



**Economic Policy, Planning, and Statistics Office**

**Office of the President**

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**The RMI 2011 Census of Population and Housing**  
**Summary and Highlights Only**



**Please Note**

**The detailed Census Final Report will be available in March-April 2012  
According to the SPC which is doing the Analysis and Report Writing right now**



# *Office of the President*

## REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

February 14, 2012

Honorable Donald F. Capelle  
Speaker, Nitijela  
Majuro, Marshall Islands 96960

Dear Mr. Speaker,

Transmitted herewith is the Government's Summary Report for the **RMI's 2011 Census of Population and Housing**, containing a few very important population highlights revealed by the recent census. The final census report is forthcoming in March/April this year. Now, while we wait for the final report, let me present these highlights for your and our Nitijela colleagues' kind attention.

1. The 2011 Census recorded a total population of 53,158 persons (27,243 males and 25,915 females) currently residing in the RMI.
2. The last Census, or the 1999 Census, revealed 50,840 people so there are 2,318 more persons in the RMI or 0.4% population growth rate during the inter-censal period.
3. Prior to the Census, there were projections that the RMI population would have 55,000 to over 60,000 people, but due to massive outmigration in recent years, it is estimated that around 11,000 Marshallese have left the country.
4. Majuro and Ebeye continue to contain the largest population share (i.e., 74% or 39,337 people).
5. All outer islands' populations, except Jaluit, Lae, and Lib, have decreased since 1999.
6. Majuro and Ebeye populations have increased indicating people moving from the outer islands.
7. Ebeye is still the most crowded place in the Republic with 9,614 people per square mile.
8. Small and young children, ages 0-14, continue to constitute the largest portion of 40%, or 21,263 of our population are young children indicating RMI has very high fertility rates although this has come down from 43% and 51% revealed by the 1999 and 1988 censuses, respectively.
9. The Census revealed that the level of educational attainment of Marshallese people is still not good as 28.6% (6,317 of our people, aged 25 or older) have only started high school but haven't completed it.
10. School enrolment for children ages 5-9 only 80% enrolled (about 20% not in school); ages 10-14 only 92% (8% not in school); and ages 15-24 only 38% (62% Jabwe Jikuul, or JS).
11. Literacy or the ability to read, write and understand a simple sentence in any language shows 90.6% of Marshallese aged 5 and older are literate and 9.4% illiterate.
12. The Census showed 31,307 people (aged 15 and older) as RMI Working Age Population compared to 28,692 recorded in the 1999 Census.
13. However only 12,924 (8,417 males and 4,507 females) are people who are economically active and this is the group we call "the Labor Force."
14. So, out of the labor force 12,312 had jobs and 612 did not have jobs according to the Census, thus translated into a 4.7% unemployment rate (i.e., 612/12,924) compared to 30.9% unemployment rate revealed by the 1999 Census.
15. The reason for very low unemployment rate was due to inclusion of a question on the Census Questionnaire of "home production" which includes fishing, making handicrafts, farming, etc., for sale or own consumption in the 2011 Census, which was absent in the 1999 Census Questionnaire.

16. It was indicated that 40% of workers in the Republic work for pay in the private sector, 34% work for pay in the government, 21% producing goods mainly for sale (home production) as the three major categories of employment by class of workers.
17. 42% of males in the private sector as compared to 36% females; 36% of males in the government as compared to 31% females.
18. The 2011 Census recorded a total number of 9,214 houses in the RMI as compared to 6,478 houses registered by the 1999 Census, or 2,736 more new houses since the last census.
19. However, of these houses 1,369 of them were found vacant due to owners moving away or migrating.
20. Majuro revealed the largest number of empty or vacant houses, i.e., 632 of them, many of which are in Laura where the owners have mainly migrated to the US, especially to Arkansas.
21. All outer islands and Ebeye had less than 100 empty or vacant houses each.
22. Of the total housing structures, only 7,738 were registered as occupied, of which 53% (4,174) were in good condition, and 43% (3,329) were found to be in need of major repairs.
23. Finally, of the total occupied houses, 79% or 6,122 of them, are using rainwater collected from roofs of their houses and stored in water-catchment as their main source of drinking water, indicating that serious policy attention towards water quality is needed because majority of our people are dependent on rainwater for drinking which depends on the quality or cleanliness of both the roof and the water catchment or tank where the rainwater is stored.

I hope you and our Nitijela colleagues will find this summary report very informative and useful in your work to find ways and means to continually improve the quality of life for all Marshallese people, who chose us to be leaders of this country and to represent them in this new term, and beyond.

Thank you and should there be further questions or inquiries from any member of the Nitijela regarding the data in this Census Summary Report, please do not hesitate to contact my office, or the Economic Policy, Planning, and Statistics Office (EPPSO), which is responsible to coordinate the Census.

Hon. Tony de Brum  
Minister in Assistance

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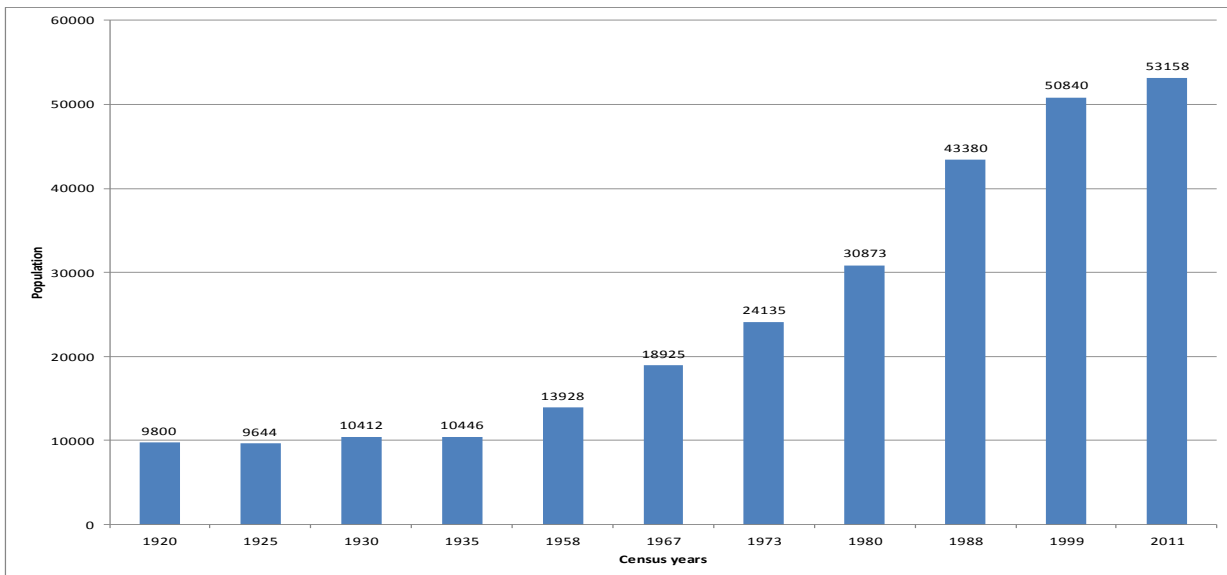
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# I. POPULATION SIZE, GROWTH, DISTRIBUTION AND DENSITY

## A. National Population Size and Growth

The RMI 2011 Census of Population and Housing provided a national population count of 53,158 persons, comprising of 27,243 males and 25,915 females. This represents an increase of 2,318 more residents compared to 1999, reflecting an annual population growth rate of 0.4% over the past twelve years. Comparing this growth rate to previous years, Figure 1.1 highlights that population growth has slowed down considerably compared to the high population growth between the late 1950s and 1980s, where the RMI population tripled in 30 years, increasing from 13,928 in 1958, to 43,380 in 1988, averaging an annual growth rate of 3.8%.

Figure 1.1: RMI Population Size 1920 - 2011



The full 2011 census report will provide a detailed demographic analysis, examining the relative contribution of births, deaths and migration to RMI population growth over the years. Without wishing to pre-empt the final analysis, it can be said that there has a major shift in RMI population dynamics over the past 50 years:

- while population growth was almost exclusively determined by very high birth rates from the 1950s through the late 1980s, with RMI fertility rates amongst the highest in the region,
- population growth, or the slowing down to an annual growth of 0.4% during the last decade, was largely due to massive migration out of the Marshall Islands, featuring a net loss of just over 11,000 people between FY 2000 and FY 2009.

## B. Population size, growth and distribution, urban and rural and by atolls/islands

Table 1.1 provides a comprehensive summary account of population size, annual growth rates and population density for urban (Majuro and Ebeye) and rural RMI, as well as for all individual atolls for the last 30 years, to put the current situation into a historical context.

A key feature of RMI population distribution has been the dominance of Majuro and Kwajalein (largely Ebeye), currently accounting for 74% of the country's population. Expressed differently, 3 out of every 4

Marshall Islanders live on these two atolls. This predominance has steadily increased over the years, from 60% in 1980, to 67% and 68 % in 1988 and 1999.

This uneven population distribution has been exacerbated over the years by a growing exodus of people from the outer islands, to these two population centers and in recent years, overseas destinations assuming greater importance as well:

- during the **1980s**, when the RMI experienced its highest annual population growth over the past 50 years, only **one atoll** (Aur) experienced a small **population loss** ( from 444 to 438 residents);
- during the **1990s**, when population growth averaged 1.5%, **5 atolls** recorded population losses, with a further three, growth rates of 0.5% or less;
- since 1999, however, the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, **18 atolls** recorded population losses, with only Majuro (1.4%), Jaluit (0.6%), Lae (0.6%), Kwajalein (0.4%), Lib (0.4%) and Rongelap (12.1%) experiencing some growth but this number belongs to contract workers and in the case of Utirik, it remained unchanged.

**Table 1.1. RMI population size, growth rate and density by island in 1980, 1988, 1999 and 2011 census years**

Atoll/Island	Population				Average Annual Growth Rate			Land Area (sq. miles)	Population Density		
	1980	1988	1999	2011	1980 - 1988	1988 - 1999	1999 - 2011		1988	1999	2011
<b>Marshall Islands</b>	<b>30,873</b>	<b>43,380</b>	<b>50,840</b>	<b>53,158</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>70.07</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>726</b>	<b>759</b>
Ailinglaplap	1,385	1,715	1,959	1,729	2.6	1.3	-1.1	5.67	302	346	305
Ailuk	413	488	513	339	2.1	0.5	-3.5	2.07	236	248	164
Arno	1,487	1,656	2,069	1,794	1.3	2.1	-1.2	5.00	331	414	359
Aur	444	438	537	499	-0.2	1.9	-0.6	2.17	202	247	230
Bikini	-	10	13	9	-	2.5	-3.1	2.32	4	6	4
Ebon	887	741	902	706	-2.2	1.9	-2.1	2.22	334	406	318
Enewetak	542	715	853	664	3.4	1.7	-2.1	2.26	316	377	294
Jabat	72	112	95	84	5.5	-1.6	-1.0	0.22	509	432	382
Jaluit	1,450	1,709	1,669	1,788	2.0	-0.2	0.6	4.38	390	381	408
Kili	489	602	774	548	2.6	2.4	-2.9	0.36	1672	2150	1522
<b>Kwajalein</b>	<b>6,624</b>	<b>9,311</b>	<b>10,902</b>	<b>11,408</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>6.33</b>	<b>1471</b>	<b>1722</b>	<b>1802</b>
Lae	237	319	322	347	3.7	0.1	0.6	0.56	570	575	620
Lib	98	115	147	155	2.0	2.3	0.4	0.36	319	408	431
Likiep	481	482	527	401	0.0	0.8	-2.3	3.97	121	133	101
<b>Majuro</b>	<b>11,791</b>	<b>19,664</b>	<b>23,676</b>	<b>27,797</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>3.75</b>	<b>5244</b>	<b>6314</b>	<b>7413</b>
Maloelap	614	796	856	682	3.2	0.7	-1.9	3.79	210	226	180
Mejit	325	445	416	348	3.9	-0.6	-1.5	0.72	618	578	483
Mili	763	854	1,032	738	1.4	1.8	-2.8	6.15	139	168	120
Namdrik	617	814	772	508	3.4	-0.5	-3.5	1.07	761	721	475
Namu	654	801	903	780	2.5	1.1	-1.2	2.42	331	373	322
Rongelap	235	0	19	79	-	-	12.1	3.07	-	6	26
Ujae	309	448	440	364	4.6	-0.2	-1.6	0.72	622	611	506
Ujelang	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.67	-	-	-
Utirik	336	409	433	435	2.4	0.5	0.0	0.94	435	461	463
Wotho	85	90	145	97	0.7	4.5	-3.4	1.67	54	87	58
Wotje	535	646	866	859	2.3	2.8	-0.1	3.16	204	274	272

### C. Population density

These different growth rates also impact on varying population densities across the Marshall Islands. Majuro, with a total land area of 3.75 square miles (or 9.71 square kilometers) is home to 27,797 residents, which translates into a population density of 7,413/sqmile, or 2,860/km<sup>2</sup>.

The highest density in the Marshall is on Ebeye island in Kwajalein Atoll where 9,614 people live on 0.12 square miles (0.31 km<sup>2</sup>), resulting in population densities 80,117/sqmile or 31,013/km<sup>2</sup>). Population densities of this magnitude, when associated with overcrowding, often entails health and other social challenges of varying severity, which should be of interest to policy-makers.

## II. AGE AND SEX COMPOSITION PROFILE

### A. Age-Sex Composition of the Population

Population age indices derived from the 2011 population and housing census show that the population is growing older compared to the age structure existing in 1988 and 1999 (Table 2.1). For example, in 1988, more than half of the RMI population was under 15 years of age, which declined to 40% in 2011. In contrast, the proportion of the economically active population (15-59 years) increased to 56% in 2011 from 45% in 1988. Meanwhile, the proportion of the older age population (60 years and over) remained constant at around 4 percent since 1988.

This trend is also reflected in the increase of the RMI *median age* from 14 in 1988 to 17 in 1999, to reaching 21 in 2011. The median age of a population is the age that divides a population into two equal halves; in other words, half of the RMI population is younger than 21, and half is older than 21. While the RMI population is definite growing older, it still has a very young population compared to the rest of the Pacific, with Micronesian neighbors Guam (29), the CNMI (30) or Palau (35) having much older populations (SPC, Pacific Island Population Update 2011).

**Table 2.1: Population distribution by age, sex ratio, median age and age dependency ratio, 1988, 1999, 2011 Censuses**

Indicators	1988	1999	2011
Proportion of population by broad age group (in Percent)			
Age group 0-14	51	43	40
Age group 15-59	45	54	56
Age group 60 +	4	3	4
Sex ratio (males per 100 females)	104.6	105	102
Median age (years)	14	17	21
Age dependency ratio	124	86	78

This demographic change is also reflected in a more balanced *age dependency ratio*, compared to 1988. The Age dependency ratio is the ratio of persons in the “dependent” ages (defined as persons younger than 15 plus older than 60), relative to those in the “economically productive” age group (defined as people aged between 15-59). The age dependency ratio is often used as an indicator of the economic burden the productive population must carry – even though in many countries, some persons defined as “dependent” are actually producers, and some persons in the “productive” are economically dependent, such as, for example, 15-19 year old students or many Pacific island youth in general. RMI’s dependency ratio in 2011 was 78, illustrating that on average, 100 people of working age support 78 dependents. While the 2011 dependency ratio has improved considerably, by one-third. Since 1988, it did not show however in 1999, the age dependency ratio was 82.2 dependents per 100 people of working age. When this indicator goes down, means improvement as is the case here.

Looking at the *sex composition*, that is, the male-female make-up of the 2011 population, the census enumerated 27,243 males compared to 25,915 females, which translates into a population sex ratio of 102 males for every 100 females in the 2011 Census; comparing with the sex ratios of 105 in both 1988 and 1999 Census, this declining sex ratio points to a **greater incidence of male than female emigration, and**

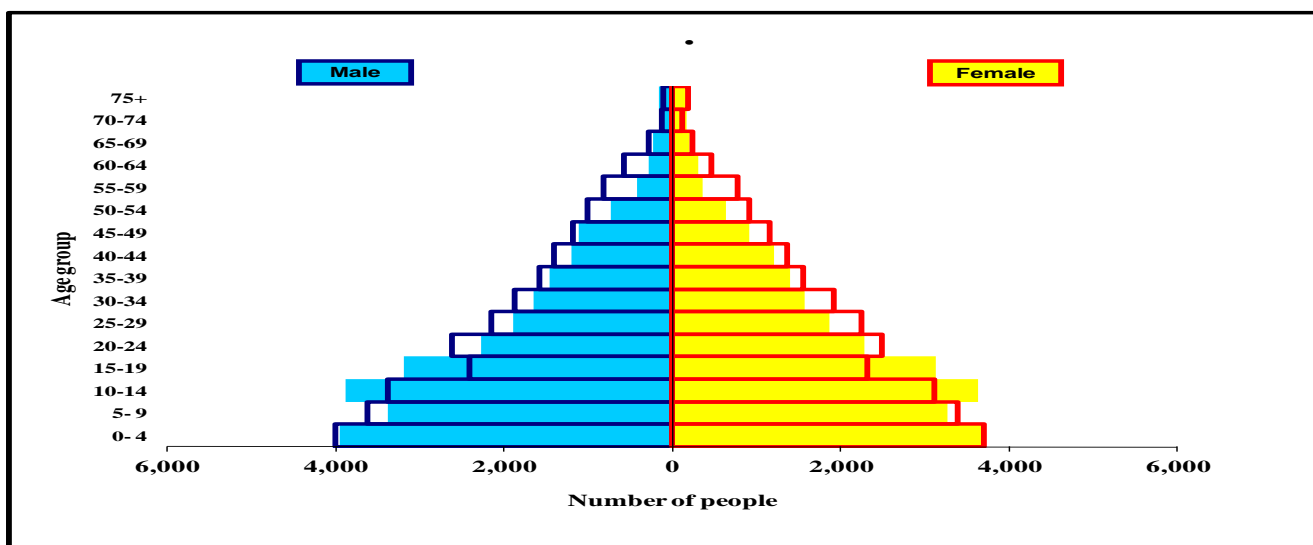


possibly also a higher male than female mortality. A more comprehensive analysis will be presented in the Final Census Report which will come out in March-April 2012 that will provide more conclusive information on this demographic development.

## B. Population Pyramid

Changes in the age and sex structure of a population are most effectively illustrated via what is called a *population pyramid*, with its shape determined by past birth and death rates, as well as by the impact of migration. Figure 2.1 presents the RMI population pyramid in five year age groups by sex for 1999 (shaded) and 2011 (outlined).

**Figure 2.1 Population Pyramid in Five-Year Age Group RMI 1999 (shaded) and 2011 (outlined)**



RMI's population pyramid is characterized by a broad population base, illustrating the high proportion of children and youth of the RMI population, as previously indicated in a low median age of 21. A wide base also indicates that fertility continues to be high.

Over-laying population pyramids representing two different time periods such as illustrated in Figure 2.1, also helps to identify unique population developments or demographic change:

- comparing the 10-14 year age-group of 2011 with the 10–14 year age cohort of 1999, for example, indicates fertility has been declining.
- the higher proportion of 10-14 and 15-19 year olds in 1999 compared to 2011, point to high level of family migration out of the Marshall islands, and/or greater proportions of these age groups in education or working elsewhere;
- the overall impact of net emigration from the Marshall islands on RMI population growth previously mentioned, is clearly reflected in this pyramid, with the proportion of people aged 20–64 smaller in 2011 compared to 1999 across all age groups, amongst both men and women;
- this change in population composition is most pronounced in relative terms amongst 55-64 year old men and 55-59 year old women, with 2011 numbers in these age-groups half of what they were in 1999; with net migration making an obvious contribution, the impact of mortality, and changes in morbidity and mortality patterns over the past 12 years cannot be ruled out, and require an additional and comprehensive demographic-epidemiological assessment.

### III. FERTILITY PROFILE

#### A. Indicators and methods

The indicators of fertility in this brief analysis are the ones that are commonly used and have practical use, either for monitoring of trends or for use with calculation of other indicators. They are the following:

**1. Proportion of population under the age of 5 and under the age of 15**

These indicators pertain to the age structure of the population and tell us about recent and not-so recent numbers of births, without relying on the numbers of births that were actually reported;

**2. Crude Birth Rate (CBR)**

A measure that relates the number of reported births to the total population. It is useful to quickly calculate numbers of births and pregnancies when we know the total population, but is a fairly crude measure, as the name of the indicator already suggests. That is because it doesn't account for changes in age structure of the population;

**3. General Fertility Rate (GFR)**

The number of live births per 1,000 women ages 15-49 years in a given year. Somewhat more robust than the CBR, and used primarily in calculation or estimation of maternal mortality;

**4. Adolescent Fertility Rate (ASFR 15-19)**

An indicator that measures the fertility of adolescents (age range 15 thru 19). It is an MDG indicator and reflects exposure to high-risk pregnancies; and

**5. Total Fertility Rate (TFR)**

The total number of births that a woman would have over her reproductive life if her fertility were to conform to the age-specific fertility rates of its reference period. The most commonly used indicator, and useful for monitoring fertility trends.

There are basically **two methods available for deriving the above indicators**. One is **direct calculation**, that is, applying the respective formulas directly to the reported data. The second is **indirect estimation**, where the basic data undergoes checks for consistency and certain correction factors are applied before arriving at a final estimate. Results from both approaches are reported where relevant, but details on various different indirect estimation methods are omitted.

#### B. Age structure

The census reports a total population for the Republic of the Marshall Islands of 53,158. The number of children under age 5 is 7,743 and that of under age 15 is 21,253. The proportion of under fives is thus 14.6% while that of under 15s is 40.0%. These percentages are high and reflect fairly high fertility levels that show little sign of decline.

#### C. Crude Birth Rate

The total number of births in the RMI during the 12 months preceding the 2011 census is reported as 1,707. On a total population of 52,513 this results in a CBR of 32.5 births per 1,000 population. This is slightly lower than the value obtained from the 2007 RMI Demographic and Health Survey, which reported a CBR of 35.3 per thousand. In similar fashion the CBR for urban areas of the RMI is found to be 33.1 per thousand and for rural it is 30.7. The finding that the urban CBR is higher than the rural one is unusual and differs from what was found in the 2007 DHS for the RMI. That survey reported a rural CBR of 38.4 per thousand, while the urban CBR was 33.4 per thousand.

## D. General Fertility Rate

A total of 12,848 women in the age range of 15-49 gave birth to a total of 1,707 live born babies over the 12 month period preceding the census. These figures result in a GFR of 133 per thousand. The GFR for women in urban areas is 129 per thousand, while that for women in rural areas is found to be significantly higher, at 147 per thousand. These results are lower than, but consistent with those from the 2007 DHS, where the total GFR was calculated as 165 per thousand, and the GFR for urban and rural women reached 151 and 196 per thousand, respectively. This also demonstrates that the CBR is easily influenced by imbalances in the age and sex composition of the population.

## E. Adolescent Fertility

Fertility rates among adolescents in the RMI are considered to be the highest in the Pacific region, and are thereby a serious concern. The 2007 DHS reported an age-specific fertility rate for 15-19 year olds of 138 per thousand, more than two times the value found in most other Pacific countries.

The RMI 2011 Census suggests considerably lower values from what was found by the 2007 DHS, although they remain high. For the entire RMI, the ASFR 15-19 is calculated as 85 per thousand, while indirect estimation adjusts this to 101 per thousand. For urban girls the values are 83 and 97, respectively. The 2007 DHS had found a value of 116 per thousand. For rural girls the results show a more pronounced discrepancy, with a directly calculated value of 99 per thousand and an adjusted estimation of 117 per thousand versus the DHS estimate of 191 per thousand.

Disaggregating adolescent fertility according to marital status sheds some light on the nature of the high fertility rates found for girls in the RMI. It shows that marital fertility in this age group is very high, and that fertility for common law unions is not much lower than that for legally married women, at least not for women in urban areas. Fertility for girls in common law unions in rural areas is found to be notably lower, however, than that of their urban counterparts or their legally married peers.

**Table 3.1: Age-Specific Fertility Rate 15-49 (unadjusted) by Marital Status**

<b>ASFR 15-19 (unadjusted) by marital status</b>				
	Total	Never married	Legally married	Common law
Total	0.085	0.057	0.355	0.295
Urban	0.083	0.052	0.375	0.322
Rural	0.099	0.082	0.286	0.182

## F. Total Fertility Rate

The proportion of Children Ever Born alive for women of ages 45-49 reaches nearly 5 children per woman, whereas the directly calculated TFR is just over 4 children per woman. This suggests that fertility levels among women in RMI may be declining. Indirect estimation results in a marginal adjustment, bringing the TFR to a level of 4.1 children per woman. Some evidence of a fertility decline is presented by the results from the 2007 DHS which reported a TFR of 4.5.

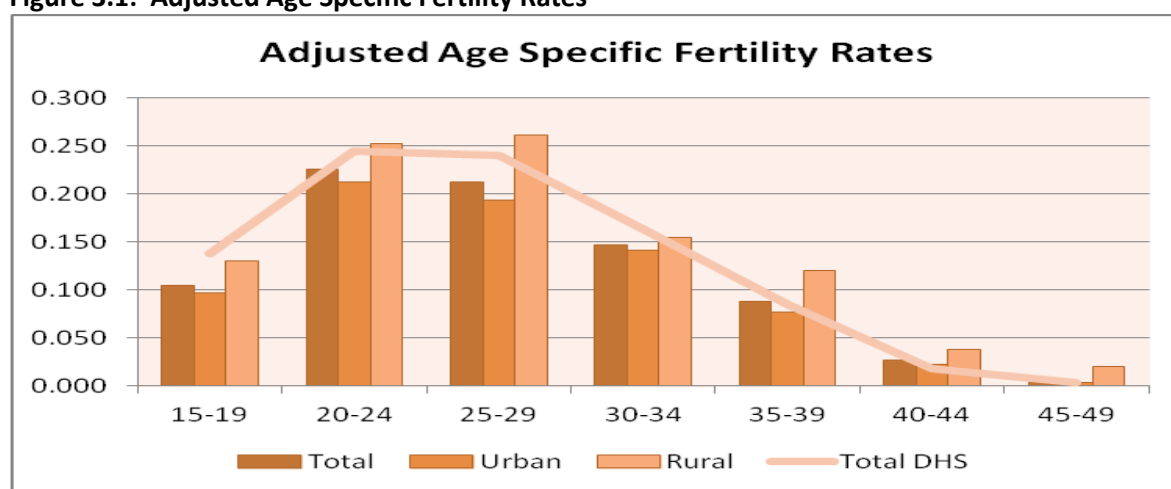
For women in urban areas of the RMI the census results are similar. The directly calculated TFR amounts to 3.9 while the proportion of Children Ever Born for women aged 45-49 is calculated as 4.9 children per woman. Indirect estimation results in a slightly lower adjustment factor than for the total, resulting in a TFR of 3.7 children per woman. The 2007 DHS estimated the urban TFR at 4.1

The directly calculated TFR for women in rural areas of the RMI is 4.5 children per woman. The difference with the cumulated fertility for women aged 45-49 is somewhat less than for urban women. This value reaches 5.3. The adjusted TFR for rural women in RMI has a value of 4.9 children per woman, slightly less than the TFR of 5.2 that was obtained from the 2007 DHS.

### G. Age-Specific Fertility Rates

The age-specific fertility rates show the pattern of fertility by five-year age group of women. The RMI 2011 Census data indicate that fertility peaks for women of ages 20-24. Fertility is slightly lower for women of ages 25-29. The overall pattern is quite similar to that from the 2007 DHS, although the levels tend to be slightly lower for the 2011 data. The main difference is observed for 15-19 year olds, as discussed above. The 2007 DHS reported slightly lower values for older women than the 2011 census.

**Figure 3.1: Adjusted Age Specific Fertility Rates**



Whereas for women in urban areas fertility levels reach a peak at age group 20-24, for rural women the highest level of childbearing occurs at ages 25-29. It is for this age group where the largest difference between the urban and rural fertility pattern is encountered.

## IV. MORTALITY PROFILE

The analysis of mortality presented in this chapter relies primarily on the basic data that is commonly collected in population censuses for use with indirect estimation techniques, that is, the numbers of children ever born by and the numbers of children surviving, by age of mother.

The RMI 2011 Census did not collect data on deaths in the household over the twelve months preceding the census (commonly used to calculate direct measures of mortality) or data on orphanhood (used to estimate adult mortality). In effect, the mortality indicators presented in the chapter are derived from one parameter. The following indicators are presented:

- (1) **Infant Mortality Rate** – The proportion of live born children who die before reaching the age of one year.
- (2) **Under-five mortality rate** – The proportion of live born children dying before reaching the age of five years.
- (3) **Life Expectancy at Birth** – The number of years that a newborn baby may expect to live if the mortality levels and pattern stays the same from the time of birth.

## A. Infant Mortality Rate

The RMI 2011 Census did collect data on the survival status of births that happened over the twelve month period preceding the census. This allows a partial estimation of the Infant Mortality Rate. On the average, the births over the preceding twelve months took place six months before the census date. This means that the reported numbers of children surviving are the results of, on the average, six months of exposure to the risk of mortality. The risk of mortality tends to be higher during the first month after birth (neonatal mortality).

Data from the 2007 RMI DHS indicate that two-thirds of infant deaths occur during the first month of life. For urban infants, it is estimated that this proportion may be slightly higher, around 70%, while for rural infants it is expected to be significantly lower, at around 50%. Adding to this the mortality of the next five months, it is estimated that the calculated (partial) proportion of children dying is about 82% of the actual proportion for total, 84% for urban, and 73% for rural infants<sup>1</sup>. The partial and adjusted estimated IMR are reported in Table 4.1 below. While the values for both sexes combined appear plausible, the sex-specific results are not. For this reason the values for partial and adjusted IMRs are presented in italics, and must be considered for illustrative purposes only.

A third set of estimates is added to Table 4.1 below for total, urban and rural which represents a “best” estimate derived from the Children Under Five Mortality Rate (or U5MR). No sex-specific results are presented for this “best” estimate due to severe inconsistencies between male and female estimates. As these estimates are derived from the youngest age group of mothers, they refer to the year 2010.

**Table 4.1: Infant Mortality Rate over Twelve Month Period Preceding Census 2011**

	Total			Urban			Rural		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Partial	26.4	<i>32.8</i>	<i>18.4</i>	24.8	<i>29.1</i>	<i>19.4</i>	31.1	<i>44.4</i>	<i>15.5</i>
Adjusted	32.1	<i>40.0</i>	<i>22.4</i>	29.7	<i>34.8</i>	<i>23.2</i>	42.8	<i>61.1</i>	<i>21.4</i>
From U5MR	32.5			31.0			48.1		

These “best” estimates not only appear to be plausible, but are also consistent with the U5MR estimates. As a final comment it may be noted that these estimates are also fairly consistent with the estimates obtained from RMI DHS and vital registration. These two sources resulted in IMR estimates of 21 and 33 per thousand live births, for the years 2003-2007 and 2004-2006 respectively.

## B. Under five mortality

Indirect estimation of childhood mortality from the 2011 census for the RMI is possible only on the basis of data on Children Ever Born and Children Surviving. This data suggests relatively low mortality rates, with exception of the data points obtained from women aged 15-19. These tend to match the adjusted Infant Mortality Rates from the previous paragraph, and also refer to the same reference year.

<sup>1</sup> That is, two-third plus 5/11 times 1/3 = 67% + 15% = 82% for total, 70% + 5/11 times 30% = 84% for urban, and 50% + 5/11 times 50% = 73% for rural

From this, a value for the probability of dying before age five is obtained of 39 per thousand<sup>2</sup>. In similar fashion an U5MR for urban is found of 37 per thousand. For children in rural RMI the U5MR estimation results in a value of 60 per thousand. However, similar to the IMR estimation, the sex-specific results appear to suffer from inconsistencies. Until the underlying data issues are resolved it is decided to suppress these.

### C. Life expectancy at birth

Due to the fact that mortality estimation from the RMI 2011 Census is limited to the results from Children Ever Born and Children Surviving only, the calculation of life expectancy at birth is limited to matching of one childhood mortality parameter with model life tables. The parameter used to generate the respective life tables is the U5MR from mothers aged 15-19. With inputs as described above, the life expectancy at birth for the total population of RMI (both sexes) is estimated at 68.3 years. For the urban population it is 68.7 years, while for rural a value of 64.7 years is obtained.

## V. EDUCATION PROFILE

### A. Educational Attainment

The level of educational attainment is an important indicator of the degree of development and quality of life standards achieved by countries, as reflected in many demonstrated inter-relationships between education and demographic, economic and social development. For example, educated mothers tend to have fewer and healthier children. Higher levels of education also contribute to a better qualified workforce, and better educated people also have improved chances to find employment, both domestically and overseas. It is for such reasons that education is an important development goal for Pacific island countries and their development partners.

According to the RMI 2011 Census, 42.9% of people aged 25 and over have completed high school or pursued further studies and training (Table 5.1); an additional 47.8 % had completed primary education (19.2%) or completed some years of High school (28.6%). While this picture represents a small improvement over the situation prevailing in the late 1990s, as reflected in comparative figures of 40.1% and 45.6% respectively, the fact that (1) 28.6% of people aged 25 or older had started but not completed high school, and that (2) this proportion actually increased since the late 1990s (21.6%), could be seen as two major policy challenges.

**Table 5.1: Educational attainment of Marshall Islands population aged 25+, 1999 and 2011**

Educational Attainment	1999		2011	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
No schooling	554	3.1%	296	1.3%
Some elementary	2003	11.2%	1747	7.9%
Elementary completed	4284	24.0%	4247	19.2%
Some high school	3858	21.6%	6317	28.6%
High School completed	4450	24.9%	5478	24.8%
Some college or higher	1419	7.9%	2008	9.1%
College or higher completed	1303	7.3%	1987	9.0%
Total	17871	100.0%	22080	100.0%

Examining some of these features by age shows surprisingly few variations, except that people aged 65+ show overall lower levels of education except in the categories *some college* and *completed college and*

<sup>2</sup> Using the program Qfive, and the West pattern of mortality.

higher”, where this age group actually has a slight edge over the current 25-34 year olds (Table 5.2). Virtually no change seems to have occurred in high school attendance and completion over the past 30-40 years, with similar proportions of 25 to 54 year olds referring to some years of high school (29-31%) or completed high school (24-26%) as their highest level of educational attainment. Considering that this figure was only 34.3% amongst the 65+ population but steadily increased to 56.3% for the 25-34 cohort supports an earlier observation: that while people are more likely to commence high school, the proportions completing high school or moving on to higher education has remained largely unchanged, which has important policy implications.

**Table 5.2: Educational attainment of Marshall Islands population aged 25+ by age, 1999 and 2011**

Educational Attainment	Age Group				
	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
No schooling	1.5%	0.9%	0.9%	1.3%	4.4%
Some elementary	7.8%	6.8%	6.7%	8.8%	18.0%
Elementary completed	17.3%	18.6%	20.6%	21.8%	25.3%
Some high school	30.2%	31.0%	29.4%	22.4%	15.1%
High School completed	26.0%	24.1%	24.4%	25.7%	19.2%
Some college or higher	10.4%	9.2%	8.0%	7.6%	6.9%
College or higher completed	6.8%	9.4%	9.9%	12.4%	11.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

## B. Enrolment Ratios

School enrolment has increased slightly for children aged 5-9 years to 80.1% in 2011 from 74.2% in the late 1990s, and increased to 91.9% from 86.6% aged 10-14 over the same period. While showing a positive development in recent years, building on these achievements in the context of achieving education for all children, and reversing the recent decline in enrolment amongst Marshallese youth (from 43.3% to currently 38%) represent important policy challenges (See Table 5.3).

**Table 5.3: Enrolment Ratios by Age Group, 5-24, Marshall Islands, 1999 and 2011**

Age Group	Number Enroled		Total Persons		Enrolment Ratio	
	1999	2011	1999	2011	1999	2011
5-9	4,929	5,611	6,640	7,009	74.2%	80.1%
10-14	6,518	5,943	7,513	6,464	86.8%	91.9%
15-24	4,719	3,601	10,861	9,473	43.4%	38.0%

**Figure 5.1: Enrolment Ratios by Age Groups, 5-9, 10-14, 15-24 by Gender, 2011 Census**

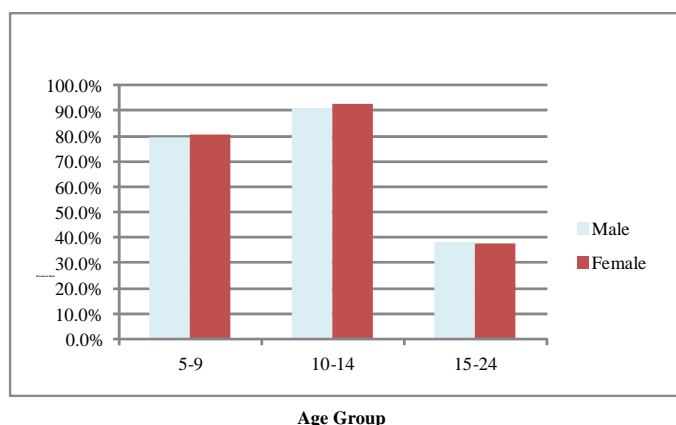
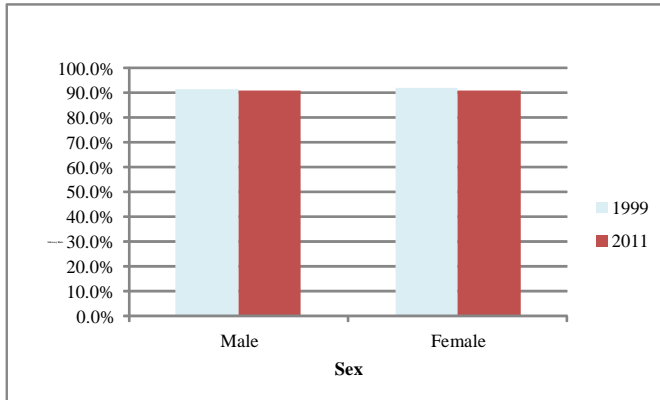


Figure 5.1 illustrates the **absence of a gender gap** in current educational enrolment in these age groups, pointing to only very marginal differences: slightly higher ratios in favor of girls in the 5-9 and 10-14 age groups, and an equally marginal favor of males in the 15-24 age group. In other words, there is equal primarily school and junior high school enrolment between boys and girls, with little differentiating the education participation of RMI male and female youth.

### C. Literacy

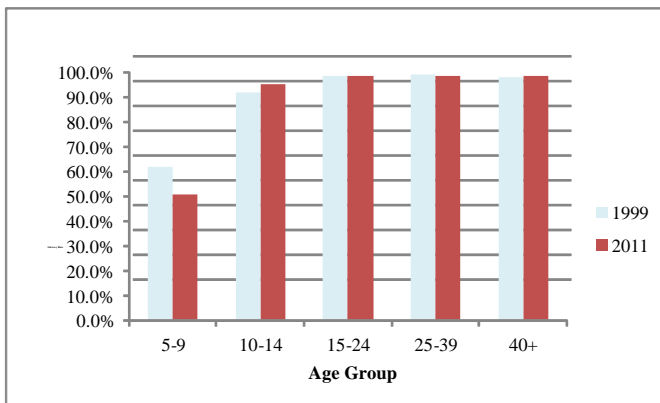
90.6% of the population aged 5 years and older reported to be able to read, write and understand a simple sentence in any language (the literacy definition adopted for the 2011 census). This figure increased to 98.0% of the population 10 years and older, with both rates remaining unchanged since the late 1990s, featuring virtually no difference between males and females (Figure 5.2).

**Figure 5.2: Literacy Rate by Sex, 1999 & 2011**



Featuring near universal literacy amongst the 15+ population (Figure 5.3), the fact that only 1 out of 2 children aged 5-9 was classified as literate in the 2011 census, despite a reported 80% school enrolment of this age group, deserves some policy attention; so should the fact that literacy in this age group was reportedly higher in the late 1990s (61.8%) despite a lower school enrolment rate of this age group (74.2%) at the time.

**Figure 5.3: Literacy Rate by Age Group, 1999 & 2011**



## VI. LABOR FORCE PROFILE

### A. Labor Force

The RMI 2011 Census defined the RMI working age population as people aged 15 years and older, accounted for 31,307 representing an increase of 2,615 people (9.1%) since the last census in 1999 (Table 6.1).



**Table 6.1: Comparison of Working Population by Classification, 1999 and 2011**

Population	Category	1999		2011	
		Number	Rates	Number	Rates
Working age population (15+)	Total	28,692		31,307	
	Male	14,592		15,789	
	Female	14,100		15,518	
Economically Active	Total	14,677	51.2%	12,924	41.3%
	Male	9,679	66.3%	8,417	53.3%
	Female	4,998	35.4%	4,507	29.0%
	Employed				
	Total	10,141	69.1%	12,312	95.3%
	Male	7,008	72.4%	8,007	95.1%
	Female	3,133	62.7%	4,305	95.5%
	Unemployed				
	Total	4,536	30.9%	612	4.7%
	Male	2,671	27.6%	410	4.9%
Female	1,865	37.3%	202	4.5%	
Not Economically Active	Total	14,015	48.8%	18,383	58.7%
	Male	4,913	33.7%	7,372	46.7%
	Female	9,102	64.6%	11,011	71.0%

The actual labor force comprised of 12,924 people (8,417 males, 4,507 females); this represents a national labor force participation rate of 41.3%, with values of **65.1%** (**53.3%** in Table 6.1 below not correct) for males, and **34.9%** (**29.0%** in Table 6.1 below not correct—will inform SPC to correct accordingly) for females. Of this group, 12,312 people considered themselves as employed, with only 612 reporting to be unemployed, revealing an unemployment rate of 4.7% for the Marshall Islands (4.9% for males, 4.5% for females).

Table 6.1 illustrates that the overall increase in the RMI working age population between 1999 and 2011 (+2,615) almost mirrors the net RMI population growth (+ 2,318) over the past 12 years. In contrast, the number of people in the labor force decreased from 14,677 to 12,924 (-11.9%). This is the result of two opposing developments in the RMI labor force:

- *an increase in the number of people reporting to be employed (+2,171), and a*
- *substantial decline (- 3,924) of those reporting to be unemployed between 1999 (4,536) and 2011 (612).*

The latter goes hand-in hand with a **substantial increase in the number of people “exiting” the labor force**, with the number of people reporting to be mainly engaged in housekeeping activities, retired, still in school, temporarily ill, or disabled increasing from 14,015 to 18,383 between 1999 and 2011.

These developments mirror changes in the way questions on labor force activities were asked in the 1999 and 2011 censuses, rather than substantial changes in the RMI economy: **in 1999, people were asked if they had a job or business during the past seven days, whereas in 2011 “home production” of goods (farming, fishing, making handicrafts) for sale or mainly for own consumption were also included as economic activities.** Many, if not most of these people were categorized as unemployed in 1999, whereas in 2011, they were more correctly, and in line with international occupational classification standards, categorized as employed. A more detailed analysis and description will be available in the full census report, and a separate 2011 Labor Force Profile.

## B. Unemployment Rate

While the reported unemployment rate of 4.7% is unexpected, and considering the different ways labor market activities were asked by 2011 Census cannot be realistically compared to 1999 Census.

However, the 2011 Census value still allows for some useful current assessments, such as:

- no marked difference emerge between male (4.9%) and female (4.5) unemployment rates,
- unemployment amongst RMI youth (11%) is more than twice as high as the national average (4.7%), and more than three times higher than figures reported for people over 40 years of age (3.3%);
- more young males (12.2%) report to be unemployed than young females (8.7%).

**Table 6.2: Comparison of Working Population by Classification by Sex by Age, 2011**

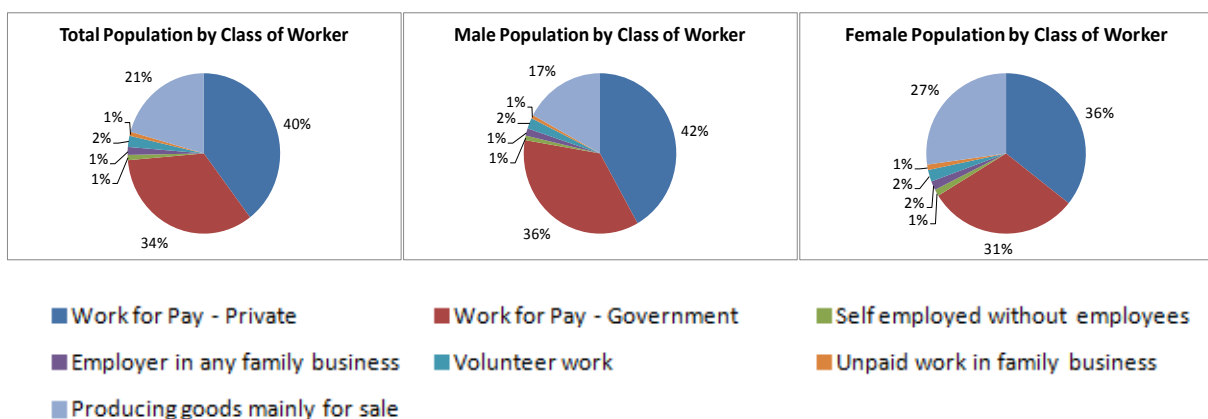
	Working age population								
	Total	Economically Active Population				NILF			
		Total		Employed		Unemployed		Number	Rate
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate			
<i>All Persons</i>									
Total	31,307	12,924	41.3%	12,312	95.3%	612	4.7%	18,383	58.7%
15-24	9,473	1,611	17.0%	1,434	89.0%	177	11.0%	7,862	83.0%
25-39	11,196	5,551	49.6%	5,309	95.6%	242	4.4%	5,645	50.4%
40+	10,638	5,762	54.2%	5,569	96.7%	193	3.3%	4,876	45.8%
<i>Male</i>									
Total	15,789	8,417	53.3%	8,007	95.1%	410	4.9%	7,372	46.7%
15-24	4,808	1,048	21.8%	920	87.8%	128	12.2%	3,760	78.2%
25-39	5,519	3,538	64.1%	3,383	95.6%	155	4.4%	1,981	35.9%
40+	5,462	3,831	70.1%	3,704	96.7%	127	3.3%	1,631	29.9%
<i>Female</i>									
Total	15,518	4,507	29.0%	4,305	95.5%	202	4.5%	11,011	71.0%
15-24	4,665	563	12.1%	514	91.3%	49	8.7%	4,102	87.9%
25-39	5,677	2,013	35.5%	1,926	95.7%	87	4.3%	3,664	64.5%
40+	5,176	1,931	37.3%	1,865	96.6%	66	3.4%	3,245	62.7%

## C. Class of Workers

Describing the type of activities undertaken,

- three out of four economically active Marshallese reported working in paid employment, with the private sector (40%) ahead of government (34%) as a provider of paid employment (Figure 6.1); this contrast with
- one in five economically active people reporting to be “producing goods mainly for sale” (21%), with the remaining 5% reporting to be self-employed, employed in family owned and operated farm or business (either paid or unpaid) or doing volunteer work.
- more men reported working for pay (78%) than women (67%), with more women involved in “producing goods mainly for sale” (27%) than men (17%).

**Figure 2.1: Distribution of Employed persons by Class of Worker by Sex**



## VII. HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

Table 7.1 below indicates that the 2011 Census registered a total of 9,217 houses throughout the RMI as compared to 6,478 housing units captured by the 1999 Census—an increase of 42%. However, of the total visited, 7,738 households were interviewed; 27 special places (institutions such as Prisons, dormitories, churches etc.) were interviewed; 2 refusals; 1,369 Vacant households (owners have either migrated to urban centers of Majuro or Ebeye or to the United States); 60 demolished or uninhabitable; and 18 structures that could not be located or were partially interviewed or were being used as an extended quarter for another household already been interviewed (Table 7.1 below lists the number of housing).

**Table 7.1: Number of Housing Units by Response Type, RMI 2011**

Interview Status	Number
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,214</b>
Complete HH interview	7,738
Complete SP interview	27
Refused	2
Vacant houses (due to internal and external outmigration)	1,369
Demolished	60
Unable to locate/interview	18

Table 7.2 below specifies which atolls and islands in the Republic contributed to the housing situation indicated in Table 7.1 above.

**Table 7.2: Number of Housing Units by Response Type, by Atoll/Island, RMI 2011**

Atoll	Total	Complete HH interview	Complete SP interview	Refused	Vacant	Demolished	Others
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,214</b>	<b>7,738</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1369</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>18</b>
Ailinglaplap	330	287	-	-	43	-	-
Ailuk	114	63	-	-	51	-	-
Arno	330	261	-	-	69	-	-
Aur	110	95	-	-	15	-	-
Bikini	1	0	1	-	-	-	-
Ebon	224	136	-	-	77	9	2
Enewetak	190	106	-	-	84	-	-
Jabat	23	19	-	-	3	-	-
Jaluit	283	252	4	1	26	-	-
Kili	135	89	-	-	46	-	-
<b>Kwajalein</b>	<b>1,423</b>	<b>1,371</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Lae	48	48	-	-	0	-	-
Lib	18	18	-	-	0	-	-
Likiep	96	74	-	-	22	-	-
<b>Majuro</b>	<b>4,805</b>	<b>4,092</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>16</b>
Maloelap	152	124	-	-	28	-	-
Mejit	100	57	-	-	43	-	-
Mili	216	143	-	-	73	-	-
Namdrik	127	97	-	-	30	-	-
Namu	136	131	-	-	5	-	-
Rongelap	5	-	-	-	0	-	-

Ujae	52	52	-	-	0	-	-
Ujelang	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Utirik	74	69	-	-	5	-	-
Wotho	23	22	-	-	1	-	-
Wotje	199	132	1	-	66	-	-

As indicated above, Majuro had the highest number of vacant houses visited during the Census of 632, or 46% of total vacant houses, and many of these were in Laura where many of the owners have mainly migrated out to the United States. For Ebeye Kwajalein, there were 50 people who migrated during the inter censual period while the rest were just internal migration from the outer islands to Majuro and Ebeye.

## A. Type of Dwelling

Table 7.3 below further breaks down the total 7,738 interviewed by type of dwelling. Compared to 1999 Census (6,478 households), there are now 1,260 more households in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. About 70% of these homes are situated in the urban centers of Ebeye and Majuro – also reflected in the uneven distribution of population as previously described, with these two centers constituting over half of the total population. In addition, 81% of these homes are Single Houses, indicating that most of the households reside in single houses. The second most type of dwelling used is the multi-unit residential.

**Table 7.3 Number of Housing Units by Types of Dwelling, by Atoll/Island, RMI 2011**

Atoll/Island	Total	Singe House	Multi-unit Residential	Commercial Buildings	Other types Boat trailers, etc
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,738</b>	<b>6,301</b>	<b>1,124</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>118</b>
Ailinglaplap	287	285	2	-	-
Ailuk	63	63	0	-	-
Arno	261	244	17	-	-
Aur	95	94	1	-	-
Bikini	-	-	-	-	-
Ebon	136	120	15	-	1
Enewetak	106	55	36	15	-
Jabat	19	19	-	-	-
Jaluit	252	236	15	-	1
Kili	89	89	-	-	-
Kwajalein	1,371	694	580	50	47
Lae	48	47	1	-	-
Lib	18	18	-	-	-
Likiep	74	73	1	-	-
Majuro	4,092	3,447	447	130	68
Maloelap	124	124	-	-	-
Mejit	57	57	-	-	-
Mili	143	141	2	-	-
Namdrik	97	97	0	-	-
Namu	131	129	2	-	-
Rongelap	-	-	-	-	-
Ujae	52	51	1	-	-
Ujelang	-	-	-	-	-
Utirik	69	69	-	-	-
Wotho	22	22	-	-	-

## B. Type of Roof

As depicted from Table 7.4 below, over half of the households – 93 per cent – have galvanized/aluminum tin listed as the roofing material in the 2011 Census of Population and Housing. The second most commonly used material is concrete – a total of 242 households (or 3 per cent). This is the case in both the urban and rural settings.

**Table 7.4: Number of Housing Units by Type of Roof, by Atoll/Island, RMI 2011**

Atoll/Island	Total	Type of roof						
		Galvanized/ Aluminum/Tin	Concrete	Wood	Fiber glass	Thatch	Plastic/Canvas Tarp	Other
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,738</b>	<b>7,175</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>
Ailinglaplap	287	239	4	-	2	42	-	-
Ailuk	63	62	-	1	-	-	-	-
Arno	261	238	3	13	-	6	1	-
Aur	95	91	-	1	-	3	-	-
Bikini	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ebon	136	133	-	-	-	3	-	-
Enewetak	106	48	58	-	-	0	-	-
Jabat	19	18	-	-	-	1	-	-
Jaluit	252	230	9	1	-	12	-	-
Kili	89	89	-	-	-	0	-	-
Kwajalein	1,371	1,287	34	19	2	18	-	11
Lae	48	43	-	1	-	4	-	-
Lib	18	17	1	-	-	0	-	-
Likiep	74	72	2	-	-	0	-	-
Majuro	4,092	3,876	114	78	21	1	-	2
Maloelap	124	105	1	-	-	18	-	-
Mejit	57	57	-	-	-	0	-	-
Mili	143	134	-	4	-	5	-	-
Namdrik	97	89	-	1	-	7	-	-
Namu	131	90	4	2	-	34	1	-
Rongelap	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ujae	52	45	4	-	-	3	-	-
Ujelang	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Utirik	69	67	2	-	-	-	-	-
Wotho	22	20	1	1	-	-	-	-
Wotje	132	125	5	2	-	-	-	-

## C. Condition of Housing Units

The 2011 Census discovered that while 53% (4,174) of the households were in good condition, an alarming 43% (3,329) of the households were found to be in need of major repairs, 57 were found to be dilapidated/condemned, 124 under renovation and are being repaired, 49 still under construction and 5 in other condition (e.g. in need of minor repairs, etc. please see Table 7.5 below for the housing revelation).

**Table 7.5: Number of Housing Units by Condition, by Atoll/Island, RMI 2011**

Atoll/Island	Total	State of repair				
		Needs no improvements or minor repairs	Need major repairs	Dilapidated/Condemned	Under renovation/Being repaired	Under construction
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,738</b>	<b>4,174</b>	<b>3,329</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>49</b>
Ailinglaplap	287	119	168	-	-	-
Ailuk	63	7	56	-	-	-
Arno	261	128	132	1	-	-
Aur	95	7	81	-	1	6
Bikini	0	0	0	-	-	-
Ebon	136	79	56	1	-	-
Enewetak	106	12	54	1	39	-
Jabat	19	2	17	-	-	-
Jaluit	252	106	145	-	1	-
Kili	89	79	9	-	1	-
Kwajalein	1,371	671	658	6	21	14
Lae	48	15	33	-	-	-
Lib	18	2	5	11	-	-
Likiep	74	38	36	-	-	-
Majuro	4,092	2,461	1,513	33	57	25
Maloelap	124	34	90	-	-	-
Mejit	57	31	25	-	-	1
Mili	143	49	94	-	-	-
Namdrik	97	49	47	-	1	-
Namu	131	112	15	2	-	1
Rongelap	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ujae	52	31	21	-	-	-
Ujelang	-	-	-	-	-	-
Utirik	69	65	4	-	-	-
Wotho	22	12	8	-	-	2
Wotje	132	65	62	2	3	-

## D. Source of Drinking Water

The 2011 Census indicates that majority of the households in the RMI, i.e., 6,122 or 79% (see Table 7.6 below), used rainwater collection/catchments as their main source of drinking water. With an average household size of 7, this means 42,854 individuals (about 80% of total population) rely heavily on collected rainwater for drinking –a magnitude that calls for some serious, and urgently needed, social policy measures on water quality and control issues.

**Table 7.6: Number of Housing Units by Source of Drinking Water, by Atoll/Island, RMI 2011**

Atoll/Island	Total	Drinking water							
		Public piped water inside dwelling	Public piped water outside dwelling	Rainwater collection/catchments	Public standpipe/water pipe	Covered/Protected well	Uncovered/Unprotected well	Vendor-provided/bottled water	Other
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,738</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>6,122</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>797</b>	<b>108</b>
Ailinglaplap	287	-	-	285	-	1	1	-	-
Ailuk	63	-	-	63	-	-	-	-	-
Arno	261	-	-	255	-	2	-	1	3
Aur	95	-	-	89	-	3	-	-	3
Bikini	0	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-
Ebon	136	-	1	121	-	2	-	-	12
Enewetak	106	-	-	105	-	-	-	-	1
Jabat	19	-	-	19	-	-	-	-	-
Jaluit	252	-	-	252	-	-	-	-	-
Kili	89	-	-	89	-	-	-	-	-
Kwajalein	1,371	102	102	763	257	4	-	121	22
Lae	48	-	-	48	-	-	-	-	-
Lib	18	-	-	18	-	-	-	-	-
Likiep	74	-	-	73	-	1	-	-	-
Majuro	4,092	140	48	3,125	16	23	4	673	63
Maloelap	124	-	-	119	-	4	-	1	-
Mejit	57	-	-	55	-	-	-	-	2
Mili	143	-	-	141	-	-	-	1	1
Namdrik	97	-	-	97	-	-	-	-	-
Namu	131	-	-	130	-	-	-	-	1
Rongelap	0	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-
Ujae	52	-	-	52	-	-	-	-	-
Ujelang	0	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-
Utirik	69	-	-	69	-	-	-	-	-
Wotho	22	-	-	22	-	-	-	-	-
Wotje	132	-	-	132	-	-	-	-	-