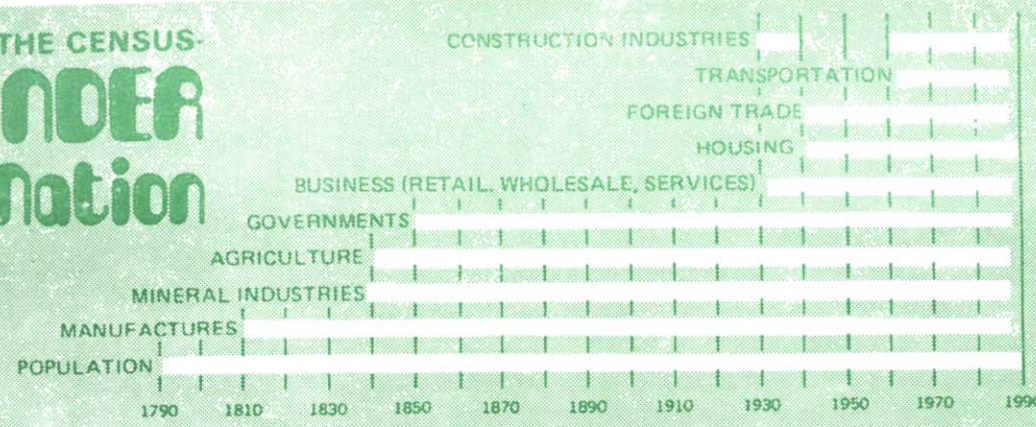
U.S. BUREAU OF THE CENSUS-
FACTFINDER for the Nation



CFF No. 21 (Rev.)

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INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

INTRODUCTION

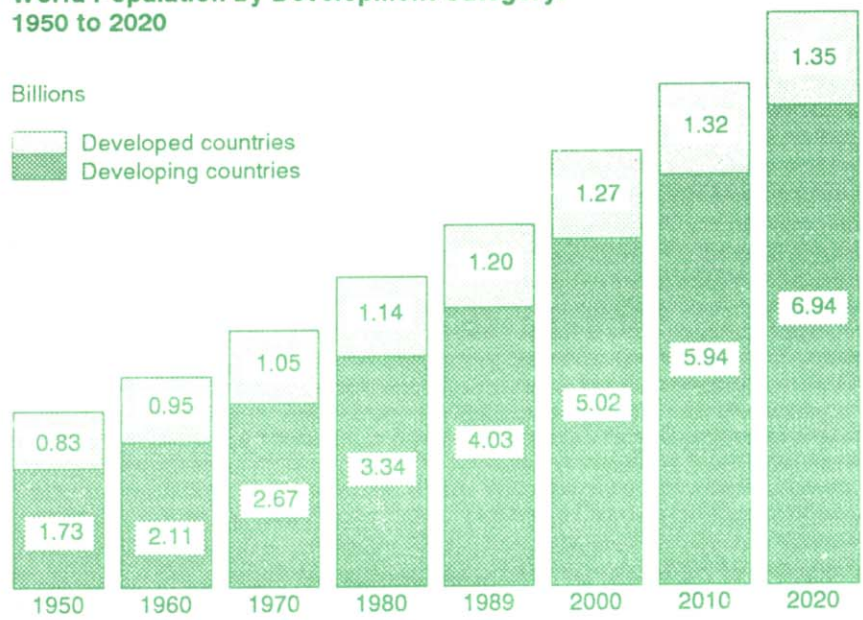
The Census Bureau's staff, with its demographers, geographers, statisticians, mathematicians, economists, computer specialists, and members of other professional fields, has long had an international reputation for expertise in factfinding. For over a century, Bureau personnel have been active in the International Statistical Institute, which develops modern census techniques (including sampling), and they assisted in establishing the Inter-American Statistical Institute in 1940.

Direct technical assistance to other countries in the area of statistics began in the late 1930's with the assignment of staff members to advise Uruguay (on vital statistics) and Panama (on its 1940 population census). In 1946, the Bureau established a formal organization, now the International Statistical Programs Center (ISPC), to train Latin American statisticians for their various 1950 census programs. In the early 1950's, technical assistance and training were extended to developing countries elsewhere, sponsored by what is currently the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID). At about the same time, the Bureau established another unit to study demographic and economic trends in a number of foreign countries.

Toward the end of the 1960's, the development of an international data base began, so that AID and other program agencies could keep up to date on population growth and distribution around the world and understand the implications of demographic trends. In 1983, the Center for International Research (CIR) was created by combining the Foreign Demographic Analysis Division and the International Demographic Data Center. CIR does research and analysis on data produced by other countries. It issues most of the Census Bureau's international data products, while ISPC focuses on providing training and technical assistance.

CHART FROM WORLD POPULATION PROFILE: 1989

Figure 1.
World Population by Development Category: 1950 to 2020



HOW THE DATA ARE PUBLISHED

Most of the statistics are issued in printed reports ◫ that are also available on microfiche ▦. Some published and

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For sale by Customer Services (DUSD), Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233. Postage stamps not acceptable; currency submitted at sender's risk. Remittances from foreign countries must be by international money order or by draft on a U.S. bank. Price, 25 cents per copy. A discount of 25 percent is available on orders of 100 copies or more sent to a single address.

unpublished data for recent years can also be had on computer tape. Some tabulations are available on CENDATA™ (online service available from DIALOG, telephone 800/334-2564, and CompuServe, telephone 800/848-8199), flexible diskettes, or compact disc-read-only memory (CD-ROM). Four other symbols, also used below, indicate where these materials may be purchased:

* Superintendent of Documents
U.S. Government Printing Office
Washington, DC 20402
Telephone 202/783-3238,
FAX 202/275-0019

\+ Data User Services Division (DUSD)
Customer Services
Bureau of the Census
Washington, DC 20233
Telephone 301/763-4100,
FAX 301/763-4794

\# Center for International Research (CIR)
Bureau of the Census
Washington, DC 20233
Telephone 301/763-4232,
FAX 301/763-7610

@ International Statistical Programs Center (ISPC)
Bureau of the Census
Washington, DC 20233
Telephone 301-736-2839,
FAX 301/763-7589

Other sources are listed under "Other Aids and Scurces of Data" on page 4.

AREAS OF WORK

International Statistical Programs

The principal objectives of the International Statistical Programs Center (ISPC) are to help developing countries improve their statistics and statistical systems through training programs, consultation, and development of methodological materials. More than 6,000 statisticians and computer specialists from over 100 countries have studied data collection and processing or research and analysis at ISPC's Washington offices. At least 5,000 more have received technical assistance and on-the-job training at overseas locations.

At present, ISPC conducts two long-term training programs in Washington: one in English and one in Spanish. The program taught in English lasts for 11 months and consists of five curricula: Sampling and Statistical Methods, Economic Statistics, Computer Processing and Information Systems, Survey and Census Methods, and Population and Health Management Information Systems. The focus of the program is applied, rather than theoretical, with emphasis on prac tical experience in collecting, processing and analyzing data. The participants design, prepare, and carry out a survey as part of their training. In addition to the 11-month diploma program, ISPC offers shorter certificate programs in each of the curricula.

ISPC also offers programs resulting in a master's degree in management information systems in cooperation with George Washington University, a master's degree in public health in cooperation with Tulane University, and an undergraduate degree in cooperation with Pennsylvania State University. In all three degree programs, completion of the ISPC program is required.

The program in Spanish, known by the Spanish acronym ***ESAYTEC*** (Escuela de Estadistica Aplicada y Tecnicas de Computacion), was inaugurated in August 1986. It currently consists of three 7-months curricula: Economics Statistics, Population Censuses and Surveys, and Computer Data Systems. A course in foreign trade is being developed. As part of this training program, there have been workshops in Mexico and Spain. Starting in 1991, the participants will design and prepare a survey, which will be conducted in Mexico and sponsored jointly by the Mexican statistical office.

In addition to overseas workshops, ISPC also has a local series of them each summer lasting from 2 to 6 weeks, depending on the topic. The specific subjects covered vary from year to year, but they all relate to the collection, processing, analysis, or dissemination of statistical data.

ISPC publishes training and reference manuals on topics relating to census and survey planning and implementation:

- ***Popstan*** @—population and housing censuses from planning through review, analysis, and publication of the data, including mapping, sampling, and coverage evaluation; in English, Spanish, and French.
- ***Mapping for Censuses and Surveys*** @—a comprehensive treatment of census cartography; in English, Spanish, and French.
- ***Evaluating Censuses of Population and Housing*** @—a basic reference, produced primarily for developing countries, that describes methods and techniques for evaluating censuses; in English only.
- ***Preparing Procedural Histories for Censuses of Population and Housing*** @—a companion volume to the case studies; in English only.

These documents are used not only by ISPC, but by the United Nations, other international agencies, and developing countries' statistical offices as training and reference materials.

In electronic data processing, the Census Bureau's technical assistance is especially important. ISPC produces generalized census and survey processing software for use by statistical offices in developing countries.

Until the early 1980's, this software was oriented toward mainframe computers, which imposed considerable design constraints. The advent of microcomputers and their availability in developing countries enabled ISPC to develop more user-friendly and powerful software tools. ISPC combined these tools into the Integrated Microcomputer Processing System (IMPS), which has greatly increased the ability of many countries to produce timely statistics. At present, IMPS is used worldwide by more that 100 national statistical offices. In Africa alone, 23 countries used IMPS to process their 1990 round of population censuses; Switzerland is using the system for editing and tabulating vital statistics.

IMPS @ consists of modules for entering, editing, tabulation, analyzing, and managing census and survey data. The modules are:

CENTRY data entry
CONCOR editing and imputation
CENTS tabulation (publication quality)
QUICKTAB cross-tabulation and frequencies (analysis)
CENTRACK management and control

All IMPS modules except CONCOR and CENTS are programmed through menus. IMPS runs on IBM-compatible microcomputers; CONCOR and CENTS also run on IBM and DEC mainframe computers.

ISPC offers training on IMPS through workshops and on-the-job training.

Periodically, ISPC issues a "DATA-LINE," a bulletin to inform users about software changes and updates, and new

INTEGRATED MICROCOMPUTER PROCESSING SYSTEM (IMPS) FLOW CHART

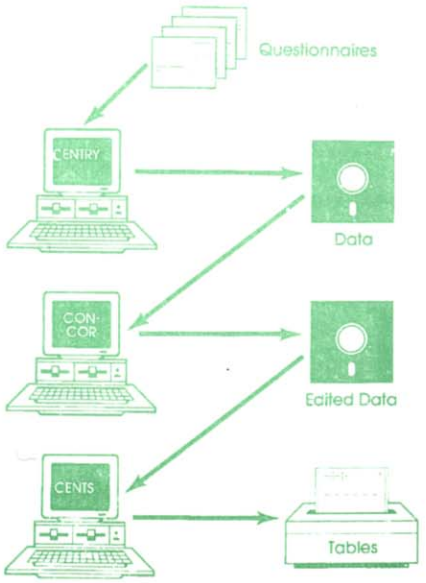
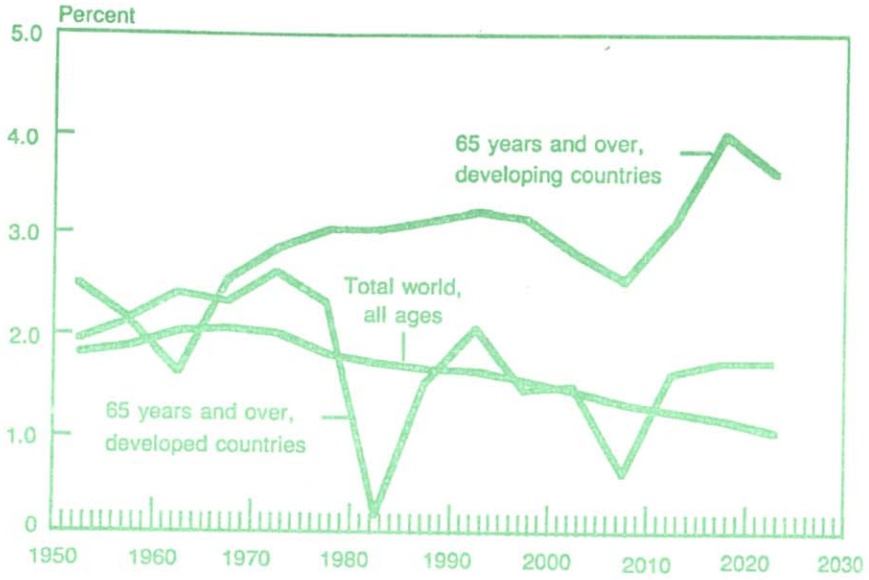


CHART FROM AN AGING WORLD, INTERNATIONAL POPULATION REPORTS SERIES P-95, NO. 78

Figure 3.
Average Annual Percent Growth of Elderly Population in Developed and Developing Countries



Source: See appendix E.

techniques. In addition, the United Nations Statistical Office and other international organizations distribute IMPS and assist in its use.

ISPC provides long- and short-term technical assistance to developing countries on four continents. Specialists, recruited from the Census Bureau or from elsewhere in the Federal service, academia, or the private sector, work in host countries with local counterparts. These specialists work individually or as a team, to help solve particular problems, or they may advise on or establish long-term projects. In the long-term technical assistance projects, advisors reside in the host country for at least 1 year. Short-term assistance programs may span a year or more with in-country technical assistance provided during visits lasting 2 to 6 weeks. These activities are funded by the United Nations, AID, or the developing countries' governments.

ISPC arranges consultations or study visits with Census Bureau experts for more than 400 foreign nationals a year. These visitor programs vary from 1 day to several weeks in length, depending on the visitor's level of expertise and scope of interest. ISPC manages the Bureau's publication exchange program with over 200 statistical offices and international agencies.

International Research

The **Center for international Research (CIR)** keeps abreast of changes in various regions and subregions of the world. This is done through exchanging publications, correspondence, contact directly through occasional travel, or indirectly through international organizations and institutions concerned with demographic matters. The staff has written computer programs, covering many of the more common demographic analysis techniques, for analysts in developing countries. Results of the Center's analyses are disseminated in several publication series, as well as informally on request. The staff also responds to ad hoc requests for demographic data from AID, other Federal agencies, international and private organizations, institutions, and the general public. The Center is thus a resource for executive, congressional, and other public and private use in decisions related to population policies, aging, youth, and more recently health issues, such as AIDS, for which it maintains a data bank.

International projects range from developing a computerized data base of demographic, social, and economic statistics for all the countries of the world to highly specialized studies of the population and economies of particular countries. Some results of CIR research are published both as Census Bureau reports and in journals and publication series outside the Bureau.

Principal among the unpublished products of the Center is the **International Data Base** ⊕ #, an electronic system for microcomputers that contains summary demographic information for all countries of the world, and detailed demographic, social, and economic statistics for more than 200 countries. Center staff evaluate and adjust the demographic statistics in the International Data Base as necessary to ensure their quality and consistency.

The Center's most comprehensive publication, in terms of international coverage, is the biennial ***World Population Profile*** 📖 *, which presents summary demographic information for the 208 countries and territories of the world, the world as a whole, and its regions and subregions. It contains time series data on total population, growth rates, crude birth and death rates, life expectancy at birth, infant mortality rates, and total fertility. It also covers selected topics, such as Subsaharan Africa, urbanization, and contraceptive prevalence.

Among other major reports are the four ***Women of the World*** handbooks 📖 +, analyzing the status of women in Latin America and the Caribbean, Subsaharan Africa, the Near East and North Africa, and Asia and the Pacific. These volumes present analysis, socioeconomic data, and a critique of the concepts used in measurement. The four reports provide data by sex for all major topics. Tables also often indicate age and rural/urban residence. The reports cover population distribution and change; literacy and school enrollment; marital status and living arrangements; and fertility, infant mortality, and life expectancy. A fifth report in this series, ***Women of the World: A Chartbook for Developing Regions*** 📖 #, presents graphically (color bar and pie charts) the total population in each country and the changing proportion of women in urban areas. This report also includes sex ratios of the population in two age groups — working age (15 to 64 years) and elderly (65 years and over) — for rural and urban populations, literacy rates and school enrollment for both men and women, labor-force participation by age, fertility rates, infant mortality rates and life expectancy at birth.

The Center produces various studies dealing with the demographic and economic characteristics of the Soviet Union and its allies. These reports deal with such subjects as science and technology, research and development, financing and foreign trade. The Center's research on the People's Republic of China (PRC) likewise includes both demographic and economic studies. Results of China's 1982 population census are now available, providing substantial data for the first time in more than two decades. ***International Research Documents*** 📖 # include studies of such subjects as mortality, demography, aging and/or fertility in specific countries, and special subjects covering all or many countries. ***Foreign Economic Reports*** 📖 # contain analyses of trends and changes in population, economy,

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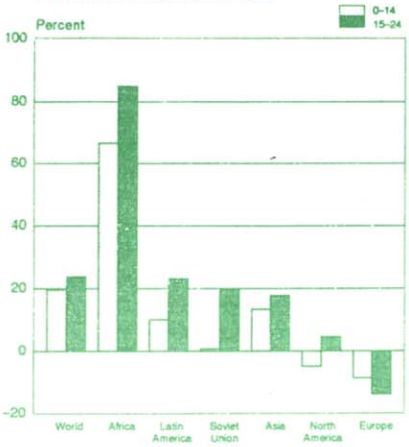
CHART FROM CHILDREN'S WELL-BEING..., INTERNATIONAL POPULATION REPORTS SERIES P-95, NO. 80

FIGURE 3.
Percent Change in Child and Youth Population, by Region: 1990 to 2010



Source: Table 1.

and labor force; input-output and gross-value data for China and the Soviet Union; and the integration of science and technology for various countries. ***International Population Reports*** ◻ # ▦. offer population projections and estimates for such countries as the Soviet Union and Vietnam and studies of such topics as infant mortality in the Soviet Union, employment, aging, and youth. Another series that deals specifically on the issue of aging is ***Statistical Briefs on Aging Trends*** ◻ #. Each publication in this series presents data for a different country.

The Center also produces a number of staff papers on different countries and regions ◻ #. They cover various aspects of demographic and economic research, including population projections, aging, health and mortality, migration, employment, energy production and use, and national income accounting.

The Census Bureau's annual ***Statistical Abstract of the United States*** ◻ * ▦ + contains a number of tables of comparative international statistics. The Bureau also produces a variety of reports on foreign trade in various media. +

OTHER AIDS AND SOURCES OF DATA

- Published reports from the international programs area, as well as the other materials mentioned above, are available in many cases in over 1,500 Government and Census depository libraries across the country. (List on request +.) These are mainly college, university, and large public libraries, but many smaller libraries also have Bureau publications. Recent reports are available for reference and/or order at International Trade Administration (ITA) district offices and Census Bureau regional offices.
- State data centers and their affiliates are located in all States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Guam. (List on request +.) The data centers assist users with printed and computerized data. There are also organizations registered with the Bureau's National Clearinghouse for Census Data Services that offer tape printouts and other services to their customers. (List on request +.) These organizations may have products of the international program area on hand, especially to augment demographic and economic research or to aid in planning foreign trade.
- Business and industry data centers are the result of a pilot project the Bureau launched in 15 States in 1988, and since extended to other States. (List on request +.) They receive economic data and related assistance and training from the Census Bureau and other Federal agencies to aid in furthering economic development in their States. These data centers may also have international program area products to aid in planning foreign trade.

DATA USER SERVICES

The Census Bureau assists its data users in a number of ways. It publishes an annual ***Catalog and Guide*** ◻ *, the monthly ***Census and You*** newsletter ◻ (subscription*, single copies or free sample copy +), and guides to particular segments of its statistics. Free aids include the ***Factfinder for the Nation*** ◻ + series of 22 brochures (such as this one); the ***Monthly Product Announcement*** ◻ +; and ***Data Developments*** ◻ +, available for most computer tape, microfiche, and diskette products. The Bureau also conducts workshops on the availability and use of statistics and offers exhibits and resources for the conventions of interested national organizations.

Information services specialists at Census Bureau regional offices, staff members of ITA district offices, and resource personnel at Bureau headquarters (telephone contact list on request +) are equipped to answer users' questions and assist in locating data.

FACTFINDER FOR THE NATION

General information about the Census Bureau's various statistical programs is contained in the publication in this series entitled "Bureau Programs and Products," CFF 18 ◻ + (free).

Inquiries and suggestions about the international programs and other Bureau activities are invited. Write or call:

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