



REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS  
1988 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING  
PRELIMINARY RESULTS

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The total population enumerated in the Marshall Islands, in the Census was 43,335. This represents an increase of 12,462 persons or 40.4 percent, since the last Census in 1980. The implied average annual growth rate during the intercensal period is 4.24 percent.

The census was taken with reference to midnight on Sunday, November 13th, 1988. It was de facto, which means that people were enumerated according to where they were on census night. The whole of the Marshall Islands was included with the exception of United States Army Kwajalein Atoll. The enumeration was completed within one week. Field staff received excellent cooperation from the people. The evidence is that coverage was good, though a few people may have been missed in the urban areas.

The distribution of the population and households by Atoll/Island is shown in Table 1. The population of Majuro Atoll is 19,695 or 45.5 percent of the total and that of Kwajalein Atoll is 9,254 or 21.4 percent. Two thirds of the population of the Marshalls is in these two atolls.

Table 2 shows the intercensal increase and average annual growth rates for Atolls/Islands. The population in Majuro Atoll has increased by 67.0 percent during the intercensal period, giving an average annual growth rate of 6.41 percent. The population in Kwajalein Atoll has increased by 39.7 percent and the average annual growth rate is 4.18 percent.

Table 3 shows the population density by Atoll/Island. Majuro Atoll ranks first with a population density of 5,563 persons per sq. mile. Kwajalein Atoll has a density of 2,279 per sq. mile and Kili Island, 1,647 per sq. mile.

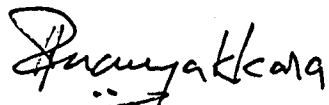
Table 4 shows the average size of household by Atoll/ Island for 1980 and 1988. The national average has increased from 8.0 to 8.8 per household during this period. In Majuro Atoll it has increased from 7.8 to 8.9. However in the Kwajalein Atoll average size had dropped from 10.2 to 9.8 per household.

Table 5 shows the population of Majuro Atoll by local area. Almost 75 percent of the population in Majuro Atoll live in the DUD area. The average number of persons per household in this area is 9.5.

Table 6 shows the Urban-Rural distribution of the Marshall Islands. Majuro Atoll and Ebeye which represent the Urban Sector of the Marshall Islands have a population of 27,972 or 64.5 percent of the total. The urban population has increased as a proportion of the whole from 58.2 percent in 1980 to 64.5 in 1988.

Table 7 shows urban population densities. On Ebeye the density is 59,121 persons per square mile compared to 51,408 persons per square mile in 1980.

The data are being processed and it is expected that final figures and first priority tables will be produced by April 30th 1989. Further details will be published as they become available thereafter.



A.G.W. Nanayakkara  
Census Commissioner

December 08, 1988.

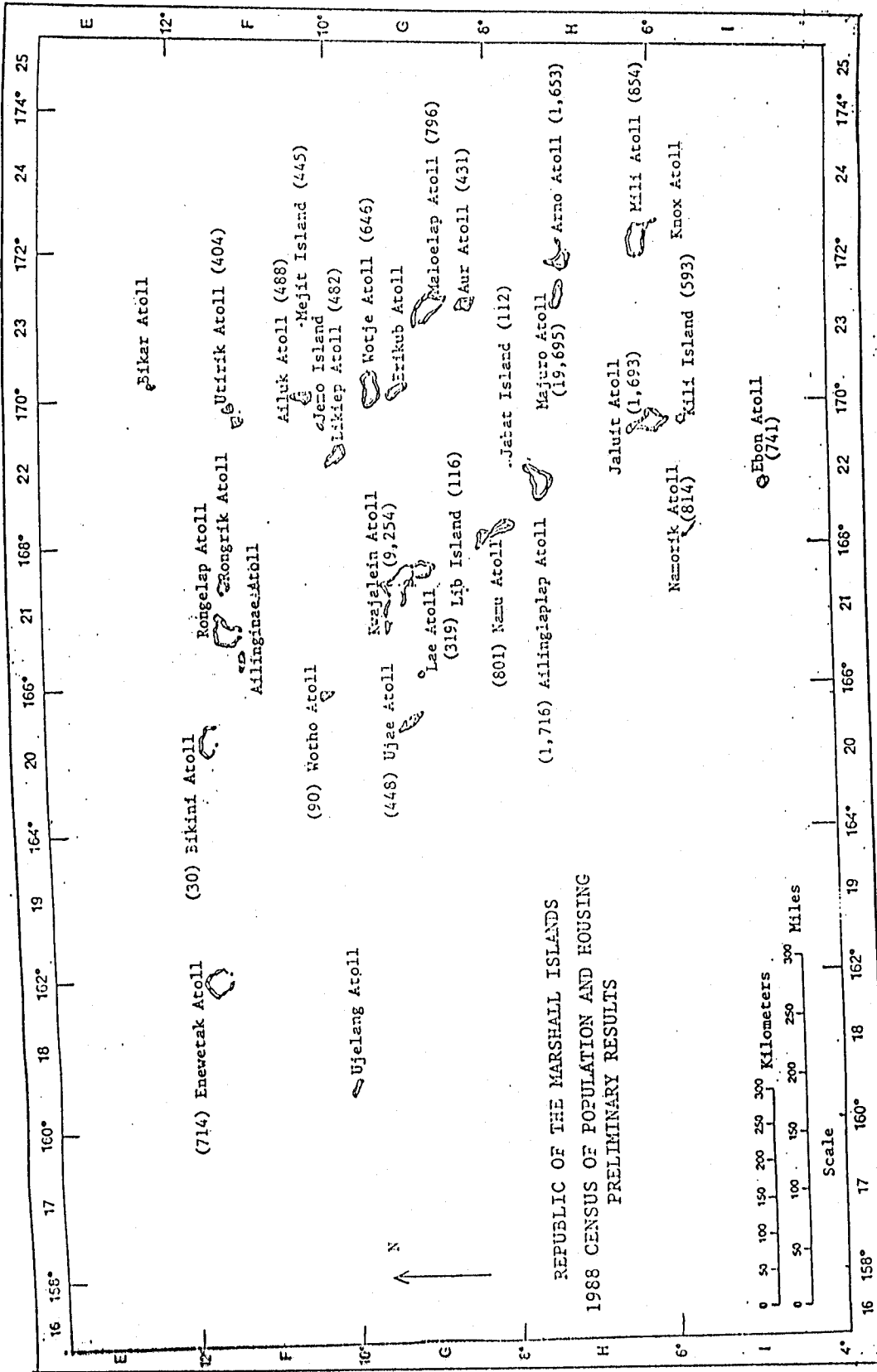
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TABLE 1 - POPULATION BY ATOLL/ISLAND - 1988 CENSUS

Atoll/Island	Population Number	%	Number of Households
1 Ailinglaplap Atoll	1,716	4.0	200
2 Ailuk Atoll	488	1.1	72
3 Arno Atoll	1,653	3.8	187
4 Aur Atoll	431	1.0	60
5 Bikini Atoll	30	0.1	1
6 Ebon Atoll	741	1.7	90
7 Enewetak Atoll	714	1.6	102
8 Jabat Island	112	0.3	17
9 Jaluit Atoll	1,693	3.9	205
10 Kili Island	593	1.4	81
11 Kwajalein Atoll	9,254	21.4	946
12 Lae Atoll	319	0.7	25
13 Lib Island	116	0.3	15
14 Likiep Atoll	482	1.1	71
15 Majuro Atoll	19,695	45.5	2,201
16 Maloelap Atoll	796	1.8	103
17 Mejit Island	445	1.0	48
18 Mili Atoll	854	2.0	124
19 Namorik Atoll	814	1.9	97
20 Namu Atoll	801	1.8	86
21 Rongelap Atoll	-	-	-
22 Ujae Atoll	448	1.0	37
23 Ujelang Atoll	-	-	-
24 Utrik Atoll	404	0.9	52
25 Wotho Atoll	90	0.2	16
26 Wotje Atoll	646	1.5	79
Marshall Islands	43,335	100.0	4,915

Notes:

- (1) United States Army Kwajalein Atoll is excluded.
- (2) 85 persons were enumerated on board ships in Marshall Islands waters outside Majuro. They have been attributed to Majuro in order to avoid distorting the population of other atolls.
- (3) 96 persons in hotels completed the census return. They are not included in the tables.
- (4) 282 Rongelap people were enumerated on Mejetto in Kwajalein Atoll.



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TABLE 2 - INTERCENSAL INCREASE AND AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH RATES  
FOR ATOLLS/ISLANDS, 1980 AND 1988 CENSUSES

Atoll/Island	Population		Intercensal increase		Average annual growth rate (percent)
	1980 Census	1988 Census	Number	%	
1 Ailinglaplap Atoll	1,385	1,716	331	23.9	2.68
2 Ailuk Atoll	413	488	75	18.2	2.09
3 Arno Atoll	1,487	1,653	166	11.2	1.32
4 Aur Atoll	444	431	-13	-2.9	-0.37
5 Bikini Atoll	-	30	30		
6 Ebon Atoll	887	741	-146	-16.5	-2.25
7 Enewetak Atoll	542	714	172	31.7	3.45
8 Jabat Island	72	112	40	55.6	5.52
9 Jaluit Atoll	1,450	1,693	243	16.8	1.94
10 Kili Island	489	593	104	21.3	2.41
11 Kwajalein Atoll	6,624	9,254	2,630	39.7	4.18
12 Lae Atoll	237	319	82	34.6	3.71
13 Lib Island	98	116	18	18.4	2.11
14 Likiep Atoll	481	482	1	0.2	0.03
15 Majuro Atoll	11,791	19,695	7,904	67.0	6.41
16 Maloelap Atoll	614	796	182	29.6	3.25
17 Mejit Island	325	445	120	36.9	3.93
18 Mili Atoll	763	854	91	11.9	1.41
19 Namorik Atoll	617	814	197	31.9	3.46
20 Namu Atoll	654	801	147	22.5	2.53
21 Rongelap Atoll	235	-	-	-	-
22 Ujae Atoll	309	448	139	45.0	4.64
23 Ujelang Atoll	-	-	-	-	-
24 Utrik Atoll	336	404	68	20.2	2.30
25 Wotho Atoll	85	90	5	5.9	0.71
26 Wotje Atoll	535	646	111	20.7	2.36
Marshall Islands	30,873	43,335	12,462	40.4	4.24

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TABLE 3 - POPULATION, LAND AREA, POPULATION DENSITY AND RANK  
BY ATOLL/ISLAND.

Atoll/Island	1988 Census				1980 Census		
	Population		Land Area sq.miles	Population per sq.mile	Population per sq.mile		
		Rank		Rank		Rank	
1 Ailinglaplap Atoll	1,716	3	5.67	3	303	16	244
2 Ailuk Atoll	488	14	2.07	16	236	17	200
3 Arno Atoll	1,653	5	5.00	4	331	13	297
4 Aur Atoll	431	18	2.17	15	199	20	205
5 Bikini Atoll	30	24	2.32	12	13	24	-
6 Ebon Atoll	741	10	2.22	14	334	11	400
7 Enewetak Atoll	714	11	2.26	13	316	15	240
8 Jabat Island	112	22	0.22	26	509	7	327
9 Jaluit Atoll	1,693	4	4.38	5	387	10	331
10 Kili Island	593	13	0.36	24	1,647	3	1,358
11 Kwajalein Atoll *	9,254	2	6.33	1	2,279	2	1,632
12 Lae Atoll	319	20	0.52	23	614	6	423
13 Lib Island	116	21	0.36	24	322	14	272
14 Likiep Atoll	482	15	3.96	6	122	22	121
15 Majuro Atoll	19,695	1	3.54	8	5,564	1	3,142
16 Maloelap Atoll	796	9	3.79	7	210	18	162
17 Mejit Island	445	17	0.72	20	446	8	451
18 Mili Atoll	854	6	6.15	2	139	21	124
19 Namorik Atoll	814	7	1.07	18	761	4	577
20 Namu Atoll	801	8	2.42	11	331	12	270
21 Rongelap Atoll	-	-	3.07	10	-	-	77
22 Ujae Atoll	448	16	0.72	20	622	5	429
23 Ujelang Atoll	-	-	0.67	22	-	-	-
24 Utrik Atoll	404	19	0.94	19	430	9	357
25 Wotho Atoll	90	23	1.67	17	54	23	51
26 Wotje Atoll	646	12	3.16	9	204	19	169
Marshall Islands	43,335		69.84		621		442

\* USAKA area excluded in calculating the population density.

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TABLE 4 - NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS AND AVERAGE NUMBER OF PERSONS PER  
HOUSEHOLD, 1980 AND 1988 CENSUSES

	Number of Households		Average number of Persons per Household	
	Census 1980	Census 1988	1980	1988
1 Ailinglaplap Atoll	156	200	8.9	8.6
2 Ailuk Atoll	53	72	7.8	6.8
3 Arno Atoll	231	187	6.4	8.8
4 Aur Atoll	57	60	7.8	7.2
5 Bikini Atoll	-	1	-	-
6 Ebon Atoll	121	90	7.3	8.2
7 Enewetak Atoll	87	102	6.2	7.0
8 Jabat Island	11	17	6.6	6.6
9 Jaluit Atoll	207	205	7.0	7.8
10 Kili Island	73	81	6.7	7.3
11 Kwajalein Atoll	652	946	10.2	9.8
12 Lae Atoll	29	25	8.2	12.8
13 Lib Island	15	15	6.5	7.7
14 Likiep Atoll	63	71	7.6	6.8
15 Majuro Atoll	1,510	2,201	7.8	8.9
16 Maloelap Atoll	99	103	6.2	7.7
17 Mejit Island	38	48	8.6	9.3
18 Mili Atoll	104	124	7.3	6.9
19 Namorik Atoll	77	97	8.0	8.4
20 Namu Atoll	89	86	7.4	9.3
21 Rongelap Atoll	37	-	6.4	-
22 Ujae Atoll	37	37	8.4	12.1
23 Ujelang Atoll	-	-	-	-
24 Utrik Atoll	41	52	8.2	7.8
25 Wotho Atoll	11	16	7.7	5.6
26 Wotje Atoll	73	79	7.3	8.1
Marshall Islands	3,871	4,915	8.0	8.8



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TABLE 5 - POPULATION OF MAJURO ATOLL BY LOCAL AREA  
CENSUS 1988

Area Names	Population Number	%	Number of Households	Average Number of Persons per Household
Djarrit (Rita)	6,791	34.4	734	9.3
Uliga	2,196	11.1	231	9.5
Delap	5,727	29.0	590	9.7
Long Island/Rairok	2,019	10.3	299	6.8
Ajeltake-Arrak	892	4.5	109	8.2
Laura	1,586	8.1	186	8.5
Rongrong-Garra *	338	1.7	26	5.6
Ejit	156	0.8	26	6.0
Majuro Atoll	19,695	100.0	2,201	8.9

(1) 191 persons in the Rongrong High School were excluded in calculating number of persons per household.

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TABLE 6 - URBAN AND RURAL POPULATION 1980 AND 1988 CENSUSES

Sector	Census 1980		Census 1988	
	Number	%	Number	%
Urban	17,960	58.2	27,972	64.5
Majuro Atoll - DUD	8,583	(27.8)	14,704	(33.9)
- Remainder	3,208	(10.4)	4,991	(11.5)
Kwajalein Atoll - Ebeye	6,169	(20.0)	8,277	(19.1)
Rural	12,913	41.8	15,363	35.5
Marshall Islands	30,873	100.0	43,335	100.0

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TABLE 7 - URBAN POPULATION DENSITIES

	Census 1980		Census 1988	
	Land Area (sq. miles)	Population per Square Mile	Land Area (sq. mile)	Population per Square Mile
Majuro Atoll				
-DUD	0.51	16,825	0.51	28,831
-Remainder	3.03	1,059	3.03	1,647
Kwajalein Atoll				
-Ebeye *	0.12	51,408	0.14	59,121
Total Urban	3.66	4,907	3.68	7.601

\* Areas are approximate, landfill proceeds