



Comparison of Population Data between Census and Admin Records in Cambodia

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Introduction

During the 2000 round of censuses, over 190 countries conducted a **population census** based on **the traditional approach**, that is, by enumerator.

Several countries succeeded in using **the register-based approach** to generate complete count population data, that is, by **administrative records**.

Since the administrative records called “Commune Data Base” is being operated in Cambodia, we compare population statistics from it against the Cambodia 2008 Population Census results.

Table 1-1. Comparison of merits and demerits of two approaches

| | The traditional approach census by enumerator | The register-based approach by administrative records |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| Cost | Extremely expensive | Relatively cheap |
| Initial investment | Not necessary | Necessary and expensive |
| Data capture | Necessary | Not necessary |
| Maintenance | Not necessary | Necessary and expensive |
| Topics | Flexible | Fixed |
| Adding new topics | Easy | Difficult and expensive |
| Coverage | Universal coverage | Usual residents only |
| Simultaneity | Easy | Depends on update cycle |
| Periodicity | Once in five or ten years | Desired frequency |

Table 1-2. Comparison of Definitions between Census and Administrative Records in Cambodia

| | Census 1) | Admin Records 2) |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. Method of enumeration | De facto | De jure |
| 2. Coverage | <p>Universal coverage. If he/she was there on the reference date, he/she is included.</p> <p>If homeless or transient people were there on the reference date, they are included.</p> <p>Foreigners are included.</p> | <p>Registered residents, or usual residents staying there for more than six months only.</p> <p>Homeless or transient people are not included.</p> <p>Registered foreigners are included.</p> |
| 3. Reference date/month | 3 March 2008 at 0:00 AM | December 2008 |

1) Final Results of 2008 Population Census, as of 3 March 2008

The 2008 Population Census was implemented by the National Institute of Statistics, Ministry of Planning, Cambodia with cooperation from UNFPA, the Government of Japan, and JICA.

2) Commune Data Base (CDB), as of Dec. 2008

The CDB has been updated by the Ministry of Planning, Cambodia every year.

All village chiefs in Cambodia report to the Ministry through its administrative channel.

Table 2. **Cambodia** National Level Comparison

Comparison of Population Data between Census and Administrative Records - Cambodia (2008)

| Age | Census 1) | Admin Records 2) | Difference 3) |
|---------------|-------------|------------------|---------------|
| | A (persons) | B (persons) | (%) |
| Total | 13,395,682 | 13,850,377 | 3.4 |
| 0-5 years old | 1,665,780 | 1,760,166 | 5.7 |
| 6-17 | 3,821,928 | 3,980,667 | 4.2 |
| 18-60 | 7,135,785 | 7,186,596 | 0.7 |
| 61 and over | 772,189 | 922,948 | 19.5 |

1) Final Results of 2008 Population Census, as of 3 March 2008

2) Commune Data Base (CDB), as of Dec. 2008

3) $=(B-A)/A*100$

Comments on Table 2.

In Cambodia, the population of the admin records are 3.4 % more than that of the census.

The possible difference due to the time lag of 10 months is estimated to be 1.3% only.

The possible reasons are as follows:

1. No report of death

61 years and over shows 19.5% more.

2. Double count

There is no service of network in the registration system.

Table 3. **Phnom Penh** City (Capital)

Comparison of Population Data between Census and Administrative Records - Phnom Penh (2008)

| Age | Census 1) | Admin Records 2) | Difference 3) |
|---------------|-------------|------------------|---------------|
| | A (persons) | B (persons) | (%) |
| Total | 1,327,615 | 1,080,119 | -18.6 |
| 0-5 years old | 112,033 | 94,943 | -15.3 |
| 6-17 | 265,766 | 251,914 | -5.2 |
| 18-60 | 884,864 | 655,236 | -26.0 |
| 61 and over | 64,952 | 78,026 | 20.1 |

1) Final Results of 2008 Population Census, as of 3 March 2008

2) Commune Data Base (CDB), as of Dec. 2008

3) $=(B-A)/A*100$

Comments on Table 3.

In Phnom Penh city, the population of the admin records is 18.6 % less than that of the census.

The possible difference due to the time lag of 10 months is estimated to be 2.4% only.

The possible reasons are as follows:

1. No report of migration

Many people have already migrated to Phnom Penh city, but their registrations are still in their home province.

2. Population inflow to the capital city

Table 4. **Prey Veng** Province (near Phnom Penh city)

Comparison of Population Data between Census and Administrative Records - Prey Veng (2008)

| Age | Census 1) | Admin Records 2) | Difference 3) |
|----------------------|-------------|------------------|---------------|
| | A (persons) | B (persons) | |
| Total | 947,372 | 1,123,259 | 18.6 |
| 0-5 years old | 118,107 | 135,570 | 14.8 |
| 6-17 | 277,367 | 300,361 | 8.3 |
| 18-60 | 488,101 | 608,235 | 24.6 |
| 61 and over | 63,797 | 79,093 | 24.0 |

1) Final Results of 2008 Population Census, as of 3 March 2008

2) Commune Data Base (CDB), as of Dec. 2008

3) $=(B-A)/A*100$

Comments on Table 4.

In Prey Veng province, the population of the admin records is 18.6 % more than that of the census.

The possible difference due to the time lag of 10 months is estimated to be 3.0% only.

The possible reasons are as follows:

1. No report of migration

Many people have already migrated from this province, but their registrations are still in this province.

2. Population outflow from this province

The location of this province is near Phnom Penh city.

Table 5. **Kratie** Province (far from Phnom Penh city)

Comparison of Population Data between Census and Administrative Records - Kratie (2008)

| Age | Census 1) | Admin Records 2) | Difference 3) |
|----------------------|-------------|------------------|---------------|
| | A (persons) | B (persons) | (%) |
| Total | 319,217 | 318,813 | -0.1 |
| 0-5 years old | 46,525 | 46,396 | -0.3 |
| 6-17 | 94,362 | 96,877 | 2.7 |
| 18-60 | 160,374 | 154,521 | -3.6 |
| 61 and over | 17,956 | 21,019 | 17.1 |

1) Final Results of 2008 Population Census, as of 3 March 2008

2) Commune Data Base (CDB), as of Dec. 2008

3) $= (B-A)/A * 100$

Comments on Table 5.

In Kratie province, the population of the admin records is only 0.1 % less than that of the census.

The possible difference due to the time lag of 10 months is estimated to be 1.6% only.

The possible reasons are as follows:

- 1. The location of this province is far from Phnom Penh city.**
- 2. Relatively fewer migration**

Conclusion

In Cambodia, there is still big difference between the results of the population census and the results from the administrative records.

Therefore, it seems that the census is still necessary to obtain accurate population statistics in Cambodia.

Related Websites

Final Results of Cambodia 2008 Population Census

http://www.stat.go.jp/english/info/meetings/cambodia/final_br.htm

Commune Data Base (CDB) in Cambodia

<http://db.ncdd.gov.kh/cdbonline/home/index.castle>

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