

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

## 2025 IN REVIEW: A YEAR OF CENSUS PLANS

As the midpoint of the decade, 2025 was a busy year for national statistics offices worldwide. Census agencies completed final counts from the 2020 round, advanced long-delayed operations, tested new enumeration methods, and confronted evolving political and social questions, while the global community reaffirmed the importance of accurate population data for the decades ahead.

In 2025, Iraq released the results of its 2024 census, closing a long-standing data gap and providing policymakers with fresh insights into the country's ethnic and religious diversity. In West Africa, Guinea launched its fourth General Population and Housing Census (RGPH-4), a four-week nationwide effort to enumerate every household. South Korea offered a notable example of innovation, updating its questionnaires to reflect shifting social norms by adding a "non-marital cohabitation" category that acknowledges changing views on marriage and family formation.

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In the United States, debates over the 2030 census intensified. Issues that once felt distant now appear urgent, with policymakers sparring over a potential citizenship question and analysts preparing for upcoming field tests. Even at this early stage, the stakes are high: design decisions made in the late 2020s will shape political representation and federal funding allocations well into the 2030s.

Across the world, India is preparing for its first census in fifteen years, a critical effort that will help fill a significant data gap for the world's most populous country. For the first time since 1951, the census will include caste data. This additional data is expected to have immediate socio-political implications, including potential adjustments to government job, education, and electoral quotas for certain caste groups.



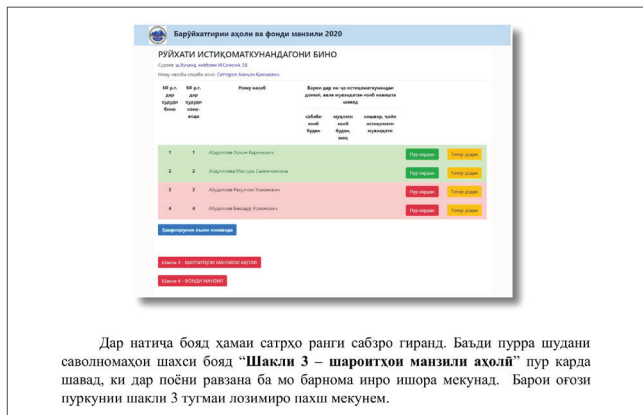
Top: Indonesia, 2020. Census Portrait, 2021, page 1.  
<https://gca.eastview.com/CENSUS-265529580.1.1>

Bottom: Botswana, 2022. Census Results. Questionnaire.  
Diplomats, 2022, page 1. <https://gca.eastview.com/CENSUS-262217980.1.1>



On the international stage, July brought a major milestone: the United Nations Economic and Social Council adopted a resolution urging Member States to conduct at least one population and housing census under the 2030 World Population and Housing Census Programme, spanning 2025 to 2034. The resolution underscored a global consensus that censuses remain essential, even as the tools and techniques used to conduct them continue to evolve. It also emphasized the need to produce census data more frequently, at lower cost, and with reduced fieldwork burdens.

As countries look toward the next decade, the global census landscape is becoming more technologically sophisticated, more socially responsive, and more internationally coordinated. The year's developments suggest that while the challenges of enumeration are growing more complex, the commitment to understanding populations remains as essential as ever. In such a rapidly evolving landscape, having all census records gathered in one accessible archive becomes indispensable for making sense of shifting populations. The Global Census Archive continues its mission to preserve, centralize, and make discoverable the full breadth of the world's census data.



Top Left: Mexico, 2020. Census Sample Design, 2021, page 1. <https://gca.eastview.com/CENSUS-2462034B0.1.1>  
 Top Right: Singapore, 2020. Information Pamphlet, 2021, page 2. <https://gca.eastview.com/CENSUS-2495691B0.1.2>  
 Bottom: Tajikistan, 2020. Internet Instruction, 2020, page 9. <https://gca.eastview.com/CENSUS-2642690B0.1.9>

### Further reading on global census activity:

- "2030 Census": <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/decade/2030/2030-census-main.html>
- "Could Iraq's census further destabilize the country?": <https://www.dw.com/en/is-iraqs-census-a-danger-to-political-stability/a-70824152>
- "Guinea Launches Fourth Population Census": <https://von.gov.ng/guinea-launches-fourth-population-census/>
- "India will include caste details in its next census": <https://www.npr.org/2025/05/02/nx-s1-5384777/india-caste-census>
- "Statistics agency to implement key changes in census to reflect evolving social norms": <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20250703002300320>
- UNECE publishes new recommendations for population and housing censuses for the next decade: <https://unece.org/statistics/press/unece-publishes-new-recommendations-population-and-housing-censuses-next-decade>



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 200 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.