

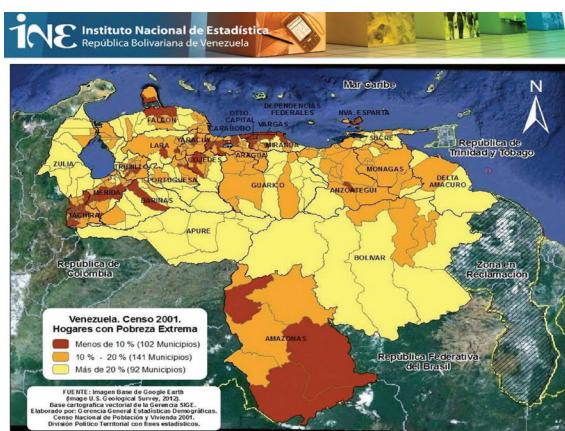
A newsletter from East View highlighting census data from around the world

A NATION IN TURMOIL: VENEZUELA'S STORY THROUGH ITS CENSUSES



The first national census of Venezuela, conducted in 1873, reported a total population of 1,732,411. Although limited in scope, this census established a crucial baseline by collecting data on the number of foreigners and the Indigenous population, serving both administrative needs and future research. Since then, the country has conducted regular decennial censuses, with the most recent taking place in 2011. Each successive census expanded the scope of data collection and reflected shifting administrative priorities. Venezuela's most recent census included questions on household size, income expenditure, and place of residence at the time of the previous census. It also introduced, for the first time, the option to identify as "Afro-Descendant."

The country's turbulent economic and demographic shifts have been consistently reflected in its decennial census results.

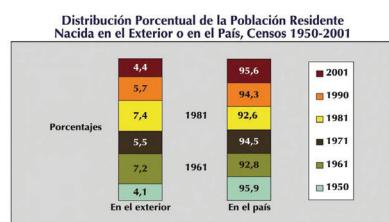
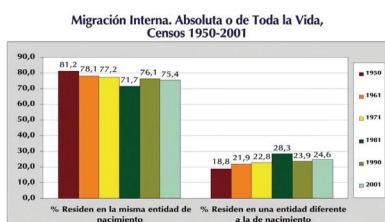


Top: ADM 3 boundaries for all of Venezuela. Area in red, over Barquisimeto, is available as sample data for the Venezuela 2011 GIS census data product.

Above: Venezuela, 2011. Demographic Dynamics, Poverty, p.21.

Right: Venezuela, 2001. Population Situation, Dynamics, & Perspectives, p. 8.

Questions related to previous place of residence, employment status, income, and housing conditions documented a nation undergoing political turmoil in the twenty-first century. Out-migration peaked between 2015 and 2020, becoming one of the world's largest refugee crises. Whether the country will recover from its demographic decline remains uncertain, given the instability of its near future.



Preserving and providing access to Venezuela's historical census records is essential not only for understanding the country's past but also for interpreting its present. Archival census data enables scholars, policymakers, and humanitarian organizations to trace long-term demographic trends, assess the impacts of political and economic upheaval, and reconstruct patterns of migration, inequality, and identity that might otherwise be lost. In a context where recent data is scarce, contested, or disrupted, historical censuses become especially valuable as reference points. When complemented by geographic visualizations, census results offer unique insights into the spatial and social dimensions of national history.

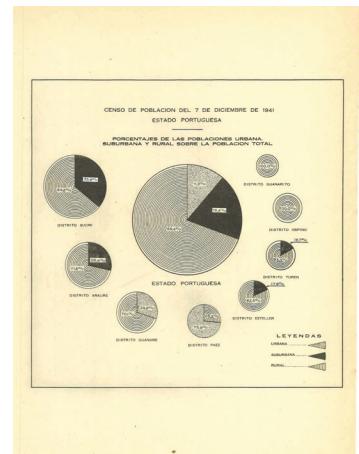
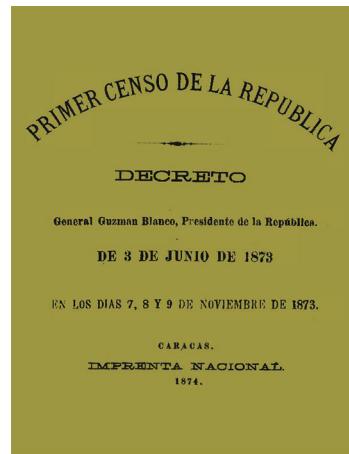
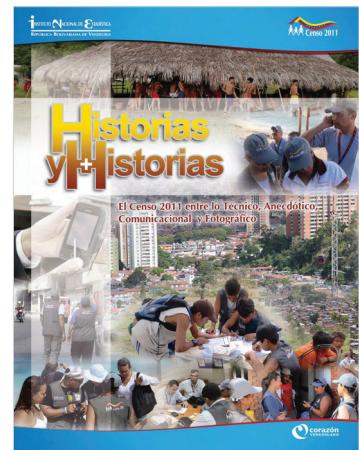
Global Census Archive offers more than 300 census publications, covering all official censuses of Venezuela, as well as GIS products for the 2001 and 2011 censuses. Researchers now have uninterrupted digital access to these materials and can download simplified, easy-to-use geodatabases compatible with any GIS software. By removing barriers to access and use, Global Census Archive transforms historical census data into a living resource for modern research.

Top left: Venezuela, 1873. Census Results, cover

Top right: Venezuela, 1941. Census Results, v06. Portuguesa, Sucre, & Táchira States, p. 68.

Bottom left: Venezuela, 2001. Census Questionnaire, Indigenous Population.

Bottom right: Venezuela, 2011. Methodology, Public Campaign, cover.

Further reading on Venezuela and regional demographics:

- "5 salient facts about intra-regional migration in South America," Migration Data Portal: <https://www.migrationdataportal.org/blog/5-salient-facts-about-intra-regional-migration-south-america>
- "7 of the Largest Refugee Crises Around the World and Their Effects on Hunger," World Food Program USA: <https://wfpusa.org/news/largest-refugee-crises-around-world-effects-hunger/>
- "Country Profile of Venezuela," UN Statistics Division: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/dnss/docViewer.aspx?docID=682#start>