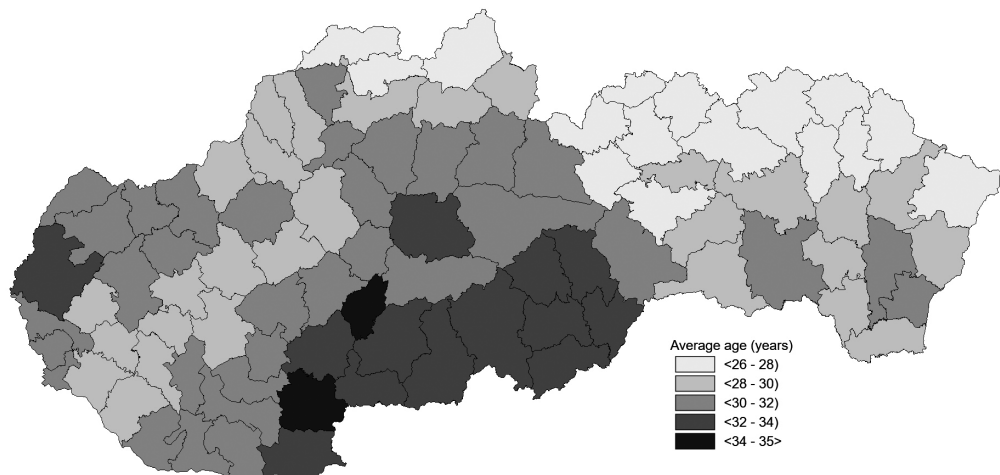
Source: SÚS (1951), authors' calculation.

metallurgical region of Ostrava. Other important areas with an above-average predominance of women were in districts of southeastern Slovakia (in a continuous space from Rožňava district to Veľké Kapušany and Kráľovský Chlmec districts) and also some districts in southern and central Slovakia (Figure 5).

Slovakia was a country that still had a relatively young population after the Second World War. According to the results of the population conscription in 1946, the average age was just over 30 years. Children under the age of 15 accounted for just over 28%, while persons aged 60 and over made up only about a tenth of the entire population. For every 100 children, there were 35 seniors aged 60 and

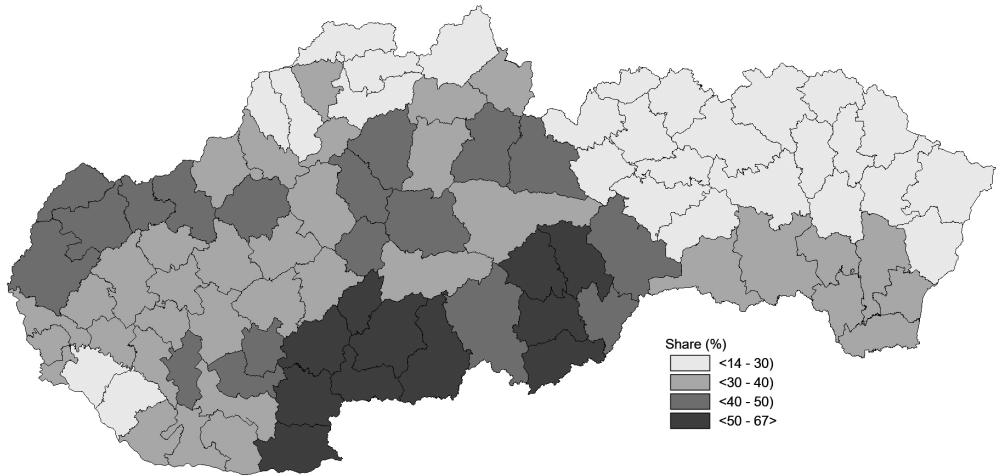
over. As can be seen in Table 2, most of the older population resided in central Slovakia. In the Banská Bystrica region, the average age exceeded 32 years and the ageing index was almost as high as 48 persons. This region also had the smallest share of children and, conversely, a higher proportion of seniors. The opposite situation existed in the Prešov region, where children under the age of 15 made up almost a third of the entire population, and people aged 60 and over only about 8%. The average age in 1946 was only 28 years (Table II).

As Figures 6 and 7 show, older populations and higher ageing indexes were mainly found in districts in central and southern-central Slovakia. The highest

Figure 6 The average age of the population in the districts of Slovakia in 1946

Source: SÚS (1951), authors' calculation.

Figure 7 The ageing index of the population in the districts of Slovakia in 1946



Note: The ageing index indicates the number of persons aged 60 and over per 100 children under the age of 15.
Source: SÚS (1951), authors' calculation.

average age (over 34 years) was in the districts of Banská Štiavnica and Železovce. In another five districts in southern Slovakia (Levice, Modrý Kameň, Krupina, Rimavská Sobota, Revúca) the average age ranged from 33 to 34 years. The ageing index was also highest in these districts (Figure 7). A total of ten districts had an index score above 50 people, and all of them were located in central and southern Slovakia (Figure 7). The highest number of seniors per 100 children was clearly registered in the aforementioned district of Banská Štiavnica (64 persons) and Železovce (66 persons).

In terms of average age and the ageing index, the districts in the north of central Slovakia and especially the continuous area of districts in the east and northeast of Slovakia had the youngest population (Figure 6 and 7). In 5 districts (Kysucké Nové Mesto, Medzilaborce, Snina, Stropkov, Sabinov) from this area, the average age did not even reach 27 years. Together with the Námestovo district in the north of Slovakia, there were 6 districts with the lowest ageing index whose index score did not exceed 20 seniors per 100 children.

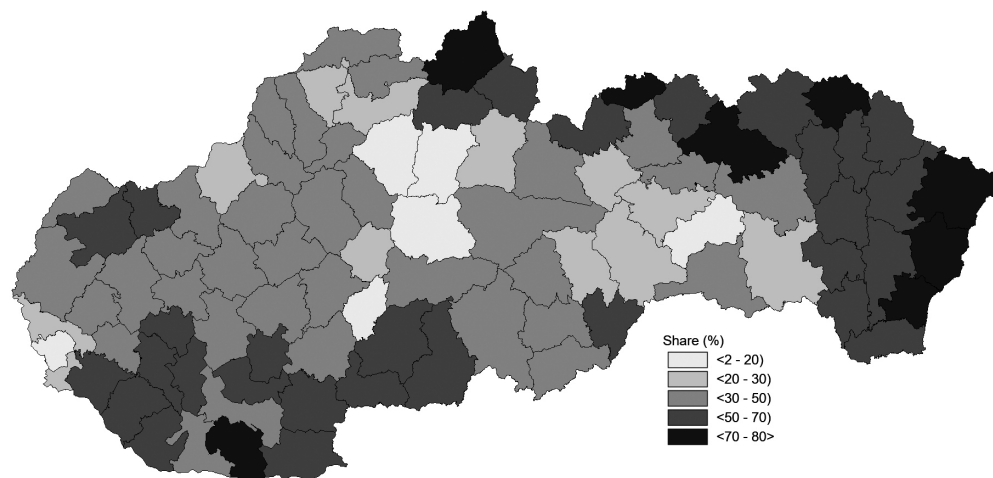
Table 3 Sectoral structure of Slovakia and its regions in 1946

Region	Persons dependent on (belonging to) the economic sector (%)*			Persons active in the economic sector (%)**		
	Agriculture and forestry	Industry and mining	Other	Agriculture and forestry	Industry and mining	Other
Bratislavský	39.9	25.2	34.8	32.1	29.5	38.4
Nitriansky	53.6	19.9	26.5	46.6	23.4	29.9
Banskobystrický	45.3	25.2	29.4	38.5	30.2	31.2
Žilinský	42.9	28.9	28.2	33.5	35.4	31.1
Košický	39.7	24.9	35.4	32.0	28.6	39.3
Prešovský	72.0	10.3	17.7	60.8	14.0	25.2
Slovakia	48.1	22.7	29.2	39.2	27.5	33.3

Note: * (employed) persons working in the given economic sector and persons dependent on this sector (e.g. children whose parents work in the given economic sector); ** (employed) persons working in the economic sector.

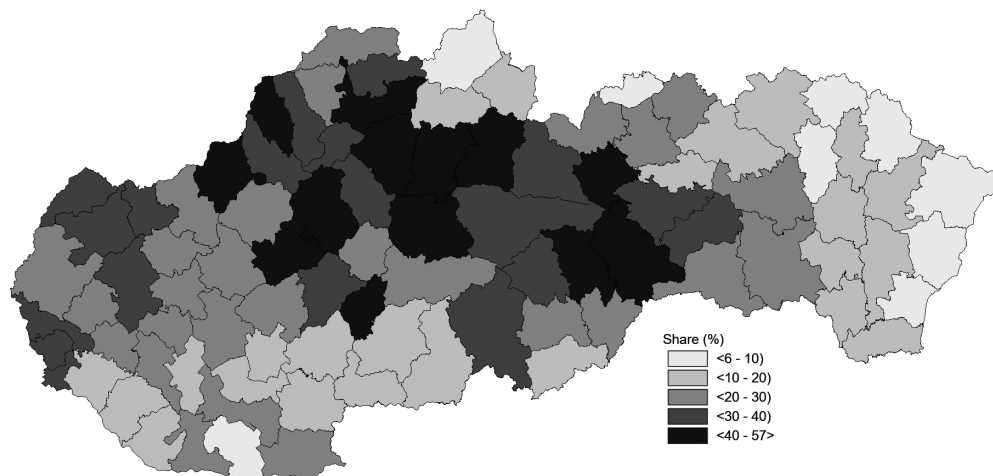
Source: SÚS (1951), authors' calculation.

Figure 8 Proportion of persons working in agriculture and forestry in the districts of Slovakia in 1946



Source: SÚS (1951), authors' calculation.

Figure 9 Proportion of persons working in industry and mining in the districts of Slovakia in 1946



Source: SÚS (1951), authors' calculation.

Despite the gradual development of industry and services in the interwar period and during the Second World War, most of the population in Slovakia remained dependent on agriculture. This was also confirmed by the results of the post-war population conscription in 1946. More than 48% of the entire civilian population worked in or were dependent on people who worked in agriculture

and forestry. Less than 28% applied for industry and mineral extraction, and the remaining third of the entire population worked in or were dependent on people who worked in other economic sectors (Tab. 3). In terms of the structure of the population according to the share of people working in different economic sectors, agriculture and forestry again predominated, but not to the same extent

as the sector's predominance according to the share of population dependent on this sector. However, there were quite large differences from a spatial point of view. The largest share of people dependent on agriculture and forestry and the largest number of people working in this sector were in the Prešov region. This sector was also very important for the population of the Nitra region. Conversely, the smallest share of people working in this sector was in the Bratislava and Košice regions (Tab. 3). Above average shares of the population also worked in industry and mining, especially in the Žilina region, and while above average shares of the population worked in other economic sectors in the Bratislava and Košice regions.

This is also confirmed by the data for individual districts in Slovakia. The highest proportions of people working in agriculture and forestry were found mainly in the northern and northeastern parts of Slovakia. In addition, an above-average share can also be found in the districts in the southern part of western Slovakia. The very opposite situation was found in the capital city and surrounding area and in several districts of central Slovakia (Figure 8). This central area had the districts with the highest shares of people working in industry and mining. The above-mentioned districts of northern, northeastern, and southern Slovakia, on the other hand, had the smallest shares of persons active in this economic sector (Figure 9).

CONCLUSION

The post-war population conscription in 1946 in Slovakia was a specific kind of statistical enumeration in terms of its nature, the primary reasons for its implementation, and the very course and method of its implementation, as it was basically implemented in a close time interval after the largest war in world history. Even though it was not a properly planned population census carried out under the auspices of the statistical office, it occupies a unique place

in the history of censuses in Slovakia. It represents important evidence of the effort and abilities applied in order to obtain necessary and in many ways unique information in the difficult post-war months and the methods used to do so.

On the other hand, in a retrospective light it is necessary to view this population conscription in the context of its time and reference to the main goals and possibilities of its authors. We can only agree with Jureček (1951: 7*), who noted in this regard: *'both [population conscriptions] were children of their time, which required quick and prompt solutions and favoured improvisation over long preparations and considerations'*. An equally important realisation is that the results of the post-war population conscription were to be used for purely practical purposes and thus had to be obtained as quickly as possible. This also affected the quality of the preparation process, the very scope of the collected data, and the course of the statistical enumeration itself.

Even if the content of the collected data was relatively limited, the data were an important source of information for analysing the character of the population in Slovakia in the first post-war months. From this point of view, the speed with which the data were published and the level of detail – reporting on the regional and district as well as the national level – is remarkable.

We can assume that the simplicity of the type of data collected in of the post-war population conscription contributed to this. This probably had to do with the lower requirements for machine processing than was the case with regular population censuses. We must also not forget the acute need there was for current data. This is probably why only data related to employment and economic status were published in the first source work. It was the second source work that then significantly expanded the possibilities of the research to include some other demographic characteristics (e.g. age, gender, marital status, etc.).

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