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1,008,175,288 — that's latest census figure

BEIJING (AP) — China says its latest census came up with a count of 1,008,175,288 people — an increase of more than 313 million in 18 years.

The third national census, released by the Xinhua news agency, shows China's mainland population as of July 1 rose by 313,593,529 people in the 18 years since the last census.

The average annual increase was 17,421,863 for an annual growth rate of 2.1 per cent.

The census gave an overall figure of 1,031,882,511 people by including the populations of Taiwan, the Quemoy and Matsu islands held by Taiwan, Hongkong and Macau, all Chinese territories.

Population in these areas totals 23,707,223.

The figures show males on the mainland number 519,433,369 or 51.5 per cent, and females total 488,741,919 or 48.5 per cent. The ratio of males to females is 106.3 to 100.

The census, intended for national planning purposes, gauges population of urban and rural areas, nationalities, educational levels, birth and mortality rates and population distribution.

The communique said 206,588,582 people live in cities and towns, up 79,485,541 from the 1964 census. The percentage of people living in cities and towns has increased from 18.4 per cent to 20.6 per cent.

Shanghai has a population of 11,859,748, including 5,538,876 in the suburbs. The population of Beijing is 9,230,687, including 3,632,715 in the suburbs. The country's third-largest city, Tianjin, has 7,764,141 people,

including 2,621,576 in the suburbs.

Seven of the 26 provinces and regions have populations exceeding 50 million. Sichuan, the most populous, has 99,713,310 people. Henan followed with 74,422,739 and Shandong with 74,419,054.

The Xinhua dispatch said a post-enumeration check by sampling showed the tabulation work was of a high standard. The check showed an overcount of 0.71 per thousand and an undercount 0.56 per thousand, with a net overcount of 0.15 per thousand.

The figures released were counted manually, and all data will be processed by computer. More precise figures will be released later.

China's first modern census began on July 1 and lasted 10 days. It involved 4 million census enumerators, 1 million supervisors, 4,000 data entry workers, 100,000 coders and 1,000 computer technicians.

The census staff was more than 12 times the number drafted to build the Great Wall of China. It was larger than China's army, navy and air force.

The census reported 4.23 million people are in the armed forces.

The data will be used to help China judge the success of birth control programmes and help plan housing, educational services, medical care, employment and other social services.

The census communique said China accepted the population figures published by Taiwan, Quemoy, Matsu, Hongkong and Macau.

The census counted citizens of the People's Republic of China, not overseas Chinese.

The Han Chinese population is 936,703,824, accounting for 93.3 per cent of the total. The

minority population is 67,233,254.

Compared with the 1964 census, the Han nationality has increased by 285,407,456 or 43.8 per cent. The minority nationalities have increased by 27,309,518 or 68.4 per cent.

On the mainland 4,414,495 are university graduates and 1,602,474 are university students. China has 66,478,028 people with a senior high school education and 178,277,140 with a middle school education. China has 355,160,310 people with a primary school education.

People considered illiterate or semi-literate total 235,820,002. Compared with the last census, illiteracy dropped from 38.1 per cent to 23.5 per cent of the population.

There were 20,689,704 births on the mainland in 1981, with a birthrate of 20.91 per thousand. The number of deaths in 1981 was 6,290,103, with a mortality rate of 6.36 per thousand. The natural increase in population was 14,399,601, a rate of 14.55 per thousand.

Li Chengrui, deputy head of the state council's census staff, said the mainland population is consistent with past statistics. The population figure for the end of 1981 published by the state statistical bureau was 996.22 million.

The census figures announced yesterday were tabulated manually and more detailed figures will be released later after computer processing. Later information will include age, occupation, status of nonworking people, marital status, births per woman of child-bearing age.

Census takers conducted individual interviews and started one month earlier in

inaccessible areas such as Tibet, Xinjiang and Inner Mongolia. Sometimes they travelled by horse, donkey or camel.

There are the figures released: Beijing 9,230,687; Tianjin 7,764,141; Hebei province 53,005,875; Shanxi province 25,291,389; Inner Mongolia 19,274,279; Liaoning province 35,721,693; Jilin province 22,560,053; Heilongjiang province 32,665,546; Shanghai 11,859,748; Jiangsu province 60,521,114; Zhejiang province 38,884,603; Anhui province 49,665,724; Fujian province 25,931,106; Jiangxi province 33,184,827; Shandong province 74,419,054; Henan province 74,422,739; Hubei province 47,804,150; Hunan province 54,008,851; Guangdong province 59,299,220; Guangxi region 36,420,960; Sichuan province 99,713,310; Guizhou province 28,552,997; Yunnan province 32,553,817; Tibet region 1,892,393; Shaanxi province 28,904,423; Gansu province 19,569,261; Qinghai province 3,895,706; Ningxia region 3,895,578; Xinjiang region 13,081,681; Armed Forces 4,238,210.

Also listed were figures for territory claims by Beijing.

Taiwan province 18,270,749.

Hongkong and Macau 5,378,627; Armed Forces 4,238,210.

The population of Jinment, Matsu and other islands 57,847.

The figures do not include the Dongsha and Nansha islands, which are claimed by Vietnam.