

## Cities of Republika Srpska through the lens of statistics (analysis)

### Banja Luka Leads in Nearly All Parameters

Banja Luka boasts the highest population, the highest average salary, the largest percentage of employed persons, the greatest volume of foreign trade, the highest number of registered vehicles and the largest number of tourist arrivals and overnight stays. Trebinje is the only city with a higher turnover of industrial products.

Republika Srpska is home to 64 local self-government units, including 11 cities: Banja Luka, Bijeljina, Gradiška, Derventa, Doboj, Zvornik, Istočno Sarajevo, Laktaši, Prijedor, Prnjavor and Trebinje.

We analysed these cities across various indicators, including demographics, labour market, foreign trade, industry and tourism. In nearly all these parameters, Banja Luka ranks first. The only exception is the turnover of industrial products, where Trebinje holds the record.

### General Data

Considering the population data for the 11 cities of Republika Srpska, Banja Luka has the highest population, while Derventa has the smallest. Compared to 2019, only Banja Luka, Trebinje and Istočno Sarajevo have recorded population growth, while all other cities have experienced a population decline over the past four years. A third of Republika Srpska's population (32.7%) resides in the cities of Banja Luka, Bijeljina and Prijedor.

The average population density of Republika Srpska in 2023 is 45 inhabitants per square kilometre, while the average density for the 11 observed cities is 85 inhabitants per square kilometre. The highest population densities are found in Banja Luka and Bijeljina, whereas the lowest are in Trebinje and Istočno Sarajevo.

The average age of the population in Republika Srpska is 43.9 years. Among the observed cities, Prijedor has the highest average age, while Banja Luka has the youngest population on average.

### Labour Market

The highest percentage of employed persons relative to the total number of employed in Republika Srpska is in Banja Luka (27%), while Prnjavor has the lowest share (3%). The largest relative growth in employment compared to 2019 was recorded in Laktaši (17%) and the smallest in Derventa (2%). The highest share of job seekers relative to the total unemployed population was observed in Bijeljina (9%), while Derventa had the lowest (1%). Comparing the ratio of unemployed to employed persons, Zvornik had the worst ratio, while Banja Luka had the most favourable. Between 2019 and 2023, the largest relative decrease in job seekers was in Gradiška (-61%), while the smallest decline was in Trebinje (-5%).

Four cities report average salaries above the average for Republika Srpska, with the highest paid in Banja Luka and the lowest in Laktaši. Compared to 2019, salaries have risen the most in Banja Luka and the least in Trebinje.

Banja Luka has the highest number of pension beneficiaries, while Derventa has the fewest. Prijedor has the highest ratio of pensioners to employed persons (98%), while Laktaši has the lowest (46%). The highest average pensions were paid in Istočno Sarajevo and Banja Luka, and the lowest in Prnjavor. Only three cities paid higher average pensions than the average for Republika Srpska.

### Consumer Price Indices

Prices are monitored in six cities of Republika Srpska. In 2023, compared to December 2022, the highest price increase was recorded in Istočno Sarajevo (4.1%), and the lowest in Prijedor (2.8%).

### Exports, Imports, Business Entities and Entrepreneurs

In terms of export/import activities, Banja Luka has the highest foreign trade volume, being the largest importer and exporter. In 2023, Banja Luka accounted for 10% of Republika Srpska's total exports and 44% of its total imports. On the other hand, Doboj recorded the lowest export figures, and Trebinje the lowest imports. Trebinje achieved the highest export growth since 2019 (133%), while Zvornik had the smallest growth (17%). Prijedor recorded the highest growth in imports (98%), whereas Trebinje saw an 8% decline in imports. Regarding import/export coverage, Trebinje had the highest coverage (359%), while Banja Luka had the lowest (23%). Banja Luka also had the largest number of exporters (561), while Istočno Sarajevo had the fewest (30). The number of exporters, in absolute terms, increased the most in Banja Luka (48) compared to 2019, while Zvornik recorded a decrease of 8.

Banja Luka leads in the number of business entities, hosting 29% of all such entities, with Derventa having the fewest. Similarly, Banja Luka has the highest number of entrepreneurs, representing 34% of the total in Republika Srpska, while Trebinje has the lowest. From 2019 to 2023, the largest relative increase in business entities was observed in Trebinje (25%), while the number of entrepreneurs grew most significantly in Banja Luka (33%).

#### Value of Industrial Product Sales

Examining the value of industrial product sales, including sales on both domestic and foreign markets, Trebinje and Banja Luka recorded the highest turnover of industrial products in 2023. Eleven cities of Republika Srpska accounted for 69% of the total industrial product turnover in Republika Srpska.

#### Number of Registered Vehicles

Banja Luka had the highest number of registered vehicles (19%), while Derventa recorded the fewest (2.6%). Between 2019 and 2023, almost all cities experienced higher relative growth in registered vehicles than the Republika Srpska average (9%), with Laktaši showing the highest relative growth (17%). First-time vehicle registrations in Republika Srpska increased by 2.0% over the same period.

#### Tourism

Banja Luka and Trebinje account for 44% of total tourist arrivals, with the 11 cities collectively representing 80% of all arrivals. Most cities report more foreign than domestic tourist arrivals. Trebinje and Zvornik saw the highest relative growth in tourist arrivals since 2019 (approximately 50%). The highest numbers of overnight stays were also recorded in Banja Luka and Trebinje, jointly contributing over 30% of total overnight stays. However, six cities experienced a decline in overnight stays compared to 2019.

#### Investments in Fixed Assets

Banja Luka and Trebinje achieved the highest investments in fixed assets in 2023, both in absolute terms and relative growth since 2019. Trebinje and Laktaši recorded the highest relative growth, while Zvornik, Istočno Sarajevo and Gradiška experienced a decline compared to four years ago.

TABLE 1. GENERAL INDICATORS

	Area, km <sup>2</sup>	Estimated population, 2023	Total population of RS, %	Population per 1 km <sup>2</sup>	Average age, 2023
Banja Luka	1,239	185,684	16.7	150	41.8
Bijeljina	734	102,995	9.2	140	43.1
Gradiška	762	45,961	4.1	60	44.1
Derventa	517	24,387	2.2	47	44.2
Doboj	655	57,947	5.2	88	43.1
Zvornik	374	51,997	4.7	139	43.1
Istočno Sarajevo	1,448	60,207	5.4	42	44.1
Laktaši	388	34 759	3.1	90	42.7
Prijedor	834	75 908	6.8	91	45.0
Prnjavor	630	31 761	2.8	50	43.9
Trebinje	863	28 469	2.6	33	43.2

TABLE 2. LABOUR MARKET

	2023				
	Employed	Unemployed	Net wages	Pension beneficiaries	Average pension, in BAM
TOTAL	290,491	58,790	1,274	219,728	548
Banja Luka	79,698	4,371	1,450	42,300	581
Bijeljina	24,937	5,187	1,185	16,835	529
Gradiška	11,336	1,612	1,191	9,745	456
Derventa	7,235	536	1,126	4,510	430
Doboj	13,191	2,478	1,252	11,129	514
Zvornik	9,946	3,416	1,276	7,594	490
Istočno Sarajevo	18,627	4,521	1,302	14,552	581
Laktaši	12,142	846	1,119	5,565	478
Prijedor	15,063	2,278	1,206	14,787	469
Prnjavor	6,945	657	1,133	5,429	414
Trebinje	9,181	1,820	1,316	7,819	579

TABLE 3. CONSUMER PRICE INDICES

*December of previous year = 100*

	2023					
	Banja Luka	Bijeljina	Doboj	Istočno Sarajevo	Prijedor	Trebinje
TOTAL INDEX	102.9	103.3	103.7	104.1	102.8	103.8
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	103.8	104.4	104.3	104.9	103.2	103.2
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	106.0	107.0	105.7	106.7	104.6	104.8
Clothing and footwear	85.4	93.5	99.7	100.2	92.4	98.8
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	105.2	104.2	102.5	106.2	103.5	110.1
Furnishing, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house	104.5	106.3	104.3	101.3	105.8	105.1
Health	103.7	102.9	104.4	104.1	102.4	102.2
Transport	96.1	95.7	98.8	96.6	97.2	96.4
Communications	101.9	101.6	102.8	102.6	102.5	103.5
Recreation and culture	103.7	103.7	111.5	106.6	103.6	104.3
Education	101.9	99.9	102.4	103.2	100.0	100.0
Restaurants and hotels	106.8	104.3	104.7	104.4	108.4	100.6
Other goods and services	108.9	111.4	109.8	112.9	108.6	111.5

TABLE 4. EXPORT, IMPORT, BUSINESS ENTITIES AND ENTREPRENEURS

	2023					
	Export, thous. BAM	Import, thous. BAM	Import coverage by export, %	Number of exporters	Number of business entities	Number of entrepreneurs
Banja Luka	524,734	2,275,103	23	561	10,995	6,156
Bijeljina	297,498	865,525	34	246	3,726	2,272
Gradiška	440,631	483,240	91	158	1,698	1,215
Derвента	405,112	310,257	131	67	649	559
Doboj	63,877	146,560	44	97	1,594	1,295
Zvornik	409,641	190,730	215	64	1,076	911
Istočno Sarajevo	104,921	267,852	39	30	2,956	1,914
Laktaši	434,871	832,990	52	196	1,654	977
Prijedor	275,769	212,698	130	128	1,655	1,623
Prijavor	319,829	196,974	162	69	763	781
Trebinje	273,703	76,227	359	39	1,326	548

TABLE 5. VALUE OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCT SALES

	Value of industrial product sales, 2023
Banja Luka	1,141,288,079
Bijeljina	499,431,288
Gradiška	404,520,342
Derвента	274,232,988
Doboj	199,012,703
Zvornik	502,750,915
Istočno Sarajevo	32,945,047
Laktaši	553,299,478
Prijedor	318,527,800
Prijavor	290,337,978
Требинье	1,144,707,505
TOTAL CITIES	5,361,054,121
TOTAL MUNICIPALITIES	2,410,314,222
RS TOTAL	7,771,368,343
% SHARE OF CITIES	69
% SHARE OF MUNICIPALITIES	31

TABLE 6. NUMBER OF REGISTERED VEHICLES

	2019	2023	2023/2019
Total Republika Srpska	430,947	469,931	9.0
Banja Luka	76,697	89,085	16.2
Bijeljina	39,353	44,691	13.6
Gradiška	19,846	22,809	14.9
Derventa	10,607	12,187	14.9
Doboj	20,971	23,453	11.8
Zvornik	13,766	14,709	6.9
Istočno Sarajevo	24,334	28,416	16.8
Laktaši	17,040	19,942	17.0
Prijedor	24,818	28,352	14.2
Prnjavor	14,068	16,303	15.9
Trebinje	11,765	13,352	13.5
Number of first-time registered vehicles (RS)	31,726	32,351	2.0

TABLE 7. TOURIST ARRIVALS AND OVERNIGHT STAYS

	2023					
	Arrivals			Overnight stays		
	total	domestic tourists	foreign tourists	total	domestic tourists	foreign tourists
Banja Luka	116,244	43,237	73,007	174,686	57,225	117,461
Bijeljina	45,840	18,569	27,271	88,738	39,164	49,574
Gradiška	3,744	1,584	2,160	6,594	2,776	3,818
Derventa	2,008	714	1,294	3,918	1,213	2,705
Doboj	15,060	6,724	8,336	22,880	8,733	14,147
Zvornik	11,175	9,233	1,942	16,908	13,994	2,914
Istočno Sarajevo	57,547	28,204	29,343	153,232	60,258	92,974
Laktaši	17,498	6,266	11,232	43,026	18,399	24,627
Prijedor	13,153	6,747	6,406	23,149	12,100	11,049
Prnjavor	8,670	4,514	4,156	31,803	17,671	14,132
Trebinje	95,631	24,357	71,274	173,887	51,759	122,128

TABLE 8. REALISED INVESTMENTS IN FIXED ASSETS

	2019	2023	2023/2019
Banja Luka	787,968	1,110,639	140.9
Bijeljina	120,961	159,840	132.1
Gradiška	65,181	47,610	73.0
Derventa	32,073	55,382	172.7
Doboj	57,519	77,644	135.0
Zvornik	43,686	38,989	89.2
Istočno Sarajevo	179,521	156,345	87.1
Laktaši	62,142	130,420	209.9
Prijedor	40,076	65,208	162.7
Prnjavor	28,466	46,825	164.5
Trebinje	60,727	169,646	279.4