



Timor-Leste



Ministeriu Finansas

Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census 2022 Preliminary Results



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November 2022

Timor-Leste
Population and Housing Census 2022
Preliminary Results





2022

Foreword



The 2022 Population and Housing Census is the fourth census to be conducted in Timor-Leste, following the previous censuses conducted in 2015, 2010 and 2004 in the post-independence era. It is the first digital census and also the last one to be conducted at five-year intervals, as the next census will be conducted after 10 years, according to international recommendations. The objective of the 2022 census is to provide up-to-date data on the country's population size and distribution.

This information is important for monitoring the implementation of the Timor-Leste Strategic Development Plan 2011 to 2030 and also provides the country's disaggregated data for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicators.

These results will be used as provisional information until more detailed and final results are released in 2023 and beyond. The main census report is expected in April 2023, to be followed by in-depth census analyses on various themes.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of the census. The implementation led by the GDS under the Ministry of Finance is outstanding. The technical and financial support provided by UNFPA and others that include UNICEF, WFP, UN Women, UNDP and Australian Government Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) through Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is very much appreciated.

It is my sincere hope that these preliminary results and the subsequent final results will be used widely to evaluate current development programmes and also the formulation of future policies.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be "Taur Matan Ruak". The signature is written over a circular official seal of the Prime Minister of Timor-Leste. The seal contains the text "PRIMEIRO-MINISTRO" at the top and "República Democrática de Timor-Leste" at the bottom, with a central emblem.

Taur Matan Ruak
Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste (RDTL)

PREFACE



The 2022 Population and Housing Census was conducted by the General-Directorate of Statistics, from 5th September to 5th October 2022 using tablets in the data collection process. The preliminary report is the first in a series of census reports to be released, and provides summary information on the population by municipality and administrative post as of the night of 4th to the 5th of September, 2022. The results will be used as provisional information until more detailed and final results are released in 2023.

The main census report is expected to be ready in April 2023, to be followed by in-depth census analyses on various themes. The thematic reports will be on fertility and nuptiality, mortality, population projections, migration and urbanization, households and housing conditions, labour force and economic activity, disability, education and literacy, gender, youth, and a census atlas.

I would like to express my gratitude to everyone that was involved in the census process, starting with the Members of Parliament for passing the 2022 Census Law. I would like to especially thank all the members of the Census Technical Committee chaired by the Director General Elias, for an excellent. My special appreciation goes to António Freitas, Vice-Minister of Finance and Elias dos Santos Ferreira, the Director General of GDS for their lead role in successfully implementing the census.

On behalf of Ministry of Finance, I would like to sincerely thank UNFPA for the technical and financial support, as well as to all other UN Agencies, in particular UNICEF, UNDP, UN Women and WFP. The census also greatly benefited from the support of the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The transfer of the data collected would not have been possible without IT support. To this end, I would like to acknowledge the infrastructure provided by Telemor to ease the digital data collection, including servers and tablets.

Lastly, I would like to express my deep appreciation to the staff of GDS for their dedication, discipline and rigor to ensure that the census reaches this major milestone.



Rui Augusto Gomes,
Minister of Finance of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste (RDTL)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



The Directorate General of Statistics (GDS) implemented the 2022 Population and Housing Census which had the slogan “Our census, our future be part of it “.

The census was mainly financed by the Government of Timor-Leste through the Ministry of Finance budget allocation. Other financial support was received from UNFPA and UN Women. Material support, in the form of tablets and power banks, was provided by UNDP, UNICEF and WFP.

I would like to acknowledge the technical support provided by UNFPA throughout the census process. The support by UN Women during the field staff training is also acknowledged.

During the census fieldwork, there was a team of independent international monitors comprising staff from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, whose role was very valuable and timely.

I would like to further express my gratitude to all members of the Census Technical Committee, and the Census Advocacy and Publicity Committee for their invaluable inputs and guidance to GDS during the respective census processes.

Without the hard work done by the census field staff consisting of coordinators, supervisors, enumerators, the people would not have been counted. All personnel tasked with training field staff, including master trainers, deserve a special mention for their contribution.

Finally, we would like to thank each and every member of GDS and the Census Secretariat who continue to work for the success of the 2022 census project. I am grateful to the people of Timor-Leste for their cooperation, without which this exercise could not have been successfully accomplished.



Elias dos Santos Ferreira
Director General, General Directorate of Statistics, Ministry of Finance (RDTL)

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1. Preliminary results

1.1 Population distribution

The 2022 Population and Housing Census recorded a resident population of 1,340,434 persons. Of this population, 678,087 were men, and 662,347 were women. This sex distribution implies a sex ratio of 102.4 men per 100 women.

Table 1 presents the population distribution by sex and by municipality of residence. By far, the largest municipality is Dili, with a population of about 324 thousand persons, followed by Ermera (138 thousand), Baucau (134 thousand) and Bobonaro (107 thousand), each having a population exceeding 100 persons. The smallest population can be found in the country's newest municipality, Atuaro, where only slightly more than 10 thousand people live. Annex I presents the more detailed population distribution by sex, municipality and administrative post.

Except for Lautem, in all municipalities, the number of men is higher than that of women. The sex ratio's across municipalities range from 98 men per 100 women in Lautem to 108 men per 100 women in Manufahi.

Table 1: Population, by sex and sex ratio, by municipality, 2022

Municipality	Sex			Sex ratio
	Male	Female	Total	
Aileu	28,077	26,554	54,631	105.7
Ainaro	37,231	35,758	72,989	104.1
Atauro	5,158	5,144	10,302	100.3
Baucau	67,359	66,522	133,881	101.3
Bobonaro	53,579	52,964	106,543	101.2
Covalima	37,472	36,437	73,909	102.8
Dili	163,978	160,291	324,269	102.3
Ermera	69,893	68,187	138,080	102.5
Lautem	34,647	35,189	69,836	98.5
Liquica	42,361	41,328	83,689	102.5
Manatuto	25,926	25,063	50,989	103.4
Manufahi	31,387	29,149	60,536	107.7
Oecusse	40,794	39,932	80,726	102.2
Viqueque	40,225	39,829	80,054	101
Timor-Leste	678,087	662,347	1,340,434	102.4

1.2 Population trends

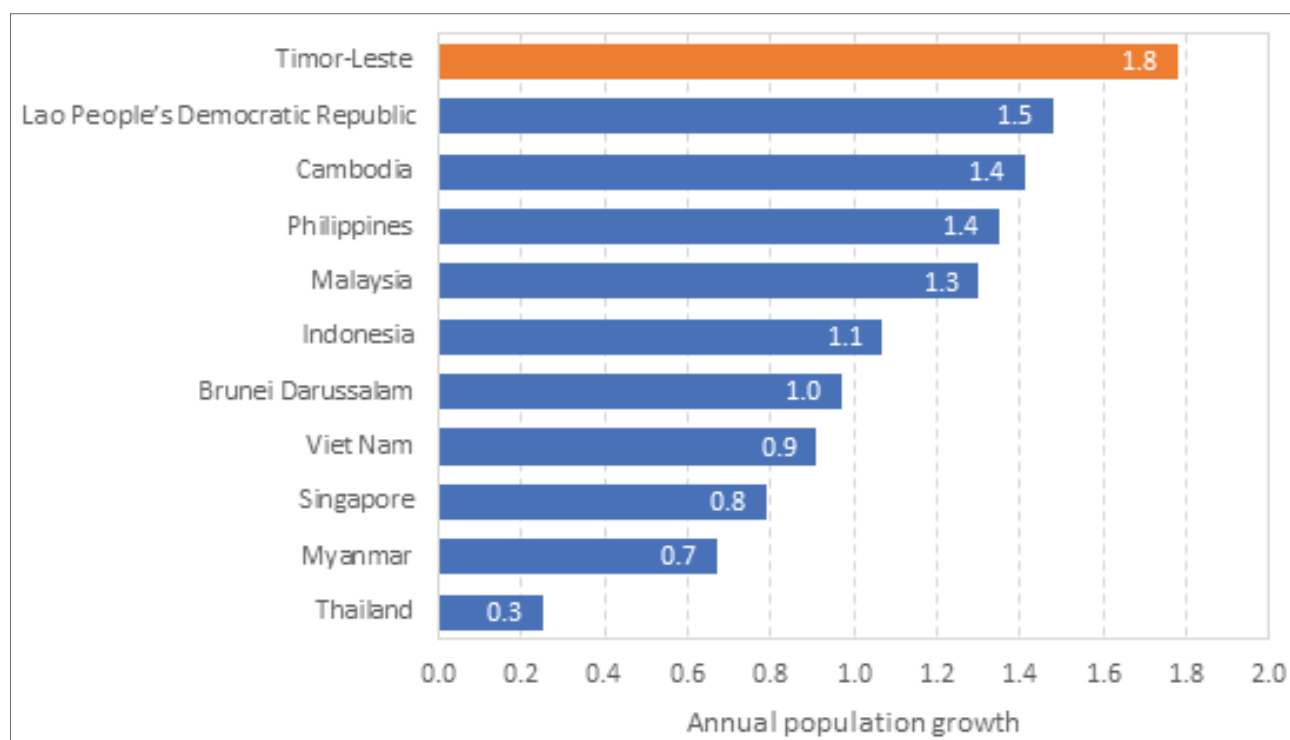
Compared to the 2015 census, when 1,183,643 persons were counted, the 2022 census shows an increase of 156,792 persons. This implies an annual growth rate of 1.8 per cent in the 7 year period between the censuses. This is a decline from the 2.1 per cent growth rate in the inter-census period before 2015 and is a continuation of the downward trend since 2004. Table 2 shows population change indicators between 1980 and 2022.

Table 2: Population Trends, 1980-2022

	1980	1990	2001	2004	2010	2015	2022
Population size	555,350	747,557	787,340	923,198	1,066,409	1,183,643	1,340,434
Population change	-	192,207	39,783	135,858	143,211	117,234	156,791
Average annual increase	-	19,221	3,617	45,286	23,869	23447	22399
Population increase (%)	-	34.6	5.3	17.3	15.5	11	13.3
Average annual growth rate	-	3	0.5	5.3	2.4	2.1	1.8

Among all the countries in Southeast Asia, Timor-Leste has the highest annual population growth (Figure 1).

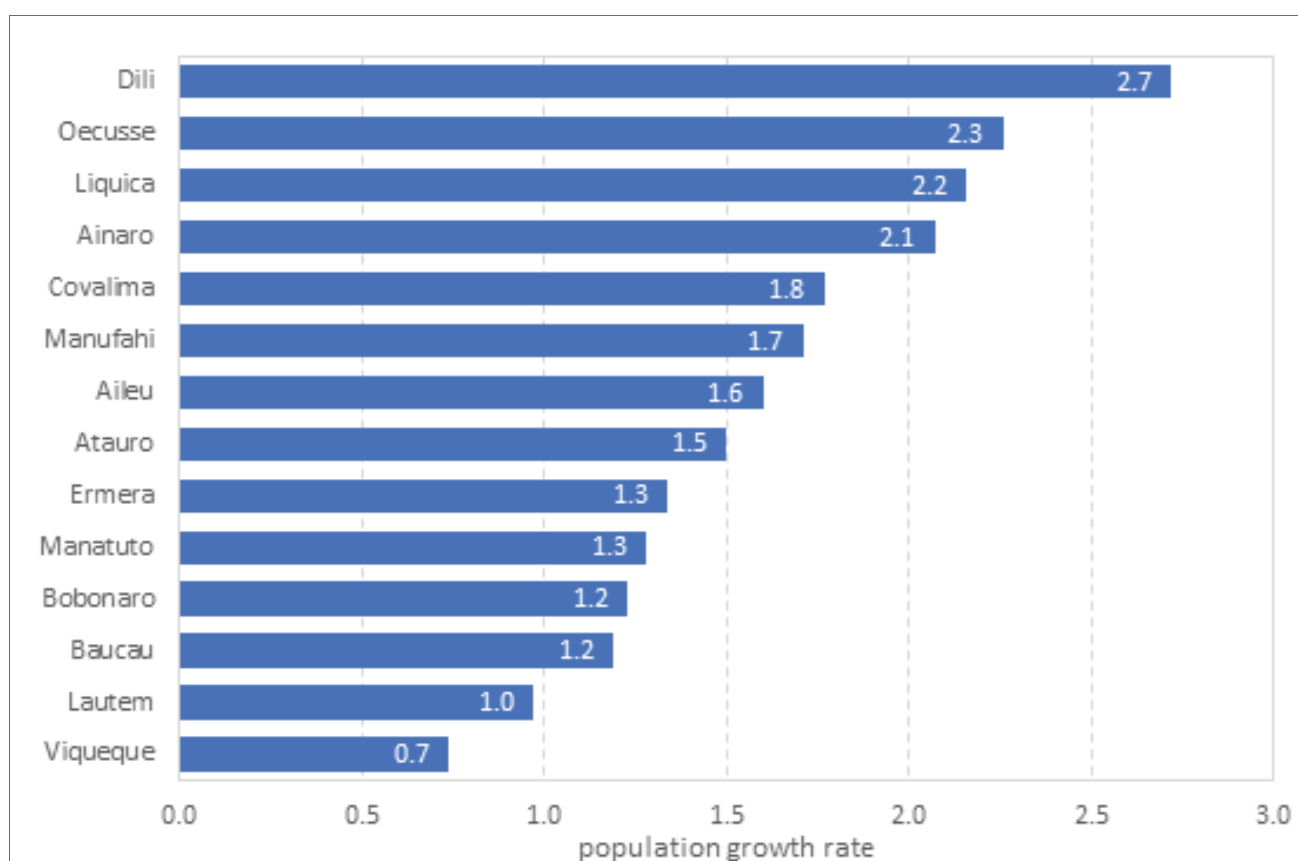
Figure 1: Annual population growth, by country in Southeast Asia



Source : [Population of South-Eastern Asia \(2022\) - Worldometer \(worldometers.info\)](https://www.worldometers.info/population-of-south-eastern-asia/)

Dili has not only the highest population, but is also the municipality with the highest annual growth rate. Between 2015 and 2022, it grew annually on average by 2.7 per cent (Figure 2). This means that at the current rate of growth, the municipality will double in size in less than 25 years. Three other municipalities experiencing annual population growth of more than two per cent are Oecusse (2.3 per cent), Liquica (2.2 per cent) and Ainaro (2.1 per cent). Viqueque has the lowest growth rate, at 0.7 per cent.

Figure 2: Annual population growth, by municipality, 2022



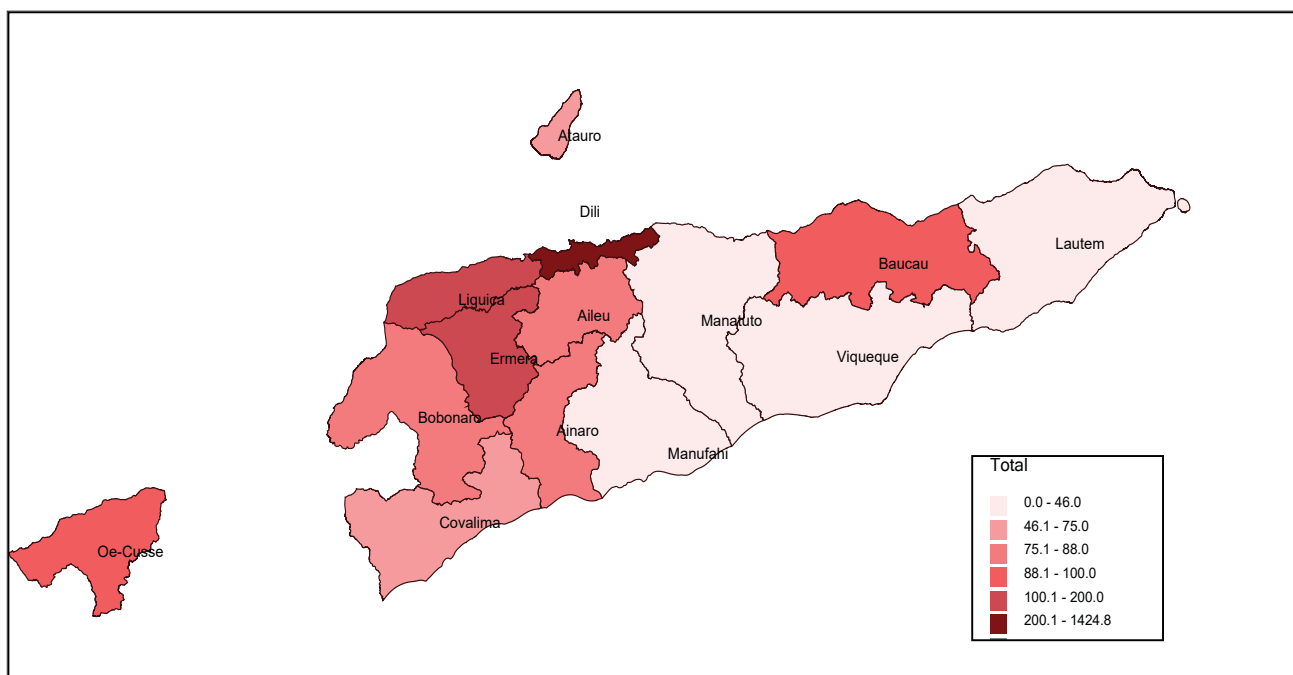
1.3 Population density

With a population of 1.34 million and an area of 14,954 square kilometres, Timor-Leste has a population density of around 90 persons per square kilometre. Table 3 shows the large differences in population density between the various municipalities in the country. The highly urbanized municipality of Dili has a population density of 1,425 persons per square kilometre. In 2015, the population density was 1,177 persons per square kilometre, almost 250 persons less per square kilometre. None of the other municipalities comes close to Dili in terms of their population concentration. Ermera (179), Liquica (152) and Oecusse (99) are the only other municipalities with an above-average population density. Lautem (39) and Manatuto (29) are at the low end of population density.

Table 3 : Population, population percentage, area size and population density and by municipality, 2015 and 2022

Municipality	Population (number)		Population (percent)		Area (sq.km)	Population density	
	2015	2022	2015	2022	2015	2015	2022
Aileu	48,837	54,631	4.1	4.08	676.02	72.2	80.8
Ainaro	63,136	72,989	5.3	5.5	869.79	72.6	83.9
Atauro	9,274	10,302	0.8	0.8	140.5	66	73.3
Baucau	123,203	133,881	10.4	10	1,507.95	81.7	88.8
Bobonaro	97,762	106,543	8.3	8	1,380.82	70.8	77.2
Covalima	65,301	73,909	5.5	5.5	1,206.66	54.1	61.3
Dili	268,005	324,269	22.6	24.2	227.62	1,177.40	1,424.7
Ermera	125,702	138,080	10.6	10.3	770.83	163.1	179.1
Lautem	65,240	69,836	5.5	5.2	1,813.11	36	38.5
Liquica	71,927	83,689	6.1	6.2	550.95	130.6	151.9
Manatuto	46,619	50,989	3.9	3.8	1,785.96	26.1	28.6
Manufahi	53,691	60,536	4.5	4.5	1,326.60	40.5	45.6
Oecusse	68,913	80,726	5.8	6	817.23	84.3	98.8
Viqueque	76,033	80,054	6.4	6	1,880.39	40.4	42.6
Timor-Leste	1,183,643	1,340,434	100	100	14,954.43	79.2	89.6

Figure 3: Population Density by municipality, 2022

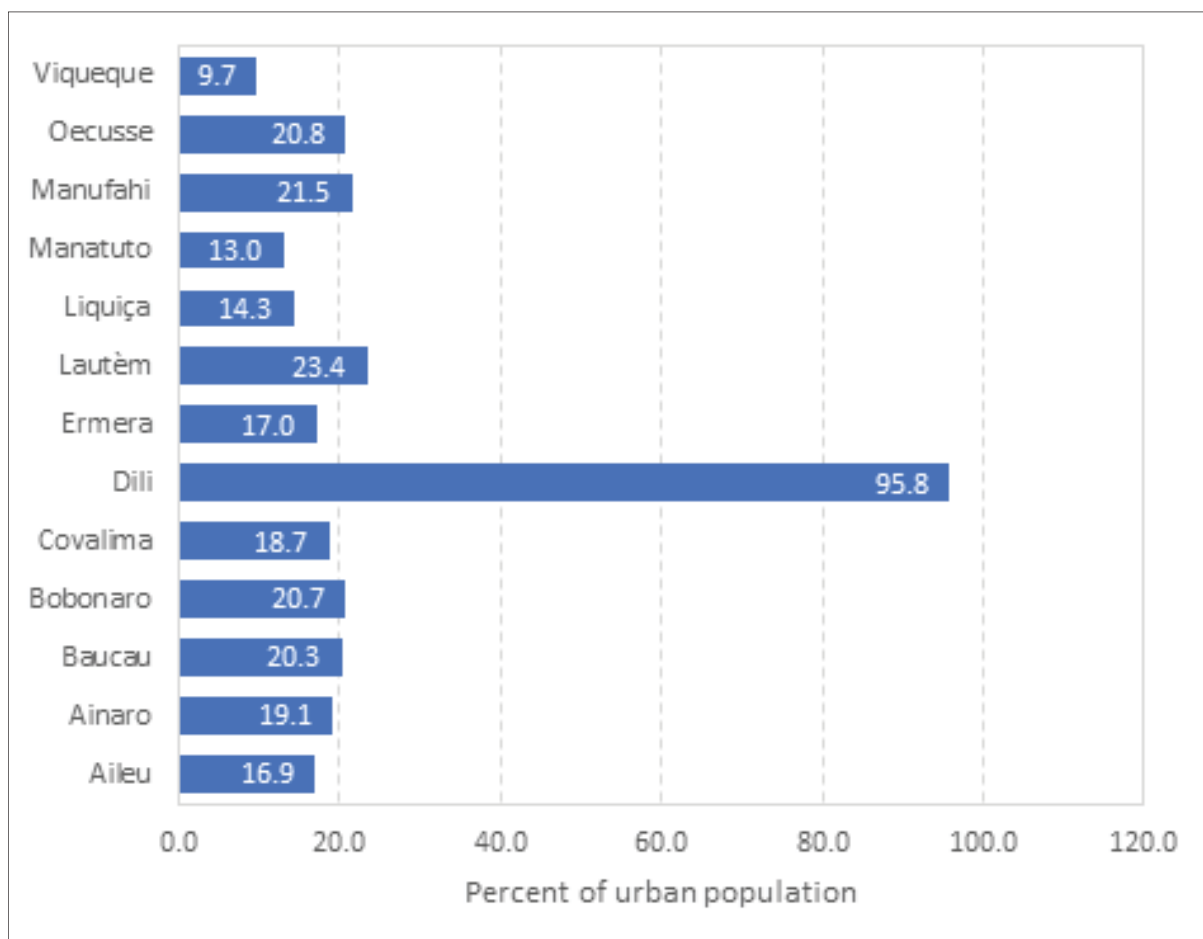


1.4 Urban-rural distribution

According to the 2022 census, 492,752 persons were living in urban areas and 847,682 in rural areas. The urban population constitutes 36.8 per cent of the total population of Timor-Leste. The most urbanized municipality is Dili, where 95.8 per cent of the population lives in urban areas. All the other municipalities are predominantly rural. The recently created municipality of Atauro is completely rural.

Annex II presents the urban-rural population distribution. Annex III gives an overview of the administrative posts in which urban areas are situated. The administrative post with the largest number of urban population is Dom Aleixo in Dili, where 166 thousand persons live. After Dili, Bacau, Lospalos, Pante Macassar and Maliana are other major urban centres, although the difference in population size between Dili and other towns is very large.

Figure 4: Percentage of population in urban areas, by municipality, 2022

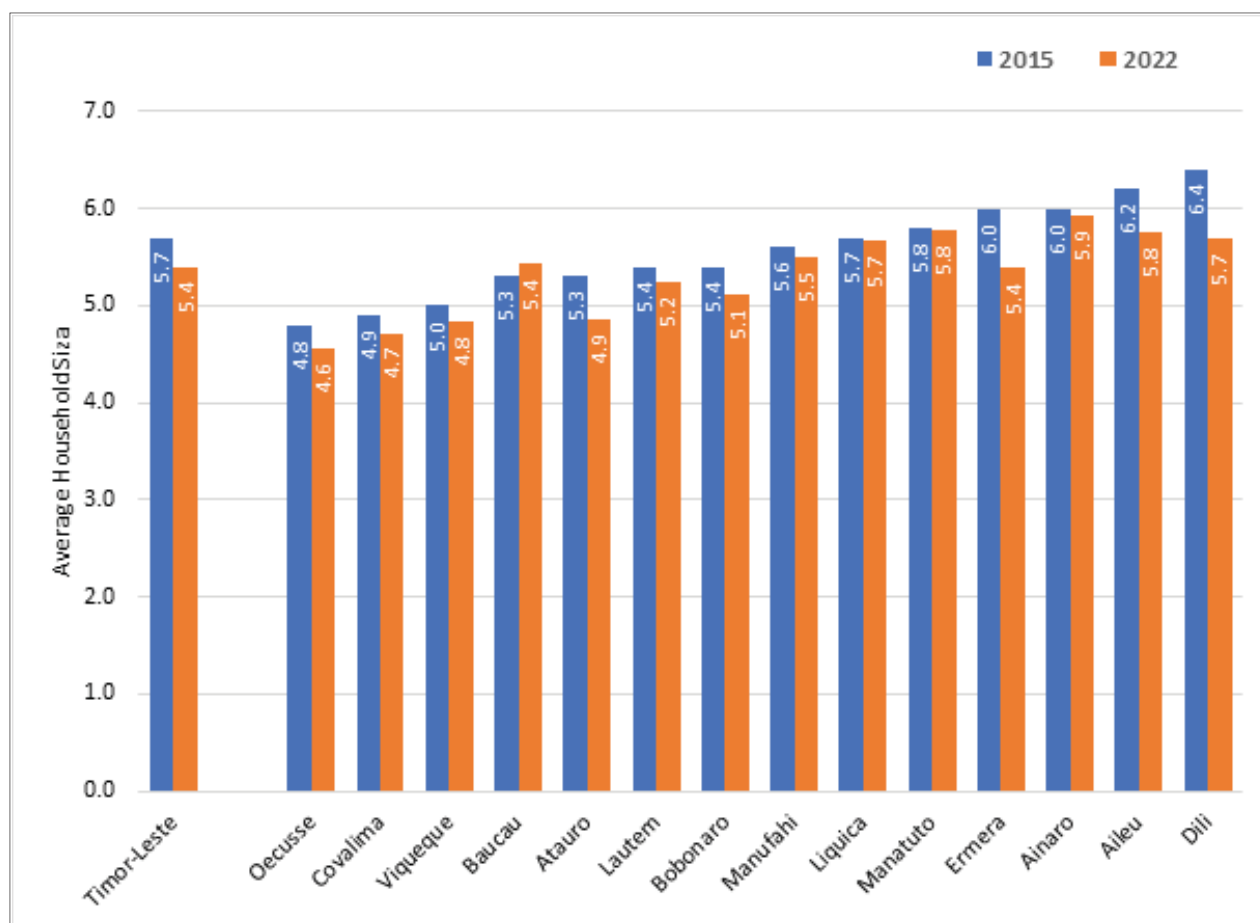


1.5 Household size

In the census, 1,340,434 persons were enumerated in 250,034 households. This implies an average household size of 5.4 persons. This number is slightly lower than in the census of 2015 when the average household size was 5.7. Annex I shows the number of households enumerated during the census by municipality and administrative post.

Most municipalities have seen a small decrease in the average number of persons per household (Figure 5). The exception is Dili, where the household size between the censuses dropped from 6.4 to 5.7 persons per household.

Figure 5: Average household size, by municipality, 2015 and 2022



2. Census methodology and implementation

The complete census methodology and production process will be described in detail in the report with the final census results scheduled for April 2023. This will allow census users to better understand and interpret the presented data. The description in this report with preliminary results is limited to only a few key features of the 2022 census.

The census information presents a snapshot of the population situation at one specific moment in time: midnight of the night from 4 to 5 October 2022 (the census moment). The census covered the entire population that is usually resident in the territory of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste. As the census was a combined population and housing census, it also gathered information on the housing stock in the country.

One main difference compared to previous censuses is the change from a 'de-facto' enumeration (in which the population is enumerated in the place where they were at the time of the census) to a 'de-jure' enumeration (in which the population is enumerated in the place of usual residence). A de-jure enumeration produces more-relevant information for planning and policy-making, and better captures information on family composition and migration. The change is also in line with an international trend toward de-jure enumeration.

A second main difference with previous censuses is the use of tablets and digital questionnaires for data capture. The use of digital questionnaires greatly reduces the errors produced in the census process and, therefore, significantly improves the quality of the census results. The census questionnaire application integrated a digital map that allowed field workers to easily navigate their assigned areas and strongly reduced the number of omissions, double counts and enumerations in a wrong location. In addition, the digital data capture allowed almost real-time monitoring of progress in and quality of the fieldwork.

In preparation for the census, the entire country was delineated into 2,384 enumeration areas. An inventory of all buildings in the country was produced, using geographic information system (GIS) techniques and procedures. The use of GPS coordinates during fieldwork enabled assessment of the extent to which enumeration was done in the correct locations. Another key element of the census preparation consisted of the development of the census questionnaire. This was done in consultation with key stakeholders, including line ministries, international agencies, development partners and academia. The final questionnaire was the result of balancing information needs, comparability with previous censuses, international census recommendations, interview burden, and budget and capacity limitations. The census instrument was tested several times and in a pilot census, the results of which allowed further improvements.

In the lead-up time to the census, an extensive publicity campaign was implemented to create awareness among the population and promote participation in the census. In the month prior to the census, a training programme was implemented, following a cascade approach. Key staff of GDS trained 26 master trainers, who subsequently trained 200 trainers, who in turn trained 2,345 enumerators and 623 supervisors. The trainings lasted 8 days each and covered general census principles, enumeration procedures, the census questionnaire, tablet and census application operations, as well as gender sensitisation in the census work.

The census enumeration period was from 5 September to 5 October 2022. Monitoring the fieldwork was done by the census field supervisors, GDS staff international observers and UNFPA staff, and through an application that allowed monitoring progress and quality of the enumeration on the basis of daily uploads of enumeration results. The enumeration of most areas was completed on time. For the remaining areas, additional efforts were made to capture missing information as soon as possible after the enumeration period. A census sweeping exercise was conducted from 19 to 28 October, 2022.

One month after the official end of the census enumeration period, a Post Enumeration Survey (PES) enumeration commenced in 149 enumeration areas, to assess the coverage and content quality of the census.

In parallel, data processing activities will be implemented to check and edit the census data before starting the production of basic census tables, which will be released in April 2023. Further publications in later stages will provide additional tables and in-depth thematic analyses.

ANNEX

Annex I: Households, by municipality, administrative post; population, by sex, and by municipality, administrative post, 2022

Municipality, administrative post		Households	Population		
			Total	Male	Female
Timor-Leste		250,034	1,340,434	678,087	662,347
Aileu	Aileu Vila	4,738	26,471	13,660	12,811
	Laulara	1,125	7,028	3,583	3,445
	Lequidoe	1,400	7,795	4,005	3,790
	Remexio	2,225	13,337	6,829	6,508
Ainaro	Ainaro	3,124	17,685	8,985	8,700
	Hato-Udo	2,195	11,615	5,947	5,668
	Hato-Builico	2,374	15,090	7,700	7,390
	Maubisse	4,614	28,599	14,599	14,000
Atauro	Atauro	2,119	10,302	5,158	5,144
Baucau	Baguia	2,177	11,725	5,887	5,838
	Baucau	9,840	54,430	27,351	27,079
	Laga	3,570	19,727	9,913	9,814
	Quelicaí	3,735	18,349	9,185	9,164
	Vemasse	1,955	11,203	5,709	5,494
	Venilale	3,400	18,447	9,314	9,133
Bobonaro	Atabae	2,442	12,942	6,671	6,271
	Balibo	3,994	17,600	8,969	8,631
	Bobonaro	4,601	25,376	12,548	12,828
	Cailaco	2,107	10,347	5,246	5,101
	Lolotoe	1,591	7,695	3,813	3,882
	Maliana	6,067	32,583	16,332	16,251
Covalima	Fatululic	473	2,187	1,094	1,093
	Fatumean	845	3,650	1,853	1,797
	Fohorem	1,082	4,579	2,311	2,268
	Maucatar	2,120	10,802	5,488	5,314
	Suai	5,384	26,565	13,411	13,154
	Tilomar	2,144	9,967	5,079	4,888
	Zumalai	3,643	16,159	8,236	7,923
Dili	Cristo Rei	12,807	76,412	38,708	37,704
	Dom Aleixo	29,867	165,522	83,872	81,650
	Metinaro	1,251	7,180	3,688	3,492
	Nain Feto	5,973	33,425	16,772	16,653
	Vera Cruz	7,187	41,730	20,938	20,792

Annex I: continue

Municipality, administrative post		Households	Population		
			Total	Male	Female
Ermera	Atsabe	4,117	20,190	10,087	10,103
	Ermera	7,038	40,298	20,212	20,086
	Hatulia A	3,655	20,305	10,333	9,972
	Hatulia B	3,512	21,537	10,859	10,678
	Letefoho	4,939	22,050	11,385	10,665
	Railaco	2,385	13,700	7,017	6,683
Lautém	Iliomar	1,628	6,528	3,175	3,353
	Lautem	3,308	17,714	8,847	8,867
	Lospalos	5,620	29,925	14,845	15,080
	Luro	1,414	8,376	4,260	4,116
	Lore	649	3,631	1,733	1,898
	Tutuála	706	3,662	1,787	1,875
Liquiça	Bazartete	5,608	33,517	16,999	16,518
	Liquica	4,823	26,397	13,309	13,088
	Maubara	4,355	23,775	12,053	11,722
Manatuto	Barique	1,186	6,166	3,192	2,974
	Laclo	1,614	9,862	5,022	4,840
	Laclubar	1,946	12,177	6,096	6,081
	Laleia	855	4,184	2,113	2,071
	Manatuto	2,714	15,222	7,771	7,451
	Soibada	512	3,378	1,732	1,646
Manufahi	Alas	1,624	9,547	5,014	4,533
	Fatuberlio	1,487	8,498	4,437	4,061
	Same	6,536	34,885	17,997	16,888
	Turiscái	1,366	7,606	3,939	3,667
Oe-Cusse	Nitibe	2,929	13,508	6,792	6,716
	Oesilo	2,862	12,608	6,343	6,265
	Pante Macassar	9,964	45,433	23,004	22,429
	Passabe	1,976	9,177	4,655	4,522
Viqueque	Lacluta	1,493	6,683	3,447	3,236
	Ossu	3,824	18,607	9,330	9,277
	Uato-Lari	4,094	18,545	9,178	9,367
	Uatucarbau	1,489	7,897	3,931	3,966
	Viqueque	5,637	28,322	14,339	13,983

Annex II: Population, by sex, and by urban/rural location, municipality, 2022

Urban/rural location, municipality	Sex		Total
	Male	Female	
Timor-Leste	698,704	682,771	1,340,434
Urban	269,608	264,185	492,752
Aileu	25,305	24,975	9,239
Ainaro	7,055	6,863	13,918
Baucau	13,562	13,561	27,123
Bobonaro	11,118	10,967	22,085
Covalima	6,964	6,858	13,822
Dili	156,957	153,605	310,562
Ermera	11,813	11,708	23,521
Lautèm	8,065	8,261	16,326
Liquiça	6,070	5,867	11,937
Manatuto	3,420	3,207	6,627
Manufahi	6,728	6,266	12,994
Oecusse	8,567	8,232	16,799
Viqueque	3,984	3,815	7,799
Rural	429,096	418,586	847,682
Aileu	23,389	22,003	45,392
Ainaro	30,176	28,895	59,071
Atauro	5,158	5,144	10,302
Baucau	53,797	52,961	106,758
Bobonaro	42,461	41,997	84,458
Covalima	30,508	29,579	60,087
Dili	7,021	6,686	13,707
Ermera	58,080	56,479	114,559
Lautèm	26,582	26,928	53,510
Liquiça	36,291	35,461	71,752
Manatuto	22,506	21,856	44,362
Manufahi	24,659	22,883	47,542
Oecusse	32,227	31,700	63,927
Viqueque	36,241	36,014	72,255

Annex III: Households in urban areas, by municipality, administrative post; population, by sex, and by municipality, administrative post, 2022

Municipality, administrative post		Households	Population		
			Total	Male	Female
Timor Leste		88,273	492,752	248,991	243,761
Aileu	Aileu Vila	1,754	9,239	4,688	4,551
Ainaro	Ainaro	1,141	6,679	3,367	3,312
	Maubisse	1,159	7,239	3,688	3,551
Baucau	Baucau	4,929	27,123	13,562	13,561
Bobonaro	Maliana	3,923	22,085	11,118	10,967
Covalima	Maucatar	640	3,037	1,545	1,492
	Suai	2,086	10,785	5,419	5,366
Dili	Cristo Rei	12,500	74,590	37,768	36,822
	Dom Aleixo	29,867	165,522	83,872	81,650
	Nain Feto	5,852	32,774	16,454	16,320
	Vera Cruz	6,469	37,676	18,863	18,813
Ermera	Ermera	3,409	20,828	10,466	10,362
	Railaco	538	2,693	1,347	1,346
Lautém	Lospalos	3,052	16,326	8,065	8,261
Liquiça	Liquica	2,250	11,937	6,070	5,867
Manatuto	Manatuto	1,263	6,627	3,420	3,207
Manufahi	Same	2,372	12,994	6,728	6,266
Oe-Cusse	Pante Macassar	3,556	16,799	8,567	8,232
Viqueque	Viqueque	1,513	7,799	3,984	3,815

SENSUS POPULASAUN NO UMA-KAIN TIMOR-LESTE



2022

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