

2.2 Census objectives

The main objective in conducting the 2010 Census is to provide statistics on the population's demographic, social and economic characteristics and household and housing characteristics. The need for such information can never be overemphasized in view of the dynamism of the country's population. This is a primary consideration in planning and providing public services during the ensuing decade.

In addition, the 2010 Census also has the following secondary objectives:

- a) To update enumeration area maps, and build a registry of households of good quality. These will enable the ESO to improve its sample surveys after the Census, such as the Labour Force Survey conducted at least once a year or the Household Budget Survey conducted every 5 years. The Census was also expected to build the capacity of the ESO, such as IT-structure and staff training. Thus, the 2010 Census was also a capacity building exercise which included hundreds of non-ESO staff who worked as enumerators and field supervisors.
- b) To raise awareness on the importance of official statistics among the residents of the Cayman Islands. Official statistics is critical in providing useful information for decision-making within the public and business sectors and for knowledge-based debates as part of the democratic process. Hence, another objective of census management is to disseminate the Census results in a user-friendly manner primarily through this main report and other subsequent analytical reports. The Census data sets for public use are available to the general public through the ESO website www.eso.ky.

2.3 Basic approach

A population census can be done in two different ways. One method is to count the population who usually lives in the country ("residents"); this is called a de jure census. The other method is to count all the people present in the country at the census time; this is called a de facto census. The new UN manual calls the two methods, population present count (corresponding to the de facto census) and usual resident population count (corresponding to de jure).

For the Cayman Islands, the aim was to count the usual resident population, i.e. residents or persons staying in the Cayman Islands for more than six months or intending to stay for at least six months.