

# THE EVOLUTION OF THE POPULATION OF THE HISTORICAL BANAT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

*Ion Munteanu, Rodica Munteanu*

**Abstract.** This paper analyses the main aspects of population evolution in historical Banat at the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century. One of the conclusion is that the birthrate in the province is smaller than the average rate in the entire Hungary, since the yearly average mortality rate are bigger than the registered value at the entire Hungary level. It results a low natural growth, below the average of other Hungarian regions. The age groups population structure analyses show a weight growth of the 20 - 60 years group - the active people, occupied in a various economical branches.

Near the First World War, the Banat population had a major rural structure (87,23 % from total). The Banat economical development led to the high work force request and at the urban population growth.

**Keywords:** natality, mortality, natural growth, age groups, active population, urban population, rural population.

The Banat historical province is placed in the southeastern part of the Central Europe, in the middle Danube basin. It lies between Danube (in the south), Mureş River (in the north), Tisa River (in the west) and the conventional border on the crests of the Mehedinţi, Cerna, Godeanu, Ţarcu and Poiana Ruscă Mountains (in the east). Between these limits, the historical Banat occupies a total surface of 28 546 km<sup>2</sup>, 18 966 km<sup>2</sup> belonging to Romania (66.44%), 9266 km<sup>2</sup> to Yugoslavia (32.57%) and 284 km<sup>2</sup> (0.99%) to Hungary (*Statistical Yearbook...*).

The main feature of Banat relief there is the great complexity of its shapes. On a relatively narrow surface one can meet all the major shapes of relief: mountains, hills, plains. They are disposed as a large amphitheater: in the East and South there are the walls of the mountains, in the West and North-West the plain and in the lower part of Tisa plain and the mountain one, on the North-South direction, there lays the piedmont hills line.

The complexity of the natural landscape of the historical Banat (the great variety of the relief, the temperate climate with sub-Mediterranean influences, the rich network of running waters, the fertile soils and the forest and silvosteppe vegetation) have favoured the development of the human settlements on its entire surface with a more pronounced concentration in the plain and hill zones.

The demographic researches concerning the historical Banat<sup>1</sup> are relatively few and they are mostly regarding the feudal period with an extent during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century, the accent being placed on colonization, ethnical structure, with interpretations more or less corresponding to the historical realities<sup>2</sup>. For the period preceding the First World War and generally the late period of the modern époque, the demographic concerns are sporadic<sup>3</sup>. The problem is still presenting a special significance because the changes registered in time in the dynamics of the population are representing certain indices of the changes within the society. At the threshold between the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the intervention of the political factor in the modifications of the demographic structure and of the Banat habitat is more reduced than during the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the first decades of the next one. During 1880 - 1890 there were set 11 new settlements by colonization: 7 in Caraș-Severin County<sup>4</sup>, 3 in Timiș County<sup>5</sup> and one in Torontal County<sup>6</sup>. In 1890, 13266 inhabitants were living in these new settlements. Most of them were small and middle settlements having between 300 and 1900 inhabitants. After 1900 the process of colonization loses its intensity and no other new settlements were settled any more. The colonizations were made only within the existing settlements.

The General Censers in 1910 is showing the existence within the three countries of historical Banat of 795 settlements, of which 8 were towns: Timișoara, Vrșac, Pančevo, Bela Crkva, Lugoj, Caransebeș, Zrenjanin, Kikinda. Taking into account the demographic realities of the historical Banat, excepting the mentioned towns, the habitat of the province is defined by middle-sized settlements, having between 1100 and 3000 inhabitants. According to the mentioned censers from the 787 rural settlements 79 used to have up to 500 inhabitants, 222 between 500 and 1000 inhabitants, 383 between 1000 and 3000 and 103 over 3000 inhabitants<sup>7</sup>. From the point of view of the geographical repartition of the very small (0-500 inhabitants) and small settlements (500-1000 inhabitants) they are larger in number in mountain and hill region, being agglomerated in the depressions, on certain river valleys, in the contact zone made of hills and plain. Even though in the high mountain zone of Banat the climate soil and vegetation conditions are favorable enough, the settlements of permanent characteristic are very few. In the Banat Plain there were predominant middle settlements (1000-3000 inhabitants) and the large settlements (over 3000 permanent inhabitants). From the 207 settlements of the Torontal County, mostly made up by plain, only 34 were having less than 1000 inhabitants in 1910, while 54 were having over 3000 inhabitants<sup>8</sup>.

The dynamics of the population of the historical Banat in the half century preceding the First World War has been slowly evolving. In order to exemplify this reality we shall present the official data of the successive censuses between 1869 and 1910.

*Table 1.*

**The evolution of the total population<sup>9</sup>**

County	1869	1880	1890	1900	1910	Difference 1869-1910	%
Caraș-Severin	378,077	380,313	407,635	441,266	464,163	86,086	22.8
Timiș	413,327	397,036	437,039	470,798	500,835	87,500	21.2
Torontal	545,585	530,988	588,750	607,538	615,151	69,566	12.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,336,989</b>	<b>1,308,337</b>	<b>1,433,424</b>	<b>1,519,602</b>	<b>1,580,149</b>	<b>243,160</b>	<b>18.2</b>

Except the period between 1869 and 1880 where there was registered a dwindling of population (more accentuated in Timiș County), in the remaining part of the period the growth of the population was relatively constant, but reduced. In a 41 years period the number of the inhabitants grew with only 243,160 (18.2%) persons that means an yearly average growth of 5930 people, i.e. 0.45%, 0.56% in Caraș-Severin District, 0.52% in Timiș District and only 0.31% in Torontal District. The causes of this slow evolution of population where multiple. A low rate of birthrate, as a result of the extension of the family's mentality of having 1-2 children, has been obviously influencing the demographic dynamics.

*Table 2.*

**The evolution of natality between 1901-1910 (%)<sup>10</sup>**

County/Town	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910
Caraș-Severin	3,00	3,03	2,95	2,97	2,76	2,92	2,87	2,71	2,93	2,92
Timiș	3,43	3,44	3,42	3,37	3,03	3,27	3,15	3,10	3,21	3,09
Torontal	3,31	3,33	3,29	3,38	3,16	3,33	3,12	3,00	3,04	3,10
Timișoara	2,51	2,64	2,57	2,61	2,50	2,54	2,46	2,06	2,50	2,64
Vrșac	3,31	3,33	3,29	3,38	3,16	3,33	3,12	3,00	3,04	3,10
Pančevo	3,07	2,86	3,15	3,13	2,82	2,86	2,82	2,74	2,84	2,71
<b>Banat</b>	<b>3,18</b>	<b>3,20</b>	<b>3,20</b>	<b>3,22</b>	<b>3,14</b>	<b>3,12</b>	<b>3,02</b>	<b>2,86</b>	<b>3,06</b>	<b>3,01</b>
<b>Transylvania</b>	<b>3,50</b>	<b>3,55</b>	<b>3,39</b>	<b>3,47</b>	<b>3,33</b>	<b>3,48</b>	<b>3,57</b>	<b>3,63</b>	<b>3,67</b>	<b>3,52</b>
<b>Hungary</b>	<b>3,76</b>	<b>3,86</b>	<b>3,65</b>	<b>3,70</b>	<b>3,55</b>	<b>3,60</b>	<b>3,62</b>	<b>3,67</b>	<b>3,71</b>	<b>3,54</b>

Comparing the dates concerning the natality in the historical Banat in the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century one could easily find that it is sensibly below the average natality in Transylvania and the entire Hungary. Especially Timișoara has a low birthrate. During the last decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the Banat natality has registered an inferior average compared the average in Transylvania and entire Hungary. The yearly average during the entire decade was of 3,42 % in the historical Banat: 3,71 % in Transylvania and 4,04 % in the entire Hungary.<sup>11</sup>

The low birthrate there has been correlated with a high enough rate of mortality especially the infantile one. For the same period (1901 - 1910) the mortality rate has varied between 2,38 5 and 2,82 %, being high in Torontal District and Vrșac City. Comparing to the decade between 1891 - 1900, when the yearly average of the mortality reaches 2,98 %, during the first decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century it goes down to 2,64 % yet being over the yearly average in Transylvania (2,57 %9 and entire Hungary (2,55 %).

*Table 3.*

**The evolution of the mortality between 1801 - 1910 (%)<sup>12</sup>**

County/Town	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	
Caras-Severin	23,3	23,7	26,1	24,4	25,2	23,6	24,4	26,4	23,7	23,3	
Timiș	23,6	24,2	25,0	24,4	26,2	25,2	25,4	26,0	25,8	23,7	
torontal	24,6	27,3	39,3	28,6	31,5	27,6	28,8	30,5	29,5	26,2	
Timișoara	23,0	25,3	23,9	23,2	26,0	24,4	24,5	21,0	25,4	23,2	
Vrșac	26,7	28,1	25,3	26,8	28,8	30,7	31,7	25,6	27,8	25,3	
Pančevo	24,3	29,2	28,5	24,8	31,6	27,7	29,3	29,8	29,7	26,9	
<b>Banat (average)</b>	<b>24,3</b>	<b>26,3</b>	<b>26,3</b>	<b>25,4</b>	<b>28,2</b>	<b>28,2</b>	<b>27,4</b>	<b>26,5</b>	<b>26,9</b>	<b>24,7</b>	<b>26,42</b>
<b>Transylvania (average)</b>	<b>25,4</b>	<b>28,4</b>	<b>25,6</b>	<b>24,2</b>	<b>25,6</b>	<b>25,3</b>	<b>36,3</b>	<b>25,1</b>	<b>26,3</b>	<b>24,9</b>	<b>25,71</b>
<b>Hungary (average)</b>	<b>25,1</b>	<b>27,0</b>	<b>26,1</b>	<b>24,8</b>	<b>27,8</b>	<b>24,9</b>	<b>25,6</b>	<b>25,0</b>	<b>25,4</b>	<b>23,4</b>	<b>25,51</b>

The high proportion of mortality was caused by the high proportion of children death' up to the age of 7 and by the very accentuated infant mortality. For example, during the period 1909 - 1912, the proportion of the deceased children up to the age of 7 has varied between 26,8 % and 31,7 % from the total deceased. From the total amount of those borne between 1909 - 1912 there have died up to the age of 1 between 16,3 % and 18,7 %<sup>13</sup>.

The consequence of this state of facts was a low natural increase, sensibility under the average of other Hungarian regions at the threshold between the 19 and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The dynamics of the natural increase between 1901 - 191 (%)<sup>14</sup>

County/Town	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	
Caraș-Severin	0,67	0,66	0,34	0,53	0,24	0,56	0,43	0,70	0,56	0,59	
Timiș	1,07	1,02	0,92	0,93	0,41	0,75	0,61	0,50	0,63	0,72	
torontal	1,32	1,18	0,89	1,02	0,46	1,02	0,85	0,51	0,91	1,00	
Timișoara	0,21	0,11	0,18	0,29	-0,10	0,10	0,10	-0,04	-0,04	0,32	
Vrșac	0,64	0,52	0,76	0,70	0,28	0,26	-0,05	0,44	0,26	0,57	
Pančevo	0,64	0,06	0,30	0,65	-0,34	-,09	-0,11	-0,24	-0,13	0,02	
<b>Banat (average)</b>	<b>0,75</b>	<b>0,57</b>	<b>0,57</b>	<b>0,68</b>	<b>0,32</b>	<b>0,30</b>	<b>0,28</b>	<b>0,21</b>	<b>0,37</b>	<b>0,54</b>	<b>4,59</b>
<b>Transylvania (average)</b>	<b>0,96</b>	<b>0,71</b>	<b>0,83</b>	<b>1,05</b>	<b>0,77</b>	<b>0,95</b>	<b>0,94</b>	<b>1,12</b>	<b>1,04</b>	<b>1,03</b>	<b>9,40</b>
<b>Hungary (average)</b>	<b>1,25</b>	<b>1,16</b>	<b>1,04</b>	<b>1,22</b>	<b>0,77</b>	<b>1,11</b>	<b>1,06</b>	<b>1,17</b>	<b>1,17</b>	<b>1,20</b>	<b>11,15</b>

For the entire 1900 - 1910 decade, the population growth on the natural increase basis was of 4,59 % while in Transylvania it was of 9,40 % and in Hungary 11,15 %. It is also imposed another statement. The real growth of Banat population between 1900 - 1910 (See Table 1) has been of only 51793 inhabitants, i.e. 3,40 %, so under the average given by the natural increase. The explanation relies in the permanent or temporary emigration of an important number of people in other countries: Germany, Romania and especially in the USA. During 1910, according to the official Hungarian census, 24871 persons from the historical Banat left abroad (17572 men and 7299 women), of which 22679 persons in the USA<sup>15</sup>. The inhabitants that were abroad and left from the Banat settlements were representing 1,58 % of the province population in 1910. The mobility of the population, characteristic to a modern world, is a permanent change there is present in Banat too, being generated here by a great deal of typical causes. The phenomena are determined in the demographic evolution were having a certain impact on the age structure of the inhabitants.

The winding of the natality, that accentuated towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and especially at the beginning of the next one, together with a high natality and mortality infant rate and generally of the children to the age of 7, has diminished the proportion of this age groups up to 19 years. The diminishing is not very substantial (only 1,5 %), but still higher than the average on entire Hungary (0,2%). In exchange there grows the proportion of the group between 20 - 60 years and especially of the third age population (1,2 %). The explanation resides not in the effects of the natural increase but in the consequence of the colonisations in the period 1880 - 1890<sup>17</sup> and of the population absorption from

Tabel 5.

The age structure of the population between 1900 / 1910 (%)<sup>16</sup>

County/Town	1900					1910					Difference between 1910 - 1900				
	< 6	6-11	15-19	20-60	>60	< 6	6-11	15-19	20-60	>60	< 6	6-11	15-19	20-60	>60
Caraș-Severin	13,5	17,6	9,7	50,6	8,6	12,6	17,2	9,4	51,3	9,5	-0,9	-0,4	-0,3	0,7	0,9
Timiș	14,4	18,9	10,3	49,0	7,4	13,2	18,5	9,3	49,7	9,8	-1,2	-0,4	-1,0	0,7	2,4
Torontal	15,3	19,3	10,9	46,8	7,7	14,8	19,4	9,2	47,4	9,2	-0,5	0,1	-1,7	0,6	1,5
Timișoara	10,5	16,1	11,5	54,3	7,6	10,1	16,0	10,7	55,3	7,9	-0,4	-0,1	-0,8	1,0	0,3
Vrșac	12,0	16,5	11,5	51,1	8,9	11,9	17,9	10,2	49,9	10,1	-0,1	1,4	-1,3	1,2	1,2
Pančevo	12,4	17,6	11,4	50,4	8,2	11,3	18,1	11,0	50,1	9,5	-1,1	0,5	-0,4	-0,3	1,3
<b>Banat (average)</b>	<b>13,0</b>	<b>17,7</b>	<b>10,9</b>	<b>50,3</b>	<b>8,1</b>	<b>12,3</b>	<b>17,8</b>	<b>10,0</b>	<b>50,6</b>	<b>9,3</b>	<b>-0,7</b>	<b>0,1</b>	<b>-0,9</b>	<b>0,3</b>	<b>1,2</b>
<b>Transylvania (average)</b>	<b>15,0</b>	<b>19,9</b>	<b>10,0</b>	<b>47,6</b>	<b>8,5</b>	<b>15,1</b>	<b>19,0</b>	<b>9,9</b>	<b>46,9</b>	<b>9,1</b>	<b>0,1</b>	<b>0,9</b>	<b>-0,1</b>	<b>-0,7</b>	<b>0,6</b>
<b>Hungary (average)</b>	<b>15,9</b>	<b>19,6</b>	<b>10,0</b>	<b>46,8</b>	<b>7,7</b>	<b>15,3</b>	<b>20,1</b>	<b>19,9</b>	<b>46,6</b>	<b>8,2</b>	<b>-0,6</b>	<b>0,5</b>	<b>-0,1</b>	<b>-0,2</b>	<b>0,5</b>

other zones for working in the different economical activities (mining, industry, transports) is full extension. On the agricultural estates in Timiș and Torontal Counties there were registered according to the census in 1910 a number of 34222 servants and 83150 agricultural workers<sup>18</sup> that were over the age of 16. Important is the fact that there has been realized a demographic stability from the point of view of the structure on age groups, with a slight tendency of growth at the proportion of the mature population engaged in different sectors of activity, making of material and spiritual goods. It is also one of the causes that triggered the real progresses in the Banat economical life at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century<sup>19</sup>.

The structure on age groups has been influencing in a certain measure also the evolution of the active population in relation with that considered to be the kept by older people, i.e. with 64381 persons between 1900 - 1910 (with 2,2 %). A cause has been represented by the enriching of the age group over 60 and of the women in the sex structure of the population.

The repartition of the active population and of the one kept by older people has of course a relative value. A great deal of the women and men over 60 in the rural environment, having agriculture as basic preoccupation, were active and were effectively part to the making of the production process imposed by the agrarian technology.

*Table 6.*

**The active and dependent population in 1900 and 1910<sup>20</sup>**

County/Town	Active				Kept			
	1900		1910		1900		1910	
Caraș-Severin	220199	49,7%	212980	45,7%	222802	50,3%	253158	54,3%
Timiș	177281	45,2%	173899	43,4%	214533	54,8%	227011	56,6%
Torontal	258983	43,9%	248105	41,7%	331335	56,1%	346238	58,3%
Timișoara	29850	50,4%	38171	52,6%	29379	49,6%	34384	47,4%
Vrșac	11649	46,2%	12742	46,6%	13550	53,8%	14628	53,4%
Pančevo	8737	45,9%	9935	47,7%	10307	54,1%	10873	52,3%
<b>Total Banat</b>	<b>706699</b>	<b>46,2%</b>	<b>695832</b>	<b>44,0%</b>	<b>821906</b>	<b>53,8%</b>	<b>886227</b>	<b>56,0%</b>

That evaluation is demonstrating as clear as possible the phenomena that were going on in the Banat society in full process of modernization. The town, by its rapid diversification of the human productive activities is attracting the active population - men and women (fact attested by the sex structure). If in the rural environment the active population is losing a little comparing to the population

considered being kept, in town the phenomenon is opposite, without having large proportions. The loss is higher in Caraş-Severin (4 %) and Torontal districts part due to the emigration and migration in the towns. Important is the fact that the active population was occupying an important place (46,2 % in 1900) in the demographic structure of Banat, succeeding the average on entire Hungary (44,7 % in 1900 and 42,4 % in 1910)<sup>21</sup>. The important proportions of the active population also explain the intense economical activity that is developing in this province at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The demographic evolution on sexes is indicating a normal dynamics in the Banat society corresponding to the natural biological processes in the European society.

The almost constant equilibrium with some oscillations from one year to another around the value of 50 % between the two sexes can also be seen in the structure of population of Banat. The yearly births dynamics itself was assuring with slight differences this biological equilibrium one can easily see in all normal stages crossed by the European society. That oscillations that were produced in the rural environment or in the urban one in different stages were more the consequence of the natural biological factors that were determining the demographic structures and even more the effect of some social and economic factors.

*Table 7.*

**The population on sexes in 1900 and 1910<sup>22</sup>**

County/Town	Active				Kept			
	1900		1910		1900		1910	
Caraş-Severin	224405	50,7%	234878	50,4%	218596	49,3%	231261	49,6%
Timiş	196065	50,0%	199781	49,8%	195781	50,0%	201129	50,2%
Torontal	284789	49,9%	294711	49,6%	295529	50,1%	199632	50,4%
Timișoara	28928	48,8%	35681	49,2%	30300	51,2%	36874	50,8%
Vršac	12590	50,0%	13507	49,3%	10544	50,0%	13863	50,7%
Pančevo	9454	49,6%	9590	46,1%	10544	50,4%	10264	53,9%
<b>Total Banat</b>	<b>766232</b>	<b>49,8%</b>	<b>788148</b>	<b>49,1%</b>	<b>763359</b>	<b>50,2%</b>	<b>793031</b>	<b>50,9%</b>

During the first decade at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the male population has registered a growth of 21916 persons and the female population a growth of 29672 persons. The difference of 7756 persons represented one of the causes of the discrepancy created between the active and the kept by other



people population. We take into consideration the fact that there is an important difference between the men registered as active and the women considered as such in the official censuses. We exemplify with the data in 1910.

*Table 8.*

**The active population in 1910 (%)<sup>23</sup>**

County/Town	Men, (%) from		Women, (%) from	
	Total men	Total inhabitants	Total women	Total inhabitants
Caraș-Severin	71,2	35,9	19,8	9,8
Timiș	69,8	34,8	17,2	8,6
Torontal	67,1	33,2	16,8	8,5
Timișoara	72,6	35,7	33,3	16,9
Vrșac	71,4	35,3	22,3	11,3
Pančevo	70,2	35,6	24,7	12,2
<b>Total Banat</b>	<b>70,4</b>	<b>35,1</b>	<b>22,4</b>	<b>11,2</b>

From the total number of the Banat population only about one ninth of the women were considered as part of the active population while men were more than 1/3. Certainly, the growth of the feminine population proportion, even though in an insignificant measure, has been still influencing the balance between the active and the kept by other people population. One cannot omit the reality that an important part of women (22,4 %) were already engaged into unknown activities by the censuses of the time. Their proportion was more significant in the urban environments, especially in Timișoara where 1/3 women were doing such kind of activities.

The Banat population during the First World War used to have a rural structure. Only 12,77 % from the total number of inhabitants used to live in the eight towns. Timiș District with Timișoara (72555 inhabitants) and Vrșac (10255 inhabitants) were having in 1910 over 1/2 of the urban population. The rural population was representing 87,23 % of the Banat inhabitants with a higher proportion (94,23 %) in Caraș-Severin District. The dynamics of the two basic demographic components constitutes an essential due for the definition of the processes in the society at a certain stage of its development. In order to exemplify this reality we present the evolution of the urban population and that of the rural one between 1869 and 1910.

The dynamics of the urban population (24) (% of the total population)<sup>24</sup>

County	1869		1890		1900		1910		Difference 1869-1910	
Caraş-Severin	15166	4,0%	17953	4,4%	21573	4,9%	26764	5,8%	11598	76,4%
Timiș	66223	16,0%	75749	17,3%	90277	19,2%	110106	22,0%	43483	66,3%
Torontal	55388	10,2%	62650	10,6%	65799	10,8%	72634	11,8%	17246	31,1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>136777</b>	<b>10,2%</b>	<b>156352</b>	<b>10,9%</b>	<b>177649</b>	<b>11,7%</b>	<b>209504</b>	<b>12,6%</b>	<b>72727</b>	<b>53,2%</b>

The urban population is registering a constant growth in all three counties more pronounced at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Timișoara is almost doubling its population between 1869 and 1910, the number of the inhabitants growing from 36844 persons to 72555. The population of Caransebeș City grows during the same period from 3512 inhabitants to 7637; of Lugoj from 11654 to 19126 inhabitants, of Biserica Albă from 8284 to 10181 inhabitants etc. In only 10 years (between 1900 and 1910) the population of Timișoara grow with 16743 inhabitants that is explaining its intense economical, social and cultural development in this period.

Tabel 10.

The dynamics of the rural proportion (% of the total population)<sup>25</sup>

County	1869		1890		1900		1910		Difference 1869-1910	
Caraş-Severin	362911	4,0%	17953	4,4%	21573	4,9%	26764	5,8%	11598	20,5%
Timiș	347104	16,0%	75749	17,3%	90277	19,2%	110106	22,0%	43883	12,6%
Torontal	490197	10,2%	62650	10,6%	65799	10,8%	72634	11,8%	17246	10,7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1200210</b>	<b>89,8%</b>	<b>1277072</b>	<b>89,1%</b>	<b>1341953</b>	<b>88,3%</b>	<b>1361891</b>	<b>87,4%</b>	<b>170433</b>	<b>14,2%</b>

The analyses of the data presented above is leading us to some important conclusions concerning the changes in the Banat society at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the next one. According to the total growth of historical Banat population, the eight towns are registering a substantial increase of 53,2 % with a yearly average (1,3 %) almost three times higher. Otherwise, the population in the Banat village is only growing 14,20 % with 170433 inhabitants. It was equal with a yearly average between 1869 - 1910 of approximately 0,35 % or 4157 inhabitants for all the 787 rural settlements. The reason of this slowly growth did not rely into an inferior natality at the village

compared to that in towns. On the contrary the yearly average of the natality was higher into the rural environment. The explanation relies into a mortality average, especially infantile and of the children to the age 7, superior in the rural environment. There was added the phenomena of emigration and that of migration to the urban settlements, phenomenon more intense during the period we are referring to. The development and modernization of the Banat economy, the fast-accentuated diversification of the branches of activity in the urban environment by the important progress in the industry, trade, credit, public services, transports were implying an even larger number of employees. The town and cities by the natural increase could not satisfy the working force request. Therefore, they will fast absorb an important number of workers from the Banat villages, imply them in the new jobs and take them apart from their traditional life. This is also the main reason of the pronounced increase of population over 20 in the main villages of Banat Region (see Table 5).

The important progress of the Banat Towns by the First World War will be having multiple positive consequences for the society in the entire province. They would have been absorbing nucleuses of the surplus of the rural working force but they will be first of all the models of the modernizing transformations, of the diversification and rentability of the human activity. Under their effect there would have been gradually changed the way of life and the mentality of the people in Banat. The Banat village itself is catch in other rhythms and adopted other occupations and values, is getting modernized. The rural population was torn by the unilateral practice of agriculture and the entire society, included within the process of an obvious modernization has been adopting itself to the new request of the time.

## NOTE

1. The historic Banat was bordered by natural boundaries, the rivers Mureș, Tisa and Danube, and a conventional boundary crossing the Cerna, Țarcu, Poiana Ruscăi Mountains, covering 28523 km<sup>2</sup>. It was administratively divided between into the counties of Caraș - Severin (11074 km<sup>2</sup>), Timiș (7433 km<sup>2</sup>), Torontal (10016 km<sup>2</sup>). Cf. *Magyar Statisztikai Közlemények*, vol. 142, Budapest, 1912, p. 13.

2. Gr. Popiți, *Date și documente bănățene*, Timișoara, 1939; J.J. Ehrler, *Banatul de la origini până acum. 1774*, Timișoara, 1982; Șt. Manciușea, *Elemente etnice străine așezate în Banat*, in "Banatul de altădată. Studii istorice", vol. I, Timișoara, 1944; A. Țintă, *Colonizările habsburgice în Banat. 1716 - 1740*, Timișoara, 1972; N.M. Pop, *Populația Banatului în timpul lui Iosif al II-lea*, in "Lucrările Institut. de Geografie a Univ. din Cluj", 7, 1942.

3. Lalesco, Traian, *La problème ethnographique du Banat*, Paris, 1919; pesty, Frigyes, *Krassó vármegye története*, vol. I - IV, Budapest, 1883 - 1884; Borovszky, Samu, *Torontal vármegye*, Budapest, 1911, Borovszky S., *Temesvár*, Budapest, 1911 et al.

4. The localities: Bethausen, Timiș County (Bethlenháza), Nagybodófalva, Țipari, com. Coșteiu, Timiș County (Szapáryfalva), Dumbrava, Timiș County (Igazfalva), Brezon, com.

Forotic, Caraș-Severin County (Bársonyfalva), Sălbăgețu Nou, com. Sacu, Caraș-Severin County (Gyulatelep).

5. The localities: Dumbrăvița, Timișoara (Ujszentes), Ghizela, Timiș County (Gizella-falva), Iosifalău, com. Topolovățu Mare, Timiș County (Ujjózsefalva).

6. Localitatea Felsömuzslya.

7. *Magyar Statisztikai Közlemények (M.ST.K.)*, vol. 42, Budapest 1912, p. 842-850.

8. *Idem.*

9. *Idem.*

10. *Idem*, vol. 50, Budapest, p. 69-71.

11. *Idem*, vol. 7, Budapest, p. 99-101.

12. *Idem*, vol. 50, Budapest, p. 69-71.

13. *Idem*, vol. 50, Budapest, p. 97-98.

14. *Idem*, vol. 50, Budapest, p. 69-71.

15. *Idem*, vol. 61, Budapest, p. 248-273.

16. *Idem*, vol. 42, Budapest, p. 17.

17. Victor Jinga, *Problemele fundamentale ale Transilvaniei*, vol. II, Brașov, 1945, p. 260 - 261.

18. *M. St. K.*, vol. 48, p. 47.

19. I. Munteanu, *Mișcarea națională din Banat*, Timișoara, 1994, p. 23 - 80.

20. *M. St. K.*, vol. 48, p. 32-33.

21. According to the data from *M. St. K.*, vol. 15, Budapest, 1906, p. 89 și vol. 48, p. 32-33.

22. *M. St. K.*, vol. 42, p. 13.

23. *Idem*, vol. 56, Budapest, 1915, p. 126-129.

24. *Idem*, vol. 42, p. 842-850; vol. 56., p. 24 - 27.

25. *Idem.*