

**CENTRAL POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS
STEERING COMMITTEE**

**THE VIET NAM POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS
OF 00:00 HOURS ON 1 APRIL 2019**

**IMPLEMENTATION ORGANISATION
AND PRELIMINARY RESULTS**

Ha Noi, July 2019

FOREWORD

The Population and Housing Census is one of three national statistical censuses as stipulated in the Statistics Law. The 2019 Population and Housing Census was conducted at 00:00 on 1 April 2019 in accordance with Decision No 772/QĐ-TTg dated 26 June 2018 by the Prime Minister. The Census sought to collect basic population and housing information across the entire Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to serve national socio-economic development policies and to monitor the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals per the Government of Viet Nam's commitment.

Decision No. 772/QĐ-TTg stipulated the Central Population and Housing Census Steering Committee consist of 15 members and be headed by Deputy Prime Minister Vuong Dinh Hue as Chairman. The Central Steering Committee directed the establishment of Population and Housing Census Steering Committees at provincial, district and commune levels. At the same time, three Steering Committees were set up at the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Public Security and Ministry of Foreign Affairs to organise and manage the implementation of the Population and Housing Census.

The 2019 Population and Housing Census was implemented in the context of a vigorous fourth technological revolution, and applied information technology (IT) in all stages of the Census for the first time. Three types of information collection were used synchronously: an online survey form, a mobile-friendly electronic form and a traditional paper-based form.

The data collection of the 2019 Population and Housing Census took place from 1-25 April 2019. The Census data was analysed and synthesised to compile the report: **"The Viet Nam Population and Housing Census of 00:00 hours on 1 April 2019: Implementation organisation and preliminary results"**.

The implementation of the Census was successful, including the effective application of IT during data collection that helped improve the quality of the data and the transparency of the analysis process, ultimately shortening the time it took to publish the results of the Census. The success of the 2019 Census was primarily attributed to the close attention and direction of the Government, Party Committees and authorities at all levels. Acknowledgement is also due to the effective direction of the Steering Committees at all levels as well as the hard work of statistical enumerators, team leaders, supervisors and people across the country. Contributions to the success of the 2019 Population and Housing Census also came from the technical and financial assistance of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). We would like to convey our sincere thanks for the attention, support and cooperation as well as enthusiastic and effective participation of organisations, institutions and individuals in this Census.

The results of the 2019 Population and Housing Census will guide the assessment of the implementation of socio-economic development plans and strategies over the past 10 years and inform the design of national and local socio-economic development strategies and plans for the next 10 years, in the spirit of the sustainable development goal of "Leave no one behind".

**CENTRAL POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS
STEERING COMMITTEE**

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ABBREVIATIONS

CAPI	Computer-assisted personal interviewing
Census	Population and Housing Census
EA	Enumeration area
GSO	General Statistics Office
IT	Information technology
PAPI	Paper and pencil interviewing
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SC	Steering Committee
UN	United Nations
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
V-SDGs	Viet Nam Sustainable Development Goals

Ha Noi, 26 June 2018

DECISION

On the organisation of the 2019 Viet Nam Population and Housing Census

PRIME MINISTER

Pursuant to the Law on Government organisation dated 19 June 2015;
Pursuant to the Statistics Law dated 23 November 2015;
Pursuant to the Law on Housing dated 25 November 2014;
Pursuant to Decision No. 43/2016/QĐ-TTg dated 17 October 2016 by the Prime Minister approving the National Statistical Survey Program;
In consideration of the proposal of the Minister of Planning and Investment (MPI),

DECIDES:

Article 1. To conduct the Population and Housing Census 2019 at time-point 00:00 on 1 April 2019.

The Population and Housing Census 2019 (hereafter referred to as “the Census”) aims to collect basic information on population and housing to assist research and analysis efforts on the development of population and housing across the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam; to inform the implementation assessment of socio-economic development plans from 2011-2020 and to inform the design of socio-economic development plans and strategies from 2021-2030; to monitor the implementation of the Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party tenure XII on population; to monitor the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals to which the Government of Viet Nam committed; and to provide information for the development of an integrated population database.

Article 2. Census content includes:

1. General information on population;
2. Migration status;
3. Education attainment and technical professional qualification;
4. Disability status;
5. Marital status;
6. Fertility rate, mortality rate and population development;
7. Children’s birth certificate registration;
8. Labour-employment status;
9. Housing status;
10. Basic living condition of households.

Article 3. The duration of data collection for the Census is 25 days, beginning 1 April 2019. The preliminary data will be published in July 2019, the results of the sample survey will be released in the fourth quarter of 2019 and the results of the complete survey will be disseminated in the second quarter of 2020. The special subject reports will be published in the fourth quarter of 2020.

Article 4. Responsibilities of Ministries, line-ministries and localities:

1. The Ministry of Planning and Investment drafts the survey project, implementation plan and content of the Census to submit to the Central Population and Housing Census Steering Committee for approval, including the use of advanced information technology communication in data collection and in the processing and publishing of the Census results; including a budget estimate; and including the management, usage and settlement of the Census budget as stipulated by the Law on State Budget.

2. The Ministry of National Defence, Ministry of Public Security and Ministry of Foreign Affairs coordinate with the Ministry of Planning and Investment to finalise the Census plan, implementation plan and budget preparation in their designated areas and to count the number of household members within their designated area as assigned by the Central Census Steering Committee in line with the Census master plan.

The Ministry of Public Security has a responsibility to prepare a plan to guarantee the safe execution of the Census across the country.

3. The Ministry of Construction participates in and coordinates with the Ministry of Planning and Investment to prepare and advise on survey content and the integrated content of the housing census results.

4. The Ministry of Health cooperates with the Ministry of Planning and Investment to develop and synthesise statistical indicators of health and demographics.

5. The Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs coordinates with the Ministry of Planning and Investment to synthesise statistical indicators of population by ethnic minority.

6. The Ministry of Information and Communication, Ministry of Education and Training and central and local mass media agencies closely coordinate with the the Population and Housing Census Steering Committee at all levels in raising awareness of the Census.

7. The Ministry of Information and Communication has a responsibility to create a plan to guarantee smooth communication systems among the involved parties executing the Census.

8. The Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs coordinates with the Ministry of Planning and Investment to develop and synthesise statistical indicators of labour and employment.

9. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment provides direction and professional guidelines for specialised agencies in the provision of commune/ward/district town-level maps for the corresponding Census Steering Committees to be used as a basis for dividing and mapping enumeration areas of the entire country.

10. The Ministry of Finance allocates the budget for the implementation of the Census as stipulated by the Law on State Budget and under-law guideline documents.

11. Provincial People's Committees provide commune/ward/district town-level maps to the corresponding Census Steering Committees to be used as a basis for dividing and mapping enumeration areas of the entire country.

Article 5. Set up Population and Housing Census Steering Committees at all levels

1. Central level:

a) The Central Population and Housing Census Steering Committee responsibilities are as follows:

- To review and determine the survey plan, implementation plan and content of the Census. To designate a Standing Vice Chairman of the Central Population and Housing Census Steering Committee to issue the Census survey;
- To conduct a rehearsal survey to finalise technical competence as well as to implement and directly organise the Census;
- To direct the implementation of the Census in line with the Census project;
- To instruct and direct the Provincial and District Population and Housing Census Steering Committees to set up Assistance Offices for the corresponding Census Steering Committees.

b) Members of the Central Population and Housing Census Steering Committee consist of:

- Mr. Vương Đình Huệ, Deputy Prime Minister - Chairman of Committee;
- Mr. Nguyễn Chí Dũng, Minister of Planning and Investment, Standing Vice Chairman of Committee;
- Mr. Nguyễn Bích Lâm, Director General of General Statistics Office, Vice Chairman of Committee;
- Mr. Phạm Quang Vinh, Deputy Director General of General Statistics Office, Standing member;
- Mr. Trần Đơn, Vice Minister of National Defence, member;
- Mr. Lê Quý Vương, Vice Minister of Public Security, member;
- Mr. Nguyễn Quốc Dũng, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, member;
- Mr. Nguyễn Văn Sinh, Vice Minister of Construction, member;
- Mr. Nguyễn Viết Tiến, Vice Minister of Health, member;
- Mr. Nguyễn Minh Hồng, Vice Minister of Information and Communication, member;
- Mr. Phan Văn Hùng, Vice Minister, Vice Chairman of Committee for Ethnic Minorities, member;
- Mr. Trần Xuân Hà, Vice Minister of Finance, member;
- Mr. Lê Quân, Vice Minister of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, member;
- Mr. Nguyễn Hữu Độ, Vice Minister of Education and Training, member;
- Ms. Nguyễn Thị Phương Hoa, Vice Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, member.

2. Local level:

a) Provincial Population and Housing Census Steering Committees, District Population and Housing Census Steering Committees and Population and Housing Census Steering Committees at commune, ward, district and town levels (hereafter referred to as “Commune Population and Housing Census Steering Committees”) have a responsibility to organise and direct the implementation of the Census in their localities.

b) Members of Provincial Population and Housing Census Steering Committees and District Population and Housing Census Steering Committees include: one President (or Vice President) of Provincial People's Committee; the District People's Committee will serve as Chairman of Committee; the Head of the corresponding Statistics Office will serve as Vice Chairman of Committee; Representatives from Leadership of the following corresponding bureaus: Planning and Investment, Public Security, Foreign Affairs, Construction, Health, Education and Training, Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, Information and Communication, Natural Resources and Environment, Finance, Ethnic Minority, and Fatherland Front, will serve as members; and one Vice Head of the corresponding Statistics Office will serve as a standing member.

Members of Commune Population and Housing Census Steering Committees include: one President (or Vice President) of Commune People's Committee will serve as Chairman of Committee; the Chief of Public Security, Fatherland Front and land registry official in the commune will serve as members; and one administrative-statistics official will serve as a standing member.

For provinces in mountainous, boundary and island areas, the command of provincial border military and its subordinate agencies at district and commune level will serve as supplementary members of the corresponding Census Steering Committees.

The Population and Housing Census Steering Committees from the district to the central level are entitled to set up Assistance Offices, which will fall under the responsibility of the corresponding Statistics Offices to organise and implement.

The Population and Housing Census Steering Committees at provincial, district and commune levels will self-dissolve five days after the Central Population and Housing Census Steering Committee publishes the results of the complete Census.

3. The Ministries of National Defence, Public Security, Foreign Affairs: The Ministers will issue Decisions to set up Census Steering Committees under the management of the Ministries.

Article 6. The budget for the Census is guaranteed by the State Budget and allocated in 2018, 2019 and 2020 to meet the requirements of the preparation and implementation of the Census. The budget for the Census is allocated to the General Statistics Office within the Ministry of Planning and Investment for management, usage and settlement as stipulated by the Law on State Budget.

Article 7. This Decision takes effect on the date of signature.

Ministers, heads of ministerial-level entities, heads of entities under the Government, Presidents of Provincial People's Committees, organisations and individuals as mentioned in Article 4 and Article 5 are responsible for executing this Decision./.

Recipients:

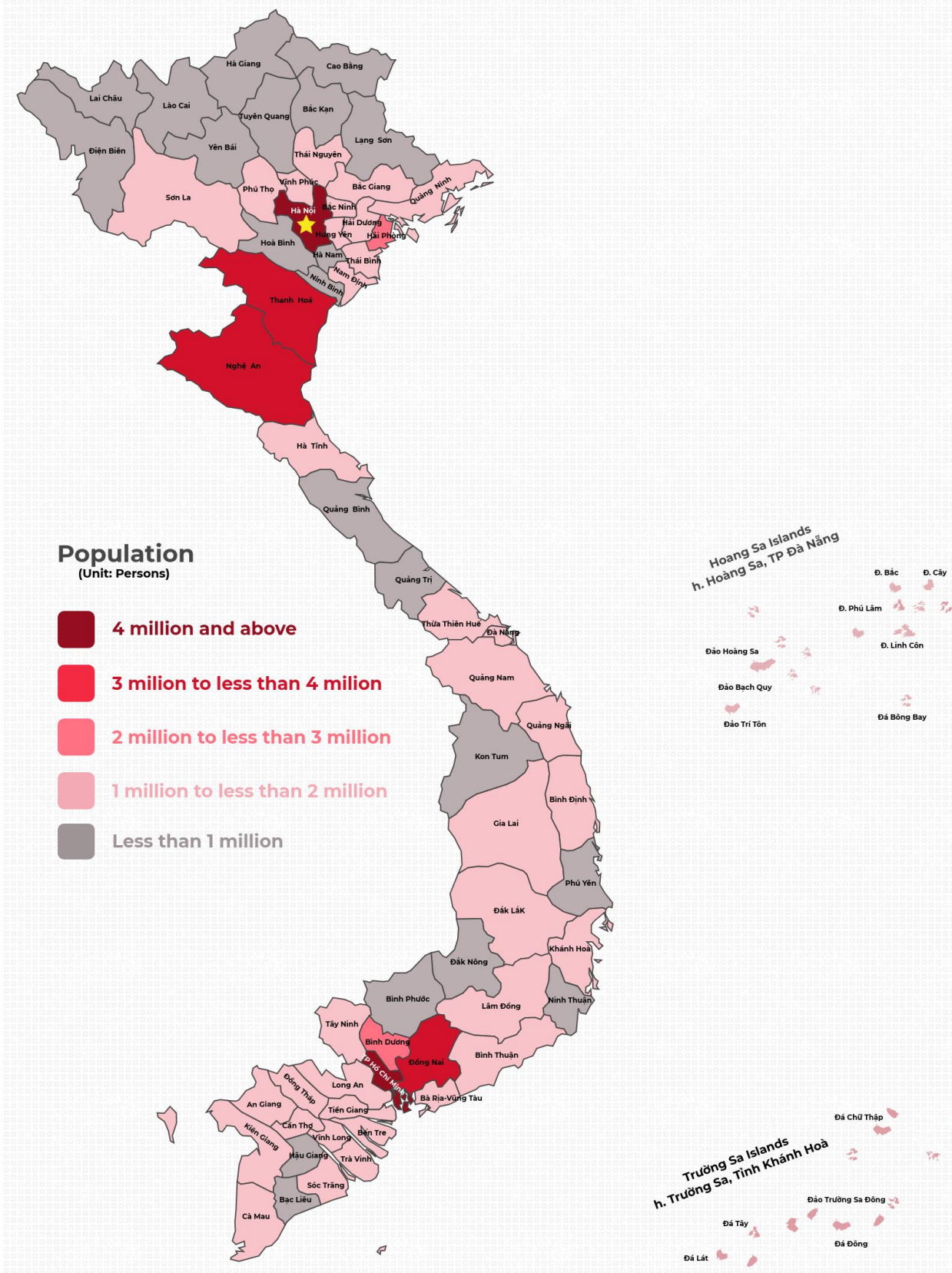
- Central Committee of the Communist Party;
- Prime Minister, Vice Prime Ministers;
- Ministries, ministerial-level entities, entities under the Government;
- Central Steering Committee on anti-corruption;
- People's Councils, Provincial People's Committees, cities under central management;
- Office of the Party Central Committee and Party's Committees;
- Secretary General's Office;
- President's Office;
- Ethnic Minority Council and committees of the National Assembly;
- National Assembly Office;
- People's Supreme Court;
- People's Supreme Procuracy;
- State Auditing Agency;
- National Financial Monitoring Committee;
- Social Policy Bank;
- Viet Nam Development Bank;
- Viet Nam Central Fatherland Front Committee;
- Central body of all unions;
- General Statistics Office;
- Government's Office: Minister, Vice-ministers, PM Assistants, Director General of the Electronic Information Portal, Departments, Bureaus and units;
- Stored: Document and Integrated Economics (2).

PRIME MINISTER

(signed)

Nguyễn Xuân Phúc

MAP OF VIETNAM 'S POPULATION IN 2019





PRELIMINARY RESULTS

THE 2019 POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS

96,208,984 persons

Viet Nam population of 00.00 hours on 1 April 2019

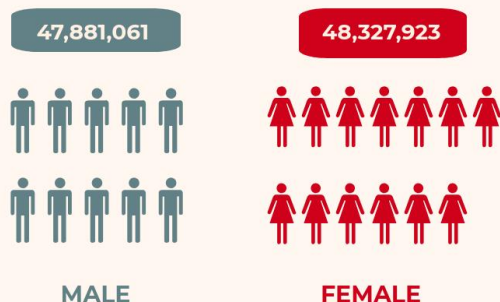
The 3rd most populous country in Southeast Asia and the 15th in the world

Increased 10,361,987 persons compared with 2009

Average annual population growth rate in 2009-2019: 1.14%/year

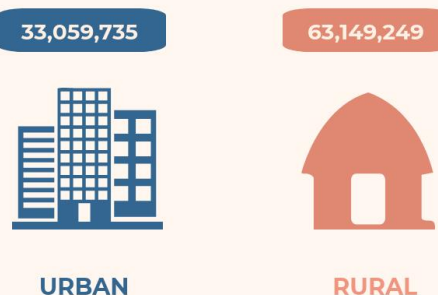
1 POPULATION SIZE BY SEX

Unit: Persons



2 POPULATION SIZE BY URBAN/RURAL RESIDENCE

Unit: Persons

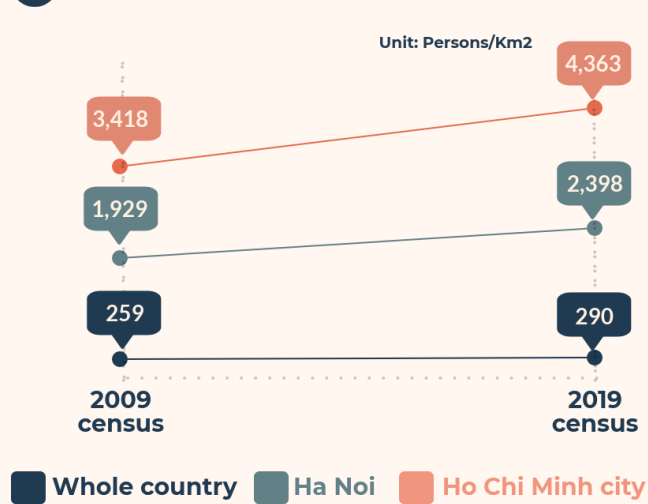


3 POPULATION SIZE BY SOCIO-ECONOMIC REGION

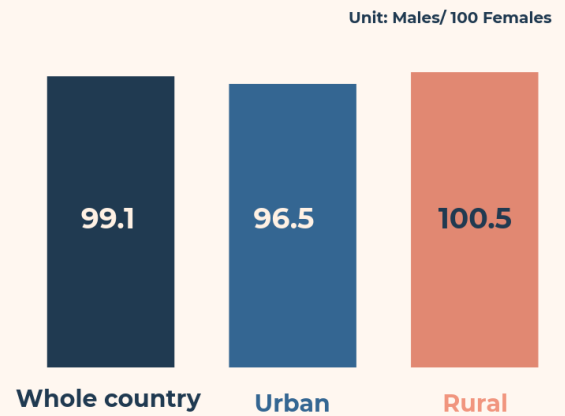
Unit: Persons



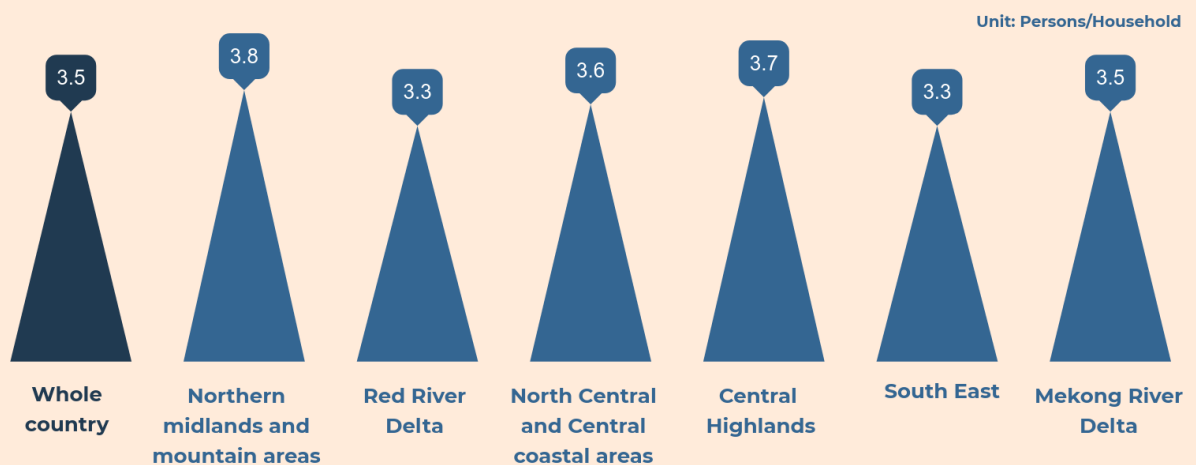
4 POPULATION DENSITY



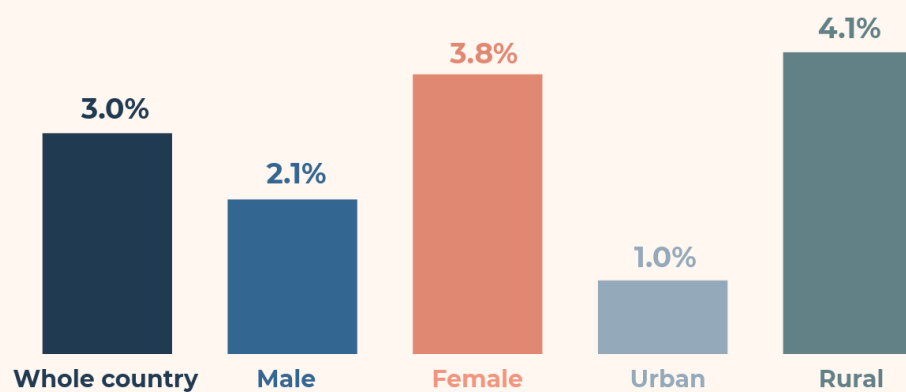
5 SEX RATIO



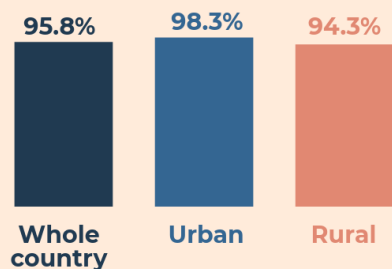
6 AVERAGE OF HOUSEHOLD SIZE



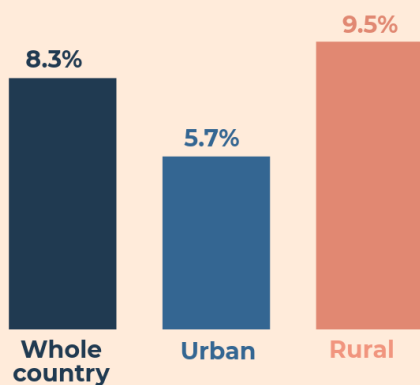
7 PROPORTION OF POPULATION AGED 15 AND ABOVE NEVER ATTENDING SCHOOL



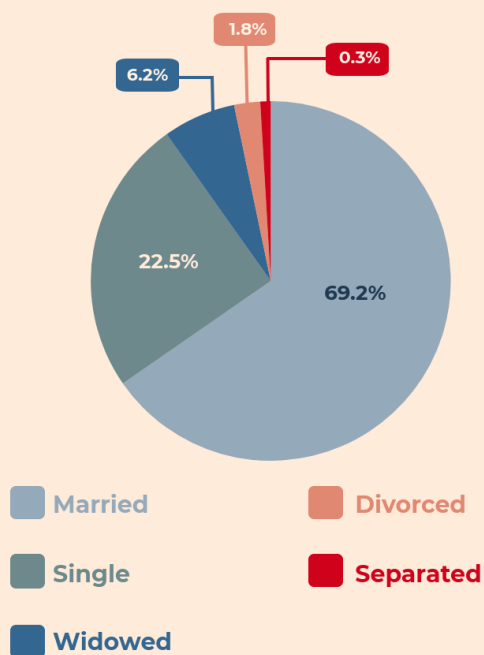
8 LITERACY RATE OF POPULATION AGED 15 AND ABOVE



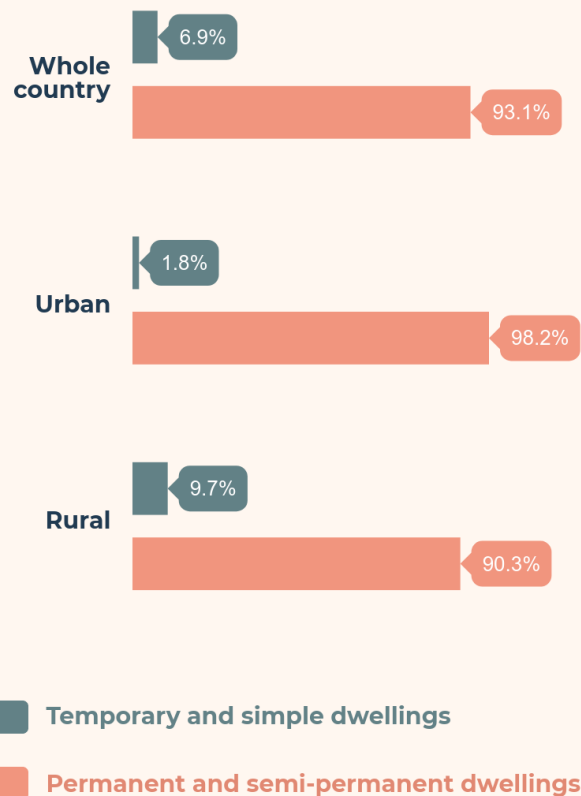
9 PROPORTION OF SCHOOL AGE POPULATION NOT ATTENDING SCHOOL



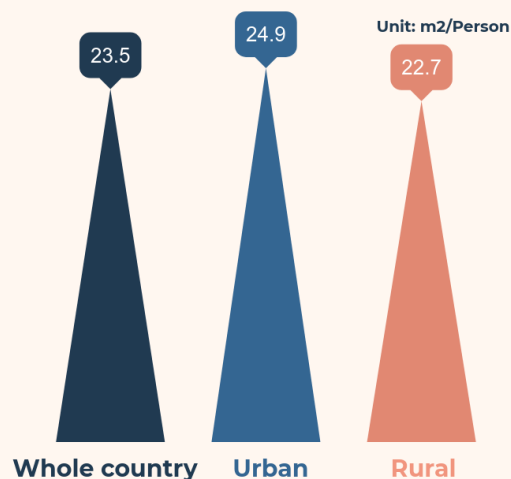
10 MARITAL STATUS OF POPULATION AGED 15 AND ABOVE



11 PROPORTION OF HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE OF HOUSE



12 AVERAGE HOUSING AREA PER PERSON



PART I

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

In 1979, Viet Nam conducted the first Population Census throughout the territory of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam after its reunification in 1975¹. The Population and Housing Censuses have since been carried out every 10 years to discern a complete picture of the population, demographic and housing status nationwide. The Population and Housing Censuses in Viet Nam have been implemented in accordance with the United Nations methodology recommendations for international comparison and global data aggregation purposes.

Since the fourth Population and Housing Census in 2009, Viet Nam's socio-economic status has seen significant changes. The size of the economy in 2018 reached VND 5,542.3 trillion and per capita GDP was estimated at VND 58.5 million, equivalent to USD 2,590 and representing a two-fold increase from 2009. Economic growth improves employment rates and elevates average living standards, but also necessitates efforts to address urbanisation, migration to urban and industrial zones, housing, decent jobs and environmental protection, among others. The 2019 Population and Housing Census was carried out with the continued intention to provide comprehensive information on population, demographic characteristics, employment and living conditions. The results will also enable the assessment of the socio-economic development strategy over the past 10 years and inform the design of the socio-economic development strategy for the next 10 years.

The 2019 Population and Housing Census introduced the use of information technology (IT) during data collection to improve data quality and statistical analysis transparency, to increase user accessibility of information and to shorten the time between data collection and publishing results to conserve resources. In addition, data from the 2019 Population and Housing Census satisfies the monitoring requirements for the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs), which the Government of Viet Nam committed to implement. Given such requirements, the 2019 Population and Housing Census was designed with five important breakthrough innovations:

1. Vigorous IT application

Compared with the 2009 Population and Housing Census, the 2019 Census used more advanced methods and forms of information collection. The 2009 Population and Housing Census exclusively used face-to-face interviews where the statistical enumerator directly interviewed respondents² and recorded the information manually. Conversely, the 2019 Population and Housing Census applied both face-to-face interviews and self-enumeration where household members themselves provided information on population and housing using online forms. The 2019 Population and Housing Census also instituted two new information collection forms: an electronic questionnaire installed on mobile devices and an online

¹ Before 1979, Viet Nam conducted Population Censuses in the North in 1960 and 1974, and carried out population headcounts in the South in 1976.

² The respondents of the Census were stipulated in the 2019 Census Plan issued together with Decision No. 01/QĐ-BCĐTW dated 15 August 2019 of the Central SC.

questionnaire using web forms over the Internet. A small number of enumeration areas (EAs) continued to use traditional paper-based questionnaires, but computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) forms constituted the heavy majority with over 99.9% of households surveyed using this method.

As a result of the changes in methods and forms of data collection, a number of other stages of the Census were adjusted to incorporate IT advancements, including storing and utilising commune/ward base maps; preparing the list of hamlets, urban blocks and enumeration areas; producing and updating household lists; sampling households; texting and e-mailing households registered on web forms; and verifying and approving online data on the Census Operational Website. These improvements reduced Census personnel workload, improved data quality, increased transparency and streamlined the statistical information production process, shortening the time required to publish the results of the Census and increasing the Census's cost-effectiveness. However, introducing these innovations also presented a number of challenges and difficulties during the implementation of this Census, which are detailed later in the report.

The 2019 Population and Housing Census Steering Committee (SC) and supervisors highlighted the value of the IT survey improvements in creating more public and transparent information on the progress and quality of the survey questionnaires on the Operational Website, which helped them to monitor, direct and operate more effectively. The application of IT was a breakthrough in the collection of Census data.

2. Improving the survey sampling method

In addition to a complete survey collecting basic information on population and housing, the 2019 Population and Housing Census was designed to collect intensive information on population, demographics and housing through a sample survey to ensure the representation of indicators at the district level while reducing workload and maximising cost-efficiency.

For the 2009 Population and Housing Census, the sample size was 17.9% of the total EAs and 15% of households nationwide. The 2009 sample size was determined using a single-stage systematically stratified cluster. The 2009 sample design method was advantageous for organisation and resource allocation but faced limitations in low sample design efficiency and sampling errors, including major errors categorising household conditions. To address these obstacles and simultaneously reduce the Census implementation budget, the 2019 Population and Housing Census applied a two-stage stratified sampling method with around 40% of total sample EAs and a sample size of about 9% of households across the country. In addition to the advantages of the sample design method for the 2019 Population and Housing Census, a number of difficulties and challenges on how to organize the Census had arisen and requested for addressing to ensure the progress and quality of information of the Census.

3. Integrating information to meet sustainable development indicators

The SDGs are universal objectives designed to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that everyone enjoys peace and prosperity in 2030 in each member state of the UN. On 10 May 2017, the Prime Minister issued the National Action Plan to implement the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development with 17 goals and 115 targets, corresponding to the Global SDGs

detailed in the "Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015. Pursuant to this Decision, on 22 January 2019, the Minister of Planning and Investment issued Circular No. 03/2019/TT-BKHDT regulating a set of Viet Nam Sustainable Development Statistical Indicators consisting of 158 statistical indicators to monitor the 115 targets toward meeting the Viet Nam Sustainable Development Goals (V-SDGs).

The 2019 Population and Housing Census was designed to collect data that would facilitate an evaluation on progress towards some of the SDGs and the V-SDGs. Specifically, the information collected can be used to evaluate about 15% of the V-SDGs indicators. Apart from that, information on population collected by the 2019 Census is also the basis to calculate some other V-SDGs indicators.

4. Improving commune and ward base mapping and EA division

EAs are a geographical residence area with clear or relatively clear boundaries, such as villages, hamlets, mountain villages, living quarters, urban blocks and sub-areas. For the purposes of the 2019 Population and Housing Census, the average EA size for Viet Nam was around 120 households. Each commune or ward consisted of many EAs and the boundaries of EAs collectively detailed a map of the commune/ward.

According to the international methodology, maps used in the Population and Housing Census include commune and ward base maps and detailed maps for each house or dwelling unit in each EA to ensure that there are no overlaps or omissions in the process of collecting information in the EAs. The previous population and housing censuses had made detailed EA maps with diagrams for each house; however, the 2019 budget was significantly more limited than that of previous Censuses. As such, the 2019 Census focused solely on commune and ward base maps which still clearly depicted the boundaries between EAs and designated orienting objects and residences in each EA. Although the simplification of the EA maps helped reduce the overall Census budget, it did increase the risk of overlapping or omitting households and household members during the fieldwork. To mitigate this risk, the Central SC developed detailed and specific guidelines and emphasised the importance of preparing commune and ward base maps as well as EA household lists.

5. Developing a centralised system of data management with decentralised utilisation

The 2019 Population and Housing Census data was centrally managed through an information transmission system and data storage server. With three forms of information collection (paper forms, mobile forms and web forms), data was merged into a database for verifying, processing and completing databases. After data entry, the paper-based questionnaire was verified and merged into CAPI and web forms data. Data from the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Public Security, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs were checked for completeness and accuracy before merging into the common Census database. Any data changes during or after the data collection process in the EA were conducted on the server and stored for search.

The data was distributed in a decentralised manner for each level of management and supervision during and after the data collection process in the EA. The Operational Website was used to check the progress of the Census, to verify the quality of questionnaires collected and to

generate preliminary statistical reports used to guide the management, direction and administration of the Census – including checking data for errors and editing data as needed.

The centralised data management system and decentralised utilisation helped mitigate data safety risks and reduce the quantity of servers required to store CAPI and web forms data from the 63 provinces and cities. This data management system was also carried out transparently and consistently from the central level to the local levels, facilitating management and supervision to provide effective leadership and guidance, particularly during data collection in the EAs.

PART II

IMPLEMENTATION ORGANISATION OF THE 2019 POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS

1. The direction and coordination in the preparation and organisation of the 2019 Population and Housing Census

1.1. Direction and management personnel

The direction and coordination of the preparation and implementation of the 2019 Census began in 2018. To prepare for and implement the 2019 Census, direction and management personnel were established at four levels from the central to the commune level, and at the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Public Security and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Specifically, there were 11,944 SCs at all levels (one Central SCs, three ministerial SCs, 63 provincial SCs, 712 district SCs and 11,165 commune SCs). The 779 SCs from the central to district level collectively had 69,521 SC members and 8,898 Office members.

1.2. Direction and implementation organisation

To ensure organised and collective efforts among the numerous SCs, the Provincial Party Committee and the Provincial People's Committee issued directives and documents on leadership, direction and implementation organisation of the Population and Housing Census, each of which emphasised the purpose, requirements, meaning and importance of the Census.

During the implementation of the 2019 Census, the Party Committees and People's Committees at the provincial, district and commune level provided direct guidance to members of the SCs, supervisors, team leaders and enumerators as well as local specialised agencies to successfully organise the 2019 Population and Housing Census.

In addition, provincial SCs worked with every agency, unit, department and association across levels during People's Committee and People's Council meetings. Particularly, the Department of Information and Communication in some provinces steered telecommunication enterprises to review telecommunication infrastructure networks to ensure high-quality broadband Internet connection service for the 2019 Census period. The Department of Education and Training, local education and training institutes and Post Offices were also actively engaged and dispatched teachers, students and workers to act as enumerators in order to ensure sufficient quantity and quality of enumerators. The Public Security sector sent staff to support enumerators to meet with and gain access to households for interviews and data collection, as well as protected census personnel in complicated and unstable areas.

During the data collection period, the Central SC office issued guidance documents including specifications for the professional work, the introduction of IT forms and documents regarding data analysis and synthesis. The provincial SCs effectively disseminated the Central SC's guidance to district and commune SCs, supervisors, team leaders and enumerators for their implementation.

2. Communications about the 2019 Population and Housing Census

Communications about the 2019 Population and Housing Census were extensively broadcast among the people, armed forces and political systems. In particular, the Provincial Party Committee, People's Committee, all levels of SCs and relevant ministries and agencies were crucial conveyors of relevant directives. The messaging emphasised the purpose, requirements, meaning and importance of the 2019 Population and Housing Census.

The 2019 Population and Housing Census used numerous communications channels to convey information across the nation, including forms of IT. The main outreach channels included:

- Online webpages, such as the General Statistics Office (GSO) website (www.gso.gov.vn), a dedicated website for the 2019 Population and Housing Census (www.tongdieutradanso.vn), and on provincial People's Committee websites, the Provincial Statistics Office website, and radio and television station websites. The dedicated website for the 2019 Census was launched in October 2018 with an easily-navigable user-friendly interface. The website content was regularly updated with legal documents, guideline materials and implementation plans as well as news about Census activities both nationally and locally. The Census website was also an effective platform for members of the population to access the data collection web forms.

- Mass media, such as TV broadcasting, talk shows on central and local television, radio interviews, electronic news articles and news banners on prime-time TV programs. Written and audio newspapers and magazines also covered special subjects from the 2019 Population and Housing Census.

- Social networks such as Facebook, Twitter and Zalo and the GSO and UNFPA Facebook page.

- SMS messages to mobile phone subscribers.

- Organising neighbourhood and community meetings that included translated communication materials in local ethnic languages, using commune loudspeakers, hanging banners and posters in high-visibility locations and the use of branded vehicles driving around main roads.

- Following its successful introduction during the 2019 Census, a free hotline was once again established with five supportive lines covering IT and general issues related to the Census. The 2019 Census hotline was very effective in providing information to the people about the Census and provided location-specific details, ultimately supporting fieldwork data collection.

These communication channels achieved their objective of increasing awareness of the 2019 Population and Housing Census and providing support for questions and general concerns. In the early days of data collection, the hotline received numerous calls from local residents reporting absent enumerators and inconsistent survey forms. Such direct feedback mechanisms from individual households enabled the Central SC to provide specific and actionable implementation course corrections.

3. Data collection and supervision

3.1. Personnel

The 2019 Population and Housing Census convened 125,358 enumerators, 10,983 of which were teachers and students at educational and training institutions within the specific EAs (accounting for 8.8%). The average age of the enumerators was 35.8 years old.

There were 21,587 persons participating in the Census as team leaders and supervisors at all levels. Team leaders constituted 11,502 persons, provincial supervisors made up 1,823 persons, and 8,262 were district supervisors.

3.2. Methods and forms of information collection

The 2019 Population and Housing Census used two concurrent methods of information collection: face-to-face interviews and self-enumeration. Within the two methods, there were three data collection forms:

- Paper and pencil interviewing (PAPI): The traditional form of information collection, where enumerators visit households, conduct face-to-face interviews and record information on printed paper-based questionnaires.

- CAPI: Newly introduced during the 2019 Census and using IT, the electronic questionnaire is installed on a tablet or smartphone such that enumerators can record information in real-time during a face-to-face interview.

- Online questionnaire using web forms: Newly introduced during the 2019 Census and using IT, the web forms questionnaire enables households to self-enumerate. Households that registered to use the web forms questionnaires were issued accounts and passwords to the Census information system where they provided information about their respective households and the actual residents of the household as listed in the questionnaire.

CAPI was the major form of information collection for the 2019 Census; 99.9% of households were surveyed using this method. Only 0.05% of nationwide households surveyed used PAPI forms and 0.05% used web forms.

3.3. EA data collection organisation

Decision No. 772/QĐ-TTg dated 26 June 2018 of the Prime Minister on the organisation of the 2019 Population and Housing Census stipulated that the time of data collection would span 25 days beginning on 1 April 2019. EA data collection was carried out simultaneously across the country from 7:30 on 1 April 2019 until the evening of 25 April 2019. Supplemental data collection among reported missing households was conducted from 26 April 2019 to 2 May 2019.

Most provinces were able to complete their data collection within the 25-day window, with many finishing ahead of the deadline. The process of EA data collection was relatively convenient with quality results. Although some difficulties arose during data collection, the Central SC worked with local SCs, Ministries and line-ministries to determine appropriate solutions. Some of the obstacles encountered were as follows:

- In remote areas where people are dispersed across large swaths of land, communications proved difficult, as did physical access. Other physical access constraints occurred where residents were often away from the home or worked late, among households in gated apartment blocks or households that were in conflict with local authorities.

- Some senior enumerators, many of whom were heads of urban blocks or villages, did not encounter difficulty being invited into households, however, many were inexperienced with mobile devices and struggled to operate them in a timely fashion. Conversely, young enumerators were highly proficient with the Census knowledge and mobile devices used to record data, but faced challenges gaining access to enumeration areas and households.

- Although the application of IT in the 2019 Population and Housing Census had an overall positive impact, errors are inevitable during the introduction of new systems and new technology. During data collection, data synchronisation occasionally encountered difficulties with software errors and data loss. The use of various enumerator devices also presented challenges in effectively guiding how to use and repair respective device errors. There were also a number of CAPI program updates during the survey process as part of iterating the software to on-the-ground realities, which caused certain complications for enumerators. In addition, the IT support team was too small to meet the needs of the total number of enumerators, creating overload and delays in support requests.

- The amount of data collected during the 2019 Population and Housing Census was substantial, leading to a system overload during the final stage of field data collection when survey progress reached over 80%. Similar overload interruptions on the Operational Website affected error verification and correction efforts.

- Weather and other adverse conditions presented obstacles in some localities, such as heavy rain, hail causing banners and slogans to fray, car accidents among enumerators and the loss of Census mobile devices.

- Some localities had African swine fever outbreaks during the Census collection period, creating barriers to reaching respondents living on or near pig farms. In addition, some of the personnel serving as enumerators for the Census were mobilised to address the epidemics.

3.4. Census supervision

The 2019 Census used two forms of supervision: direct supervision within the EAs and indirect monitoring via the Census Operational Website. The use of the Census Operational Website was a breakthrough improvement in the supervision process, as well as in survey collection and inspection. This was the first statistical survey with sufficient information about the progress, quantity and quality of the questionnaires within each EA in real-time, enabling the SCs and supervisors at all levels to provide timely and informed direction and coordination plans.

4. Verify, process and aggregate data

The incorporation of IT into the data collection process made it possible to conduct data verification and processing concurrently with fieldwork efforts. This task was continued to be done after fieldwork.

4.1. Verifying and processing data during EA collection

Supervisors at all levels were able to verify data both through direct observation and remotely through the Operational Website. The website's software program automatically identified possible errors and requested district supervisors to confirm the data or request team leaders and enumerators to verify and synchronise their data. This could include instances of unusually short data collection times at a particular household or too many households registered at the same geographical positioning system location.

In addition to checking and processing automatically identified data errors, all supervisors were tasked with verifying information uploaded to the Operational Website through the use of progress reports from each EA. This enabled them to keep enumerators on schedule as well as to cross-tabulate their population, housing and education data.

Necessary collected information corrections were carried out during EA data collection. However, in some high-volume locations or those with physical access challenges, corrections took place post-data collection.

4.2. Validating and finalising database post-fieldwork

The use of IT in enumeration fieldwork enabled data to be available on the server for validation and finalisation immediately after the end of data collection. For the 2019 Population and Housing Census, data validation and finalisation took place through the Operational Website from 15 May 2019 to 10 June 2019.

4.3. Tabulating data for the Preliminary Results

Once the data had been finalised in the Operational Website on 10 June 2019, the Central SC completed the Census database and converted the data to SQL and SPSS management systems for data tabulation and analysis (from 11 to 23 June 2019). Additionally, the Central SC's office directly phoned households from 24 to 27 June 2019 to conduct random data probability checks. Collectively, these efforts ensured the Census data was completed and readied for tabulating and compiling statistical indicators to report the preliminary results of the Census.

Thanks to the introduction of IT, the 2019 Census data was completed and ready for data tabulation and analysis two months after concluding the enumeration fieldwork, a full year earlier than the 2009 Population and Housing Census.

4.4. Completing labour and employment information

The design of the 2019 Census stipulated that the coding of economic activities and occupations in sample questionnaires be conducted three months after the conclusion of the enumeration fieldwork. Due to the complex nature of coding economic activities and occupations, coders must comply with the requirements of the coding system of the Viet Nam Standard Industrial Classification System stipulated in Decision No. 27/2018/QĐ-TTg dated 6 July 2018 by the Prime Minister; and of the coding system of the Viet Nam Standard Classification of Occupations stipulated in Decision No. 1019/QĐ-TCTK dated 12 November 2008 of the Director General of the Viet Nam GSO.

After completing the coding of economic activity and occupation, these data will be merged into the Census data. The remaining coding activities will be used to develop the 2019 Census Official Results, which are expected to be published in the fourth quarter of 2019.

5. Implementing data collection and processing within ministries responsible for sections of the 2019 Population and Housing Census

As stipulated in Decision No. 772/QĐ-TTg dated 26 June 2018 of the Prime Minister on organising the 2019 Census, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Public Security and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs established their own SCs and implemented tasks assigned to them in the 2019 Census Plan issued together with Decision No. 01/QĐ-BCĐTW dated 15 August 2019 of the Central SC. The ministry's data collection window was also 1-25 April 2019, and they completed data processing on 10 June 2019. The respective ministries' tasks were as follows:

5.1. The Ministry of Defence

The Ministry of Defence established 1,092 teams consisting of 3,672 enumerators to collect data from 1,332 survey units under institutions and enterprises belonging to the military. The Ministry of Defence collaborated with various SCs to define its enumeration areas and with the Central SC's office to regularly exchange information and reach consensus on respective responsibilities to avoid duplications. The Ministry of Defence completed their enumeration fieldwork on 20 April 2019, five days ahead of schedule.

Due to the nature of the Ministry of Defence, data was collected using paper questionnaires that were encoded using scanning technology and artificial intelligence. Before transferring data into the main database, the Central SC's office verified the Ministry of Defence's data and oversaw any necessary corrections. Data collected by the Ministry of Defence was transferred to the Central SC's office on 10 June 2019.

5.2. The Ministry of Public Security

The Ministry of Public Security's SC directed the implementation of the 2019 Population and Housing Census in survey units managed by the Ministry of Public Security from 1-10 April 2019, 15 days ahead of schedule. Due to the nature of the armed forces, the Ministry of Public Security used paper questionnaires in its 3,164 enumeration areas nationwide. The implementation, verification and supervision within the Ministry of Public Security fully complied with regulations; respondents had a strong sense of responsibility and cooperated with enumerators in providing complete and accurate information.

The Central SC's office coordinated with Ministry of Public Security to verify and finalise data once it was received on 11 June 2019. In addition to collecting population information, the Ministry of Public Security successfully ensured the security and safety of the 2019 Census nationwide, including safeguarding people, workplaces, agencies and units where Census activities took place. The ministry also coordinated SCs at all levels to protect personal privacy and information classified as state secrets in processing, tabulating and disseminating Census data.

The Ministry of Public Security mobilised around 6,000 officers and policemen to participate in ensuring security and safety and limiting disorder during the 2019 Census. Grassroots police forces actively coordinated with the enumerators to safeguard them during data collection in unstable and high-risk areas. Despite a few minor attempts to disrupt the Census process, the Ministry of Public Security conducted comprehensive evaluations of the situation and the SC coordinated with local police to ensure enumerator safety and effective Census data collection.

5.3. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The SC of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs instructed 94 Vietnamese Representative Offices abroad to conduct the 2019 Census. Data collection was carried out from 1-15 April 2019 (Viet Nam time), concluding 15 days ahead of schedule. The Ministry was the first to complete their 2019 Census data collection, having gathered data using electronic questionnaires and transferring it to the Central SC on 25 April 2019.

6. Evaluation and appraisal of Census results

6.1. Verification and additional surveys

As yet another ripple effect from the use of IT during data collection, managing, operating, monitoring and verifying the quality of data collected was made more convenient through the use of the Operational Website. Data validation and verification was generally conducted in real-time during fieldwork. The requirements for information validation and verification were sent to all local SCs while preparing the summary of the Census preliminary results to check and assign levels of data completion through the Operational Website.

As part of ensuring a comprehensive census data set and avoiding omissions, the Central SC issued Official Correspondence No. 49/ BCDTW-VPBCDTW to the Viet Nam Television and the Voice of Viet Nam on 24 April 2019 informing all Vietnamese residents about the additional data collection for households who are omitted from the official data collection phase. Accordingly, the supplementary data collection was carried out through 2 May 2019.

Immediately after receiving the Official Correspondence, the Viet Nam Television and the Voice of Viet Nam broadcast the announcement. In addition, Provincial SCs coordinated with local television and radio stations to broadcast province- and citywide announcements.

After the broadcast, the Central SC directed the provincial SC to review and verify feedback received on possible data gap to conduct addition data collection, if any, or to inform the households on results of the verification.

6.2. Post-enumeration survey

To assess the extent of overlaps and omissions from the total number of households and the number of usual residents as a basis for assessing the information quality of the Census, the Central Steering Committee issued Plan No.31/KH-BCDTW on 27 March 2019 regarding the post-enumeration survey. The post-enumeration survey was conducted in 70 EAs within 63 provinces and cities from 13-28 May 2019.

The post-enumeration survey was used to determine the coverage error (define the completeness of the Census). Each usual resident in the EA was asked four questions: their full name, relationship to household head, gender and the month and year of their birth or their rounded age. The information gathered was compared with the Census results to elucidate duplications or omissions.

The post-enumeration survey showed that the net coverage error of the Census was 0.2%, equivalent to about 143,000 persons. Compared to the error rate of 1.5% to 4.5% of the total population commonly found in the Population and Housing Censuses of other countries, Viet Nam's Census completeness was significantly above average.

Table 1. Results of the post-enumeration survey

Socio-economic regions	Duplication rates	Omission rates	Unit: %
			Net coverage error (Omission rates – Duplication rates)
Whole country	3.4	3.6	0.2
Northern midlands and mountain areas	3.2	2.4	-0.8
Red River Delta	2.3	2.9	0.6
North Central and Central coastal areas	2.9	2.3	-0.6
Central Highlands	4.1	5.4	1.3
South East	3.0	3.9	0.9
Mekong River Delta	5.6	6.0	0.4

6.3. Questionnaire quality assessment

About 99.95% of households surveyed during the 2019 Census used CAPI and web forms questionnaires, which helped reduce enumerator workload. Electronic questionnaires were user-friendly with appropriate logical check steps improving the resulting data quality. Evidence of this increased quality can be seen in the number of data fields missing information in the 2019 Census compared with 2009.

Table 2. Number of data fields missing information

Data fields	Unit: Case	
	Year 2009	Year 2019
Relationship to household head	67	6
Ethnic group	41	3
Faith/religion	2,753	37
School attendance	4,789	2,282

Common errors in age reporting can include respondents not correctly remembering their age or the age of other family members, respondents choosing to report a more socially desirable age and respondents choosing lucky numbers. Some respondents round their age to end in 0 or 5. These inaccuracies can lead to abnormal population concentrations in preferred ages, and underrepresentation in unpopular ages, ultimately distorting data on population distribution by age.

Per UN recommendations, three indices were applied to the 2019 Census data to assess the quality of age information: the Whipple's index, the Myers' index and the UNI index.

The Whipple's index is used to measure preferences for ages ending in 0 and 5. This index's value ranges from 100 to 500: 100 or less indicates no preference for ages ending in 0 and 5; conversely, a Whipple's index of 500 would indicate all respondents declared their age ended in a 0 or a 5.

The Myers' index is used to measure preferences or dislikes for ages ending in each digit from 0 to 9. In theory, a Myers' index of 0 would signify a normal age distribution. An index of 90 would indicate all recorded ages ended in the same digit.

The UNI index (United Nations Age-Sex Accuracy Index) evaluates the quality of reported age-sex distributions in five-year age groups. Age declaration accuracy is measured using average survey age ratios; a UNI value under 20 is accurate; between 20 and 40 is not accurate and over 40 is very inaccurate.

Applying the three indices to the 2019 Census data revealed household age declarations did not significantly concentrate or prefer certain ages. The UNI index also improved from the 2009 Population and Housing Census. Detailed results of the results from the three indices in 2009 and 2019 are presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Indices assessing the quality of information on age in the Census

Indices	Year 2009	Year 2019
Age heaping index (Whipple)	100.4	100.1
Index of age preference (Myers)	1.72	1.38
Age-sex accuracy index (UNI)	28.4	26.1

7. Knowledge products and 2019 Population and Housing Census results publishing plan

7.1. Knowledge products from the 2019 Population and Housing Census

Following the "Implementation and preliminary results of the 2019 Census" report, the Central SC will prepare the following publications and electronic products to continue disseminating the results of the 2019 Census:

(1) The 2019 Census data

The 2019 Census data book will include data tables containing the major indicators of the 2019 Census stratified into various administrative units: nationwide, six socio-economic regions, four key economic regions, 63 provinces and cities and in some cases, districts and towns. Total population data is available down to the commune level.

(2) The 2019 Census Official Results Report

The report will detail some of the major findings of the 2019 Census, including design, estimation and evaluation methods for the sample survey in 40% of the EAs, or 9% of households. The results include indicators calculated both from the complete data and the sample data. Key result analyses will include: population size and structure, disabilities, fertility, mortality, migration and urbanisation, education and training, labour and employment, housing and living conditions.

(3) Key indicator pocketbook

For ease of use and reference, a full-colour pocketbook will briefly present high-level 2019 Census indicators summarising the 2019 Population and Housing Census Official Result Report.

(4) Viet Nam population projections for 2019-2059

Population projections will be available at the national level, within each of the six socio-economic regions and for the 63 provinces and cities.

(5) Youth pocketbook: A summary of youth-specific indicators.

(6) Administrative Report: A summary of the documents, decisions, directives and texts related to the preparation, organisation, direction, implementation, processing and dissemination of the 2019 Census data.

(7) Various monographs:

Some crucial topics will be the focus of in-depth publications to guide policy advocacy and development that reflects current population and housing realities and challenges, including youth, aging populations and the older persons, fertility and mortality, sex imbalances at birth, labour and employment, disabilities and marriage and family.

(8) Data warehouse

The products of the 2019 Census will be stored as printed publications, electronic publications and posted on the GSO website and the 2019 Census Operational Website for easy reference and use.

7.2. 2019 Census results publishing plan

The publishing plans for the 2019 Census products are as follows:

- The 2019 Census Official Results Report will be published in the fourth quarter of 2019 and the Central dissemination workshop will be organised by December 2019;
- Thematic analysis reports will be published in the fourth quarter of 2020;
- Local dissemination workshops will take place once the Central workshop has announced the official results.

PART III

PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF THE 2019 POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS

The preliminary results of the 2019 Census were synthesised from the Census data collected in the EAs from 1-25 April 2019 with supplementary data collection from 26 April to 2 May 2019.

I. POPULATION

1. Population size and density

1.1. Population size

The total population of Viet Nam at time-point 00:00 on 1 April 2019 was 96,208,984 persons; the total male population is 47,881,061 persons, accounting for 49.8% of the total population and the total female population is 48,327,923 persons, or 50.2% of the total population. This makes Viet Nam the third most populous country in Southeast Asia, after Indonesia and the Philippines, and the 15th most populous country in the world³. Compared to 2009, Viet Nam's ranking of population size in Southeast Asia has not changed, though it fell two positions in worldwide rankings.

The population of Viet Nam has increased by 10.4 million persons since 2009. The average annual population growth rate from 2009-2019 was 1.14% per year, a slight decline from the 10 previous years; the average annual population growth rate from 1999-2009 was 1.18% per year.

Table 4. Population and population growth rate, 1979-2019

	Population (thousand persons)	Average annual population growth rate (%)
1 October 1979	52,742	-
1 April 1989	64,376	2.10
1 April 1999	76,323	1.70
1 April 2009	85,847	1.18
1 April 2019	96,209	1.14

1.2. Population density

Viet Nam is one of the most densely populated countries regionally and worldwide. The results of the 2019 Census revealed that the population density of Viet Nam is currently 290 persons per km², an increase of 31 persons per km² compared to 2009. This makes Viet Nam the third most densely populated country in the Southeast Asia, behind the Philippines (350 persons per km²) and Singapore (7,795 person per km²)⁴.

The Red River Delta and South East regions had the highest population density in the country with 1,060 persons per km² and 757 persons per km², respectively. These regions include the two most populous cities in the country: Hanoi in the Red River Delta with a population

³ Sources: Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and Population Reference Bureau (PRB).

⁴ Source: The United States Census Bureau.

density of 2,398 persons per km², and Ho Chi Minh City in the South East with a population density of 4,363 persons per km².

The Northern midlands and mountain areas and the Central Highlands had the lowest population density with 132 persons per km² and 107 persons per km², respectively.

Table 5. Population density by socio-economic region, 2009-2019

Unit: Persons/km²

	01/4/2009	01/4/2019
Whole country	259	290
Socio-economic regions		
Northern midlands and mountain areas	116	132
Red River Delta	930	1060
North Central and Central coastal areas	196	211
Central Highlands	94	107
South East	596	757
Mekong River Delta	424	423

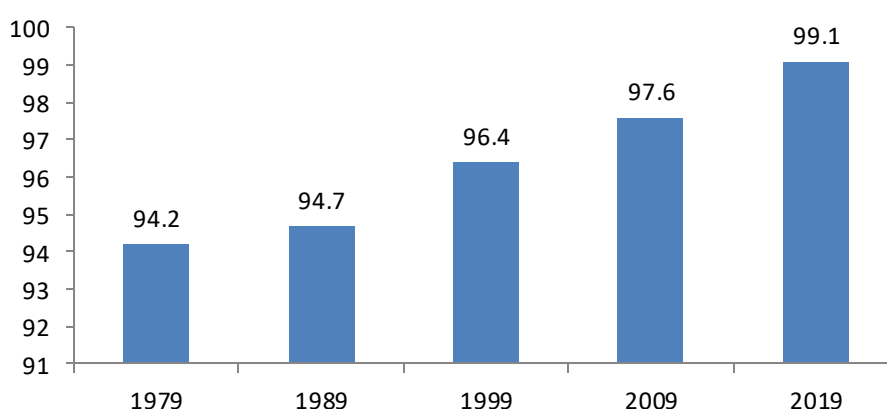
2. Sex ratio

The population sex ratio is the number of males per 100 females. The preliminary results of the 2019 Census indicate that the sex ratio of Viet Nam is currently 99.1 males per 100 females. The sex ratio is 96.5 males per 100 females in urban areas, and the sex ratio is 100.5 males per 100 females in rural areas.

The sex ratio of the Vietnamese population has continuously increased though it has remained below 100 since the 1979 Census, mainly due to the reduced influence level of the war in the past and the high sex ratio at birth in recent years.

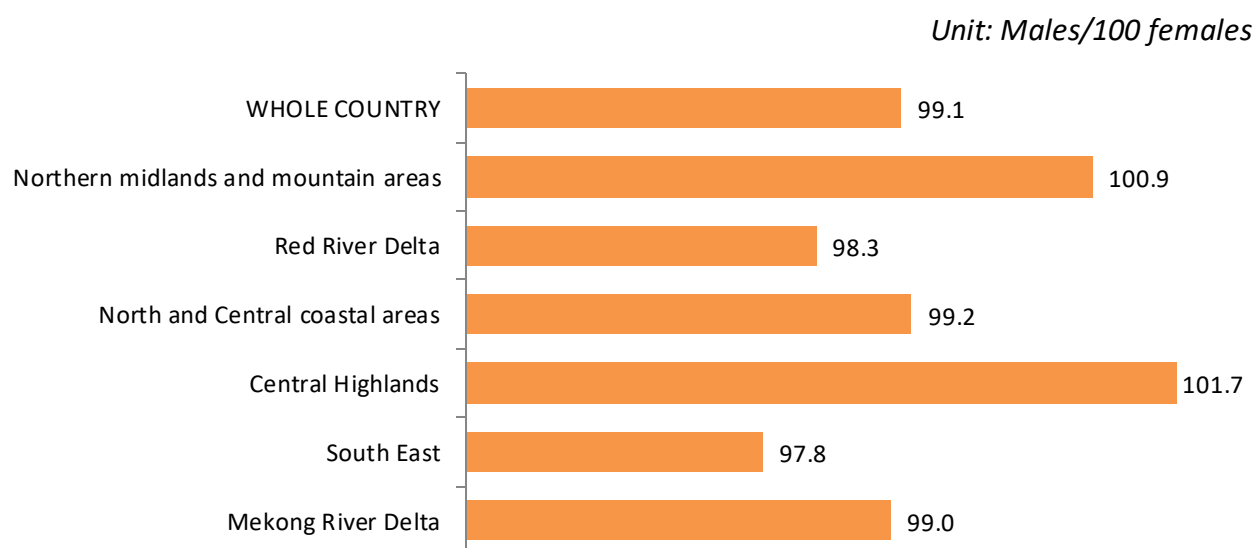
Figure 1. Sex ratio of Vietnamese population, 1979-2019

Unit: Males/100 females



The preliminary results of the 2019 Census show that there is a significant difference on sex ratio between regions. The sex ratios of the Northern midlands and mountain areas and Central Highlands are highest, 100.9 males per 100 females and 101.7 males per 100 females respectively. The lowest sex ratio is in the Southeast with 97.8 males per 100 females.

Figure 2. Sex ratio by socio-economic region



3. Population distribution

3.1. Urban, rural areas

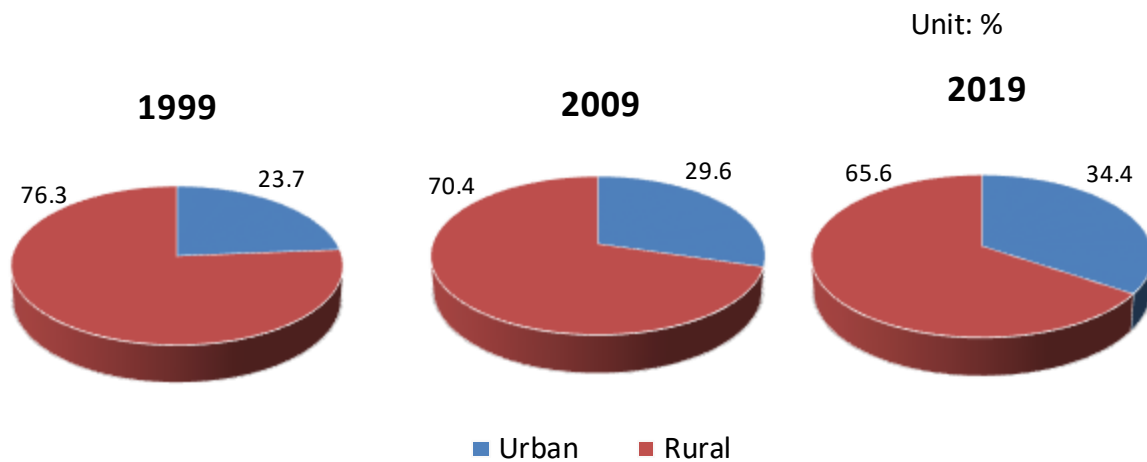
According to the preliminary results of the 2019 Census, Viet Nam has 33,059,735 residents in urban areas, accounting for 34.4% of the population, and 63,149,249 residents in rural areas, or 65.6% of the population. The rate of urban population has increased by 4.8 percentage points over the last decade.

Rapid and widespread urbanisation in the last decade has sparked urban population growth. The average annual population growth rate in urban areas period 2009-2019 was 2.62% per year, nearly 6 times higher than the growth rate in rural areas (0.44% per year).

Although the pace of urbanisation in Viet Nam has increased rapidly in recent years, the proportion of the population living in urban areas remains low compared to other nations in Southeast Asia, only higher than that of East Timor (31%), Myanmar (29%) and Cambodia (23%)⁵.

⁵ Source: Population Reference Bureau (PRB).

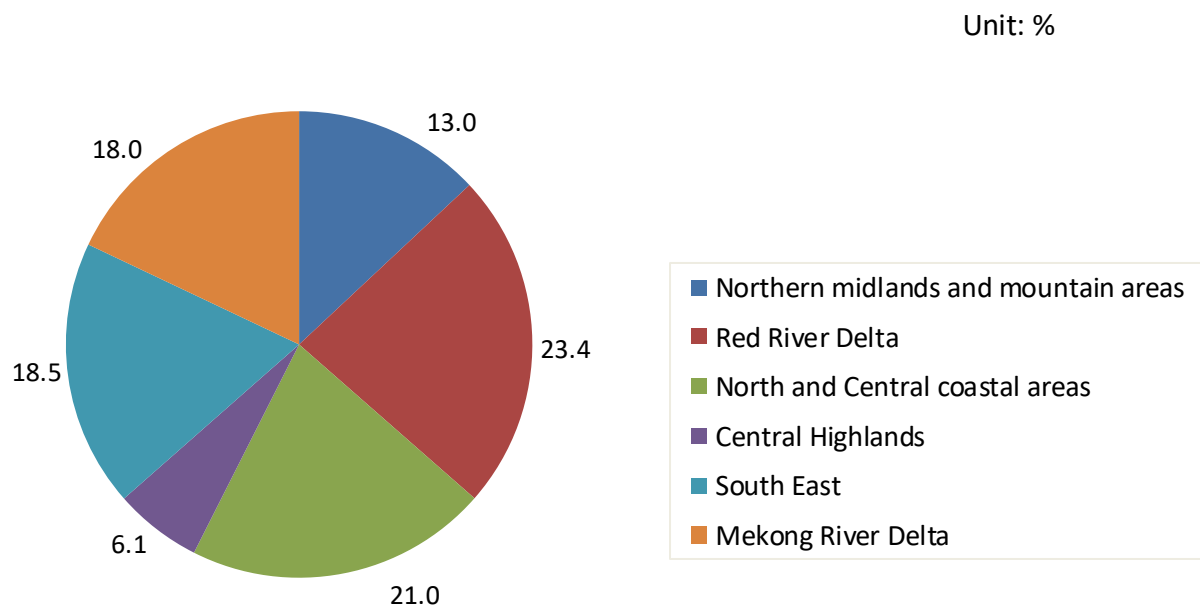
Figure 3. Urban and rural population structure, 1999-2019



3.2. Socio-economic region

There was a significant difference in population distribution among socio-economic regions. The Red River Delta is the most populated region in the country with 22.5 million persons or nearly 23.4% of the population, followed by the North Central and Central coastal areas with 20.2 million persons, or 21.0%. The Central Highlands had the smallest population of 5.8 million, representing 6.1% of the nation's population.

Figure 4. Population structure by socio-economic region

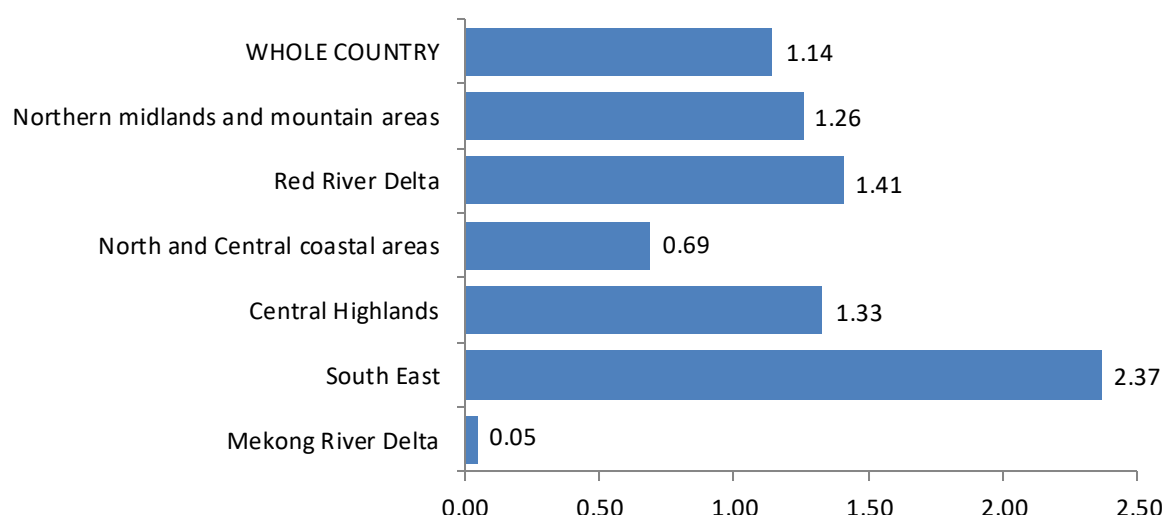


Although the population in the South East is the third-largest of the six socio-economic regions, it had the highest average annual population growth rate (2.37% per year), more than double the overall population growth rate of the whole country. The next highest annual growth rate was found in the Red River Delta at 1.41% per year. The Mekong River Delta saw almost no population growth. Over the past decade, the region's population only increased by 82,160 persons, or an average annual population growth rate of 0.05% per year. Uneven economic

development among the regions is considered the primary contributor to the discrepancies in population growth rates.

Figure 5. Average annual population growth rate by socio-economic region, 2009 - 2019

Unit: %



4. Population by ethnic groups

As of 00:00 on 1 April 2019, the total Kinh population was 82,085,729 persons, accounting for 85.3% of the total population, and the total population of the other ethnic groups was 14,123,255 persons, or 14.7% of the total population in the country. The average annual population growth rate of the other ethnic groups was 1.42% per year for the past 10 years, higher than the national growth rate average and the growth rate among the Kinh majority group (1.09% per year).

Table 6. Population size and structure of ethnic groups by socio-economic region, 2009-2019

	Population (<i>thousand persons</i>)				Population structure (%)			
	2009		2019		2009		2019	
	Kinh group	Other ethnic groups	Kinh group	Other ethnic group	Kinh group	Other ethnic groups	Kinh group	Other ethnic groups
Whole country	73,594	12,253	82,086	14,123	85.7	14.3	85.3	14.7
Northern midlands and mountain areas	5,009	6,044	5,495	7,037	45.3	54.7	43.8	56.2
Red River Delta	19,281	303	22,075	469	98.5	1.5	97.9	2.1
North Central and Central coastal areas	17,027	1,808	18,111	2,076	90.4	9.6	89.7	10.3
Central Highlands	3,310	1,805	3,643	2,200	64.7	35.3	62.3	37.7
South East	13,156	912	16,798	1,030	93.5	6.5	94.2	5.8
Mekong River Delta	15,812	1,380	15,963	1,310	92.0	8.0	92.4	7.6

Other ethnic groups predominantly live in the Northern midlands and mountain areas and the Central Highlands. In the Northern midlands and mountain areas, other ethnic groups constitute a large proportion of the total population in the region (56.2%). The percentage of other ethnic groups in the Central Highlands is 37.7%.

5. Marital status of population aged 15 years and over

Marriage directly affects fertility and migration, with measurable impacts on population shifts and trends. As such, the 2019 Census gathered data on the marital status of all people aged 15 and over. Marital status indicators were broken into two categories: "Ever-married" and "Never married". "Ever-married" persons were those who had ever been married at the time of the survey (1 April 2019), including married, widowed, divorced or separated.

The results of the 2019 Census revealed the rate of the ever-married population aged 15 and over was 77.5%, 69.2% of which were actively married and 2.1% identified as divorced or separated. The never-married rate in the urban areas was 6.7 percentage points higher than that of rural areas (26.8% and 20.1% respectively).

Table 7. Marital status of population aged 15 years and over by socio-economic region and urban/rural area

Unit: %

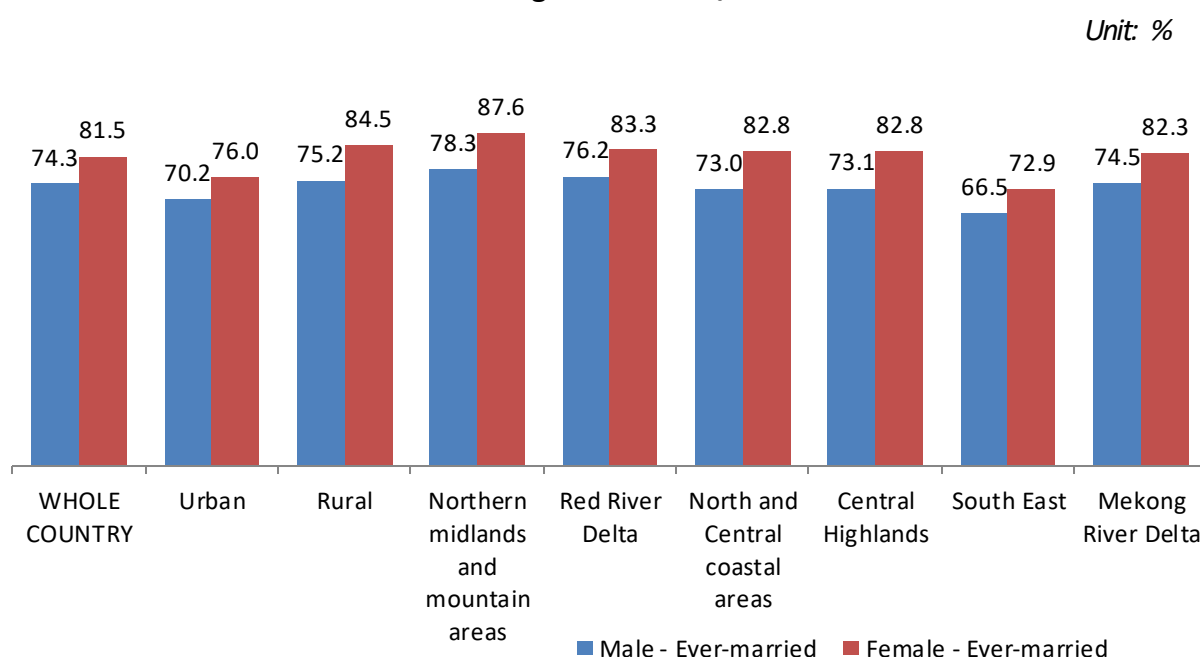
	Total	By marital status				
		Never married	Married	Widowed	Divorced	Separated
Whole country	100.0	22.5	69.2	6.2	1.8	0.3
Urban/rural						
Urban	100.0	26.8	65.6	5.2	2.1	0.3
Rural	100.0	20.1	71.1	6.9	1.6	0.3
Socio-economic region						
Northern midlands and mountain areas	100.0	17.0	74.2	6.8	1.7	0.3
Red River Delta	100.0	20.1	71.5	6.6	1.5	0.3
North Central and Central coastal areas	100.0	22.1	68.9	7.5	1.3	0.2
Central Highlands	100.0	22.1	70.5	5.5	1.6	0.3
South East	100.0	30.2	62.9	4.4	2.2	0.3
Mekong River Delta	100.0	21.5	69.5	6.4	2.3	0.3

Gaps in socio-economic development levels and the difference in population distributions and age structures led to regional variances in the proportion of unmarried population aged 15 years and over. The South East had the highest rate of unmarried population aged 15 years and over (30.2%), 1.8 times higher than that of the Northern midlands and mountain areas (17.0%).

The unmarried population rate among those aged 15 years and over declined by 4.3 percentage points from 2009 (22.5% vs. 26.8%). However, rates of divorce or separation increased from 2009, rising to 2.1% from 1.4%.

The preliminary 2019 Census data indicated a shift in marital trends between men and women. Females tended to get married earlier or more commonly than males; the proportion of ever-married males aged 15 and over was lower than the figure for ever-married females aged 15 and over at 73.4% and 81.5% respectively.

Figure 6. Percentage of ever-married population aged 15 years and over by sex, socio-economic region and urban/rural residence



6. Education

The 2019 Census collected information on education in Viet Nam, including questions about school attendance and the level of schooling achieved among all members of the population aged 5 years and over. The level of schooling was classified by the Education and Training List from the National Education System issued by the Prime Minister in accordance with Decision No. 01/2017/QĐ-TTg dated 17 January 2017.

According to the preliminary results of the 2019 Census, Viet Nam has made remarkable achievements in education. The population literacy rate among those aged 15 years and over has increased sharply over the past 20 years, primary education is now compulsory across the country, the rates of school-age children in school has increased and the gender gap in general education has nearly been eliminated.

6.1. School attendance among school-age population

According to the Education Law, general education in Viet Nam is a three-tiered system with the specific requirements of schooling duration and age as follows: (1) primary schooling is conducted over the span of five school years from grade 1 to grade 5, and the grade 1 intake age

is 6 years old; (2) lower secondary schooling is conducted over the span of four school years from grade 6 to grade 9, and the grade 6 intake age is 11 years old; (3) upper secondary schooling is conducted over the span of three school years from grade 10 to grade 12, and the grade 10 intake age is 15 years old. At the time of the 2019 Census, general school-age populations were those born between 2001 and 2012. Specifically, the primary school-age population were born between 2008 and 2012, the lower secondary school-age population were born between 2004 and 2007 and the upper secondary school-age population were born between 2001 and 2003.

The results of the 2019 Census indicate that around 91.7% of general school-age populations are currently attending school. Over the last 20 years, the percentage of general school-age population currently out of school (including those who had never attended school or those who had attended in the past but dropped out of school) significantly declined from 20.9% in 1999 to 16.4% in 2009 and to 8.3% in 2019.

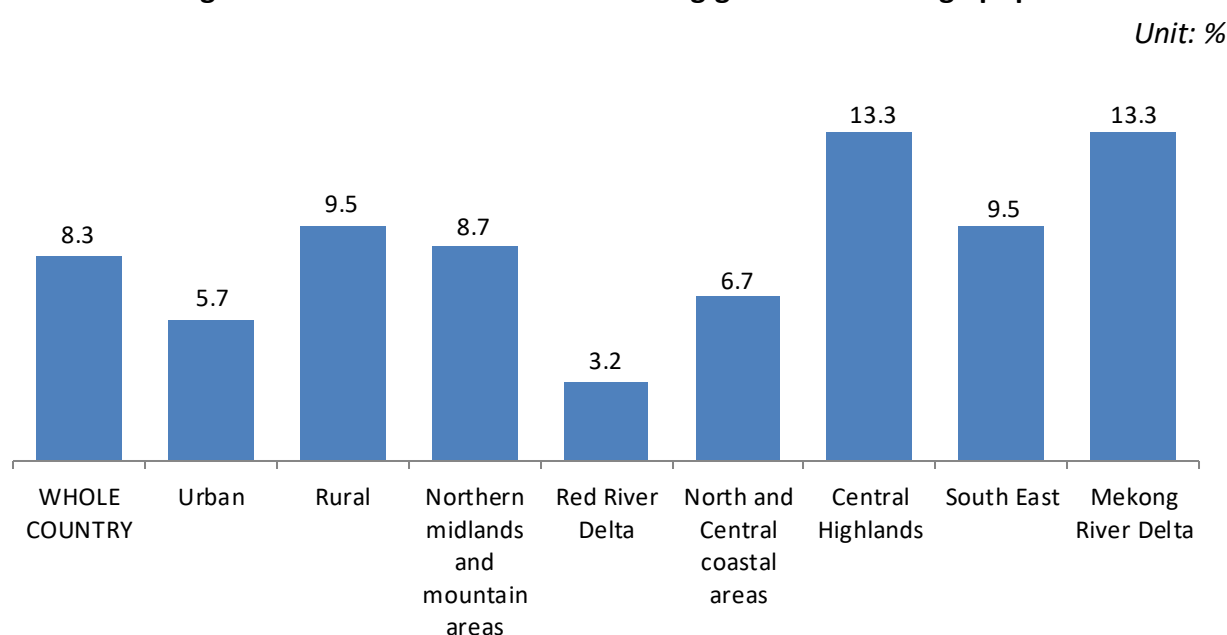
Table 8. Percentage of general school-age population by school attendance status, 1999-2019

Unit: %

	1999	2009	2019
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Currently attending	79.1	83.6	91.7
Attended in the past	16.2	14.5	7.7
Never attended	4.7	1.9	0.6

There was a notable difference in rates of school-aged children not in school between urban and rural areas as well as among socio-economic regions. The rate in rural areas was 1.7 times higher than that of urban areas at 9.5% and 5.7%, respectively. The Central Highlands and Mekong River Delta had the highest rate of school-age population not in school across the country, each reaching 13.3%. The lowest rate was in the Red River Delta at 3.2%.

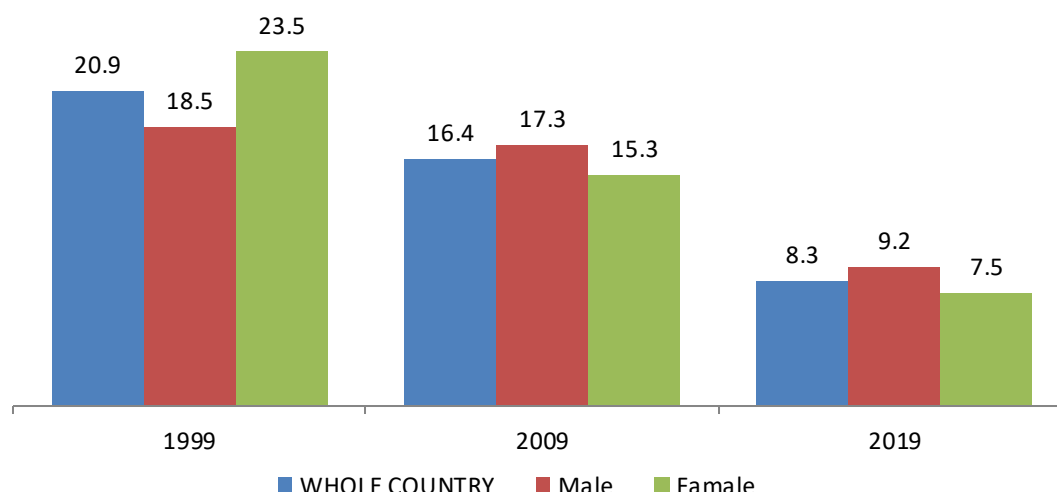
Figure 7. The out of school rate among general school-age population



Females were more likely to be in school, with an out of school rate of 7.5% among females and 9.2% among males. This imbalance was consistent with 2009 but a reversal from 20 years ago; in 1999, the rate of females out of school was 23.5%, 5 percentage points higher than the figure for males and 3 times higher than the rate of females out of school in 2019. This reflects Viet Nam's success in strengthening education gender equality.

Figure 8. Percentage of general school-age population currently out of school by sex, 1999-2019

Unit: %



6.2. Gross and net school attendance rate

The gross school attendance rate is the number of students at a given educational level, regardless of age, per 100 persons of school age for a given educational level. The net school attendance rate is the number of students of the official age for a given level of schooling who are attending that level per 100 persons of school age for given educational level.

The preliminary results of the 2019 Census indicated that the overall enrolment rate in primary school was 101.0%, in lower secondary school reached 92.8%, and upper secondary school was 72.3%. At the primary school level, there was no significant difference in the enrolment rates between urban and rural areas (100.9% and 101.0%). However, the higher the education level, the greater the gap in enrolment between urban and rural areas. At the lower secondary school level, the rate of gross school attendance in urban areas was 3.4 percentage points higher than that in rural areas; the gap at upper secondary school was 13.0 percentage points.

Table 9. Gross and net school attendance rate by level of schooling, socio-economic region and urban/rural residence

Unit: %

	Gross enrolment rate			Net enrolment rate		
	Primary	Lower secondary	Upper secondary	Primary	Lower secondary	Upper secondary
Whole country	101.0	92.8	72.3	98.0	89.2	68.3
Urban	100.9	95.1	81.1	98.3	91.6	76.4
Rural	101.0	91.7	68.1	97.9	88.1	64.4
Socio-economic region:						
Northern midlands and mountain areas	100.5	93.4	68.4	98.1	90.2	65.1
Red River Delta	101.1	97.4	87.0	98.8	94.9	83.7
North Central and Central coastal areas	100.7	95.2	77.1	98.4	92.4	73.8
Central Highlands	100.7	86.9	60.7	96.8	82.8	56.4
South East	101.1	92.4	70.1	97.7	87.5	64.2
Mekong River Delta	101.4	86.8	59.6	97.1	82.4	55.3

Compared to 2009, the 2019 gross and net school attendance rate at lower secondary school and upper secondary school increased considerably⁶ but the gap at this level of schooling among regions is still relatively large. The highest gross and net school attendance rates in lower and upper secondary schools were in the Red River Delta region and the lowest rates were in the Mekong River Delta region. The gap in the net school attendance rate between the two regions was 28.4 percentage points for upper secondary school and 12.5 percentage points for lower secondary school.

6.3. Literacy situation

For the purposes of this Census, literacy was defined as the ability to read and write a simple passage in daily activities using the Vietnamese national language, an ethnic minority language or a foreign language. The literacy question was posed to those who have not yet completed primary school (through grade 5) with the assumption that education beyond primary school implies literacy. The national literacy rate is one of the most common measures of the educational level of a country, measured by the percentage of literate persons at a given age out of the total population in that age group.

The 2019 Census literacy rate of the population aged 15 years and over was 95.8%, a 1.8 percentage point increase from 2009. Over the past 20 years, the literacy rate of females has increased by 7.7 percentage points and the gap in literacy rates between males and females narrowed significantly. In 1999, the literacy rate of males was 93.9%, higher than that rate of

⁶ In 2009, the gross enrollment rate at primary school was 102.9%, lower secondary school was 89.5% and upper secondary school was 64.4%; The figures for net enrollment rate were 95.5%, 82.6% and 56.7%, respectively.

females 7.0 percentage points. In 2019, this rate of males is 97%, higher than 2.4 percentage point as compared to female.

Table 10. Literacy rate of the population aged 15 years and over by sex, 1999-2019

Unit: %

	1999	2009	2019
Total	90.3	94.0	95.8
Male	93.9	96.1	97.0
Female	86.9	92.0	94.6

The literacy rate among urban populations was higher than among rural populations, reflecting the development gap between these two areas. However, thanks to compulsory primary education and illiteracy elimination efforts and policies, the gap in literacy rates in these two areas has gradually narrowed in recent years to a discrepancy of 4.0 percentage points, lower than the 4.7 percentage-point gap in 2009.

The Red River Delta boasted the highest literacy rate (98.9%), while the lowest literacy rate was found in the Northern Highlands and Mountain areas (89.9%) where the gap in literacy rates between urban and rural areas was the largest in the country (10.1 percentage points). The Central Highlands followed with an 8.6 percentage-point gap between urban and rural areas, while the gaps in other regions hovered below 3.0 percentage points.

Table 11. Literacy rate of the population aged 15 years and over by socio-economic region and urban/rural residence

Unit: %

	Total	Urban	Rural	Difference Urban-rural
Whole country	95.8	98.3	94.3	4.0
Northern midlands and mountain areas	89.9	98.1	88.0	10.1
Red River Delta	98.9	99.4	98.5	0.9
North Central and Central coastal areas	96.2	98.0	95.5	2.5
Central Highlands	91.3	97.3	88.7	8.6
South East	98.1	98.9	96.6	2.3
Mekong River Delta	94.2	96.1	93.5	2.6

II. HOUSEHOLDS

1. Total households and household size

1.1. Total households

According to the preliminary results, as of time-point 00:00 on 1 April 2019, the entire country had 26,870,079 households, an increase of 4.4 million households compared to 2009.

The household size growth rate from 2009-2019 was 18.0% with an average annual household size increase of 1.8%, 1.2 percentage points lower than that from 1999-2009. The last decade saw the lowest household size growth rate in the last 40 years.

Table 12. Number and average growth rate of household size, 1979-2019

	Number of households (HH)	Growth rate (%)	Average annual growth rate (%)
1 October 1979	9,665,866	-	-
1 April 1989	12,927,297	29.1	3.1
1 April 1999	16,661,366	25.4	2.5
1 April 2009	22,444,322	29.8	3.0
1 April 2019	26,870,079	18.0	1.8

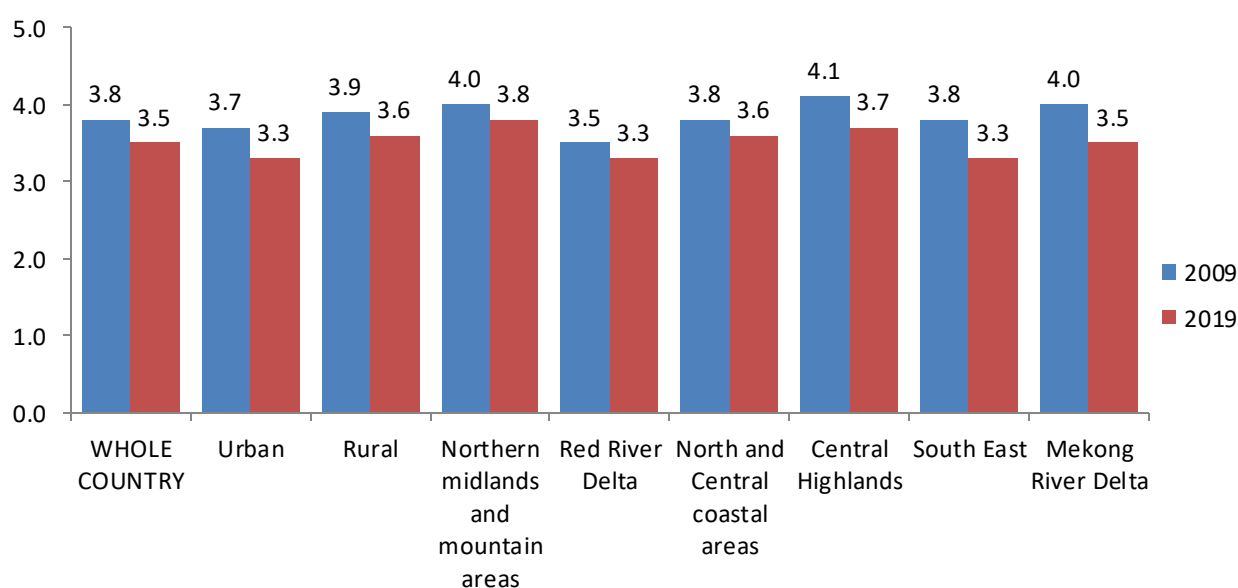
1.2. Average household size

Of the 26.87 million total households, each household had an average of 3.5 persons, 0.3 persons per household lower than in 2009.

The average household size in urban areas was 3.3 persons per household, 0.3 persons per household fewer than in rural areas. The Northern Highlands and Mountain areas had the largest average household size with 3.8 persons per household, while the average number of persons per household in the Red River Delta and South East areas were the smallest in the country; each had 3.3 persons per household.

Figure 9. Average household size by socio-economic region, urban/rural residence

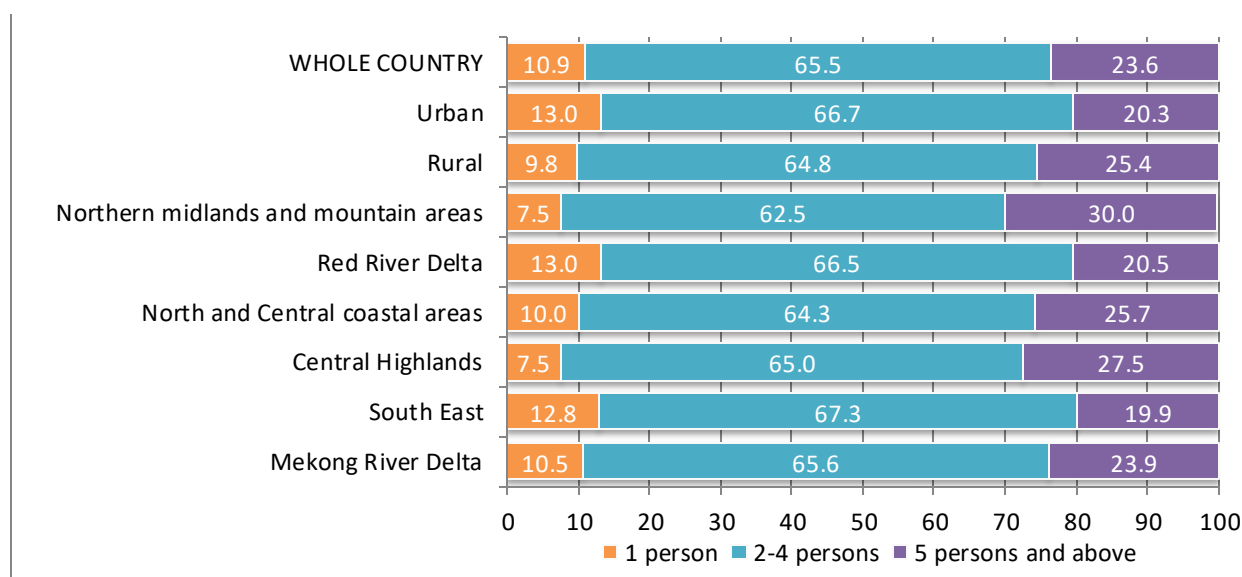
Unit: %



The common household size nationwide was between 2 and 4 persons per household, which was the case for 65.5% of the total households. Remarkably, single household (one-person household) rates increased since 2009 from 7.2% to 10.9% in 2019. Likewise, the rate of households with five or more persons declined from 28.9% in 2009 to 23.6% in 2019. The Red River Delta and South East had the highest percentage of single households across the country with 13.0% and 12.8%, respectively.

Figure 10. Proportion of households by household size and socio-economic region

Unit: %



The Northern Highland and Mountain areas and Central Highlands had the highest rates of households with 5 or more persons with 30.0% and 27.5%, respectively. These two regions are the concentrated residence of many ethnic minority people with high fertility rates and social structures that include living with extended family.

Table 13. Proportion of households by household size, socio-economic region and urban/rural residence, 2009 - 2019

Unit: %

	2009			2019		
	1 person	2-4 persons	5 or more persons	1 person	2-4 persons	5 or more persons
Whole country	7.2	63.9	28.9	10.9	65.5	23.6
Urban	8.3	66.6	25.1	13.0	66.7	20.3
Rural	6.8	62.6	30.6	9.8	64.8	25.4
Socio-economic region						
Northern midlands and mountain areas	5.7	63.0	31.3	7.5	62.5	30.0
Red River Delta	8.9	69.3	21.8	13.0	66.5	20.5
North Central and Central coastal areas	7.5	60.7	31.8	10.0	64.3	25.7
Central Highlands	5.2	58.0	36.8	7.5	65.0	27.5
South East	7.8	64.3	27.9	12.8	67.3	19.9
Mekong River Delta	5.8	62.1	32.1	10.5	65.6	23.9

2. Housing

Numerous initiatives have been undertaken to address housing needs since the last Census, guided by the “National housing development strategy toward 2020, vision to 2030” issued by the Prime Minister in line with the Decision No 2127/QĐ-TTg dated 30 November 2011.

The preliminary results of the 2019 Census indicate that household living conditions have improved considerably in the last 10 years, especially in urban areas. Most households have dwellings that are either considered permanent or semi-permanent houses, and the average floor area per capita has increased significantly, drawing close to the goals set out in the National housing development strategy toward 2020.

2.1. Status of households without dwelling

Per the 2019 Population and Housing Census definitions, a household is defined as having a dwelling if the household lives in a space that has three basic components: walls, a roof and a floor. Under these parameters, a houseboat on a river or lake with walls, a roof and a floor is considered a household with a dwelling.

Based on this definition, as of time-point 00:00 on 1 April 2019, the entire country had over 4,800 households without dwellings. On average, for every 10,000 households, there were 1.8 households without dwellings. This indicator has gradually improved over the last two decades, from 6.7 households per 10,000 households in 1999 to 4.7 households per 10,000 households in 2009 and 1.8 households per 10,000 households in 2019.

Dedicated efforts to create housing for low-income persons and workers have contributed to reducing the rate of households without dwellings in urban areas in the last decade. This figure for urban areas declined from 6.9 households per 10,000 households in 2009 to 1.7 households per 10,000 households in 2019.

In 2019, the Central Highlands and Northern Highlands and Mountain areas had the lowest share of households without dwellings in the country with 0.2 and 0.7 households without dwellings per 10,000 households, respectively.

The rate of households without dwellings has seen the greatest improvement in the North Central and Central coastal areas in the last 10 years; the rate declined from 8 households per 10,000 households in 2009 to 1.2 households per 10,000 households in 2019. The South East and Northern Highlands and Mountain areas have also significantly improved. The proportion of households without dwellings in the Red River Delta remained unchanged from 2009, hovering at a relatively low 1.9 households per 10,000 households.

Table 14. Percentage of households without dwellings by socio-economic region, urban/rural residence

Unit: Per ten thousand

	2009	2019
Whole country	4.7	1.8
Urban	6.9	1.7
Rural	3.7	1.9
Socio-economic region		
Northern midlands and mountain areas	3.1	0.7
Red River Delta	1.9	1.9
North Central and Central coastal areas	8.0	1.2
Central Highlands	1.0	0.2
South East	5.7	1.2
Mekong River Delta	5.7	4.2

2.2 Housing classification

The 2019 Population and Housing Census categorised dwellings as permanent/semi-permanent or temporary/simple housing. Permanent and semi-permanent housing included dwellings where two of the three structural elements (walls, a roof and a floor) were made of sturdy materials. Temporary and simple structures only had one of the three structural elements deemed sturdy, or all three structural elements were classified as flimsy.

According to the preliminary results of the 2019 Census, the majority of households in Viet Nam had permanent and semi-permanent houses (93.1%) This rate in urban areas was 7.9 percentage points higher than in rural areas. The Red River Delta had the highest rate of households living in permanent and semi-permanent houses, while the Mekong River Delta had the lowest rate.

The rate of households living in permanent and semi-permanent houses has increased sharply from 63.2% in 1999 to 84.2% in 2009, and to 93.1% in 2019. This positive trend reflects improved living conditions as a result of effective housing development policies.

However, 6.9% of households continue to live in temporary and simple houses. This equates to about 1.4 million households with around 5 million persons living in simple houses that should be prioritised in future housing development projects and strategies.

Table 15. Proportion of households with dwellings by types of dwelling, socio-economic region, urban/rural residence

Unit: %

	Proportion of households with temporary and simple dwellings (%)			Proportion of households with permanent and semi-permanent dwellings (%)		
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural
Whole country	6.9	1.8	9.7	93.1	98.2	90.3
Socio-economic region						
Northern midlands and mountain areas	15.6	3.6	18.7	84.4	96.4	81.3

	Proportion of households with temporary and simple dwellings (%)			Proportion of households with permanent and semi-permanent dwellings (%)		
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural
Red River Delta	0.7	0.4	0.8	99.3	99.6	99.2
North Central and Central coastal areas	2.7	0.9	3.4	97.3	99.1	96.6
Central Highlands	9.7	2.3	12.9	90.3	97.7	87.1
South East	1.6	0.6	3.3	98.4	99.4	96.7
Mekong River Delta	19.2	7.1	23.3	80.8	92.9	76.7

2.3 Housing area of household

The housing area per capita is a national statistical indicator stipulated in the Statistics Law and is used to assess population living conditions. The National housing development strategy toward 2020, vision to 2030, set forth the target that by 2020, “the average national housing area reaches around 25m² per person, 26m² in urban areas and 19m² in rural areas, with a minimum housing area of 6m² per person”.

The housing area per capita in 2019 was 23.5m²/person. Housing area per capita in urban areas was higher than that in rural areas, with 24.9m² per person and 22.7m² per person, respectively; there was no statistically significant difference in housing area per capita among socio-economic regions.

Compared to 2009, housing area per capita increased by 6.8m² per person. The Red River Delta saw the greatest increase among the six socio-economic regions with an increase of 9.3m² per person. Although the general quality of life has gradually improved in recent years and the housing area per capita is nearing the National housing development strategy target, there is still a share of households living in cramped housing. Approximately 690,000 households, or around 3.2 million persons, continue to live in housing with less than 6m² per person.

III. CONCLUSION

The preliminary results of the 2019 Census paint a picture of population growth over the last 10 years, as the population size of Viet Nam has continued to increase but at slower rate than that of the previous 10-year period. Rapid and widespread urbanisation has driven socio-economic development and created jobs. The goal that “population size in 2020 does not exceed 98 million persons”, stated in the Viet Nam National Strategy on Population and Reproductive Health from 2011-2020, issued by the Prime Minister in accordance with Decision No 2013/QĐ-TTg dated 14 November 2011, is within reach. However, the 2019 Census results also highlighted gaps in the urbanisation process to reach the target stipulated in Resolution No 21-NQ/TW, dated 25 October 2017 and issued by the Central Communist Party, that “the urban population exceeds 45% by 2030”.

The 2019 Census results indicated improved intellectual standards, sharp increases in literacy rates, impressive school attendance rates and low out of school rates over the last

decade. In addition, Viet Nam's efforts to strengthen gender equality in education have been very successful in recent years.

Housing conditions have improved significantly, particularly in urban areas over the last 10 years. Most households have dwellings and many live in permanent and semi-permanent houses. The housing area per capita has risen considerably, nearly meeting the target stipulated in the National Housing Development Strategy toward 2020, vision to 2030, issued by the Prime Minister in accordance with Decision No 2127/QĐ-TTg dated 30 November 2011. However, there is a relatively large share of households still living in temporary or simple houses or living in housing with less than 6m² per person. These results indicate a need to focus on these underserved populations in the development of residential housing policies going forward.

ANNEXES

Annex 1. List of provinces/cities by six socio-economic region Annex 2. List of provinces/cities by four key economic region
Annex 3. Data tables