

Table 5 Census population by ethnic group, Peninsular Malaysia, 1911–2020

Year	Population (number)				
	Malays/Bumiputera ^Ω	Chinese	Indians	Others	Total
Both sexes combined					
1911 +	1,368,954	693,228	239,169	37,700	2,339,051
1921 +	1,568,588	855,863	439,172	43,068	2,906,691
1931 +	1,863,872	1,284,888	572,613	66,385	3,787,758
1947 #	2,427,834	1,884,534	530,638	65,080	4,908,086
1957 ±	3,125,474	2,333,756	696,186	123,342	6,278,758
1970 ≠	4,663,284	3,117,896	933,250	66,298	8,780,728
1980 (A) Φ	6,315,572	3,865,431	1,171,135	74,475	11,426,613
1991 (A) Π	8,433,826	4,250,969	1,380,048	410,544	14,475,387
2000 (A) Θ	11,135,694	4,883,079	1,666,048	147,749	17,832,570
2010 (A) Θ	13,735,752	5,509,302	1,892,322	130,205	21,267,581
2020 (B)	16,501,032	6,078,982	1,986,843	168,431	24,735,288
Males					
1921 +	800,397	631,741	308,399	23,348	1,763,885
1931 +	944,646	864,876	377,707	37,680	2,224,909
1947 #	1,207,916	1,038,573	314,619	34,469	2,595,577
1957 ±	1,552,313	1,211,822	398,726	74,718	3,237,579
1970 ≠	2,313,707	1,569,357	495,894	34,110	4,413,068
1980 (A) Φ	3,144,130	1,944,912	603,664	38,410	5,731,116
1991 (A) Π	4,209,979	2,145,706	693,921	208,888	7,258,494
2000 (A) Θ	5,607,717	2,496,459	835,053	71,694	9,010,923
2010 (A) Θ	6,919,223	2,833,848	948,652	66,503	10,768,226
2020 (B)	8,341,600	3,096,334	1,008,851	92,322	12,531,107
Females					
1921 +	768,191	224,122	130,773	19,720	1,142,806
1931 +	919,226	420,012	194,906	28,705	1,562,849
1947 #	1,219,918	845,961	216,019	30,611	2,312,509
1957 ±	1,573,161	1,121,934	297,460	48,624	3,041,179
1970 ≠	2,349,577	1,548,539	437,356	32,188	4,367,660
1980 (A) Φ	3,171,442	1,920,519	567,471	36,065	5,695,497
1991 (A) Π	4,223,847	2,105,263	686,127	201,656	7,216,893
2000 (A) Θ	5,527,977	2,386,620	830,995	76,055	8,821,647
2010 (A) Θ	6,816,529	2,675,454	943,670	63,702	10,499,355
2020 (B)	8,159,432	2,982,648	985,992	76,109	12,204,181

Table 5 (cont'd) Census population by ethnic group, Peninsular Malaysia, 1911–2020

Year	Population share (%)				
	Malays/ <i>Bumiputera</i> ^Ω	Chinese	Indians	Others	Total
Both sexes combined					
1911 +	58.5	29.6	10.2	1.6	100
1921 +	54.0	29.4	15.1	1.5	100
1931 +	49.2	33.9	15.1	1.8	100
1947 #	49.5	38.4	10.8	1.3	100
1957 ±	49.8	37.2	11.1	2.0	100
1970 ≠	53.1	35.5	10.6	0.8	100
1980 (A) Φ	55.3	33.8	10.2	0.7	100
1991 (A) Π	58.3	29.4	9.5	2.8	100
2000 (A) Θ	62.4	27.4	9.3	0.8	100
2010 (A) Θ	64.6	25.9	8.9	0.6	100
2020 (B)	66.7	24.6	8.0	0.7	100
Males					
1921 +	45.4	35.8	17.5	1.3	100
1931 +	42.5	38.9	17.0	1.7	100
1947 #	46.5	40.0	12.1	1.3	100
1957 ±	47.9	37.4	12.3	2.3	100
1970 ≠	52.4	35.6	11.2	0.8	100
1980 (A) Φ	54.9	33.9	10.5	0.7	100
1991 (A) Π	58.0	29.6	9.6	2.9	100
2000 (A) Θ	62.2	27.7	9.3	0.8	100
2010 (A) Θ	64.3	26.3	8.8	0.6	100
2020 (B)	66.6	24.7	8.0	0.7	100
Females					
1921 +	67.2	19.6	11.4	1.7	100
1931 +	58.8	26.9	12.5	1.8	100
1947 #	52.8	36.6	9.3	1.3	100
1957 ±	51.7	36.9	9.8	1.6	100
1970 ≠	53.8	35.5	10.0	0.7	100
1980 (A) Φ	55.7	33.7	10.0	0.6	100
1991 (A) Π	58.5	29.2	9.5	2.8	100
2000 (A) Θ	62.7	27.1	9.4	0.9	100
2010 (A) Θ	64.9	25.5	9.0	0.6	100
2020 (B)	66.9	24.4	8.1	0.6	100

Note: Data do not include non-Malaysian citizens

Abbreviations:

- (A) Census population adjusted on the basis of the Post Enumeration Survey (PES) / Census Coverage Evaluation Survey (CCES) estimate of under-enumeration.
- (B) Adjusted PES data have not yet been published.

Symbols / Notations:

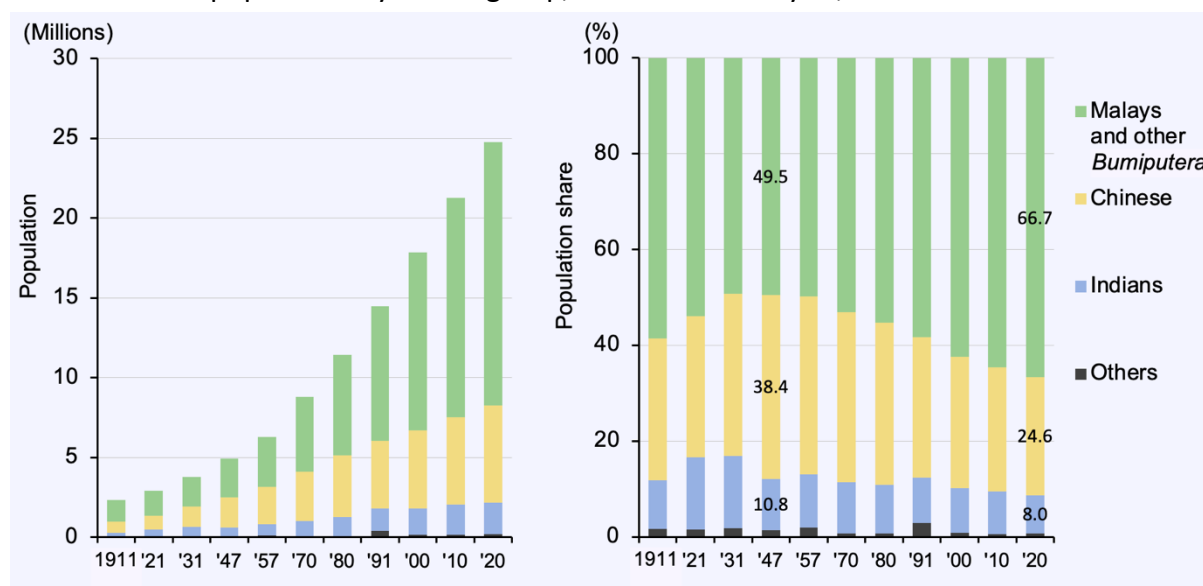
- Ω Data before 1991 are for Malays and other indigenous, Data 1991 and after 1991 are for *Bumiputera*. *Bumiputera* includes Malays and other *Bumiputera*
- + Excludes persons on ocean-going vessels afloat in Malayan waters.
- # Excludes (i) Transients afloat, (ii) Service personnel enumerated in Service Establishments, and (iii) Japanese surrendered personnel.
- ± Excludes transients afloat.
- ≠ Excludes 28,834 persons enumerated using the self-enumeration forms. It comprises (i) persons living in hotels, hospitals, prisons, hostels and other institutions, military and police personnel living in camps, (ii) travellers by road and rail, (iii) persons afloat (in transit by sea in Malaysian waters), (iv) homeless persons, and (v) persons living in special curfew areas.
- Φ Includes persons staying in large institutions, such as large hotels, hostels, mental hospitals, prisons, as well as persons travelling by road and rail and persons afloat.
- π Includes self-enumerated population, the majority of whom were staying in hotels and other institutions.
- Θ The population is based on the *de jure* approach, whereby all persons on Census Day were enumerated according to their place of usual residence. This differed from the *de facto* approach used in the previous censuses prior to 2000, whereby all persons were enumerated according to the place where they were on Census Night. It includes self-enumeration forms returned from hotels, rest houses, hostels, hospitals, orphanages, old folk homes, rehabilitation centres, prisons, army and police barracks/mess as well as the homeless.

Sources of data:

- (1) J.R. Innes, *Report on the Census of the Straits Settlements taken on 1st March, 1901* (Singapore: Government Printing Office, 1901), pp. 45-47, 97.
- (2) G.T. Hare, *Census of the Population, Federated Malay States, 1901* (Kuala Lumpur: Government Printer, 1902), pp. 95, 97, 115, 117, 120, 133, 135, 149.
- (3) H. Marriott, *Report on the Census of the Straits Settlements taken on the 10th March, 1911* (Singapore: Government Printing Press, 1911), pp. 4, 9, 27-59.
- (4) A.M. Pountney, *The Census of the Federated Malay States: Review of the Census Operations and Results, 1911* (London: Darling & Son Ltd., 1911), pp. 17, 21, 27-47, 81, 95.
- (5) H. Marriott, *Report on the Census of the State of Johore taken on the 10th March, 1911* (Singapore, 1911), pp. 1, 11 (Table III), 12-52 (Table IV).
- (6) A. Cavendish, *Report on the Census of Kedah and Perlis, 1911* (Penang: Criterion Press Ltd., 1911), pp. 5, 28-31.
- (7) J. E. Nathan, *The Census of British Malaya (The Straits Settlements, Federated Malay States and Protected States of Johore, Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan, Trengganu and Brunei), 1921* (London: Waterlow & Sons Limited, 1922), pp. 142, 148 (Table II), 149-150, 155 (Table VI), 161, 164, 180-184.
- (8) C.A. Vlieland, *A Report On The 1931 Census and On Certain Problems of Vital Statistics, British Malaya (The Colony of The Straits Settlements and the Malay States under British Protection, namely The Federated Malay States of Perak, Selangor, Negri Sembilan and Pahang and the States of Johore, Kedah, Kelantan, Trengganu, Perlis and Brunei)*, (London: The Crown Agents for the Colonies, 1932), pp. 31, 38, 120-125.
- (9) M.V. Del Tufo, *A Report on the 1947 Census of Population, Malaya (Comprising Federation of Malaya and the Colony of Singapore)*, (London: The Crown Agents for the Colonies, 1949), pp. 37, 72, 132-133 (Table 2), 568-569, 572-574.
- (10) H. Fell, *1957 Population Census of the Federation of Malaya*, Report No. 14 (Kuala Lumpur: Department of Statistics, Federation of Malaya, 1960), pp. 1, 12, 51-52.
- (11) Ramesh Chander, *General Report, 1970 Population Census of Malaysia* (Kuala Lumpur: Department of Statistics Malaysia, 1977), Vol. 2, pp. 21, 105.
- (12) Ramesh Chander, *An Interim Report on the Post Enumeration Survey 1970* (Kuala Lumpur: Department of Statistics Malaysia, 1973), pp. 1, 6.
- (13) Khoo Teik Huat, *General Report of the Population Census, 1980 Population and Housing Census of Malaysia* (Kuala Lumpur: Department of Statistics Malaysia, 1983), Vol. 2, pp. 15, 18-20.
- (14) Khoo Teik Huat, *Report on the Post Enumeration Survey, 1980* (Kuala Lumpur: Department of Statistics Malaysia, 1985), pp. 67-69.
- (15) Khoo Soo Gim, *General Report of the Population Census, 1991 Population and Housing Census of Malaysia* (Kuala Lumpur: Department of Statistics Malaysia, 1995), Vol. 2, pp. xxvii, 7-8, 21-26.
- (16) Khoo Soo Gim, *State Population Report Kedah, Population Census, 1991*, pp. 12-13.
- (17) Khoo Soo Gim, *Evaluation of Coverage and Content Errors of the 1991 Population Census* (Kuala Lumpur: Department of Statistics Malaysia, 1995), p. 43.
- (18) Shaari Abdul Rahman, *Population and Housing Census of Malaysia, 2000: Migration and Population Distribution* (Putrajaya: Department of Statistics Malaysia, 2004), pp. 17-52.
- (19) Shaari Abdul Rahman, *Population Distribution and Basic Demographic Characteristics, 2000 Population and Housing Census of Malaysia* (Putrajaya: Department of Statistics Malaysia, 2001), pp. xx, 8, 11, 14, 17, 20, 23, 26, 29, 32, 41, 44 & 47.

- (20) Wan Ramlah bt Wan Abd. Raof, *Population Distribution and Basic Demographic Characteristics, 2010 Population and Housing Census of Malaysia* (Putrajaya: Department of Statistics Malaysia, 2011), pp. 62-70, 77-79 & 81.
- (21) Abdul Rahman bin Hasan, *Education and Social Characteristics of the Population, 2010 Population and Housing Census of Malaysia* (Putrajaya: Department of Statistics Malaysia, 2013), pp. ii, 73-153, 178-204, 217-225, 575.
- (22) Department of Statistics–Malaysia, *Current Population Estimates (based on 2020 Census), Malaysia 2022* (Putrajaya: Department of Statistics Malaysia, 2022).

Chart 5 Census population by ethnic group, Peninsular Malaysia, 1911–2020



Sources of data:

- (1) J.R. Innes, *Report on the Census of the Straits Settlements taken on 1st March, 1901* (Singapore: Government Printing Office, 1901), pp. 45-47, 97.
- (2) G.T. Hare, *Census of the Population, Federated Malay States, 1901* (Kuala Lumpur: Government Printer, 1902), pp. 95, 97, 115, 117, 120, 133, 135, 149.
- (3) H. Marriott, *Report on the Census of the Straits Settlements taken on the 10th March, 1911* (Singapore: Government Printing Press, 1911), pp. 4, 9, 27-59.
- (4) A.M. Pountney, *The Census of the Federated Malay States: Review of the Census Operations and Results, 1911* (London: Darling & Son Ltd., 1911), pp. 17, 21, 27-47, 81, 95.
- (5) H. Marriott, *Report on the Census of the State of Johore taken on the 10th March, 1911* (Singapore, 1911), pp. 1, 11 (Table III), 12-52 (Table IV).
- (6) A. Cavendish, *Report on the Census of Kedah and Perlis, 1911* (Penang: Criterion Press Ltd., 1911), pp. 5, 28-31.
- (7) J. E. Nathan, *The Census of British Malaya (The Straits Settlements, Federated Malay States and Protected States of Johore, Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan, Trengganu and Brunei), 1921* (London: Waterlow & Sons Limited, 1922), pp. 142, 148 (Table II), 149-150, 155 (Table VI), 161, 164, 180-184.
- (8) C.A. Vlieland, *A Report On The 1931 Census and On Certain Problems of Vital Statistics, British Malaya (The Colony of The Straits Settlements and the Malay States under British Protection, namely The Federated Malay States of Perak, Selangor, Negri Sembilan and Pahang and the States of Johore, Kedah, Kelantan, Trengganu, Perlis and Brunei)*, (London: The Crown Agents for the Colonies, 1932), pp. 31, 38, 120-125.
- (9) M.V. Del Tufo, *A Report on the 1947 Census of Population, Malaya (Comprising Federation of Malaya and the Colony of Singapore)*, (London: The Crown Agents for the Colonies, 1949), pp. 37, 72, 132-133 (Table 2), 568-569, 572-574.
- (10) H. Fell, *1957 Population Census of the Federation of Malaya, Report No. 14* (Kuala Lumpur: Department of Statistics, Federation of Malaya, 1960), pp. 1, 12, 51-52.
- (11) Ramesh Chander, *General Report, 1970 Population Census of Malaysia* (Kuala Lumpur: Department of Statistics Malaysia, 1977), Vol. 2, pp. 21, 105.
- (12) Ramesh Chander, *An Interim Report on the Post Enumeration Survey 1970* (Kuala Lumpur: Department of Statistics Malaysia, 1973), pp. 1, 6.
- (13) Khoo Teik Huat, *General Report of the Population Census, 1980 Population and Housing Census of Malaysia* (Kuala Lumpur: Department of Statistics Malaysia, 1983), Vol. 2, pp. 15, 18-20.
- (14) Khoo Teik Huat, *Report on the Post Enumeration Survey, 1980* (Kuala Lumpur: Department of Statistics Malaysia, 1985), pp. 67-69.
- (15) Khoo Soo Gim, *General Report of the Population Census, 1991 Population and Housing Census of Malaysia* (Kuala Lumpur: Department of Statistics Malaysia, 1995), Vol. 2, pp. xxvii, 7-8, 21-26.
- (16) Khoo Soo Gim, *State Population Report Kedah, Population Census, 1991*, pp. 12-13.
- (17) Khoo Soo Gim, *Evaluation of Coverage and Content Errors of the 1991 Population Census* (Kuala Lumpur: Department of Statistics Malaysia, 1995), p. 43.
- (18) Shaari Abdul Rahman, *Population and Housing Census of Malaysia, 2000: Migration and Population Distribution* (Putrajaya: Department of Statistics Malaysia, 2004), pp. 17-52.
- (19) Shaari Abdul Rahman, *Population Distribution and Basic Demographic Characteristics, 2000 Population and Housing Census of Malaysia* (Putrajaya: Department of Statistics Malaysia, 2001), pp. xx, 8, 11, 14, 17, 20, 23, 26, 29, 32, 41, 44 & 47.

- (20) Wan Ramlah bt Wan Abd. Raof, *Population Distribution and Basic Demographic Characteristics, 2010 Population and Housing Census of Malaysia* (Putrajaya: Department of Statistics Malaysia, 2011), pp. 62-70, 77-79 & 81.
- (21) Abdul Rahman bin Hasan, *Education and Social Characteristics of the Population, 2010 Population and Housing Census of Malaysia* (Putrajaya: Department of Statistics Malaysia, 2013), pp. ii, 73-153, 178-204, 217-225, 575.
- (22) Department of Statistics–Malaysia, *Current Population Estimates (based on 2020 Census), Malaysia 2022* (Putrajaya: Department of Statistics Malaysia, 2022).