

Workshop of the Committee on Social Development and Quality of Life of the Commission on Strategic Development

Information Note on The Demographic Characteristics and Trends of Hong Kong

I. TOTAL POPULATION PROJECTION

- According to the projections made by the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD), the population is projected to increase at an average annual rate of 0.7% to 8.38 million in 2033.

Figure 1 Projected population and average annual growth rate

Year	Population	Average annual growth rate over a 5-year period	Population (foreign domestic helpers excluded)	Average annual growth rate over a 5-year period
2005	6 935 900	0.8%	6 715 100	0.8%
2008	7 058 900	0.7%	6 815 000	0.7%
2013	7 386 900	0.9%	7 113 000	0.9%
2018	7 691 800	0.8%	7 395 400	0.8%
2023	7 970 200	0.7%	7 651 300	0.7%
2028	8 202 200	0.6%	7 868 300	0.6%
2033	8 384 100	0.4%	8 035 200	0.4%

- The sex ratio¹ of the population is projected to fall to 698 in 2033. Yet there will be variations in the sex ratio by age group. In particular, the sex ratios for the age groups 15–24 and 25–44 are expected to be much affected by the presence of foreign domestic helpers comprising mostly younger females. Excluding foreign domestic helpers, the sex ratio is projected to fall to 749 in 2033.

¹ “Sex ratio” refers to the ratio of the number of males per 1000 females.

Figure 2 Sex ratio

Year	Sex ratio					Overall
	0–14	15–24	25–44	45–64	65+	
(Foreign domestic helpers included)						
2005	1 067	1 002	803	999	869	921
2008	1 055	973	759	953	867	890
2013	1 035	962	708	864	855	842
2018	1 025	933	688	778	836	800
2023	1 025	895	666	707	812	763
2028	1 027	878	635	649	777	730
2033	1 027	875	610	615	714	698
(Foreign domestic helpers excluded)						
2005	1 067	1 076	913	1 026	869	979
2008	1 055	1 062	875	974	868	950
2013	1 035	1 062	831	882	855	901
2018	1 025	1 050	818	793	836	857
2023	1 025	1 026	801	722	812	819
2028	1 027	1 011	772	663	777	783
2033	1 027	1 011	751	629	714	749

II. FERTILITY

- As compared with the selected economies, Hong Kong has the lowest fertility rate since 1983. The decline in fertility rate of Hong Kong is also the most significant among selected economies.

Figure 3 Comparison with Selected Economies on Total Fertility Rate²

Economy	1983	1988	1993	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
(Number of live births per 1 000 women)											
Hong Kong	1 720	1 400	1 340	1 017	982	1 035	932	939	901	927	973 [#]
Japan	1 800	1 660	1 460	1 380	1 340	1 360	1 330	1 320	1 290	1 290 [#]	-
U.S.A.	1 800	1 930	2 020	2 000	2 010	2 060	2 030	2 010	2 040	2 050 [#]	-
U.K.	-	-	1 760	1 720	1 690	1 640	1 630	1 640	1 710	1 770	-

Note: # Provisional figures.

² “Total fertility rate” refers to the average number of children that would be born alive to 1 000 women during their lifetime if they were to pass through their childbearing ages 15-49 experiencing the age specific fertility rates prevailing in a given year.

- In Hong Kong, there is a strong relationship between the marriage situation of female and their fertility rate. The significant decline in the total fertility rate in the past 30 years was mainly due to delay in marriage and hence delay in childbearing, drop in marital fertility rate and increase in spinsterhood.
- According to the projections made by the C&SD, the total fertility rate of Hong Kong would remain at low level, then increase gradually to 993 in 2011 and remain at that level until 2033.
- As compared with other selected economies, the projected total fertility rate of Hong Kong would continue to lag behind others.

Figure 4 Comparison with Selected Economies on Projected Total Fertility Rate

Economy	2008	2011	2013	2018	2023	2028	2033
	(Number of live births per 1 000 women)						
Hong Kong	952	993	993	993	993	993	993
Japan	1 310	-	1 340	1370	1 380	1 380	1390
U.S.A. ⁽¹⁾	2 110	-	2 140	2 170	2 200	2 210	2210
U.K.	1 710	-	1 730	1 740	1 740	1 740	1740

Note: (1) Figures extracted from the middle fertility assumption (among 3 scenarios) of the population projection series 1999–2100. The lowest and highest fertility scenarios projected a total fertility rate of 1 850 and 2 590 respectively in 2033.

III. MORTALITY

- As compared with the selected economies, persons in Hong Kong have the longest and second longest expectation of life at birth³ for males and females respectively.

³ “Expectation of life at birth” refers to the number of years of life that a person born in a given year is expected to live if he/she were subject to the prevalent mortality conditions as reflected by the set of age-sex specific mortality rates for that year.

Figure 5 Comparison with Selected Economies on Expectation of Life at Birth

Economy	1983	1988	1993	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<u>Male</u>											
Hong Kong	72.3	74.4	75.3	77.4	77.7	78.0	78.4	78.6	78.5	79.0	78.8 [#]
Japan	74.2	75.5	76.3	77.2	77.1	77.7	78.1	78.3	78.4	78.6	-
U.S.A.	71.0	71.4	72.2	73.8	73.9	74.3	74.4	74.5	74.8	-	-
U.K.	71.3	72.4	73.7	74.8	75.0	75.4	75.7	75.9	76.3	-	-
<u>Female</u>											
Hong Kong	78.4	79.9	80.9	83.0	83.2	83.9	84.6	84.5	84.3	84.7	84.4 [#]
Japan	79.8	81.3	82.5	84.0	84.0	84.6	84.9	85.2	85.3	85.6	-
U.S.A.	78.1	78.3	78.8	79.5	79.4	79.7	79.8	79.9	80.1	-	-
U.K.	77.3	78.1	79.0	79.7	79.9	80.2	80.4	80.5	80.7	-	-

Note: # Provisional figures

- It is projected that the expectation of life at birth of persons in Hong Kong would continue to increase to 82.5 and 88.0 for males and females respectively in 2033.

Figure 6 Comparison with Selected Economies on Projected Expectation of Life at Birth

Economy	2008	2013	2018	2023	2028	2033
<u>Male</u>						
Hong Kong	79.5	80.3	81.0	81.6	82.0	82.5
Japan	78.4	78.9	79.3	79.6	79.9	80.2
U.S.A. ⁽¹⁾	75.3	76.2 (2015)	76.9 (2020)	77.6 (2025)	78.3 (2030)	79.1 (2035)
U.K.	77.4	78.5	79.4	80.0	80.8	81.2

Figure 6 (cont'd)

Economy	2008	2013	2018	2023	2028	2033
<u>Female</u>						
Hong Kong	85.3	86.0	86.6	87.1	87.6	88.0
Japan	85.6	86.3	86.8	87.3	87.8	88.2
U.S.A. ⁽¹⁾	81.1	82.2 (2015)	82.9 (2020)	83.6 (2025)	84.2 (2030)	84.8 (2035)
U.K.	81.6	82.5	83.4	84.1	84.8	85.2

Notes: (1) Figures extracted from the middle mortality assumption (among 3 scenarios) of the population projection series 1999-2100.

Figures in brackets refer to the years of the projected expectation of life at birth

IV. **NET MOVEMENT**

- Arrival of One-way Permit Holders (OWPHs) from the Mainland is one of the main sources of population growth. In 2005, a total of 55 106 persons arrived Hong Kong through the One-way Permit.

Figure 7 Statistics on arrival of One-way Permit Holders

Year	Number	Year	Number
1991	26 782	1998	56 039
1992	28 366	1999	54 625
1993	32 909	2000	57 530
1994	38 218	2001	53 655
1995	45 986	2002	45 234
1996	61 179	2003	53 507
1997	50 287	2004	38 072
		2005	55 106

- The estimated number of emigrants has declined for nine consecutive years from 1995 to 2003 and remained at a low level in 2004 and 2005.

Figure 8 Estimated number of emigrants

Year	Number of emigrants	Year	Number of emigrants
1991	59 700	1998	19 300
1992	66 200	1999	12 900
1993	53 400	2000	11 900
1994	61 600	2001	10 600
1995	43 100	2002	10 500
1996	40 300	2003	9 600
1997	30 900	2004	9 800
		2005	9 800

V. AGING POPULATION

- The percentages of older persons (persons of age 65 or above) in the Hong Kong population from 1961 to 2033 are set out in Figure 9. Such percentage has continued to increase since 1961. According to the C&SD's projection, among four Hong Kong people there will be one person who is aged 65 or above in 2033.

Figure 9 Percentages of older persons in the Hong Kong Population

Year	Population	The older persons (65+)	Proportion of the older persons	Children (0-14)	Proportion of children
1961	3 168 100	100 100	3.2%	1 283 900	40.5%
1971	4 045 300	182 300	4.5%	1 452 100	35.9%
1981	5 183 400	344 300	6.6%	1 277 300	24.6%
1986	5 524 600	424 000	7.7%	1 273 700	23.1%
1991	5 752 000	502 400	8.7%	1 198 700	20.8%
1996	6 435 500	653 700	10.2%	1 204 100	18.7%
2001	6 724 900	753 600	11.2%	1 104 100	16.4%
2005	6 935 900	836 400	12.1%	1 005 400	14.5%
2008	7 058 900	857 100	12.1%	956 000	13.5%
2013	7 386 900	978 000	13.2%	899 600	12.2%
2018	7 691 800	1 220 900	15.9%	909 000	11.8%
2023	7 970 200	1 548 500	19.4%	922 600	11.6%
2028	8 202 200	1 936 400	23.6%	916 400	11.2%
2033	8 384 100	2 243 100	26.8%	895 300	10.7%

- According to the C&SD's projection, the overall dependency ratio⁴ will continue to decrease in the coming years till 2011 due to the drop in child dependency ratio. However, it will start to rise in 2012 and then increase to 598 in 2033 due to the significant increase in the elderly dependency ratio.
- Figure 10 sets out the dependency ratios in Hong Kong.

Figure 10 Dependency Ratios in Hong Kong

Year	Child	Elderly	Overall*
2001	227	155	382
2002	223	158	381
2003	216	161	378
2004	207	163	370
2005	197	164	361
2008	182	163	346
2011	167	167	334
2012	164	171	336
2013	163	178	341
2018	163	219	383
2023	168	282	449
2028	171	362	533
2033	171	428	598

Note: * The overall dependency ratio may not equal to the sum of child and elderly dependency ratios due to rounding.

VI. LABOUR FORCE PROJECTION

- According to the labour force projections for 2004–2023, the overall labour force participation rate (LFPR)⁵ is projected to decline steadily, from 61%

⁴ Child and elderly dependency ratios refer to the number of persons aged under 15 and those aged 65 and over respectively per 1 000 persons aged between 15 and 64. "Overall dependency ratio" refers to the sum of child and elderly dependency ratios.

⁵ "The labour force participation rate (LFPR)" refers to the proportion of the labour force (LF) in the population aged 15 and over. Labour force refers to the employed and the unemployed persons.

in 2005 to 58% in 2014 and 52% in 2023. This is mainly due to:

- aging trend in the community, with the increase in the proportion of older persons (aged 65 and over) in the population aged 15 and over;
- decline in the proportion of persons of prime working age (aged 25–59) in the population aged 15 and over; and
- increase in the proportion of females (whose LFPRs are relatively lower than those for males) in the population aged 15 and over.

Figure 11 Labour Force (LF) and Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) in the years 2005, 2009, 2014, 2019 and 2023

	2005	2009	2014	2019	2023
LF	3 586 300	3 709 400	3 767 800	3 722 600	3 638 300
LFPR	61%	61%	58%	55%	52%

- As a result of the combined effect of the changing demographic structure and LFPRs of different age-sex groups over time, the LF will increase gradually during the period 2005–2014 but decrease during 2015–2023.
- The total LF is projected to increase from 3.59 million in 2005 to 3.77 million in 2014 and then fall to 3.64 million in 2023. The corresponding LFPRs being 61%, 58% and 52%.

VII. OBSERVATIONS

Total Population Projection

- The population is projected to increase at an average annual rate of 0.7% to 8.38 million in 2033.

Fertility

- As compared with the selected economies, Hong Kong has the lowest fertility rate since 1983 and the trend is expected to remain in future. The fertility rate in 2005 was 973.

Mortality

- As compared with the selected economies, persons in Hong Kong have the

longest and second longest expectation of life at birth for males and females respectively.

- It is projected that the expectation of life at birth of persons in Hong Kong would continue to increase to 82.5 and 88.0 for males and females respectively in 2033.

Net Movement

- Arrival of One-way Permit Holders from the Mainland is one of the main sources of population growth. In 2005, a total of 55 106 persons arrived Hong Kong through the One-way Permit.

Aging Population

- The percentages of older persons (persons of age 65 or above) in the Hong Kong population has continued to increase since 1961. It is projected that among four Hong Kong people there will be one person who is aged 65 or above in 2033.
- The overall dependency ratio will start to rise in 2012 and then increase to 598 in 2033 due to the significant increase in the elderly dependency ratio.

Labour Force Projection

- The overall labour force participation rate is projected to decline steadily, from 61% in 2005 to 52% in 2023.

Secretariat to the Commission on Strategic Development
March 2006