

Population and Housing Census in Thailand

Thailand has been conducting the population census for 10 times and in 2010 will be the eleventh round. Thailand's first population census was conducted in 1909 by the Ministry of Interior which had conducted the first five censuses which were, at that time, called "Household Census". The National Statistical Office (NSO) has been responsible for undertaking population census since the sixth round. The Population and Housing Census in Thailand has been conducted every ten years in accordance with the United Nations' recommendation that countries should undertake national censuses in the year ending with "0" (zero), for example 1990, 2000, and 2010, for the purpose of international comparison. The Census 2010 will be the eleventh round which is the 100th Anniversary of Thai Population Census.

Objectives of the Population and Housing Census

1. To collect fundamental information, such as sex, age, nationality, education, employment, of population and of dwelling, such as type, drinking water, water supply.
2. To have the most detailed information at the level of small localities (villages, sub-district administration organization, municipals, etc.)
3. To measure changes in population structure and housing during 10 years.

Uses of Population and Housing Census Information Government Sector

1. To determine adequate policies/plans related to population, economic, social and environmental issues both at the country level and locality level.
2. To prepare the budget so as to provide public utilities and services to the needs of people in each area (villages, sub-districts, districts, provinces, etc.) such as
 - Providing sufficient public utilities which are good hygienic conditions (housing, water, electricity, public healthcare, public bus, etc.)
 - Providing sufficient schools and teachers so as to provide children with opportunities to study at a fundamental education
 - Providing sufficient vaccine for children in all age groups
 - Providing sufficient welfare to the less opportunities groups (elderly and disabled person)
 - In areas of high population densities, there are the needs of adequate administration of labor management, the needs for healthcare to prevent diseases/infectious diseases

- Information of structure of population truly living in each area will be used as base information for the provincial strategic planning, such as the calculation of GPP, and the calculation of income per capita, rate of service use, etc.
- 3. To use as a basis for the estimation of the population projection
- 4. To evaluate the Tenth National Economic and Social Development Plan (2007-2011) and to prepare for the Eleventh Plan (2012-2016).
- 5. To provide an up-to-date sampling frame for surveys of some specific themes related to social and population
- 6. To use as the base source for combining data with other survey, such as the Household Socio-economic Survey, so as to compute various indicators, for example
 - Poverty Mapping
 - Hunger Mapping

Private Sector

Information on population density in each area (by gender, age, occupation, etc.) helps establishment to determine their business plans, such as setting new shops or expanding business to their target customer.

People

Information of access to public services indicates the well-being of people.

Population and Housing Census Users

Census data users are from various government and private agencies including academic institutions, national and international research institutions, and other international organizations.

Preparation of the Population and Housing Census 2010

The census date of this round is **1st July 2010**. The census force, over seventy thousands, is all spread throughout the country.

1. In 2008, the Pilot test was organized at Pitsanulok Province. This pilot project was to rehearse all stages of undertaking the census, especially innovated techniques related to data collection and data processing, including an emphasis on cooperation of both local level and national level.

2. The other pilot project was conducted in 2009 in Bangkok so as to study and test new mechanism to solve problems on data collection in a mega city as Bangkok, which has more complexity in terms of their resident and variety of people's life styles.

Census Coverage

1. Coverage of Population

1. All Thai people residing in Thailand at the Census Date (1st July 2010),
2. All Military servants, defenses, civil servants, and Thai diplomatic personnel including their dependents, of which their office located outside the country,
3. Foreigners and migrants who live in Thailand at least three months prior to the Census Date,
4. Thai people, foreigners, and migrants who usually live in Thailand but temporarily be outside the country at the Census Date.

Exclude - Military servants, defense, civil servants, and Thai diplomatic personnel including their dependents, of which their office located inside the country,

- Foreigners and migrants who live in Thailand less than three months prior to the Census Date,
- Refugees and illegal migrants who live in the refugee camps.

2. Coverage of House or Dwelling

All House or Dwelling where people live such as house, building, construction, public area, rooms in the office, space under the bridge, etc.

Data Collection Method

There are four methods to be used, as follows;

1. Direct / Face-to-Face interview: The 2010 Population and Housing Census still adopt face-to-face interview as the major method of data collection.

2. Self-enumeration method: This method will be applied for specific areas, such as apartment, condominium, high security areas, etc., where the enumerators are not normally allowed to enter into those places to do face-to-face interview, or the enumerators could not find any persons to be interviewed after several visits.

3. Internet: This method is still in the process of testing.

4. Telephone Interview through the Telephone Interview Center

Workload

The total household to be collected in the country is approximately 20 million households.

Questionnaires

There are two forms to be used in the Population and Housing Census.

1. Listing Form (PHC.1) which is used to interview all types of households. The form contains information on household location, type of household, housing characteristics, number of household members in each household.

2. Enumeration Form (PHC.2) which is used to interview all household members in each household according to the census coverage.

Collection Period

1 – 31 July 2010

Field Personnel

Apart from NSO officers which located in the center and provinces, NSO has collaborated with other agencies from public and private sector in supporting their staff for the census force which amounted for 75,000 field personnel to work throughout the country.

1. Head of Provincial NSO (Bangkok and 75 provinces)
2. District or Area cooperation officers about 2,600 people
3. Training officers or Fieldwork control officers about 500 people
4. Field supervisors about 9,000 people
5. Enumerators about 63,000 people and locality volunteers, for example, community volunteers, municipality offices, teachers, etc., (in special area, such as, condominium, hostels, buildings, high-rise building, housing estate, etc. enumerators will be, for example, residence managers, head of the village, government officers, etc.)

Data Processing

Data will be recorded by using the ICR (Intelligence Character Recognition) at each Provincial National Statistics Office.

Data Dissemination and Publication

Data Dissemination

- 1) **Preliminary Report:** Data from the listing form will be disseminated at the national level and provincial level. In total, 77 reports will be published, one for the Whole Kingdom and one for each of the 76 provinces of the Kingdom.
- 2) **Advanced Report:** Data of the 2% population/household from the enumeration form will be disseminated at the national level and regional level. The reports will be published for the Whole Kingdom and for each region of the Kingdom.
- 3) **Final Report:** Data from the enumeration form will be disseminated at the national level, regional level, and provincial level. In total, 80 reports will be published, one for the Kingdom as a whole, one for each of the 4

- regions of the Kingdom, and one for each of the 76 provinces of the Kingdom.
- 4) **Analytical Report:** In cooperation with academic institutes, the study on an in-dept analysis for some important and policy-needed themes, such as migration, fertility, etc. will be published.

Publication

- 1) Report, Fact Sheet, Diskette, CD-ROM
- 2) Website <http://popcensus.nso.go.th/>
- 3) Data Warehouse
- 4) Census Info
- 5) Geographic Information System (GIS)