

UNITED NATIONS

SECRETARIAT

Distr.
/ LIMITEDST/STAT/P/L.3
11 May 1955

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Statistical Office of the United Nations
New York, N.Y.

POPULATION CENSUS PROGRAMME

1945-54 EXPERIENCE - TOTAL POPULATION

I. National census practices: 1945-1954

Attempts to classify the basic system of counting the total population in a census have in the main relied upon the distinction between the de facto and the de jure counts. On a de facto basis, all persons in the country should be counted in the area where they are physically present at some precise time of the census day. In a de jure count, the population of each area would be defined as persons who usually or legally reside in the area, regardless of their actual location within the country or their absence from the country at the date of enumeration. In practice, strict adherence to either of these concepts is rarely found. What is usually used is some sort of modification or a combination of the two concepts.

It is obvious that the total population figure for a specified area within a country would usually vary according to the general concept of counting employed. It has therefore been the convention to define population figures as de facto or de jure according to the basic allocation of population within the country. This distinction, however, has less significance with reference to the total population of the country as a whole. The classification as de facto or de jure is, in fact, often misleading in regard to the total population of a country.

International uses of population figures are more concerned with total populations than with the populations of areas within countries. For this reason,

knowledge of the basic method employed in the internal allocation of population is less important than information as to whether or not all segments of the population were included in the enumeration. Under either basic method, the inclusion or exclusion of certain population groups, such as nomadic tribes, aborigines, armed forces and diplomatic personnel outside the country and foreign military and diplomatic personnel within the country, may affect the comparability of statistics of one country with those of another. Often, one or more of these segments of the population, some of which may be quite large, are not treated in the way which would be expected from the theoretical concept presumably used by the country.

This fact is clearly brought out by a comparison between the presumed general basis of counting and the specific treatment of the special groups. Table 1 shows both types of information for the 52 censuses included in this study. The information given is based on an examination of available published results of these censuses, census schedules, instructions to enumerators and other materials used for the enumeration, and on information given in reply to census questionnaires used in compilation of the United Nations Demographic Yearbook. The use of the terms de facto and de jure in the table has been necessitated by the fact that thus far there has been no other internationally accepted terminology and, wherever available, each country's own statement as to its method of counting or allocating its total population has been used, even where this statement was apparently inconsistent with other facts. In some cases, the decision as to which term to use had to be based on vague general statements.

It is clear from even a cursory glance at the table that it is not at present possible to ascertain the degree of comparability which may exist among many of the censuses investigated, merely because no specific information could be found in regard to the treatment of the special groups under examination. Even where information was available and has been entered in the table, it can be taken only as a general indication of comparability, because each of the special groups itself presents problems of definition. For example, the meaning of the group "other civilian nationals temporarily outside the country" varies from country to country according to the length of time specified or inferred by the word "temporarily" and to whether the group included all civilian nationals temporarily outside the country or, as is often the case, only certain categories which are

easily enumerated or are of some particular national significance. Only in a very few of the censuses investigated was there indication of the inclusion or exclusion of the families of armed forces or diplomatic personnel outside their country or of the families of foreign armed forces or diplomatic personnel within a country. The definition of "displaced persons" undoubtedly varies from country to country, some limiting this group to aliens who are present in the country but have not been accorded the usual privileges of residents and others including in this group persons who came to the country as refugees or displaced persons but have at the time of the census been assimilated as residents of the country and are therefore no longer "displaced persons" strictly defined. Differing interpretations are possible of the limits of each of the groups shown in the table.

From the foregoing comments it is evident that this table serves mainly to indicate that wide variations do exist in the scope of figures of total population given by various countries in their census publications and that the detailed composition of the total population figures must be known before it is possible to make valid comparisons among different countries. Unfortunately, knowledge of the detailed composition of the census totals with regard to all of the special groups selected for examination, was obtainable for only 11 of the 52 countries whose recent censuses were investigated, and for 22 of the total number of countries specific information was obtainable for less than half of the special groups. Without more extensive information as to the detailed composition of the totals it is not possible to specify the exact nature and significance of the variations in coverage.

TABLE 1. CENSUS TREATMENT OF THE TOTAL POPULATION IN 52 COUNTRIES, 1945-1954

Explanation of symbols: DJ: De jure IN: Included in the enumeration - Not applicable
DF: De facto EX: Excluded from the enumeration ... Information not available

Country	Census year	General basis of population count	Treatment of special groups													
			Nomadic tribes	Aborigines	Armed forces outside country	Alien armed forces within country	Merchant seamen in port or ashore	Merchant seamen at sea	Alien displaced persons within country	Enemy prisoners of war within country	Diplomatic personnel outside country	Other civilian nationals temporarily outside country	Foreign diplomatic personnel within country	Other civilian aliens residing permanently within country	Other civilian aliens temporarily present within country	
AFRICA:																
Egypt	1947	DJ	IN 1/	-	-	EX	IN	...	IN	EX	EX	EX	IN	IN	IN	
Libya	1954	DJ	IN	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	IN	IN	IN
Union of So. Africa	1951	DF	-	IN	EX	-	IN	EX	-	-	EX	EX	IN	IN	IN	
AMERICA:																
Argentina	1947	DJ-DF	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bolivia	1950	DF	EX 2/	EX 2/	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Brasil	1950	DJ-DF	EX 2/	EX 2/	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Canada	1951	DJ	-	IN	IN	EX	IN	IN	...	...	IN	IN	EX	IN	EX
Chile	1952	DF	...	IN	...	...	IN	...	...	...	...	...	IN	IN	IN
Colombia	1951	DF	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	EX	...	...	...	...
Costa Rica	1950	DJ	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	IN	...	EX	IN	EX
Cuba	1953	DJ	-	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	IN	IN	...	IN	IN
Dominican Republic	1950	DJ-DF	-	-	-	-	IN	...	-	-	EX	EX	EX	IN	IN	
Ecuador	1950	DJ	EX	IN	IN	EX	...	...	...	...	IN	IN	EX	IN	EX
El Salvador	1950	DF	...	...	EX	IN 1/	...	...	...	...	EX	...	IN	...	...
Guatemala	1950	DF	...	...	-	-	...	...	...	...	EX	EX	IN	IN	IN
Haiti	1950	DJ	-	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	IN	...	EX	IN	EX
Honduras	1950	DF	-	IN	-	EX	EX	EX	-	-	EX	EX	EX	IN	IN	
Mexico	1950	DJ	-	IN	...	...	IN	IN	...	...	IN	IN	...	IN	EX
Nicaragua	1950	DJ-DF	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Panama	1950	DF	IN 1/	IN 1/	...	IN	...	...	...	...	EX	EX	IN	IN	IN
Paraguay	1950	DF	EX 2/	EX 2/	-	IN	IN	IN	-	-	EX	EX	IN	IN	IN	
United States	1950	DJ	-	IN	IN 1/	...	IN	IN 1/	...	...	IN 1/	IN 1/	EX	IN	EX
Venezuela	1950	DF	EX 2/	EX 2/	...	...	IN	...	...	...	EX	EX	IN	IN	IN
ASIA:																
Ceylon	1953	DF 2/	...	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
India	1951	DJ 4/	...	-	EX	EX	IN	EX	IN	...	EX	EX	EX	IN	IN	
Iraq	1947	DF	EX	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	IN	IN
Japan	1950	DJ	-	-	-	EX	...	...	IN	-	EX	EX	EX	IN	IN
Pakistan	1951	DJ-DF	...	-	...	...	...	...	IN	...	...	...	...	IN	IN
Philippines	1948	DJ	IN	-	...	IN 1/	IN	...	...	...	...	...	...	IN	IN
Thailand	1947	DJ	IN	IN	...	EX	IN	IN	IN	EX	...	EX	...	IN	IN	
Turkey	1950	DF	IN	-	-	-	IN	...	IN	-	...	...	IN	IN	IN
EUROPE:																
Austria	1951	DJ	-	-	-	EX	-	-	IN	-	IN 2/	IN 2/	EX	IN	IN 6/	
Belgium	1947	DJ	-	-	IN	...	...	...	...	...	...	IN	...	...	...
Denmark	1950	DJ	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Finland	1950	DJ-DF	IN	-	...	EX	IN	IN	IN	-	IN	IN 2/	EX	IN	IN	
France	1954	DJ	-	-	EX	...	IN	IN	...	...	EX	...	EX	IN	EX
German Federal Rep.	1950	DJ	-	-	-	EX	IN	IN	IN	-	...	...	EX	IN	IN
Greece	1951	DJ-DF	-	-	IN	EX	IN	IN 2/	...	-	IN	IN 2/	EX	IN 6/	IN 6/	
Iceland	1950	DJ-DF	-	-	-	EX	IN	IN 2/	IN 6/	-	IN 2/	IN 2/	EX	IN	IN 6/	
Ireland	1951	DF	-	-	...	...	IN	...	...	-	EX	EX	IN	IN	IN
Italy	1951	DJ	-	-	...	...	IN	IN	IN	...	IN	IN	...	IN	IN
Luxembourg	1947	DJ	-	-	IN	EX	-	...	EX	...	IN	IN	EX	IN	EX	
Netherlands	1947	DJ	-	-	IN 3/	EX	IN	IN 3/	IN	-	EX	EX	EX	IN	IN 6/	
Norway	1950	DJ	IN	-	IN 3/	-	IN	IN 2/	IN	-	IN 2/	IN 3/	IN 6/	IN 6/	IN 6/	
Portugal	1950	DJ-DF	-	-	EX 8/	-	IN	IN	-	-	IN	EX 8/	EX	IN	IN	
Spain	1950	DJ-DF	-	-	IN 3/	...	...	...	...	...	IN 2/	...	...	IN	IN 6/
Sweden	1950	DJ	IN	-	-	-	IN	IN	IN	-	IN	EX	EX	IN	IN 6/	
Switzerland	1950	DJ	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	-	...	IN 2/	...	IN	IN 6/
United Kingdom	1951	DF	-	-	EX	IN	IN	EX 2/	IN	-	EX	EX	IN	IN	IN	
Yugoslavia	1953	DJ	-	-	...	...	IN	IN	IN	...	IN	IN	...	IN	...
OCEANIA:																
Australia	1954	DF	...	...	...	...	IN	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
New Zealand	1951	DF	-	IN 10/	IN 1/	EX	IN	...	IN	-	...	EX	IN	IN	IN	

1/ Separately tabulated.

2/ Indians living in a civilized or semi-civilized state were enumerated but Indian jungle population was not included in the enumeration.

3/ Non-resident shipping and service population were not included in the enumeration.

4/ Part of the tribal areas of Assam was not included in the enumeration.

5/ Included in tabulated de jure total but excluded from de facto total.

6/ Included in tabulated de facto total but excluded from de jure total.

7/ Persons missing for a long period of time, such as prisoners of war, were enumerated as absentees.

8/ Navy crews and civilian passengers on ships at sea or in foreign ports were enumerated.

9/ Persons on vessels engaged on a coastwise or fishing voyage which returned to port within three weeks after the census date without proceeding from a port outside the British Isles were included in the enumeration.

10/ Civilized and semi-civilized aborigines were enumerated but information concerning the enumeration of aborigines living in a wild state is not available.

II. Summary of international recommendations for 1950 censuses^{1/}

The United Nations Population Commission recommended that, in addition to any data on a de jure or other basis which might be desired for national purposes, data be obtained on the total population as a whole at the time of the census, with the addition of military and diplomatic personnel of the given country stationed abroad but excluding foreign military and diplomatic personnel in the country.

The Committee on the 1950 Census of the Americas (COTA) of the Inter-American Statistical Institute recommended that the American nations follow this definition of total population, but advised that in addition an estimate be included of the size of any important groups of inhabitants which could not be enumerated individually (such as groups living outside of the socio-economic structure of the country). It recommended that where it was considered impossible to make such an estimate the census report should indicate that such groups were omitted from the population total.

COTA also suggested that, in order to obtain greater international comparability, either data or estimates of foreign military and diplomatic personnel within the given country and of military and diplomatic personnel of the given country stationed abroad should be presented separately, whether or not these groups were included in the total population figure.

Finally, it pointed out that the recommended definition of total population was neither the de facto nor the de jure population and suggested that the two terms not be used in relation to the topic of total population. It recommended that each country present in its census publications the definition which it employed and a clear indication of whether it included or excluded the special groups mentioned above.

^{1/} Existing international recommendations on total population are quoted in full in United Nations. Statistical Office. Handbook of population census methods, document ST/STAT/SER.F/5, June 1954, pp. 37-38. (Sales No. 1954.XVII.4).