



2015 POPULATION and HOUSING **CENSUS**

Preliminary Report

National Statistics Office, MFED

Bairiki, Tarawa

Date: 8 March, 2016

Introduction

This report presents the preliminary results of the Kiribati 2015 Population Census. The data shown here includes population by island, by village and by gender and also the number of households by island and by village. The 2015 Population and Housing Census was conducted from the 7th to 21st November 2015 (but the Census reference date is the 7th November 2015). The 2010 Census figures are also shown for comparison purposes. Although the intention was to enumerate all islands at the same time, this was not possible because of transportation problem, especially in the case of the Tabuaeran and Teraina, and Kanton islands. The figures presented here come from the ACCESS database which was used to enter the census information when they first arrived—this initial data capture is very limited in scope because the idea is to have a program that can produce census summary data at a very early stage and also to have some means of verifying the census questionnaires before they are actually entered in CSPRO for in-depth tabulation and analysis purposes.

Like previous censuses, this population census faced a number of problems and one of them is the funding issue. Basically there was uncertainty in the funding at various stages of the census project which almost prompted a total cancellation of the population census at one stage. The uncertainty of the funding and the mix signals from the higher authorities- and some donors placed heavy burden on the census management but the government decision to continue with the census prevailed and I would like to thank those behind the decision and those who have shown keen support for this 2015 census project.

I acknowledge donors who have contributed to the 2015 population census project—in kind or in cash, in particular United Nation Funds for Population Activities and the Government of Australia. I take this opportunity to thank all the census field staff (supervisors and enumerators) for their hard work and support to this census project. I want also to acknowledge the hard work of my census team as well as the census committee members who continue to steer and guide the census project as it moves through different stages. I sincerely hope that people reading this preliminary report find the data useful for their purposes. We hope to produce more detailed census data later this year.

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Orebwa Morate

Census Commissioner

8 March 2015

Main Findings

The total population according to the 2015 population census is 109,693—an increase of 6,635 persons over the last 2010 census total of 103,058. This is equivalent to a growth rate of 1.24% per annum¹. This is lower than the previous growth rate of 2.2% obtained from the 2010 population census. We cannot tell at this stage why the growth rate has declined because the final processing has not been made and no analysis has been done yet but this decline is interesting because it has important implications and consequences. An attempt is made however at the end of this report to show the vital (or population) statistics collected from other sources in order to see whether the recent downward trend of the population growth rate is consistent with other evidences. However it is important to stress here that a proper analysis is needed to see and understand what is actually happening to the population dynamics within the last couple of years—but this may require a technical assistance of several weeks.

A quick look at the census data however shows that several outer islands population are levelling off or even declining (e.g. Butaritari, Marakei, Onotoa, Arorae, Maiana and Banaba). On the other hand, population growth on S Tarawa continues to increase (from 50,182 in 2010 to 56,307 in 2015) as well as in the Line islands (for example, Christmas island population increased from 5,586 to 6,356 in 2015). But these are what we are expecting given the ongoing urbanisation or urban drift in the country, i.e. people continually leaving their home islands to find paid jobs on S Tarawa or to be closer to schools or hospitals. The challenge therefore is how to stop or even reverse this trend.

It is important to note also that some islands in the past censuses “deliberately” encouraged people from South Tarawa and “other islands” to return before the census enumeration in order to be counted on their home island. The actual reason for this “return to their home island”, before the census enumeration, is not known however some people believe that the motive was to increase their population in order to increase the number of Parliament members from that island. Some also said that the increase in population will also increase the government financial assistance to that island—hence the reason for calling back their people to be counted on their island. But it is known also that on some islands the significant increase was due to “genuine” reasons such as a conference or summit held on the island or a national competition. Whatever the reason, the fact is that there will be distortions or outliers in the census data in the subsequent censuses—some may go up while some may go down depending on how people move or behave in subsequent censuses.

The gender balance is still in favour of women with a total of 55,541 against male population of 54,152.

¹ $r = \frac{\ln \frac{P_{new}}{P_{old}}}{t}$, where r refers to growth rate, P_{new} represents the current(new) population, P_{old} refers to previous population and t refers to the interval period of 5 years

Table 1. Kiribati Population by Island, 2010 & 2015 Census

| | 2010 | | 2015 | | Population Change | |
|---------------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Island | No. of Household | No. of people | No. of Household | No. of people | Intercensal Change | Annual Growth rate |
| Total | 16043 | 103,058 | 17,665 | 109,693 | 6,635 | 1.25 |
| Banaba | 57 | 295 | 67 | 280 | -15 | -1.04 |
| Makin | 347 | 1,798 | 351 | 1990 | 192 | 2.03 |
| Butaritari | 630 | 4,346 | 626 | 3224 | -1122 | -5.97 |
| Marakei | 492 | 2,872 | 500 | 2799 | -73 | -0.51 |
| Abaiang | 926 | 5,502 | 1,001 | 5,568 | 66 | 0.24 |
| NTarawa | 1,002 | 6,102 | 1,130 | 6,318 | 216 | 0.70 |
| STarawa | 6705 | 50,182 | 7,880 | 56,307 | 6125 | 2.30 |
| Maiana | 383 | 2,027 | 399 | 1,981 | -46 | -0.46 |
| Kuria | 190 | 980 | 217 | 1,043 | -2170 | 1.25 |
| Aranuka | 214 | 1057 | 239 | 1,124 | 144 | 1.23 |
| Abemama | 583 | 3213 | 611 | 3,299 | 2242 | 0.53 |
| Nonouti | 508 | 2,683 | 402 | 2,744 | 61 | 0.45 |
| TabNorth | 682 | 3,689 | 706 | 3,956 | 267 | 1.40 |
| TabSouth | 249 | 1,290 | 253 | 1,304 | 14 | 0.22 |
| Onotoa | 332 | 2,099 | 324 | 1,392 | -707 | -8.21 |
| Beru | 449 | 1,907 | 459 | 2,051 | 144 | 1.46 |
| Nikunau | 365 | 1,519 | 358 | 1,791 | 272 | 3.29 |
| Tamana | 202 | 951 | 193 | 1,106 | 155 | 3.02 |
| Arorae | 238 | 1,279 | 217 | 1,011 | -268 | -4.70 |
| LINE & PHEONIX | | | | | | |
| Teraina | 278 | 1,690 | 292 | 1,712 | 22 | 0.26 |
| Tabuaeran | 348 | 1,960 | 418 | 2,317 | 357 | 3.35 |
| Kiritimati | 857 | 5,586 | 1,016 | 6,356 | 770 | 2.58 |
| Kanton | 6 | 31 | 6 | 20 | -11 | -8.77 |

SOURCE: Combine Database 2015 Census (MS Access), 2010 Kiribati Census Report

FOOTNOTES:

- Intercensal Change was calculated by taking the difference between 2010 population with 2015 preliminary population.
- Growth rate was computed using the exponential formula,

$$r = \frac{\ln \frac{P_{new}}{P_{old}}}{t}$$
 where r refers to growth rate, P_{new} represents the current(new) population, P_{old} refers to previous population and t refers to the interval period of 5 years

Table 2. Population by Village and Gender, and Household by Village, 2010 and 2015 Census

| Island | Village | 2010 Household | 2015 Household | 2010 Population | 2015 Population | Female | Male |
|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
| All Islands | | 16,043 | 17,665 | 103,058 | 109,693 | 55,541 | 54,152 |
| BANABA | | 57 | 67 | 295 | 280 | 126 | 154 |
| | Tabwewa | 9 | 28 | 57 | 114 | 52 | 62 |
| | Umwa | 29 | 39 | 155 | 166 | 74 | 92 |
| | Antereen | 19 | | 83 | | | |
| MAKIN | | 347 | 351 | 1,798 | 1,990 | 971 | 1,019 |
| | Makin | 271 | 270 | 1364 | 1536 | 745 | 791 |
| | Kiebu | 76 | 81 | 434 | 454 | 226 | 228 |
| BUTARITARI | | 630 | 626 | 4,346 | 3,224 | 1,642 | 1,582 |
| | Antekana | 40 | 39 | 217 | 189 | 97 | 92 |
| | Bikati | 40 | 53 | 225 | 257 | 133 | 124 |
| | Keuea | 45 | 40 | 258 | 202 | 113 | 89 |
| | Kuuma | 66 | 59 | 323 | 290 | 153 | 137 |
| | Onomaru | 64 | 54 | 366 | 280 | 134 | 146 |
| | Tabonuea | 46 | 47 | 271 | 252 | 125 | 127 |
| | Tanimaiaki | 53 | 60 | 267 | 328 | 167 | 161 |
| | Tanimainiku | 38 | 42 | 248 | 216 | 101 | 115 |
| | Taubukinmeang | 46 | 49 | 835 | 235 | 114 | 121 |
| | Temwanokunuea | 67 | 76 | 621 | 396 | 211 | 185 |
| | Ukiangang | 123 | 107 | 707 | 579 | 294 | 285 |
| | Tikurere | 2 | | 8 | | | |
| MARAKEI | | 492 | 500 | 2,872 | 2,799 | 1,407 | 1,392 |
| | Antaai | 29 | 27 | 163 | 164 | 81 | 83 |
| | Bainura | 48 | 40 | 310 | 279 | 144 | 135 |
| | Norauea | 56 | 54 | 321 | 321 | 162 | 159 |
| | Rawannawi | 179 | 189 | 1000 | 1032 | 521 | 511 |
| | Raweai/Buota | 54 | 54 | 339 | 294 | 145 | 149 |
| | Tekarakan | 57 | 65 | 358 | 359 | 183 | 176 |
| | Tekuanga | 38 | 41 | 217 | 195 | 100 | 95 |
| | Temotu | 31 | 30 | 164 | 155 | 71 | 84 |

SOURCE: Combine Database 2015 Census (MS Access), 2010 Kiribati Census Report

| Island | Village | 2010 Household | 2015 Household | 2010 Population | 2015 Population | Female | Male |
|-------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|
| ABAIANG | | 926 | 1,001 | 5,502 | 5,568 | 2,809 | 2,759 |
| | Aoneaba | 8 | 7 | 51 | 29 | 16 | 13 |
| | Aonobuaka | 53 | 88 | 328 | 473 | 239 | 234 |
| | Borotiam | 61 | 63 | 375 | 375 | 182 | 193 |
| | Evena | 32 | 37 | 166 | 216 | 119 | 97 |
| | Koinawa | 53 | 91 | 312 | 415 | 208 | 207 |
| | Morikao | 37 | 8 | 233 | 67 | 39 | 28 |
| | morikao SWHS | | | | 37 | 21 | 16 |
| | Nuotaea | 85 | 88 | 559 | 510 | 256 | 254 |
| | Ribono | 54 | 70 | 341 | 411 | 202 | 209 |
| | Tabontebike | 67 | 54 | 379 | 255 | 132 | 123 |
| | Taburao | 51 | 48 | 322 | 268 | 128 | 140 |
| | Tabwiroa | 32 | 26 | 237 | 240 | 113 | 127 |
| | Takarano | 62 | 67 | 348 | 310 | 158 | 152 |
| | Tanimaiaki | 45 | 60 | 274 | 354 | 191 | 163 |
| | Tebero | 30 | 27 | 157 | 158 | 77 | 81 |
| | Tebunginako | 70 | 85 | 424 | 461 | 236 | 225 |
| | Tebwanga | 64 | 61 | 310 | 333 | 159 | 174 |
| | Tuarabu | 98 | 98 | 560 | 537 | 266 | 271 |
| | Ubanteman | 24 | 23 | 126 | 119 | 67 | 52 |
| NORTH TARAWA | | 1,002 | 1,130 | 6,102 | 6,318 | 3,180 | 3,138 |
| | Abaokoro | 40 | 48 | 262 | 289 | 148 | 141 |
| | Abatao | 75 | 58 | 499 | 351 | 171 | 180 |
| | Buariki | 116 | 152 | 703 | 752 | 361 | 391 |
| | Buota | 225 | 292 | 1469 | 1871 | 947 | 924 |
| | Kainaba | 54 | 68 | 266 | 299 | 141 | 158 |
| | Marenanuka | 17 | 29 | 101 | 161 | 88 | 73 |
| | Nabeina | 71 | 76 | 435 | 441 | 220 | 221 |
| | Nooto | 114 | 108 | 814 | 595 | 294 | 301 |
| | Nuatabu | 40 | 46 | 197 | 249 | 138 | 111 |
| | Tabiteuea | 90 | 98 | 505 | 524 | 270 | 254 |
| | Tabonibara | 67 | 65 | 363 | 296 | 151 | 145 |
| | Tebwangaroi | 7 | 4 | 40 | 20 | 10 | 10 |
| | Taratai | 30 | 33 | 151 | 184 | 94 | 90 |
| | Tearinibai | 57 | 53 | 297 | 277 | 147 | 130 |

SOURCE: Combine Database 2015 Census (MS Access), 2010 Kiribati Census Report

| Island | Village | 2010 Household | 2015 Household | 2010 Population | 2015 Population | Female | Male |
|----------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
| STARAWA | | 6,705 | 7,880 | 50,182 | 56,307 | 29,001 | 27,306 |
| | Abarao | 242 | 263 | 1665 | 1762 | 941 | 821 |
| | Ambo | 334 | 411 | 2200 | 2776 | 1417 | 1359 |
| | Antebuka | 168 | 240 | 1087 | 1626 | 818 | 808 |
| | Bairiki | 406 | 402 | 3524 | 3177 | 1625 | 1552 |
| | Banraeaba | 279 | 288 | 1969 | 2072 | 1074 | 998 |
| | Betio | 1977 | 2291 | 15755 | 17356 | 8795 | 8561 |
| | Bikenibeu | 844 | 1026 | 6568 | 7558 | 4023 | 3535 |
| | Bonriki | 333 | 457 | 2355 | 2865 | 1424 | 1441 |
| | Causeway | 244 | 248 | 2054 | 1893 | 1010 | 883 |
| | Eita | 454 | 502 | 3061 | 3388 | 1739 | 1649 |
| | Nanikai | 120 | 166 | 988 | 1155 | 590 | 565 |
| | Taborio | 188 | 207 | 1282 | 1298 | 662 | 636 |
| | Tanaea | 44 | 24 | 279 | 149 | 70 | 79 |
| | Tangintebu | 16 | 25 | 89 | 155 | 94 | 61 |
| | Teaoraereke | 569 | 709 | 4171 | 5085 | 2680 | 2405 |
| | Temwaiku | 487 | 621 | 3135 | 3992 | 2039 | 1953 |
| MAIANA | | 383 | 399 | 2027 | 1981 | 990 | 991 |
| | Aobike | 20 | 23 | 110 | 88 | 42 | 46 |
| | Bubutei | 87 | 90 | 489 | 484 | 231 | 253 |
| | Buota | 39 | 40 | 214 | 201 | 111 | 90 |
| | Tebanga | 47 | 44 | 264 | 236 | 117 | 119 |
| | Tebangetua | 17 | 23 | 65 | 118 | 57 | 61 |
| | Tebiauea | 40 | 28 | 211 | 147 | 80 | 67 |
| | Tebikera | 20 | 23 | 93 | 108 | 53 | 55 |
| | Teitai | 8 | 12 | 48 | 75 | 43 | 32 |
| | Tekaranga | 29 | 31 | 139 | 145 | 76 | 69 |
| | Tematantongo | 31 | 35 | 164 | 164 | 87 | 77 |
| | Temwangaua | 23 | 25 | 115 | 109 | 47 | 62 |
| | Toora | 22 | 25 | 115 | 106 | 46 | 60 |

SOURCE: Combine Database 2015 Census (MS Access), 2010 Kiribati Census Report

| Island | Village | 2010 Household | 2015 Household | 2010 Population | 2015 Population | Female | Male |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|
| KURIA | | 190 | 217 | 980 | 1043 | 502 | 541 |
| | Bouatoa | 27 | 31 | 128 | 140 | 67 | 73 |
| | Buariki | 31 | 22 | 169 | 129 | 52 | 77 |
| | Marenaua | 40 | 47 | 191 | 208 | 102 | 106 |
| | Norauea | 45 | 55 | 247 | 274 | 138 | 136 |
| | Oneeke | 31 | 40 | 154 | 189 | 94 | 95 |
| | Tabontebike | 16 | 22 | 91 | 103 | 49 | 54 |
| ARANUKA | | 214 | 239 | 1057 | 1124 | 547 | 577 |
| | Baurua | 38 | 44 | 213 | 225 | 108 | 117 |
| | Buariki | 122 | 144 | 592 | 628 | 295 | 333 |
| | Takaeang | 54 | 51 | 252 | 271 | 144 | 127 |
| ABEMAMA | | 583 | 611 | 3213 | 3299 | 1674 | 1625 |
| | Abatiku | 32 | 32 | 150 | 154 | 66 | 88 |
| | Bangotantekabwaia | 20 | 59 | 79 | 409 | 235 | 174 |
| | Baretoa | 71 | 40 | 387 | 160 | 77 | 83 |
| | Biike | 1 | 1 | 13 | 6 | 2 | 4 |
| | Bukiraba | 0 | 25 | 0 | 110 | 65 | 45 |
| | Kabangaki | 85 | 72 | 474 | 411 | 209 | 202 |
| | Kariatebike | 52 | 48 | 505 | 251 | 123 | 128 |
| | Manoku | 42 | 49 | 170 | 220 | 111 | 109 |
| | Tabiang | 95 | 115 | 487 | 554 | 270 | 284 |
| | Tabontebike | 72 | 43 | 380 | 252 | 118 | 134 |
| | Tanimainiku | 43 | 29 | 250 | 136 | 68 | 68 |
| | Tebanga | 19 | 51 | 62 | 252 | 132 | 120 |
| | Tekatirirake | 37 | 31 | 182 | 168 | 76 | 92 |
| | Kauma | 14 | 16 | 74 | 146 | 80 | 66 |

SOURCE: Combine Database 2015 Census (MS Access), 2010 Kiribati Census Report

| Island | Village | 2010 Household | 2015 Household | 2010 Population | 2015 Population | Female | Male |
|------------------|------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|
| NONOUTI | | 508 | 402 | 2683 | 2744 | 1326 | 1418 |
| | Abamakoro | 21 | 27 | 104 | 133 | 64 | 69 |
| | Autukia | 19 | 22 | 112 | 121 | 66 | 55 |
| | Benuaroa | 18 | 35 | 84 | 171 | 87 | 84 |
| | Matang | 103 | 56 | 537 | 526 | 244 | 282 |
| | Rotima | 77 | 40 | 405 | 396 | 193 | 203 |
| | Taboiaki | 125 | 75 | 692 | 694 | 339 | 355 |
| | Temotu | 35 | 37 | 194 | 163 | 73 | 90 |
| | Temwanoku | 59 | 58 | 286 | 274 | 127 | 147 |
| | Teuabu | 51 | 52 | 269 | 266 | 133 | 133 |
| TAB.NORTH | | 682 | 706 | 3689 | 3956 | 2026 | 1930 |
| | Aiwa | 23 | 26 | 127 | 125 | 67 | 58 |
| | Bangai | 9 | 9 | 42 | 38 | 22 | 16 |
| | Buota | 66 | 76 | 385 | 409 | 206 | 203 |
| | Eita | 111 | 105 | 696 | 802 | 447 | 355 |
| | Kabuna | 38 | 33 | 202 | 151 | 71 | 80 |
| | Tanaeang | 87 | 114 | 498 | 641 | 303 | 338 |
| | Tauma | 39 | 38 | 201 | 211 | 110 | 101 |
| | Tekabuibui | 27 | 32 | 140 | 162 | 76 | 86 |
| | Tekaman | 47 | 48 | 228 | 244 | 133 | 111 |
| | Tenatorua | 23 | 23 | 130 | 93 | 44 | 49 |
| | Terikiai | 52 | 52 | 278 | 271 | 131 | 140 |
| | Utiroa | 160 | 150 | 762 | 809 | 416 | 393 |
| TAB.SOUTH | | 249 | 253 | 1290 | 1304 | 631 | 673 |
| | Buariki | 82 | 77 | 399 | 455 | 214 | 241 |
| | Katabanga | 15 | 15 | 78 | 76 | 36 | 40 |
| | Nikutoru | 35 | 34 | 195 | 154 | 78 | 76 |
| | Taaku | 30 | 32 | 147 | 151 | 72 | 79 |
| | Taungaeaka | 27 | 30 | 133 | 158 | 77 | 81 |
| | Tewai | 60 | 65 | 338 | 310 | 154 | 156 |

SOURCE: Combine Database 2015 Census (MS Access), 2010 Kiribati Census Report

| Island | Village | 2010 Household | 2015 Household | 2010 Population | 2015 Population | Female | Male |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
| ONOTOA | | 332 | 324 | 1519 | 1392 | 670 | 722 |
| | Aiaki | 47 | 57 | 202 | 227 | 103 | 124 |
| | Buariki | 66 | 41 | 299 | 183 | 95 | 88 |
| | Otowae | 48 | 32 | 210 | 162 | 78 | 84 |
| | Tabuarorae | 46 | 49 | 234 | 206 | 99 | 107 |
| | Tanaeang | 38 | 41 | 186 | 190 | 83 | 107 |
| | Tekawa | 33 | 38 | 162 | 145 | 70 | 75 |
| | Temao | 54 | 66 | 226 | 279 | 142 | 137 |
| BERU | | 449 | 459 | 2099 | 2051 | 1024 | 1027 |
| | Aoniman | 28 | 34 | 123 | 215 | 108 | 107 |
| | Autukia | 39 | 43 | 188 | 187 | 92 | 95 |
| | Eriko | 66 | 56 | 259 | 223 | 105 | 118 |
| | Nuka | 99 | 96 | 443 | 401 | 210 | 191 |
| | Rongorongo | 22 | 20 | 190 | 118 | 55 | 63 |
| | Tabiang | 87 | 91 | 399 | 406 | 200 | 206 |
| | Taboiaki | 74 | 81 | 354 | 352 | 182 | 170 |
| | Taubukin beru | 16 | 22 | 64 | 85 | 40 | 45 |
| | Teteirio | 18 | 16 | 79 | 64 | 32 | 32 |
| NIKUNAU | | 365 | 358 | 1519 | 1791 | 879 | 912 |
| | Manriki | 35 | 39 | 184 | 184 | 85 | 99 |
| | Muribenua | 53 | 59 | 240 | 250 | 137 | 113 |
| | Nikumanu | 56 | 54 | 265 | 294 | 151 | 143 |
| | Rungata | 176 | 151 | 976 | 847 | 402 | 445 |
| | Tabomatang | 17 | 18 | 88 | 70 | 35 | 35 |
| | Tabutoa | 28 | 37 | 154 | 146 | 69 | 77 |

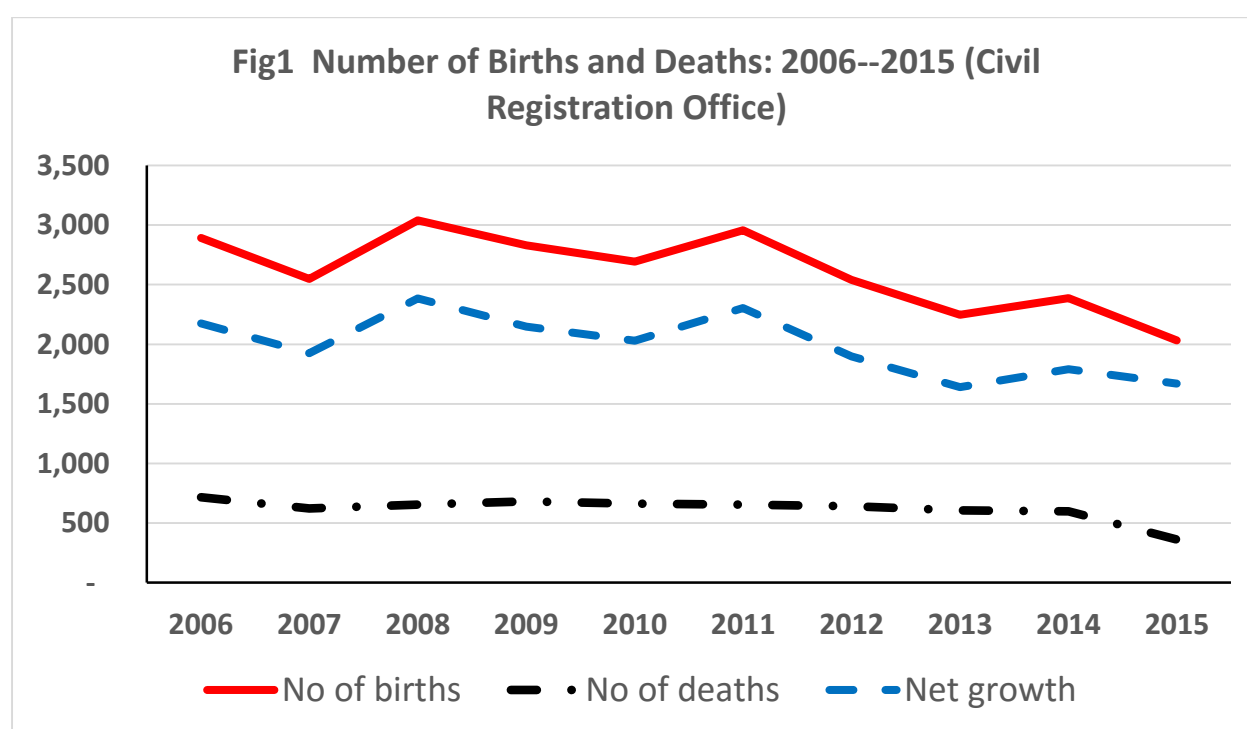
SOURCE: Combine Database 2015 Census (MS Access), 2010 Kiribati Census Report

| Island | Village | 2010 Household | 2015 Household | 2010 Population | 2015 Population | Female | Male |
|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|
| TAMANA | | 202 | 193 | 951 | 1106 | 526 | 580 |
| | Bakaka | 79 | 80 | 405 | 475 | 221 | 254 |
| | Bakarawa | 70 | 56 | 277 | 304 | 155 | 149 |
| | Barebuka | 53 | 57 | 269 | 327 | 150 | 177 |
| ARORAE | | 238 | 217 | 1279 | 1011 | 527 | 484 |
| | Roreti | 159 | 133 | 853 | 655 | 337 | 318 |
| | Tamaroa | 79 | 84 | 426 | 356 | 190 | 166 |
| KIRITIMATI | | 857 | 1016 | 5586 | 6356 | 3134 | 3222 |
| | Banana | 151 | 187 | 955 | 1208 | 584 | 624 |
| | London | 279 | 293 | 1879 | 1837 | 927 | 910 |
| | Poland | 73 | 64 | 441 | 339 | 163 | 176 |
| | Tabakea | 354 | 472 | 2311 | 2972 | 1460 | 1512 |
| TABUAERAN | | 348 | 418 | 1960 | 2317 | 1139 | 1178 |
| | Aontenaa | 29 | 37 | 190 | 260 | 129 | 131 |
| | Aramari | 39 | 50 | 244 | 274 | 133 | 141 |
| | Betania | 33 | 37 | 175 | 203 | 95 | 108 |
| | Eten | 35 | 35 | 184 | 170 | 75 | 95 |
| | Paelau | 40 | 50 | 200 | 258 | 133 | 125 |
| | Tereitaki | 64 | 92 | 346 | 505 | 252 | 253 |
| | Tereitannano | 30 | 47 | 168 | 241 | 109 | 132 |
| | Terine | 78 | 70 | 453 | 406 | 213 | 193 |
| TERAINA | | 278 | 292 | 1690 | 1712 | 797 | 915 |
| | Abaiang | 25 | 24 | 146 | 145 | 66 | 79 |
| | Arabwata | 54 | 56 | 353 | 345 | 159 | 186 |
| | Kaaitara | 0 | 11 | | 51 | 21 | 30 |
| | Kauamwemwe | 32 | 40 | 198 | 244 | 112 | 132 |
| | Mwakeitari | 29 | 32 | 177 | 213 | 93 | 120 |
| | Onouea | 31 | 34 | 174 | 198 | 94 | 104 |
| | Tangkore | 65 | 78 | 410 | 412 | 202 | 210 |
| | Matanibike | 15 | 0 | 91 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Uteute | 27 | 17 | 141 | 104 | 50 | 54 |
| Kanton | Tebaronga | 6 | 6 | 31 | 20 | 11 | 9 |

SOURCE: Combine Database 2015 Census (MS Access), 2010 Kiribati Census Report

Some evidences of population growth rate decline in recent years

Every population census is prone to errors, such as the omission or undercounting of people or households during the actual enumeration phase, or the over count due to double counting or through double entry during the data entry stage, and because of this it is useful to look for other sources of population data in order to compare the population increase or trend. For this census, there is obvious decline in the population growth compared to the previous census rate, in particular compared to the 2010 population census. As shown in the tables, the 2010 population census gives a growth rate of 2.2% while this census gives only 1.2% and this may prompt some people to think that there may be some undercount or under enumeration in the 2015 census. However it is always important to check and see whether there is indeed an undercount, or even an over count for that matter, before one comes to a final conclusion. A proper investigation or study into the matter requires several weeks or even months and this may be possible at a later stage but given the importance of the population growth in Kiribati, it is agreed that other sources of data will be consulted and presented here so that readers of this preliminary report will be able to judge the population trend from a wider perspective. In this instance staff of the National Statistics Office (NSO) have consulted the civil registration office and the ministry health



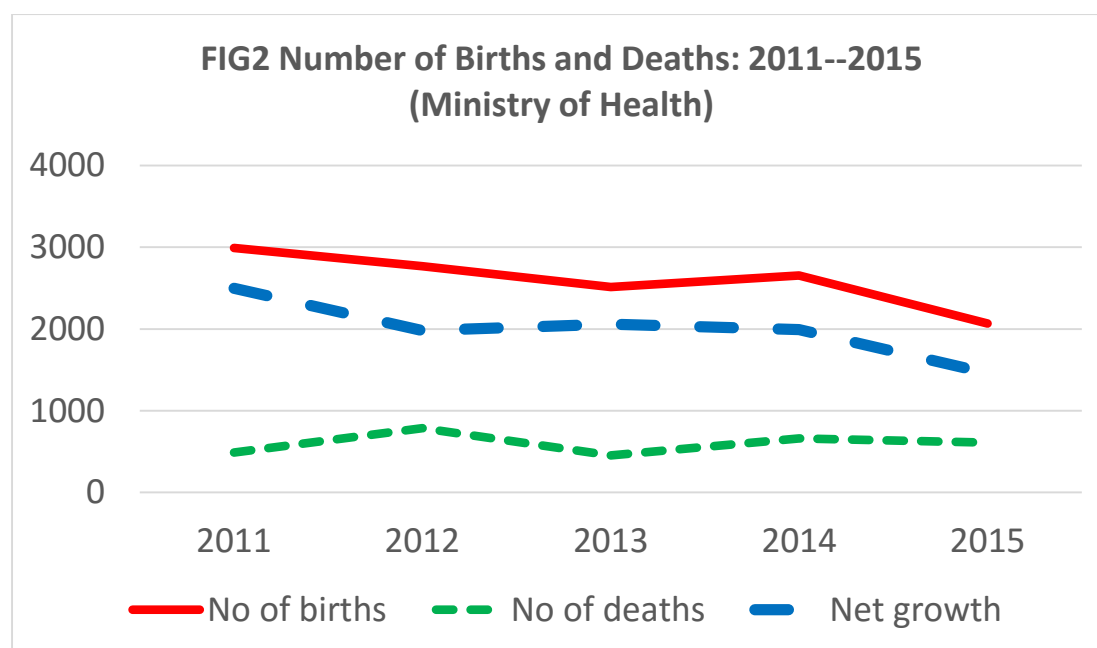
Source: Civil registration office, Bairiki.

for their data on births and deaths. In addition the NSO regularly collects and compiles immigration statistics and this is the source of migration statistics which will be shown here. Interestingly, all the sources or data consulted depict a downward trend or at least supports the notion of a lower population growth rate-- which is consistent with the lower population growth rate that the 2015 census shows. But as mentioned earlier it is too early at this stage

to come up with a firm conclusion however the evidences available all seem to support the 2015 census finding, namely a lower population growth rate in recent years.

The graphs above clearly shows a downward trend with the net growth of over 2,000 persons per year up to 2011 and then dropping off to less than 2,000 in subsequent years. The drop in the number of births in recent years implies lower fertility of women in the period or it may be that more child bearing women have migrated to other countries in recent years. Again it is not possible at this stage to conclude firmly what is happening but it is getting very obvious these days that many women are getting into the workforce, and in some government offices, staff are mostly—if not all, women. For instance, in the NSO there is only one male staff among more than ten women staff, and similarly in the National Planning Office with a total staff of almost ten there is only one male staff. In fact most government offices are staffed by women and it is reasonable to assume that these “working women” will try not to be burdened with maternal matters, including giving births, as much as they possibly can. It is reported from the ministry of health that hundreds of women, mostly child bearing age, have taken up the 5-year contraceptive medication in recent years meaning that they will not be able to give births within the last five years or so.

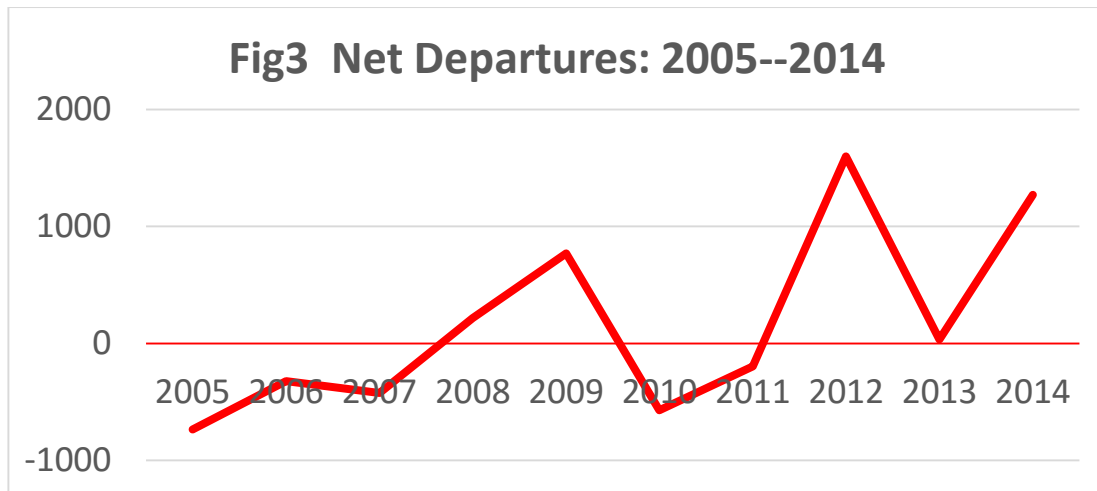
The graph below, from the Ministry of Health, shows the same downward pattern as that of the civil registration graph.



Source: Ministry of Health, Nowerewere.

That is, both the civil registration office and the ministry of health data support the 2015 census finding of a lower population growth rate in recent years

The next analysis is on the immigration statistics.



Source: Immigration statistics, NSO.

The graph above shows a distinct upwards movement in the number of departures in recent years. This means that the population will be less than what it is supposed to be as more people are leaving the country. Again this supports the 2015 population census finding of a lower population rate compared to previous growth rates.