

**Principles and Recommendations  
for Population and Housing  
Censuses  
Revision 1  
Part two**

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# **Part Two: Topics for population and housing censuses**

- Chapter V: Topics to be investigated in population Census
- Chapter VI: Topics to be investigated in Housing Census

# V. TOPICS TO BE INVESTIGATED IN POPULATION CENSUSES

- A. Factors determining the selection of topics
- B. List of topics
- C. Definitions and specifications of topics

# A. Factors determining the selection of topics

- 1. Priority of national needs: *should be designed to meet national needs; a balanced appraisal between how urgently the data are needed with other sources of data providing the same information*
- 2. Importance of international comparability: *national and international objectives are usually the same.*
- 3. Suitability of topics : *willingness response to provide adequate information.*
- 4. Resources available: *must be carefully considered in relation to the total resource.*

## **B. List of Population Census Topics**

- MAJOR HEADINGS (para 2.16, pg59):
- 1. Geographical and internal migration characteristics
- 2. Household and family characteristics
- 3. Demographic and social characteristics
- 4. Fertility and mortality
- 5. Educational characteristics
- 6. Economic Characteristic
- 7. International migration
- 8. Disability

# **1. Geographical and internal migration**

- **a. Place of usual residence and/or**
- **b. Place where present at time of census**
- **c. Place of birth**
- **d. Duration of residence**
- **e. Place of previous residence**
- **f. Place of residence at a specified date in the past**

# 1. Geographical and internal migration

- *Derived topics:*
- **g. Total population:** *it should be clearly stated whether it is based on usual residence or present at time of census; whether include various groups of population para. 2.45.*
- **h. Locality:** *city, town, agglomeration of areas, etc*
- **i. Urban and rural:** *there is no single definition; industrialized and developing countries used different criteria; Criteria used should not be complicated.*

## 2. Household and family characteristics

- *Directly collected:*
- **a. Relationship to head or other reference member of household: *definition?***
- *Derived topic*
- **b. Household composition**
- **c. Household and family status**

# **3. Demographic and social characteristics**

- **a. Sex**
- **b. Age**
- **c. Marital status**
- **d. Citizenship**
- **e. Religion**
- **f. Language**
- **g. National and/or ethnic group**

## **4. Fertility and mortality**

- **a. Children ever born**
- **b. Children living**
- **c. Date of birth of last child born alive**
- **d. Deaths in the past 12 months**
- **e. Maternal/paternal orphanhood**
- **f. Age, date or duration of first marriage**
- **g. Age of mother at birth of first child born alive**

# 5. Educational characteristics

- **a. Literacy**
- **b. School attendance**
- **c. Educational attainment:** *national education system should be used; for international comparison ISCED classification should be followed.*
- **d. Field of study and educational qualifications:** *see ISCED 1997.*

## 6. Economic characteristics

- **a. Activity status:** *Usual or current activity concept;*
- *Define economically active or not active*
- *For e.a. pop.: employed or unemployed*
- *For employed: paid or self employment*
- *Unemployed: without work, available for work, seeking work*
- *Not active: student, homemaker, pensioners and other income recipient, others.*

# 6. Economic characteristics

- **b. Time worked**
- **c. Occupation :*ISCO 1988***
- **d. Industry**
- **e. Status in employment**
- **f. Income**
- **g. Institutional sector of employment**
- **h. Place of work**

# 7. International migration characteristics

- a. Country of birth
- b. Citizenship
- c. Year of arrival

# 8. Disability characteristics

- a. Disability
- b. Impairment and handicap
- c. Causes of disability

# VI. TOPICS TO BE INVESTIGATED IN HOUSING CENSUSES

- A. Factors determining the selection of topics
- B. List of topics
- C. Definitions and specifications of topics

# A. Factors determining the selection of topics

- 1. Priority of national needs
- 2. Important of international comparability
- 3. Suitability of topics
- 4. Resources available

# **B. List of topics in housing censuses**

- Unit of Enumeration
  - Buildings: *in which sets of living quarters are located*
  - Living quarters: *the principles unit of enumeration in a housing census*
  - Households/occupants of living quarters: *where the information are obtained from and as the object of housing programmes*

# Unit of Enumeration

- **Building is regarded as an indirect but important unit of enumeration for housing censuses since the information concerning the building is required to describe properly the living quarters located within the building and for the formulation of housing programmes**
- **The principal units of enumeration in a housing census are living quarters**
- **The third unit of enumeration refers to occupants of living quarters, their number and relationship**

# Unit of Enumeration: *Buildings*

- 1. Building - type of
- 2. Construction material of outer walls
- 3. Year or period of construction

# **Unit of enumeration:**

## ***Living quarters***

- 4. Location of living quarters
- 5. Living quarters - type of
- 6. Occupancy status
- 7. Ownership - type of
- 8. Rooms - number of
- 9. Floor space
- 10. Water supply system

# Unit of enumeration:

## *Living quarters*

- 11. Toilet facilities
- 12. Bathing facilities
- 13. Cooking facilities
- 14. Lighting - type of and/or electricity
- 15. Solid waste disposal
- 16. Occupancy by one or more households
- 17. Occupants - number of

# **Unit of enumeration: *Households/ Occupants of living quarters***

- 18. Demographic and economic characteristics of household head
  - Age
  - Sex
  - Type of activity
  - Occupation
- 19. Tenure
- 20. Rental and owner-occupied housing costs

## **D. Additional Topics**

### **Unit of enumeration: *Building***

- 1. Dwellings in the building - number of
- 2. Elevator - availability of
- 3. Farm building or not
- 4. Materials of which specific parts of building are constructed
- 5. State of repair

## **D. Additional Topics**

**Unit of enumeration: *Living quarters***

- 6. Bedrooms - number of
- 7. Fuel used for cooking
- 8. Heating - type and energy used for
- 9. Hot water - availability of
- 10. Piped gas - availability of
- 11. Telephone - availability of
- 12. Use of housing unit

## **D. Additional Topics**

### **Unit of enumeration: *Occupants***

- 13. Cars available to the household - number of
- 14. Durable consumer appliances available to the household
- 15. Outdoor space available for household use