Distr.: General
29 April 2024

English

Economic Commission for Europe

Conference of European Statisticians

Group of Experts on Migration Statistics

Geneva, Switzerland, 7−8 May 2024
Item 7 of the provisional agenda
Results on migration from the 2020 population census round

Measuring Migration during the 2022 Population Census of the Republic of Armenia

Note by ARMSTAT (Statistical Committee of the Republic of Armenia*

Abstract

The 2022 Population Census in the Republic of Armenia was the third one aafter declaring independence. The first Population Census in the Republic of Armenia was carried out in 2001, followed by the 2011 and using full field enumeration (traditional census) approach of data collection with paper census questionnaire.

The 2022 Population Census in the Republic of Armenia had been carried out as a register-based census combined with a sample survey. Data from the Border Management Information System had been used in addition to this. All the variables included in the 2022 Census program had been collected by the survey that covered households living in the 25% of addresses included in the State population register. Population censuses are one of the comprehensive sources of data for international and internal migration, while determining the scale and composition of international migration. That is why census data have a number of advantages over other sources of migration (administrative, survey, etc.). Statistical data on a number of the migrant stocks, their socio-economic characteristics, the flows of migrants and some data on emigration were obtained by the results of the 2022 Population census enabling to provide information on the changes in the numbers and characteristics during the decade.

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I. Introduction

1. Conduction of census at a regular basis is necessity for any country regardless of its social order and economic system, as census represents one of the main sources for data collection on the number and characteristics of the population of a country, and in some cases, it may represent the only source of information for certain social, demographic and economic characteristics. Regular census conduction was also very important for the Republic of Armenia (RA), as census results will ensure the possibility to study the changes taken place in social and economic processes during decade.

2. After declaring independence, the first Population Census in RA was carried out in 2001, followed by the 2011 and using full field enumeration (traditional census) approach of data collection with paper census questionnaire.

3. The 2022 Population Census was the third one conducted in Armenia, in the 2020 Census round. Taking into account the fact that the RA State Population Register and the administrative register of state border crossings (Border Management Electronic Information system (BMIS) function in Armenia and guided by the Recommendations for the 2020 Censuses of Population and Housing, Conference of European Statisticians, United Nations |Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), unlike the RA 2001 and 2011 Population Censuses, which were conducted by the traditional method, for the first time the combined approach was used for the RA 2022 Population Census implementation.

4. In order to test the entire census procedures of the preparatory, enumeration and processing stages the Pilot Population Census was conducted in the city of Artik of Shirak region (Marz) and in four villages of Kotayk region (Aramus, Akunk, Kamaris and Mayakovsky).

5. The Pilot Population Census enabled to make appropriate conclusions, in particular, regarding organizational and methodological issues, improvement of population census documents, technological processes of data processing, which were taken into account during the organizational and methodological provisions and processes of RA 2022 Population Census preparation, conducting and data processing.

6. The content of the Census program (list of the questions in the questionnaire) includes the previous experiences from the last censuses, the statistical requirements of users, as well as the core topics according to the UN recommendations on geographic, demographic, educational, ethno-cultural, household and family characteristics, disability.

7. Population censuses are also the most comprehensive source of data for international migration. While determining the scale and composition of international migration, census data have a number of advantages over other sources (administrative, survey, etc). Population censuses provide statistical data on the number of migrants (stocks), their socio-economic characteristics, flows of migrants and some data on emigration.

II. 2022 Population Census in the Republic of Armenia

A. Legal framework

8. The RA Law "On Official Statistics" establishes that censuses are conducted at least every 10 years (Article 21), and the timing of its conduct is adopted by the Government resolution.

9. The timing of the last population census of RA and the pilot census conduction were established by the Government Decree (dated 10, October 2018, N1115-Ն).   The decision on the creation and composition of the Republican, Yerevan city and regional commissions for the preparation and conduct of the 2022 census had been also established by the above Government Resolution. The census date was defined 13 - 22, October 2022.

10. ARMSTAT was also advised to take necessary actions for the development of computerised program for the combination of the identified personal data from the State Population Register (SPR) and the Border Management Information System (BMIS), in cooperation with the RA Police (at present the Ministry of Internal Affairs) and the National Security Service, ensuring its application during the pilot census.

B. Method of Population Census conduction

11. The method of census conduction approach was the one of the main questions discussed at the kick off meeting (November 20, 2018) of the Republican Commission for the preparation and conduct of the 2022 census, chaired by the Deputy Vice Prime Minister, during which Armstat presented the basic approaches of census conduction, based on the method of data collection and their modern developments, according to the Recommendations for the 2020 Censuses of Population and Housing, Conference of European Statisticians, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). The discussions also included topics about the advantages and disadvantages of the three methods: traditional, combined and register based, and the opportunities that Armenia could have, while operating each of those methods, including the census budget for the first two approaches, as the register-based census was not technically not fully applicable for Armenia, yet.

12. Conduction of the 2020 Census with a method of Combined approach (a sample survey for the selected variables of Census program, combined with the administrative data of Population register) the Republican Commission had approved by its' first decision, from the presented four approaches: traditional with a paper census questionnaire, traditional with hand-held device (tablets), combined census approach: population registers and sample field data, collected by paper census questionnaire and combined: population registers and sample field data collected by tablets.

13. For the first time RA 2022 Population census was carried out using a combined method - based on the "State Population Register", to which data from the Border Management Information System (BMIS) was combined with special software program, in order to clarify being present in the country or/ absent at census reference time. The register information was combined with data collected from the households living at the selected addresses, according to the 2022 census program, approved by the RA Government.

14. The State population register has an overall coverage in Armenia at individual identification level and contains the following individual data:

    a.   *personal identification code*
    b.   *name, surname, as well as patronymic, if certifying documents are presented*
    c.   *date, month, year of birth*
    d.   *sex*
    e.   *citizenship*
    f.   *place of birth*
    g.   *ethnicity*
    h.   *status (residence status or a refugee)*

15. The time reference point (census day) was set at 00:00 on October 13, 2022 (Census date was twice postponed because of the pandemic and war consequences). Data on foreigners living in the Republic of Armenia temporarily (up to 12 months) and permanently (over 12 months) were also taken into account.

C. The main procedures of the 2022 Census preparation and implementation

Figure 1.
Census Implementation Stages by Combined Method (SPR and 25% sample survey, using tablets)
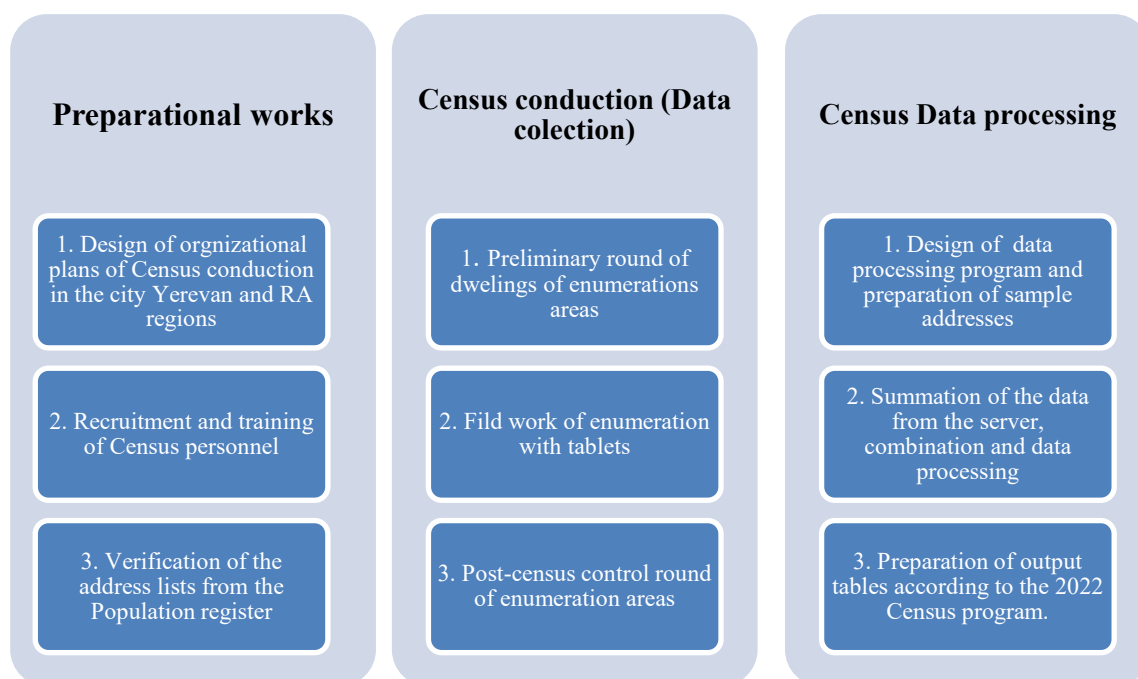

Preparational works	Census conduction (Data colection)	Census Data processing
1. Design of orgnizational plans of Census conduction in the city Yerevan and RA regions	1. Preliminary round of dwelings of enumerations areas	1. Design of data processing program and preparation of sample addresses
2. Recruitment and training of Census personnel	2. Fild work of enumeration with tablets	2. Summation of the data from the server, combination and data processing
3. Verification of the address lists from the Population register	3. Post-census control round of enumeration areas	3. Preparation of output tables according to the 2022 Census program.

Figure 2.
The Schedule of main functions of Census conduction

Conduction of Pilot Census	Conduction of Population Census	Publication of Preliminary data	Publication of final data
3-12 October 2019	13-22 October 2022	2nd quarter 2023	4th quarter 2023

D.   Sampling method and Census program

16.   The sample was created based on the lists of addresses created from the State Population Register, as the address register was not created yet. The list of addresses was twice verified in the field, before and after making the sample. All the settlements of RA were included in the sample, at the rate of 25%.

17.   Data on all the characteristics of the census program were obtained using 25% of the address data of the State Population Register and by means of surveys of the population using tablets.

18.   The questions included in the Census program were considered taking into account the recommendations of the "Conference of European Statisticians on conducting population and housing censuses in the 2020 round", The program was discussed with relevant interested structures and organizations, and was also approved by the Republican Commission for the preparation and conduct of the 2022 population census, as well as within the framework of issues agreed with the CIS Stat Committee and the Eurasian Economic Union.

19.   The Data on the variables confirmed by the 2022 Census Program were obtained through a sample survey involving 25% of the addresses from the State population register. Enumerators visited these addresses and collected data through interviews using tablets (CAPI).

20.   Questions related to migration were also included among the questions of the Census program. A minimum set of questions on migration was also set to collect information on internal migration.

21.   The following questions relevant for migration were included in the 2022 population census program:

➢   The place of birth - country, in case of Armenia - region, community, locality
➢   The country of citizenship - for persons with dual citizenship, also the second country of citizenship
➢   for citizens of the Republic of Armenia, the way it was acquired:
    at birth, acquisition of citizenship, other
➢   for stateless persons: *recognized refugee, deported from other country*
➢   asylum seeker: *stateless without documents, unknown*
➢   for persons absent from the place of residence or temporarily present at the time of the census:
    1. the duration of absence/temporary presence (by months)
    2. the reason for absence / purpose of temporary presence
➢   for those who were absent at the time of the census, in which country/place they reside,
    1. country, 2. in the case of Armenia: region, community, locality
➢   for person temporary present at census day, the country/place of usual residence:
    1. country, 2. in the case of Armenia: region, community, locality

22. After the census data processing and the first verification preliminary data on the current and permanent population were obtained and published. The final results of 2022 population Census were released at 15, December 2023.

III. Population groups relevant to Migration according to the results of RA Population Censuses

23. Data on foreign-born population and foreign citizens among usual resident population of the RA were also obtained according to the population census results. The stock of international migrants among the permanent population of the Republic of Armenia comprised about 130 thousand persons, those who had migrated and resided out of the country at least once in their life and the native-born population were more than 2 803 thousand persons.

Table 1
Distribution of Permanent Population of the Republic of Armenia according to the country of birth, 2022 Census

person

Birth place	Total	Male	Female
RA	**2 932 731**	**1 384 481**	**1 548 250**
Birthplace - RA	2 803 064	1 330 867	1 472 197
Birthplace- Nagorno Karabakh	22 309	9 291	13 018
Birthplace- foreign country	107 358	44 322	63 036
Georgia	26 422	9 644	16 778
Azerbaijan	39 077	15 691	23 386
Russia	21 413	9 624	11 789
Ukraine	2 253	715	1 538
Iran	5 470	2 683	2 787
Lebanon	1 331	679	652
Syria	3 684	1 756	1 928
Greece	448	226	222
Germany	473	244	229
Kazakhstan	777	298	479
Turkey	271	165	106
Turkmenistan	416	133	283
Uzbekistan	731	267	464
India	583	334	249
USA	499	255	244
Other	3 510	1 608	1 902

Table 2
Distribution of the Permanent Population by the Place of Birth and Age group

person

	Total	**of which by age groups**							
		0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70 +
RA - total	**2 932 731**	**361 689**	**360 424**	**337 561**	**458 658**	**372 817**	**346 769**	**412 879**	**281 934**
Place of birth- **RA**	2 803 064	355 491	352 878	325 975	444 277	358 777	329 618	383 093	252 955
Place of birth- **Nagorno Karabakh**	22 310	2 128	2 615	2 297	2 445	2 515	2 197	3 942	4 171
Place of birth **- other foreign country**	**107 357**	**4 070**	**4 931**	**9 289**	**11 936**	**11 525**	**14 954**	**25 844**	**24 808**
from which:									
Georgia	26 422	108	492	971	2 727	2 738	3 921	8 028	7 437
Azerbaijan (SSR)	39 077	-	-	15	3 175	5 405	7 672	12 662	10 148
Russian Federation	21 414	3 105	3 069	5 177	3 493	1 430	913	1 786	2 441
Iran	5 470	66	201	389	424	405	954	1 295	1 736
Syria	3 684	52	327	403	451	326	484	761	880
Ukraine	2 253	104	167	631	259	253	189	256	394

24. The results of the 2022 Census showed that nearly one fifth of population (21%) were not living in their place of usual residence since birth, that is they have changed it, compared to the 2011 Census data when it comprised one fifth of the population (25.5%). The place of previous usual residence for the majority (76.8%) of the permanent population had been within Armenia, for 19% -foreign country and for 4.2% -Nagorno Karabagh.

Figure 1
Permanent Population of the Republic of Armenia by Continuity of living at the Usual Place of residence
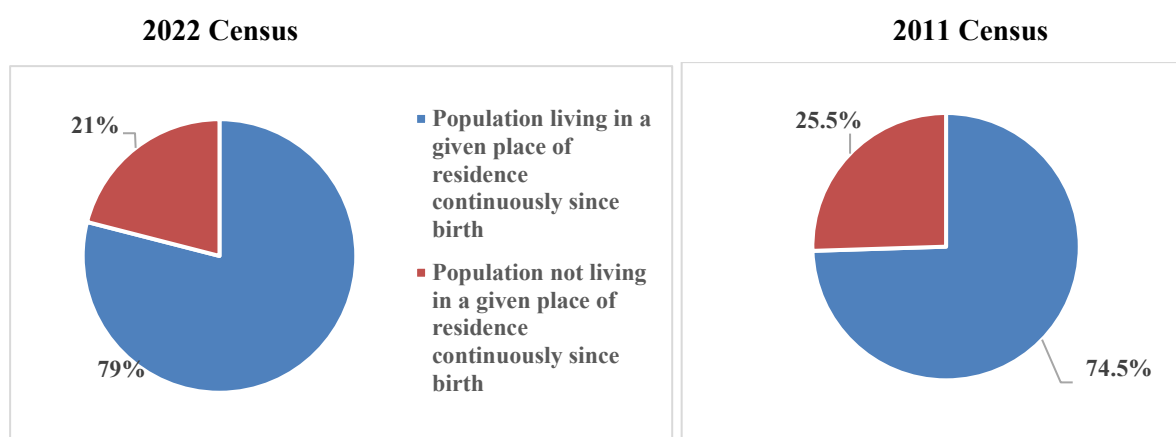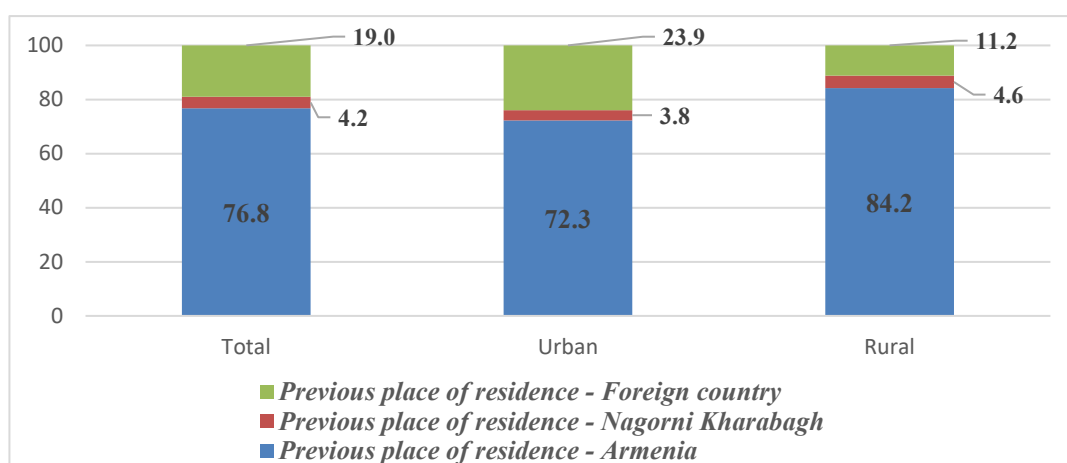
2022 Census   **2011 Census**

Figure 2
Distribution of Population that had not been resided in a given settlement since birth by their
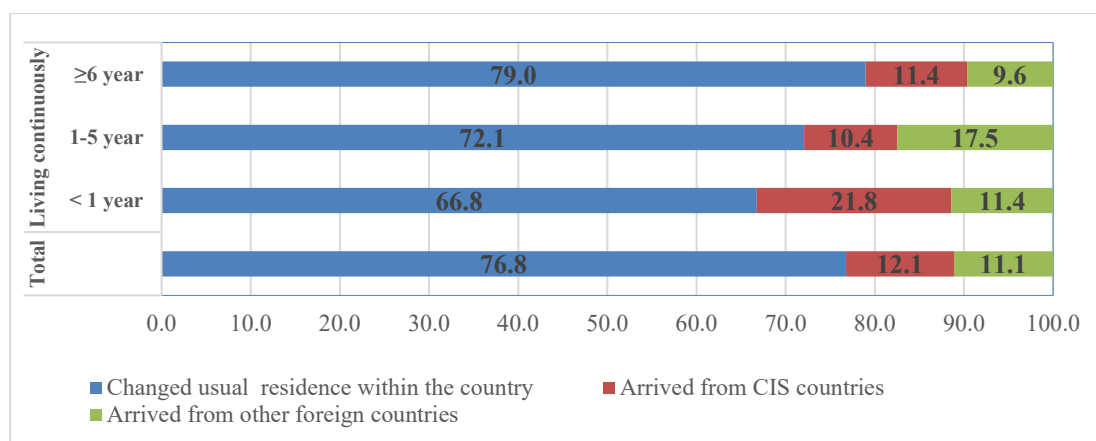Previous Place of Residence, %

25. According to the results of last two censuses the majority (99.2%) of usual resident
population of RA were citizens of Armenia and only 0.8% of them hold the citizenship of
foreign country, at census time. It should be noted that the majority of foreign citizens hold
citizenship of Russian Federation, as well as larger number had citizens of Georgia, Iran and
Syria, India and USA.

Table 3
Distribution of Permanent Population of the Republic of Armenia according to the
Country of citizenship, 2011 and 2022 Censuses

person

Country of citizenship	Total population		Male		Female	
	2011	2022	2011	2022	2011	2022
Population - Total	**3 018 854**	**2 932 731**	**1 448 052**	**1 384 481**	**1 570 802**	**1 548 250**
of which by country of citizenship						
Armenia	2 995 964	2 890 119	1 436 234	1 363 892	1 559 730	1 526 227
Russian Federation	13 351	23 677	7 167	12 189	6 184	11 488
Georgia	3 336	7 451	1 439	2 740	1 897	4 711
Ukraine	764	1 401	331	549	433	852
Iran	1 527	2 333	850	1 215	677	1 118
Syria	361	2 149	238	1 040	123	1 109
Lebanon	108	844	72	442	36	402
India	131	554	84	334	47	220
USA	546	499	314	299	232	200
Other	2 370	3 019	1 156	1 420	1 214	1 599
No citizenship	396	685	167	361	229	324

26. Within the resident population who had changed their usual place of residence, about 77 % of migrants changed the residence within the country (internal migrants), while 23% were international migrants: 12% - had arrived from CIS countries and 11% - arrived from other foreign countries. Among those arrived from foreign countries more than 4% lived in the place of residence less than a year, while nearly 26% lived continuously in the place of usual residence from 1-5 years and 68% - 6 years and more.

Figure 5
Distribution of Migrants by duration of residence in their place of permanent residence and previous place of residence, %

IV. Conclusion

27. The conduction of 2022 Census of RA was the first when the combined approach was employed, which differs by its' traditional method of data collection used during the previous two censuses of 2001 and 2011. By means of specially developed software, based on the interoperability of the administrative databases of the State population Register and BMIS systems, a platform for receiving statistical data in real time was formed.

28. Through the created platform, data on registered population, current population and permanent population are available to obtain in real time. The permanent population numbers obtained by the results of RA 2022 census are used as base data for the annual population counts, starting from 2024.

29. The 2022 Census provided real opportunity to increase significantly the availability of qualified, timely and reliable data disaggregated by migratory status and other characteristics, which are relevant not only in National, but also at International context.

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