

# China says population rises to 1.34 billion

February 28 2011

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China said on Monday that its population -- already the world's largest -- increased by 6.3 million last year to hit 1.341 billion by the end of 2010.

The rise was roughly equal to the [population](#) of the city of Rio de Janeiro.

The 2010 figure was released by the National Bureau of Statistics, which called it a preliminary estimate.

A final figure will be published in April when the government finishes tabulating data obtained in a census conducted late last year, the nation's first full census in a decade.

China's population was calculated at 1.295 billion in the last full census in 2000.

[China](#) has previously said its so-called "one-child" policy -- which generally limits people to one [offspring](#), with exceptions for certain groups -- has averted 400 million births since its imposition in 1980.

The nation had a population of 594 million, less than half the current figure, in its first census in 1953.

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Citation: China says population rises to 1.34 billion (2011, February 28) retrieved 1 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2011-02-china-population-billion.html>

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