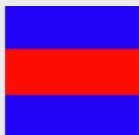


The 2014 Population and Housing Census of Myanmar: What You Need to Know About the Census Provisional Results



Ministry of Immigration and Population
with technical support from UNFPA
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Introduction

The provisional results of the 2014 Myanmar Census will be released in August 2014. This follows the counting of the population throughout the country in March/April 2014. You may want to know what is happening with the information that was collected, and when you will hear the outcome and results. The Department of Population (DoP) has prepared a set of Questions and Answers that seek to respond to questions that you may have.

1. We participated in the census in March/April 2014. When are the results of the census going to be released?

The results of the Census will be released in three (3) stages:

- i. Provisional Results in August 2014
- ii. Main Results in May 2015
- iii. Thematic Reports from November 2015 onwards

The DoP will announce the exact dates of the release as soon as the data has been processed, and a few weeks in advance of the formal data release.

Provisional Data

1. Why have the provisional results taken 4 months to announce?

Myanmar was divided into 81,744 Enumeration Areas prior to the census. An Enumeration Area (EA) is the geographic area where the population is counted by a census enumerator. When the Census Enumerators collected information from each household, they summarised the information on the number of males and females in every household present in Myanmar on census night on a form called an Enumeration Area (EA) Summary Sheet. An Enumeration Area (EA) Summary sheet was completed for each area. These forms are a separate document from the questionnaire. All forms were returned from the field and delivered to the Department of Population in Nay Pyi Taw, together with the questionnaires.

These forms were checked and manually keyed into a computerised database, one by one. The keyed-in data then has to be verified, before a report is prepared, reviewed, translated and printed. The volume of forms that needed to be checked and manually keyed in to the computer, and ensuring that this was done with the upmost care and precision, meant it was a very time consuming process. International experience indicates that the release of the provisional results of a census takes 3 to 4 months.

2. What are the sources of data for the provisional results?

The provisional results are obtained from Enumeration Area (EA) Summary Sheets, which were completed by Enumerators and endorsed by Supervisors in the field. The EA Summary Sheets contain the number of males and females who were present in each household and institution on Census Night (29/30 March 2014) and were counted by the Enumerator during the census



enumeration period. At the Census Office in Nay Pyi Taw, information from every EA Summary Sheet is manually entered into a computer database and analysed.

3. What data are going to be released in the provisional results?

The provisional results, which will be released in August 2014, will indicate the total population by sex and administrative unit, from national, state/region, district up to township levels. It will show the population sizes of Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw cities as well as state/region capitals. The remaining data will be released with the main results in May 2015. The subsequent thematic reports that emanate from the different aspects covered in the questionnaire, including topics such as housing characteristics, education and maternal and infant mortality, will be released after more analysis of the main results, from November 2015.

4. How can provisional results be released while scanning is still continuing?

The data source for the provisional results is the Enumeration Area (EA) Summary Sheet. The EA Summary Sheet is not scanned; the data are manually entered into a computer database. The data

for the main results are captured by scanning the questionnaires, which takes months to complete. It is estimated that around 11 million questionnaires will be scanned and this will not be completed until November 2014. After this, the data will be checked for any inconsistency and rigorously analysed, before they are compiled into data tables, ready for release.





5. Will the provisional results be the same as the main results?

The two sets of results may not necessarily be exactly the same. There are always small differences between provisional and main results. This is because the provisional results are a compilation of summaries undertaken by the enumerators in the field and may have some errors. This is often the case when data are manually transferred from questionnaires to Summary Sheets.

For the main census results, a computer programme counts all the people and households detailed in the questionnaire. This means the adding up of all the numbers will be exact because it is done automatically by a computer programme. It is therefore important to understand that there may be some variation between the provisional and main results. As the name suggests, the main results will provide the final figure of the census. Once they are released in May 2015, the main results will supercede the provisional results. This happens in all censuses around the world.

6. How will the provisional results be released?

The provisional results will be published in printed reports as tabulation tables and also posted electronically on the website of both the Department of Population as well as that of UNFPA. This means any individual or organisation that requires a copy can view or download them. There will be a national launch followed by state/region dissemination workshops. The results will be disseminated to the public through various media and other meetings, and will also be made available to all data users including the sectoral ministries and departments down to the Township level. This will ensure that people understand the results, through planned dialogues and consultations at all levels.

7. Who can use the Provisional results?

All data users, both in and out of the country, can use the data once they are published and launched. Hard and soft copies will be available to all users. All you are required to do is to acknowledge the source of information as mentioned in the publication.



Main Results



1. What are the sources of data for the main results?

The sources of data for the main results (which will be released in May 2015) are the questionnaires that were completed in each household and institution by the Enumerators. All the questionnaires were returned from the field and delivered to the Census Office in Nay Pyi Taw in early May 2014. The questionnaires are currently being scanned using state-of-the-art scanners. Scanners are used to increase the speed of data processing so that the results will be available sooner. The scanning process will be completed by November 2014, after which the data will be analysed and form the main results of the census.

2. Why are the census results being released in stages?

The demand is high for reliable, accurate and up-to-date information by policy makers, development planners, the private sector, researchers and the public. As some information will take longer to analyse, results will be released as they become available, so that they can be used by the government, general public and other data users. It will take longer to analyse the entire census data. This will mean that data can be used by the government, local leaders, the general public and other data users. This will reduce the waiting time for important data for development planning to become available.

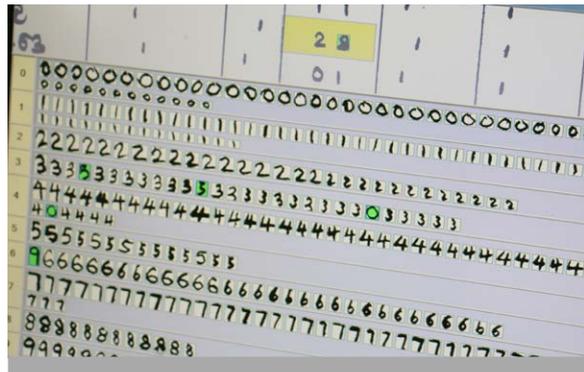


3. Can the data be changed during the checking of the questionnaire in the office?

Only the placement of a marking can be adjusted so that it is correctly placed inside the box and will be recognised by the scanner. Seventy specially trained operators visually inspect all questionnaires. In the few cases where the marking or number is not properly filled inside the box, the mark is moved and placed inside the box that was initially incorrectly filled in. All such corrections can be traced back to the original checking officer.

4. Can the data be changed after the scanning?

No. Once the questionnaires are scanned, it is not possible to change anything on them. When the computer is not able to read a character due to poor handwriting, it flashes up these characters on the screen and the computer operator confirms what the character should be.





For example, the computer may not be sure whether the hand written digit is a 3 or an 8, and the operator confirms what the number should be. In cases where the operator cannot determine the correct digit, she/he sends that character to their supervisor for confirmation. This flashing process is automatically generated through a specialised computer software programme.

5. What if the scanners breakdown? Will the data be entered manually?

No, there are eight scanners allocated to the scanning process and working simultaneously, with one spare scanner on stand-by. A local technology company has its well trained technicians on site at all times to provide support in the rare case of a breakdown. The local technicians were trained by engineers from the international company that supplied the scanners and the scanning software. In the event that the local technicians are not able to solve a problem, the international team of engineers from the company can access the scanners virtually and diagnose the problem and work with the local technicians to fix it. The possibility of having a problem with the scanners is, therefore, very remote.



Other Questions

1. Why were pencils rather than pens used to write on the questionnaire?

A census questionnaire requires focus and concentration to complete. Any mark which is not in the right space/box will not be recognised by the computer or will cause a wrong reading of the entry. An enumerator may make a mistake when filling in the questionnaire, in which case this has to be erased and the mark inserted correctly. Therefore the ability to erase and correct the questionnaire means that reliable data will be captured by the scanner. To ensure proper verification and transparency, all such corrections made during data processing can be traced back to the original checking officer.

It is not encouraged to use a pen for several reasons. 1) The hard tip of a ball point or rollerball pen can puncture and spoil the form. 2) The ink in pens cannot be erased, so corrections cannot be made by the enumerator in the field. 3) Pens that use liquid ink can be messy and can cause blots and smudges that can obliterate the correct completion of questionnaires and can ruin other forms as well. 4) Gel pens can cause "bleeding" onto the back of the questionnaire. This can cause false data to be captured by the scanner, resulting in high volumes of manual corrections needing to be made.

For the above reasons, most countries that conduct censuses use pencils to fill out the questionnaires.

2. Do I need to buy a copy of the Census Publication?

All Census publications will be available free of charge in both hard and soft copies (downloaded from the website). Data users will not be required to pay for any data or publication from the census. The Census Office will distribute the publications to institutions such as universities and libraries where people can access and refer to them.

3. How can the public learn more about the stages of data processing?

The DoP, in collaboration with UNFPA, have initiated several tours of the data processing centre in Nay Pyi Taw. The tours started in May 2014, and have included national and international media, some representatives of ethnic groups, members of the diplomatic community and development partners. The tours will continue throughout the scanning and data processing period. The general public and other interested groups are encouraged to visit the data processing centre, by prior arrangement with the Department of Population. Short videos that explain each of the stages involved in the census process are available on UNFPA's and the Department of Population's websites.

4. I need to know more. Where can I get further information?

Please contact the Department of Population at the Ministry of Immigration and Population.

You may also visit:

www.dop.gov.mm

<http://myanmar.unfpa.org/census>

to download this information. If you are at the sub-national level, please visit the Immigration Office as they are able to provide adequate information on the census.



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