

# Nepal - National Population Census 1991

**Central Bureau of Statistics - National Planning Commission Secretariat, His  
Majesty's Government**

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## Overview

### Identification

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ID NUMBER  
NPL-CBS-NPC-1991-v0

### Version

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VERSION DESCRIPTION  
Version 0: Microdata not available

### Overview

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ABSTRACT  
The objectives of the 1991 Population Census were:

- a. to develop a set of benchmark data for different purposes,
- b. to provide data for small administrative areas of the country on population, housing and household facilities,
- c. to provide reliable frames for different types of sample surveys,
- d. to provide sex disaggregated data of the population and other variables related to households, demographic, social and economic conditions of the country, and
- e. to provide detailed information on women, children, and the aged

KIND OF DATA  
Census/enumeration data [cen]

UNITS OF ANALYSIS  
private household, individual

### Scope

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NOTES  
**HOUSEHOLD:** Household characteristics, household listing, operated land area for agriculture, Number of livestock/poultry, female member ownership on assets, source of drinking water, fuel used for cooking, source of light, toilet facility, household facilities, information on the deceased persons.

**INDIVIDUAL:** Individual characteristics, caste/ethnicity, religion and mother tongue, migration, education, marital status, fertility, mortality, economic activity, child labour.

#### TOPICS

Topic	Vocabulary	URI
Indigenous Peoples	World Bank	
Faiths & Development	World Bank	
Gender	World Bank	
Education	World Bank	

Topic	Vocabulary	URI
Agriculture & Rural Development	World Bank	
Labor & Social Protection	World Bank	

## Coverage

### GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE (1)

National coverage

### GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE (2)

Regional

### GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE (3)

Urban and rural areas

### GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE (4)

District

### GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE (5)

Village Development Committee/Municipality

### GEOGRAPHIC UNIT

Ward level

### UNIVERSE

The census covered all household members (usual residents) in private households.

## Producers and Sponsors

### PRIMARY INVESTIGATOR(S)

Name	Affiliation
Central Bureau of Statistics	National Planning Commission Secretariat, His Majesty's Government

### FUNDING

Name	Abbreviation	Role
His Majesty's Government	HMG	Funding for census management and operations
United Nations Population Fund	UNFPA	Funding for printing and advertisement

## Metadata Production

### METADATA PRODUCED BY

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation	Role
Central Bureau of Statistics	CBS	National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal	Documentation of the study

### DATE OF METADATA PRODUCTION

2012-03-15

DDI DOCUMENT VERSION

Version 01: Central Bureau of Statistics - Original documentation of the study.

Version 02: Revised version of metadata as per the recommendation of ADP assessment report, 25 October 2015.

DDI DOCUMENT ID

DDI-NPL-CBS-NPC-1991-v02

# Sampling

## Sampling Procedure

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The 1991 census collected data based on short form for the complete enumeration of the benchmark information and the long form for the sample enumeration of other socio-economic and demographic information. The long form was administered for population dwellings in about 20 percent of the total housing units. Based on these, estimates were generated at the district level with reliable degree of precision.

The sampling scheme of the 1991 Population Census for the long form is summarized below.

1. The sampling covered the private households only. For the institutional population, Schedule-1 only was administered.
2. For the sampling, 75 administrative districts formed the main strata and VDC's and municipalities within the district formed the domains.
3. There were around 36,000 wards in the country at the time of the census. For the purpose of the census enumeration some of the large wards were further divided into sub-wards. These wards and sub-wards formed the EA's for sampling. The total number of EAs thus formed was around 40,000.
4. Sampling was carried out in each EA; housing unit being the sampling unit.
5. The list of housing units and households served as the sampling frame for the EA. The housing units were selected by systematic sampling method. The sampling interval taken was 8.
6. The list of selected housing units was made available to the enumerator for the enumeration. All households and persons found in the selected units were enumerated.
7. The ratio method was used in making estimates for the sample.
8. Tabulation groups were created separately for tabulation of persons and those for households. The main control variables for the majority of tabulations for persons were two variables: age sex. Tabulation groups for household tabulations were formed in a different manner: taking households as a tabulation group in the domain.
9. To implement the ratio estimation, first weights were calculated. The weights for sample data were computed by dividing the 100 percent counts for the same tabulation groups in the domain by sample counts for the same tabulation groups in the domain. To avoid inconsistency due to rounding, the figures were converted to whole numbers.

This detailed sampling procedure is documented in the Technical Documents.

## Response Rate

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At the time of census there were 3,914 VDC's and 58 municipalities. VDC's contained a total of 35,226 wards while urban areas contained 806 wards. Thus total numbers of wards in the country were 36,032.

For form 2, there is no available data for response rate.

# Questionnaires

## Overview

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In 1991, both household listing and actual census field operation took place simultaneously, unlike in 1981 where household listing preceded total enumeration. Nevertheless, the number of items included in the household list was as comprehensive as before.

Two types of schedules were prepared. Form 1 for complete enumeration and Form 2 for sample enumeration. Both schedules contained questions on household as well as individuals.

### FORM 1: (COMPLETE Enumeration)

A. Household Information (Question relating to Household), House type & ownership, Agriculture land holding, Livestock/poultry raised for agriculture purpose, Female ownership on house, land and Livestock/Cattle, Small scale economic activities other than agriculture, Absentees from Household (HH), reasons & country of destination.

B. Individual Information (Question relating to Individuals), Name, sex, age, relationship to the Household head, Caste/ethnicity, religion, Language spoken and citizen.

### FORM 2: (SAMPLE Enumeration)

A. Household Information (Question relating to Household), Household facilities (Radio, TV, etc.), Deaths in last 12 months in the Household.

B. Individual Information (Question relating to Individuals), Place of birth, Migration, Literacy, Educational attainment, Marital status, Age at first Marriage, Children born, Economic/Non-economic activities, occupation/Industry, employment status, Reasons for not being active, Living arrangement of children below 16 years of age.

Questionnaire contents and the pre-testing of census enumeration procedure were conducted in four districts, Bajura from mountain, Mahottari from terai and Dhankuta as well as Kathmandu from the hilly region.

## Data Collection

### Data Collection Dates

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Start	End	Cycle
1991-03-31	1991-06-22	N/A

### Time Periods

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Start	End	Cycle
1991-06-22	1991-06-22	N/A

### Data Collection Mode

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Face-to-face [f2f]

### Data Collection Notes

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In 1991 census, as in 1981, a gazetted class III officer was posted to each of Nepal's 75 districts. A rigorous training on various aspects of census field operation was given to them in Kathmandu before they left for their respective districts. Each district census officer established a district census office and divided each district into 2 or 3 census areas depending on the population size, except in Manang district which was treated as one area due to its small size. The 1991 census training programme was organized at for different levels of staffs in the census at different points of time. These included the training of the master trainers, district census officers, area supervisors, field supervisors and the enumerators. To start with, a group of master trainers were trained in the Bureau. The master trainers together with the Mainstreaming Gender Equity Programme (MGEP, an UN-agency) staffs, and the Sahavbagi, a leading NGO, also participated and facilitated the central and district level training of the census field staffs. These training were mainly focused for maintaining uniformity on the census procedures, terms and definitions used in the census questionnaires and developed understanding among all the trainees.

The enumerators employed were largely school teachers from local areas and where teachers were not available person who had completed a minimum of School Leaving Certificate (SLC) examinations were employed. In contrast to this, in 1981 the minimum educational qualification was just literacy although most of them had completed 8 years or more of schooling.

Employed as supervisors were those who had education level of intermediate or above. Also, some Master's level students from the Departments of Populations Studies and Statistics were employed.

In 1990, a pilot census was carried out in 4 districts (2 rural wards and 1 ward from Biratnagar town of Morang district, 3 rural wards each of Dolakha and Rolpa districts and 1 ward of Kathmandu city) to test the content and wording of the census questionnaire. Subsequently, the language was slightly modified but the items were kept intact.

Census promotion activities were quite extensive in 1991. Various communication channels were utilized for this purpose. Almost all available media like radio, television, daily newspapers, cinema slides, posters, calendars, postage stamps etc. were used for information and education purposes. Additionally, audience-specific materials for different ethnic and religious groups were also developed. In 1981, most mass media channels were used except TV which did not exist then. But in 1991, microphone announcement in local areas was also done and local folk media were utilized.

Interviews averaged 35 minutes for the household questionnaire. Interviews were conducted primarily in Nepali.

### Questionnaires

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B. Individual Information (Question relating to Individuals), Name, sex, age, relationship to the Household head, Caste/ethnicity, religion, Language spoken and citizen.

**FORM 2: (SAMPLE Enumeration)**

A. Household Information (Question relating to Household), Household facilities (Radio, TV, etc.), Deaths in last 12 months in the Household.

B. Individual Information (Question relating to Individuals), Place of birth, Migration, Literacy, Educational attainment, Marital status, Age at first Marriage, Children born, Economic/Non-economic activities, occupation/Industry, employment status, Reasons for not being active, Living arrangement of children below 16 years of age.

Questionnaire contents and the pre-testing of census enumeration procedure were conducted in four districts, Bajura from mountain, Mahottari from terai and Dhankuta as well as Kathmandu from the hilly region.

## Data Collectors

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation
Central Bureau of Statistics	CBS	His Majesty's Government

## Supervision

Each district was divided into one to three Area Census Offices depending upon the population of the district. All the District Census Offices were eventually supervised and controlled by the Population Census Section of the Bureau at Kathmandu.

The field supervisors checked each enumerator's work in his area for major inconsistencies.

# Data Processing

## Data Editing

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The completed schedules returned to the Headquarters from the field, were carefully edited which was followed by coding operations.

Data editing took place at a number of stages throughout the processing, including:

- a) Office editing and coding
- b) During data entry
- c) Structure checking and completeness
- d) Secondary editing
- e) Structural checking of SPSS data files

## Other Processing

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### Data Processing and Tabulation

The Central Bureau of Statistics contracted out the data coding, editing and entry work to the private party. Two parties were hired for two different census forms. The data entry work was completed within a year. Data were transmitted daily from data entry points to CBS. The coding/editing manuals and the data entry programs were provided by CBS. The data verification was done by the contractor and re verified and supervised by CBS as well. Nearly 400 Microcomputers (Pentium III) were used for the data entry work.

A census data processing unit is established at Population Section of CBS with one system design and programming group. For the data processing and tabulations, CBS is using one Pentium IV, four Pentium III along with two high speed laser printers and one dot matrix printer in Windows NT under Local Area Network environment.

The Integrated Microcomputer Processing System (IMPS) was used for data entry, editing and management of census data. STATA and SPSS software packages are used for the tabulation of the census results.

# Data Appraisal

## **Other forms of Data Appraisal**

The quality of the 1991 census data is evaluated in two steps. The first step deals with the evaluation of the quality of the census data on selected aspects such as age reporting, fertility, mortality, etc. The second step examines the extent of coverage in the census enumeration.

A Post Enumeration Survey (PES) was designed to evaluate the 1991 census data quality with respect to completeness of coverage. It was scheduled to be conducted in August 1991 but the actual revisiting of sampled areas for reconciliation of the differences was completed by April 1992.

# File Description

# Variable List



# Documentation

## Questionnaires

### National Population Census 1991, Questionnaire

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Title National Population Census 1991, Questionnaire  
Author(s) Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS)  
Country Nepal  
Filename Questionnaire.zip

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## Other materials

### National Population Census 1991, Table

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Title National Population Census 1991, Table  
Author(s) Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS)  
Country Nepal  
Description Summary tables of the results of the Nepal Population Census 1991.



