



2015 POPULATION and HOUSING **CENSUS**

Preliminary Report

National Statistics Office, MFED

Bairiki, Tarawa

Date 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 at 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.

.....

Orebwa Morate

Census Commissioner

8 March 2015

Main Findings

The total population according to the 2015 population census is 110,110—an increase of 7,052 persons over the last 2010 census total of 103,058. This is equivalent to a growth rate of 1.32% 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, Beru, Maiana, Nikunau and Banaba). On the other hand, population growth on S Tarawa continues to increase (from 50,182 in 2010 to 56,324 in 2015) as well as in the Line islands (for example, Christmas island population increased from 5,586 to 6,447 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 55,714 against male population of 54,396

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

Island	2010		2015		Population Change	
	No. of Household	No. of people	No. of Household	No. of people	Intercensal Change	Annual Growth rate
Total	16,043	103,058	17,665	110,110	7,052	1.32
Banaba	57	295	67	280	-15	-1.04
Makin	347	1,798	351	1,990	192	2.03
Butaritari	630	4,346	626	3,224	-1,122	-5.97
Marakei	492	2,872	500	2,799	-73	-0.51
Abaiang	926	5,502	1,001	5,568	66	0.24
NTarawa	1,002	6,102	1,130	6,619	517	1.63
STarawa	6,705	50,182	7,880	56,324	6,142	2.31
Maiana	383	2,027	399	1,981	-46	-0.46
Kuria	190	980	217	1,043	63	1.25
Aranuka	214	1,057	239	1,124	67	1.23
Abemama	583	3,213	611	3,299	86	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	1,519	324	1,394	-125	-1.72
Beru	449	2,099	459	2,051	-48	-0.46
Nikunau	365	1,907	358	1,791	-116	0.94
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	1,718	28	0.33
Tabuaeran	348	1,960	418	2,317	357	3.35
Kiritimati	857	5,586	1,016	6,447	861	2.87
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	110,110	55,714	54,396
BANABA		57	67	295	280	126	154
	Tabwewa	9	28	57	114	52	62
	Antereen	19		83			
	Umwa	29	39	155	166	74	92
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
	Kuuma	66	59	323	290	153	137
	Keuea	45	40	258	202	113	89
	Tanimainiku	38	42	248	216	101	115
	Tanimaiaki	53	60	267	328	167	161
	Tabonuea	46	47	271	252	125	127
	Antekana	40	39	217	189	97	92
	Taubukinmeang	46	49	835	235	114	121
	Temwanokunuea	67	76	621	396	211	185
	Onomaru	64	54	366	280	134	146
	Ukiangang	123	107	707	579	294	285
	Bikati	40	53	225	257	133	124
	Tikurere	2		8			
MARAKEI		492	500	2,872	2,799	1,407	1,392
	Rawannawi	179	189	1000	1032	521	511
	Temotu	31	30	164	155	71	84
	Raweai/Buota	54	54	339	294	145	149
	Tekarakan	57	65	358	359	183	176
	Bainura	48	40	310	279	144	135
	Norauea	56	54	321	321	162	159
	Tekuanga	38	41	217	195	100	95
	Antaai	29	27	163	164	81	83

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
	Ribono	54	70	341	411	202	209
	Takarano	62	67	348	310	158	152
	Ubanteman	24	23	126	119	67	52
	Tebunginako	70	85	424	461	236	225
	Borotiam	61	63	375	375	182	193
	Aonobuaka	53	88	328	473	239	234
	Koinawa	53	91	312	415	208	207
	Morikao	37	8	233	104	60	44
	Evena	32	37	166	216	119	97
	Taburao	51	48	322	268	128	140
	Tebero	30	27	157	158	77	81
	Tabwiroa	32	26	237	240	113	127
	Tuarabu	98	98	560	537	266	271
	Tanimaiaki	45	60	274	354	191	163
	Tebwanga	64	61	310	333	159	174
	Aoneaba	8	7	51	29	16	13
	Tabontebike	67	54	379	255	132	123
	Nuotaea	85	88	559	510	256	254
NORTH TARAWA		1,002	1,130	6,102	6,619	3,335	3,284
	Buariki	116	152	703	752	361	391
	Tearinibai	57	53	297	277	147	130
	Nuatabu	40	46	197	249	138	111
	Tebwangaroi	7	4	40	20	10	10
	Taratai	30	33	151	184	94	90
	Nooto	114	108	814	905	449	456
	Marenanuka	17	29	101	161	88	73
	Abaokoro	40	48	262	289	148	141
	Tabonibara	67	65	363	296	151	145
	Kainaba	54	68	266	299	141	158
	Nabeina	71	76	435	441	220	221
	Tabiteuea	90	98	505	524	270	254
	Abatao	75	58	499	351	171	180
	Buota	225	292	1469	1871	947	924

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	56,324	29,012	27,312
	Tanaea	44	24	279	149	70	79
	Bonriki	333	457	2355	2865	1424	1441
	Temwaiku	487	621	3135	3992	2051	1964
	Causeway	244	248	2054	1893	1010	883
	Bikenibeu	844	1026	6568	7558	4023	3535
	Abarao	242	263	1665	1762	941	821
	Eita	454	502	3061	3388	1739	1649
	Tangintebu	16	25	89	155	94	61
	Taborio	188	207	1282	1298	662	636
	Ambo	334	411	2200	2776	1417	1359
	Banraeaba	279	288	1969	2072	1074	998
	Antebuka	168	240	1087	1626	818	808
	Teaoraereke	569	709	4171	5085	2680	2405
	Nanikai	120	166	988	1154	589	565
	Bairiki	406	402	3524	3172	1625	1547
	Betio	1977	2291	15755	17356	8795	8561
MAIANA		383	399	2027	1981	990	991
	Tebikerai	20	23	93	108	53	55
	Tekaranga	29	31	139	145	76	69
	Tematantongo	31	35	164	164	87	77
	Aobike	20	23	110	88	42	46
	Tebanga	47	44	264	236	117	119
	Temwangaua	23	25	115	109	47	62
	Toora	22	25	115	106	46	60
	Tebangetua	17	23	65	118	57	61
	Teitai	8	12	48	75	43	32
	Tebiauea	40	28	211	147	80	67
	Buota	39	40	214	201	111	90
	Bubutei	87	90	489	484	231	253

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

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

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	1394	671	723
	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	281	143	138
BERU		449	459	2099	2051	1024	1027
	Autukia	39	43	188	187	92	95
	Tabiang	87	91	399	406	200	206
	Aoniman	28	34	123	215	108	107
	Rongorongo	22	20	190	118	55	63
	Nuka	99	96	443	401	210	191
	Teteirio	18	16	79	64	32	32
	Taubukin beru	16	22	64	85	40	45
	Eriko	66	56	259	223	105	118
	Taboiaki	74	81	354	352	182	170
NIKUNAU		365	358	1907	1791	879	912
	Muribenua	53	59	240	250	137	113
	Tabutoa	28	37	154	146	69	77
	Rungata	176	151	976	847	402	445
	Manriki	35	39	184	184	85	99
	Nikumanu	56	54	265	294	151	143
	Tabomatang	17	18	88	70	35	35

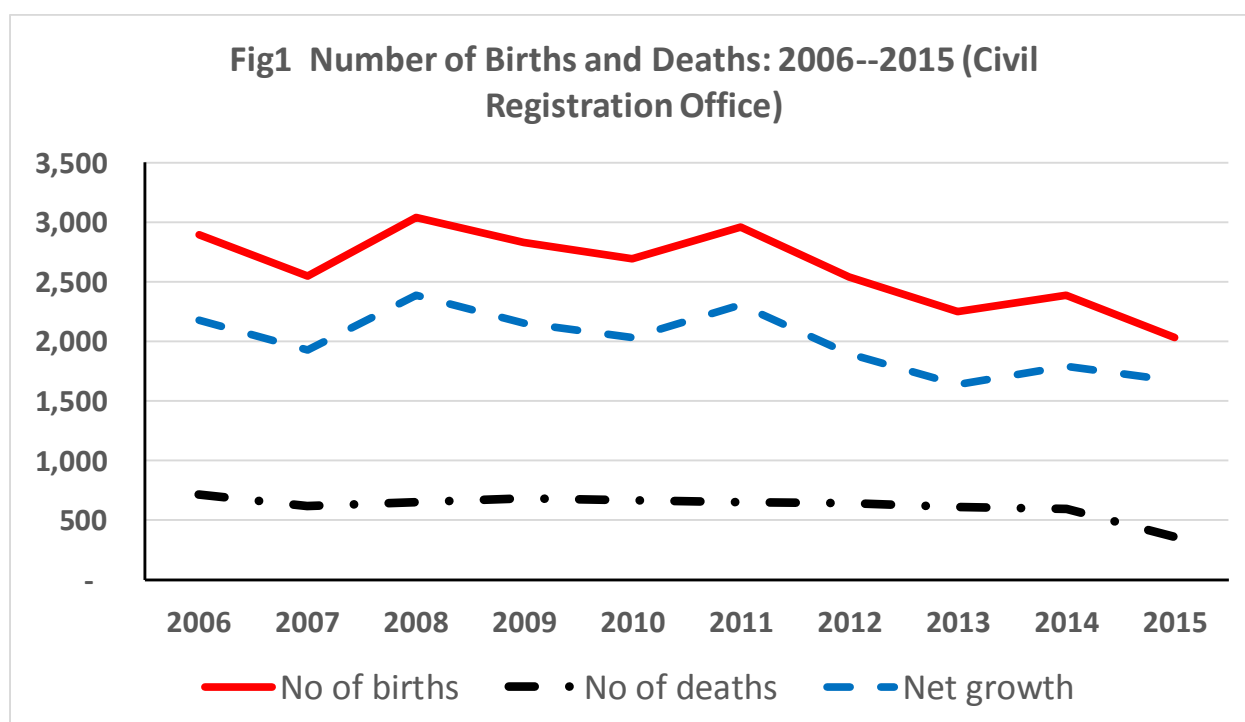
SOURCE: Combine Database 2015 Census (MS Access), 2010 Kiribati Census Report

Island	Village	2010 Household	2015 Household	2010 Population	2015 Population	Female	Male
TAMANA		202	193	951	1106	526	580
	Barebuka	53	57	269	327	150	177
	Bakaka	79	80	405	475	221	254
	Bakarawa	70	56	277	304	155	149
ARORAE		238	217	1279	1011	527	484
	Tamaroa	79	84	426	356	190	166
	Roreti	159	133	853	655	337	318
KIRITIMATI		857	1016	5586	6447	3141	3306
	London	279	293	1879	1899	928	971
	Tabakea	354	472	2311	3001	1466	1535
	Banana	151	187	955	1208	584	624
	Poland	73	64	441	339	163	176
TABUAERAN		348	418	1960	2317	1139	1178
	Tereitaki	64	92	346	505	252	253
	Betania	33	37	175	203	95	108
	Paelau	40	50	200	258	133	125
	Aontenaa	29	37	190	260	129	131
	Tereitannano	30	47	168	241	109	132
	Aramari	39	50	244	274	133	141
	Terine	78	70	453	406	213	193
	Eten	35	35	184	170	75	95
TERAINA		278	292	1690	1718	797	921
	Abaiang	25	24	146	145	66	79
	Kauamwemwe	32	40	198	244	112	132
	Uteute	27	17	141	104	50	54
	Kaaitara	0	11		51	21	30
	Tangkore	65	78	410	412	202	210
	Matanibike	15	0	91	0	0	0
	Arabwata	54	56	353	351	159	192
	Mwakeitari	29	32	177	213	93	120
	Onouea	31	34	174	198	94	104
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 1.32% 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) has consulted the civil registration office and the ministry health



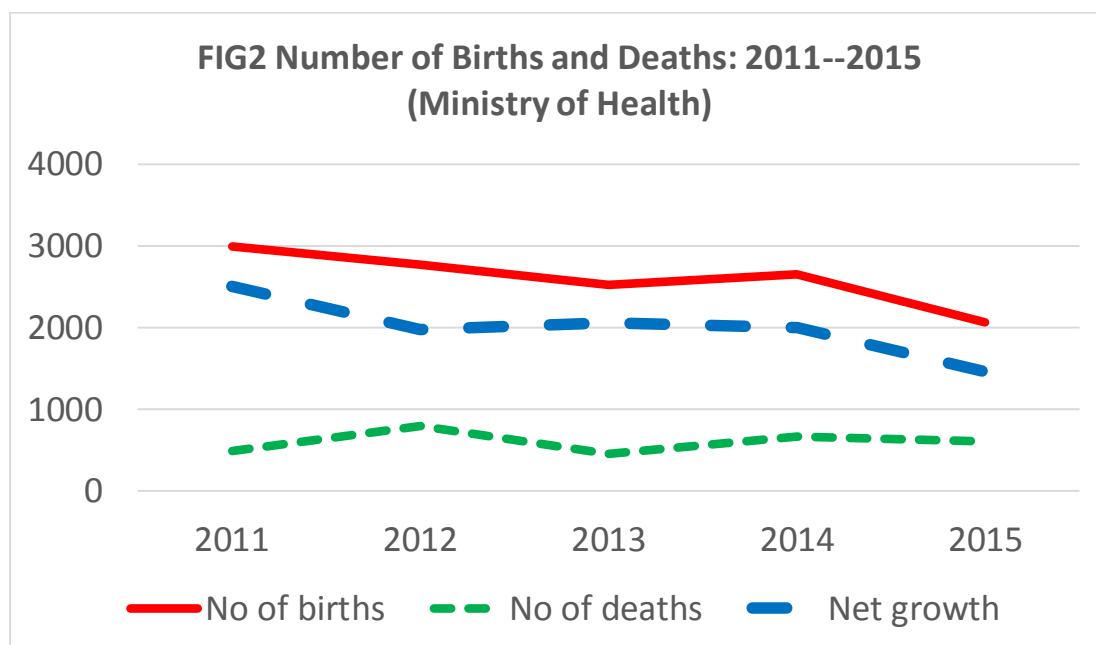
Source: Civil registration office, Bairiki.

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.

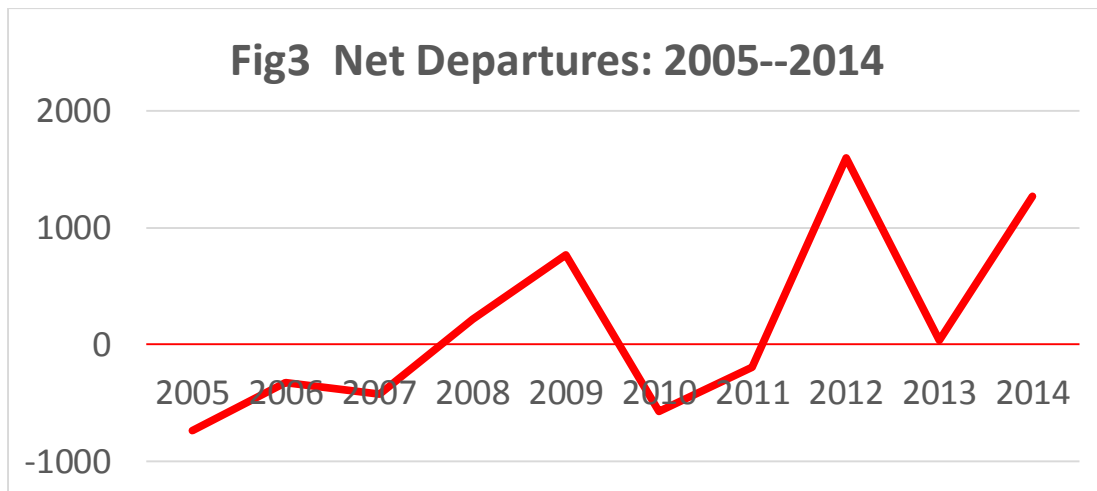
The graph below, from the Ministry of Health, shows the same downward pattern as that of the civil registration graph.



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.