

South Ethiopia Region/*Kilil*

The South Ethiopia Regional State or *Kilil* is a new region formed in a referendum that brought together a dozen or so areas previously referred to as Zones, including Wolayita, Gamo, Gofa, Gedeo, South Omo, Ari, Konso, Gardula, Burji, Koore, Basketo, and Ale, making it perhaps the most ethnically diverse region in the country. As Sidama *Kilil* had previously splintered from the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region (SNNPR) followed by the Southwest Ethiopia *Kilil*, the formation of the South Ethiopia *Kilil* left another half a dozen or so zones which, by default, became the Central Ethiopia *Kilil*. Prominent cities in the Southern Ethiopia *Kilil* include Wolaita Sodo and Arbaminch.

The population of the newly formed *Kilil* is estimated to be approximately 7.7 million based on extrapolations from the 1994 census, a 30-year forward projection. We did not use the 2007 census estimates due to the unreliability of results from that census. Although it is estimated that members of the Wolayita ethnic community represent a majority population in the South Ethiopia *Kilil*, the best way to verify all of these estimates, projections, and assumptions is to conduct a national housing and population census in Ethiopia.

Table 1. *Kilil* Population (January 1, 2024)*

REGION/ <i>Kilil</i>	Census_1994	PERCENT_94	Jan1ST_2024	
Addis Ababa	2,112,737	3.95	4,956,700	
Afar	1,060,573	1.98	2,488,200	
Amhara	13,834,301	25.87	32,456,300	Excludes populations of Wolkait and Raya
Benishangul Gumuz	460,459	0.86	1,080,300	
Central	3,999,307	7.48	9,382,700	
Dire Dawa	251,864	0.47	590,900	
Gambella	181,862	0.34	426,700	
Hareri	131,139	0.25	307,700	
Oromiya	18,732,525	35.03	43,947,900	
Sidama	2,044,836	3.82	4,797,300	
South	3,294,026	6.16	7,728,100	
South West	1,038,859	1.94	2,437,200	
Somali	3,198,514	5.98	7,503,900	
Tigray	3,136,267	5.86	7,357,900	Incudes populations of Wolkait and Raya
Total	53,477,269	100.00	125,461,800	

*Extrapolated based on zonal population percentages in the 1994 census.