

A newsletter from East View highlighting census data from around the world

CENSUS DATA AND ELECTIONS

As the foundational data source for governance, censuses have been integral to election processes around the world. One of the first national efforts of a new country is usually a census count, which in turn forms the basis for elections. An accurate population count is crucial in determining administrative boundaries, and the number of parliamentary and congressional seats, as well as ensuring voter registration. In the post-election period, census data is also vital in understanding voter turnout and larger demographic trends that shape politics within a country.

Census data provides a critical foundation for democratic representation, policymaking, and the equitable development of nations.

In the United States, the U.S. Constitution mandates the undertaking of a decennial census to allocate seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. Since no state has a permanent claim to its current number of seats, census data has far-reaching implications for shaping political strategies.

Discover Demographic Insights with the Global Census Archive

The United States is hardly the only country using census data as an essential tool to guide its elections. The Indian Constitution, for example, also mandates regular population censuses, which enable the Parliament to redraw electoral boundaries based on population changes. In many countries such as Argentina, Chile, Hungary, Israel, and the Netherlands, government records such as census counts are used for automatic voter registration.

Myanmar



Official State Name မြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်
Official State Name (English) The Republic of The Union of Myanmar
Sovereignty UN member state
Persistent URL <https://gca.eastview.com/mmr> 

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- ▶ Myanmar (Burma), 1983 
- ▶ Myanmar (Burma), 1954 
- ▶ Myanmar (Burma), 1953 

Myanmar Country Landing page on the Global Census Archive platform.

Myanmar, for example, is scheduled to conduct a census in October 2024 in preparation for its upcoming elections. Its most recent census in 2014 provided essential demographic insights and marked a significant moment in Myanmar's efforts towards effective governance and development planning, highlighting the need for accurate data in shaping policies and electoral frameworks. However, the use of the 2014 census data caused controversies due to ethnic tensions in the country, where minority groups raised concerns about potential misrepresentation and threats to their citizenship rights.

Myanmar (2014)



Official State Name ပြည်ထောင်စုသမ္မတမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်

Official State Name (English) The Republic of The Union of Myanmar

Sovereignty UN member state

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- Myanmar, 2014. Census Accuracy
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- Myanmar, 2014. Census Law
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Myanmar, 2014. Census Results. Sagaing Region, Sagaing District, Sagaing Township

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Table 1: Population and number of conventional households by sex by ward and village tract, Sagaing Township (Sagaing District, Sagaing Region)

Sr	Ward/Village Tract	No. of Conventional households	Population		
			Total	Males	Females
	Total	65,143	307,194	143,420	163,774
	Ward	16,496	81,432	38,551	42,881
1	Dawei Zay(W)	1,217	5,455	2,618	2,837
2	Aye Mya Wa Di(W)	734	3,855	1,624	2,231
3	Nan Da Wun Kwet Thit (W)	1,044	4,633	2,095	2,538
4	Moe Zar(W)	582	2,717	1,214	1,503
5	Myo Thit(W)	978	4,913	2,277	2,636
6	Pan Be Dan(W)	1,286	6,265	2,974	3,291
7	Poe Tan(W)	979	4,244	1,980	2,264

Myanmar 2014 Census page on the Global Census Archive platform (left) and Myanmar Census Results, page from Sagaing District (right).

The Global Census Archive presents researchers with tools that enhance and facilitate comparative and historical research. Researchers who want to study the political history of Myanmar can easily compare census results from different years or focus on the 2014 census and dig deeper into 468 publications that include detailed tabular results at the township level, as well as a multitude of thematic reports, including migration, mortality, nutrition, and occupation. Moreover, the 2014 GIS data can aid researchers in visualizing demographic attributes at the township level. In sum, the Global Census Archive can help researchers draw meaningful conclusions about the role of census data in shaping electoral processes and informing governance.

Further reading on census data and elections:

- United States Census Bureau, Voting and Registration: <https://www.census.gov/topics/public-sector/voting.html>
- Reuters, “Myanmar Junta Announces Census for Promised 2025 Election”: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/myanmar-junta-announces-census-promised-2025-election-2024-09-02/>
- Wikipedia, ‘Delimitation Commission of India’: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delimitation_Commission_of_India



The East View **Global Census Archive**® (GCA) is an innovative program to collect official data and publications issued by the national census authorities of more than 175 countries, from the early 19th century to the present day, providing a key resource for scholars and analysts to find current and historical census data to support critical research into our changing world. GCA provides a single platform experience to explore the world’s census publications: all countries and regions, the complete depth of published census materials, including original census publications in e-book form, as well as modern tabular data in Excel format and GIS files for advanced users.