Recensement de la population 2024

20 years of rolling census in France

**Olivier Lefebvre
& Muriel Barlet**

From 1801 to 1999: traditional censuses

- ✓ One census every 5 years until 1940

- ✓ Then, one census every 7, 8 or 9 years: 1946, 1954, 1962, 1968, 1975, 1982, 1990, 1999

Since 2004: an annual rolling census

- ✓ 1/5th of the territory is surveyed each year

- ✓ Within large municipalities (over 10000 inhabitants), only a sample of the dwellings is enumerated (40% of the dwellings over a 5-year cycle)

- ✓ → population stocks and characteristics of the inhabitants and dwellings are updated every year at each geographical level

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1. **Some French particularities**

2. **Advantages and drawbacks of the rolling census**

3. **The expected benefits of a statistical population register**

The French Census has 3 (classical) goals:

- ✓ To count the population at each geographical level

- ✓ To describe the demographic and social characteristics of the population

- ✓ To enumerate and describe the dwellings

Metropolitan France

13 « régions », Nuts 1

96 « départements », Nuts 3

35 000 « Communes », LAU

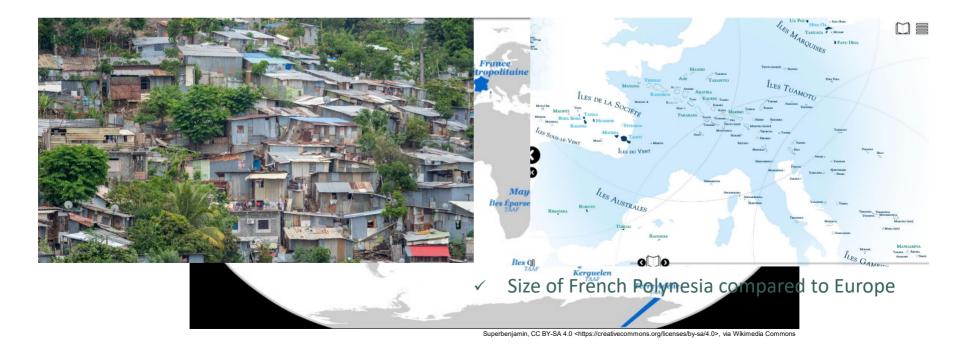## France also has 11 overseas territories

- ✓ 5 are "départements" which are also European Outermost Regions
- ✓ 6 are "collectivités"

- ✓ Size of French Polynesia compared to Europe

No population register

- ✓ No exhaustive and localised administrative data on individuals

No national identifier shared between all data sources

- ✓ Decided after 1972 and the creation of the French data protection authority

Some key variables are missing in administrative data

- ✓ Detailed citizenship, date of entry in France, educational level
- ✓ Means of transportation, heating mode,…

Some quality issues of main administrative data (tax, social protection,…) in the overseas territories

Advantages and drawbacks of the rolling census

1- Based on an exhaustive statistical "register" of dwellings

- ✓ Updated before each data collection for small municipalities (less than 10 000 inhabitants)
- ✓ Updated on an ongoing basis for large municipalities using
  - Administrative data on construction of new residential buildings
  - Some field work

2- A door-to-door data collection

- ✓ Due to the lack of population register (impossible to send mail or email)
- ✓ Paper and on-line (70 %) answers

3- A massive use of tax data

- ✓ To check the collected information
- ✓ To estimate the population between two censuses in small municipalities
- ✓ To check the register of dwellings

4- Specific protocols for specific cases

- ✓ Homeless people and people living in moving house, people living on boats
- ✓ Non permanent residential buildings (for Mayotte)
- ✓ Road inaccessible areas (for French Guyana)

Adapted to a country with "relatively poor" administrative data

Production of annual data on population and dwellings at all geographical level

Cost-effective: same cost as a traditional census every 7 years

Professionalism of all participants: Insee & Municipalities

Quality of the data (compared to other sources or measured by quality surveys) and limited non-response (4,2 % in 2023)

Timeliness:

- ✓ 3 years between the reference year and the dissemination of the data
- ✓ Because the reference year is chosen as the middle of the 5-year cycle for accuracy and robustness purposes

Difficulties to measure changes in flows: migration or residential mobility

Cost?

What's next?

Scheduled for 2025

Using different administrative data

- ✓ tax data, social protection data, students' data,…
- ✓ to produce a register of individuals and a register of dwellings

Requiring a huge amount of work:

- ✓ statistical work: pairing issues, implementation of sign of life methods,...
- ✓ Technical challenges
- ✓ but also ethic and legal work

Serving different purposes

- ✓ To build a more complete sampling frame
- ✓ To measure the quality of administrative data sources
- ✓ To facilitate the pairing between different data sources
- ✓ And, if possible, to improve the census

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To obtain better data to:

- ✓ Check the data of the census

- ✓ Target and reduce our field work on dwellings

- ✓ Improve our intercensal estimates (for small municipalities)

- ✓ Estimate population at the grid level

To delete some questions of the census

- ✓ For example, questions on employers for salaried workers

In a more distant future,

- ✓ to rely mainly on the statistical register to count the population at every geographical level

Missing some populations:

- ✓ Homeless people
- ✓ Cross border workers and their family
- ✓ Students

Missing some characteristics of individuals or dwellings:

- ✓ Level of education
- ✓ Detailed citizenship
- ✓ Heating mode

Needing a lot of coverage surveys

Needing to maintain a specific method for overseas territories

Thank you for your attention