

1. Definition of General Population and Housing Census:

• Population Census:

It is the total process of collecting, classifying evaluating, analyzing and publishing or distribution of demographic, economic and social data of the population during a certain period of time.

Population considers an essential element for production and distribution of material wealth, for planning and implementation of economic, social development or administrative activity or scientific research requires the existence of reliable and detailed data on the size, distribution and composition of population. Population Census forms a most important source, of these basic statistics for comparison.

• Census of Housing (Housing Census)

It is the total process of collecting, classifying, evaluating, analyzing and publishing or distribution of statistical data related on housing and their residents in the country during a certain period of time.

The census provides information on the existing housing units and information about the characteristics and constructions that have an impact on maintaining the particularity, health and to create normal living conditions for the household.

2. The objective of census

The General Census of Population and Housing (including production of data) is representing an essential requirement to develop plans and development programs by using updated, comprehensive and reliable database with all things respect to the size, installation and characteristics of the population who are the most important elements and goals of the development, in addition to the establishment of a comprehensive database for buildings and dwellings (residential units and collective dwellings), the establishments and agricultural holdings that using as statistical framework for many of the other censuses and sample surveys, also the importance of the census justify "in the preparation of population estimates for the period between censuses.

3. The uses of population and housing censuses

- **For policy-making, planning** and management, such as state policies and programs, and planning services and elections.
- **For the purposes of research and studies.**
- **For commercial, industrial and employment**, such as supply and demand for goods and services and labor.
- **For the purposes of preparing for other census are:**

1. **Agricultural census**, such as the limitation of counting areas, preparation of the framework and limitation of the agricultural holdings and holdings owners.

2. Establishments Census, such as information collected from individuals economic characteristics that used in preparation lists for the owners of these industrial, commercial and services establishments for preparing a framework of the subsequent census to the establishments or to complete the records of establishments, the population census also provides information on small-scale establishments which employing fewer than five persons and run by persons working on their own which can not be obtained from the official records of establishments, in addition to rural and household industries.

3. Census of Buildings.

4. Current statistics system of housings.

5. The Civil register and vital statistics, census data are used as indicators for the calculation of the rates of vitality facts during the time of census.

6. Continuous population registers, population censuses are used as a base for establishing a continued register of population to have a full and comprehensive system of civil registration of live births and deaths.

7. Sample surveys between censuses, the census provides statistical frameworks for the scientific design of sampling and baseline data for comparison depends in assessing the reasonableness of the results of surveys and measurement of changes occurring in the characteristics that have been studied in both censuses and surveys.

4. The fundamental characteristics of Census

4-1 Single Enumerate, the enumeration of every person and every dwelling (housing units or collective dwellings) separately and the recording of characteristics of those persons and housing separately.

4-2 Comprehensive listing within specific region, One of census characteristics is coverage a specific geographically region, "accurately, and in the field of population census should be limited all present persons or resident within the area of the census which depends on the type of user count, while housing census must include all housing units within the target region regardless of the kind.

4-3 Synchronization (immediate), the counting of every person and every dwelling on the basis of the specific point of time (the moment of time reference) so the count data indicate to a specific reference period "accurately", but it is not required to match the time period of reference of all collected data But most of them due to the day of census, but may be in some cases, the period preceding the census.

4-4 The Specific Periodic, perform the census at a regular time every ten years, which allows for comparisons in a continuing periodic, evaluation of the past, describe present and estimate the future accurately.

5. Brief history of the census in Iraq

The task of implementing the general census of population has being entrusted to the Central Organization of Statistics, where it carried out the sixth census in 17/10/1977 in order to meet the requirements of the national development plan and other national needs for statistics and population data to ensure carrying out the international comparisons on a scientific and perfect basis, the results of that census was completed during the period of nine months, which was a record period in terms of shortness at the global level, where the latest statistical methods were used in that period for preparing it at higher possible level of accuracy and the widest necessary details.

The Seventh population census also carried out by the Central Organization of Statistics in 17/10/1987, which provided comprehensive statistical indicators on the population, social, economic and housing changes at the level of all governorates and of both the urban and rural areas.

The latest population census was the eighth census carried out in 16/10/1997, that census provided comprehensive statistical indicators on the population, social, economic and housing changes at the level of (15) governorates for both of urban and rural areas, except the governorates of Kurdistan region (Sulaimaniya, Arbil and Duhok).