

1. A BRIEF HISTORICAL REVIEW ON POPULATION CENSUSES CONDUCTED IN ARMENIA

More or less reliable data on the Armenian population number refers to the middle of the first century BC, during the years of Tigran the Great reign. The Armenian chronicle witnesses that the autochthon (aboriginal) population number living in the territory of historical Armenia was about 5-6 million. *The first demographic data on population number of the Eastern Armenia referred to 1828.*

By approximate estimations, population number of Armenian territories, in the structure of Russia, Yerevan and Nakhijevan Khanates comprised 160 000.

In 1897 was conducted the first and only general Population Census of the Russian Empire by the initiative of the Russian geographer and statistician P. P. Semyonov-Tyan-Shanski. It included the territory of Armenia that was in the structure of the Russian Empire, however comprehensive data on population number within the borders of the Russian Empire as well as in Armenian territories, were not recorded.

According to the data on Yerevan Province, population living in the territory comprised 900 000.

In 1926 was conducted the first Population Census in Armenia within the structure of former Soviet Union including the whole territory of the Republic. It was realized in scientific methods developed by famous Russian statisticians Mikhaylovski and Kvitkin which served as a basis for further conduction of Population Censuses. The unit of population enumeration for this Population Census was the family and detailed data on the structure of family was received for the first time.

As of December 17, 1926 de facto population number in Armenia comprised 881 290.

The next Population Census was conducted in 1937. For the concealment of the enumeration of millions of people being in concentration camps as well as perished from starvation and Stalin violences, Population Census data were perverted and falsified, therefore were not processed and summarized.

In 1939 was conducted another Population Census during which for the first time special methodology was implemented to conduct population post-enumeration control for exactness and completeness of population enumeration. During this Population Census besides de facto population de jure population was enumerated as well. However, in consequence of the World War II, it was not possible to finalize complete processing of the collected data and the received data were briefly published in 1939-1940.

As of January 17, 1939 de facto population number in Armenia comprised 1 282 338.



In January 1959 was conducted post-war first Population Census. Methodology of data collection and programme of Population Census were almost the same comparing with previous ones. 1959 Population Census conduction was an opportunity to estimate the losses to human resources during the World War II as well as social-demographic indicators characterizing data of the country. Further estimations of planning and management of economy as well as current and prospective number of population were based on data of this Population Census.

As of January 15, 1959 de facto population number in Armenia comprised 1 763 048 and de jure population number - 1 765 297.

The next Population Census was conducted **in 1970**. At that time was used the sample method of survey. Data on 11 questions from 18 of the programme (questionnaire) were collected from the whole population (widespread enumeration) and on 7 questions from 25 percent of de jure population (sample survey). Population Census programme included new questions particularly on native language and other language that the respondent mastered freely (second language).

As of January 15, 1970 de facto population number in Armenia comprised 2 491 873 and de jure population number 2 492 616.

In January 1979 was conducted the next Population Census during which the comfort of previous Population Censuses was used, though data processing methods were essentially different from previous ones.

During this Population Census, for the first time in the statistical practice of the Soviet Union, the recorded data in the census questionnaire were input by the help of special reading equipments and recorded on the magnetic tapes of electronic computers. New questions were added and a part of questions were reedited in the Population Census programme.

As of January 17, 1979 de facto population number in Armenia comprised 3 030 747 and de jure population number 3 037 259.

In January 1989 was conducted the last Population Census of the former Soviet Union. It was conducted only a month later after the disastrous earthquake of December 1988, in the conditions of political and economic instability of the Republic in consequence of population great mass movement and antagonism of Nagorno Karabagh. In May 1990 were published results of processed data, nevertheless, through methodological discrepancy of inter-republican enumeration and exchange of information on refugees and evacuees, 1989 census results sooner lost their relevance. During that Population Census data were also received for two categories of population: de jure and de facto.



As of January 12, 1989 de facto population number comprised 3 287 677 and de jure population number 3 304 776, but on Population Census conduction days more than 160,000 people were evacuated outside the Republic and data on them were not possible to include in the number of de facto population and more than half of them in the number of de jure population of the Republic, as according to the methodology defined by the USSR State Committee on Statistics, were not received the second copy of Population Census questionnaire. All these greatly influenced on the results of Population Census and indicators of population number received by Population Census results, unfortunately, did not reflect their real image and were not used as a basis of current enumeration.

From 10th to 19th of October, 2001 was conducted First National Population Census of the Republic of Armenia after independence.

As of October 10, 2001 de facto population number in Armenia comprised 3 002 594 and de jure population number - 3 213 011.

