



HONG KONG Women in Figures 2009



婦女事務委員會
Women's Commission

FOREWORD

The Women's Commission takes great pleasure in presenting the 2009 Edition of "Hong Kong Women in Figures" which highlights key statistics of women and men in Hong Kong. The present position and trends over the past decade of women's development in Hong Kong are also included.

As a continuation to our publication in 2007, this booklet provides a handy yet comprehensive reference to the progress and development of Hong Kong women. Data in this booklet are presented in a plain and direct manner. Key facts and figures in the following nine areas are featured in this edition:

- Population
- Marriage and Family
- Education
- Employment
- Health
- Social and Political Participation
- Social Security and Welfare
- Violence and Crime
- International Comparison

I hope that you will find this booklet a useful instrument for women's studies or research purposes as well as an effective starting point for interested parties to gain a deeper understanding of the situation of women in Hong Kong.



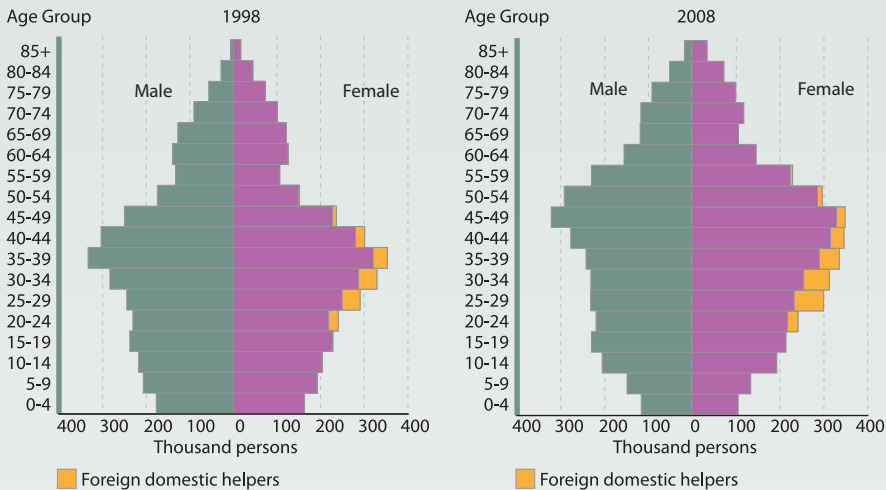
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Chairperson, Women's Commission
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In 2008, the mid-year population of Hong Kong was 6 977 700, of that 3 680 200 (53%) were female. Between 1998 and 2008, there were substantial changes in the population composition of Hong Kong in terms of number, gender and age. One of the noticeable changes is the ageing population of Hong Kong and the growing percentage of women in the older age group.

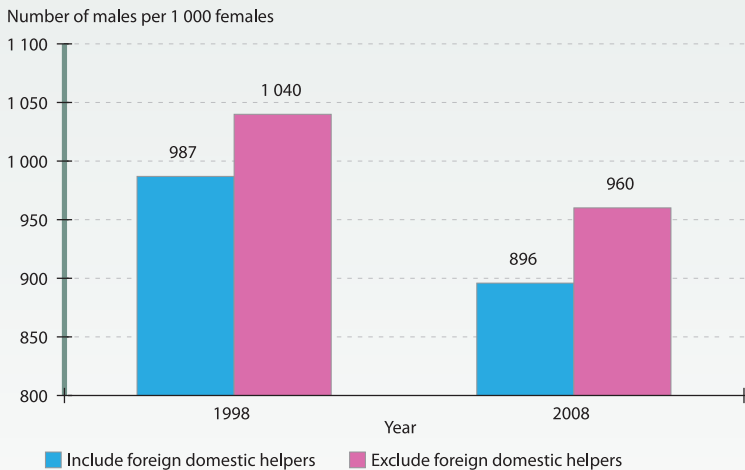
1.1 Population Pyramids



Source: Census and Statistics Department

Comparison between the population pyramids in 1998 and 2008 shows a continuing ageing trend as well as sustained reduction in fertility rates during the period. There were generally more women than men in the age groups of 20 – 49 and 70 – 85 and above in 2008.

1.2 Sex Ratios



Source: Census and Statistics Department

The ratio of men to women decreased continuously over the past decade. The number of males per 1 000 females (excluding foreign domestic helpers) dropped from 1 040 in 1998 to 960 in 2008. Similarly, the ratio of men to women (including foreign domestic helpers) per 1 000 females dropped from 987 in 1998 to 896 in 2008.

1.3 Number of One-way Permit Holders Entering Hong Kong



Source: Security Bureau

Among the one-way permit holders entering Hong Kong from the Mainland of China, the number of women well exceeded that of men. The sex ratio of one-way permit holders was 466 males per 1 000 females in 2008. In absolute terms, the number of female and male one-way permit holders dropped from 36 659 to 28 392 and 19 380 to 13 218 respectively over the past decade.

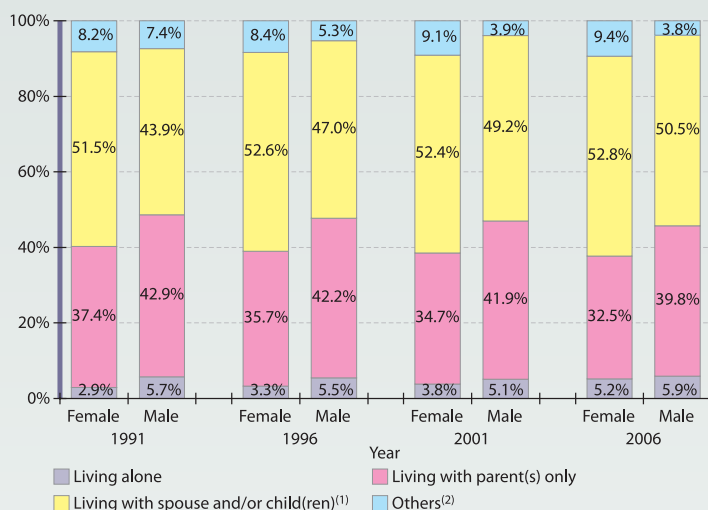
1.4 Foreign Domestic Helpers by Sex

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Male	4 772	4 526	4 406	4 300	4 184	3 820	3 558	3 481	3 561	3 753	4 008
Female	172 776	179 660	200 639	222 738	235 228	210 087	213 318	217 355	224 140	235 575	248 464

Source: Census and Statistics Department

The number of female foreign domestic helpers increased by about 44% over the past ten years whereas the number of male foreign domestic helpers remained comparatively stable.

1.5 Persons Living in Domestic Households by Living Arrangement and Sex



Notes: (1) Figures include persons living with spouse and/or child(ren), regardless of whether they lived with parent(s) or not.

(2) Figures include persons living with person(s) other than parent(s), spouse and child(ren).

All figures exclude persons living in non-domestic households and student dormitories.

Source: Census and Statistics Department

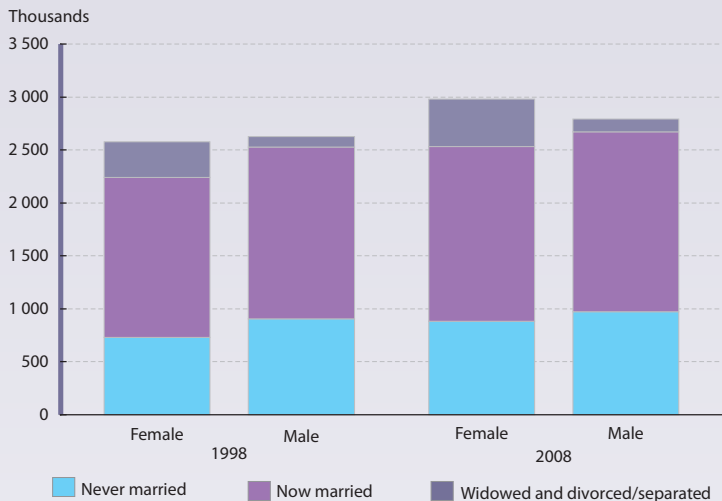
There were changes in the living arrangement of women and men during 1991 – 2006. In particular, the proportion of women living alone increased steadily from 2.9% in 1991 to 5.2% in 2006, while that of men experienced a slight decrease from 5.7% in 1991 to 5.1% in 2001 and then an increase to 5.9% in 2006.

2. MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

Changes in the marital status and family conditions of people in Hong Kong over the past decade have brought about considerable changes to the role of female in the sphere of family life. The birth rate in Hong Kong ranks among the world's lowest, while the median age of first marriage of both women and men has risen steadily.

2.1 Marriage

2.1.1 Population Aged 15 and Above (Excluding Foreign Domestic Helpers) by Marital Status and Sex



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

Source: Census and Statistics Department

2.1.2 Females Aged 15 and Above Who were Never Married (Excluding Foreign Domestic Helpers)



Note: * Revised figures

Include land-based non-institutional population aged 15 and above only.

Source: Census and Statistics Department

The number of married, widowed and divorced/separated persons increased slightly in both genders during 1998 – 2008. In both 1998 and 2008, the number of widowed and divorced/separated women was larger than that of men. The number of females aged 15 and above who were never married has steadily increased throughout 1998 – 2008 by around 20%, save for the slight decrease in 2001.

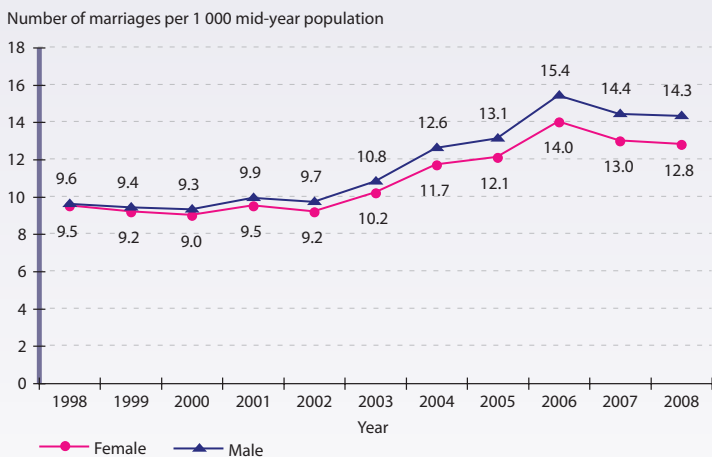
2.1.3 Median Age at First Marriage by Sex



Source: Census and Statistics Department

The median age of women and men at their first marriage rose from 26.9 in 1998 to 28.4 in 2008, and from 29.8 in 1998 to 31.1 in 2008 respectively.

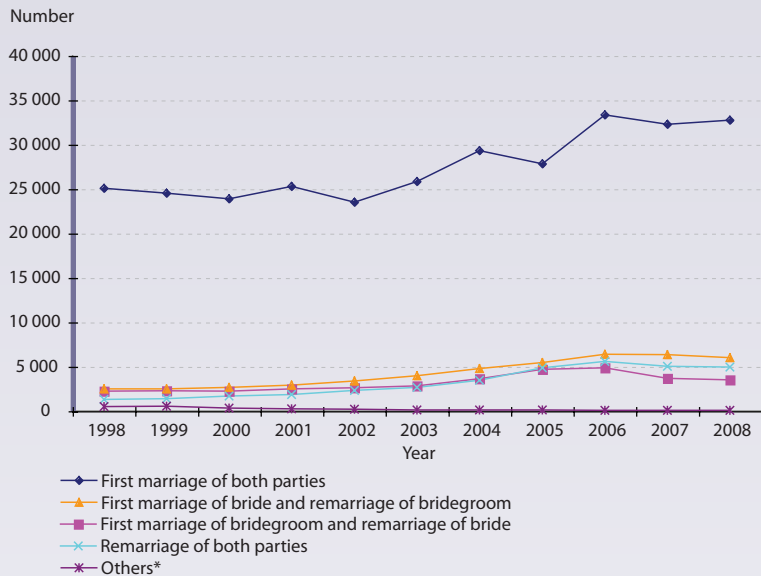
2.1.4 Crude Marriage Rates by Sex



Source: Census and Statistics Department

The crude marriage rates for both women and men exhibited a concave between 1998 to 2001. The rates then rose steadily between 2002 to 2006 and dropped slightly afterwards. The crude marriage rates for women and men were 12.8 and 14.3 respectively per 1 000 mid-year population in 2008.

2.1.5 Number of Marriages by Type

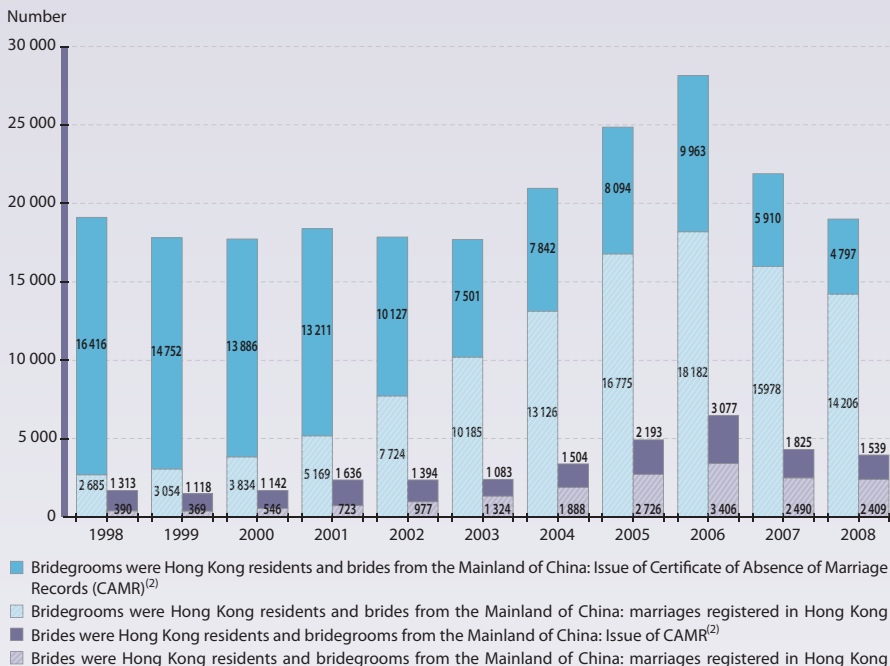


Note: * Figures refer to re-registration of couples who had either customarily married in Hong Kong before the Marriage Reform Ordinance was enacted in 1971 or had married outside Hong Kong.

Source: Census and Statistics Department

The number of first marriage of both parties was 32 765 in 2008, 30.7% higher than that of 1998. As regards the number of remarriages of either or both parties, it constituted 31% of all marriages in 2008.

2.1.6 Number of Cross-boundary Marriages Between Hong Kong and the Mainland of China⁽¹⁾



Notes: (1) Bridegrooms/brides from the Mainland of China refer to persons from the Mainland of China whose duration of stay in Hong Kong is less than one year. This figure was estimated with reference to two data items in the individual registered marriage records provided by the Immigration Department on a monthly basis: "place of previous residence" being in the Mainland of China and "duration of stay in Hong Kong" being less than one year. The figure thus compiled might have included one-way permit holders entering Hong Kong and getting married in less than one year's time. Nevertheless, it still provides a good proxy indicator to cross-boundary marriage.

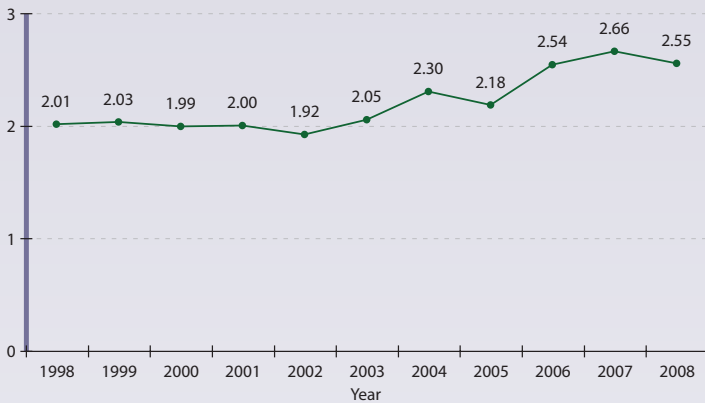
(2) Since successful applicants of CAMR for the purpose of marrying in the Mainland of China may not eventually lead to marriages, the figure above only gives a crude indicator of the total number of marriages.

Source: Census and Statistics Department

There is an increasing trend for males from Hong Kong to marry females from the Mainland of China. Similarly, an increasing number of Hong Kong females chose to marry males from the Mainland in the past few years, though the percentage was still relatively small.

2.1.7 Crude Divorce Rates

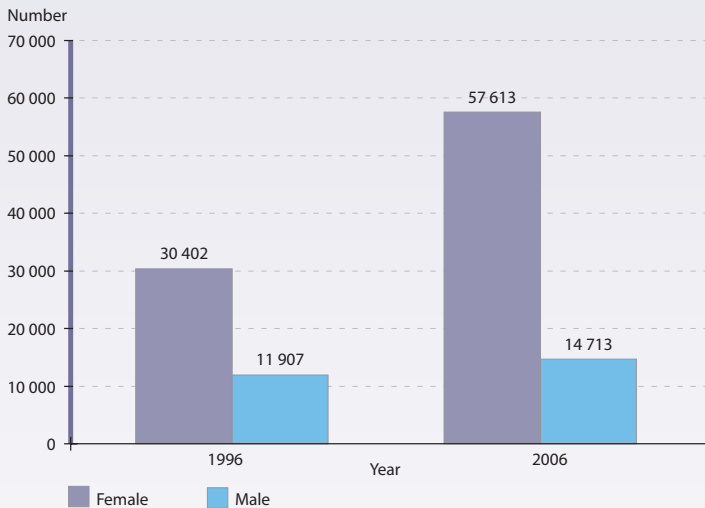
Number of divorce decrees granted per 1 000 mid-year population



Source: Census and Statistics Department

The crude divorce rate was generally on a rising trend from 2.01 in 1998 to 2.66 in 2007, then fell slightly to 2.55 in 2008.

2.1.8 Single Parents by Sex

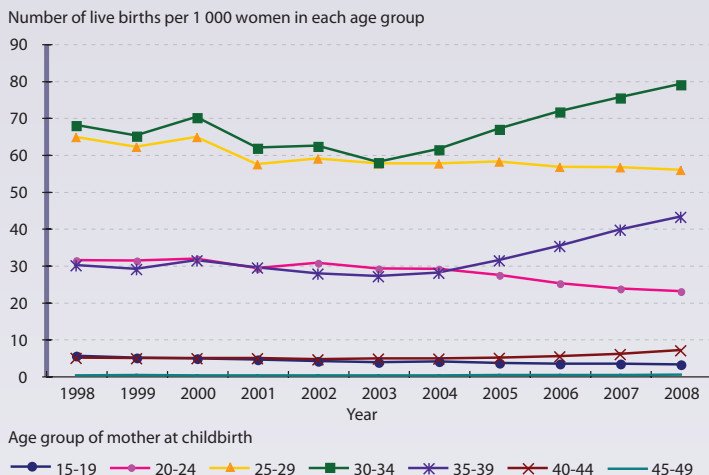


Source: Census and Statistics Department

The number of female single parents rose markedly from 30 402 in 1996 to 57 613 in 2006, while that of male single parents rose less significantly over the same period.

2.2 Family and Childbirth

2.2.1 Age Specific Fertility Rates

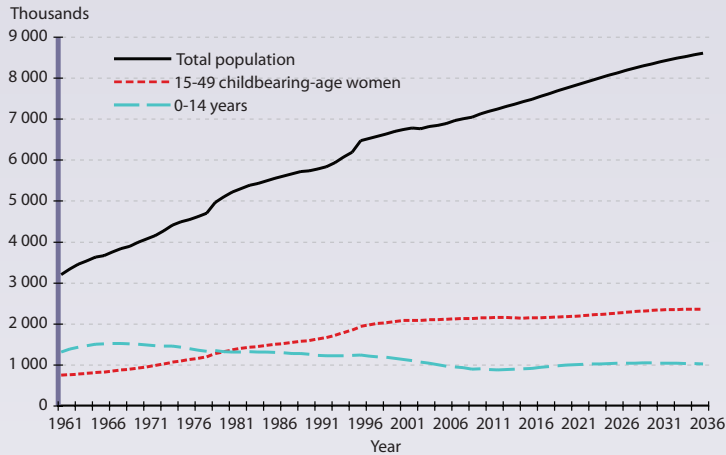


2.2.2 Median Age of Women at First Childbirth



In recent years, the fertility rates for women aged below 30 continued to drop while those for women aged 30 and above showed a rebound. The median age of women at first childbirth increased from 29.2 to 29.8 over the past decade.

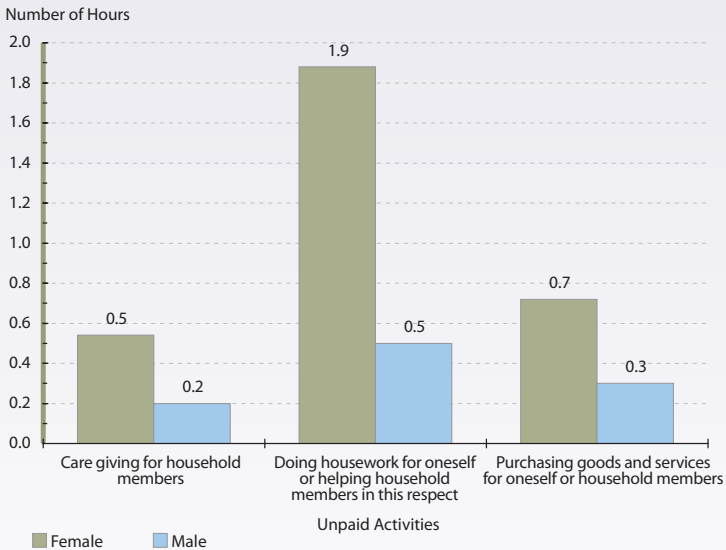
2.2.3 Trend of Total Population, Childbearing-age Women and Young Population



Source: Census and Statistics Department

The young population aged from 0 to 14 has experienced a decreasing trend since 1970s, but stabilized in recent years. The number of childbearing-age woman has been on an increasing trend and the general population growth is forecast to rise continuously up to 2036.

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



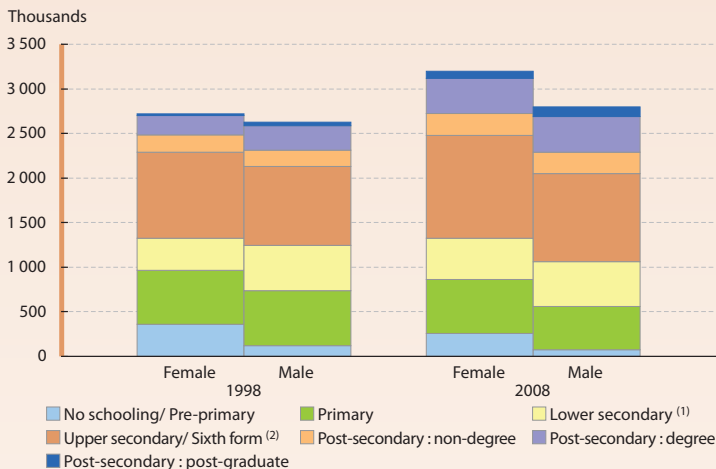
Source: Census and Statistics Department

Women spent significantly more time doing housework per day than men.

3. EDUCATION

Opportunities to education and training are important in empowering and enabling women to fully participate in different aspects of society. With the advancement of the Hong Kong society on different fronts, the overall educational attainment of both women and men has improved remarkably and a wide range of education and training opportunities are available to all who wish to further their study and enhance their employability.

3.1 Educational Attainment of Population Aged 15 and Above by Sex



Notes: (1) Include persons with Secondary 1-3 educational attainment.

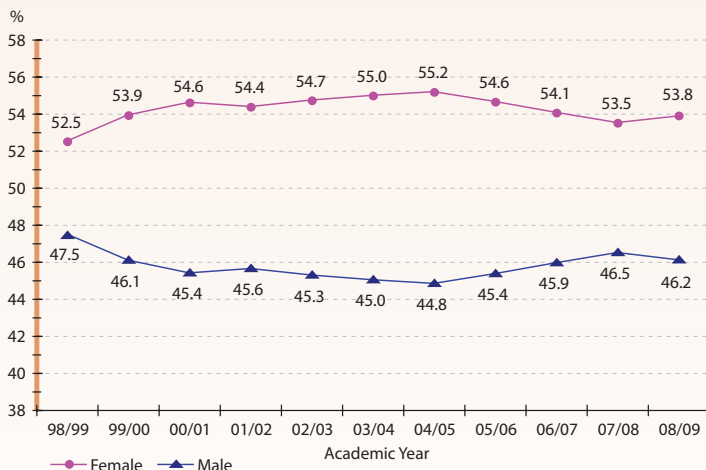
(2) Include persons with Secondary 4-7 or equivalent educational attainment.

Include land-based non-institutional population aged 15 and above only.

Source: Census and Statistics Department

Among the female population aged 15 and above, 73.0% have received secondary education and above as against 80.1% for men in 2008. The numbers of women and men who have received secondary education and above in 2008 increased by 32.8% and 18.5% respectively as against 1998.

3.2 Percentage of Students in Higher Education Programmes Funded by University Grants Committee (UGC) by Sex

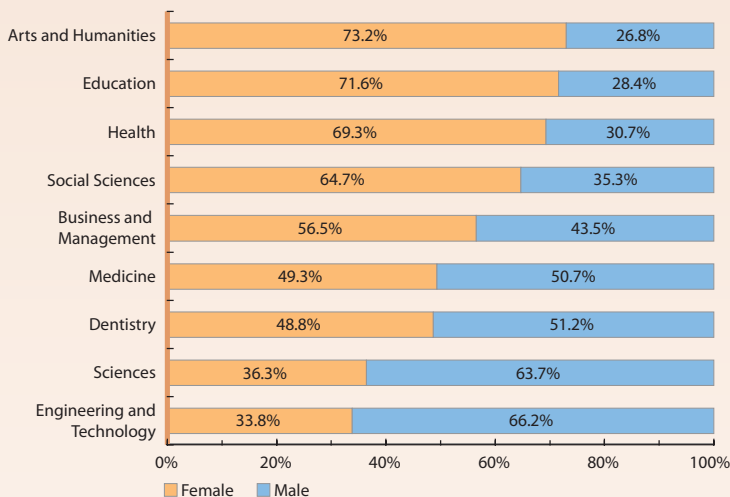


Source: University Grants Committee

Female students who enrolled in higher education programmes funded by UGC outnumbered male students, constituting 52.5% in 1998/99 and 53.8% in the 2008/09 academic years.

3.3 Students in Programmes Funded by University Grants Committee by Academic Programme Category and Sex, 2008/09 Academic Year

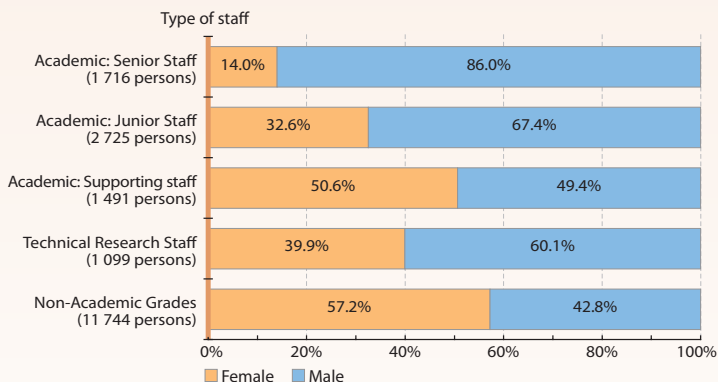
Academic programme category



Source: University Grants Committee

In the 2008/09 academic year, more female students enrolled in the arts and humanities programmes (73.2%), education (71.6%), health (69.3%), social sciences (64.7%), and business and management (56.5%) when compared with male students.

3.4 Gender Structure of Full-time Staff in University Grants Committee-funded Institutions, 2008/09 Academic Year



Note: The above refer to those wholly funded by UGC from General Funds as at the census date (31 December 2008).

Source: University Grants Committee

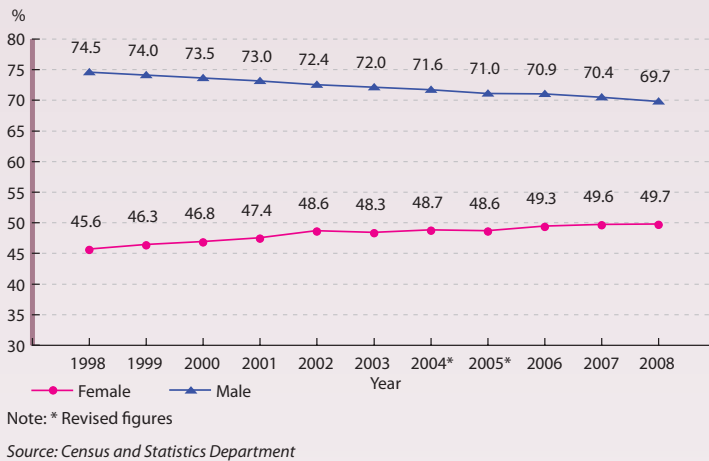
In the 2008/09 academic year, there were 18 775 full-time staff in UGC-funded Institutions, 9 041 of them were female (about 48%). Analysed by type of staff, female staff accounted for 14% of senior academic staff and 32.6% of junior academic staff. On the other hand, more non-academic positions were filled by women (57.2%).

4. EMPLOYMENT

With improvements in the level of educational attainment and the increase in training opportunities, women in Hong Kong have increasing participation in economic activities and enjoy financial independence. While it is noted that women still compare less favourably than men in terms of labour force participation rate and employment earnings especially in elementary occupations, the trend of women's participation in economic activities has been improving over the last decade.

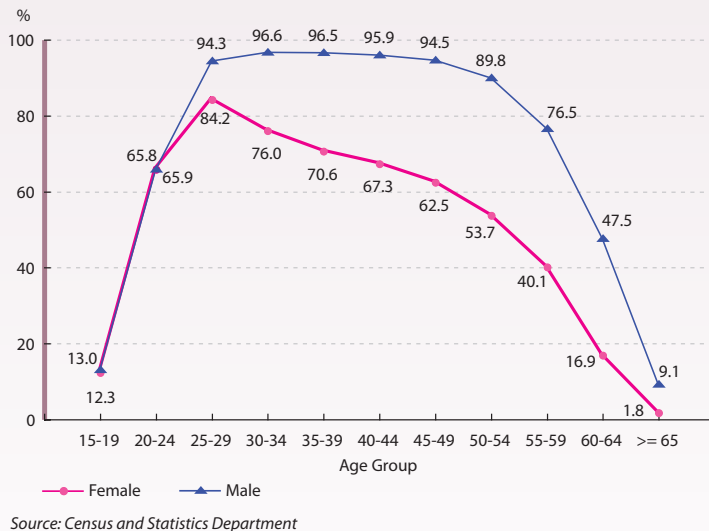
4.1 Labour Force Participation

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



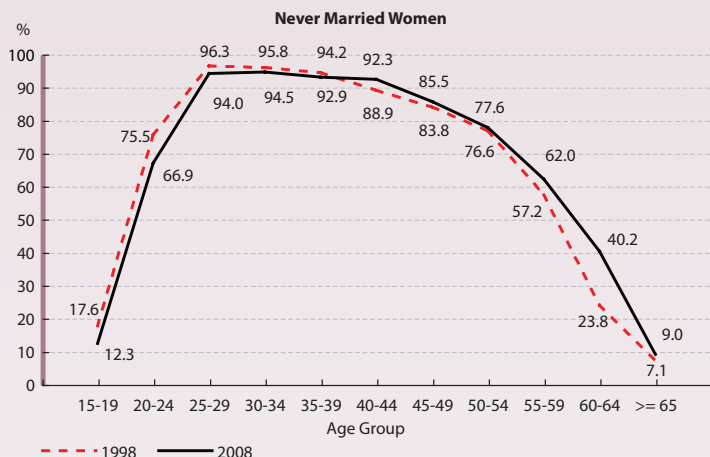
The labour force participation rate of women increased gradually from 45.6% in 1998 to 49.7% in 2008. On the other hand, the labour force participation rate of men decreased from 74.5% in 1998 to 69.7% in 2008.

4.1.2 Labour Force Participation Rates (Excluding Foreign Domestic Helpers) by Age and Sex, 2008

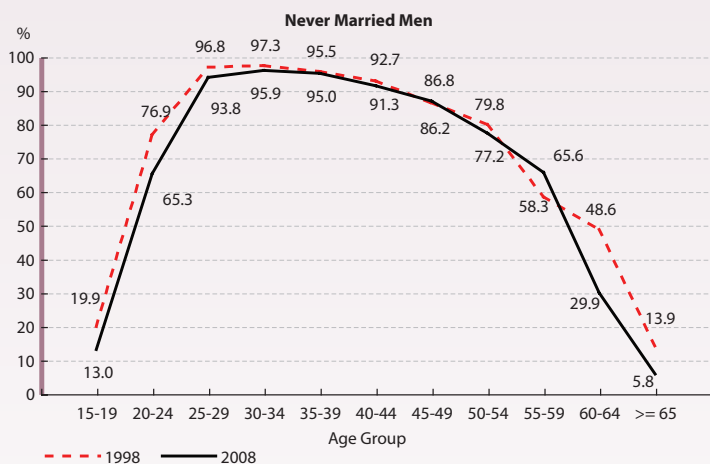


Analysed by age, women in the age group of 25-29 had the highest labour force participation rate in 2008, while the highest for men was recorded in the age group of 30-34.

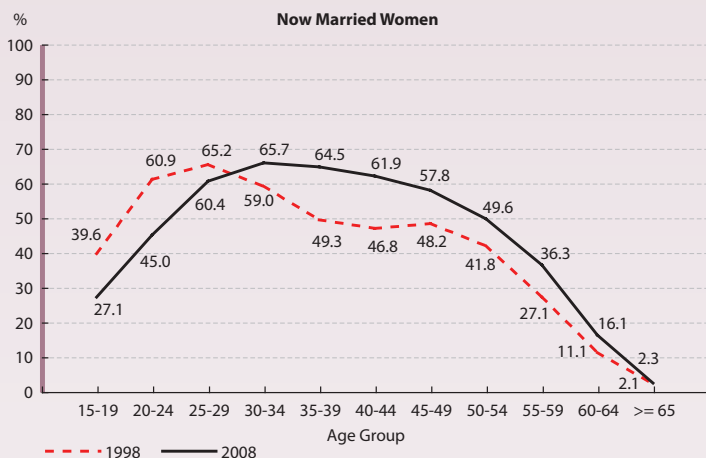
4.1.3 Labour Force Participation Rates (Excluding Foreign Domestic Helpers) by Marital Status, Age and Sex



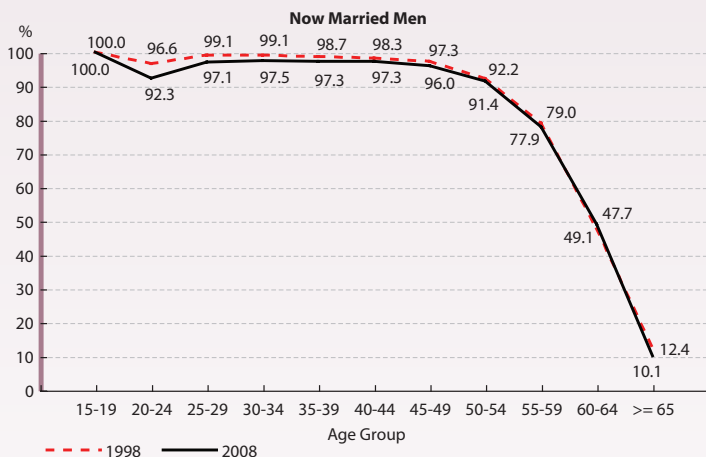
Source: Census and Statistics Department



Source: Census and Statistics Department



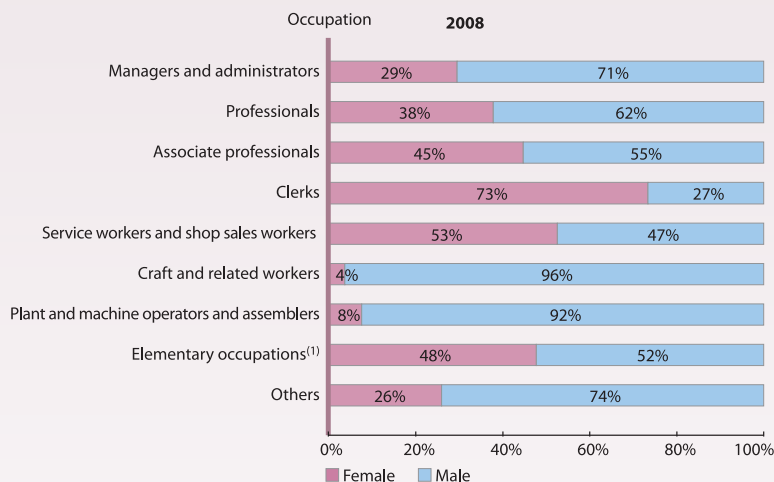
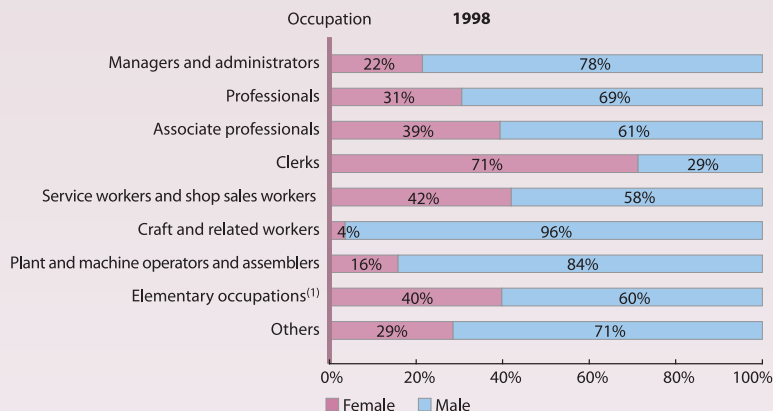
Source: Census and Statistics Department



Source: Census and Statistics Department

The labour force participation rate of never married women was 68.7% in 2008, which was significantly higher than the 46.3% of ever married women (including now married, widowed and divorced/separated women). This might reflect the fact that more married women tend to exit the labour force, whether temporarily or permanently, after marriage.

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

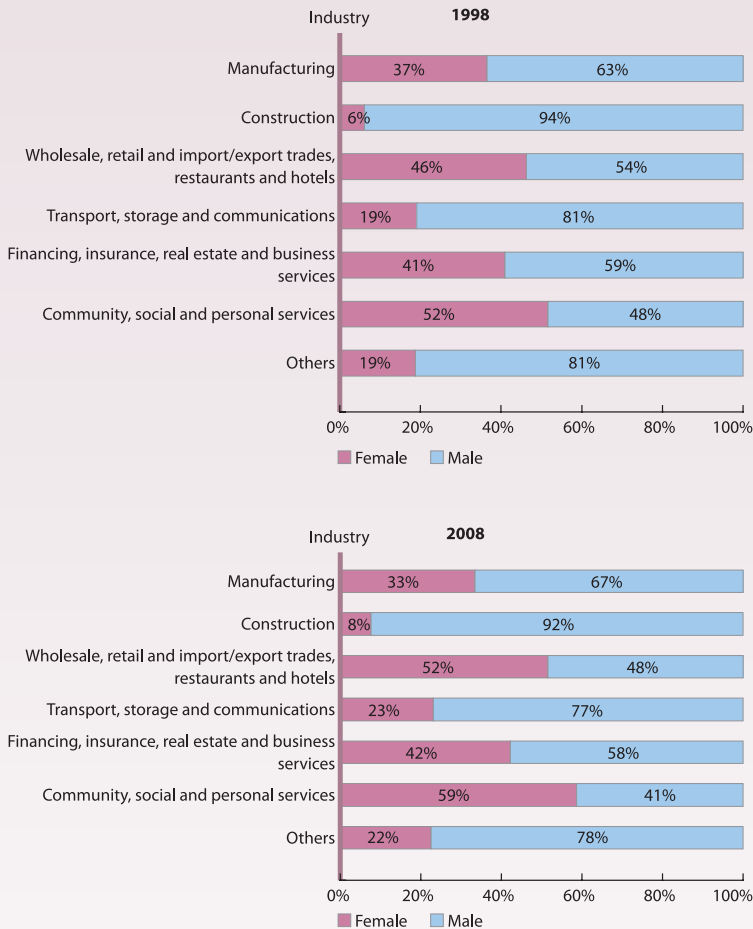


Note: (1) Elementary occupations include street vendors; domestic helpers and cleaners; messengers; private security guards; watchmen; freight handlers; lift operators; construction labourers; hand packers; agricultural and fishery labourers, etc.

Source: Census and Statistics Department

In 1998, around three quarters of clerks and half of the workers in service, shop sales or elementary occupations were females. Such proportions did not change much in 2008. However, the proportions of female managers and administrators, professionals and associate professionals have generally increased by 2008.

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



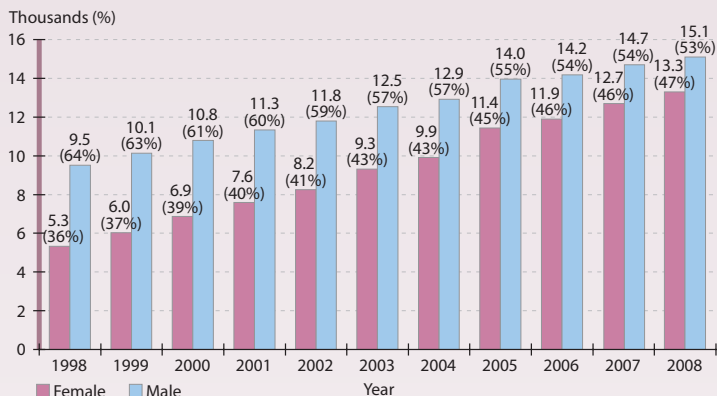
Source: Census and Statistics Department

In 1998, there was relatively higher proportion of female employed persons in the community, social and personal services sector, followed by the wholesale, retail and import/export trade, restaurants and hotels sector, and the financing, insurance, real estate and business services sector. A similar pattern was recorded in 2008.

4.1.6 Women in Professions

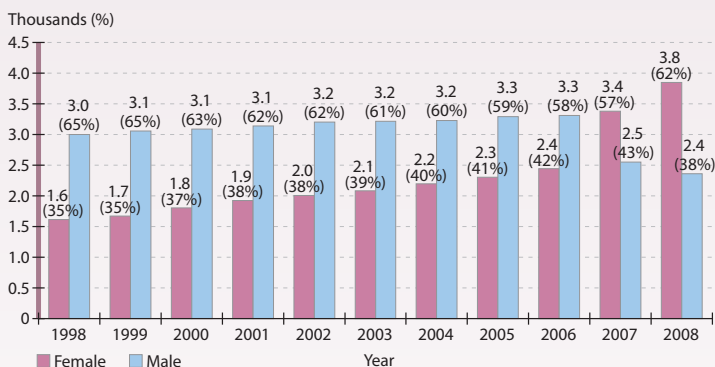
There was an increasing participation of women in various professions. Some examples are shown below. Noticeably, there was a significant increase of female professionals in the legal field. While there was an increasing number of female certified public accountants and registered doctors over the decade, the number of female fully qualified engineers remained low.

(i) Certified Public Accountants



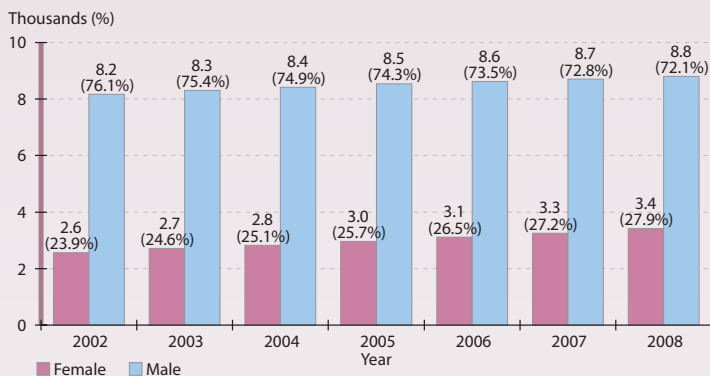
Source: Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants

(ii) Solicitors Holding Practising Certificates



Source: The Law Society of Hong Kong

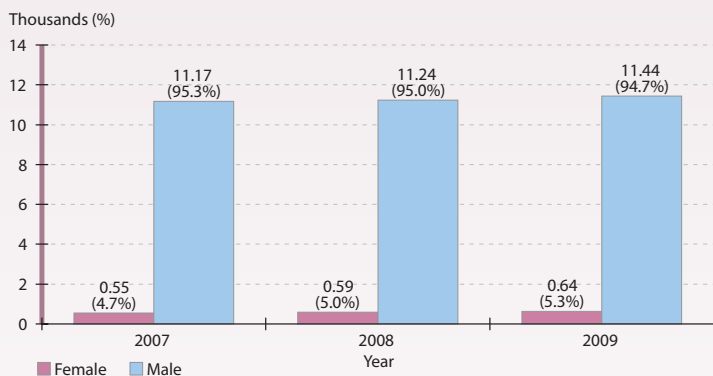
(iii) Registered Doctors



Note: Doctors with full registration on the local and overseas lists as at end of each year.

Source: Department of Health

(iv) Fully Qualified Engineers



Source: The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers

4.2 Employment Earnings

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

(i) By Occupation of Main Employment and Sex

Occupation	Year	Median (HK\$)	
		Female	Male
Managers and administrators	1998	28,000	30,000
	2008	30,000	30,000
Professionals	1998	26,400	30,000
	2008	28,000	30,000
Associate professionals	1998	16,000	16,000
	2008	15,500	15,000
Clerks	1998	10,000	10,000
	2008	9,500	9,800
Service workers and shop sales workers	1998	8,000	10,000
	2008	7,300	10,500
Craft and related workers	1998	8,000	10,000
	2008	8,000	10,100
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	1998	6,000	10,000
	2008	6,300	9,800
Elementary occupations	1998	5,900	8,000
	2008	5,500	7,000
Overall	1998	9,800	12,000
		10,000	
	2008	10,000	12,000
		11,000	

Source: Census and Statistics Department

(ii) By Educational Attainment and Sex

Educational Attainment	Year	Median (HK\$)	
		Female	Male
No schooling / Pre-primary	1998	5,000	7,500
	2008	5,000	6,500
Primary	1998	6,000	9,500
	2008	5,600	9,000
Lower secondary	1998	7,000	10,000
	2008	6,500	9,500
Upper secondary / Sixth-form	1998	10,000	12,000
	2008	9,500	11,500
Post-secondary : non-degree	1998	15,000	18,000
	2008	13,000	15,000
Post-secondary : degree	1998	20,000	25,000
	2008	20,000	25,000
Post-secondary : post-graduate	1998	31,000	43,000
	2008	30,000	36,000
Overall	1998	9,800	12,000
		10,000	
	2008	10,000	12,000
		11,000	

Source: Census and Statistics Department

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

(iii) By Industry of Main Employment and Sex



Source: Census and Statistics Department

In general, the median monthly employment earnings of female employed persons were lower than that of their male counterparts. However, there were noticeable improvements in the income of women in sectors such as transport, storage and communication; and financing, insurance, real estate and business services, as compared with that a decade ago.

4.3 Employment Pattern

4.3.1 Hong Kong Residents who had Worked in the Mainland of China⁽¹⁾ by Sex

Thousands

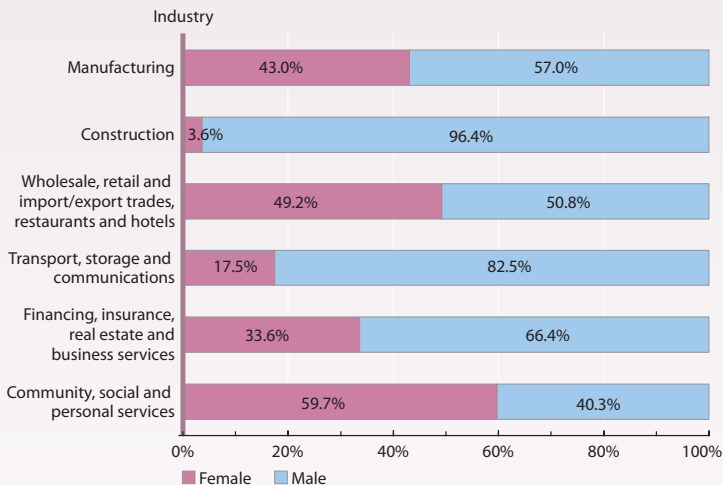
	1998	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2008
	May-Jun	Apr-Jun	Apr-Jun	Jan-Mar	Feb-Mar	Jan-Mar	Jul-Sept
Female	17.9	31.3	38.9	49.1	49.2	55.5	54.4
Male	115.7	145.1	148.7	176.9	186.2	173.4	158.2
Total	133.5	176.3	187.6	226.0	235.4	228.9	212.6

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 jobs at the time of enumeration.

Source: Census and Statistics Department

The number of Hong Kong residents who were required to work in the Mainland in their jobs jumped significantly in the early 2000s and exhibited a slight decreasing trend in recent years. While the number of women working in the Mainland was consistently smaller than that of men during the period, the proportion of such females has increased progressively.

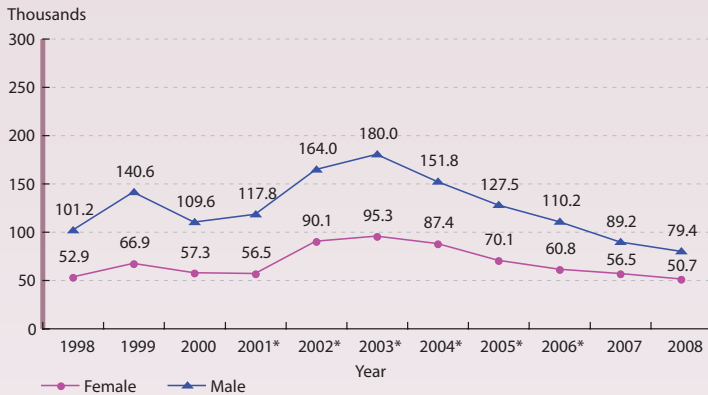
4.3.2 Unemployed Women and Men by Previous Industry, 2008



Source: Census and Statistics Department

Among various sectors, a relatively high proportion of the unemployed women were previously engaged in the community, social and personal services sector; followed by the wholesale, retail and import/export trades, restaurant and hotels sector; and the manufacturing sector.

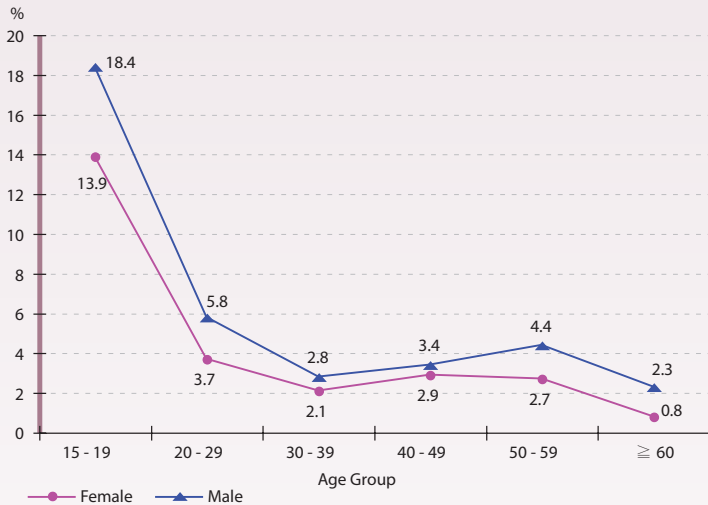
4.3.3 Unemployed Persons by Sex



Note: * Revised figures

Source: Census and Statistics Department

4.3.4 Unemployment Rates by Age and Sex, 2008



Source: Census and Statistics Department

The number of unemployed females was consistently smaller than that of males. In 2008, 50 700 females were unemployed, with an unemployment rate of 3.0%. The corresponding numbers for males were 79 400 and 4.1% respectively. The unemployment rates of females in all age groups were lower than those of males.

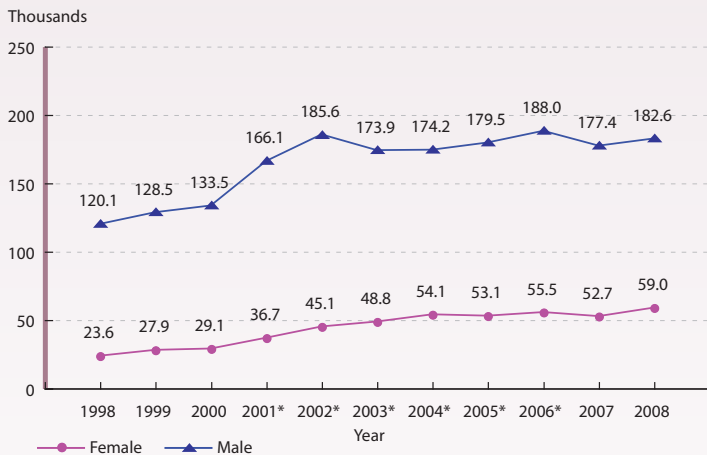
4.3.5 Part-time Employees by Sex



Source: Census and Statistics Department

The number of part-time employees increased from 67 800 to 150 900 between 1994/95 to 2005. During that period, the number of female part-time employees was constantly greater than that of their male counterparts, standing at the ratio of around 5:3 in 2005.

4.3.6 Self-employed Persons by Sex

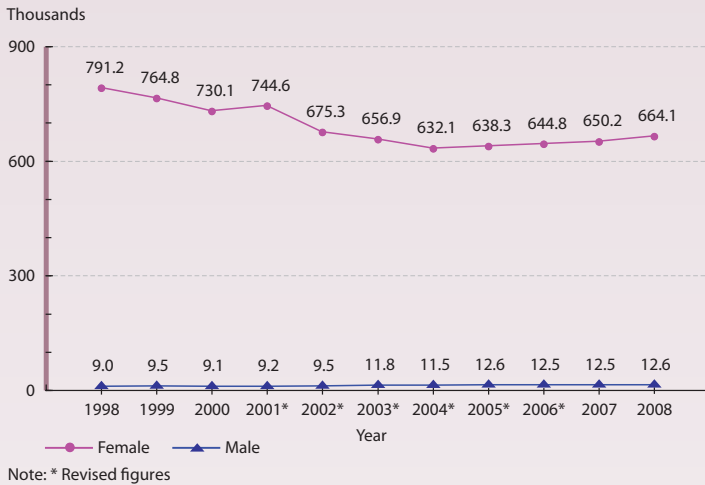


Notes: * Revised figures

Source: Census and Statistics Department

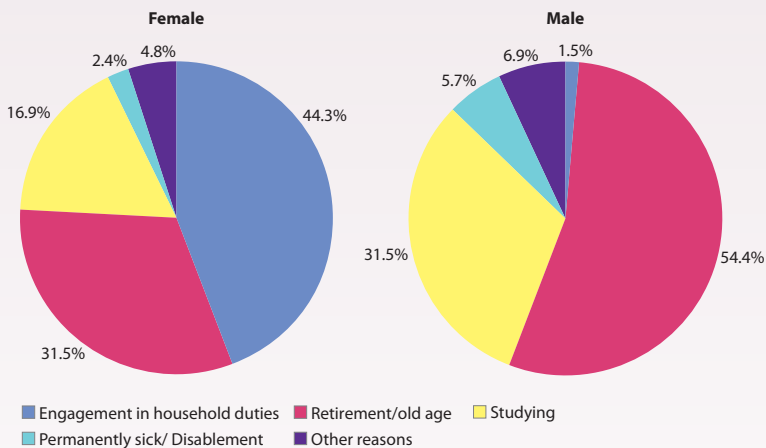
On the contrary, the number of self-employed females was smaller than that of males, though both sets of figures showed a rising trend in the past decade.

4.3.7 Home-makers Aged 15 and Above by Sex



The number of female home-makers has decreased gradually since 1998, with a slight increase from 2005 to 2008.

4.3.8 Reasons of Economically Inactive Persons (Aged 15 and Above) for Not Entering the Labour Market, 2008

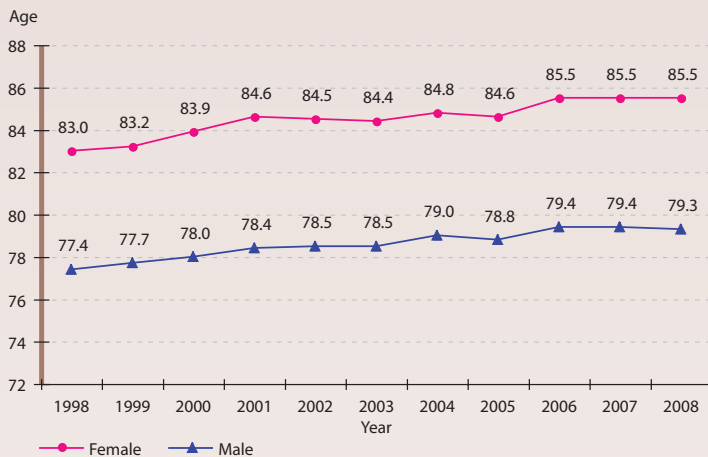


Source: Census and Statistics Department

Engagement in household duties was the major cause for females not participating in the labour market. The percentage largely outnumbered that of their male counterparts. As for males, the major cause was retirement/old age.

The improved quality of healthcare services in Hong Kong and the community's increasing awareness of the importance of health have resulted in a healthier lifestyle in general, especially for women in Hong Kong.

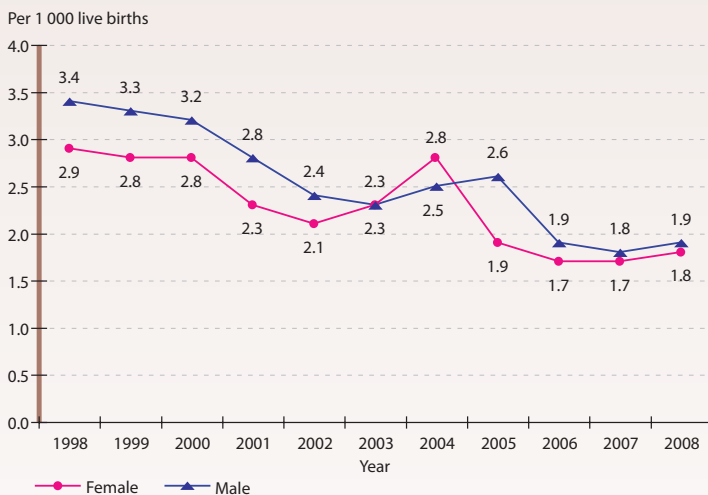
5.1 Life Expectancy at Birth by Sex



Source: Census and Statistics Department

In 1998, the life expectancy at birth for women and men were 83.0 years and 77.4 years respectively. By 2008, the corresponding provisional figures increased to 85.5 years and 79.3 years, indicating a significant improvement in health conditions of the population over the period.

5.2 Infant Mortality Rates by Sex



Source: Census and Statistics Department

The infant mortality rates for both genders has been constantly low in recent years.

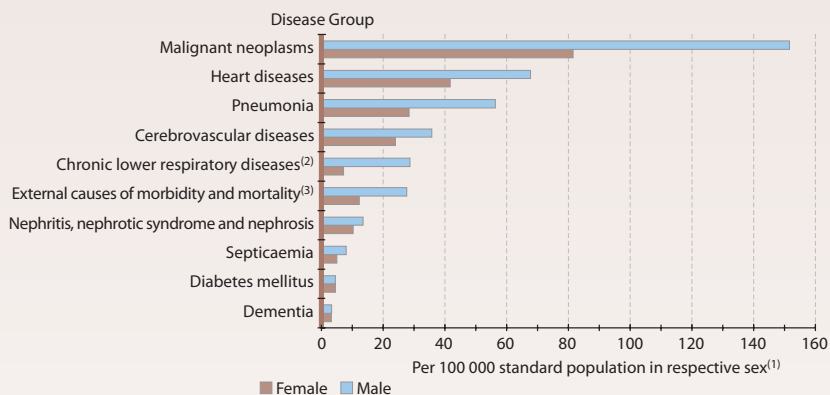
5.3 Registered Deaths by Major Causes of Death and Sex

Disease Group	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Malignant neoplasms	4 354	7 156	4 608	7 183	4 813	7 497	4 707	7 386	4 716	7 600	4 939	7 517
Heart diseases	2 610	2 701	2 851	3 015	2 897	2 971	2 788	2 831	3 117	3 255	3 335	3 442
Pneumonia	1 782	2 095	1 771	1 905	2 015	2 276	1 937	2 264	2 255	2 723	2 561	2 925
Cerebrovascular diseases	1 777	1 685	1 686	1 730	1 771	1 663	1 699	1 603	1 734	1 779	1 848	1 843

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

Source: Department of Health

5.4 Age-standardised Death Rates of Ten Leading Causes of Death by Sex, 2008



Notes: (1) The age-standardised death rates are compiled based on a new world standard population specified in GPE Discussion Paper Series: No.31, EIP/GPE/EBD, World Health Organization, 2001.

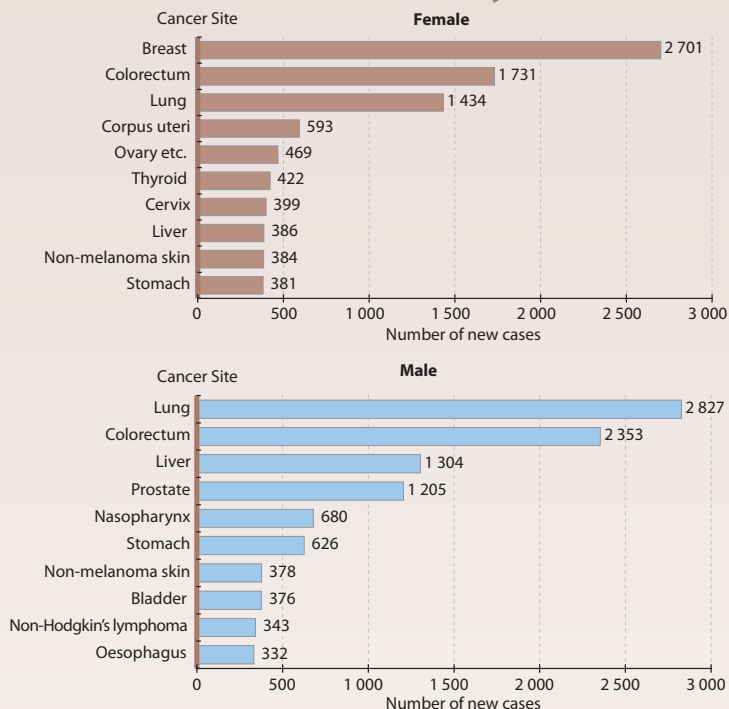
(2) Chronic lower respiratory diseases has been included as a disease group for the purpose of ranking the causes of death since 2001.

(3) According to the ICD 10th the Revision, when the morbid condition is classified under Chapter XIX as "Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes", the codes under Chapter XX for "External causes of morbidity and mortality" should be used as the primary cause of death.

Sources: Census and Statistics Department, and Department of Health

Deaths caused by malignant neoplasms (cancers) remained the major cause of death for both women and men, followed by heart diseases. Lung cancer was the most common cancer causing death, and was more prevalent among men than women. This was probably related to the fact that male smokers outnumbered their female counterparts.

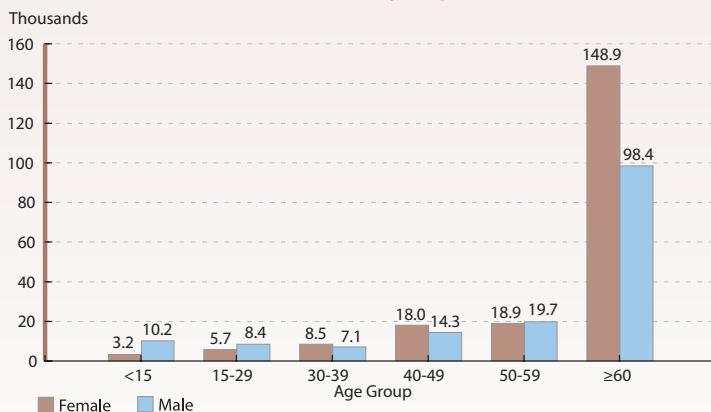
5.5 The Ten Most Common Cancers by Sex, 2007



Source: Hong Kong Cancer Registry, Hospital Authority

Among the top ten most common cancers in 2007, breast cancer was recorded as the leading cancer, followed by colorectal and lung cancer for women. For men, lung cancer was the leading cancer which was followed by colorectal and liver cancer.

5.6 Persons with Disabilities⁽¹⁾ by Age Group and Sex, 2007

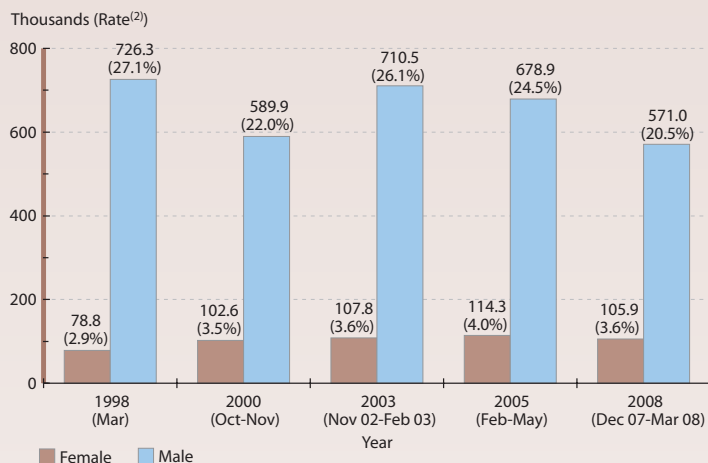


Note: (1) Exclude persons with intellectual disability

Source: Census and Statistics Department

The total number of disabled women aged 60 and above was significantly greater than that of men in 2007.

5.7 Daily Cigarette Smokers⁽¹⁾ by Sex

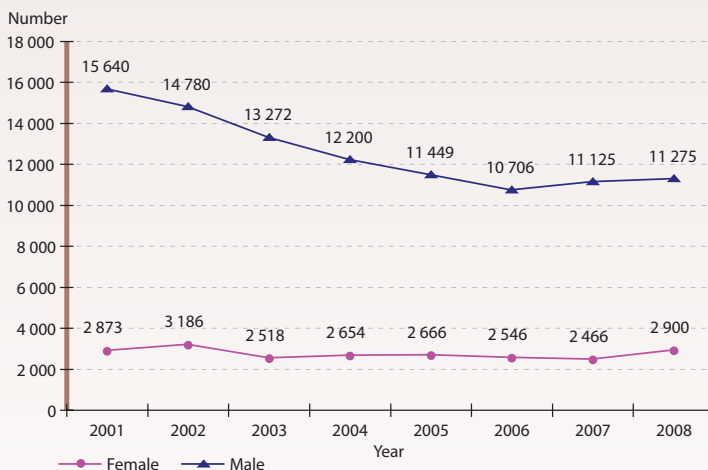


Notes: (1) Refers to persons aged 15 and above who at the time of enumeration had a daily smoking habit (although they might not smoke on certain days because of illness or other reasons)
 (2) As a percentage of all persons aged 15 and above in the respective sex group

Source: Census and Statistics Department

Male smokers continued to outnumber that of female smokers though the absolute number continued to drop from 2003 to 2008.

5.8 Reported Drug Abusers by Sex

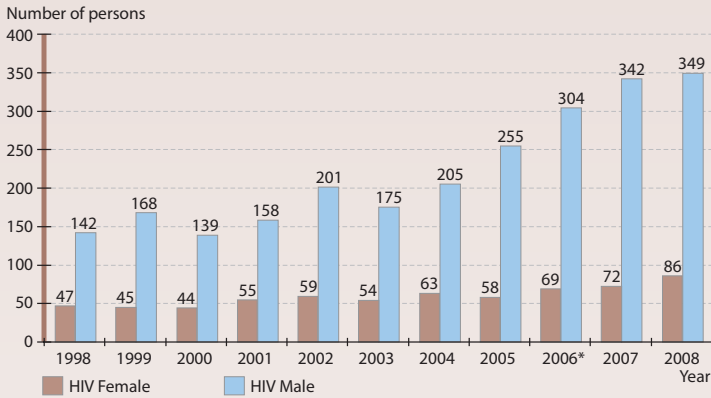


Source: Security Bureau

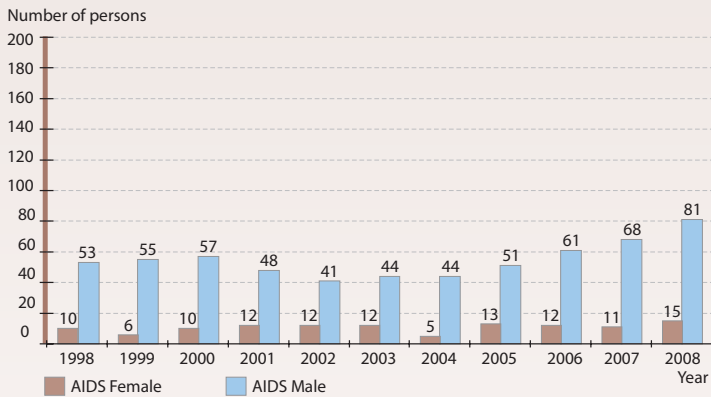
The number of reported male drug abusers dropped from 15 640 to 11 275 from 2001 to 2008, whereas the number of female drug remained relatively stable, with an increase from 2007 to 2008.

5.9 Reported HIV and AIDS Cases by Sex

5.9a. Reported HIV Cases



5.9b. Reported AIDS Cases



Note: *Revised figure

Source: Department of Health

The number of HIV carriers for both genders increased since 1998. There were more male carriers than female ones among the reported HIV and AIDS cases during the period.

Over the years, women have become increasingly active in participating in public affairs and in exercising their civil rights. Although the absolute number of women holding public posts is still comparatively smaller than that of men, the figures reflect an increasing number of women holding public posts and a comparable size of registered electors and voter turnout as compared with men.

6.1 Members in the Executive Council

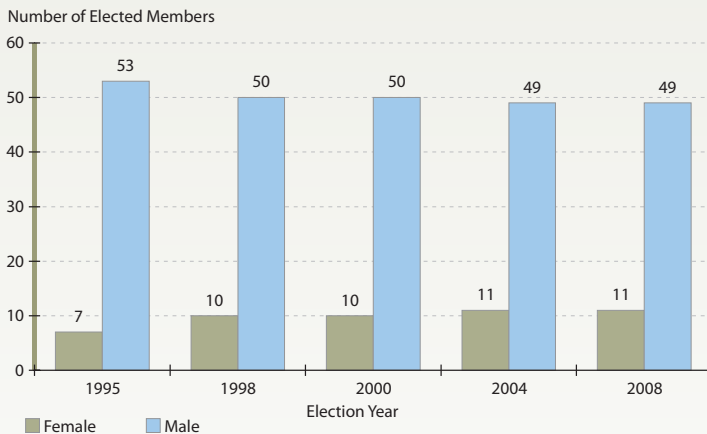


Note: Figures as at 1 January of each year

Source: Executive Council Secretariat

There were five female members and 26 male members in the Executive Council in 2008.

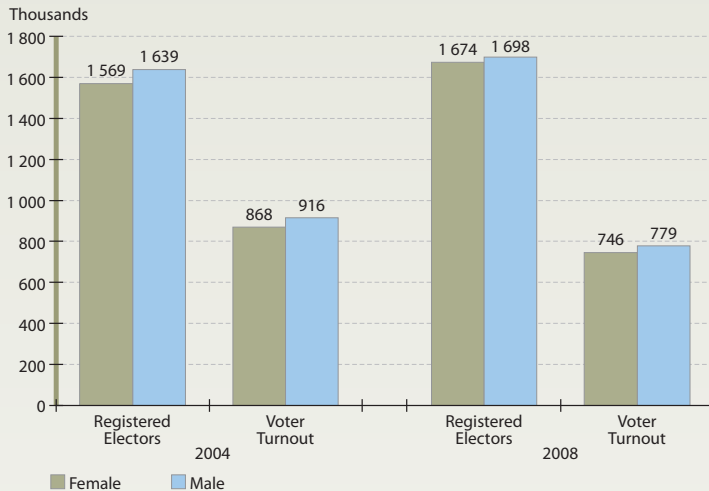
6.2 Elected Members in Legislative Council



Source: Registration and Electoral Office

There are 11 female elected members and 49 male elected members in the Fourth Legislative Council (2008-2012).

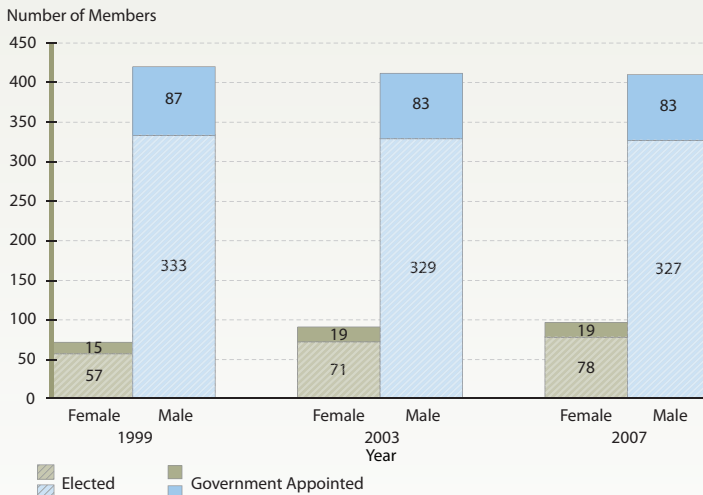
6.3 Registered Electors and Voter Turnout in Legislative Council Elections



Source: Registration and Electoral Office

The number of registered women electors increased from 2004 to 2008 but the voter turnout during the same period dropped. Similar situation was registered for male voters.

6.4 Elected Members and Government Appointed Members in District Councils



Source: Registration and Electoral Office

The number of women elected to the District Councils witnessed an increase during 1999 – 2007, though the proportion of women councillors was still low.

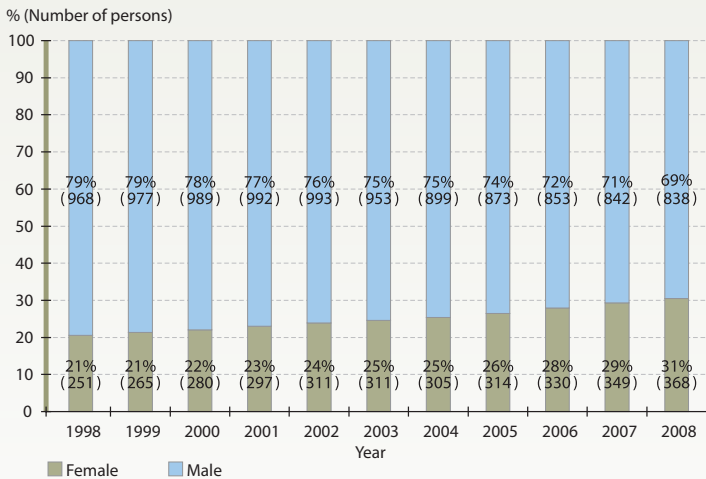
6.5 Civil Servants by Sex



- Notes: a. Figures refer to end of December of the year, except that for 1996, figures refer to the beginning of January 1997.
 b. Civil servants refer to persons who are employed on civil terms of appointment on the survey reference date.
 c. 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 such as Non-Civil Service Contract staff.
 d. With effect from June 1999, judges and judicial officers in the Judiciary were no longer included as civil servants.

Source: Census and Statistics Department

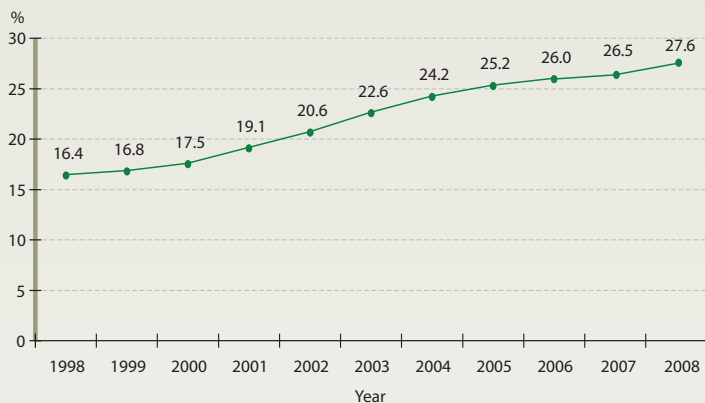
6.6 Directorate Officers in the Civil Service by Sex



Source: Civil Service Bureau

The number of female directorate officers in the civil service increased significantly from 251 in 1998 to 368 in 2008.

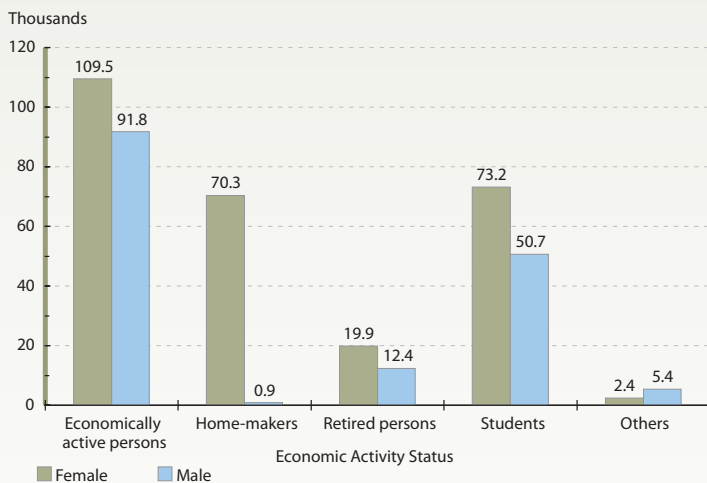
6.7 Percentage of Appointed Female Members Serving on Government Advisory and Statutory Bodies



Source: Home Affairs Bureau

The percentage of women serving on government advisory and statutory bodies has increased constantly. In 2008, 1 484 appointed members were women, which constituted 27.6% of the total number of appointed members.

6.8 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 significantly higher than that of men.

7. SOCIAL SECURITY AND WELFARE

The Government provides different forms of support to members of the community who are in need of financial or material assistance to address their basic needs through a non-contributory social security system. The number of women receiving various types of assistance is in general greater than that of men.

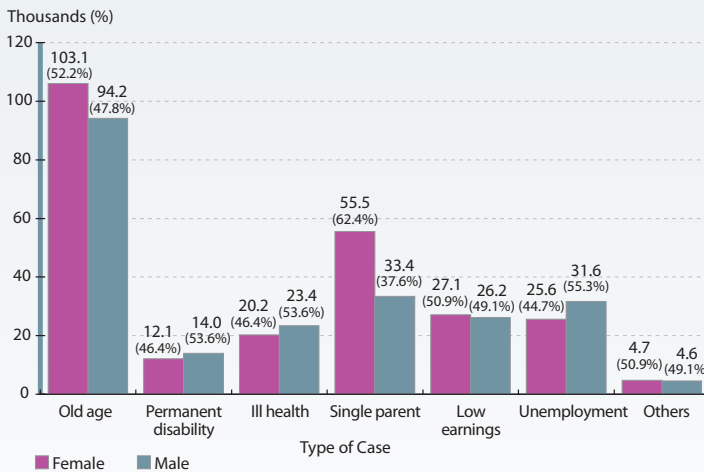
7.1 Recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) by Sex



Source : Social Welfare Department

During the period, the number of female CSSA recipients was in general greater than that of male recipients. The number of both male and female CSSA recipients increased from 1998 to 2004 (except the slight decrease in 2000) and dropped steadily from 2005 to 2008.

7.2 Recipients of CSSA by Type and Sex, 2008

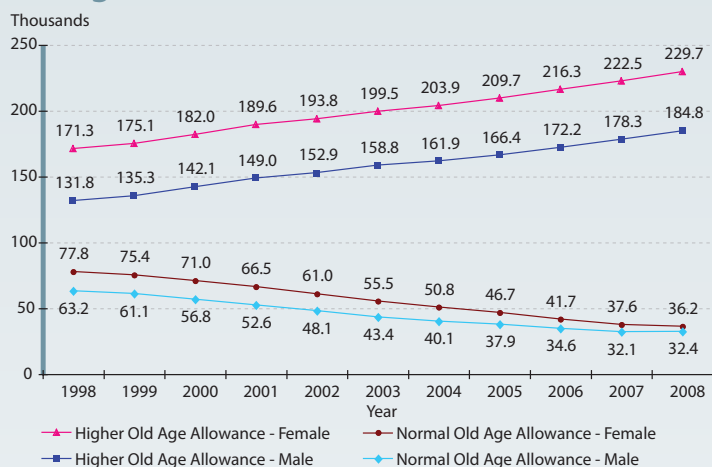


Source : Social Welfare Department

The most significant gender difference in terms of types of CSSA recipients was observed in "single parent" cases, where the number of female CSSA recipients was largely greater than that of male.

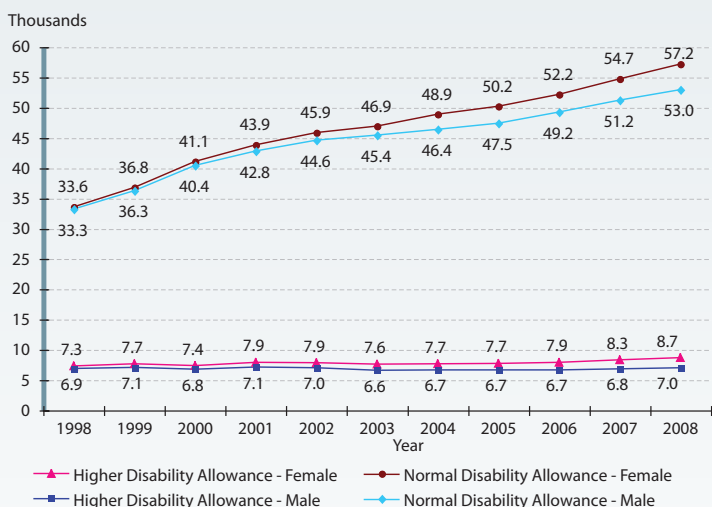
7.3 Recipients of Social Security Allowance (SSA) by Sex

7.3.1 Old Age Allowance



Source: Social Welfare Department

7.3.2 Disability Allowance



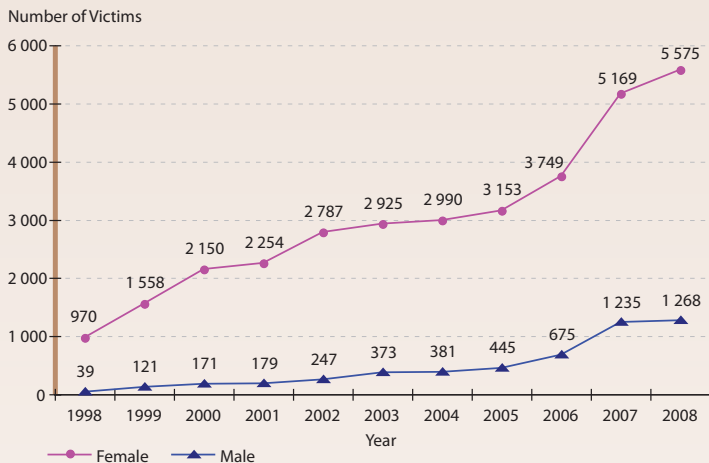
Source: Social Welfare Department

The number of women receiving SSA was in general greater than that of men. The number of women receiving SSA increased from around 290 100 in 1998 to 331 800 in 2008, while that of men increased from 235 200 to 277 200 during the same period.

Women and men have different experiences in relation to crime. Generally speaking, there are fewer women arrested for crime than men. In domestic violence cases, it is noted that male abusers largely outnumbered that of female.

8.1 Domestic Violence

8.1.1 Battered Spouse Cases (First Reported to Social Welfare Department) by Sex

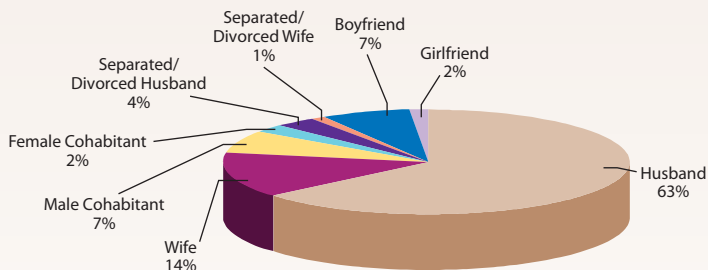


Source : Social Welfare Department

The number of first reported battered spouse cases increased during 1998 – 2008, with more female victims.

8.1.2 Relationships Between Abusers and Victims in Reported Cases of Domestic Violence, 2008

Abuser's relationship with the victim



Source : Social Welfare Department

Most of the victims of domestic violence were abused by their spouses. The number constituted up to 77% of all domestic violence cases.

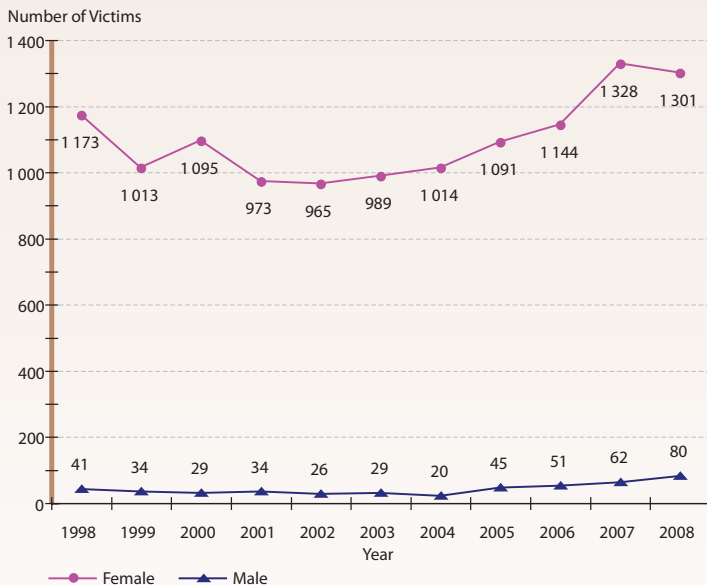
8.2 Sexual Assault

8.2.1 Reported Rape Cases (Female Victims)



Source: Hong Kong Police Force

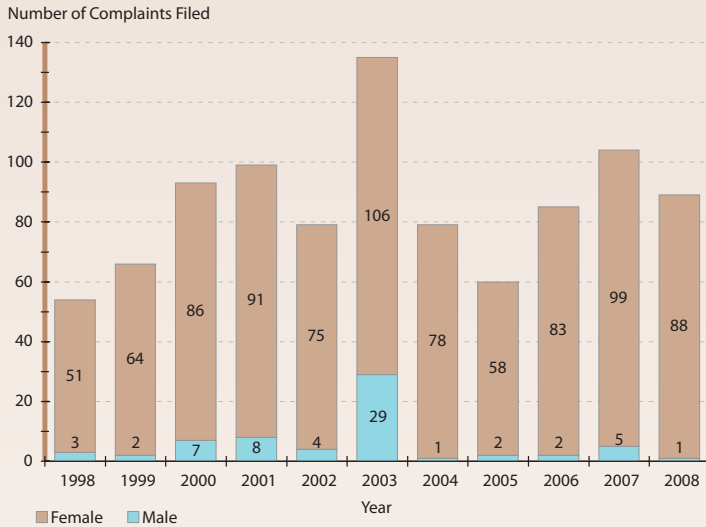
8.2.2 Reported Indecent Assault Cases by Sex of Victim



Source: Hong Kong Police Force

The number of reported rape and indecent assault cases concerning female victims increased moderately in 2008 (1 406) comparing with the figures ten years ago (1 263).

8.3 Sexual Harassment Complaints Received by the Equal Opportunities Commission by Sex



Source: Equal Opportunities Commission

Over 90% of the complaints received by the Equal Opportunities Commission were filed by women.

8.4 Suicide Rates by Sex

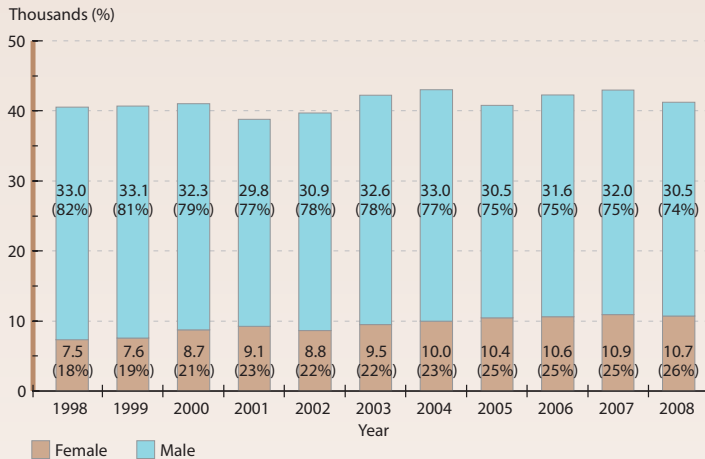


Source: Hong Kong Jockey Club Centre for Suicide Research and Prevention, the University of Hong Kong

The suicide rate of men has been constantly higher than that of women. However, there was a decreasing trend of suicide cases in both genders after 2003.

8.5 Crime

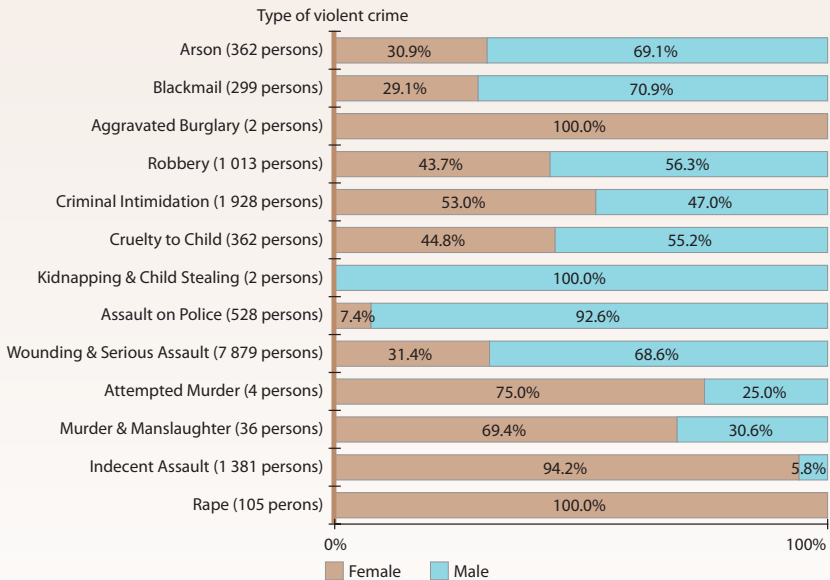
8.5.1 Persons Arrested for Crime by Sex



Source: Hong Kong Police Force

There were consistently fewer women than men arrested for crime.

8.5.2 Sex Ratio of Violent Crime Victims, 2008

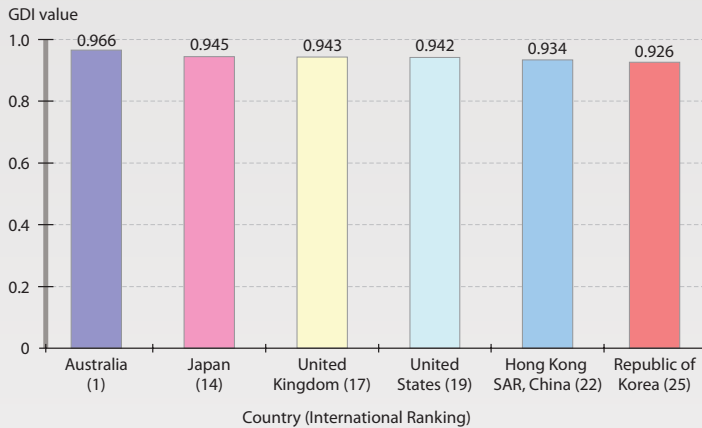


Source: Hong Kong Police Force

The number of reported rape and indecent assault cases concerning female victims increased moderately in 2008 comparing with that of ten years ago.

The Gender-related Development Index (GDI) and Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM) are two of the four main Human Development Indices used by the United Nations (UN) to measure the achievement of women in basic capabilities and the opportunities provided for women in economic and political arenas. Hong Kong's GDI and GEM rank comparatively well as against most of its Asian counterparts.

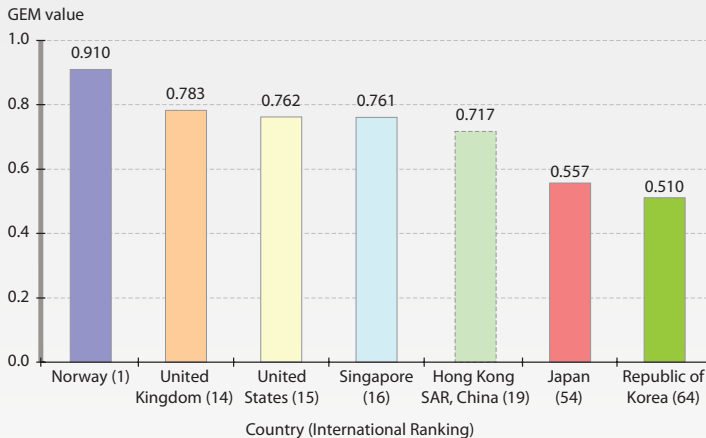
9.1 International Comparison on Gender-related Development Index (GDI), 2007



Source: UN Human Development Report 2009

The GDI of Hong Kong was 0.934, ranking the 22nd out of 155 countries.

9.2 International Comparison on Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM), 2005



Note: Hong Kong's ranking in GEM was absent since only parliamentary data of countries collected by the Inter-Parliamentary Union would be included in the calculation of GEM. The Index of Hong Kong was worked out by inserting the number of female Legislative Council members in Hong Kong in place of the number of female parliamentary members into the equation published in the UN Human Development Report 2007/2008.

Source: UN Human Development Report 2007/2008

The GEM of Hong Kong was 0.717 in 2005, ranking around the 19th among the total of 109 countries, next to Singapore (16th) and ahead of Japan (54th) and the Republic of Korea (64th). This reflects that political participation and economic empowerment of women in Hong Kong is satisfactory.

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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 data collected outside the Government of the HKSAR, please contact the corresponding organization for details:

Section 4.1.6

- 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 Institution of Engineers
<http://www.hkie.org.hk>

Section 8.4

- The Hong Kong Jockey Club Centre for Suicide Research and Prevention, the University of Hong Kong
<http://csrp.hku.hk>

Section 9.1 and 9.2

- Human Development Report, the United Nations Development Programmes
<http://hdr.undp.org>

WOMEN'S COMMISSION

The Women's Commission was set up by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government in January 2001 as a central mechanism to promote the well-being and interests of women in Hong Kong.

Its mission is

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

To achieve this mission, the Women's Commission has adopted a three-pronged strategy, namely the provision of an enabling environment, empowerment of women, and public education.

For more information about the Women's Commission,
Please visit our website: **www.women.gov.hk** or
send a message to our e-mail account: **women@lwb.gov.hk**

