

General Census of Population, Housing & Establishment



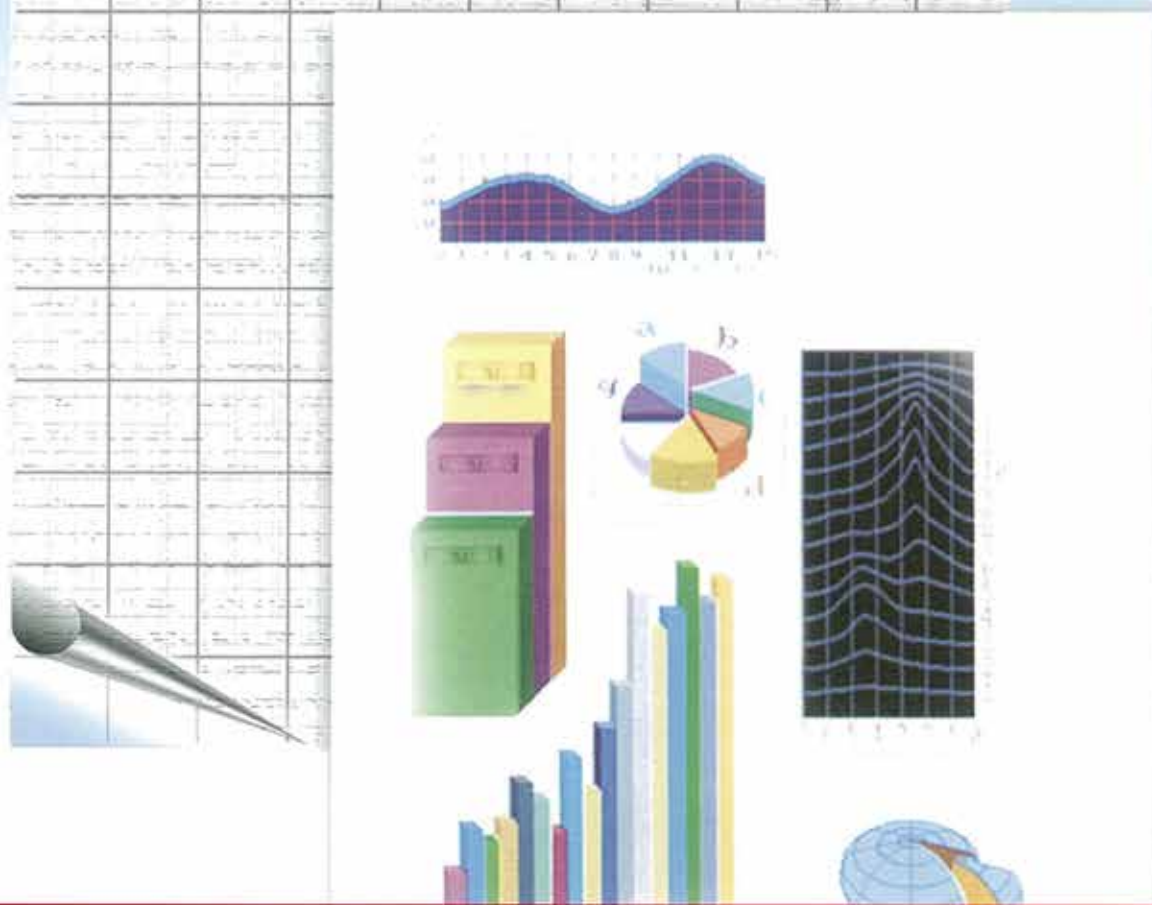
INFORMATIONAL
PORTFOLIO





SULTANATE OF OMAN
Ministry of National Economy
General Census of Population, Housing & Establishments

THE STATISTICAL LAW



Royal
Decree
No.
29/2001

**Issuing
the Statistical Law**

We, Qaboos bin Said

the Sultan of Oman.

After reviewing the State Basic Law promulgated by Royal Decree No. 101/96, the Statistical Law issued by Royal Decree No. 87/88, the Royal Decree No. 84/97 amending the naming of some ministries and establishing the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and dissolving the Ministry of Development, And as necessitated in the public interest.

Have decreed the following:

Article (1): The attached law organizing the statistical data collection and publishing in the Sultanate of Oman, shall be put into effect.

Article (2): The Minister of National Economy shall issue the Regulations and Decisions necessary for the implementation of the attached law.

Article (3): The above mentioned Statistical Law promulgated by Royal Decree No. 87/88 shall henceforth be superceded, all together with every law that contradicts or intervenes with the attached law.

Article (4): This Royal Decree shall be published in the official gazette and shall be put into effect as of the date of its publication.

Qaboos bin Said
Sultan of Oman

Issued on: 13 Muharram, 1422 AH
07 April, 2001

The Statistical Law

Article (1): The following words and phrases shall be interpreted while application of provisions of this law, as elucidated in front of each of them, unless the context prescribes otherwise.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| a. The Ministry: | The Ministry of National Economy. |
| b. The Minister: | The Minister of National Economy. |
| c. Secretary General: | The Secretary General of the Ministry of National Economy. |
| d. The Undersecretary: | The Undersecretary of Ministry of National Economy for Development Affairs. |
| e. The Directorate General | The Directorate General of Social Statistics or the Directorate General of Economic Statistics at the Ministry of National Economy, as the case implies. |
| f. The Director General | The Director General of Social Statistics or the Director General of Economic Statistics at the Ministry of National Economy, as the case implies. |
| g. Government bodies | The Ministries and the public Authorities and Institutions. |

h. Private Entities	All Private companies and enterprises; owners of public businesses, professional, commercial and industrial stores, and non- governmental organizations.
i. The Committee	The Committee prescribed in Article (9) of this Law.
j. The Statistical Data	All statistical administrative figures and data or these collected through statistical surveys relative to economic, financial, population, social, cultural and health aspects and all that related to the community and its activities.
k. Statistical Surveys	The collection of the statistical data comprehensively or by sample.
l. Population Census	The process of conducting comprehensive enumeration of the Sultanate population together with the technically required various statistical data.

Article (2): A decennial population census shall be conducted, vide a Royal Decree defining the schedule and necessary procedures. However, statistical surveys may be conducted in the interest of the economic development objectives and in accordance with the

economic development objectives and in accordance with the Directorate General's work plan.

Article (3): In accordance with an annual work plan, the Directorate General shall be responsible for the publication of the data and results of statistical surveys and the population census. It shall be responsible the amalgamation, analysis and preparation of information for publication.

Article (4): The Government bodies, as an exception from provision of Article (3), may collect and publish the statistical data pertaining to the matters falling within the jurisdiction of each in accordance with an annual plan approved by the committee mentioned in Article (9) of this law, provided that the Directorate General be furnished with copies of these data.

The private entities can conduct special statistical surveys aimed at marketing their products or services for their own benefit or others interests subject to obtaining a written

permission from the Director General and, accordingly, publishing of the collected statistical data is impermissible.

Article (5): The Information Centre, at the Ministry of National Economy shall issue, in collaboration with the Directorate General, the following publications:

- a. An annual book on national statistic to include all available statistical data that are deemed significant for the economic and social development objectives in the country and shall define the progress and development fields in various arenas.
- b. A quarterly publication of the most significant statistical indicators.

- c. A monthly publication of the most significant statistical indicators.
- d. Any other specialized periodicals as the needs require. non-periodical publications reflecting the results of the statistical surveys.

Article (6): All government bodies, private entities and individuals shall abide by providing all data requested by the Directorate General or the Government Bodies engaged with collecting and publishing data falling within the field of responsibilities of each of them and to help in its completion in a proper authentic way and in accordance with the conventional statistical specification and in consistence with the schedule set by the Directorate General or the Government Bodies. The Ministry of Defense and other Security Institutions - except the Customs Administration - shall be exempted from providing data except these data that can be obtained vide a specially written permission.

Article (7): The Public Security Authorities should provide every possible assistance - whenever requested - that helps the surveyors or the census teams to adequately perform their duties.

Article (8): According to provisions of this law, all individual data related to any statistical work or census are classified as confidential, and it is impermissible to publish it unless in a collective form. No person, public or private entity shall have access to these data unless permitted by the concerned authority and shall not be allowed to use for any purpose other than statistical purposes.

Article (9): An Advisory Statistics Committee shall be formed under the chairmanship of the Secretary General and membership of:

- Undersecretary of Ministry of National Economy for Development Affairs.
- Executive Chairman of the Central Bank of Oman.
- Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information.
- Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Labour and Vocational Training for Labour Affairs.
- Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health for Planning Affairs.
- Undersecretary of Ministry of Education for Educational Planning and Projects.
- Undersecretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.
- Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry for Commerce and Industry.
- Undersecretary of the Ministry of Civil Service.
- ROP Representative.
- Sultan Qaboos University Representative.
- Director General of Social Statistics.
- Director General of Economic Statistics.

The committee shall review the regulations prepared by the Ministry in compliance with this Law prior to obtaining the Minister's ratification, in addition to the coordination of the efforts exerted in statistical data collection and analysis. The committee shall particularly carry out the following tasks:

- a. Approve the long-term statistical economic and social plans and the annual statistical plans prepared by the Ministry and other government bodies.
- b. Coordinate the statistical works and activities in the Sultanate.
- c. Setting out the studies, surveys and censuses priorities in accordance with the various governments' needs and its planning purposes.

- d. Unification of the statistical concepts and terminology in the Sultanate and following up the implementation of the related international recommendations.
- e. Defining the way of conducting the statistical operations and the technical methods followed in preparing and publishing the results, in a way that ensures upgrading the level of accuracy and speed of implementing of the official statistics.
- f. Review of the specialized statistical operation cost aimed to serve different government bodies and forward its opinion to the concerned authority.
- g. Encourage the statistical studies and research in various fields and levels, and arrange to disseminate statistical awareness to an extent that ensures qualifying and graduation of eligible personnel cope with the statistics vested tasks.
- h. Approve the publication of the official statistics results which have been collated and published either in periodical or special publications, except that information it deems confidential. The Committee can pursue assistance of experts and specialists as the case may require.

Article (10): Without prejudice to any heavy penalty prescribed in another Law, violators of any of the following shall be subject to imprisonment for a period not to exceed six months or fine not more than five hundred Omani Riyals or both penalties on anyone who:


- a. Breaks the confidentiality of the personal statistical data.
- b. Obtains through fraudulence and intimidation personal statistical data classified confidential as per the provisions of this Law.
- c. Collects and publish erroneous statistical or census data or surveys with his/her full cognizance.

- d. Deliberately hinders a data collection activity conducted through surveys or censuses included in the Directorate General's work plan, or the statistical plans of the Government Bodies. The penalty as prescribed vide the provisions of this Law shall not exceed three hundred Omani Riyals against anyone who refrain from conveying the required data, or delegates incorrect data with his/her full cognizance. He/she who defers providing the data required within the stated schedule shall be deemed abstained unless provides reasonable excuse substantiating the delay.



SULTANATE OF OMAN
Ministry of National Economy
General Census of Population, Housing & Establishments

CENSUS



LEGAL BASIS



Royal
Decree
No.
87/2001

**on Holding the General
Census of Population,
Housing & Establishments**



We, Qaboos bin Said,

The Sultan of Oman.

After reviewing the State Basic Law promulgated by Royal Decree No. 101/96, the Law of Statistics issued by Royal Decree No. 29/2001 and as necessitated in the public interest:

Have decreed the following:

- Article 1: Provisions pertaining to holding the General Census of Population, Housing and Establishments shall be put into effect.
- Article 2: This Decree shall be published in the official gazette and shall be enforced as of the date of its publication.

Qaboos bin Said
Sultan of Oman

Issued on: 1st Jumada al Ula, 1422 AH
22 July, 2001

Provisions Governing Holding The General Census of Population, Housing & Establishments

Article (1): A comprehensive Population, Housing & Establishments Census shall be carried out, all procedures be completed so that actual enumeration shall commence in December 2003.

Article (2): The Ministry of National Economy shall carry out all the procedures necessary to hold the Census in the date specified in article (1).

Article (3): The Minister of National Economy shall be nominated Census General Supervisor.

Article (4): A National Supreme Committee for the Census shall be formed under the chairmanship of the Minister of National Heritage and Culture, and membership of:

Minister of National Economy	Vice Chairman
Minister of Interior	
Minister of Education	
Minister of Health	
Minister of Information	
Minister of Social Affairs, Labour & Vocational Training	
State Minister and Governor of Dhofar	
General Inspector, Police & Customs	
Chancellor, Sultan Qaboos University	

Undersecretary of National Economy for Development Affairs
Director General, Census Project Secretary & Rapporteur

To perform its tasks, the Committee reserves the option to seek assistance from government officials, experts and others whom it feels useful, and it is authorized to form sub-committees to carry out defined tasks.

Article (5): The National Supreme Committee for the Census shall be authorized with the following:

1. Approve the census moment and study the relevant procedures with the concerned government apparatus and take the necessary steps facilitating implementation of these procedures.
2. Approve the mobilization for the human and financial requirements essential for conducting the Census and taking the necessary procedures for its implementation.
3. Determine the statistical data required to be technically collected during the Census in light of the various government unit needs, and approve the data forms designed for the purpose.
4. To state its opinion on matters referred to it by the General Supervisor of the Census.

Article (6): The Minister of National Economy shall issue a decision forming and defining the responsibilities of a census project's technical committee, and approve the project's organizational structure.

Article (7): The Census Project shall be relinquished from all rules and provisions of expenditure, tender systems, financial procedures and other rules and applicable regulations enforced in the Sultanate. The Minister of National Economy shall draft a financial and accounting system specially designed for the project, that shall be put into effect after it's approval by the Council of Ministers.

Article (8): It is strictly prohibited to tamper with the plates and the numbers fixed at the building facades for the purpose serving of the census objectives.

Article (9): Any one who violates the provision of Article (8) of this decree and its executive decisions shall be subject to penalties stated in Article (10) of the Statistical Law.



SULTANATE OF OMAN
Ministry of National Economy
General Census of Population, Housing & Establishments

CENSUS HISTORY

IN THE WORLD

IN ARAB WORLD

IN THE SULTANATE OF OMAN



DECEMBER 2002

Census History in the World:

The human society development studies indicate that population-counting processes is not a contemporary feature of modern era, it is nonetheless a deep-rooted ancient practice. The need to collect related community related data particularly the relates to the population and the state wealth resources, has become crucial as a result of emergence of the classes within societies and the dominance of the state power that responds mainly to the warfare and taxation requirements. The historical sources indicate that various forms of population enumeration activities was acknowledged by ancient nations such as Chinese, Japanese, Persians, Greeks and Romans.

The Middle Ages witnessed many censuses in a number of the European countries. However, those censuses lacked systematic periodicity, and they confine mostly to specific segments of the population such as those capable of working in the army or those targeted for taxation. The integrity and objectives of the enumeration process remained in that manner for a long time, not only that, but some countries hanged to it towards the end of the nineteenth century or perhaps the beginning of the twentieth century.

The statistics historian unanimously agreed that the 17th century witnessed the evolution of the comprehensive census idea. Learned sources mention that a number of censuses held in many colonies in North and South America, are almost identical to the censuses carried presently. Some consider the Census conducted in Sweden in 1749 as the onset for the comprehensive censuses in Europe. In that census special ways were followed in its implementation, where individual information and data were solicited from clergymen and spiritual authorities. Nevertheless, most of the historians agree that the census done in the United States of America in 1790 was the first census worldwide that followed the modern scientific rules. Not only that, but it is also the oldest census that stick to its same periodicity date as a decennial census. Despite that, the manner of individual enumeration – which is one of the basic traits of the census- was not taken into account in USA except in 1850. whereas That census method was adopted in Brussels in 1842 and Belgium 1846.

History of Census in Arab World

The Arab Countries – as do other countries of the world - experience population censuses. Egypt was the first Arab country to conduct population census in 1882. The hereunder table illustrates the date of the first census taken in each Arab Country:

Country	Date of 1st Census
Tunis	1921
Syria	1922
Iraq	1927
Bahrain	1941
Jordan	1952
Libya	1954
Kuwait	1957
Morocco	1960
Djibouti	1961
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	1964
Algiers	1966
Qatar	1970
Sudan	1973
Yemen*	1973
United Arab Emirates	1975
Mauritania	1977
Sultanate of Oman	1993
Palestine	1997

* The census was done pre-unification of Yemen; on the part previously known as The Peoples Democratic Republic of Yemen, the other part, which was the Arab Yemen Republic, conducted its first census in 1975.

Though the review of the first population censuses in the Arab World as illustrated in the above table, focuses on the General Census, several partial or limited censuses were conducted in some Arab Countries; some of them were confined to certain selected categories of population or regions in the same county.

History of Census in the Sultanate of Oman

a. The 1993 Census:

In December 1993, the government of the Sultanate of Oman carried out the first general census of population, housing and establishments, culminated with the patronage of H.M. Sultan Qaboos bin Said by issuance of the Royal Decree No. 50/91 dated 10 July 1991. The Royal patronage sustained through the various census phases, crowned by a speech of H.M. via media before commencing the actual enumeration, specifically 30 November 1993, the eve of the census moment, urging the citizens and expatriates to participate in the success of this pioneer endeavour and cooperate with the census authorities by providing the required data.

The census programme, in fact, consisted three simultaneous major operations: the population census, the housing census and the establishment census. Furthermore, a comprehensive inventory of all the buildings on the Sultanate territories was also conducted.

Although it was the first census ever taken in the Sultanate history, it signified tangible success on both planning and implementation fields. The results of the census were announced shortly after conclusion of the enumeration operations, whereas the final detailed results were declared after eight months. It is rather not an overstatement to say that that accomplishment period was perhaps an unprecedented norm in any other country.

The success of the census was mainly attributed to the positive response and cooperation conveyed by both citizens and expatriates to the enumerators. That was due to the intensive public awareness campaign before and during the enumeration operations. It is worth mentioning that the number of Omani personnel who participated in the census operations was 4500 (approximately) of all levels and in all phases.

b. The 2003 Census:

Preparations are presently on heels to launch the second general census of population, housing and establishments in the Sultanate, in execution to the Royal Decree No. (87/2001), which vested the responsibility of implementing the task on the shoulders of the Ministry of National Economy and nominated the

Minister of National Economy: Census General Supervisor. The decree directed that the actual enumeration of population and housing would be commenced in December 2003.

The Royal Decree also directed the formation of a supreme national committee under the chairmanship of HH Minister of Heritage and Culture and membership of a number of Ministers and Senior Officials. The committee is tasked with studying and endorsing pivotal matters of the census project.

The Ministry of National Economy pursued its responsibilities in laying out the legal and organizational basis of the census. Hence, a special census body has been formed titled (Census Administration) having an organizational structure and a regulation charter, which defines the tasks and authorities of each of the positions, apparatus and committees included in that structure (attached). The Census Administration started its work by outlining a comprehensive plan for the census preparatory works that comprised (88 items) have to be fulfilled in accordance with a set schedule. The preparatory operations in general are one of the five phases that configure the census programme. The Census Administration continued laying out the organizational basis for its work. Accordingly, it designed special rules that suit the census work nature on top of which comes the financial and accounting systems, the system of documentation and recording of census experience.

The Census Administration has achieved so far a sounding portion of the preparatory operations enlisted in the plan, on top of which the designing of the census questionnaire and other related technical designs.

The Census Administration is presently implementing a prime project called: Mapping Cartographic Programme. The programme consists office and field activities among which are the following:

- Updating the 1993 list of population aggregates and census blocks in each administration division.
- Numbering of all buildings and listing of housing units and households.

summarized in updating the number of the residential congregations in the Sultanate, building enumeration and inventorying whatsoever included inside these congregations such as housing, establishments, families and individuals. the activity also entails dividing of these congregations into census squares in prelude to subdividing the Sultanate into enumerations areas or districts. This goes side-by-side with preparation of the maps and croquets (site plans) for these squares showing their boundaries, features and the fixtures on them such as buildings and constructions. The programme includes preparing maps for the Wilayats to display the residential congregations in their genuine positions.



SULTANATE OF OMAN
Ministry of National Economy
General Census of Population, Housing & Establishments

CENSUS

CONCEPT AND USES



Census Concept

Modern Definition of Census

The United Nations define the population census as (the total process of collecting, compiling, evaluating, analyzing and publishing or otherwise disseminating demographic, economic and social data pertaining, at specified time, to all persons in a country or in a well-delimited part of a county). This definition has induced modernity to the population census in the essence that it is not confined to comprehensive inventorying aiming at knowing the number of individuals in a given location, but it also seeks to know their characteristics as well. Therefore, apart from being a process of collecting and processing population data, it is vested with a wider scope, which entails data evaluation, analyzing and publishing. Furthermore, this definition displays in its content most of the basic characteristics that distinguish the population census above other field surveys.

Purpose of Census Taking

The population census is carried out in principle to know the status of population in a certain country or a specified part of it at a defined time. This status in its vast understanding denotes the population, its rate of growth, geographic distribution, the demographic and household composition and the socio-economic characteristics. The Population Census furnishes an ample opportunity in providing the essential statistical frames to implement other censuses and surveys by sample and ensuring their basic points. Furthermore, the census provides many useful basis for establishing civil registration systems and evaluation of their coverage and accuracy.

The Housing Census provides a fundamental database relevant with the housing numbers, distribution, categories, possession, and the available facilities and utilities. It also provides the essential basis that enables studying the housing conditions and designing improvement plans.

The Establishments Census provides a statistical frames of the establishments available in the country to be used in conducting surveys and studies of various economic sectors.

Certain Uses of the Data of General Population Census

a. Population Geographical Distribution Data

1. The knowledge of the population distribution by village and town of every governorate, region and wilayat, is deemed an imperative demand in planning the local services distribution plan. It also helps in attaining just distribution of these services throughout various sections of the country. Hence construction of roads, schools, hospitals and all other public utilities depend on the population size and its geographic distribution.
2. The population growth rate at any administrative division can be measured by comparing the population in a given year with the year elapsed, and this occurrence will enable prediction of the future population. The economic and social planning requires more than the number of population in a given year, it requires prediction of the potential population number in the years ahead.
3. The recognition of the population geographic distribution will facilitate the calculation of vital statistics of fertility and mortality; the study of the population social and economic characteristics on geographic bases; and comparing the levels and characteristics of rural and urban communities.

b. Data on Household Size and Composition

1. The study of the household size and composition provides indicators of the families' formation and the change-over rates, which will help estimation of the families' numbers in future, and accordingly estimation of the housing units required for them.
2. The household's geographical distribution is indispensable for conducting statistical surveys by sample, where the statistical authority draws samples of these households to conduct more scrutinized and detailed statistical studies, in order to display the community characteristics.

c. Age Distribution Data of the Population by Sex

Population distribution by age and sex is one of the essential population data obtained from census, which is the main source for it. It also resembles a milestone for all economic, social and demographic studies. On top of the ladder of this:

1. Population estimation and projection.

Study of mortality levels by age and construction of national life tables, in view that mortality levels is a measurement of the general health levels and reflection of the social and economical conditions. Knowledge of these levels and disparity from age to another helps in designing the social security projects and insurance systems. Furthered it directs the health policy aiming at upgrading the general health level. The life tables are considered among the basic tools of the population projection and forecasting the future population size and age distribution.

- 2.

Study of the fertility levels. The knowledge of distribution of females at the puberty age, will provide accredited fertility level indicators particularly if studied by the number of ever-born children for each women. This will allow for forecasting the yearly number of birth in future.

- 3.

Knowledge of population at a specific age groups such as children at the school age. Study of this and comparing it with the regular school data, will enable us to understand the assimilation extend of the education plan for individuals at the education age.

- 4.

Population distribution data by age is useful in the field of economic and social studies, in analyzing manpower demand and study of population sustenance problems, study of various consumption types and trends, the size of the manpower and other.

d. Population Marital Status

1. The study of the community marital status is deemed one of the most significant social studies which cast light on many social aspects, especially when categorizing the status in cross linkage with other data such as age, educational and professional levels and others. This can be achieved through analyzing the reasons that encourage and discourage marriage action, the reasons and rates of divorce, widowing conditions, the marriage average age and so forth. Furthermore, the study of this phenomenon and the factors affecting it can be enhanced from the angle of its impact on fertility range and the birth levels.

1. The population marital status is useful in calculating certain essential indicators for the population estimations such as children to married women ratio.
2. The population marital status is useful for highly significant economic research. The need for extra housing – quality and quantity - can be determined in view of the marriage rates.

e. Fertility and Mortality Data

1. The fertility and mortality rates in the Sultanate so far are not available, due lack of civil registration system. However, is not impossible to obtain estimated rates from records of the ever-born children by a woman throughout her life span and those still alive, and also the births of the years preceding the census year. This information can be obtained by exploitation of advanced methods of demographic analysis.
2. It is also possible to carry out measurement of fertility and mortality levels in villages and urban areas, and distinguishing the differences between them and analyzing the reasons of these differences.
3. The question directed to the families about the number of mortality that happened during the previous year, will furnish a series of data relevant to mortality and distribution by age for both sexes separately. These data provide the base for establishing of a national life table.

f. Data on Place of Usual Residence (Previous and Current)

These data give a clear picture on the population movements and the internal migration among the Sultanate's Wilayats and Regions. They also provide idea about the migration flow and rate. This can be obtained from data on duration of residence.

g. Educational Status and School Enrolment Data

1. The education status is considered one of the fundamental characteristics of the population as it provides data on illiterate people, their concentration areas, ages, economic and social conditions .. etc. These issues have to be known to all entities concerned with illiteracy study and outline the plans and policies to obliterate it.
2. Comparing the illiterate data obtained by the current census in a certain area with the data obtained by the previous census will provide clear picture of the progress achieved in illiteracy obliteration and the extent of the efforts exerted in that field.

3. Identify the educated people, their academic qualification and type. This will enable the country to exploit the rare qualifications and expertise.
4. The education status is one of the population characteristics which, when compared with other characteristics helps to understand many social and economic traits. A researcher in population studies needs to determine the Impact of the education status in fertility and birth rates and consequently its effect in the population growth rates and the mortality levels. It is useful in economic researches to recognize the relation between the type of education and the economic activity performed by the individual and the impact of education on employment and unemployment. The social researches, as well, focuses on the relation between education with the marital habits and traditions, such as the preferred age at the first marriage and the multi-wives phenomena and others.
5. The school enrolment data will provide the required elements suitable to conduct a study on the rate of intake and infiltration and the educational hierarchy in general. Parameter

h. Data on Type of Activity (Manpower), Employed and unemployed

1. This data helps in reflecting clear picture of the population type capable of performing productive work (manpower) and those who practically shoulder the responsibility of the economic activity and supporting the rest of the population (the labour force), and studying their geographic distribution and distribution over other occupations. This will allow for knowing the number of workers at each profession and their distribution over every economic activity. In light of that, suitable policies can be established in order to achieve the required working force balance in terms of supply and demand.
2. The data also helps in predicting the unemployment population, their locations and the professions and/or economic sectors that spared them, plus conducting partial employment study. This in general represents the corner stone in manpower planning and in designing of education and training programs that will sustain its optimum sufficiency expertise to achieve the economic and social development objectives.

3. However, the data related to secondary occupations and activities taken as complementary data will help researchers and analysts to be acquainted with that population segment which performs extra activities additional to their original work.

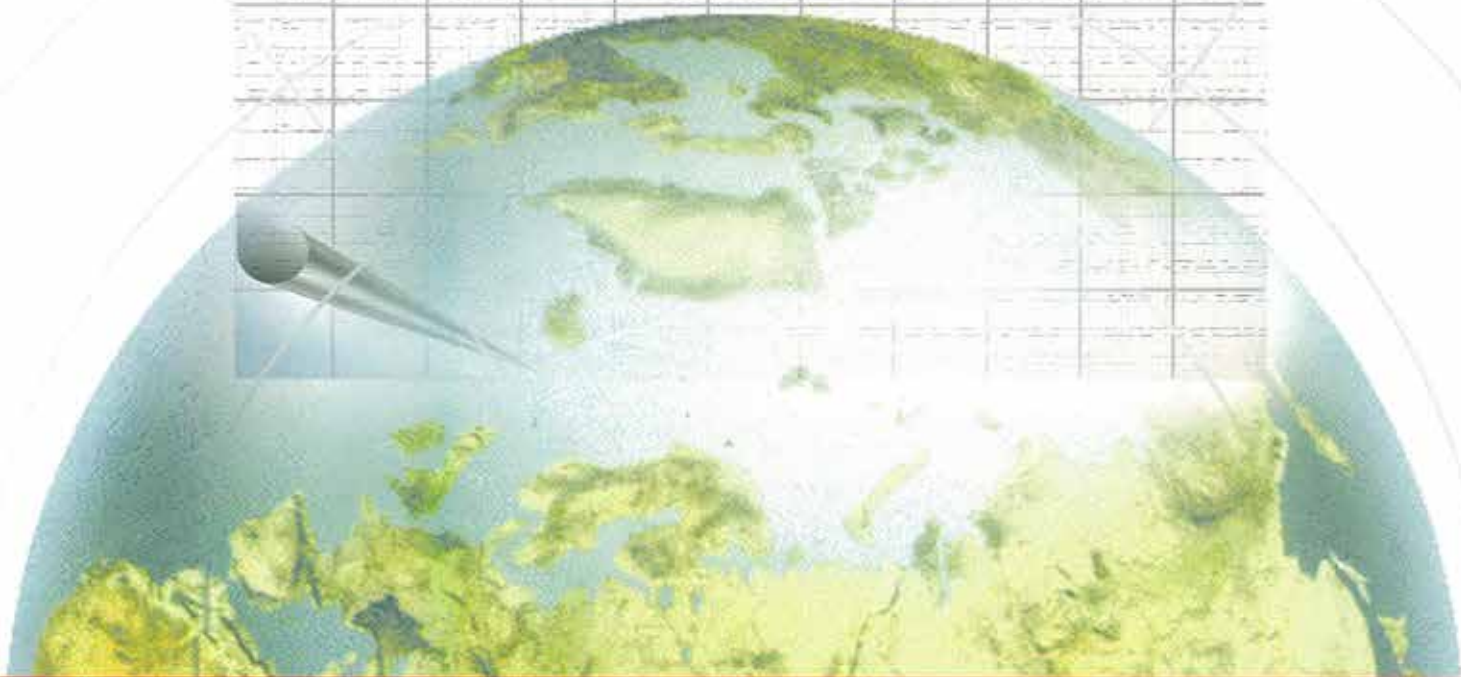
i. Data on Disabled population

Data relevant to this segment of the community is one of the vital social data, because the census is the only source for such data in many countries. The significance of this data appears clearly in the countries, which adopts sponsor programs of this population group.



SULTANATE OF OMAN
Ministry of National Economy
General Census of Population, Housing & Establishments

CENSUS AN INTERNATIONAL RALLY



In July 1987, the world witnessed an unprecedented population rally. Many governments and international organizations arranged oratory ceremonies and informational colloquium to mark the moment the world population had reached five billions persons. Nonetheless, though the event demonstrated a pleasant occasion that reflected a great concern over the population matter, it actually posed a sense of heed mixed with unrest towards the future of the human race. The population growth rate in the ancient ages, as a matter of fact, was very small, as it was more or less susceptible to variability of increase and decrease tide. It increases then subjected to passive experiences such as wars, epidemics and famine. These growth levels had never reached the rates it presently recorded.

Some informed scholars estimate the total world population since creation of mankind until 1830 barely exceeded one billion. Only after one century, i.e. in 1930 this number was twofold when it reached two billions. The third billion was reached in following thirty years as the global population was estimated to become three billion in 1960. In 1975, i.e. after fifteen years, the global population hit four billions. The fifth billion was added in the following twelve years.

This accelerating population growth over the globe was attributed to the tangible progress achieved in eradication of epidemics and famine. Since the inception of the seventeenth century, the human aptitude towards controlling epidemics gradually improved as a result of superb inventions in health and medical sciences. In addition, improvement of communication network helped in curbing famine repercussions by facilitating the transportation of foodstuffs from the production to the consumption areas. Hence, the birth/death gap noticeably widened, as the birth rates preserved high paces while the death rates tended to fall.

This enormous population growth drew the attention of many governments and the organizations concerned with planning as well as researchers and analysts because the case is not limited to the question of population inflation, but also to its impact on population density, composition and characteristics. That change over has its negative impact on the objectives of the development programmes, especially in the densely populated poor resourced countries.

Of the most prominent features of this high concern over the accelerating population growth, is possibly the historic document titled: The Population Declaration. Around thirty years ago, twelve Monarchs and Heads of States

submitted that document to the United Nations Secretary General, and before one year had elapsed from the declaration incident, the number of Statesmen who signed the document reached 30. The prelude of the document stated that the undersigned:

Realize the grave danger posed by population problem and they are – in their capacity as responsible leaders of their countries and zeal to ensure their people aspiration – unanimously declare:

First: It is necessary to consider the population problem a fundamental factor in all long term development planning should the governments intend to accomplish their economic objectives and achieve their people ambitions towards better living standards.

Second: Achieving permanent peace depends, to a great extent, on the efforts exerted to face the problem of population variables.

The international concern over the population problems reached its intense in 1974; the then announced The World Population Year. In that year, the city of Bucharest hosted a well renowned population conference in history, which was the largest international population rally ever organized. The conference witnessed meaningful discussions and displayed all views directions toward tackling the population question. The meeting concluded with the adoption and announcement of the World Population Plan, which included defined goals aiming at human prosperity. However, in 1984 a second conference was convened in Mexico to review and evaluate the resultant outcome of the world population plan, which could only implement a limited number of its goals. A decade later in 1994, a third conference was held in Cairo.

Prior to Mexico conference, regional population meetings took place in several regions of the globe, of which the regional population meeting in the Arab World convened in Amman during the period 25-29 March, 1984. The document issued was called the Amman Declaration of Population and Development. The prime particulars of this document are:

“in accordance with the articles of the National Work Pact issued by Arab Monarchs and Heads of States during their 11th conference in Amman, in which they expressed their faith that human is the maker and the target of development”.

After displaying the other particulars, the declaration under the General Principles stipulated the following:

"The population issue has reciprocal relations with the socio- economic question and the cultural framework and finally with the development dynamics .. etc".

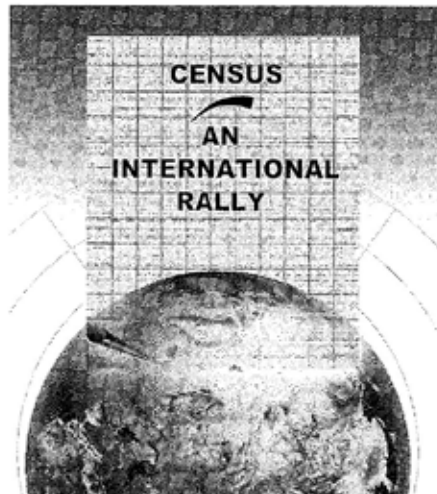
The international awareness and concern of the population issues as previously mentioned is much obliged to that qualitative and quantitative progress achieved in the statistics field in general and in the population statistics in particular which depends totally on the general population census as a basic information source. This progress proved many facts, which were not long ago theories and hypothesis and participated in focusing the vision on the interrelationships among population variables from one side, and between them and the economic, social and cultural levels from the other side. These relations tended to be given facts widely familiar to economists, politicians and thinkers allover the world, though they were at odds and still assume variant visions of how to deal with it and solve the problems attributed to it.

World Cooperation in Census Field

The International Demography Conference convened in 1878 was the onset of the international cooperation in the field of census. However, this cooperation gained a big boost within the context of the United Nations following its establishment aftermath the Second World War. The International Organization since its inception assumed the responsibility of promoting the census performance procedures and upgrading the coverage and accuracy of its outcome. The methodology followed in this respect reposed on studying and analyzing the national census methods, collecting the acquired experience and putting them at the perusal of the member states.

The United Nations efforts in this track dates back to 1947 when the UN Social and Economic Council issued in its fourth session, the decision No. (41), which requested the UN Secretary General to provide necessary advice to the member states to help them promote the universality and accuracy of the population census results, and improve the ability of these outcomes to meat international comparison requirements. Based on this decision, the UN issued a series of publications on the census methods and means and other series on the international recommendations related to it.

The UN Population Fund (UNFPA) – established in the late sixties – played a prominent and distinguished role in the field of population censuses and related programmes. UNFPA participated and still does inspire the states to hold censuses and try to maintain their periodicity besides provision of technical assistance, which would mostly be in the form of expertise, training and equipment.





إدارة التعداد: ص.ب: ٨٨١ مسقط - الرمز البريدي ١١٣، هاتف: ٦٩٨٩٠٠/٦٩٨٨٢٥/٦٩٥٨١٣/٦٩٨٨٢٣ - فاكس: ٦٩٨٩٠٩

Census Administration: P.O.Box: 881 Muscat - Postal Code: 113 - Tel: 698900/698825/695813/698823

Fax:698909 E-mail: mone@omantel.net.om