

## **WOMEN'S COMMISSION**

### **Women and Men in Hong Kong – Key Statistics** **2006 Edition**

#### **I. Introduction**

The Census and Statistics Department has been publishing the annual statistical publication “Women and Men in Hong Kong – Key Statistics” since 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 2006 edition of “Women and Men in Hong Kong – Key Statistics” will be released around end July 2006. This new edition contains the data for 2005 as far as practicable, from various data sources, with a view to painting a picture of the latest situation of women and men in major economic and social spheres. This paper extracts relevant information from the 2006 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 Appendix I.

#### **II. Profile of women and men in Hong Kong**

##### **Demographic characteristics**

2. The population showed a continuing dejuvenation and ageing trend during 1981 to 2005. The proportion of persons aged 29 and below decreased from 57.1% to 34.5% over the same period. In contrast, the proportion of those aged 65 and over increased from 6.6% in 1981 to 12.1% in 2005. Analysed by sex, changes in the age structure for both women and men were similar over the same period.

3. 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

921 in 2005. This change 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 entry of a large number of female foreign domestic helpers. Indeed, if foreign domestic helpers were excluded, the sex ratio in 2005 would change from 921 to 979.

4. Analysed by age, the sex ratio for persons aged 19 and below was above parity in 2005. 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 20-54 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 55-69 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 70 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

5. 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 (56.7%) in the female population aged 15 and over was still smaller than their male counterpart (61.7%) in 2005.

6. The crude marriage rates for both women and men showed significant increases in the recent three years after a slight decline in 2002. The provisional figures for 2005 were 11.9 for women and 12.9 for men, as compared to 9.1 and 9.7 respectively in 2002.

7. The median age at first marriage had risen steadily for both women and men from 1981 to 2004 and leveled off in 2005. The provisional figure for women was 28.1 (years) and that for men was 31.1 (years) in 2005, both same as the figures in 2004.

8. After a significant rebound in 2004, the age specific fertility rates for

women aged 25-39 continued to register a strong increase in 2005. However, the age specific fertility rates for women aged 15-24 showed a decline in 2005 when compared to 2004.

### Education

9. Comparing 2005 to 2004, the increase in the proportion of female population aged 15 and over having attended secondary education and above was the same (in percentage points) as that recorded among the male population. Both women and men of school ages had broadly similar school attendance rate.

10. In the school year 2004/05, 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

11. During the period from 1986 to 2005, the female labour force participation rates increased for women in all age groups, except for those aged 15-24 and 60 & over. In contrast, the male labour force participation rate decreased for men in all age groups, the decreases were particularly significant for those young persons (aged 15-19) and older persons (aged 60 and over). The female labour force increased by 622 000, which was more than double that of the increase of 264 600 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.

12. In 2005, the largest proportion of female employed persons was engaged in the community, social and personal services sector (38.5%), followed by the wholesale, retail and import/export trades, restaurants and hotels sector (36.2%) and the financing, insurance, real estate and business services sector (13.4%). The industry distribution for male employed persons was somewhat different, with the wholesale, retail and import/export trades, restaurants and hotels sector being the largest sector (30.0%). In addition,

over 90% of employed persons engaged in the construction sector and near 80% of employed persons engaged in the transport, storage and communications sector in 2005 were males.

13. In 2005, about half of female employed persons worked as clerks and workers in elementary occupations. The proportion of female employed persons working as managers and administrators, professionals and associate professionals increased substantially from 19.6% in 1993 to 27.5% in 2005, although it was still less than the proportion of male employed persons which was 39.9% in 2005.

14. The unemployment and underemployment rates for women were consistently lower than those for men. Female unemployed persons also had a shorter duration of unemployment than their male counterpart in 2005.

#### Employment earnings

15. The median monthly employment earnings of female employed persons and male employed persons were \$8,000 and \$11,000 respectively in 2005. 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 2005, as compared to \$11,000 for their male counterpart.

#### Social welfare

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

#### Medical and health

17. 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

18. There were fewer women arrested for crime than men. Among the female offenders, those committing violent offences constituted a smaller proportion when compared with the corresponding proportion among the male offenders.

#### Participation in public affairs

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

20. The relative percentage share of female directorate officers in the civil service increased from 4.9% in 1981 to 26.5% in 2005.

**Census and Statistics Department**  
**June 2006**

# Summary Statistics

	1996		2001		2004		2005	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
<b>Demographic characteristics</b>								
Population	3 215 500	3 220 000	3 437 900	3 287 000	3 567 100	3 315 500	3 610 800	3 325 100
Sex ratio <sup>1</sup>	1 001		956		929		921	
Live births	30 627	32 664	23 059	25 160	23 969	25 827	27 218	29 880
Mortality rate <sup>2</sup>	4.4	5.7	4.2	5.8	4.5	6.3	+	+
<b>Marriage, fertility and family conditions</b>								
Marital status								
<i>Now Married (%)</i>	58.7	62.1	57.4	61.9	57.4	61.9	56.7	61.7
<i>Never married (%)</i>	29.1	34.4	29.8	34.2	29.3	33.9	29.5	34.0
<i>Widowed/ divorced/ separated (%)</i>	12.2	3.5	12.8	4.0	13.3	4.2	13.8	4.3
Crude marriage rate <sup>3</sup>	11.0	11.0	9.5	9.9	11.6	12.4	11.9#	12.9#
<b>Education characteristics</b>								
Proportion of population having attended secondary education and above (%)	62.9	70.6	67.5	74.9	69.9	77.6	70.5	78.2
Students in programmes funded by the University Grants Committee (% by sex) <sup>@</sup>	50.1	49.9	54.4	45.6	55.2	44.8	+	+
Teachers <sup>@</sup>	37 840	20 983	43 310	21 798	43 866	21 658	+	+
Graduates of retraining programmes <sup>@</sup>	44 188	11 180	67 111	25 359	75 345	25 156	73 653	23 244
Graduates of the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education <sup>@</sup>	7 170	15 201	6 937	13 543	7 657	13 863	+	+
<b>Labour force characteristics</b>								
Labour force	1 236 100	1 924 700	1 461 900	1 965 200	1 576 200	1 974 800	1 607 900	1 978 300
Labour force participation rate (%)	47.8	75.7	50.7	72.9	51.8	71.7	51.8	71.1
Employed persons								
<i>Employers</i>	21 400	148 200	26 900	137 500	28 700	129 100	27 500	125 600
<i>Employees</i>	1 147 200	1 594 300	1 325 400	1 540 300	1 383 200	1 512 400	1 433 900	1 537 800
<i>Self-employed</i>	22 000	121 500	36 300	166 400	54 200	176 100	53 900	181 800
<i>Unpaid family workers</i>	16 700	2 000	16 800	2 600	21 500	3 400	21 400	3 700
Underemployed persons	10 500	41 500	24 500	60 900	41 100	75 600	32 500	66 100
Underemployment rate (%)	0.8	2.2	1.7	3.1	2.6	3.8	2.0	3.3
Unemployed persons	28 700	58 700	56 500	118 300	88 600	153 900	71 200	129 500
Unemployment rate (%)	2.3	3.1	3.9	6.0	5.6	7.8	4.4	6.5
Median duration of unemployment (days)	71	73	74	76	93	99	79	85
<b>Median monthly employment earnings (HK\$)</b>								
Including foreign domestic helpers	8,000	10,000	8,500	12,000	8,000	11,000	8,000	11,000
Excluding foreign domestic helpers	-	-	10,000	12,000	9,000	11,000	9,000	11,000



## Summary Statistics (Cont' d)

	1996		2001		2004		2005	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
<b>Social welfare</b>								
Recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance	110 244	113 140	206 791	190 677	282 909	259 108	282 498	257 465
Persons receiving Social Security Allowance	282 426	224 411	307 834	251 565	311 302	255 144	314 393	258 378
<b>Medical and health</b>								
Patients discharged from Hospital Authority Hospitals (In-patient services)	-	-	329 621	277 337	301 186	259 371	305 826	262 558
Specialist Out-patient Attendance (Psychiatric Specialty) of Hospital Authority Hospitals	-	-	282 792	217 563	329 939	242 903	348 429	249 493
<b>Law and order</b>								
Persons arrested for crime	8 293	38 864	9 052	29 777	9 951	33 040	10 353	30 451
Reported drug abusers	2 433	17 240	2 873	15 640	2 654	12 198	2 660	11 427
<b>Participation in public affairs</b>								
Directorate officers in the civil service	208	1 147	297	992	305	899	314	873
Persons serving on Government advisory and statutory bodies	-	-	1 147	4 792	1 310	4 436	935	3 180

- Notes :
1. Sex ratio refers to the ratio of the number of males per 1 000 females.
  2. Mortality rate refers to the number of deaths occurring among 1 000 persons in a given year.
  3. Crude marriage rate refers to the number of marriages registered in a given year per thousand mid-year population of that year.
- # Provisional figures  
+ Figures for 2005 are not yet available.  
- Figures are not available.  
@ Figures are for the corresponding school year. For example, figures for 2005 represent the figures for the school year 2005/06.