

WOMEN'S COMMISSION
Women and Men in Hong Kong – Key Statistics
(2004 Edition)

INTRODUCTION

This paper:-

- (a) presents the draft 2004 edition of the “Women and Men in Hong Kong – Key Statistics” prepared by the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) scheduled for publication around end July 2004;
- (b) highlights from the draft publication the key statistical profile of women and men in Hong Kong; and
- (c) invites Members’ comments on the draft publication prior to release.

BACKGROUND

2. The Census and Statistics Department compiled the first issue of the annual statistical publication “Women and Men in Hong Kong – Key Statistics” in 2001. The publication serves as a ready source of information for those interested in the profile of women and men and gender equality in Hong Kong. The 2004 edition of “Women and Men in Hong Kong – Key Statistics” will be released around end July 2004. This new edition contains the data for 2003 as far as practicable, from various data sources. It provides the latest statistics on the characteristics of women and men in Hong Kong. This paper extracts relevant information from the 2004 edition of the “Women and Men in Hong Kong – Key Statistics” to give a broad profile of women and men in Hong Kong. Some key statistics are given in the Annex.

PROFILE OF WOMEN AND MEN IN HONG KONG

Demographic characteristics

3. The population showed a continuing dejuvenation and aging trend during 1981 to 2003. The proportion of persons aged 29 and below decreased from 57.1% to 35.8% over the same period. In contrast, the proportion of those aged 65 and over increased from 6.6% in 1981 to 11.6% in 2003. Analysed by sex, changes in the age structure for both women and men were virtually the same over the same period.

4. The sex ratio (defined as the number of males per 1 000 females) of Hong Kong Resident Population decreased continuously from 1 087 in 1981 to 939 in 2003. This arose mainly as a result of the large inflow of female one-way permit holders from the mainland of China joining their husbands in Hong Kong and the importation of a large number of female foreign domestic helpers. Indeed, if foreign domestic helpers were excluded, the sex ratio in 2003 would change from 939 to 997.

5. Analysed by age, the sex ratio for persons aged 24 and below was above parity in 2003. This was attributed to the fact that the number of female live births was generally smaller than that of their male counterpart. On the other hand, the sex ratio for persons in the age group 25-44 fell below parity due to the presence of large number of female domestic helpers working in Hong Kong and the inflow of female one-way permit holders (a large proportion of whom were of age 25-39). The sex ratio for persons in the age group 45-64 was above parity as relatively few female foreign domestic helpers and female one-way permit holders were of these ages. Furthermore, there were more young men than young women coming to Hong Kong from the mainland of China during the 1960's and 1970's. For persons aged 65 and over, there were more women than men because the life expectancy for women was longer than that for men.

Marriage, fertility and family conditions

6. The number of now married (excluding those widowed/ divorced/ separated) women had been larger than that for men since 2002. Nevertheless, the proportion of now married women (57.8%) in the female population aged

15 and over was still smaller than their male counterpart (62.2%) in 2003.

7. The crude marriage rates for both women and men showed a significant increase in 2003 after a slight decline in 2002.

8. The median age at first marriage had risen steadily for both women and men. The figure for women was 27.8 (years) and that for men was 30.8 (years) in 2003.

9. Compared with 2002, the age specific fertility rates for women in all age groups showed little change in 2003, except that the rate for women aged 30-34 substantially decreased from 61.6% to 56.6%.

10. The proportion of employed persons among female single parents decreased from 64.1% in 1991 to 60.0% in 1996 and further to 52.8% in 2001. Meanwhile, the corresponding proportion for male single parents also decreased from 86.5% in 1991 to 83.6% in 1996 and then to 71.0% in 2001.

Education

11. The increase in the proportion of female population aged 15 and over having attended secondary education and above was greater than that recorded among the male population. Both women and men of school ages had broadly similar school attendance rate.

12. In 2003, there were more female students than male students attending programmes funded by University Grants Committee in the fields of “Medicine, dentistry and health”, “Business and management”, “Social sciences”, “Arts and humanities” and “Education”.

Labour force

13. During the period from 1986 to 2003, the female labour force participation rates increased for women in all age groups, except for those aged 15-24 and 60 and over. In contrast, the male labour force participation rate decreased substantially for men in all age groups. The female labour force increased by 552 500, which was more than double that of the increase of 248 600 recorded for the male labour force over the same period. The

increase in the female labour force participation rate was partly due to the fact that more Hong Kong women could join the labour force as a result of better educational attainment and employment of foreign domestic helpers to take up housework.

14. In 2003, the largest proportion of female employed persons was engaged in the “Community, social and personal services” sector (39.0%), followed by “Wholesale, retail and import/export trades, restaurants and hotels” sector (34.0%) and “Financing, insurance, real estate and business services” sector (13.3%).

15. In 2003, 54.4% of female employed persons worked as clerks and workers in elementary occupations.

16. The unemployment and underemployment rates of women were consistently lower than those of men. Female unemployed persons also had a shorter duration of unemployment than their male counterpart in 2003.

Employment earnings

17. The median monthly employment earnings of female employed persons and male employed persons were \$8,000 and \$11,000 respectively in 2003. The discrepancy could be attributed to a host of factors including the differences between female and male employed persons in respect of industrial and occupational distributions, educational attainment, working experience and nature of work. Also, there were a large number of female foreign domestic helpers working in Hong Kong and their salary was relatively low. If foreign domestic helpers were excluded, the median monthly employment earnings of female employed persons would become \$9,000 in 2003, as compared to \$11,000 for their male counterpart.

Social welfare

18. There were more women than men amongst the recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA), particularly in the categories of “Single parent family” and “Old age”.

Medical and health

19. There were more female clients seeking doctor consultation at public day government out-patient clinics than their male counterpart, especially for those aged 65 and over. This could partly be attributed to the fact that there were more women aged 65 and over.

Law and order

20. There were fewer women arrested for crime than men. The proportion of female offenders committing more serious offences was also lower than that of male offenders.

Participation in public affairs

21. There were slightly more men than women in respect of the numbers of registered electors and candidates in Legislative Council elections and District Council elections.

22. The relative percentage share of female directorate officers in the civil service increased from 4.9% in 1981 to 24.6% in 2003.

Time use pattern of Hong Kong residents and their participation in various activities

23. In 2001, women on average spent less time on paid work and free-time activities but more time on personal care and unpaid activities per day when compared with men.

24. Some 9.5% of all women aged 15 and over had participated in voluntary work during the twelve months before enumeration, higher than the corresponding rate for men (6.0%).

25. Some 38.3% of women aged 15 and over indicated that they were responsible for performing a large share (60% and more) of the housework in their households. The corresponding percentage for men aged 15 and over who took up such a large share of housework was 8.8%.

WAY FORWARD

26. Subject to any further views from Members, C&SD plans to publish the 2004 edition of the “Women and Men in Hong Kong – Key Statistics” around end July 2004.

ADVICE SOUGHT

27. Members are invited to:-

- (a) consider the draft 2004 edition of the “Women and Men in Hong Kong – Key Statistics” prepared by the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD);
- (b) note the highlighted key statistical characteristics of women and men in Hong Kong; and
- (c) give comments and views on the draft publication.

Census and Statistics Department
June 2004

Summary Statistics

	1996		2001		2002		2003	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Demographic characteristics								
Population	3 215 500	3 220 000	3 437 900	3 287 000	3 487 100	3 299 900	3 509 100	3 294 000
Sex ratio	1 001		956		946		939	
Live births	30 627	32 664	23 059	25 160	23 254	24 955	22 157	24 021
Mortality rate	4.4	5.7	4.2	5.8	4.2	5.9	+	+
Marriage, fertility and family conditions								
Marital status								
<i>Now Married (%)</i>	58.7	62.1	57.4	61.9	57.7	62.0	57.8	62.2
<i>Never married (%)</i>	29.1	34.4	29.8	34.2	29.4	34.0	29.0	33.7
<i>Widowed/ divorced/ separated (%)</i>	12.2	3.5	12.8	4.0	12.9	4.0	13.2	4.1
Crude marriage rate	11.0	11.0	9.5	9.9	9.1	9.7	10.1	10.7
Persons living alone	103 938	172 968	127 001	162 031	-	-	-	-
Single parents	30 402	11 907	45 072	13 388	-	-	-	-
Education characteristics								
Proportion of population having attended secondary education and above (%)	62.9	70.6	67.5	74.9	68.5	75.9	68.9	76.8
Students in programmes funded by the University Grants Committee (%)	50.1	49.9	54.4	45.6	54.7	45.3	55.1	44.9
Teachers	37 840	20 983	43 310	21 798	43 394	21 495	44 085	21 646
Graduates of retraining programmes	44 188	11 180	67 111	25 359	76 811	26 728	72 580	25 845
Graduates of the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education®	7 170	15 201	6 937	13 543	7 773	14 315	+	+
Labour force characteristics								
Labour force	1 236 100	1 924 700	1 461 900	1 965 200	1 522 500	1 964 700	1 538 500	1 962 300
Labour force participation rate (%)	47.8	75.7	50.7	72.9	51.9	72.5	51.6	72.0
Employed persons								
<i>Employers</i>	21 400	148 200	26 900	137 500	27 900	132 500	28 500	132 500
<i>Employees</i>	1 147 200	1 594 300	1 325 400	1 540 300	1 340 000	1 477 800	1 345 400	1 469 600
<i>Self-employed</i>	22 000	121 500	36 300	166 400	45 100	186 800	48 800	175 700
<i>Unpaid family workers</i>	16 700	2 000	16 800	2 600	18 800	2 800	19 800	2 900
Underemployed persons	10 500	41 500	24 500	60 900	32 300	72 900	42 600	80 900
Underemployment rate (%)	0.8	2.2	1.7	3.1	2.1	3.7	2.8	4.1
Unemployed persons	28 700	58 700	56 500	118 300	90 700	164 800	95 900	181 700
Unemployment rate (%)	2.3	3.1	3.9	6.0	6.0	8.4	6.2	9.3
Median duration of unemployment (days)	71	73	74	76	89	86	88	89
Median monthly employment earnings (HK\$)								
Including foreign domestic helpers	8,000	10,000	8,500	12,000	8,000	11,700	8,000	11,000

Excluding foreign domestic helpers	-	-	10,000	12,000	9,000	12,000	9,000	11,000
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Summary Statistics (Cont'd)

	1996		2001		2002		2003	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Social welfare								
Recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance	110 244	113 140	206 791	190 677	241 799	225 069	270 565	251 891
Persons receiving Social Security Allowance	282 426	224 411	307 834	251 565	308 513	252 565	309 628	254 252
Medical and health								
Patients discharged from Hospital Authority Hospitals (In-patient services)	-	-	329 621	277 337	323 533	275 039	276 104	240 933
Specialist Out-patient Attendance (Psychiatric Specialty) of Hospital Authority	-	-	282 792	217 563	307 763	234 507	306 320	232 577
Law and order								
Persons arrested for crime	8 293	38 864	9 052	29 777	8 813	30 852	9 460	32 591
Reported drug abusers	2 433	17 240	2 874	15 638	3 184	14 777	2 469	13 136
Participation in public affairs								
Directorate officers in the civil service	208	1 147	297	992	311	993	311	953
Persons serving on advisory and statutory bodies	-	-	1 147	4 792	1 208	4 773	1 190	4 129
Time use pattern and pattern of participation in various activities								
Average time spent on the following activities per day for persons aged 15 and over (hours)								
<i>Personal care</i>	-	-	12.1	11.9	-	-	-	-
<i>Paid work</i>	-	-	3.6	5.3	-	-	-	-
<i>Education and training</i>	-	-	0.6	0.6	-	-	-	-
<i>Unpaid activity</i>	-	-	3.3	1.1	-	-	-	-
<i>Free-time activities</i>	-	-	4.1	4.4	-	-	-	-
<i>Activities outside Hong Kong</i>	-	-	0.3	0.6	-	-	-	-
Percentage of persons aged 15 and over who had participated in voluntary work during the twelve months before enumeration	-	-	9.5	6.0	-	-	-	-
Percentage of persons aged 15 and over who had participated in social activities during the three months before enumeration	-	-	83.5	84.3	-	-	-	-

Notes : + Figures for 2003 are not yet available.
- Figures are not available.
@ Figures refer to a given school year.

