

Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática (INEI) / Peru
**Submission to the United Nations Statistics Division Website on
2010 World Population and Housing Censuses**

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Peru's 2005 Population and Housing Censuses

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Starting in year 2005, Peru's National Institute of Statistics is implementing a new methodology for its national population and housing censuses. This consists mainly in carrying out a universal headcount every 10 years with basic questions on demographic characteristics and living conditions, together with a continuous household survey throughout the decade in which more detailed data will be obtain from a national sample of households. This sample will include approximately 300,000 households yearly. This survey will provide a permanently updated database with information that currently was being obtained only once in about ten years.

Year 2005 population and housing censuses began with a universal headcount that lasted little over a month, starting 18th of July and ending on the 20th of August, as a *de jure* procedure, and the first results will be available at the end of November, 2005. This has covered around 27 million persons, which is Peru's estimated population at present, and the housing questions covered approximately 7 million homes, which is the estimated quantity of Peru's households at present. Thus, each individual and each set of living quarters have been enumerated separately and the characteristics thereof have been separately recorded, complying with the first essential feature of population and housing censuses -- individual enumeration -- by means of the collection of information in the field. The censuses included seven questions relating to basic population characteristics (age, sex, and education level); and 11 questions on housing (tenure, construction materials, main source of lighting, water and sewer conditions, number of rooms and bedrooms, and the main source of energy for cooking).

On the other hand, Peru's year 2005 national house and population censuses conforms with the characteristics of the second essential feature of population and housing censuses -- universality within a defined territory -- by having covered the entire country, and having included person present and/or residing within its scope. The housing census has included every set of living quarters irrespective of type.

To carry out the field operation, Peru's National Statistics Institute hired and trained around 25 thousand interviewers who will be required to have at least Bachelor's Degree. This will ensure a better quality of data gathering, as compared with high school students who were the traditional source of volunteer interviewers in a *de facto* procedure for previous population census that was carried out in a single day and forcing

the entire country to stay home during census day. Thus, with respect to simultaneity as the third essential feature of population and housing censuses, Peru's choice was referred to a well-defined reference period.

The continuous household survey, on the other hand, is being designed so that the data gathered by it will be available according to the level of detail. Thus, each month there will be regional data (*i.e.*, Peru's *Departamentos*) and each year there will be data at the province level, and the data at a district level will be ready by the second year. In this sense, Peru's population and housing censuses adhere to the essential feature of defined periodicity in that basic demographic questions have been asked in the 2005 population census, and a similar census will be carried out again next decade. Together with this, as it was said at the beginning of this document, an extensive continuous survey will be undertaken starting in year 2006, in order to cope with the need of information pertaining the rapidity of major changes in Peru's population and its housing circumstances.

For more information, visit

<http://www.inei.gob.pe/cpv2005/archivos/Plan%20Directriz.pdf>