

The first outcomes of the 2019 population census in the Republic of Belarus and census experience conclusions

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1. The population census was held in the Republic of Belarus on October 4 through to October 30, 2019. Application of modern information and communication technologies (ICT) enabled to get the final data on the country's population and its administrative-territorial units together with specific social and demographic characteristics in a short time (in less than a year).

According to the census data, the country was inhabited by 9,413.4 thousand people, including 53.8 percent of women and 46.2 percent of men. During the intercensal period, the population of the country decreased by 90.4 thousand people (information on the social and demographic characteristics of the population will be provided in the presentation).

The system for getting access to the final census data of 2009 and 2019 as well as a geostatistical portal are under development.

2. Organizing and conducting the census:

the combined survey method enabled the respondents to choose the most convenient option to participate in the census (survey by the census taker at home or at a fixed (mobile) census station, online self-response);

an innovative approach to organizing the census ensured cost optimization, reduction of census personnel and survey time, and high quality filling out of the census forms;

a high quality public awareness campaign and multi-vector outreach dimensions (TV, radio, Internet, newspapers, posters, advertising in public transport, meetings of statisticians with employees and students, SMS, a single call center, etc.) enabled to cover 98 percent of the respondents.

3. Impediments in preparing and conducting the census:

lacking street name plates on some buildings;

restricted access to premises (combination locks, area fencing);

“The first day effect” — online census faced website response delays caused by overloads due to the large number of concurrent users willing to fill the survey online.

4. Conclusions.

the population welcomed online census and the option of participating in the survey at fixed (mobile) census stations; in the future, it is advisable to improve online census arrangements and to expand data inputs from administrative sources;

when training census personnel, one should consider the age of the trainees and apply an individual approach to their training;

an online census as well as participating in census at fixed census stations should be promoted online more aggressively.