Global CENSUS Archive

SPOTLIGHT

April 2024

A newsletter from East View highlighting census data from around the world

CENSUSES EMBRACE GIS TECHNOLOGY

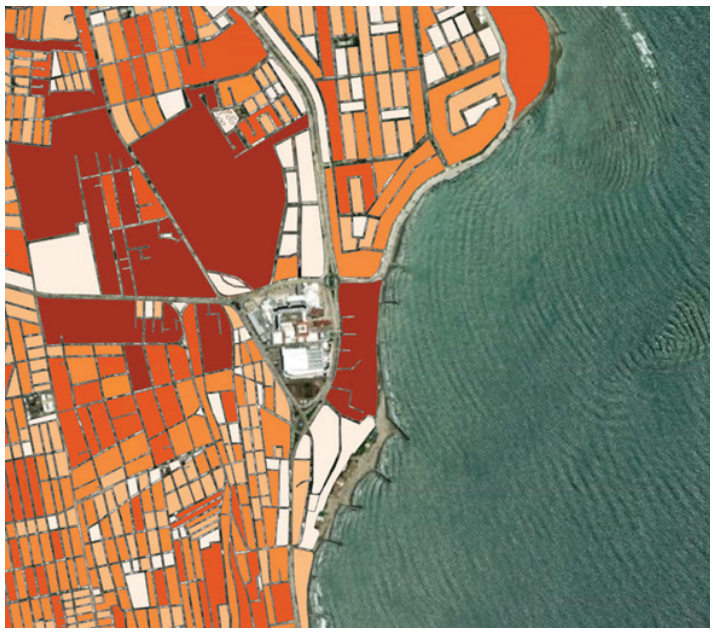
Countries have used maps to mark boundaries and to reveal the findings from their censuses for centuries. Many of these maps were hand-drawn or developed with techniques that could be imprecise. In the modern era, censuses have adopted geographic information systems (GIS) technology to improve the enumeration process from the planning phase all the way to the presentation of results. In the leadup to the now postponed 2023 census, Nigerian officials created enumeration areas for the entire country "using mobile handheld device and geographic information systems, GIS [sic], and satellite imageries to create the digital census maps" (This Day, 2023). Likewise, census enumerators in Tanzania were equipped for their 2022 census with mobile devices with GIS software installed that allowed for more accurate and efficient data collection.

GIS has enabled national organizations to collect, verify, and release census data that is more accurate and more accessible than ever before.

Download GIS Data Straight from the Global Census Archive Platform

East View has a thirty-year history of bringing authoritative GIS content to academic, commercial, and government users. For the Global Census Archive (GCA), we collect official GIS census data from census organizations around the world and put each release through a rigorous, eighteen-step production process. This enables us to present the data in a format that makes it easier for researchers to quickly discover and make use of the information. All GIS datasets are hosted directly on the GCA platform, which means that vector and tabular data can all be downloaded with a click of a button. Another benefit of GIS data being hosted on the GCA platform is that companion publications for that year's census (when available and purchased separately) can also be found in the same location for quick, easy access.

Read on below for more information on GCA and GIS content.



From the Mexico 2020 Population and Housing Census GIS Dataset from the Global Census Archive: Image showing the female population of individual manzanas in southeastern Veracruz, Mexico overlain on satellite imagery in GIS software. The uncovered building complex at the center of the image is the unpopulated World Trade Center. *Vector and tabular data originate from the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) – Mexico, 2020.* Dataset compiled and published by East View: 2022.

Spatial Data for Everyone

Census data combined with GIS is a powerful tool for researchers across disciplines. With so many variables in a single dataset, just one census can serve the needs of a variety of researchers who are seeking to make a connection with people and places.

Using the GIS dataset for the Myanmar 2014 Census on the GCA platform, for example, researchers who are interested in transportation can find data on how Myanmarese travel the country. Not only do researchers get results with variables translated into English, they can also reference the original Burmese text for words such as စက်ဘီး (bicycle). Or take another GIS dataset available on the GCA platform – the Mexico 2020 Census. This GIS dataset has over 2 million polygons at the manzana level, which covers urban areas at the city block level, and has a diverse range of variables from which houses have washing machines to which health services a population has access to. Researchers can learn more about the Mexico 2020 Census with the corresponding publication set, which includes materials such as methodological documents explaining how the census was actually carried out and the types of technology used.

From the Global Census Archive Platform: Screenshot showing the downloadable GIS data hosted on the GCA platform for the Russia 2010 Population and Housing Census. The GIS data is compiled and translated by East View. *Vector and tabular data originate from the Federal State Statistics Service (Russia), 2010.*

Further reading on how census organizations use GIS technology:

- 2023 Census: What Manner of National Priority?
  https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2023/03/19/2023-census-what-manner-of-national-priority
- Census geography
  https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/geo/index-eng.cfm
- Growing relevance of GIS and location in fetching census data
  https://www.geospatialworld.net/blogs/gis-location-census-data/
- How UBOS will use GIS technology in 2023 NHPC Data Collection Management
  https://redpepper.co.ug/how-ubos-will-use-gis-technology-in-2023-nhpc-data-collection-management/126157/
- New technology to ease Tanzania's population census in 2022
  https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/news/national/new-technology-to-ease-tanzania-s-population-census-in-2022-2694620

Want to learn more about the GIS content available in the Global Census Archive?

Register at www.eastview.com/gca-video-signup/ to watch a video on how national census organizations have embraced GIS data practices, how GIS datasets on the GCA platform can be applied to a variety of disciplines, and how East View assembles a typical GIS dataset.
(Video is a recording of a webinar presented on April 25, 2024)

Global CENSUS Archive

The East View **Global Census Archive**® (GCA) is an innovative program to collect official data and publications issued by the national census authorities of more than 175 countries, from the early 19th century to the present day, providing a key resource for scholars and analysts to find current and historical census data to support critical research into our changing world. GCA provides a single platform experience to explore the world's census publications: all countries and regions, the complete depth of published census materials, including original census publications in e-book form, as well as modern tabular data in Excel format and GIS files for advanced users.