

DRŽAVNI ZAVOD ZA STATISTIKU  
REPUBLIKE HRVATSKE  
CROATIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

**INTERESTING FACTS**

Zagreb, 8 March 2018

## What Do Statistics Say about Women?

The fight for women's rights has been ongoing for over a hundred years. Despite this impressive number of decades during which significant steps have been made towards giving more social, economic and political rights to women, there are still areas where women have not achieved the status that they could and should have. Although the topic of gender equality is a social issue that deserves attention 365 days a year, March is still the month when we all ask ourselves the question – what is the status of women in society? On the occasion of marking the International Women's Day, the Croatian Bureau of Statistics has answered that question through a review of the most important indicators regarding the population, education and labour market.

We wish a happy Women's Day to all women, wonderful in their diversity, the number of which in Croatia in 2016 was 2.1 million (51.7%), according to the population estimate.

### ***Average age of women on the rise***

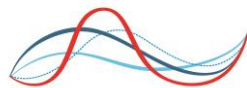
Over the past forty years, the average age of women has been rising continuously. Specifically, in 1971, the average age of women was 35.5, rising by almost nine years until 2016. Women aged 60 and over accounted for slightly less than a third of the total number of women (29.9%) in 2016, while in 1971, this share was close to half of that (16.9%).

### ***More boys than girls are born***

There is a slightly higher percentage of live births of boys than girls. In 1971, the share of girls in the total number of live births was 48.1% and this trend has continued in the following decades. Compared to the 1970s, the number of live-born girls almost halved in 2016, which is not surprising given the fact that less and less children are being born.

### ***Average age of brides increased by six years***

The age at which women are getting married is rising. This fact is largely influenced by a combination of various social and economic factors. The increasing number of highly-educated young women is an important factor in moving the average age at first marriage



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into older age groups. It is also largely affected by greater independence of women who are becoming more involved in the labour market. Today, a growing number of young people who intend to marry live together in consensual unions, before getting married. All of this has led to an increase in the average age of brides at first marriage by six years in the period from 1971 to the present day.

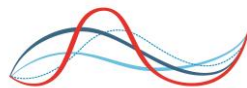
The above-mentioned combination of social and economic factors contributing to the fact that women decide to get married later also contributes to the increase in the age at which women give birth to their first child. Thus, in 1971, the average age of mothers at the birth of their first child was their early twenties, and more than four decades later, it shifted to their late twenties.

### ***Women live longer***

Thanks to better living conditions, life expectancy at birth over the years has been increasing, and over the last forty years, it has increased for women by nine years. In addition, the share of women in the total population aged 60 and over is significantly higher, and according to the population estimate, it amounted to 57.8% at the end of 2016. Such gender distribution is associated with the fact that women on average live seven years longer than men.

### ***Big changes in the ageing index***

Another indicator confirming that the number of elderly women is on the rise is the ageing index. It represents the percentage share of the population aged 60 and over in relation to the population under the age of 20. The ageing index shows that, at the turn of the century, the boundary value of 100 was exceeded, which means that there is one young woman per each elderly woman in the population. In fact, in the last thirty years of the 20th century, the share of women aged 60 and over was lower compared to those younger than 20, and since 2001, there has been an increase in the share of women aged 60 and over.



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### ***Fewer girls in kindergartens and elementary schools***

If we compare the current number of children in kindergartens to the same figure ten years ago, it is noticeable that their share is slowly increasing. According to the latest available data, those for the beginning of the 2016/2017 school year, there was a slightly lower share of girls than boys in kindergartens. There were slightly more than 69 thousand girls, amounting to 48.1% of the total number of children.

At the beginning of the 2016/2017 school year, elementary schools were attended by slightly more than 155 thousand female pupils, which is 48.7% of the total number of pupils. Compared to the beginning of the 2006/2007 school year, the number of female pupils decreased by 17.5%, in line with the overall decline in the number of pupils in elementary schools.

### ***Growing number of female teachers in elementary schools***

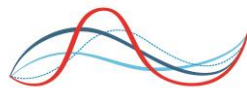
Compared to the beginning of the 2006/2007 school year, the number of female teachers in elementary schools at the beginning of the 2016/2017 school year increased by 9%. Observing by gender, the share of female teachers in both of the observed years was significantly higher than the share of male teachers and it stood at above 81%.

### ***Almost equal number of female and male students in secondary schools***

Of the total of just over 81 thousand female students in secondary schools at the beginning of the 2016/2017 school year, the share of male and female students was almost identical, that is, the share of female students stood at 50.1%. The ratio of male and female students has not changed significantly over the past decade.

### ***Lower domination of female teachers in secondary schools***

In secondary schools, the ratio of male and female teachers was somewhat different than in elementary schools. Although women are still prevalent, the share of female teachers in secondary schools was lower than the share of female teachers in elementary schools, and it



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ranged from 65.3% at the beginning of the 2006/2007 school year to 66.1% at the beginning of the 2016/2017 school year.

### ***More female students at institutions of higher education***

Of the total number of students enrolled in institutions of higher education in the 2016/2017 academic year, female students accounted for 56.7%. More than two thirds of the total number of female students enrolled in institutions of higher education in the field of Social sciences (77.1%). If we compare the proportion of men and women, the largest share, 74.6%, was accounted for by female students enrolled in institutions of higher education in the field of Biomedicine and health. Compared to the 2006/2007 academic year, the total number of enrolled female students increased by 17.8%, while the contribution of female students to that increase was significantly higher and amounted to 71.2%.

### ***Sixty percent of graduate students are women***

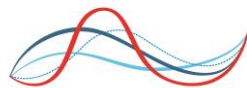
Looking at the last ten years, the share of female students who graduated from institutions of higher education in the total number of graduates has not changed significantly and remained at around 60%. Given that the largest number of female students enrol in institutions of higher education in the field of Social sciences, it is not surprising that most of them also graduated in the same field.

### ***Women obtain a doctorate degree in their late twenties on average***

Women are increasingly present at doctoral studies. The share of female doctors of science in 2016 amounted to 55%. The largest number of women obtained their doctorate degree in the fields of Biomedicine and health, Social sciences and Natural sciences, while the lowest number was recorded in the Arts. Although most female doctors of science in 2016 were between 30 and 34 years of age, their average age was 38.1.

### ***Women are getting more educated***

In half a century, there have been major changes in the education of women. If we look at the women aged 15 and over by highest educational attainment, it is evident that women are



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getting more educated over the decades. According to the 1961 Census data, as much as 92.4% of women completed elementary education or lower and only 0.8% of them completed higher education. On the other hand, data from the last, 2011 Census show that the majority of women, that is, almost half of the total number, completed secondary education. The biggest changes were recorded in higher education. The share of highly-educated women was 16.7%, while the share of highly-educated men was 16%. Higher education is thus one of the areas in which women have not only achieved equality with men, but they have already surpassed them.

### ***Women are best paid in Financial and insurance activities***

Looking at the 2016 average, 52.3% of the working-age population were women, while they accounted for almost half of the total number of persons in paid employment, that is, 45.9%.

The average monthly net earnings of women in 2015 amounted to 5 305 kuna and were 10.9% lower than the average monthly net earnings of men. Women employed in Administrative and support service activities (3 871 kuna) and Manufacturing (4 427 kuna) had the lowest net earnings, while those employed in Financial and insurance activities (7 351 kuna) and Information and communication activities (7 067 kuna) had the highest net earnings. In two areas of activity, women had higher earnings than men, by 8.3% in Construction and by 0.2% in Mining and quarrying.

### ***Activities dominated by women***

The highest number of women in paid employment in legal entities in 2016 was recorded in Wholesale and retail trade (18.6%) and Education (14.9%) activities, while the largest share of employed women was recorded in Human health and social work activities (78.4%) and Education (78.2%).