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Communique of the Major Statistics from the First National Population Census as Released by the State Statistical Bureau of the People's Republic of China

(November 1, 1954)*

China's State Statistical Bureau, working in coordination with related departments in line with the directives of the Government Administration Council of the Central People's Government of the PRC and in the light of the country's national election, carried out its first national population census. The reference time of the census was zero hour July 1, 1953. Over 2.5 million people worked in it.

In order that the census could proceed efficiently, registration offices were set up at different levels throughout the country, and a simple and viable standard procedure was devised. Most regions in the country strictly carried out the census based on this standard procedure. However, certain regions had to utilize other means for the enumeration as the direct interviewing procedure was not feasible in those areas. These included some remote frontier regions that had not yet participated in the general election at the grass-roots level; the province of Taiwan, which is still awaiting liberation; Chinese residents living abroad; and some overseas Chinese visa students.

**China Official Yearbook 1983/84*, pp. 448-450.

Sampling post-enumeration verification was in a timely way conducted to check the degree of accuracy and representativeness of the census with 52.95 million people surveyed for this purpose (9 percent of the registered population according to the direct census). Results of the sample check showed that there were 0.139 percent erroneous overcount and 0.255 percent undercount.

The processing and verification as well as the collection of the data in the census are now totally completed. The following are the figures of the population census of the People's Republic of China released by the State Statistical Bureau:

I. With zero hour July 1, 1953, as the reference time, the total population of China is 601,938,035. This figure includes:

574,205,940 people registered through direct interviewing; 27,732,095 were estimated by other methods, including: 8,397,477 from the frontier regions where transportation was extremely difficult and regions that had not participated in the country's general election at the grass-roots level (these were estimated according to regional administrative records); the population of Taiwan Province was 7,591,298 according to the figure released by Taiwan authorities in 1951 and 11,743,320 overseas Chinese and Chinese visa students according to the records of the Overseas Chinese Affairs Commission and other departments concerned.

II. Among those recorded by direct census:

Sex composition: Males number 297,553,518, accounting for 51.82 percent of the total population, and females 276,652,422, accounting for 48.18 percent.

Age Composition: there are 338,339,892 people eighteen years old or over, accounting for 58.92 percent of the total. Among these: 1,851,312 are between the age of 80 and 99, 3,384 100 years of age or over, the oldest age recorded being 155 years old.

III. Total population:

(excluded from this figure is the population of Taiwan, overseas Chinese, and visa students who were not registered by the

direct interviewing procedure).

The Han nationality population is 547,283,057, accounting for 93.94 percent of the total; the minority nationality population is 35,320,360, making up 6.06 percent.

Of the minority nationalities, those with population over one million include: the Mongolian nationality, 1,462,956; the Hui nationality, 3,559,350; the Zhuang nationality, 2,775,622; the Uygur nationality, 3,640,125; the Miao nationality, 2,522,339; the Yi nationality, 3,254,269; the Dong nationality, 6,611,455; the Bouyei nationality, 1,247,883; the Chaoxian nationality, 1,120,405; the Man (Manchu) nationality, 2,418,931; all other remaining nationalities total 6,718,025.

IV. Distribution of the population in urban and rural areas:

(excluded from this figure are the compatriots of Taiwan, overseas Chinese residents, and visa students for whom direct census has not been conducted).

77,257,282 people are residing in cities and towns, making up 13.26 percent of the total population, 505,346,135 people are living in rural areas, making up 86.74 percent.

V. The distribution of the national population [in pinyin alphabetical order]:

[Province]	Population	[Rank]
Anhui	30,343,637	8
Beijing*	2,768,149	28
Fujian	13,142,721	18
Gansu	12,928,102	19
Guangdong	34,770,059	6
Guangxi	19,560,822	11
Guizhou	15,037,310	16
Hebei	35,984,644	5
Henan	44,214,594	3
Heilongjiang	11,897,309	20
Hubei	27,789,693	9

Hunan	33,226,954	7
Jiangsu	41,252,192	4
Jiangxi	16,772,865	14
Jilin	11,290,073	21
Liaoning	18,545,147	12
Neimenggu (Inner Mon- golia)†	6,100,104	24
Qinghai	1,676,534	30
Rehe	5,160,822	25
Shaanxi	15,881,281	15
Shandong	48,876,548	2
Shanxi	14,314,485	17
Shanghai*	6,204,417	23
Sichuan	62,303,999	1
Taiwan	7,991,298	22
Tianjin*	2,693,831	29
Xikang	3,381,064	27
Xinjiang	4,873,608	26
Xizang (Tibet) and Qamdo‡	1,273,969	31
Yunnan	17,472,737	13
Zhejiang	22,865,747	10
Overseas Chinese residents and Chinese visa students	11,743,320	
Total	601,938,035	

*Municipality

†Autonomous Region

‡Prefecture