



# HONG KONG Women in Figures 2007



婦女事務委員會  
Women's Commission

# Foreword

2007 marked the 10th Anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR). As Hong Kong celebrated this landmark anniversary and our achievements on various fronts, the Women's Commission takes great pride in publishing this booklet, to illustrate by facts and figures the progress and development of women in Hong Kong.

The information in this booklet is presented in simple tables, charts and graphs to enable a quick grasp of the overall situation. Data on the most recent decade of 1996 to 2006 has been provided, and in some cases data for earlier periods is also included to show the trend over a longer period.

There are five sections covering the following areas:-

- Population
- Education
- Health
- Participation (in the labour force, public affairs, and other activities)
- Other issues

I hope that this booklet serves as a useful reference for understanding the development of women in Hong Kong.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sophia Kao', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Sophia Kao**

**Chairperson, Women's Commission  
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region**

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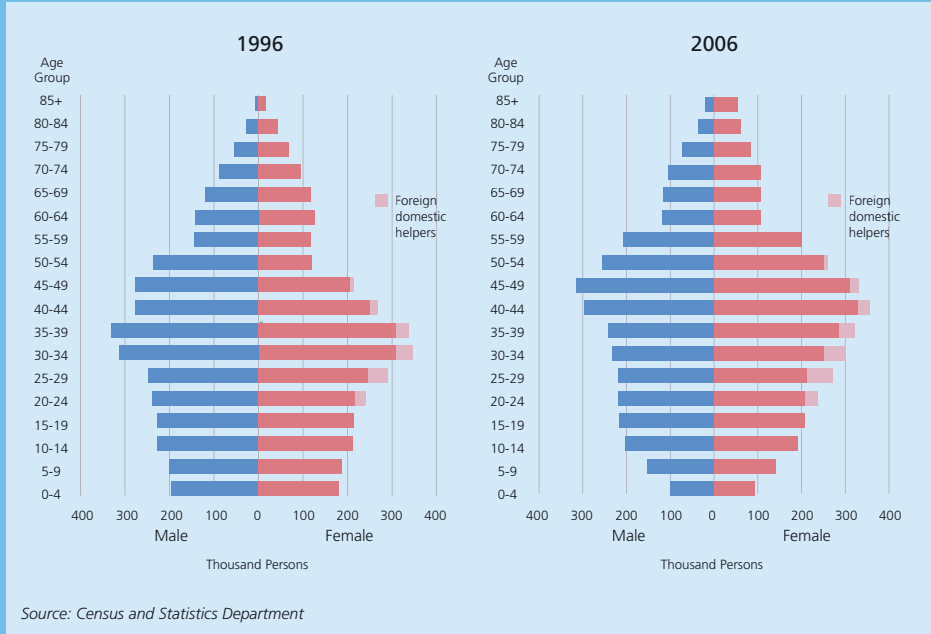
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# 1 Population

In 2006, the mid-year population of Hong Kong was 6 857 100 (6 435 500 in 1996), of that 3 587 000 (52%) were women. The median age was 39.6, compared with 34.2 in 1996. The birth rate in Hong Kong ranks among the world's lowest, while the median age of first marriage for both women and men has risen steadily.

## 1.1 Population Pyramids



## 1.2 Sex Ratio

Number of males per 1 000 females	1996	2006
Include foreign domestic helpers	1 001	912
Exclude foreign domestic helpers	1 048	971

Source: Census and Statistics Department

From 1996 to 2006, the female population grew faster than male population. The drop in sex ratio was mainly attributed to the large inflow of females on relocation from the Mainland of China to Hong Kong to take up permanent residency (Table 1.3). There was also a large number of female foreign domestic helpers coming to Hong Kong on work permits (Table 1.4).

### 1.3 Persons from the Mainland of China Relocating to Hong Kong by Sex

Year	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Male	20 195	13 513	19 380	16 992	17 423	18 512	13 363	13 413	9 981	15 823	19 871
Female	40 984	36 774	36 659	37 633	40 107	35 143	31 871	40 094	28 091	39 283	34 299

Source: Security Bureau

### 1.4 Foreign Domestic Helpers by Sex

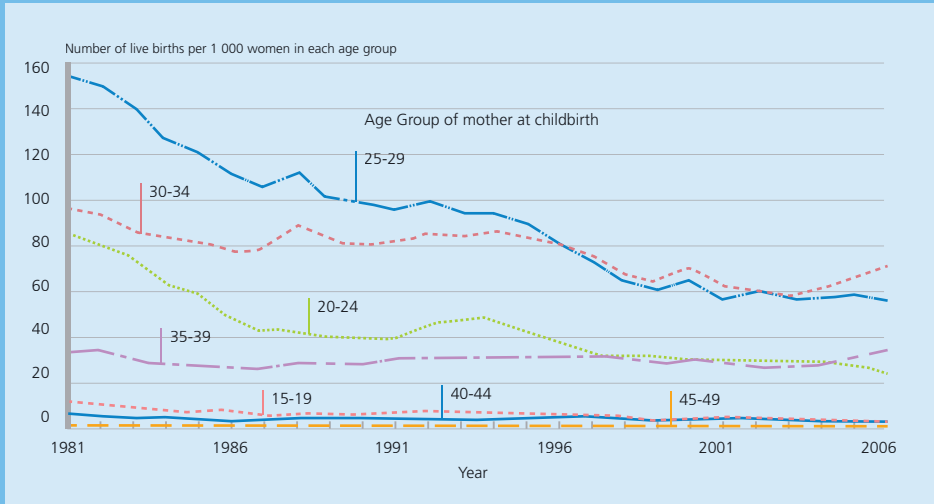
Year	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Male	5 934	5 035	4 772	4 526	4 406	4 300	4 184	3 820	3 558	3 481	3 561
Female	148 522	159 723	172 776	179 660	200 639	222 738	235 228	210 087	213 318	217 355	224 140

Source: Census and Statistics Department

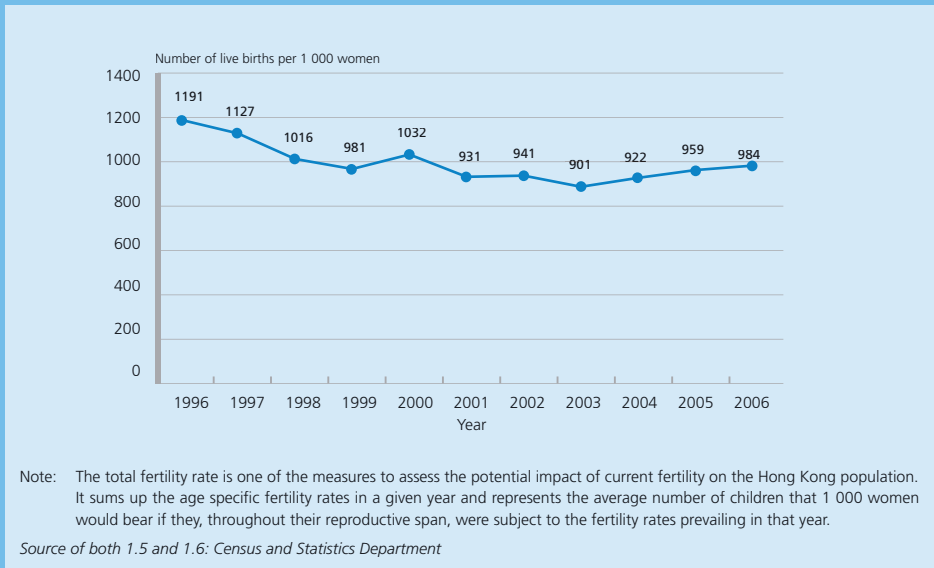
The baby boom of the 1950-60s and the influx of young immigrants during the 1970-80s had contributed to an increasingly ageing population.

The Hong Kong population is expected to remain on an aging trend, with female population growing faster than male population. It is projected that 26% of the population will be aged 65 and above in 2036, among which 57% will be female.

## 1.5 Age Specific Fertility Rate



## 1.6 Total Fertility Rate



The age specific fertility rate has declined substantially for younger women. The current fertility level in Hong Kong in terms of the total fertility rate has fallen below those experienced in low fertility economies, and has become one of the lowest in the world.

## 1.7 Population Aged 15 and Above by Marital Status and Sex

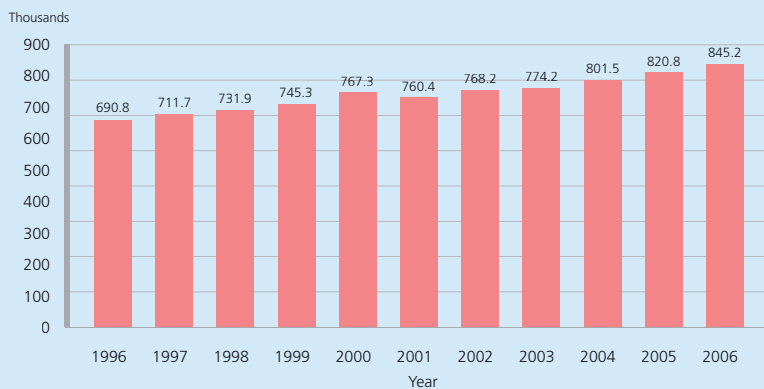


Note: Includes land-based non-institutional population aged 15 and above only.

Source: Census and Statistics Department

There were more widowed and divorced/separated women than men.

## 1.8 Never Married Women Aged 15 and Above (Excluding Foreign Domestic Helpers)

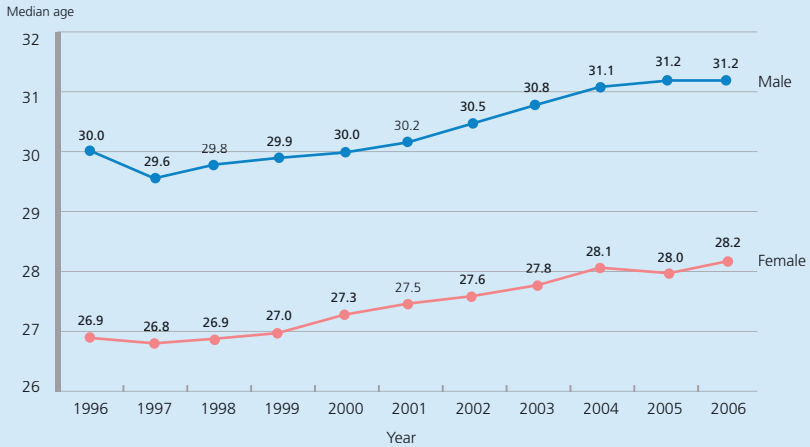


Note: Includes land-based non-institutional population aged 15 and above only.

Source: Census and Statistics Department

The number of never married women has increased.

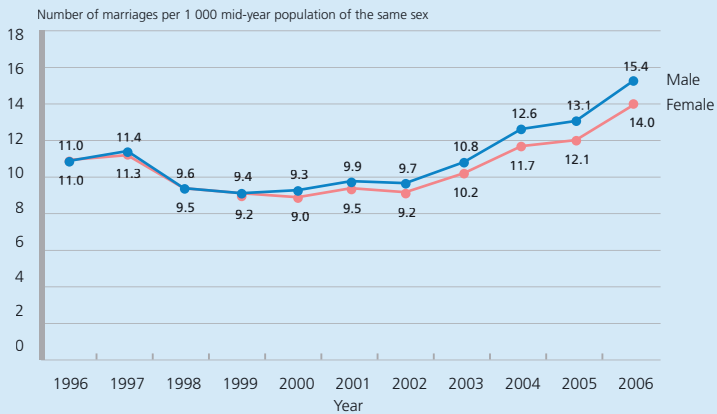
## 1.9 Median Age at First Marriage by Sex



Source: Census and Statistics Department

Median age at first marriage for both women and men has risen.

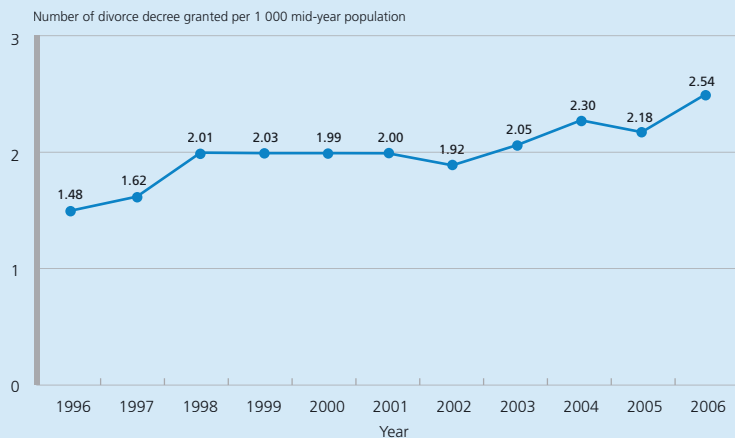
## 1.10 Crude Marriage Rate by Sex



Source: Census and Statistics Department

The crude marriage rates for both women and men have risen after 2003.

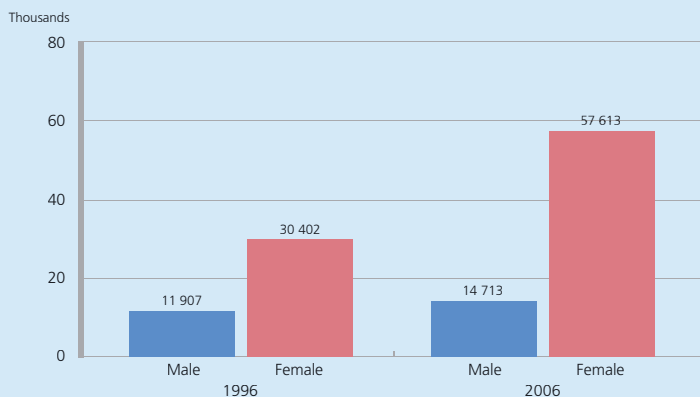
## 1.11 Crude Divorce Rate



Source: Census and Statistics Department

The number of divorces has shown an increasing trend.

## 1.12 Single Parents by Sex



Note: Single Parents refer to persons who are widowed, divorced or separated, and living with child(ren) aged under 18 in the same household.

Source: Census and Statistics Department

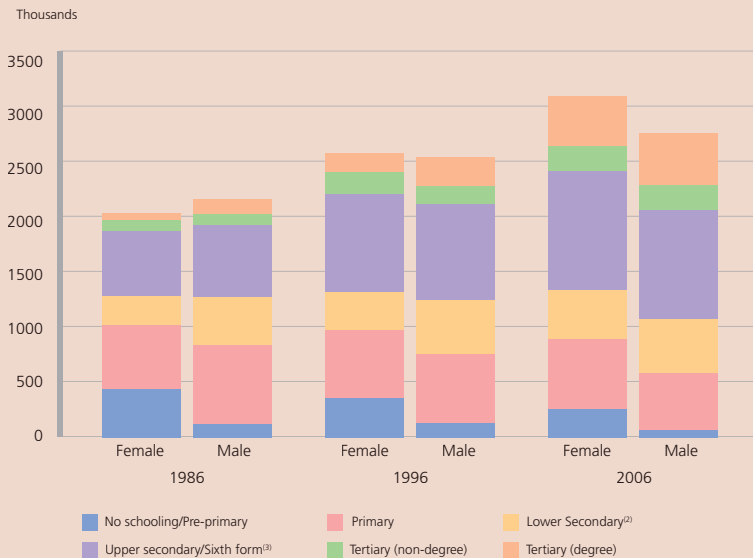
The number of female single parents has increased more significantly than that of male single parents.



## 2 Education

The educational attainment of women has improved continuously.

## 2.1 Population Aged 15 and Above by Sex and Educational Attainment



Note: (1) Includes land-based non-institutional population aged 15 and above only.

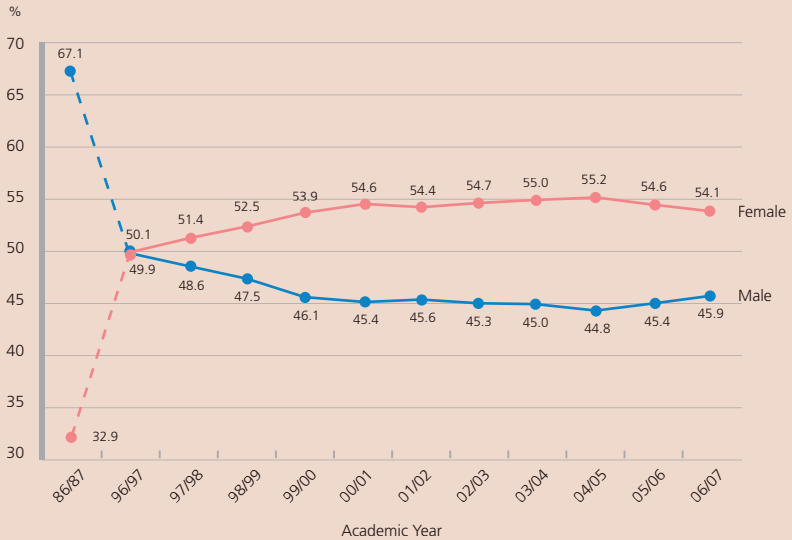
(2) Persons with lower secondary education attainment include persons with Secondary 1 to Secondary 3 education attainment.

(3) Persons with upper secondary education attainment include persons with Secondary 4 – 5 or equivalent educational attainment while persons with sixth form educational attainment include those with Secondary 6 – 7 or equivalent educational attainment.

Source: *Census and Statistics Department*

The proportion of females with secondary education or above has increased.

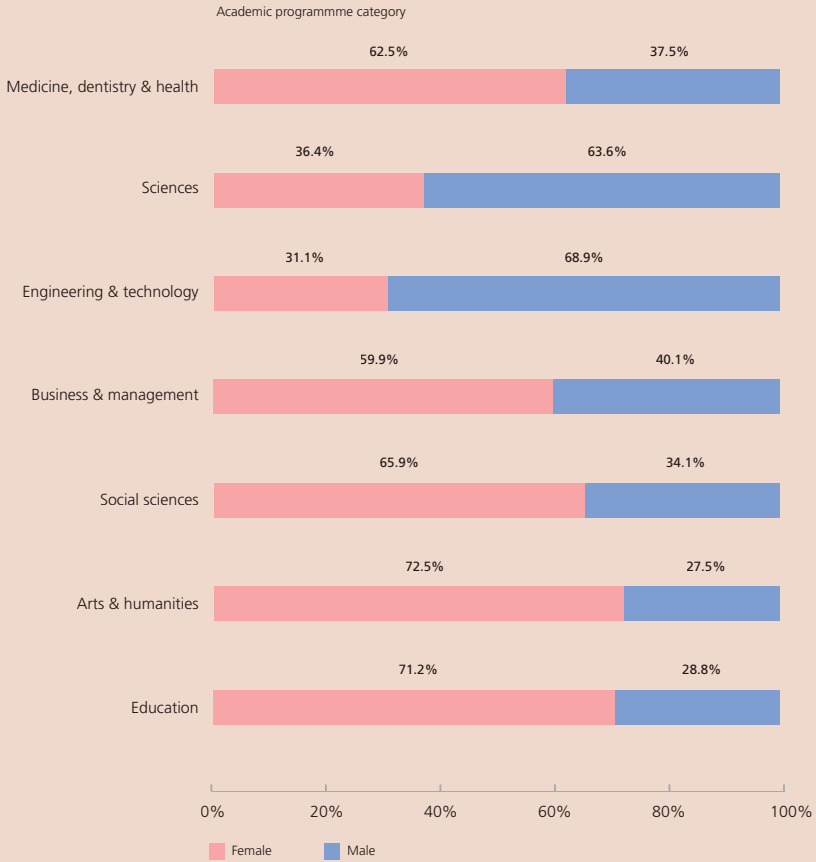
## 2.2 Percentage of Students in Higher Education Programmes Funded by University Grants Committee by Sex



Source: University Grants Committee (i.e. a non-statutory advisory body for advising the Government on the development and funding needs of higher education institutes)

Female students enrolled in higher education programmes funded by University Grants Committee has outnumbered male students.

## 2.3 Students in Programmes Funded by University Grants Committee by Academic Programme Category and Sex, 2006/07



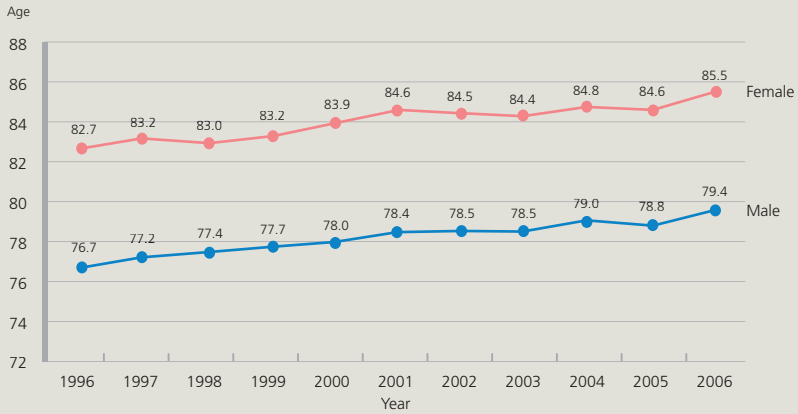
Source: University Grants Committee

In 2006/07, more female students enrolled in the programmes of medicine, dentistry and health, business and management, social sciences, arts and humanities and education when compared with male students.

# 3 Health

The general health of women has improved.

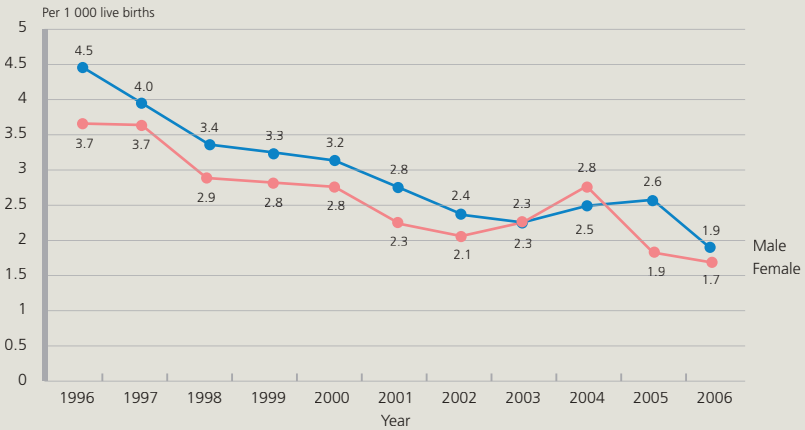
### 3.1 Expectation of Life at Birth by Sex



Source: Census and Statistics Department

Women live longer than men and life expectancy of women in Hong Kong is among the highest in the world.

### 3.2 Infant Mortality Rate by Sex



Source: Census and Statistics Department

The infant mortality rate continues to decrease for both sexes.

### 3.3 Registered Deaths by Leading Causes of Death

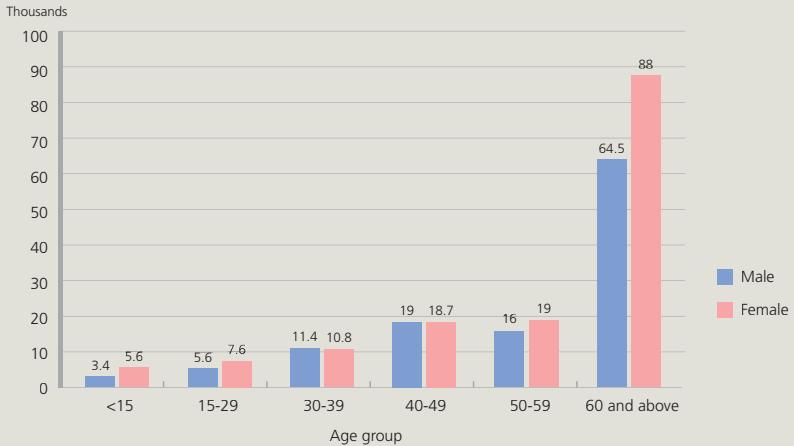
Disease Group	2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Malignant neoplasms	7 100	4 306	7 155	4 503	7 156	4 354	7 183	4 608	7 497	4 813	7 386	4 707
Diseases of heart	2 438	2 265	2 560	2 409	2 701	2 610	3 015	2 851	2 971	2 897	2 831	2 788
Pneumonia	1 526	1 500	1 725	1 469	2 095	1 782	1 905	1 771	2 276	2 015	2 264	1 937
Cerebrovascular diseases	1 504	1 626	1 565	1 653	1 685	1 777	1 730	1 686	1 663	1 771	1 603	1 699

Note: Classification of diseases and causes of death is based on the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD) 10th Revision from 2001 onwards.

Source: Department of Health

Deaths caused by malignant neoplasms (cancers) remained the major cause of death among both women and men, followed by heart diseases.

### 3.4 Persons with Disabilities <sup>(1)</sup> by Age Group and Sex, 2000

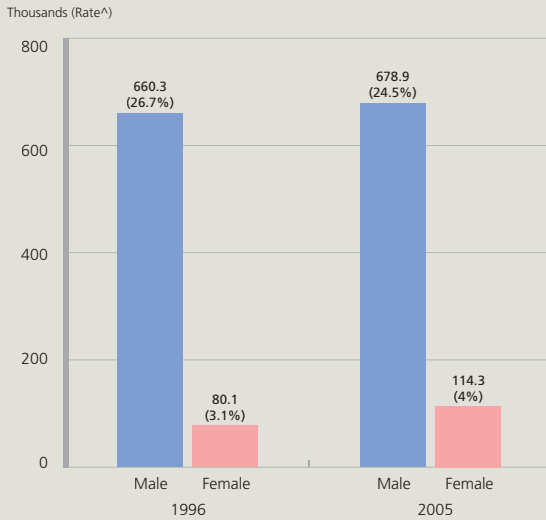


Note: (1) Excludes mentally handicapped persons

Source: Census and Statistics Department

In 2000, the total number of women with disabilities over 60 years of age was 36% higher than that for men.

### 3.5 Daily Cigarette Smokers by Sex



^ As a percentage of all persons aged 15 and above in the respective sex group

Note: (1) "Daily cigarette smokers" refers to those persons aged 15 and above who at the time of enumeration had a daily smoking habit (although they might not smoke on certain days because of illness or other reasons).

(2) Survey periods: 1996 – January 1996  
2005 – February to May 2005

Source: Census and Statistics Department

There were more women daily smokers in 2005 than in 1996.

### 3.6 Reported Drug Abusers by Sex

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Male	15 640	14 780	13 272	12 200	11 448	10 670
Female	2 873	3 186	2 518	2 654	2 665	2 534

Source: Security Bureau

Among the reported drug abuse cases, there were more men than women.

### 3.7 Reported HIV and AIDS cases by Sex

Year	HIV			AIDS		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1996	108	26	134	65	5	70
1997	146	35	181	53	11	64
1998	142	47	189	53	10	63
1999	168	45	213	55	6	61
2000	139	44	183	57	10	67
2001	158	55	213	48	12	60
2002	201	59	260	41	12	53
2003	175	54	229	44	12	56
2004	205	63	268	44	5	49
2005	255	58	313	51	13	64
2006	305	68	373	61	12	73

Source: Department of Health

Among the reported HIV and AIDS cases, there were more men than women.

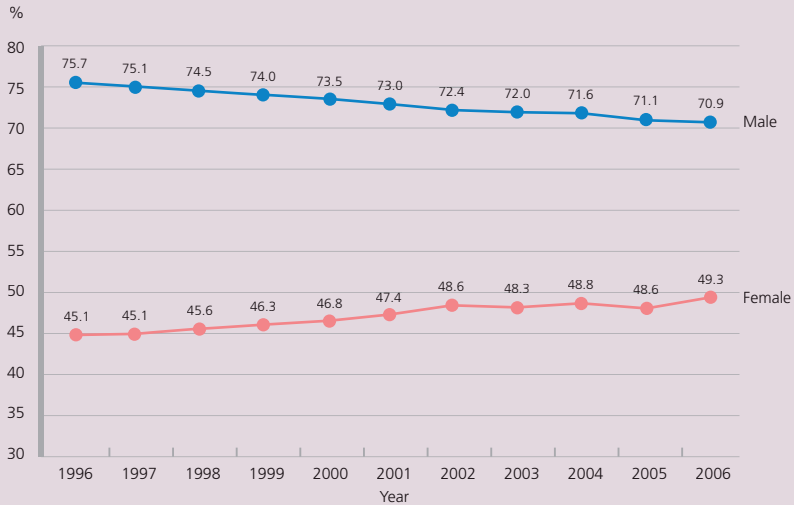


# 4 Participation

Participation of women in the labour force and public affairs of Hong Kong has increased.

## 4.1 Labour Force

### 4.1.1 Labour Force Participation Rate by Sex (Excluding Foreign Domestic Helpers)



Source: Census and Statistics Department

The proportion of women participating in the labour force has been growing whilst that of men has been declining.

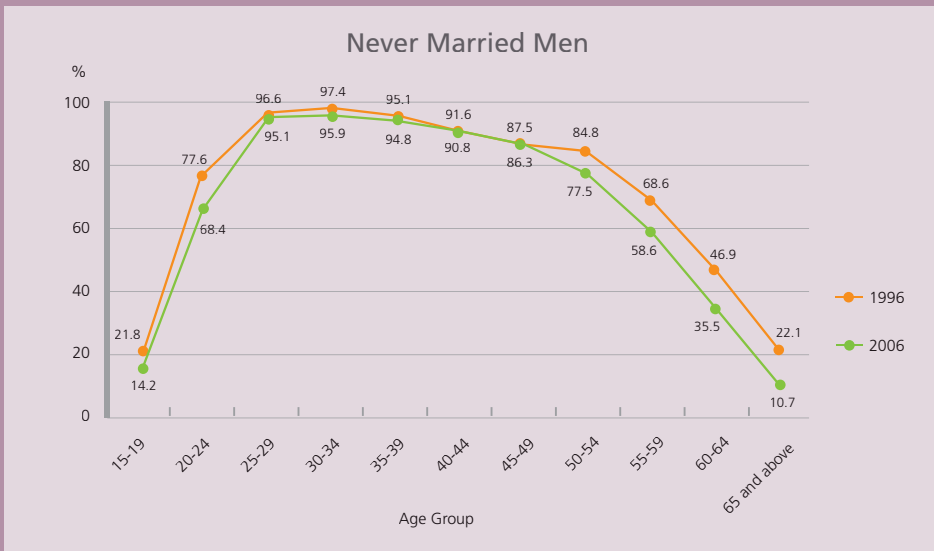
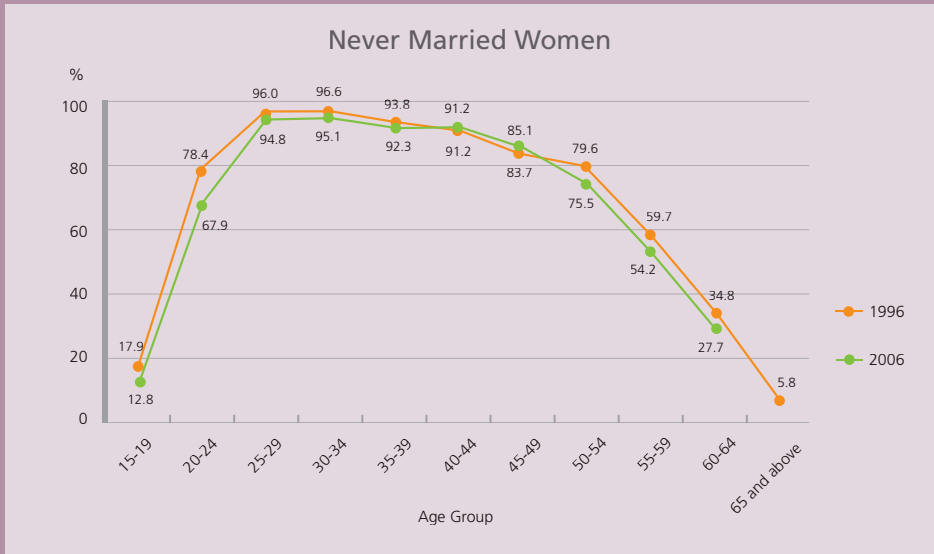
## 4.1.2 Labour Force Participation Rate (Excluding Foreign Domestic Helpers) by Age Group and Sex, 2006



Source: Census and Statistics Department

The labour force participation rate of men is higher than that of women for all age groups in 2006.

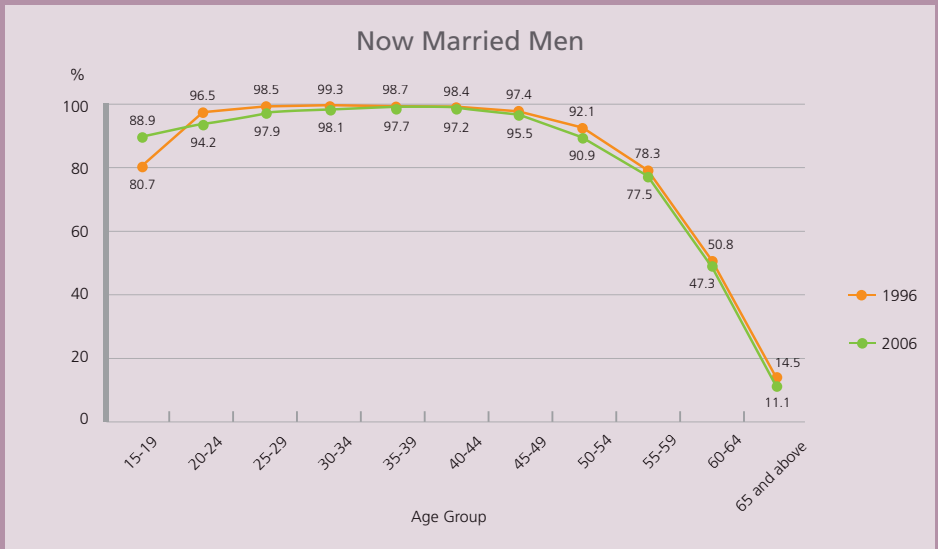
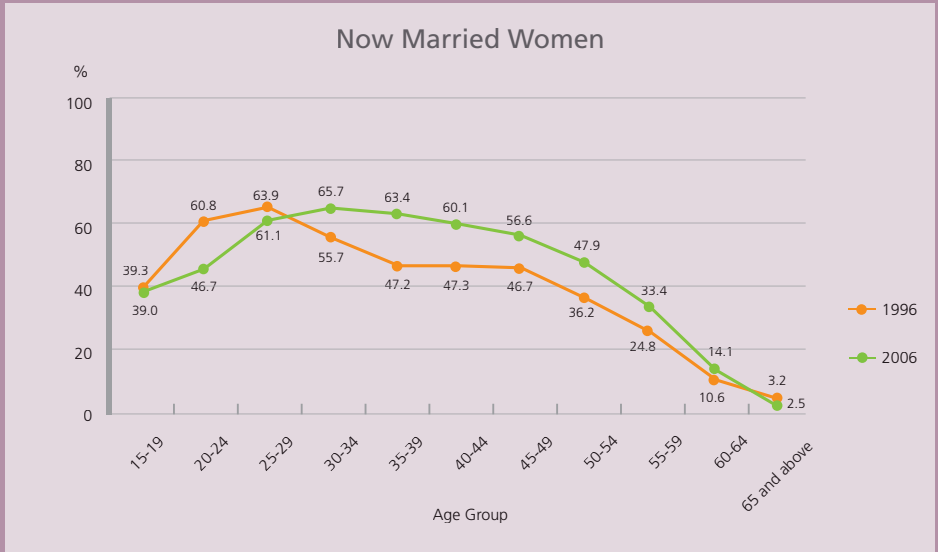
### 4.1.3 Labour Force Participation Rate (Excluding Foreign Domestic Helpers) by Sex



Note: for never married women aged 65 and above in 2006, the figure is too small and is suppressed owing to large sampling error.

Source: Census and Statistics Department

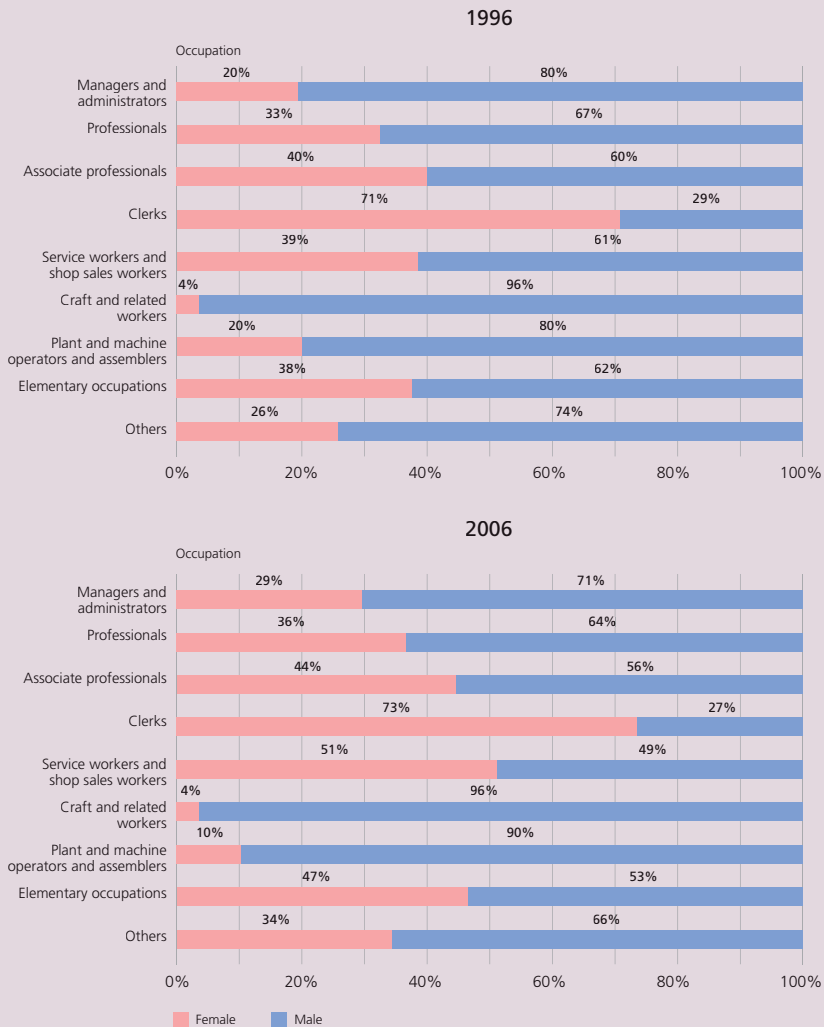
### 4.1.3 Labour Force Participation Rate (Excluding Foreign Domestic Helpers) by Sex [cont'd]



Source: Census and Statistics Department

The labour force participation rate of never married women has remained consistently higher than that of married women for all age groups over 20 years old.

## 4.1.4 Employed Persons (Excluding Foreign Domestic Helpers) by Occupation and Sex

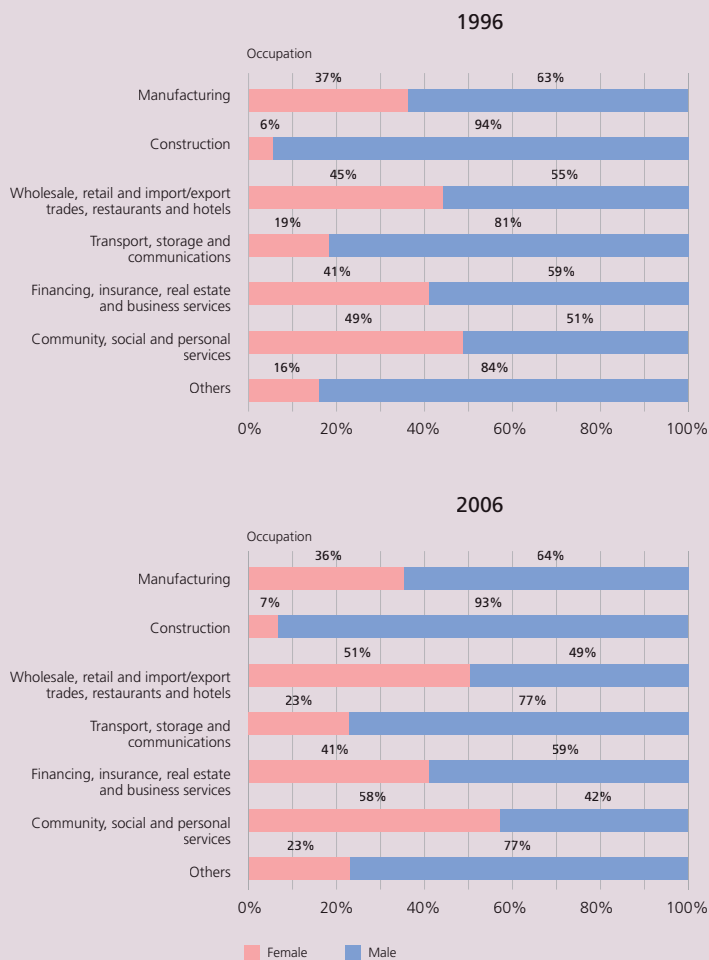


Note: Elementary occupations include street vendors, domestic helpers and cleaners, messengers, private security guards, watchmen, freight handlers, lift operators, construction labourers, hand packers, agricultural and fishery labourers.

Source: Census and Statistics Department

The proportion of professionals, managers and administrators who are women has increased.

## 4.1.5 Employed Persons (Excluding Foreign Domestic Helpers) by Industry and Sex

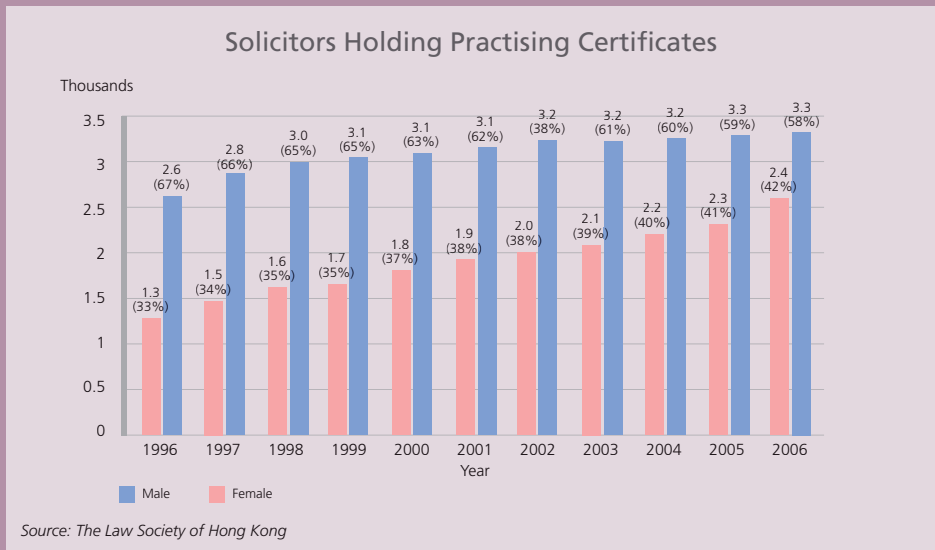
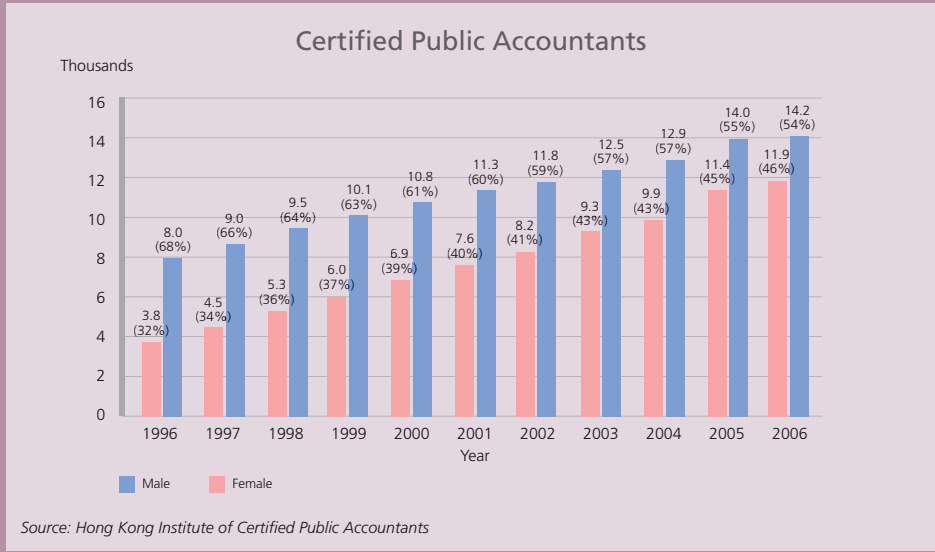


Source: Census and Statistics Department

Females were mostly employed in the community, social and personal services sector, followed by wholesale, retail and import/export trades, restaurants and hotels sector.

## 4.1.6 Women in Professions

There has been increasing participation of women in various professions. Some examples are shown below:



## 4.1.6 Women in Professions [cont'd]

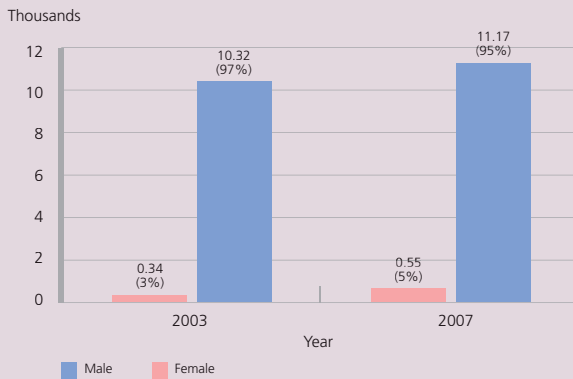
### Registered Doctors<sup>^</sup>



Note: <sup>^</sup>Doctors with full registration on both the local and overseas lists as at end of each year

Source: Department of Health

### Fully Qualified Engineers



Source: The Hong Kong Institute of Engineers

## 4.1.7 Median Monthly Employment Earnings of Employed Persons (Excluding Foreign Domestic Helpers)

By Occupation of Main Employment and Sex

Educational attainment/Sex	Period	Median (HK\$)	
		Female	Male
Managers and administrators	1996	20 000	22 000
	2006	26 000	30 000
Professionals	1996	22 000	26 400
	2006	28 800	30 000
Associate professionals	1996	15 000	15 000
	2006	15 000	15 000
Clerks	1996	9 000	9 500
	2006	9 000	9 500
Service workers and shop sales workers	1996	7 000	10 000
	2006	6 500	10 000
Craft and related workers	1996	7 000	9 500
	2006	8 000	9 500
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	1996	5 300	9 500
	2006	5 500	9 500
Elementary occupations	1996	5 000	7 000
	2006	5 000	6 900
Overall	1996	8 500	10 000
		10 000	
	2006	9 400	11 900
		10 500	

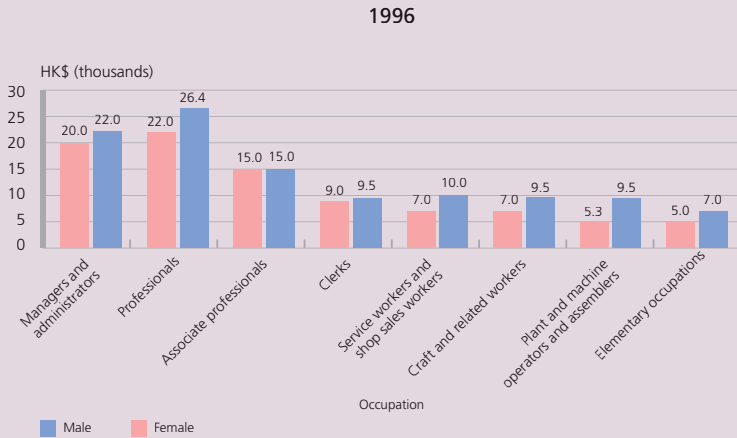
By Educational Attainment and Sex

Educational attainment/Sex	Period	Median (HK\$)	
		Female	Male
No schooling/ kindergarten	1996	4 500	7 000
	2006	4 500	7 000
Primary	1996	5 500	8 500
	2006	5 400	8 500
Lower secondary	1996	6 500	9 000
	2006	6 000	9 000
Upper secondary/ matriculation	1996	9 000	11 000
	2006	9 000	11 000
Tertiary (non-degree)	1996	15 000	17 000
	2006	12 000	15 000
Tertiary (degree)	1996	20 000	25 000
	2006	20 000	25 000
Overall	1996	8 500	10 000
		10 000	
	2006	9 400	11 900
		10 500	

Source: Census and Statistics Department

The median monthly employment earnings of women were lower than men at all levels of educational attainment.

### 4.1.7 Median Monthly Employment Earnings of Employed Persons (Excluding Foreign Domestic Helpers) [Cont'd]



Source: Census and Statistics Department

While women and men had broadly similar levels of monthly employment earnings in some occupational groups such as professionals, associate professionals and clerks, more significant differences were observed in other occupational groups.

## 4.1.8 Hong Kong Residents Working in the Mainland of China <sup>(1)</sup> by Sex

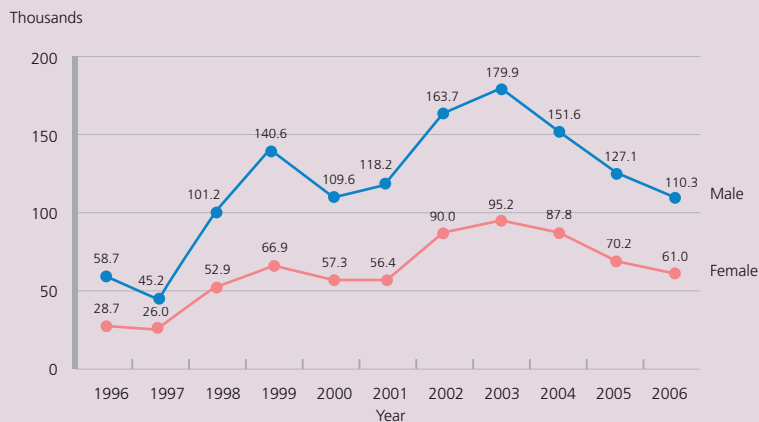
Sex	Thousands						
	1995 Sep-Oct	1998 May-Jun	2001 Apr-Jun	2002 Apr-Jun	2003 Jan-Mar	2004 Feb-Mar	2005 Jan-Mar
Female	12.8	17.9	31.3	38.9	49.1	49.2	55.5
Male	84.6	115.7	145.1	148.7	176.9	186.2	173.4
Total	97.3	133.5	176.3	187.6	226.0	235.4	228.9

Note: (1) Hong Kong residents who had worked in the Mainland of China during the twelve months before enumeration and were still required to work there in their present job at the time of enumeration

Source: Census and Statistics Department

The number of Hong Kong residents, both women and men, working in the Mainland of China has increased.

## 4.1.9 Unemployed Persons by Sex



Source: Census and Statistics Department

The number of female unemployed persons were consistently less than that of males.

## 4.1.10 Part-time Employees by Sex

Enquiry period	Male		Female	
	No. of persons ('000)	% in all male employees	No. of persons ('000)	% in all female employees
October to December 1997	24.5	1.5	57.5	4.7
January to February 1999	51.0	3.2	65.2	5.3
July to September 2000	52.3	3.4	69.7	5.4
April to June 2002	53.1	3.6	77.8	5.9
July to September 2003	64.7	4.5	78.5	6.0
April to June 2005	56.3	3.7	94.6	6.7

### Concept and definition

For the purpose of the enquiry, "part-time employees" referred to employees aged 15 and above with their main employment (i.e. the job on which he/she spent most of his/her time) at the time of enumeration fulfilling the following criteria :

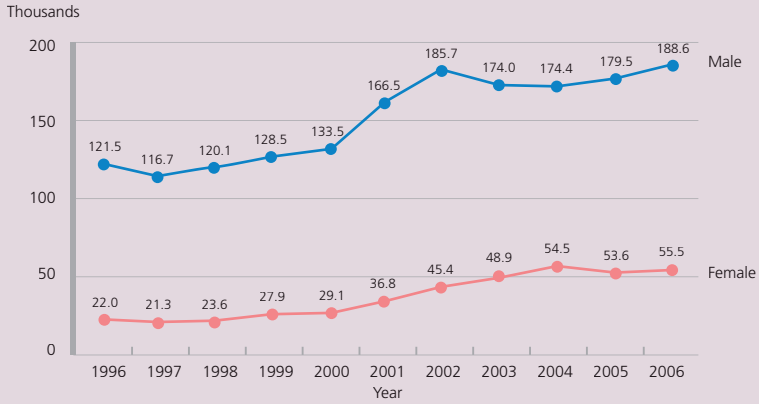
- (a) the number of usual days of work per week was less than 5 (for a person with a fixed number of working days per week); or
- (b) the number of usual hours of work per working day was less than 6 (for a person with a fixed number of working days per week); or
- (c) the number of usual hours of work per week was less than 30 (for a person without a fixed number of working days per week).

However, persons who usually worked 24 hours per shift were excluded, regardless of the number of usual days of work per week. Moreover, full-time students being on summer vacation and taking up a summer job at the time of enumeration were also excluded.

Source: *Census and Statistics Department*

There were more female part-time employees than male.

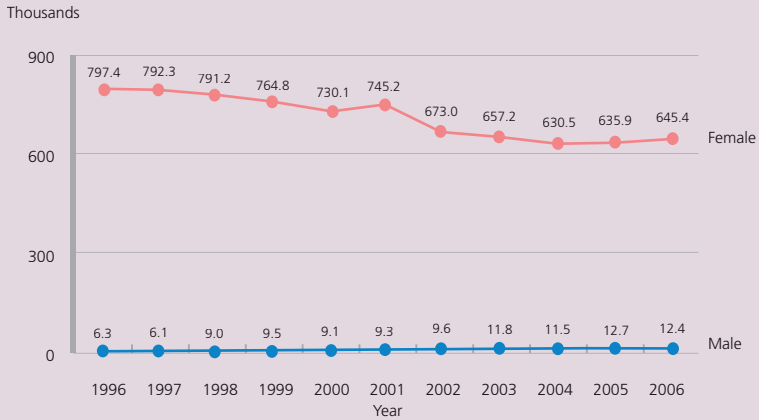
### 4.1.11 Self-employed Persons by Sex



Source: Census and Statistics Department

There were less self-employed females than males.

### 4.1.12 Population of Homemakers Aged 15 and Above by Sex



Source: Census and Statistics Department

There were more female homemakers than male ones.

## 4.2 Public Affairs

### 4.2.1 Members in the Executive Council



Note: Figures are as at 1 January of each year.

Source: Executive Council Secretariat

## 4.2.2 Members in the Legislative Council and District Councils (Based on Election Year)

### Elected Members in Legislative Council (Based on Election Year) by Sex



Source: Registration and Electoral Office  
Home Affairs Bureau

### Elected Members and Government Appointed Members in District Councils (Based on Election Year) by Sex



Source: Registration and Electoral Office  
Home Affairs Bureau

The number of women elected to the Councils has increased, though the proportion of women is still low.

### 4.2.3 Civil Servants by Sex



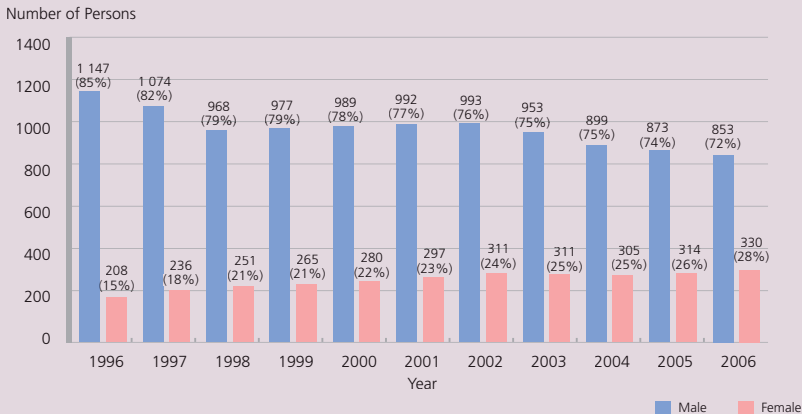
Note: (1) Figures refer to the end of December of the year. However, prior to 2001, figures refer to the beginning of January of the year following the reference year.

(2) Civil servants refer to persons who are employed on civil terms of appointment on the survey reference date. Figures exclude Independent Commission Against Corruption officers, staff working in overseas Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices who are locally engaged, and other government employees like Non-Civil Service Contract staff.

Source: Census and Statistics Department

The proportion of women in the civil service has increased.

### 4.2.4 Directorate Officers in the Civil Service by Sex



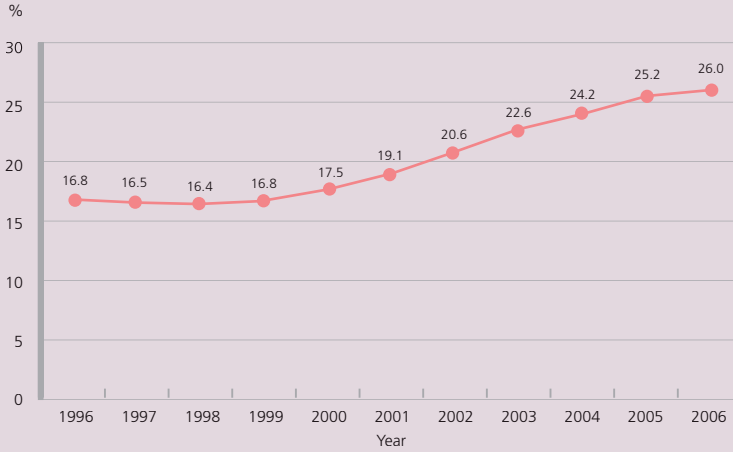
Note: (1) Figures are as at 30 June of each year.

(2) Civil servants refer to persons who are employed on civil service terms of appointment on the survey reference date. Judges and judicial officers, Independent Commission Against Corruption officers, staff working in overseas Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices who are engaged locally, and other government employees like Non-Civil Service Contract staff are excluded. However, prior to June 1998, judges and judicial officers in the Judiciary were included.

Source: Civil Service Bureau

The number and proportion of female directorate officers have gradually increased.

#### 4.2.5 Percentage of Appointed Female Members Serving on Government Advisory and Statutory Bodies in terms of Post (as at year end)



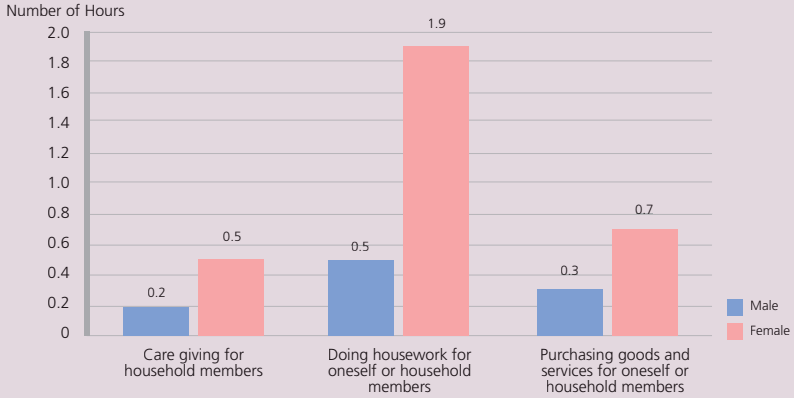
Source: Home Affairs Bureau

The percentage of women serving on Government advisory and statutory bodies has increased.

## 4.3 Other Activities

Women actively participate and make contributions at home and in the society.

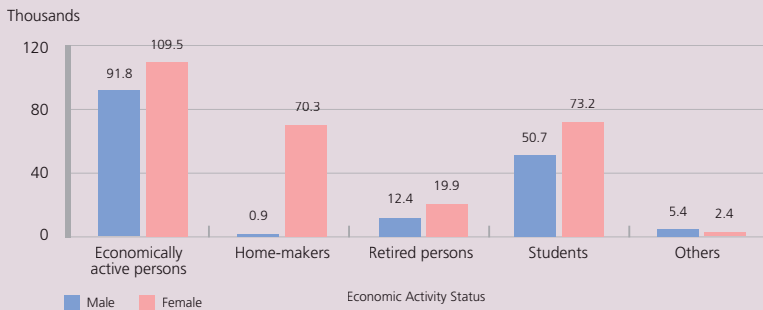
### 4.3.1 Average Time Spent on Unpaid Activities Per Day for Persons Aged 15 and Above by Sex, 2001



Source: Census and Statistics Department

Women spent more time doing housework per day than men.

### 4.3.2 Persons Aged 15 and Above Who Had Participated in Voluntary Work during the Twelve Months before Enumeration by Economic Activity Status and Sex, 2001



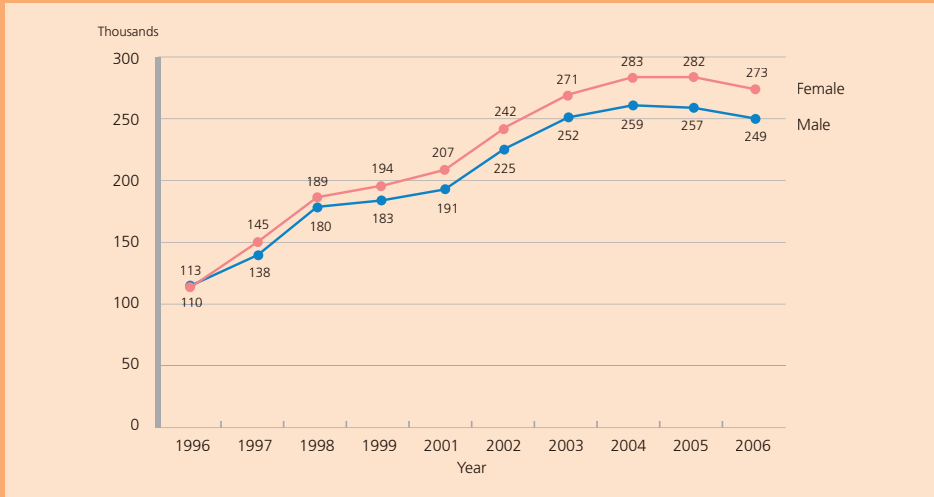
Source: Census and Statistics Department

Women's participation in voluntary work was more than that of men.

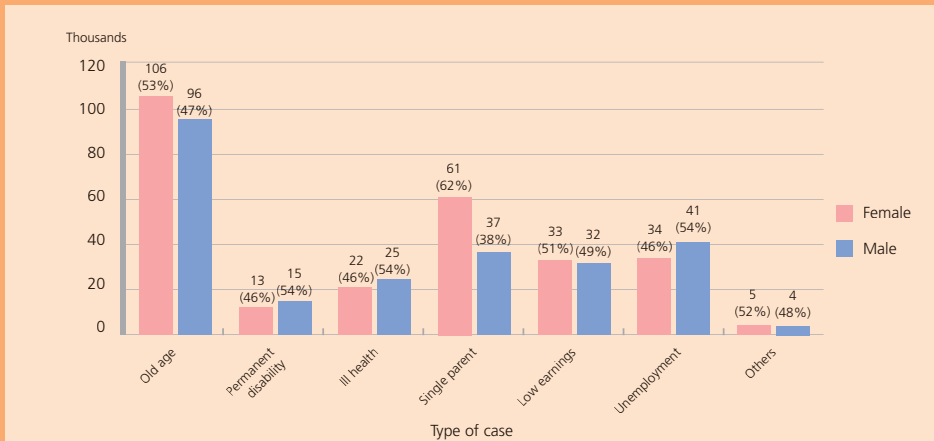




## 5.1 Recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) by Sex



## 5.2 Recipients of CSSA by Type and Sex, 2006

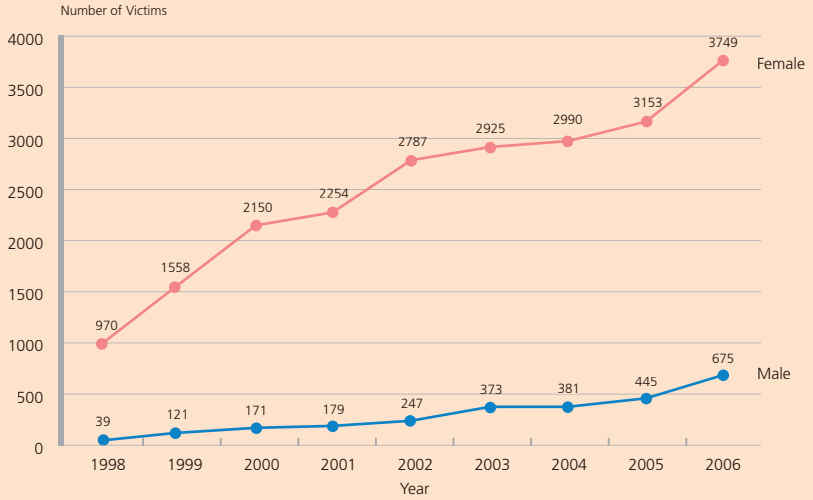


Source of both 5.1 and 5.2: Social Welfare Department

The Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme provides financial assistance to needy individuals and families up to a prescribed level to meet their basic needs. It provides a safety net for those who cannot support themselves financially. The Scheme is non-contributory but means-tested.

The number of CSSA recipients has increased, with more female recipients than male ones, especially for single parents.

### 5.3 Battered Spouse Cases (First Reported to Social Welfare Department)



Source: Social Welfare Department

The number of reported battered spouse cases has increased, with more victims being women.

## 5.4 Reported Rape Cases

Year	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Female Victim	86	74	90	91	104	95	95	70	92	99	96

## 5.5 Reported Indecent Assault Cases by Sex of Victim

Year	Male	Female	Total
1998	41	1173	1214
1999	34	1013	1047
2000	29	1095	1124
2001	34	973	1007
2002	26	965	991
2003	29	989	1018
2004	20	1014	1034
2005	45	1091	1136
2006	51	1144	1195

Source of both 5.4 and 5.5: Hong Kong Police Force

The number of reported rape cases and indecent assault cases has remained stable in recent years.

## 5.6 Sexual Harassment Complaints Received by the Equal Opportunities Commission

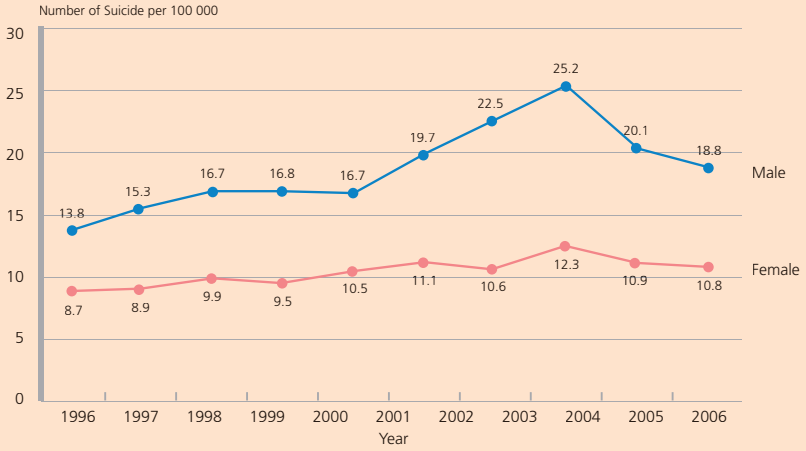
	Male	Female	Total
1996	0	0	0
1997	0	18	18
1998	3	51	54
1999	2	64	66
2000	7	86	93
2001	8	91	99
2002	4	75	79
2003	29	106	135
2004	1	78	79
2005	2	58	60
2006	2	83	85
Total:	58	710	768

Source: Equal Opportunities Commission

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), established in May 1996, is responsible, among others, for dealing with complaints of harassment under the Sex Discrimination Ordinance.

More than 90% of the complainants were women.

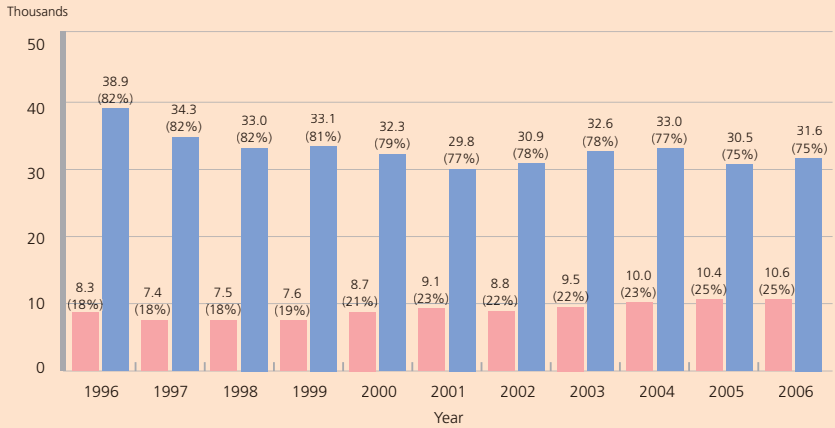
# 5.7 Suicide Rate by Sex



Source: Hong Kong Jockey Club Centre for Suicide Research and Prevention, the University of Hong Kong

Less women than men committed suicide.

## 5.8 Persons Arrested for Crime by Sex



Note: Refers to reported crimes.

Source: Hong Kong Police Force

■ Male ■ Female

There was consistently less women than men arrested for crime.



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# Sources of Data

Majority of the data presented in this booklet is from the Census and Statistics Department of the Government of the HKSAR. Please visit its website (<http://www.censtatd.gov.hk/>) for more detailed information.

For section 4.1.6 “Women in Professions”, please contact the following organisations for the numbers of certified public accountants, solicitors holding practising certificates and fully qualified engineers in Hong Kong:

- Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants  
<http://www.hkicpa.org.hk/>
- The Law Society of Hong Kong  
<http://www.hklawsoc.org.hk/>
- The Hong Kong Institute of Engineers  
<http://www.hkie.org.hk/>

# The Women's Commission

The Women's Commission is a central mechanism set up by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in January 2001 to promote the well-being and interests of women in Hong Kong. Its mission is:

To enable women in Hong Kong to fully realise their due status, rights and opportunities in all aspects of life.

Website: [www.women.gov.hk](http://www.women.gov.hk)

E-mail: [women@lwb.gov.hk](mailto:women@lwb.gov.hk)