Global CENSUS Archive

SPOTLIGHT

September 2026

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

COUNTING COLLEGE STUDENTS IN THE CENSUS

For many young adults, September marks the start of the school year. Campus residences and college towns quickly gain new residents as students move in. Although students may be a transient population, their numbers are crucial to understanding the changing needs of local communities. During census years, researchers and policymakers gain a snapshot of where students live. For example, under the U.S. Census Residence Criteria, students are counted based on their "usual residence," defined as the place where they live and sleep most of the time. Students who live on campus or in off-campus housing during the academic year are therefore counted at their college addresses.

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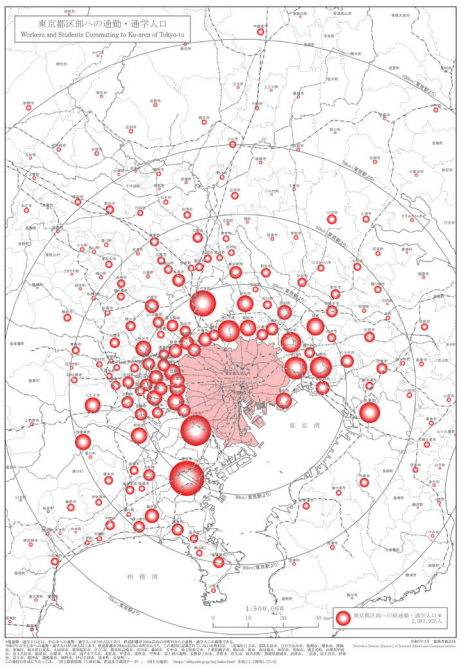
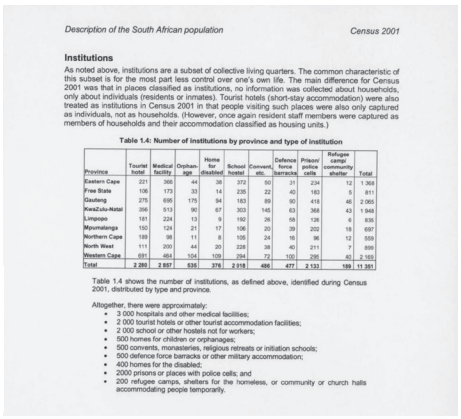
Accurate student counts are also important in many other countries. In Brazil, college students who move to another city for university and live there for most of the year (in a rented apartment or a dormitory) are counted at that student residence. Brazil's long-form questionnaire also asks for the municipality and state where each student attends school to help track commuting patterns. Similarly, Japan's census counts college students where they actually live while attending school, rather than at their parents' or family home, and also collects commuting data for students. South Africa's official statistical methodology defines usual residence as the geographic place where a person lived an average of four nights per week during the previous six months. Students are therefore counted in their institutional households or private lodgings.





Description of the South African population *Census 2001*

Institutions

As noted above, institutions are a subset of collective living quarters. The common characteristic of this subset is for the most part less control over one's own life. The main difference for Census 2001 was that in places classified as institutions, no information was collected about households, only about individuals (residents or inmates). Tourist hotels (short-stay accommodation) were also treated as institutions in Census 2001 in that people visiting such places were also only captured as individuals, not as households. (However, once again resident staff members were captured as members of households and their accommodation classified as housing units.)

Table 1.4: Number of institutions by province and type of institution

Province	Tourist hotel	Medical facility	Orphanage	Home for disabled	School hostel	Convent, etc.	Defence force barracks	Prison/ police cells	Refugee camp/ community shelter	Total
Eastern Cape	221	366	44	36	372	50	31	234	12	1 366
Free State	108	170	33	14	235	22	40	183	5	811
Gauteng	275	695	175	94	163	89	90	418	46	2 065
KwaZulu-Natal	396	513	90	67	303	145	63	368	43	1 948
Limpopo	181	224	13	9	192	36	68	126	6	835
Mpumalanga	150	124	21	17	106	20	39	202	18	697
Northern Cape	189	98	11	8	105	24	16	96	12	559
North West	111	200	44	20	228	38	40	211	7	899
Western Cape	691	464	104	109	294	72	100	295	60	2 189
Total	2 280	2 857	535	376	2 018	496	477	2 133	189	11 351

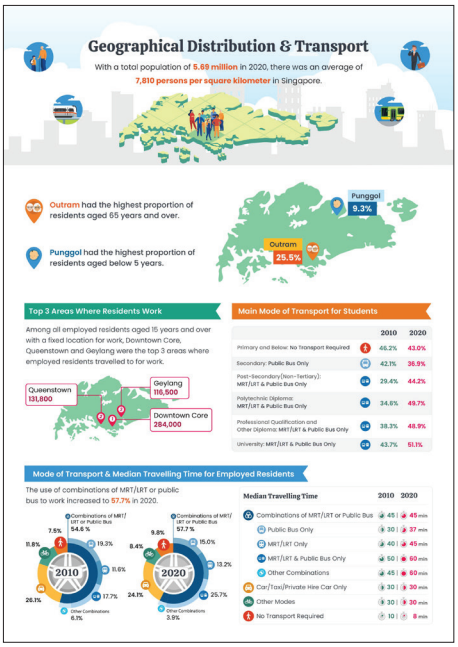
Table 1.4 shows the number of institutions, as defined above, identified during Census 2001, distributed by type and province.

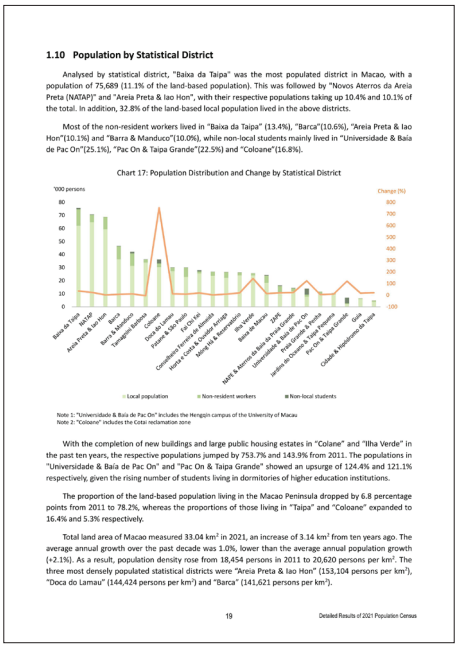
Altogether, there were approximately:

- 3 000 hospitals and other medical facilities;
- 2 000 tourist hotels or other tourist accommodation facilities;
- 2 000 school or other hostels not for workers;
- 500 homes for children or orphanages;
- 500 convents, monasteries, religious retreats or initiation schools;
- 500 defence force barracks or other military accommodation;
- 400 homes for the disabled;
- 2000 prisons or places with police cells; and
- 200 refugee camps, shelters for the homeless, or community or church halls accommodating people temporarily.

Top: Japan, 2020. Statistical Maps. Worker & Student Commutes, p. 5.
https://gca.eastview.com/CENSUS-2664752.1.5

Bottom: South Africa, 2001. Life Cycle Stages, p. 31.
https://gca.eastview.com/CENSUS-2580683BO.1.31





1.10 Population by Statistical District

Analysed by statistical district, "Baixa da Taipa" was the most populated district in Macao, with a population of 75,689 (11.1% of the land-based population). This was followed by "Novos Aterros da Areia Preta (NATAP)" and "Areia Preta & Iao Hon", with their respective populations taking up 10.4% and 10.1% of the total. In addition, 32.8% of the land-based local population lived in the above districts.

Most of the non-resident workers lived in "Baixa da Taipa" (13.4%), "Barca"(10.6%), "Areia Preta & Iao Hon"(10.1%) and "Barra & Manduco"(10.0%), while non-local students mainly lived in "Universidade & Baia de Pac On"(25.1%), "Pac On & Taipa Grande"(22.5%) and "Coloane"(16.8%).

Chart 17: Population Distribution and Change by Statistical District

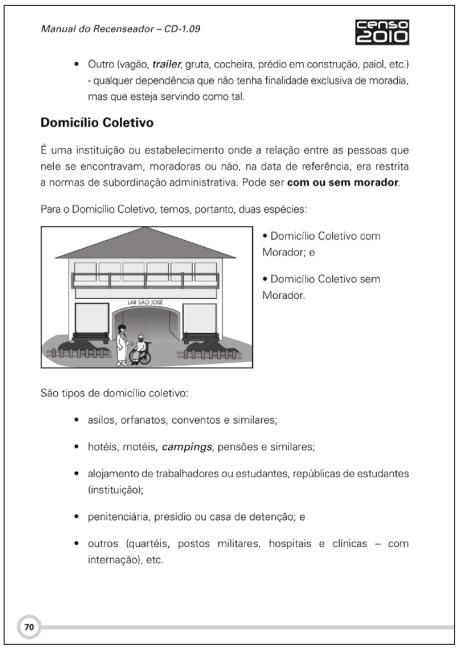
Note 1: "Universidade & Baia de Pac On" includes the Hengqin campus of the University of Macau
Note 2: "Coloane" includes the Cotai reclamation zone

With the completion of new buildings and large public housing estates in "Colane" and "Ilha Verde" in the past ten years, the respective populations jumped by 753.7% and 143.9% from 2011. The populations in "Universidade & Baia de Pac On" and "Pac On & Taipa Grande" showed an upsurge of 124.4% and 121.1% respectively, given the rising number of students living in dormitories of higher education institutions.

The proportion of the land-based population living in the Macao Peninsula dropped by 6.8 percentage points from 2011 to 78.2%, whereas the proportions of those living in "Taipa" and "Coloane" expanded to 16.4% and 5.3% respectively.

Total land area of Macao measured 33.04 km² in 2021, an increase of 3.14 km² from ten years ago. The average annual growth over the past decade was 1.0%, lower than the average annual population growth (+2.1%). As a result, population density rose from 18,454 persons in 2011 to 20,620 persons per km². The three most densely populated statistical districts were "Areia Preta & Iao Hon" (153,104 persons per km²), "Doca do Lamau" (144,424 persons per km²) and "Barca" (141,621 persons per km²).

19 Detailed Results of 2021 Population Census



Manual do Recenseador – CD-1.09

Censo 2010

- Outro (vagão, ***trailer***, gruta, cocheira, prédio em construção, paiol, etc.) - qualquer dependência que não tenha finalidade exclusiva de moradia, mas que esteja servindo como tal.

Domicílio Coletivo

É uma instituição ou estabelecimento onde a relação entre as pessoas que nele se encontravam, moradoras ou não, na data de referência, era restrita a normas de subordinação administrativa. Pode ser **com ou sem morador**.

Para o Domicílio Coletivo, temos, portanto, duas espécies:

- Domicílio Coletivo com Morador; e
- Domicílio Coletivo sem Morador.

São tipos de domicílio coletivo:

- asilos, orfanatos, conventos e similares;
- hotéis, motéis, ***campings***, pensões e similares;
- alojamento de trabalhadores ou estudantes, repúblicas de estudantes (instituição);
- penitenciária, presídio ou casa de detenção; e
- outros (quartéis, postos militares, hospitais e clínicas – com internação), etc.

70

Left to right: Singapore, 2020. Statistical Report 2. Full Report, p. 45. https://gca.eastview.com/CENSUS-2495158BO.1.45; Macau, 2021. Census Results. Revised Version, p. 19. https://gca.eastview.com/CENSUS-2649219BO.1.19; Brazil, 2010. Enumerator's Manual, p. 71. https://gca.eastview.com/CENSUS-2387612BO.1.71

Researchers using the Global Census Archive can find education-related data such as the population of college towns, the number of students in higher education, and student commuting patterns. GCA presents the official census publications from around the world on a research-ready platform in PDF, XLS, and GIS formats where available. Together, these data allow researchers to explore how higher education influences population distribution, mobility, and local community development.

Further reading on census and colleges:

- "2020 Population Census Explanation of Terms," Statistics Japan: https://www.stat.go.jp/english/data/kokusei/2020/pdf/exp.pdf
- "College Towns Depend on Accurate Count of Students Living in Area," U.S. Census Bureau: https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2020/01/student-housing-off-campus-with-parents-college-students-count-2020-census.html
- "Final 2020 Census Residence Criteria and Residence Situations," Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/02/08/2018-02370/final-2020-census-residence-criteria-and-residence-situations
- "Who is Counted," Censo 2022: https://censo2022.ibge.gov.br/en/about/who-is-counted.html

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 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.