

Croatia

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Introduction – Key Issues

The Museum Documentation Center (MDC), a public institution founded in 1955, is the main provider of the museum statistics in Croatia (the number of museums, collections, registration, visits, staff, ownership, etc.).

Official, registered museums (those that meet the criteria required by the law) are listed in the *Register of public and private museums in the Republic of Croatia* (in Croatian: *Upisnik javnih i privatnih muzeja u Republici Hrvatskoj*) of the **Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia**. Since the new bylaw on the register was passed (2019), the register has been kept by MDC and available to the public at MDC web page (<http://upisnik.mdc.hr/>). According to the *Register of public and private museums* there are **160 museums** in Croatia (2019). The number of museums is expected to grow, as some institutions are in the process of being registered.

In the Museum Documentation Centre's *Register of museums, galleries and collections of the Republic of Croatia* there are 305 units (2019) because some of the museums are part of the bigger, complex institutions and some museums and collections are opened to the public but not officially registered because they do not meet the criteria required by the law.

MDC, as the coordinator of the System of museums in Croatia, gathers data on new and existing museums/collections in the *Register of museums, galleries and collections of the Republic of Croatia* combining fieldwork, professional communication, research, and annual reports analyses. Online *Register (OREG)* is available for museums so that the users and institutions can update their data regularly. After the administrator's approval, a set of data on museums is available and researchable online at MDC's portal [muzEJ!](#).

A Guide to European Museum Statistics

Museum statistics and Annual reports are annually published online at [MDC's web site](#) as we gather the data.

Definition of Museum

The definition of museum from the (new) *Museum Act* passed in 2018 (in Croatian: *Zakon o muzejima*, Narodne novine, [61/18](#)) describes museum as:

“ a legal entity or organizational unit of the legal entity which performs museum functions for the purposes of study, education and enjoyment of tangible and intangible heritage of humanity and its environment, in the service of society and its cultural and economic development, open to the public.”

The term “museum” itself is not protected by the law in Croatia so it can be used for all sorts of establishments.

Existence of Museum-related Laws

The work of all museums in Croatia is regulated by the Museum Act that was released in July 2018, but some related bylaws are still being drafted.

There are special acts passed for the Museums of Ivan Meštrović and the Jasenovac Memorial site. The Museum Act is completed by regulations - rule books and other resolutions, bylaws, statutes (some are still in the process of being drafted/passed) and the *Convention on international exhibitions*.

There are laws that refer to the culture in general, and do affect museums as well.

Act on protection and preservation of cultural property (in Croatian: *Zakon o zaštiti i očuvanju kulturnih dobara*) also applies on museum's registered objects and collections (registered objects are listed in the *Register of cultural property of the Republic of Croatia*).

Categories used regarding Type of Collection

Generally collections in museums are divided into museum collections and documentation collections. Both are protected by the Museum Act as cultural property and are subject to the legislation on protection and preservation of cultural property.

By the type of collections, museums in Croatia are divided into general, which have mixed collections, and specialized museums like archeological, ethnographical, natural history, science and technology museums and art museums.

Categories used regarding Type of Ownership

Type of ownership is classified according to the museum founder. There are two categories of museum ownership: public and private.

According to the (new) Museum Act, museums are subdivided into categories depending on the form of the agency legally responsible for them (type of ownership - state, municipality, private):

„Public museum is a non-profit making legal entity founded by the Republic of Croatia and other units of local and regional government or legal entity in their predominant ownership.

Private museum is a museum founded by other legal or private entity.

Museum of the religious community is a permanent exhibition of religious communities' museum's artefacts, open to the public.

Community museum, ecomuseum and collection are models of sustainable management of natural and cultural heritage that use mechanisms of partnership, networking, and/or heritage activism with the purpose of integral approach to preservation, interpretation and presentation of heritage in a particular area“.

A Guide to European Museum Statistics

More founders can establish a public or private museum. Obligations and rights between more founders are regulated by contracts.

State museums are almost entirely financed by the state. Other public museums are financed by local or regional authorities (their founders/owners) but they all receive State subsidy/funds, on the basis of an annual public call for financing or co-financing of the programs and projects of all the registered museums.

Existing Data – Basic Figures and Diagrams

Croatian Museum Statistics overview for 2018

Source of data: Register of Museums, galleries and collections in Croatia, Museum Documentation Center, 2019. Authors: Ivona Marić, Dunja Vranešević, Tea Rihtar Jurić.

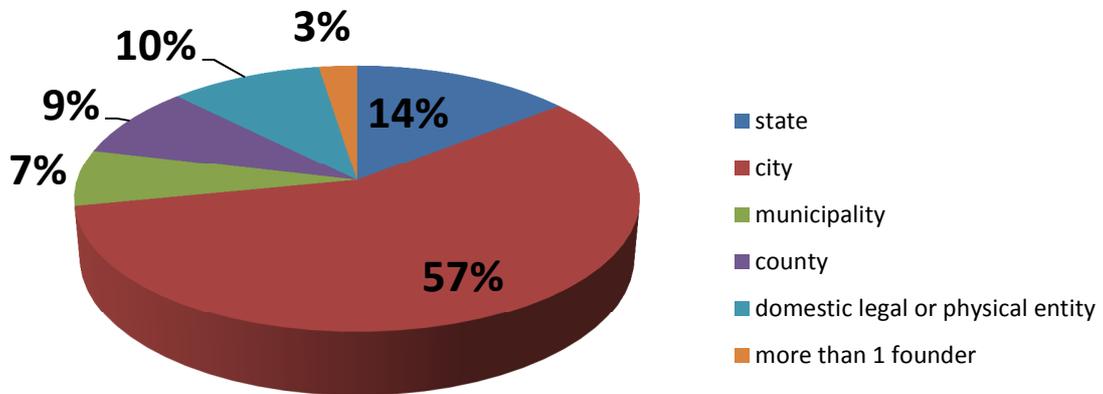
Last data for 2018 delivered: April 2019

Units in the MDC database (Register) in 2019: 305¹

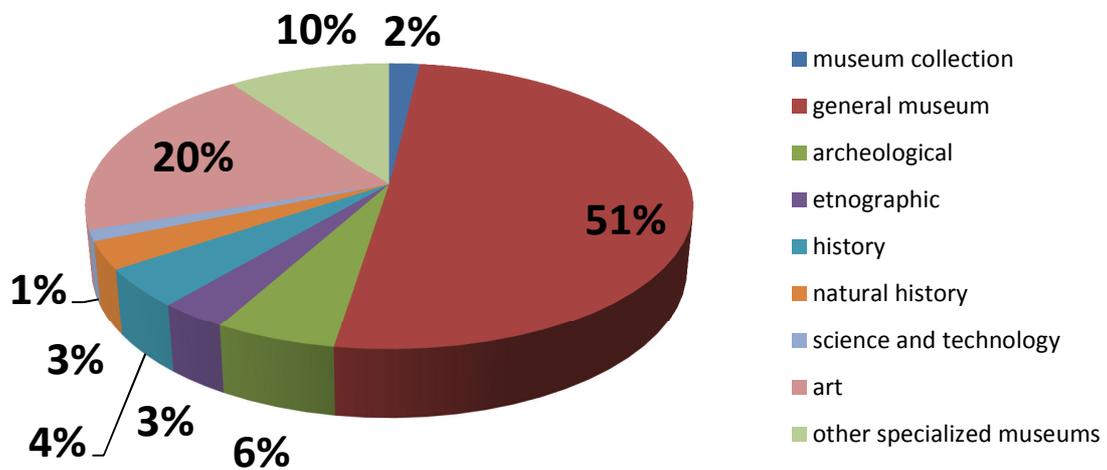
The data presented in the next charts refers only to the 160 legally established and registered museums.

¹ Number of physical units (museums). Some museums are complex institutions that gather several museums (units).

Museum founder



Type of museum

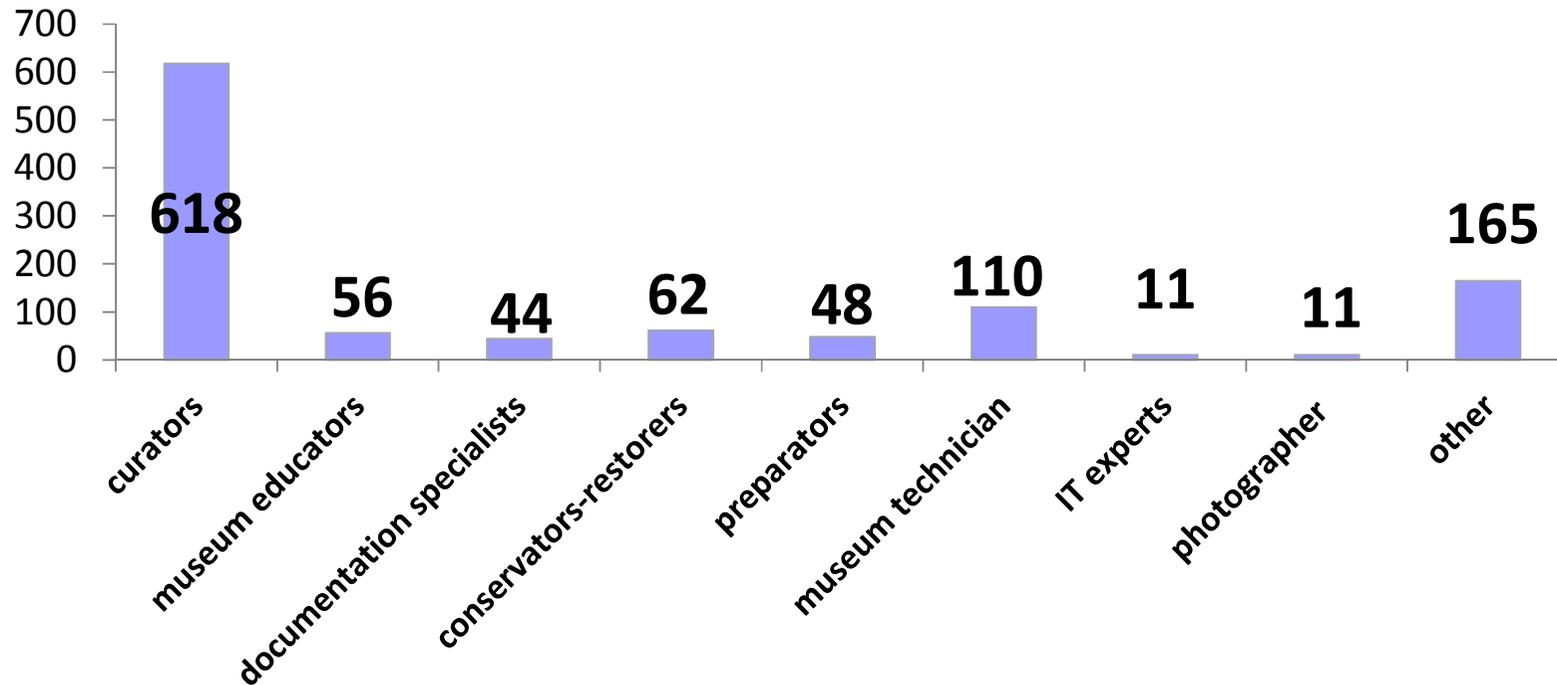


By the type of collection, general museums are the most common museums in Croatia (51%), then (specialized) art museums (20%); least common are museums of science and technology (1%).

Professional staff / positions

Total number of persons employed in museums: 1862

Total number of museum professionals: 1175²

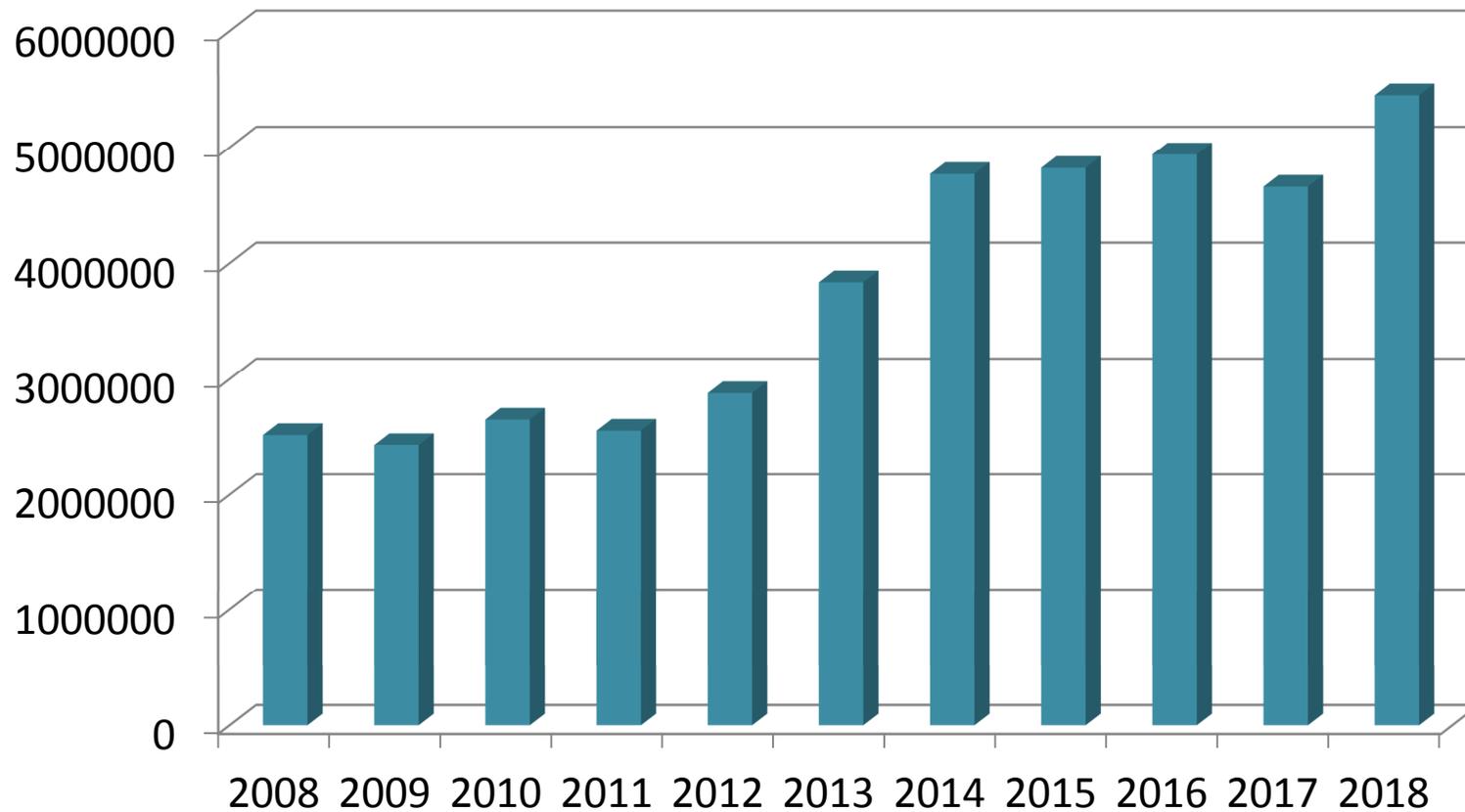


The highest number of museum professionals are curators, 7% (76) of them have 2 museum professions, amongst which the most common is the combination of curator and museum pedagogue. The second most common profession is museum technician (9%).

The least common professions are equally IT experts and photographers (1%).

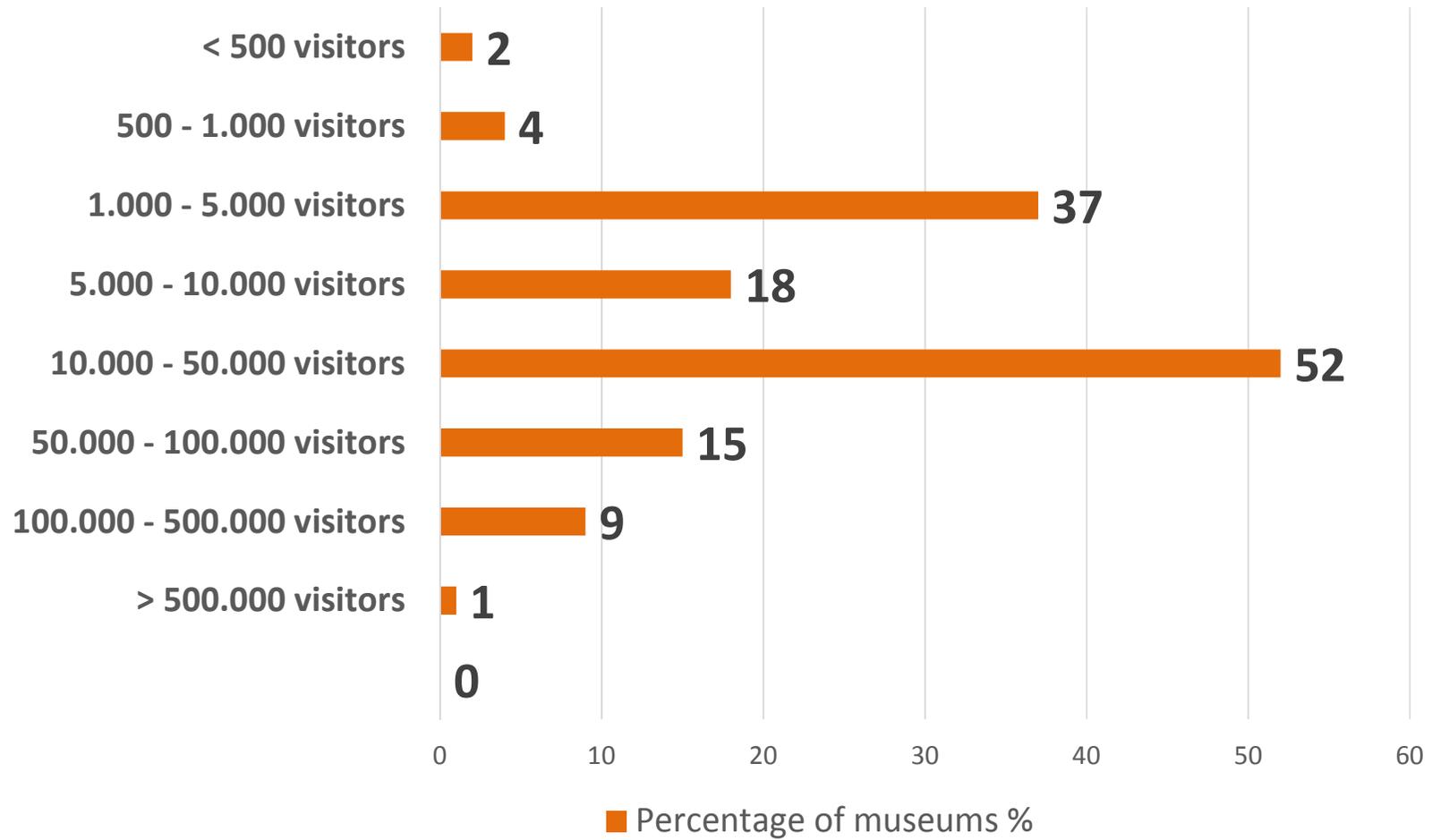
² not including trainees

Museum visits 2008 - 2018



The graph shows the constant growth in number of visits per year, and the little gap in 2017 is due to revised methodology (data table for museum visits) with several changes (division in groups for children and youth, free entrance separately shown) and new category was introduced (visits by foreign tourists).

Museums according to number of visitors in 2018



List of References

- Hrvatski sabor. (2018.) „Zakon o muzejima“ („*Museum Act*“). In: Narodne novine, 61/2018. https://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2018_07_61_1267.html (15-04-2019).
- Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia <https://www.min-kulture.hr/default.aspx?id=78> (24-07-2019)
- Register of public and private museums in the Republic of Croatia (*Upisnik javnih i privatnih muzeja u Republici Hrvatskoj*) <http://upisnik.mdc.hr/> (24-07-2019)
- Museum Documentation Center (MDC) <http://www.mdc.hr/>
- Croatian Museums portal *muzeJ!* <http://hvm.mdc.hr/>