

Table 1 presents native and foreign-born population by age, sex and urban/rural residence for censuses between 1985 and 2004.

Description of variables: Statistics presented in this table are from population censuses. Data obtained from sample surveys are sometimes shown for those that are available. These have been footnoted. Data reported to have been based on the de facto or de jure concept are identified as such.

Data shown in this table relate to native and foreign-born population where native population is defined as persons born within the country or area; foreign-born population is defined as persons born outside the country or area. The country or area of birth is based on the national boundaries existing at the time of the census.¹

Age is defined as age at last birthday, that is, the difference between the date of birth and the date of the census, expressed in completed solar years.

The urban/rural classification is that provided by each country or area; it is presumed to be based on the national definitions of urban population that have been set forth at the end of table 6 of the *Demographic Yearbook 2002* (For reference, please see <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/dyb/dyb2002/Introduction.pdf> for more information).

Reliability of data: No special reliability codes have been used in connection with this table.

Limitations: Statistics on native and foreign-born population by age and sex are subject to the same qualifications which have been set forth for population statistics in general in section 3 of the Technical Notes for the regular *Demographic Yearbook 2002*.

Errors in national census data can arise at any stage of the collection, processing or presentation process, and these errors may limit the quality and international comparability of census statistics presented in the *Demographic Yearbook*. Two major types of errors in census data are often distinguished: first, coverage errors, which lead to the over-enumeration or under-enumeration of the population in the census, and second, content errors, which affect the accuracy of the recorded information for the covered population. Because coverage errors may occur more frequently among some population sub-groups than others, coverage errors may affect not only the absolute number of persons in any given category but also their relative distribution. Levels and patterns of coverage and content errors differ widely among countries and even, at times, from census to census for a specific country. Further limiting the international comparability of census statistics are variations among countries in the concepts, definitions and classifications used in their censuses.

Non-residents temporarily present in a country at the time of a census are almost all foreign born. However, there is considerable variation among census as to whether or not individual categories of non-residents are included in the census. Their omission or inclusion may produce lack of comparability in census data between censuses of the foreign-born population or between those for different countries. A related source of variation is the difference observed between countries in defining the native-born population.

Because these are statistics classified according to age, they are subject to the limitations with respect to accuracy of reported ages similar to those already discussed in section 3.1.3 of the Technical Notes and in the Technical Notes for table 7 of the *Demographic Yearbook 2002*. The absence of frequencies in the unknown age group does not necessarily indicate completely accurate reporting and tabulation of the age item. It is often an indication that the unknowns have been eliminated by assigning ages to them before tabulation, or by proportionate distribution after tabulation.

Despite these limitations statistics by country of birth and sex can provide a crude measure of the volume and sources of migration during an indefinite number of years prior to the census. Since they do not take account of deaths among incoming groups since immigration, or of subsequent emigration, they do not provide precise measures of the amount of migration but only indicate the tendency.

In addition, the limitations inherent in statistics of urban/rural population must be considered in using the data in this table. These limitations have been discussed in the Technical Notes for table 6 of the *Demographic Yearbook 2002*.

¹ Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Revision 1, Sales No. E.98.XVII.14. Para. 146

Earlier data: Native and foreign-born population by sex only have been shown previously in issues of the Demographic Yearbook featuring population census and migration statistics as the special topic. This series updates information published in previous issues as indicated in the Index.