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Population of Bahrain and its Growth.

Up to the present day four censuses have been taken in Bahrain, the latest of which was that of 1965. Now it is possible to apply certain statistical methods by which we are able to forecast the size of population for the next few years. However, the high proportion of non-Bahrainis, which has reached a level of 21.1% in 1965, prejudices the application of such methods to the whole population, because the change in the number of expatriates in the country depends wholly on the Government's future policy on migration. Therefore, the growth formula can be applied to Bahrainis because they are subject to the principle of natural growth, whereas estimates in respect of expatriates need to be dealt with by other methods.

Table 1.

Number of Bahrainis According to the Four Censuses.

	1941	1950	1959	1965
No. of Bahrainis (in thousands)	74.0	91.2	118.7	143.8

In Table 1 we notice that the number of Bahrainis is increasing at a constant rate and thereupon we reach a population growth formula (curve) as follows:

$$Y = 71.8e^{0.0276x}$$

where:

x represents the years while talking into consideration that x=1941=0.

e is the constant, whose value aquals 2.718, to the nearest three decimals.

y is the estimated number of Bahrainis.

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Giving different values to x, we can obtain the estimated values of Y, as shown in the following table :

Table 2

Estimated Number of Bahrainis for the Period 1968-1985.

Years	X	$0.0276x$ e	Expected no. of Bahrainis (in thousands)
1968	27	2.1066	151.2
1969	28	2.1667	155.6
1970	29	2,2257	159.8
1972	31	2.3540	169.0
1975	34	2.5543	183.4
1980	39	2.9334	210.6
1985	44	3.3659	240.7

This table shows the estimated number of Bahrainis for the next thirteen years: the forecast being based on the real population growth during the years between the four consuses.

As for the number of expatriates, we find that it reached a level of about 38.4 thousand, according to the 1965 census, whereas it did not exceed the 24.4 thousand mark in 1959, at an annual increase of 8.2%. In addition, supposing the Government's policy on migration during the six years between the last two censuses continued throughout the three years following the last census, then it is possible to estimate the number of expatriates in 1968 at 47 thousand. Therefore, it is possible to say that the population of Bahrain reached the figure of 198.2 thousand in mid 1968.

Prepared by,
7th November, 1968. The Statistical Bureau.

A.M.

Government of Bahrain,
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