

**UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT**  
**Department of Economic and Social Affairs**  
**Statistics Division**

**ESA/STAT/AC.91/3**  
**5 November 2003**

**English only**

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**Expert Group Meeting to**  
**Review the United Nations Demographic Yearbook System**  
**10-14 November 2003**  
**New York**

**Coverage and Completeness of *Demographic Yearbook Data*\***

**By the**

**Demographic Statistics Section**  
**Demographic and Social Statistics Branch**

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## I. FOCUS OF THE REPORT

1. The *Demographic Yearbook* data collection has been established for more than 50 years. Over the entire period of its data collection, almost all countries and areas, which receive *Demographic Yearbook* questionnaires from United Nations Statistics Division, have provided data on at least one of the questionnaires. Significant variations exist, however, among countries and areas. For example, among the 232 countries and areas that received annually dispatched *Demographic Yearbook* questionnaires from 1992 to 2001, almost 20 per cent never responded. Some have replied but occasionally, while a number of countries and areas have replied regularly. This report reviews recent experiences with respect to countries and areas' completion of the *Demographic Yearbook* questionnaires and assesses the level and completeness of response of countries and areas to the questionnaires. It examines possible explanations for repeated non-response of some countries and areas and incompletely filled questionnaires from others, and invites the Expert Group to consider a number of questions in their deliberations on the topic.

2. Six questionnaires are currently in use; three of them – *Population Estimates Questionnaire*, *Vital Statistics Questionnaire* and *International Travel and Migration Statistics Questionnaire* – are sent to 232 countries and areas annually to collect data on population size and composition, vital events and international migration. These data are usually from administrative records, civil registrations and population estimates. Another set of three questionnaires – *Population Census Questionnaire*, *Population Census Questionnaire on Household Characteristics* and *Population Census Questionnaires on Economic Characteristics* – are sent to a country when it is known that a census has been conducted, and they are sent every year until most of the data have been reported. These three questionnaires are used to collect population census data on population size, age and sex composition, geographical distribution, education, fertility, mortality, language, religion, ethnicity, citizenship, household characteristics including household size and composition and economic characteristics. (See Annex II of ESA/STAT/AC.91/1 for a list of tables in each questionnaire.) The questionnaires are generally sent to countries and areas by mail, and electronically if e-mail facility is available. In the last mailing of the questionnaires, in December 2002, the electronic version of the questionnaires was also sent on diskette.

3. The remainder of the report is organized as follows. Part II reviews the level of response to the *Demographic Yearbook* data collection with respect to:

(a) The level of response of countries and areas to the set of questionnaires in a specific period – the latest 10 years (1992-2001) for the annually dispatched questionnaires, and the last two rounds of censuses (1985-1994 and 1995-2004), for the census questionnaires;

(b) The frequency with which countries and areas have responded;

(c) The completeness of data provided through the questionnaires; and

(d) The recency of the data that countries and areas provided.

Part III identifies gaps in the data obtained through the *Demographic Yearbook* data collection system, and factors that may be considered barriers to data transfer. In part IV, a selection of strategies for improving the level of response is reviewed and additional issues are raised for the Expert Group to consider.

## II. LEVEL OF RESPONSE

### A. Context of the analysis

4. The analysis of responses of countries and areas to the *Demographic Yearbook* questionnaires is divided between the annual questionnaires and questionnaires dispatched in correspondence with a country's census date. Due to the different patterns of collection of these data, the frequency of response is depicted differently. For example, over the ten-year period under consideration, it is expected that the annual questionnaires would have been sent out ten times,<sup>1</sup> and the possible range of response frequency for each country or area would be from zero (if a country did not return any completed questionnaire during the ten year period) to ten (if the country returned the questionnaire each year). Within these extremes, some countries and areas "rarely" replied to the questionnaires (that is, only a few times, with a frequency of 1 to 3); some "regularly" (that is, with a frequency of 4 to 7), and others replied "consistently" (that is, the country responded to the questionnaire at least 8 out of 10 times).

5. In contrast, the census questionnaires can at the maximum register one response per questionnaire during a ten-year census period, except for countries and areas where the census is conducted on a five-year basis. The response levels for census questionnaires are therefore assessed in terms of whether or not a country responded once over a ten-year census period. To provide a point of reference in this analysis two census decades are considered (1985-1994 and 1995-2004).

6. One of the key questions this analysis seeks to ask is — is country response improving or not? For the countries and areas that have rarely responded to the annual questionnaires, the analysis tries to identify whether these responses were concentrated at the beginning or at the end of the considered time period. For countries and areas that did not respond in the recent ten-year period, it tries to determine when was the last time they responded to a *Demographic Yearbook* questionnaire. Responses to the census questionnaires were analysed in terms of the number of countries and areas that responded in the previous or present census decade or in both. For both types of questionnaires two key concerns are examined: (i) the scope of response, that is, some respond to one questionnaire or to all; and (ii) how recent the data provided are. For the census questionnaires, for example, the lag between the date when the census was conducted and when the data were reported might vary from country to country.

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<sup>1</sup> With the exception of the questionnaire on *International Travel and Migration Statistics*, which was not sent out in 2002 as it was being revised and prepared for pre-testing.

## B. Annually dispatched questionnaires

### (a) Frequency of country responses to the questionnaires

7. Among the 232 countries and areas that receive annual questionnaires in the 1992-2001 period, 51 have replied 8 to 10 times to at least one of the three questionnaires; 62 countries and areas have replied 4 to 7 times; 77 countries and areas have replied 1 to 3 times to at least one of the three annual questionnaires; and 42 have not replied to any questionnaire within this period.

8. The frequency of replies for the countries and areas varied by individual questionnaire. The frequency with which countries and areas have responded to the *Questionnaire on Population Estimates* is, for example, similar to that of *Vital Statistics* for the period 1992-2001 (Table 1). About 75 per cent of the countries and areas have replied within the period. Among the countries and areas that replied, about a quarter completed the two questionnaires 8 to 10 times, almost a third replied 4 to 7 times and close to half rarely replied (1 to 3 times).

9. The *International Travel and Migration Questionnaire*, on the other hand, had lower response during the period 1992-2001. Less than half (approximately 40 per cent) of all countries and areas replied to the request for international migration statistics. None of these countries and areas responded more than 8 times; and 50 per cent of the countries and areas that replied at least once during the period provided international migration data 4 to 7 times and slightly fewer provided data 1 to 3 times. Detailed information on the response frequencies for countries is provided in Annex I.

**Table 1: Frequency of responses and non-responses for annually dispatched questionnaire (1992-2001)**

Annual Questionnaires	Number of countries and areas replying at least once to the questionnaires				Non-response	
	8-10 times	4-7 times	1-3 times	All responses	Number of countries and areas	As percentage of total
<b>Population Estimates</b>	40	54	76	170	62	27
<b>Vital Statistics</b>	47	56	68	171	61	26
<b>International Travel and Migration</b>	0	50	48	98	134	58

10. Most countries or areas have responded to a *Demographic Yearbook* questionnaire at least once. However, the data suggest that several countries and areas have stopped reporting data to the Statistics Division, some as far back as the 1960s. Among the 42 countries and areas that have not responded to any *Demographic Yearbook* questionnaire in the last ten years, one country last responded in the 1960s, 11 countries and areas, in the 1970s, 15 in the 1980s, and five, in 1990-1991. Information about these countries can be found in Annex I.

11. The majority of countries and areas that replied consistently (8 to 10 times) in the 1992-2001 period have provided responses in the latter part of the period under consideration. Within this period, few of the countries and areas that responded in the early part of the decade have

failed to respond in the latter part: all the 54 countries and areas that replied 4 to 7 times to the *Population Estimates Questionnaire*, have replied at least once since 1998. Similarly, of the 56 countries and areas that replied regularly to the *Vital Statistics Questionnaire*, 49 have replied at least once since 1998 while five last replied in 1997. Among the 50 countries and areas that replied regularly to the *International Travel and Migration Questionnaire*, 48 have responded at least once since 1998. For the other two, one last replied in 1995 and the other in 1997.

12. In contrast, many of the countries and areas that replied 1 to 3 times in the 1992-2001 period responded in the early part of the ten-year period, and have not since responded to any of the questionnaires. Among the 76 countries and areas that have replied to the *Population Estimates Questionnaire*, only 48 countries and areas replied since 1998; among the 68 countries and areas that replied to *Vital Statistics Questionnaire* and 48 countries and areas that replied to the *International Travel and Migration Questionnaire*, 44 and 23 respectively replied at least once since 1998.

### **(b) Completeness of the data provided**

13. Countries and areas that have replied to the annually dispatched questionnaires differ in terms of the completeness of information that they provided in the questionnaires. Not all countries and areas that responded consistently to a questionnaire, that is, at least 8 times in the ten-year period, would necessarily have provided complete data for each table requested. In this section, several examples are provided to illustrate difficulties that countries and areas have in providing data on certain characteristics.

14. Population by age and sex is generally considered one of the most basic tables that are requested, and for which the most complete statistics are often available. Accordingly, most countries and areas that replied to the *Population Estimates Questionnaire* were able to provide population data cross-classified by age and sex; although several of them were not able to provide data with the other requested cross-classification variables. Among the 170 countries and areas that have replied to the questionnaire at least once, 146 countries and areas have provided population data cross-classified by age and sex for at least one year within the ten-year period considered, 15 repeatedly provided population data by sex but not cross-classified by age, and 9 provided total population only, without any further breakdown.

15. Of the 171 countries and areas that responded to the *Vital Statistics Questionnaire* at least once during the period 1992-2001 (Table 1), 149 provided infant deaths data at least once during this period, but only 63 (that is slightly more than 40 per cent), provided infant deaths data cross-classified by urban/rural residence of mother. The other countries and areas submitted total infant deaths, without the urban/rural breakdown.

16. Another example from the *International Travel and Migration Statistics Questionnaire* shows similar features in the completion of questionnaires by countries and areas. For example, while 98 countries and areas completed at least one *International Travel and Migration Questionnaire*, only 54 of them provided data on long-term emigrants for at least one year between 1991 and 2000.

### (c) Recency of the data provided

17. Some countries and areas tend to provide more recent data than others, and the recency of the data provided also varies markedly from one table on the *Demographic Yearbook* questionnaire to another. Even when the data provided are complete, the time period to which they refer, may be several years behind relative to those provided by others.

18. For example, of the 147 countries and areas that completed recent questionnaires and provided data on live births between 2000 and 2002, 127 have given data on the total number of live births pertaining to 2000 and 2001, while 20 provided data with reference dates ranging from 1994 to 1999. With regard to the population by urban/rural residence, 63 countries and areas provided data from 2000 to 2002, among these 52 provided the most recent data (2000-2001), while 11 countries and areas provided data ranging from 1990 to 1999. For population by marital status, one country/area provided data for 1995 in 2000; eight provided data pertaining to 1998 or 1999; and another one country/area submitted in 1999 data for 1996 (Table 2).

**Table 2: Recency of data provided for recent questionnaires**

Data on	Number of countries providing data for at least one of the 2000, 2001 and 2002 <sup>a</sup> questionnaires	Number of countries providing data for 2000 and/or 2001 <sup>b</sup> for the 2000, 2001 and/or 2002 <sup>a</sup> questionnaire
Total number of live births	147	127
Population by urban/rural residence	63	52
Population by marital status	10	8

<sup>a</sup> For population by marital status data, the period is 1999-2002

<sup>b</sup> For population by marital status data, the most recent data refer to those of 1998 and after.

### C. Population census questionnaires

19. Since 1985, a period which covers two population census rounds (1985-1994 and 1995-2004), 211 countries and areas have conducted at least one population census, with 164 of them having conducted censuses in both decades, and 47 only conducted a census in one of the two census rounds. There are significant differences among countries and areas with respect to the frequency of these responses to the *Demographic Yearbook* census questionnaires and how complete the reported data are. From country responses to the *Demographic Yearbook* census questionnaires, it appears that there is still a time lag between the collection and dissemination of data in many national censuses exercises. In many cases, detailed census results, on such topics as economic characteristics, household characteristics, education, religion, ethnicity, internal and international migration, etc., are not released for four to six years after the census has been completed.

#### (a) Response to the census questionnaires

20. Among the 164 countries and areas that have conducted censuses in both rounds, less than half, 77 countries and areas, have responded to the *Demographic Yearbook*, providing data for



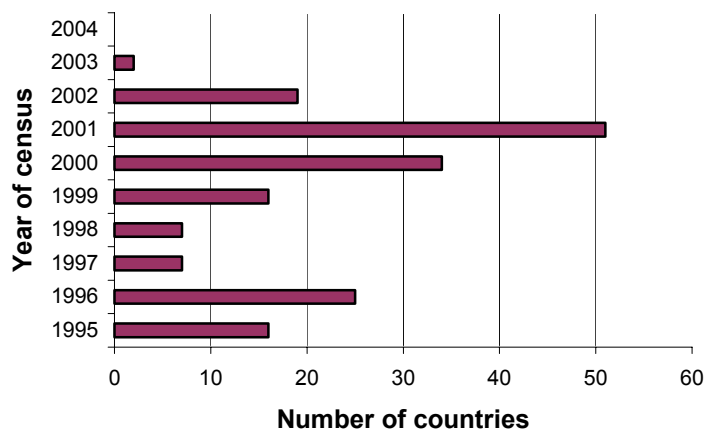
both census rounds. About a third, 55 countries and areas, only provided data for the census conducted in the 1990 round; and 12 provided data only for the 2000 round ( Table 3).

**Table 3: Countries and areas by the number of censuses conducted and the number of times the country/area reported data to the *Demographic Yearbook* census questionnaires**

Census conducted in	Total number conducted census	Census data provided to United Nations Statistics Division			
		Both 1990 and 2000 rounds	1990 round only	2000 round only	None
Both 1990 and 2000 rounds	164	77	55	12	20
1990 round only	34	-	28	-	6
2000 round only	13	-	-	8	5
Total	211	77	83	20	31

21. About 15 per cent of countries and areas (31 out of 211) that have conducted at least one census in either period have not responded to the questionnaires; while 20 countries and areas that conducted censuses in both rounds, have provided no data to the *Demographic Yearbook* system. Of the 34 countries and areas that conducted censuses in the 1990 round only, 28 provided data to United Nations Statistics Division. Of the 13 countries and areas that conducted censuses only the 2000 round census, 8 responded to the *Demographic Yearbook* census questionnaires. Therefore 180 countries and areas have provided census data to the United Nations Statistics Division for censuses conducted since 1985, while 31 countries and areas have not provided any data.

**Figure 1: Frequency distribution for censuses conducted in 2000 round**



22. Comparing the percentage of countries and areas that provided data for the 1990 and 2000 round of censuses – it emerges that 80 per cent of the 198 countries and areas that conducted censuses in the 1990 round (i.e., 160 countries and areas) responded to the census questionnaires for this round; whereas about 55 per cent (i.e., 97) of the 177 countries and areas that conducted censuses in the 2000 round, responded in for this round. Detailed information on country responses to the *Demographic Yearbook* census questionnaires is presented in Annex I. The big difference in the level of reporting for the two census periods may be explained in part by the tendency in some countries and areas to release census results more than three years after the census has been conducted. It is thus likely that some of the countries and areas that have conducted censuses in the 2000 round, in particular since year 2000, will be responding to the *Demographic Yearbook* census questionnaires after the release of the results on detailed tables from their census. More than half of the censuses undertaken in the 2000 round have been in the second half of the decade (106 of the 177 countries and areas have conducted censuses in the current round since 2000) (Figure 1). Moreover, some countries and areas that have not conducted censuses in the 2000 census round might do so before the end of the census round in 2004.

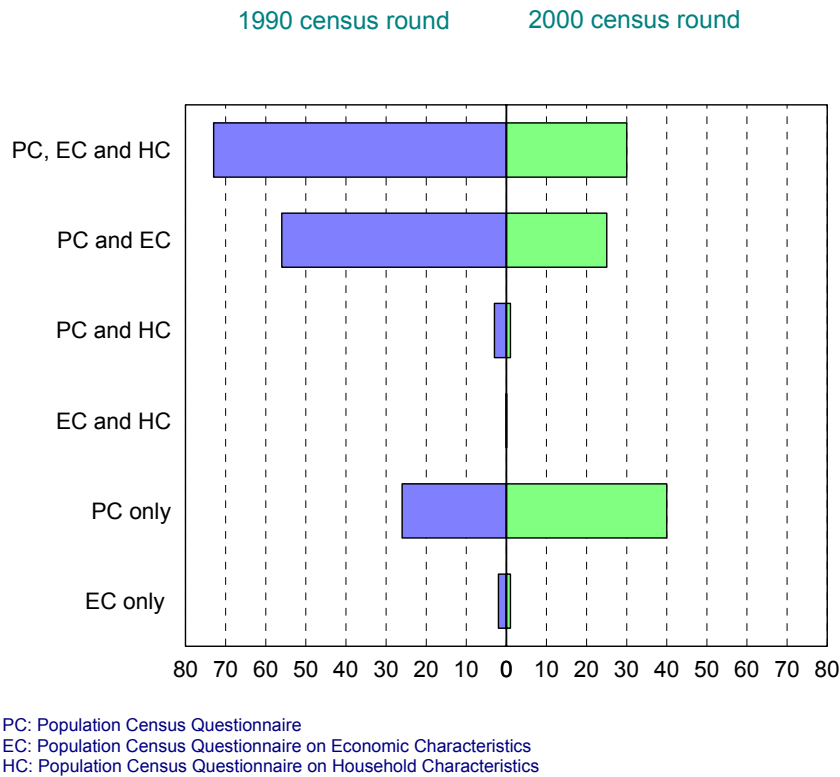
#### **(b) Completeness of the census questionnaire responses**

23. The degree of completeness of responses to census questionnaires is here assessed from two perspectives: the number of questionnaires completed by countries and areas and the level of detail provided in the completed census questionnaires.

24. Among the 160 countries and areas that provided census data for the 1990 round (1985-1994), 73 replied to all three of the *Demographic Yearbook* census questionnaires, 59 to two questionnaires, and 31 to only one questionnaire. Fifty-six countries and areas replied to both the basic *Population Census Questionnaire* and the *Economic Characteristics Questionnaire*, and 3 to both the basic *Population Census Questionnaire* and the *Household Characteristics Questionnaire*. Twenty-six countries and areas responded only to the basic *Population Census Questionnaires* and 2 countries and areas only to the *Economic Characteristics Questionnaire* only. The *Household Characteristics Questionnaire* received the lowest level of response with only 76 countries and areas, compared to the *Economic Characteristics Questionnaire* with 131, and basic the *Population Census Questionnaire* with 158.

25. Among the 97 countries and areas that replied to the *Demographic Yearbook* census questionnaires in the 2000 round (1995-2004), 30 replied to all three census questionnaires, 26 to two questionnaires and 41 to one questionnaire only. Twenty-five countries and areas replied only to the basic *Population Census* and *Economic Characteristics Questionnaires* and one country replied to both the *Population Census Questionnaire* and the *Household Characteristics Questionnaire*. Out of the 41 countries and areas that replied to only one census questionnaire, 40 replied to the basic *Population Census Questionnaire* and one to *Economic Characteristics Questionnaire*.

**Figure 2: Number of countries replied to the 1990 and 2000 census round for the three *Demographic Yearbook* census questionnaires**



26. These findings indicate that countries and areas were more likely to respond to the basic *Population Census Questionnaire* and least likely to complete the *Household Characteristics Questionnaire*. The response disparities among the three *Demographic Yearbook* census questionnaires might be due in part to the variations in topics collected in the censuses, selectiveness in the processing of certain characteristics, and the varying degree of complexity of the tables requested in the census questionnaires. Moreover, with regard particularly to the 2000 round of censuses, census data processing is still ongoing for many countries and areas and the census results are usually released gradually. Population, age, sex, marital status and education data are usually provided earlier, while information on economic characteristics, (if they are collected), and on household characteristics are provided several years later.

27. There are also significant variations among countries and areas in the level of details provided in the completion of a census questionnaire. Some countries and areas completed all tables in the questionnaire, while others only completed selected tables; some provided data for all cross-classifications requested in a table, while others just provided the totals or marginal totals, without further cross-classifications. For example, among the 158 countries and areas that responded to the *Population Census Questionnaire* for censuses conducted in the 1990 round, only 85 countries and areas provided data for Table 13 (*Female population 15 years of age and over by age and number of children born live*). Among these countries and areas, 74

provided data on female population by age and number of children ever born alive, and 11 countries and areas provided only female population disaggregated by age.

28. Another example, from the *Economic Characteristics Questionnaire* indicates that 95 countries and areas provided data on the economically active population for the censuses conducted in the 1990 round, 77 provided data on the economically active population by industry, but only 52 provided data on economically active population by both industry and status of employment.

### **(c) Recency of census responses**

29. It usually takes a number of years for census data to be available for dissemination and the time required often varies from one country to another. For example, among 178 countries that have responded to the *Demographic Yearbook* census questionnaire(s) on censuses conducted between 1985 and 2000, 177 provided data for the basic *Population Census Questionnaire*. Of these 177 countries and area, 135 responded within the three years after the census was conducted, and 42 countries responded, between four and 13 years after the census was conducted. With respect to the *Economic Characteristics* and *Household Characteristics* questionnaires, only 107 countries and areas responded within three years of the census date, for the former, and 62 for the latter.

### **(d) Non-response to census questionnaires**

30. Thirty-one countries and areas that have conducted a census in either census rounds (or in both), have not responded to any of the census questionnaires corresponding to the decades in which their census was conducted. Of these non-responding countries and areas,<sup>2</sup> 18 last provided data for the 1980 round of censuses, and one country provided data for the 1970 round. Of the 13 remaining countries and areas, four are newly independent countries or areas, and have responded to annual questionnaires since their independence and census dates; none the others have ever responded to any of the *Demographic Yearbook* census questionnaires.

## **III. BARRIERS TO DATA TRANSFER**

31. As the analysis of response levels reveals, there are significant variations in the frequency, completeness and recency of data provided by countries and areas. The level of response to the *Demographic Yearbook* questionnaires depends not only on national capacities and willingness to participate in the data collection exercise, but also on the actions in the Statistics Division in developing and maintaining the network of national statistical offices; enhancing data collection instruments; and increasing national statistical capacities while at the same time ensuring an appreciation of the importance and usefulness of their contribution to the system.

32. Data gaps still exist in the *Demographic Yearbook* system for many countries and areas, for reasons that are both endogenous to the *Demographic Yearbook* system and external. Endogenous factors include features of the *Demographic Yearbook* data collection, processing

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<sup>2</sup> As indicated above, non-response associated with the 2000 round of censuses may be due to delays in processing of the national census data.

and dissemination procedures that affect the propensity of a country to respond to the questionnaires. External factors include national circumstances and realities that inhibit the completion of the various questionnaires. Factors external to the *Demographic Yearbook* system include availability of data, a country's capacity as well as motivation to respond, and resource constraints, which are often weighed against the benefits that result from the commitment.

#### A. Factors endogenous to the *Demographic Yearbook* system

33. ***Design of questionnaires:*** The following aspects of the questionnaire could have an effect on the motivation of countries and areas to respond: (a) relevance of topics, (b) degree of complexity of tables, (c) structure and layout of tables, (d) definitions, classifications and explanations provided, and (e) language used in the questionnaire.

(a) *Relevance of topics and variables:* While the main topics covered are probably as relevant as they were when the data collection was initiated over 50 years ago, at the detailed level some of the variables, and tables (including cross-classifications within tables) may not be as relevant, on the one hand, to countries and areas that would need to be convinced of the value of their effort, and on the other hand, to users whose data needs are to be met in the process.

(b) *Degree of complexity of tables:* Multivariate tables can be seen as too difficult or time consuming to complete, or the data may not be available in the exact form, and cannot, therefore, be transcribed. As discussed in the previous part of the paper in relation to the level of response, it is known that the more complex the table becomes, the lower the level of response from countries and areas. Many of the tables such as: "Households by type of household, number of household members and presence of spouse by age and sex of head of household or other reference member of household", have two or three cross-classifying variables.

This table requests the number of households cross-classified by 5 variables, and it might be difficult for countries and areas to complete this table given its complex title and structure. Only 22 countries and areas provided any data for this table for censuses conducted since 1985, and a smaller number, 12 countries and areas, completed the entire table, i.e., by all five variables. Two countries and areas provided the number of households cross-classified by four variables – sex of household head, type of household, number of household members and presence of spouse. Eight countries and areas reported the number of households by sex and age of household head and the number of household members. One national statistics office explained that they were ashamed to fill in the questionnaire, because their data were not available with the level of detail required by the questionnaire. This is one of a number of ways in which a complex table might discourage response.

(c) *Structure and layout of tables:* While it is important to obtain as detailed data as possible, multivariate tables have a complex structure that is not only difficult to complete, but is also prone to errors. There are several ways of combining variables to form a table and the larger the number of cross-classifying variables the more likely it is that the table structure will

differ from the structure available at the country level. Moreover, the number of cells in a table quickly multiplies with an increase in the number of variables. Given the limited space in the printed questionnaire, there is a tendency to force a large number of cells onto a page, resulting in small cells and limited space for filling in data on paper questionnaires. Another national statistics office complained about the limited writing space available on the questionnaire. This office is, therefore, forced to use a typewriter to fill the questionnaires, which results in delays in getting the questionnaires properly completed.

(d) *Definition, classifications and explanations*: When the definitions provided in the questionnaire do not match the definition used by the country, the country may have to decide whether to provide the data as available, or not to complete the questionnaire since they do not have the data as requested. Although the instructions that accompany the questionnaire encourage countries and areas to provide data even if their concepts or classifications are different, to provide notes on the concepts used, and to adjust the classifications as necessary, not all countries will necessarily follow them. The case of the country that is too embarrassed to provide incomplete data indicates that some of these assurances in the instructions are either missed or are not clear enough. For some tables in the questionnaires, the existing explanations might not be sufficient for countries and areas to fill in complete and comparable data.

(e) *Language*: In addition to clarity and comprehensiveness of the instructions and explanations provided to assist the countries and areas in completing the questionnaires, there is the issue of the language used. Currently, the annually dispatched paper questionnaires are sent to countries and areas in three of the official United Nations languages: English, French and Spanish. The three population census questionnaires are at this stage in English only, and all electronic questionnaires are sent in English only. Therefore, for countries and areas with official languages other than English, the difficulties in understanding terms, definitions, and tables on these questionnaires could result in low responses.

34. *Dispatch process of questionnaires*: The timing of the questionnaire dispatches can be crucial. The questionnaires are sent out to countries and areas in the fourth quarter of the year, hence there is not enough time for them to be filled and sent back by the specified deadlines. Also, if the questionnaires are sent out during high mail traffic seasons, such as a major holiday or during the summer vacation times, there is a risk of their being delayed or lost in the postal system, besides being delivered during a period when the person assigned to complete the questionnaire is unavailable due to his/her vacation schedule. The imposed deadline could also affect the response. Some countries and areas give up responding once they decide that they cannot meet the deadline. For example mailing of the 2002 questionnaires was completed in December of 2002 and the specified deadline was 30 April 2003, by which date only 24 countries and areas had responded.

35. It is important that the questionnaires are not only delivered to the right office or person in the statistical office of each country or area, but also that they are made available in the most suitable and preferred format. Currently, the United Nations Statistics Division sends paper questionnaires to all countries and areas and additional electronic copies to those countries and areas with e-mail facility. In the latest 2002 questionnaire dispatch, 50 countries and areas indicated, after a reminder that was sent on 21 April 2003, that they had never received the

2002 *Demographic Yearbook* questionnaires. Another set of questionnaires was sent to these countries and areas, at least four months after the first dispatch, and 21 of them subsequently responded.

36. Another relevant issue is how the timing of the *Demographic Yearbook* questionnaires relates to the dispatch of questionnaires by other organizations. The Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) sends out the joint Eurostat/UNSD questionnaires to the countries and areas of Europe on 15 June and with a deadline of 15 of September. The Statistics Division sends out three additional questionnaires (on population census, economic characteristics and household characteristics), to these same countries and areas. This may cause some problems for the countries and areas that have to respond to another set of questionnaires almost immediately after having completed another one. One country recently complained and called for the Statistics Division to work towards establishing joint population census questionnaires with Eurostat partners.

37. ***Interactions between United Nations Statistics Division and National Statistical Offices (NSO):*** As with any data collection exercise, providing feedback to respondents and publicizing the results of the data collection are essential to assuring continued cooperation. The Division sends to all countries and areas on the *Demographic Yearbook* mailing list, a copy of the *Demographic Yearbook* both in print and CD Rom medium. Also this year, the Division is using workshops and expert group meetings on demographic and social statistics as an opportunity for countries and areas to express their views on their experiences or any concerns that they might have on the *Demographic Yearbook*. There is clearly a need to do more to engage the national statistics offices as partners.

## **B. Factors at national level**

38. A country's response to the *Demographic Yearbook* questionnaires, with respect to both the frequency and quality of replies, is a result of an interplay of a number of factors, such as: (a) level of development of the national statistical system; (b) availability and accessibility of data; (c) timeliness of data; (d) resource constraints; and (e) relevance of the request to national priorities. These factors may be described as follows:

(a) *Level of development of the national statistical system:* Many countries and areas have a decentralized statistical system, whereby the different offices, i.e., government ministries and departments, produce statistics that are derived from administrative responsibilities (in for example, health, international migration, labour, etc.). In some countries and areas, the national statistics office has the responsibility for conducting the national population census while in others, it is the responsibility of another institution, such as the Population Commission. With different agencies involved in producing and disseminating data, it is important that statistical activities be properly coordinated to ensure consistency in the definitions, comparability of the statistics and effective mechanisms for disseminating the statistics.

These conditions are essential for the national statistical office, which are the primary respondents to the *Demographic Yearbook* questionnaires, to be able to provide all the data that are requested. The level of statistical development also affects the coverage and completeness

of the statistics produced in the system, and the extent to which the different sources are exploited. The complete coverage of civil registration system and administrative records is indispensable for the comprehensive coverage of data collected through these methods. For some countries and areas, civil registration covers only a sample of the entire population. In this case, it is difficult to obtain reliable vital statistics from the registration system.

(b) *Availability and accessibility of data:* The data produced by the different agencies comprising the national statistics system have to be available in accessible format. For a variety of reasons, such as low capacity, specific policy interest and data needs, different priorities, social and cultural norms, etc., statistics on particular topics may not be collected or disseminated. Even when the data are collected, the time lag between the collection and processing of data might be quite long for some countries and areas, and therefore data may not be readily available. Moreover, many administrative sources are not exploited for statistical purposes, and therefore the data though available in the records, may not be in accessible format. Unpublished data are generally most difficult to access. For example, data on long-term migrants requested through the *International Travel and Migration Statistics Questionnaire*, are generally collected by border control agencies. Some countries and areas record the long-term immigrants but not the emigrants; but more critical is the fact that in large part these data are not processed.

(c) *Timeliness of data:* One important role of the United Nations Statistics Division is to collect comparable national data and disseminate them internationally. The time lag between the collection and release of census results in some countries and areas is such that even years after the census has been conducted there is no response to the questionnaires that are sent out. For example, among the countries and areas that have responded to the set of census questionnaires, six provided data about ten years after their censuses were conducted. Variations among countries and areas in the timeliness of data provided do in fact affect the comparability of data internationally.

(d) *Resource constraints:* There is cost associated with responding to the *Demographic Yearbook* questionnaires. The magnitude of this burden is a function of the budget and the size of the national statistics office and the demands on the limited resources, including the number of questionnaires and other data requests that the office has to respond to. As many national statistical authorities grapple with the issue of limited resources, both human and financial, completion of questionnaires sent by international organizations can be viewed as burdensome, a drain on resources and a low priority. The sheer number of questionnaires that a national statistics office may be requested to complete in a year can be overwhelming. For example, two developed countries have specified that one full-time staff member is assigned the task of coordinating the reporting of statistics to international organizations, and additional staff time has to be allocated to completing the questionnaires.<sup>3</sup> The financial burden from statistical reporting, such as the cost of mailing, photocopying and producing data that are not immediately available or accessible, can be quite considerable especially in relation to the often decried low level of funding allocated to statistical activities.

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<sup>3</sup> E/1999/11, page 12.



(e) *Relevance of the request to national priorities*: The motivation to provide data varies from one country to the other, and the degree of motivation required to generate a response depends in part on what data are readily available and what data need to be processed. International data requests are often in competition with the priorities of the national statistical activities. Some of the requested data may not be within the priorities of the country and might thus not be collected, tabulated or disseminated. Unless the data requested are readily available, the priority of the national statistics system will be critical for the additional resources that it would require to process or compile the data.

#### IV. IMPROVE RESPONSE LEVEL

39. From the above analysis there are three key elements to be considered in the strategies aimed at improving the level of response in the *Demographic Yearbook* data collection. These concerns: (i) reducing the burden of response, (ii) keeping countries and areas motivated and involved in the data collection and dissemination processes, and (iii) strengthening national capacity to routinely produce and disseminate basic statistics.

40. *Reducing the burden of response*: As discussed earlier, barriers to the transfer of data from countries and areas are, on the one hand, influenced by factors endogenous to the *Demographic Yearbook* system, and on the other, by national realities. It is essential to improve the data collection system<sup>4</sup> particularly as regards:

- (a) *Size of the questionnaires*, i.e., reducing the number of tables, simplifying the structure and format, rationalizing the frequency and timing of the data collection, and how much data are requested.
- (b) *Features of the questionnaires*, such as, ensuring that the language of the questionnaire is understandable to the responding countries and areas; offering alternatives in the medium of transmission of the questionnaires, with considerations for the use of technology and cost to countries and areas; ensuring clarity in the instructions and guidelines for completing the questionnaires; and making the format as user-friendly as possible.
- (c) *Content of the questionnaires*: ensuring that the tables requested relate to national priorities, with respect to the tables that countries or areas regularly disseminate, in national statistical reports, census reports, national demographic yearbook and digests. Explore the role of the United Nations principles and recommendations in the dissemination of data at the national level.

41. Another important factor influencing the response burden is the number of questionnaires that countries and areas receive from international and regional organizations. Avenues for collaboration between and among international data collection agencies need to be sought. Existing models of such coordination, like the one with Eurostat, might be reinforced and

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<sup>4</sup> Changes required in this component are considered in the report on “The United Nations *Demographic Yearbook* Data Collection Process”, ESA/STAT/AC.91/2.

possibly extended to cover other questionnaires. Also possibilities for data sharing need to be explored, and every effort made to establish data collection and data sharing arrangements among agencies.

42. *Keeping countries and areas motivated:* Whatever the level of statistical capacity and availability of data, countries and areas need to be highly motivated to commit resources to fulfilling data requests not only from the United Nations Statistics Division, but also from other agencies. It may be necessary to explore:

- (a) The motivation of countries and areas that have maintained a consistent pattern of response;
- (b) How this motivation been sustained over the long period;
- (c) What are the benefits to countries and areas for responding to the *Demographic Yearbook* system, and how the Statistics Division can ensure that these expectations are met;
- (d) What are some of the products that can be used to inform and update countries and areas on the performance and achievements of the *Demographic Yearbook* system.

Strong communication between the Statistics Division and national statistical agencies is essential to build commitment and maintain an environment of cooperation. It is also important to provide feedback to countries and areas on how the data are being used.

43. *Strengthen capacity in the national statistical system:* The level of statistical capacity influences different aspects of the data production, the availability of data, the completeness and quality of the available data, the dissemination of data and their accessibility to the wide range of users. Collaboration at between the national statistical office and other ministries is crucial to maximise the amount data being transferred to the Statistics Division, especially when there are data that are collected and processed only by a specialized ministry within a country. Dissemination and utilization of available data are essential to identify the strengths and weaknesses in the national statistical systems. In this respect:

- (a) The *Demographic Yearbook* system seeks to promote the dissemination and utilization of national data at the international level. However, is its approach far-reaching?
- (b) How can national statistical systems be better assisted to produce and disseminate basic statistics routinely and to promote the statistics they produce?
- (c) How can the Statistics Division team up with other agencies to provide technical assistance particularly with respect to strengthening the coordination among national statistical agencies and promoting the collection and dissemination of consistent and comparable statistics?

## Annex I: Frequency of responses to annually dispatched questionnaires (1992-2001)

Countries and Areas	Frequency of responses to annual questionnaires (1992-2001)			Last response if not within (1992-2001)
	Population Estimates	Vital Statistics	International Travel and Migration	
<b>Africa</b>				
Algeria	1	3	1	
Angola	...	...	...	1975
Benin	4	3	...	
Botswana	4	2	7	
Burkina Faso	2	...	1	
Burundi	1	1	...	
Cameroon	1	...	...	
Cape Verde	1	3	2	
Central African Republic	...	1	...	
Chad	1	...	...	
Comoros	...	...	...	1984
Congo	...	...	...	-
Côte d'Ivoire	...	...	1	
Democratic Republic of the Congo	...	...	...	-
Djibouti	...	...	...	-
Egypt	7	9	5	
Equatorial Guinea	...	...	...	1990
Eritrea	...	...	...	-
Ethiopia	6	1	...	
Gabon	1	1	...	
Gambia	1	1	...	
Ghana	...	...	...	1973
Guinea Bissau	...	...	...	1967
Guinea	...	...	...	1988
Kenya	...	...	...	1985
Lesotho	1	...	...	
Liberia	...	...	...	1991
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	1	3	...	
Madagascar	...	1	...	
Malawi	...	2	...	
Mali	2	2	1	
Mauritania	...	1	...	
Mauritius	10	10	1	
Morocco	8	3	1	
Mozambique	3	1	...	
Namibia	4	...	2	
Niger	...	...	...	1975
Nigeria	2	1	...	
Réunion	1	2	...	
Rwanda	...	...	...	1984
Saint Helena				
St. Helena ex. Dep.	5	10	3	
St. Helena: Ascension	0	5	...	
St. Helena: Tristan da Cunha	3	5	1	
Sao Tome and Principe	...	...	...	1989
Senegal	4	1	...	
Seychelles	5	4	...	
Sierra Leone	...	...	...	1974

Countries and Areas	Frequency of responses to annual questionnaires (1992-2001)			Last response if not within (1992-2001)
	Population Estimates	Vital Statistics	International Travel and Migration	
Somalia	...	...	...	1972
South Africa	9	7	5	
Sudan	1	...	...	
Swaziland	2	1	...	
Togo	...	...	...	1977
Tunisia	5	5	...	
Uganda	1	...	...	
United Republic of Tanzania	...	...	...	-
Western Sahara	...	...	...	1973
Zambia	2	1	...	
Zimbabwe	3	3	4	
<b>America, North</b>				
Anguilla	...	1	...	
Antigua and Barbuda	1	2	...	
Aruba	1	1	...	
Bahamas	4	5	...	
Barbados	...	1	...	
Belize	4	7	...	
Bermuda	5	2	...	
British Virgin Islands	...	...	...	1989
Canada	8	6	5	
Cayman Islands	1	3	1	
Costa Rica	7	8	1	
Cuba	8	6	4	
Dominica	2	2	...	
Dominican Republic	4	6	3	
El Salvador	4	7	2	
Greenland	6	5	4	
Grenada	1	1	...	
Guadeloupe	...	1	...	
Guatemala	4	4	2	
Haiti	2	...	...	
Honduras	1	1	...	
Jamaica	3	3	...	
Martinique	1	2	...	
Mexico	3	9	4	
Montserrat	...	...	...	1987
Netherlands Antilles	3	3	...	
Nicaragua	1	2	2	
Panama	10	10	3	
Puerto Rico	8	8	2	
Saint Kitt	3	6	...	
Saint Lucia	2	2	...	
Saint Pierre and Miquelon	...	...	...	1982
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	4	6	...	
Trinidad and Tobago	5	6	...	
Turks Caicos Islands	...	...	...	1984
United States	10	9	2	
US Virgin Islands	...	1	...	
<b>America, South</b>				
Argentina	9	10	...	
Bolivia	7	3	...	

Countries and Areas	Frequency of responses to annual questionnaires (1992-2001)			Last response if not within (1992-2001)
	Population Estimates	Vital Statistics	International Travel and Migration	
Brazil	9	8	3	
Chile	9	10	6	
Colombia	7	7	1	
Ecuador	4	7	3	
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	...	1	...	
French Guiana	...	1	...	
Guyana	...	...	...	-
Paraguay	2	2	...	
Peru	3	1	...	
Suriname	3	6	...	
Uruguay	3	6	...	
Venezuela	3	2	...	
<b>Asia</b>				
Afghanistan	...	...	...	1989
Armenia	6	6	...	
Azerbaijan	6	6	6	
Bahrain	5	6	1	
Bangladesh	...	1	...	
Bhutan	1	...	...	
Brunei Darussalam	1	2	...	
Cambodia	1	...	...	
China	3	6	...	
Cyprus	9	10	4	
Georgia	1	1	...	
China - Hong Kong SAR	10	10	4	
India	6	5	7	
Indonesia	6	1	1	
Iran, Islamic Republic of	5	6	...	
Iraq	1	...	...	
Israel	8	9	4	
Japan	10	10	7	
Jordan	6	6	3	
Kazakhstan	7	8	7	
Korea, Dem. Peoples Republic of	...	...	...	-
Korea, Republic of	9	9	6	
Kuwait	6	7	3	
Kyrgyzstan	8	9	6	
Lao Peoples Democratic Republic	1	...	...	
Lebanon	...	...	...	1991
China - Macao SAR	9	9	6	
Malaysia	8	8	...	
Maldives	3	5	...	
Mongolia	3	3	1	
Myanmar	4	5	...	
Nepal	3	...	...	
Oman	2	...	...	
Pakistan	5	5	...	
Philippines	3	5	1	
Qatar	...	6	...	
Saudi Arabia	3	1	...	
Singapore	7	9	4	
Sri Lanka	6	6	4	

Countries and Areas	Frequency of responses to annual questionnaires (1992-2001)			Last response if not within (1992-2001)
	Population Estimates	Vital Statistics	International Travel and Migration	
Syrian Arab Republic	8	8	1	
Tajikistan	1	2	...	
Thailand	10	8	4	
Timor Leste	...	...	...	1971
Turkey	10	10	7	
Turkmenistan	...	...	...	-
United Arab Emirates	...	...	...	1981
Uzbekistan	4	5	4	
Viet Nam	3	...	...	
Occupied Palestinian Territory	1	1	...	
Yemen	1	...	...	
<b>Europe</b>				
Albania	...	1	...	
Andorra	2	2	...	
Austria	9	10	...	
Belarus	9	9	7	
Belgium	1	2	...	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	3	...	
Bulgaria	7	7	4	
Channel Islands - Guernsey	...	7	6	
Channel Islands - Jersey	3	4	...	
Croatia	6	6	5	
Czech Republic	9	9	6	
Denmark	10	10	1	
Estonia	6	6	4	
Faeroe Islands	1	1	1	
Finland	9	8	6	
France	2	8	1	
Germany	8	8	2	
Gibraltar	3	4	3	
Greece	8	8	...	
Holy See	1	...	...	
Hungary	10	10	4	
Iceland	8	8	5	
Ireland	10	10	1	
Isle of Man	1	7	4	
Italy	5	8	4	
Latvia	9	9	7	
Liechtenstein	2	2	...	
Lithuania	8	9	7	
Luxembourg	5	5	2	
Malta	9	9	6	
Monaco	1	1	...	
Netherlands	10	10	6	
Norway	9	9	4	
Poland	10	10	6	
Portugal	5	6	3	
Republic of Moldova	5	7	5	
Romania	10	8	5	
Russian Federation	5	6	4	
San Marino	8	8	5	
Serbia and Montenegro	4	5	...	

Countries and Areas	Frequency of responses to annual questionnaires (1992-2001)			Last response if not within (1992-2001)
	Population Estimates	Vital Statistics	International Travel and Migration	
Slovakia	5	6	2	
Slovenia	7	8	5	
Spain	4	5	4	
Sweden	7	6	3	
Switzerland	7	7	4	
The Former Yougoslav Rep. of Macedonia	3	6	4	
Ukraine	7	8	5	
United Kingdom	5	7	3	
<b>Oceania</b>				
American Samoa	2	2	1	
Australia	6	5	2	
Cook Islands	...	1	...	
Fiji	...	...	1	
French Polynesia	1	1	...	
Guam	...	1	...	
Kiribati	...	1	...	
Marshall Islands	2	2	1	
Micronesia, Federated States of	...	...	...	-
Nauru	...	...	...	1978
New Caledonia	3	4	1	
New Zealand	7	8	2	
Niue	...	...	...	1987
Norfolk Island	...	...	...	1988
Northern Mariana Islands	1	1	...	
Palau	2	1	1	
Papua New Guinea	...	...	...	1990
Pitcairn	3	3	...	
Samoa	...	...	...	1981
Solomon Islands	...	...	...	1979
Tokelau	...	...	...	1982
Tonga	3	5	2	
Tuvalu	...	...	...	-
Vanuatu	...	...	...	1990
Wallis and Futuna Islands	...	...	...	1970

Note

... Data not available

- No response provided since 1948

## Annex II: Population Censuses conducted and corresponding country responses (1985-1994 and 1995-2004)

Countries and Areas	Censuses conducted and their responses (1985-1994)				Censuses conducted and their responses (1995-2004)				Latest census data provided if no to census since 1985
	Census Date	Year of response			Census Date	Year of response			
		PC <sup>5</sup>	EC <sup>6</sup>	HC <sup>7</sup>		PC <sup>5</sup>	EC <sup>6</sup>	HC <sup>7</sup>	
<b>Africa</b>									
Algeria	20 March 1987	1991	1991	...	25 June 1998	1999/00	1999/00	1999	
Angola	X	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	-
Benin	15 February 1992	1992/94	1994	...	11 February 2002	...	...	...	
Botswana	21 August 1991	1992/93/95	1992/95	...	17-26 August 2001	2002	...	...	
Burkina Faso	10-20 December 1985	1986/89	...	...	10 December 1996	1998/99	...	...	
Burundi	16-30 August 1990	1992	1992	1992	X	..	..	..	
Cameroon	10 April 1987	1999	...	...	X	..	..	..	
Cape Verde	23 June 1990	1992	1992	1992	16-30 June 2000	...	...	...	
Central African Republic	8 December 1988	1993	...	...	X	..	..	..	
Chad	8 April 1993	1995	...	...	X	..	..	..	
Comoros	15 September 1991	1993	1993	1993	X	..	..	..	
Congo	20 Nov.5 Dec. 1994	...	...	...	6 Jun - 30 Jul. 1996	...	...	...	1984
Côte d'Ivoire	1 March 1988	1992	1992	...	21 Nov - 20 Dec. 1998	...	...	...	
Democratic Republic of the Congo	X	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	-
Djibouti	X	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	-
Egypt	17-18 November 1986	1989/90	1989/90	...	19 November 1996	1998/02	2002	...	
Equatorial Guinea	4 July 1994	...	...	...	X	..	..	..	1983
Eritrea	X	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	-
Ethiopia	11 October 1994	1996/98/01	2001	2001	X	..	..	..	
Gabon	1-31 July 1993	1997/01	1997	...	X	..	..	..	
Gambia	15 April 1993	1999/01	2001	...	15 April 2003	...	...	...	
Ghana	X	..	..	..	26 March 2000	2001	2001	2001	
Guinea Bissau	1 December 1991	1993	...	...	X	..	..	..	
Guinea	X	..	..	..	1-15 December 1996	...	...	...	
Kenya	24 August 1989	1996	1996	1996	24 August 1999	2001	...	...	
Lesotho	12 April 1986	1991	...	...	14 April 1996 8 April 2001	2000	2000	...	
Liberia	X	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	-
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	X	..	..	..	11 August 1995	2001	...	...	
Madagascar	1 August 1993	1993	...	...	X	..	..	..	
Malawi	1-21 September 1987	1992	1992	1992	1-21 September 1998	2000	2000	...	
Mali	1-30 April 1987	2000	2000	2000	1-14 April 1998	...	...	...	
Mauritania	5-20 April 1988	1991	1991	...	1-15 November 2000	2001	...	...	
Mauritius	1 July 1990	1991	1991	...	2 July 2000	2002	2002	2002	
Morocco	2 September 1994	1996/97	1996	1996	X	..	..	..	
Mozambique	X	..	..	..	1-15 August 1997	2001	2001	2001	
Namibia	21 October 1991	1993/95	1994/01	1993/94/95	27 August 2001	2001	...	...	
Niger	20 May -3 June 1988	...	...	...	20 May 2001	2002	2002	2002	
Nigeria	26 November 1991	1997	1997	1997	X	..	..	..	
Réunion	15 March 1990	1991	1991	1991	8 March 1999	2002	2002	2002	

<sup>5</sup> Population census questionnaire

<sup>6</sup> Population census questionnaire on economic characteristics

<sup>7</sup> Population census questionnaire on household characteristics



Countries and Areas	Censuses conducted and their responses (1985-1994)				Censuses conducted and their responses (1995-2004)				Latest census data provided if no to census since 1985
	Census Date	Year of response			Census Date	Year of response			
		PC <sup>5</sup>	EC <sup>6</sup>	HC <sup>7</sup>		PC <sup>5</sup>	EC <sup>6</sup>	HC <sup>7</sup>	
Rwanda	15 August 1991	1993	1993	1003	15-16 August 2002	...	...	...	
Saint Helena	22 February 1987	1991	1991	...	8 March 1998	1999/00	1999/00	2000	
Sao Tome and Principe	4 August 1991	1994	1994	1994	25 August 2001	...	...	...	
Senegal	27 May 1988	91/93	...	...	8-22 December 2002	...	...	...	
Seychelles	17 August 1987 26-28 August 1994	1991 1998	1991 1998	...	29 August 1997 22-26 August 2002	2000 ...	2000 ...	...	
Sierra Leone	15 December 1985	1992	...	...	X	..	..	..	
Somalia	15 February 1987	...	...	...	X	..	..	..	-
South Africa	5 March 1985 7 March 1991	... 1992/93	... 1996	... ...	10 October 1996 10 October 2001	1998/00 ...	2000 ...	2000 ...	
Sudan	15 April 1993	1993	1993	1993	X	..	..	..	
Swaziland	25 August 1986	1988	1988	...	11-12 May 1997	2001	...	...	
Togo	X	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	1970
Tunisia	20 April 1994	1996	1996	...	X	..	..	..	
Uganda	12-19 January 1991	2001	2001	2001	13-19 September 2002	2002	...	2002	
United Republic of Tanzania	28 August 1988	1998	...	...	24-25 August 2002	2002	...	...	
Western Sahara	X	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	-
Zambia	20 August 1990	1992	1992	...	25 October 2000	2001	...	...	
Zimbabwe	18 August 1992	1995	1995	1997	18 August 2002	...	...	...	
<b>America, North</b>									
Anguilla	13 April 1992	2000	...	...	9 May 2001	2002	...	...	
Antigua and Barbud	28 May 1991	1993	...	...	28 May 2001	2001	...	...	
Aruba	6 October 1991	...	...	...	October 2000	...	...	...	-
Bahamas	1 May 1990	1993	1992	1993	1 May 2000	2001	...	...	
Barbados	2 May 1990	...	...	...	1 May 2000	...	...	...	1980
Belize	12 May 1991	1993	1993	1993	12 May 2000	2001	2001	...	
Bermuda	20 May 1991	1993	1993	1993	May 2000	...	2002	...	
British Virgin Islands	12 May 1991	1994	1994	1994	21 May 2001	...	...	...	
Canada	3 June 1986 4 June 1991	1986/87 1993	1987 1991	1987 1991	14 May 1996 15 May 2001	1997 2001	1998 ...	1998 ...	
Cayman Islands	15 October 1989	1992	1992	1992	October 1999	...	...	...	
Costa Rica	X	..	..	..	26 June 2000	2001	...	...	
Cuba	X	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	-
Dominica	12 May 1991	1994	...	...	12 May 2001	...	...	...	
Dominican Republic	24-25 September 1993	1999	1999	...	November 2001	...	...	...	
El Salvador	27 Sep - 6 Oct. 1992	2002	2002	...	X	..	..	..	
Greenland	X	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	-
Grenada	12 May 1991	...	...	...	25 May 2001	...	...	...	1981
Guadeloupe	15 March 1990	...	...	...	8 March 1999	2002	2002	...	
Guatemala	17-30 April 1994	...	...	...	24 November 2002	...	...	...	1982
Haiti	X	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	-
Honduras	29 May 1988	1997	...	...	28 July 2000	...	...	...	
Jamaica	7 April 1991	1991	1991	1999	10 September 2001	...	...	...	
Martinique	15 March 1990	...	...	...	8 March 1999	2002	2002	2002	
Mexico	12-16 March 1990	2001	2001	2001	14 February 2000	...	...	...	
Montserrat	12 May 1991	...	...	...	12 May 2001	...	...	...	1980
Netherlands Antilles	27 January 1992	2001	2001	2001	29 January 2001	...	...	...	
Nicaragua	X	..	..	..	25 April 1995	1996	...	...	

Countries and Areas	Censuses conducted and their responses (1985-1994)				Censuses conducted and their responses (1995-2004)				Latest census data provided if no to census since 1985
	Census Date	Year of response			Census Date	Year of response			
		PC <sup>5</sup>	EC <sup>6</sup>	HC <sup>7</sup>		PC <sup>5</sup>	EC <sup>6</sup>	HC <sup>7</sup>	
Panama	13 May 1990	1991	1991	1991	14 May 2000	2001	2001	...	
Puerto Rico	1 April 1990	1995	1997	1995	1 April 2000	2002	2002	2002	
Saint Kitt	12 May 1991	1997	1992	...	14 May 2001	2001	...	...	
Saint Lucia	12 May 1991	1999	1999	1999	22 May 2001	2001	...	...	
Saint Pierre and Miquelon	5 March 1990	...	...	...	8 March 1999	2002	...	...	
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	12 May 1991	1992	1992	...	14 May 2001	...	...	...	
Trinidad and Tobago	2 May 1990	1996	1996	1994	15 May 2000	...	...	...	
Turks Caicos Islands	31 May 1990	1992	...	...	20 August 2001	...	...	...	
United States	1 April 1990	1993	1993	1994	1 April 2000	2002	2002	...	
US Virgin Islands	1 April 1990	1994	1994	1994	1 April 2000	...	...	...	
<b>America, South</b>									
Argentina	15 May 1991	1997	1997	1997	18 November 2001	...	...	...	
Bolivia	3 June 1992	1997	1997	...	5 September 2001	2002	...	...	
Brazil	1 September 1991	1995	1995	1995	August 1996 1 August 2000	1999 2001	...	...	
Chile	22 April 1992	1994	1994	...	24 April 2002	...	...	...	
Colombia	15 October 1985 24 October 1993	1987 1996	... 1996	... ...	X	..	..	..	
Ecuador	25 November 1990	1993	1993	...	25 November 2001	2001	...	...	
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	16 November 1986	1989	...	...	24 April 1996	1999	1999	1999	
French Guiana	5 March 1991	1992	1992	1992	8 April 2001	2001	2001	2001	
French Guiana	15 March 1990	1992	1992	...	8 March 1999	2000	2000	...	
Guyana	12 May 1991	...	...	...	15 September 2002	...	...	...	
Paraguay	26 August 1992	1994	1994	1994	28 August 2002	2002	...	...	
Peru	11 July 1993	1995	1995	1996	X	..	..	..	
Suriname	X	..	..	..	3 March 2003	...	...	...	1980
Uruguay	23 October 1985	1988	1988	1988	22 May 1996	1997	1997	1997	
Venezuela	20 October 1990	1997	1997	...	21 October 2001	...	...	...	
<b>Asia</b>									
Afghanistan	X	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	-
Armenia	12 January 1989	...	...	...	10-19 October 2001	2001	...	...	
Azerbaijan	12 January 1989	1997	...	...	27 January 1999	2001	2001	2001	
Bahrain	16 November 1991	1992	1992	...	6 April 2001	2001	...	...	
Bangladesh	11 March 1991	1995	1995	...	22 January 2001	...	...	...	
Bhutan	X	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	-
Brunei Darussalam	7 August 1991	1993	1993	...	X	..	..	..	
Cambodia	X	..	..	..	March 3, 1998	1999	1999	...	
China	1 July 1990	1993	1993	1993	November 1, 2000	2002	...	...	
Cyprus	1 October 1992	1994	1994	1994	1 October 2001	2001	...	...	
Georgia	12 January 1989	...	...	...	17 January 2002	...	...	...	-
China - Hong Kong SAR	11 March 1986 15 March 1991	1986 1991	1986 1991	... 1991	16 March 1996 14 March 2001	1997 2002	1997 2002	1997 2002	
India	1 March 1991	1996	1996	1996	1 March 2001	2001	...	...	
Indonesia	31 October 1990	1992	1990	1994	30 June 2000	2001	2001	...	
Iran, Islamic Republic of	22 September 1986 11 December 1991	1988 1993	... 1993	... ...	23 Oct. 16 Nov. 1996	1997	1997	1997	
Iraq	17 October 1987	1988	...	...	16 October 1997	...	...	...	
Israel	X	..	..	..	4 November 1995	1998	1998	1998	

Countries and Areas	Censuses conducted and their responses (1985-1994)				Censuses conducted and their responses (1995-2004)				Latest census data provided if no to census since 1985
	Census Date	Year of response			Census Date	Year of response			
		PC <sup>5</sup>	EC <sup>6</sup>	HC <sup>7</sup>		PC <sup>5</sup>	EC <sup>6</sup>	HC <sup>7</sup>	
Japan	1 October 1985	1986	1987	1987	1 October 1995 1 October 2000	1995 2001	1995 2001	1995 2001	
Jordan	10 December 1994	2001	...	...	X	..	..	..	
Kazakhstan	12 January 1989	1992	1992	1992	26 February 1999	1999	...	...	
Korea, Dem. Peoples Republic of	31 December 1993	...	...	...	X	..	..	..	-
Korea, Republic of	1 November 1985 1 November 1990	1987 1992	1987 1992	1987 1992	1 November 1995 1 November 2000	1996 2002	1996 2002	1996 2002	
Kuwait	20 April 1985	1986	1986	...	20 April 1995	1997	1997	1997	
Kyrgyzstan	12 January 1989	1992	1992	...	24 March 1999	2001	2000	...	
Lao Peoples Democratic Republic	1 March 1985	...	...	...	1 March 1995	...	...	...	-
Lebanon	X	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	-
China - Macao SAR	30 August 1991	1993	1993	1993	23 August 2001	2002	2002	2002	
Malaysia	14 August 1991	1995	1995	1995	5 July 2000	2001	...	...	
Maldives	25-28 March 1985 8 March 1990	1987 1993	1987 1991	...	25 March 1995 31 Mar - 7 Apr 2000	2000 2001	2000 2001	...	
Mongolia	5 January 1989	1989	...	...	5-11 January 2000	2000	2000	2000	
Myanmar	X	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	
Nepal	22 June 1991	1995	1995	1995	22 June 2001	2002	2002	2002	
Oman	1 December 1993	1994	...	...	X	..	..	..	
Pakistan	X	..	..	..	2-18 March 1998	1998	...	...	
Philippines	1 May 1990	1992	1992	...	1 September 1995 1 May 2000	2001 ...	2001 ...	2001 ...	
Qatar	16 March 1986	1986	1986	...	1 March 1997	1998	...	...	
Saudi Arabia	27 September 1992	1999	...	...	X	..	..	..	
Singapore	30 June 1990	1991	1991	...	30 June 2000	2000/01	2000	...	
Sri Lanka	X	..	..	..	17 July 2001	...	...	...	1981
Syrian Arab Republic	3-9 September 1994	1998/99	1998/99	1998	X	..	..	..	
Tajikistan	12 January 1989	1994	1994	1994	20 January 2000	...	...	...	
Thailand	1 April 1990	1992	1992	...	1 April 2000	2000	2000	...	
East Timor	X	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	-
Turkey	20 October 1985 21 October 1990	1992 1993	1992 1993	...	22 October 2000	...	...	...	
Turkmenistan	12 January 1989	...	...	...	10 January 1995	...	...	...	-
United Arab Emirates	17-23 December 1985	...	...	...	17 December 1995	...	...	...	1981
Uzbekistan	12 January 1989	...	...	...	X	..	..	..	-
Viet Nam	1 April 1989	1989	1989	...	1 April 1999	2001	...	...	
Occupied Palestinian Territory	X	..	..	..	9 December 1997	...	...	...	-
Yemen	1-18 February 1986 29-30 March 1988 16-17 December 1994	1988 ... 1995	... ... 1997	... ... ...	X	..	..	..	
<b>Europe</b>									
Albania	12 April 1989	...	...	...	1 April 2001	...	...	...	-
Andorra	X	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	
Austria	15 May 1991	1994	1994	...	15 May 2001	2001	...	...	

Countries and Areas	Censuses conducted and their responses (1985-1994)				Censuses conducted and their responses (1995-2004)				Latest census data provided if no to census since 1985
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		PC <sup>5</sup>	EC <sup>6</sup>	HC <sup>7</sup>		PC <sup>5</sup>	EC <sup>6</sup>	HC <sup>7</sup>	
Belarus	12 January 1989	1994	1994	...	16 February 1999	2000	2000	...	
Belgium	1 March 1991	...	...	...	1 October 2001	...	...	...	1981
Bosnia and Herzegovina	31 March 1991	1994/96	1996	...	X	..	..	..	
Bulgaria	4 December 1985 4 December 1992	1985 ...	...	1988 ...	1 March 2001	...	...	...	
Channel Islands - Guernsey	March 23, 1986 21 April 1991	1988 1991	1988 1991	... 1991	31 March 1996 29 April 2001	1999 2002	1999 2002	1999 ...	
Channel Islands - Jersey	March 23, 1986 10 March 1991	1987 ...	1987 ...	... ...	10 March 1996 11 March 2001	1996 ...	1996 ...	... ...	
Croatia	31 March 1991	1993	1993	...	31 March 2001	...	...	...	
Czech Republic	3 March 1991	1993	1993	1993	1 March 2001	2001	2001	...	
Denmark	1 January 1991	1993	1993	1993	1 January 2001	...	...	...	
Estonia	12 January 1989	1991	1991	...	31 March 2000	2001	...	...	
Faeroe Islands	X	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	-
Finland	17 November 1985 31 December 1990	1987 1991	1987 1992	1987 1993	31 December 1995 31 December 2000	... 2000	1997 2000	1997 2000	
France	5 March 1990	1991	1991	1991	8 March 1999	2001	2001	2001	
Germany	25 May 25 1987	...	...	...	X	..	..	..	-
Gibraltar	14 October 1991	1996	1996	...	X	..	..	..	
Greece	17 March 1991	1994	1994	1994	18 March 2001	...	...	...	
Holy See	X	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	-
Hungary	1 January 1990	1991/93	1991/1993	1991	1 February 2001	...	...	...	
Iceland	X	..	..	..	March 2001	...	...	...	-
Ireland	13 April 1986 21 April 1991	... 1993	... ...	... 1993	28 April 1996 28 April 2002	1997 ...	1998 ...	1998 ...	
Isle of Man	6-7 April 1986 14 April 1991	... ...	... ...	... ...	14 April 1996 29 April 2001	1996 ...	1996 ...	1996 ...	
Italy	20 October 1991	1992	...	...	21 October 2001	...	...	...	
Latvia	12 January 1989	1991	1991	1991	31 March 2000	2001	2001	...	
Liechtenstein	4 December 1990	...	...	...	5 December 2000	...	...	...	-
Lithuania	12 January 1989	1991	1991	...	6 April 2001	...	...	...	
Luxembourg	1 March 1991	1993	1993	1993	15 February 2001	...	...	...	
Malta	16 November 1985	1992	1988	...	26 November 1995	...	...	...	
Monaco	23 July 1990	1997	...	...	X	..	..	..	
Netherlands	1 January 1991	1992	...	...	1 July 2001	...	...	...	
Norway	3 November 1990	1993	1993	1993	3 November 2001	...	...	...	
Poland	6 December 1988	1990	1990	1990	21 May 2002	...	...	...	
Portugal	15 April 1991	1994	1994	1994	12 March 2001	...	...	...	
Republic of Moldova	12 January 1989	1992	1992	1992	X	..	..	..	
Romania	7 January 1992	1993	1993	1993	18 March 2002	...	...	...	
Russian Federation	12 January 1989	1992	1992	1992	October 2002	...	...	...	
San Marino	X	..	..	..	X	..	..	..	-
Serbia and Montenegro	31 March 1991	1995	1996	1996	31 March 2002	...	...	...	
Slovakia	3 March 1991	1996	1996	1996	26 May 2001	2001	...	...	
Slovenia	31 March 1991	1993	1993	1993	31 March 2002	...	...	...	
Spain	1 March 1991	1992	1992	...	1 November 2001	...	...	...	
Sweden	1 November 1985 1 November 1990	1992 ...	1992 ...	1992 ...	X ...	.. ...	.. ...	.. ...	
Switzerland	4 December 1990	1993	1993	1993	5 December 2000	...	...	...	
The Former	31 March 1991	1993	...	1993	1-15 November 2002	...	...	...	

Countries and Areas	Censuses conducted and their responses (1985-1994)				Censuses conducted and their responses (1995-2004)				Latest census data provided if no to census since 1985
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		PC <sup>5</sup>	EC <sup>6</sup>	HC <sup>7</sup>		PC <sup>5</sup>	EC <sup>6</sup>	HC <sup>7</sup>	
Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia	20 June 1994	1996	...	...					
Ukraine	12 January 1989	1991	1991	...	5 December 2001	...	...	...	
United Kingdom	21 April 1991	1993	...	...	29 April 2001	...	...	...	
<b>Oceania</b>									
American Samoa	1 April 1990	1993	1993	...	1 April 2000	...	...	...	
Australia	30 June 1986	...	...	...	6 August 1996	1999	1999	...	
	30 June 1991	1994	1993	...	7 August 2001	...	...	...	
Cook Islands	1 December 1986	...	...	...	1 December 1996	1998	...	...	
	1 December 1991	...	1994	...	1 December 2001	...	...	...	
Fiji	31 August 1986	1987	1987	...	25 August 1996	1999	1999	...	
French Polynesia	6 September 1988	...	...	...	3 September 1996	1999	...	...	
					7 November 2002	...	...	...	
Guam	1 April 1990	1992	1992	...	1 April 2000	2002	...	...	
Kiribati	10 May 1985	...	...	...	7 November 1995	2001	2001	...	
	7 November 1990	...	...	...	7 November 2000	...	...	...	
Marshall Islands	13 November 1988	...	...	...	1 June 1999	2001	2001	...	
Micronesia, Federated States of	1985-1989	...	...	...	1 April 2000	...	...	...	
	18 September 1994	1996	1996	...					
Nauru	17 April 1992	...	...	...	23 September 2002	...	...	...	1977
New Caledonia	4 April 1989	1989	...	...	16 April 1996	2001	...	...	
New Zealand	4 March 1986	...	...	...	5 March 1996	1997	1997	...	
	5 March 1991	1991	1991	1991	6 March 2001	...	...	...	
Niue	29 September 1986	...	...	...	17 August 1997	1998	...	...	
	3 November 1991	...	...	...					
Norfolk Island	30 June 1986	1991	1991	...	30 June 1996	...	...	...	
	2 August 1991	...	...	...	7 August 2001	...	...	...	
Northern Mariana Islands	1 April 1990	...	...	...	9 September 1995	...	...	...	
					1 April 2000	2002	...	...	
Palau	Jan.-Mar. 1986	...	...	...	9 September 1995	2001	2001	...	
	1 April 1990	...	...	...	15 April 2000	...	...	...	
Papua New Guinea	11 July 1990	...	...	...	9 July 2000	...	...	...	1980
Pitcairn	31 December 1991	...	...	...	X	..	..	..	1976
Samoa	3-4 November 1986	...	...	...	1 November 2001	...	...	...	1981
	5 November 1991	...	...	...					
Solomon Islands	23 November 1986	...	1988	...	21 November 1999	...	...	...	
Tokelau	1986	...	...	...	October 2001	...	...	...	1982
	11 December 1991	...	...	...					
Tonga	28 November 1986	1989	1989	...	30 November 1996	1998	1998	1998	
Tuvalu	1 June 1985	...	...	...	November 2002	...	...	...	-
	17 November 1991	...	...	...					
Vanuatu	20 January 1986	...	1996	...	16-30 November 1999	...	...	...	
	16 May 1989	1990	...	1990					
Wallis and Futuna Islands	12 December 1990	...	...	...	3 October 1996	...	...	...	1983

X: No census available

.. Not applicable

... Data not available

- No response on earlier censuses