

The 22nd Population Census Conference

Seattle, Washington, USA,
7 – 9 March 2005

population and housing
censuses in Viet Nam: experiences of 1999
census and main ideas
for the next census

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Population census in Vietnam

- The best way to provide a comprehensive collection of information on characteristics and living conditions of the population
- It forms base for evaluating the performance of the socio-economic renovation programs of the country, especially the strategy on population and family planning

Population census in Vietnam

- The last census was conducted on 1 April 1999, following a ten-year cycle since 1979
 - According to the Statistical Law, which was passed by the National Assembly in 2003 and got effective on 1 January 2004, the next census will be conducted in 2009

Census organisation

- General Statistics Office (GSO) is by Law responsible for implementation of the censuses
- Census is decided by a Prime Minister's decree
- There is not a permanent and continuously working organization for implementing the censuses
- A census steering committee is set up consisting of a group of managers and experts from the GSO and line-agencies for each census
- The committee is established at all administrative levels from the central to commune, the lowest administrative level in Viet Nam.

Census organization

The significance of recognizing the data users needs in all stages of the job especially in deciding the census content - the topics, concepts and definitions adopted was deeply concerned

Coverage of the census

The 1999 census

- Enumerated all persons defined as usual residents in Viet Nam at the time of the census which was determined to be at midnight between 31 March and 1 April 1999.
- The rules of usual residents were framed with reference to a 6-month period

Coverage of the census

In detail, these included:

- All Vietnamese and foreigners (excluding those working at foreign embassies, diplomatic corps and their dependants) usually residing in Vietnam by the time of the census;
- Vietnamese who were authorized to go abroad for a certain period of time, and by the time of the census they were still in overseas;
- Inhabited dwellings throughout Vietnam's territory.

Scope of the census

The 1999 census consists of three integrated data collection components:

- The core population census covering the entire population;
- The census of housing covering dwellings; and
- A sample survey covering births and deaths with a size of approximately 3% pop

Scope of the census

Contents of the core population census

1. Size and distribution of the population;
2. Ethnicity and religion of the population;
3. Internal migration levels and trends;
4. Educational levels, technical and professional qualifications, and literacy;
5. Marital status of the population;
6. Economic characteristics of the population

Scope of the census

Sample survey

7. Birth, death and population growth rates;

Housing census

8. Housing situation;

9. Household facilities and amenities;

Compared to the 1989 pop census

The 1999 census:

- Collected more Comprehensive socio-economic information
- The information that is similar to earlier censuses including gender, age, ethnicity, education level, marital status demographic characteristics and economic activity
- The 1999 census collected information on a few more indicators such as use of electricity, clean water and ownership of a TV or radio.

Compared to the 1989 pop census

The 1999 census:

- Two questionnaires were used, with a few changes in the design of contents and format
- The short form used to interview 97% of the population
- The long form used to interview the remaining three percent of the population
- Questions in the long form are the same as in the short form, but additional questions are asked on births and deaths.

Sampling design

- The sample was selected to be representative of the country and provincial level, and of the urban and rural areas
- A sample size of 1% of the population was determined on the basis of representation of each of the 61 provinces/municipalities
- A stratified cluster sample design was used to draw the above sample
- 61 provinces formed the main cluster with 2 sub-clusters within each representing urban and rural areas

Mapping and household listing

Two types of maps: base maps and enumeration area maps

- Base maps were prepared of every commune/ward - lowest administrative unit and each base map showed the location of all enumeration areas in that commune/ward
- Each enumeration area map showed the EA boundaries, streets/roads, lanes, canals,... and location of every house to be visited by enumerators and other physical features
- Each EA had to prepare a list of households locating within boundaries of the EA
- Unlike previous census, all these maps and lists were sent to GSO for being used as mainframe for sample surveys.

Data processing

- The keyboard method was used to capture the 1999 census data
- Data entry was decentralized to nine regional computer centers
- Central Data Processing Center (CDPC) at the GSO had played the leading role
- Each center established a computer network with a HP LH3 server and 12 to 53 PCs
- For the entire country, 240 PCs were used for processing and 10 servers
- 450 data entry operators were engaged to work.

Data dissemination and utilization

- Efforts were made to provide census products and services to the public as much and easy as possible
- Census data dissemination through printed publications, electronic media such as CD-ROM, data bases, were being used to release the 1999 census results
- GSO also established two databases of the census results, on 3% sample data and results and on completed census results
- Now these databases are just operating within the GSONet - a local area network (LAN).

The next census, 2009

8 points should be taken into account when designing the census:

1. Changes in administrative boundary in many localities whole country had 64 provinces.

The separation of administrative units at district and commune levels is more often than the provincial level.

This could cause problems to the mapping and listing work and to the tracing of census data over time.

The next census, 2009

2. Cities in Vietnam are classified into 3 categories: I, II and III.
 - By the 1999 census the country had 2 cities of category I (Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City),
 - Now we have 4 (Hai Phong and Da Nang upgraded to join the category I). Many cities, towns and district centers were upgraded.

The next census, 2009

3. Migration with a main stream of migration from rural to urban centers
 - Migration is an important topic for censuses, but it is also a main factor likely causing duplication and omission when counting the population.

The next census, 2009

4. Due to the advocacy of international integration and globalization
 - Many Vietnamese emigrated to find jobs abroad, and also foreigners came to work in Vietnam, creating a flow of international migration
 - This is the first time questions on international migration would be asked in the census.

The next census, 2009

5. Industrialization, urbanization and internationally economic integration is leading to changes in labor structure in Vietnam and appearance of new occupations

The next census, 2009

6. Vietnam is encouraging a market-based economy with socialism orientation and international integration. The reverse side of the market-based economy and international integration can have a significant impact on perception and thinking of the people, especially to social problems.

The next census, 2009

7. By the time of the next census the pop of Vietnam is projected at about 86 – 87 million people, and the tendency of separation of administrative units, data processing becomes a big exercise
 - Keyboard method for capturing census data is preferred in Vietnam.
 - New applications of the advanced information technology for data capturing were successful in some countries in Asia.

The next census, 2009

8. The 2009 population census will be a huge work with considerable implications for the country, but the cost of conducting it is definitely very high. It is important to find ways to enhance its cost-effectiveness
 - Application of sample survey to extend the census scope
 - Application of IT to mapping and household listing

**Thank you
for your attention**