



The 2021 Census also complies with the United Nations recommendation that all countries should carry out a population and housing census every tenth year and that the 2020 round of censuses should be carried out during the period 2015-2024.

2.2 CENSUS OBJECTIVES

The main objective of conducting the 2021 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 overemphasised, given 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 2021 Census also has the following main objectives:

- a) The population and housing census in the Cayman Islands in October 2021 shall provide statistics on the population, including demographic, social, and economic characteristics and housing information. Given the dynamism of the country's population, the need for such information can never be overemphasised, which is a primary consideration in the efficient planning and running of public services during the ensuing decade.

It should be stressed that even though the Census is critical, it shall be regarded as part of a national statistical system that includes household surveys and statistics from administrative registers. This means that not all statistical information about the population needs to be collected in the Census, as other data sources are available. Hence, prioritisation criteria were established, in consultation with the Census Advisory Committee, to determine the critical set of data that will be collected through the Census.

- b) In addition to estimating the total count of residents in the Cayman Islands and their demographic, social, economic and housing characteristics, the Census will also involve building a registry of households of good quality. This will enable the ESO to improve its sample surveys after the Census, such as the Labour Force Survey conducted at least twice a year or the Household Budget Survey, undertaken every 3 to 5 years.

The Census will also, in other ways, contribute to the capacity building of the ESO, such as IT infrastructure and staff training. Thus, a census is also a capacity-building exercise.

- c) The population census is a unique opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of official statistics among the residents of the Cayman Islands. Official statistics are critical in providing helpful information for decision-making within the public and business sectors and knowledge-based debates as part of the democratic process.



Official statistics are expected to capture the essential information needs of any society. They should deliver quantitative information concerning development trends. They should also give a comprehensive picture of the society and thus cover all sectors and all aspects and conditions.

Statistical results should be distributed in easy access and understand forms to be used by all interested parties in society. Hence, another objective of census management is to disseminate the Census results in a user-friendly manner.

The Economics and Statistics Office aims to produce high-quality data from the 2021 Census which is relevant, timely, and accurate. Extensive efforts were placed on the census form design, data collection, and data processing procedures to achieve this outcome.

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 present population count (corresponding to the *de facto* Census) the usually resident population (corresponding to *de jure*).

For the Cayman Islands, the aim was to count the usually 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.

The main argument for the usual resident population count is that this offers better information on the demand for services, households, and internal migration for planning and policy purposes. In the 1999 and 2010 censuses, the main results concern the resident population. Hence, comparability with previous censuses is ensured.

The scope of the census questions was similar to the 1999 and 2010 censuses as follows: (a) demographic characteristics; (b) socio-economic characteristics, including core labour force questions; and (c) housing characteristics. Some questions under each subject area in Census 2010 were revised, while new ones were relevant to the primary census data users. These questions were tested in a Pilot Census in October 2019 and modified based on the pilot results.