2020 POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS OF MONGOLIA

/summary/
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1. POPULATION

The population of Mongolia was 3,296,866 and the number of households was 897,427 at the 2020 census. The average rate of annual population growth between 2010 and 2020 was 2.2 percent, which is 0.7 points higher than the previous census, due to higher net growth over the last decade.

![Figure 1: Population by Census Years]

The average rate of annual population growth between the censuses had increased for all aimags and the capital city for the last decade.

![Figure 2: Population of Mongolia]

The population of Mongolia is still young, as 31.5 percent of overall population was aged under 14 years, 64.4 percent was aged 15-64 years, and 4.1 percent was aged 65 years and over.
The sex ratio was 96.6, decreased by 1.5 points since the 2010 census. The sex ratio tends to decrease in the age groups of the people aged 30 years and over, due to relatively higher mortality rate among men.

The median age of the population of Mongolia was 27.9 years. It suggests that half of the population was under 27.9 years old and another half was older than 27.9 years. 3.7 percent of the total population or 122.3 thousand persons have been living abroad for 6 months or more.

Age dependency ratio (percentage of working age population) was 55.3 percent. The increase in age dependency ratio between 2010 and 2020 was 10.3 points.

Demographic dynamics can positively affect the socio-economic development of the country when it focuses on creating jobs by formulating and implementing the long-term policies to use the demographic window period.

2. ETHNICITY

The 2010 Population and Housing Census used the ethnicity classification consisted of 29 ethnic groups. It had increased the number of ethnic groups to 31 in the 2020 Population and Housing Census. In this census summary, the ethnic groups of less than 100 persons are combined into the category of “Other ethnics”.

TABLE 1. POPULATION BY ETHNICITY, 2010 AND 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>2010*</th>
<th>2020*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of persons</td>
<td>percentage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>2 631 117</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khalkh</td>
<td>2 168 141</td>
<td>82.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kazakh</td>
<td>101 526</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durvud</td>
<td>72 403</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bayad</td>
<td>56 573</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buriad</td>
<td>45087</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zakhchin</td>
<td>32 845</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dariganga</td>
<td>27 412</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uriankhai</td>
<td>26 654</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darkhad</td>
<td>21 558</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uuld</td>
<td>15 520</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khotgoid</td>
<td>15 460</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torguud</td>
<td>14 176</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khoton</td>
<td>11 304</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myangad</td>
<td>6 592</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuva</td>
<td>5 169</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barga</td>
<td>2 989</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uzemchin</td>
<td>2 577</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eljigen</td>
<td>1 340</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sartuul</td>
<td>1 286</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khamnigan</td>
<td>537</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tsaatan (Dukha)</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uzbek (Chantuu)</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kharchin</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tsakhar</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khoshuud</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>601</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other ethnics</td>
<td>541</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The Mongolian citizens residing abroad are not included.
The 2020 Population and Housing Census highlights that 83.8 percent of the resident population of Mongolia were Khalkh whose population increased by 1.4 points compared with the previous census. The Kazakh people made up 3.8 percent of the population. Durvud, Bayad and Buria ethnic groups have been declining since 2010.

3. RELIGION

According to the 2020 Population and Housing Census, 59.4 percent of the population aged 15 years and over were religious and 40.6 percent were non-religious. 87.1 percent of the religious people were Buddhists.

Even though Buddhism was the largest religion, the majority of religious youth aged 15-19 were Christians and Muslims. Religious and non-religious beliefs differed among ethnic groups. 84.7 percent of the Kazakh people were religious and 81.9 percent of them were Muslims.

FIGURE 3. POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, BY RELIGION, 2020

3. POPULATION DISTRIBUTION AND DENSITY

In Mongolia, the population was unevenly distributed over four regions and the capital city: Ulaanbaatar made up 46 percent of the total population, Khangai region 19 percent, Central region 16 percent, Western region 13 percent, and Eastern region 7 percent.

The migration from rural to urban areas has been lasting for more than two decades since early 1990s. Numerous evidences and figures reveal that people are migrating to Ulaanbaatar.
Over the last two decades, the population density in Mongolia had grown from 1.5 person per square kilometer in 2000 to 1.7 person per square kilometer in 2010 then to 2.1 persons per square kilometer in 2020, as a result of natural increase in population at the national level.

In addition to the above-mentioned factors, internal migration had a significant impact on the changes in population density of aimags and the capital city. Between 2010 and 2020 the population density in Ulaanbaatar increased by 33.4 percent, in Orkhon aimag by 28.0 percent, and in Darkhan-Uul aimag by 17.8 percent respectively.

### 4. MIGRATION

The number of persons migrated between aimag and capital city in their life time accounted for 23.4 percent of the total resident population, a decrease of 9.7 percentage points compared to the previous census.

**FIGURE 5. INTERNAL MIGRATION, 2020**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Inter aimags and capital city migration</th>
<th>Interregional migration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lifetime</strong></td>
<td>23.4%</td>
<td>20.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In last 5 year</td>
<td>155 763</td>
<td>138 018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In last 1 year</td>
<td>87 955</td>
<td>80 511</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Migration between aimags and the capital city has declined by 49.1 percent and interregional migration has declined 49.0 percent over the past five years.

Within the period of one year prior to the census, 80.5 thousand persons migrated among regions, which showed a decrease of 20.4 percent compared to 2010. This decrease was due to the intensified migration to Ulaanbaatar in recent years.

Rapid population growth in Ulaanbaatar overwhelmed by unplanned mass migration causes negative impacts on urban development planning, and environmental and ecological security. Public services such as health, education, and social welfare services are severely overloaded and sometime it even hampers access to these critical public services. It also leads to higher rates of crimes and violence, contributes to traffic congestion and causes difficulties in social communications and economic activities.

Article 16. 2 of the Constitution of Mongolia states that the citizens of Mongolia shall have the right to healthy and safe environment and to be protected from environmental pollution and ecological imbalance. However, the mass migration hampers the efforts to ensure this right for the citizens in Ulaanbaatar. Therefore, the Governor of the Capital City and the Mayor of Ulaanbaatar issued a decree on January 9, 2017 and suspended the domestic migration from rural areas to Ulaanbaatar for permanent residence until January 1, 2020.

5. EDUCATION AND LITERACY RATE

95.1 percent of the population aged 10 years and over attained some level of education. 98.7 percent of the population aged 15 years and over were literate.

Compared to previous years, the educational attainment rate had increased and illiteracy rate had dropped. The illiteracy rate among the population aged 10 years and over had declined. 29.2 percent of the population aged 10 years and over had completed secondary education.

FIGURE 6. POPULATION AGED 10 YEARS AND OVER, BY EDUCATION LEVEL, 2020

- Not educated: 120,028
- Primary: 332,507
- Lower Secondary: 414,060
- Upper Secondary: 708,410
- Technical and Vocational: 93,625
- Specialized Secondary: 113,985
- Higher: 643,040

Note: * The population aged 10 years and over does not include the foreign nationals living in Mongolia for a long period of time.

The number of people who had completed tertiary education had increased from the previous year. 26.5 percent of the resident population aged 10 years and over hold bachelor’s or higher degree, which is an increase of 8.2 percentage points compared to 2010.
6. HOUSEHOLD AND FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS

According to the 2020 Population and Housing Census, the total number of households increased by 25.7 percent since 2010, including urban households increased by 26.4 percent and rural households by 24.3 percent.

At the national level, 897.4 thousand households were enumerated, of which 59.7 percent were nuclear households, 22.7 percent were extended households, 15.4 percent were single household, and 2.2 percent were composite households.

In urban areas the number of composite households is 3.9 times higher in rural areas. It reflects the shortage of housing, high rental rates and an increase in the number of rural migrants living with their relatives in urban areas. The number of one person households in urban areas has increased by 1.8 times compared with the 2010 census and this could also be related to the internal migration.

FIGURE 7. NUMBER AND TYPES OF HOUSEHOLDS, 2020

The average national household size was 3.6 persons, which remained essentially unchanged over the last decade. However, the proportion of households with 1-2 members has changed significantly. For instance, the proportion of households with 1-2 members had increased by 4.5 percentage points in urban areas and by 5.1 percentage points in rural areas since the 2010 census. This could be related to the fact that people migrated from rural to urban areas to study and work and could have been enumerated as households.

Since the 2010 Population and Housing Census, the number of never married adults decreased by 0.2 percentage points, married adults by 0.5 percentage points, and divorced individuals by 0.7 percentage points.

FIGURE 8. AVERAGE AGE AT FIRST MARRIAGE
7. PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Nationwide, there were 106.4 thousand persons with disabilities, which represent 3.3 percent of the total resident population. 58.9 thousand or 55.4 percent of the persons with disabilities were men and 47.4 thousand or 44.6 percent were women.

FIGURE 9. NUMBER OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, BY DISABILITY TYPES 2010 AND 2020

The number of persons with congenital disabilities increased by 13.9 thousand or 37.7 percent since the 2010 census. It indicates that for the last 10 years, more children were born with disabilities due to air pollution and other factors.
In the meantime, the number of persons with acquired disabilities decreased by 15.6 thousand or 21.8 percent since the previous census. It reveals that businesses probably had improved their occupational health and safety management to prevent from accidents and injuries at work places by enhancing their working conditions.

Thus, it needs to conduct an in-depth study to identify the exact causes of congenital disorders whether they were inherited or caused by obstetric and birth complications or environmental hazards, air pollution and other factors.

Since the 2010 Population and Housing Census, the persons with physical and mobility impairments decreased by 23.3 percent, visual impairments by 23.3 percent and hearing disabilities by 31.2 percent. However, the persons with mental disabilities increased by 3.0 percent.

Persons with other disabilities (other associated disabilities) account for 33.9 percent of the disabled people. 22.5 percent of the disabled people have mobility and physical impairments. The least or 3.1 percent of the disabled people have visual impairment.

**Functional difficulty**

The most common challenge experienced by the physically difficulty people aged 20-24 years is memory problems. Physically difficulty persons aged 35-54 years tend to have trouble in walking. The functional difficulty persons aged 55 years and over tend to have difficulties in walking and self-care.

**FIGURE 11. FUNCTIONAL DIFFICULTY, BY TYPES OF DIFFICULTIES, 2020**

![Functional Difficulty Chart](image)

**8. INTERNET AND MOBILE PHONE USERS**

According to the 2020 Population and Housing Census, 87.8 percent of the population aged 6 years and over use mobile phones, and 64.7 percent are Internet users.

The share of mobile phone and Internet users among the population aged 6 years and over had significantly increased since 2010, the number of mobile phone users increased by 17.8 percent and Internet users by 34.1 percent.
Along with globalization, the use of internet technology has rapidly spread all over the country. By introducing 3G and 4G networks to Mongolia, the number of mobile phone and regular Internet users had increased.

9. EMPLOYMENT

59.7 percent of the population aged 15 years and over (or working age population) is classified as being in the labor force, which is an increase of 3.3 percentage points from...
the 2010 statistics. In the meantime, the persons outside the labor force (40.3%) decreased by 3.3 percentage points. Overall, labor force participation rate increased, particularly women's labor force participation increased by 4.5 percentage points since the previous census.

The share of the employed people in the total population of working age increased by 6.0 percentage points compared to the previous census. The share of persons outside the labor force decreased by 3.3 percentage points, and the unemployed people accounted for 5.9 percent. Work ability tend to decline from the age of 55 and onwards. Therefore, 16.7 percent of the population aged 60 years and over were employed. Compared with the previous census, the share of the working age population increased by 8.3 percentage points.

**FIGURE 14. POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER BY ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES, 2020**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population aged 15 and over</th>
<th>2 170 573</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Labour force</td>
<td>1 296 781</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside the labour force</td>
<td>873 792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed</td>
<td>1 167 921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed</td>
<td>128 860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential labour force</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In school</td>
<td>327 237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In pension</td>
<td>236 442</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabled</td>
<td>45 658</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home maker</td>
<td>92 492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couldn't find an appropriate job</td>
<td>64 611</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not interested in working</td>
<td>3 672</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>64 611</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The labor force participation rate of men remains higher than the rates of women. The labor force participation rates of both men and women are higher in rural areas than the rates in urban areas. Particularly in rural areas the male labor force participation rate is 69.1 percent, which is 5.8 percentage points higher than the rates in urban areas.

53.8 percent of the population aged 15 years and over are employed. This figure is 60.6 percent in rural areas where majority of the people engage in livestock production. In particular, the employment rate of men in rural areas is 11.8 percentage points higher than that of men in urban areas, which is explained by the fact that the majority of men in rural areas are engaged in animal husbandry.
The unemployment rate in Mongolia is 9.9 percent in 2020. It is dropped by 5.4 percentage points since the previous census. Unemployment rate is high in urban areas and low in rural areas due to an increasing migration from rural to urban areas and the lack of employment opportunities in urban areas.

Unemployment rate is highest among the age group 30-44 years and 63.0 thousand unemployed people in this age group (30-44 years old) comprises 49.1 percent of the total unemployed people. Men aged 30 years and above are more likely to be unemployed.

At the national level, 873.8 thousand people were outside the labor force, an increase of 5.2 percent since the previous census, including an increase of 11.3 percent in the number of persons unwilling to work and an increase of 8.9 percent in the number
of people attending educational institutions. However, the share of persons who lost ability to work, homemakers and the people who cannot find a suitable work decreased by 14.7-18.3 percent.

12.2 percent of the population aged 15-24 are unemployed and out of school. In particular, the percentage of women aged 15-24 who are unemployed and out of school is 0.3 percentage points higher than the national average. Therefore, it needs to study the reasons why the demographic window of opportunity is not properly used in Mongolia.

10. MONGOLIAN CITIZENS RESIDING ABROAD¹

In the 2020 Population and Housing Census, 122,301 citizens residing abroad were enumerated, an increase by 14.2 percent since the 2010 census.

FIGURE 17. MONGOLIAN CITIZENS RESIDING ABROAD, 2020

One in every two people or 58.8 percent of the Mongolian citizens living abroad are residing in Asia-Pacific region, and one in every five people are residing in Europe. Nine out of every ten persons residing in Asia-Pacific region, were from the western part of Mongolia.

Compared with the 2010 census, the number of persons living abroad increased by 3.2 times from Govisumber province, 2.9 times from Khovd province, and approximately twice from Bayan-Ulgii and Dornogovi provinces. However, the number of persons permanently residing abroad from Zavkhan and Govi-Altai provinces had decreased since the previous census.

¹ For 6 months or more
Among the Mongolian citizens residing abroad, 25.1 percent of them went there for studying. At the time of the 2020 census, 19.8 percent of the self-employed persons living abroad went there for studying.

7.9 percent of the Mongolian citizens who went there for studying had already settled in the countries as self-employers at the time of the 2020 census. 13.1 percent of the Mongolian citizens who went there for other purposes have been residing abroad to get permanent resident status.

FIGURE 19. MONGOLIAN CITIZENS LIVING ABROAD, BY PURPOSES AT THE TIME OF THE CENSUS, 2010 AND 2020
11. HOUSING CONDITIONS

According to the 2020 Population and Housing Census in Mongolia, 897.4 thousand households live in 770.9 thousand dwelling units. In urban areas there is almost no difference between the number of households living in apartments and the number of apartments. But in rural areas the number of households living in apartments is greater than the number of apartments. It indicates that in rural areas several families share the same apartment.

**TABLE 2. NUMBER OF GER, HOUSES AND HOUSEHOLDS BY HOUSING TYPES, URBAN AND RURAL AREAS, 2019 AND 2020**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Residential housing</th>
<th>Number of households</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>770.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ger</strong></td>
<td>225.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>House</strong></td>
<td>545.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other housing</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

38.2 percent of all households live in traditional Mongolian gers, 60.9 percent in houses, and 0.9 percent in other types of housing. The share of households living in gers decreased by 7.1 percentage points since the previous census, while the share of the households living in houses increased by 7.3 percentage points.

**FIGURE 20. NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS, BY TYPES OF HOUSING, 2020**

During the housing census, enumerators counted 770.9 thousand dwellings and apartments including 442.7 thousand dwellings where people are living on a regular basis. Also, they enumerated 234.9 thousand extra gers (mostly used for the purposes other than dwelling) and summer houses where people do not live regularly.
During the census, enumerators collected detailed information about the housings by interviewing with the households living in them.

51.0 percent of the households are living in gers, 46.0 percent are living in single family house, 1.7 percent are living in apartments, 0.9 percent are living in convenient single family home, and 0.4 percent are living in public dwellings.

335 587 dwelling units were counted in 7 444 apartments.