

Announcement of Summary Results of the 2006 Population By-census

Speech by Mr. H. W. FUNG Commissioner for Census and Statistics at the Press Conference at 4:15 p.m. on 22 February 2007

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. You may recall that the data collection operation of the 2006 Population By-census was conducted during the 18-day period from 15 July to 1 August 2006. The results of the Population By-census are now available in summary form. A statistical report presenting the summary results is published today.

Population size *[Slide 2]*

2. The 2006 Population By-census results showed that the Hong Kong Resident Population in mid-July 2006 was 6 864 000. Of the total, 6 645 000 were Usual Residents and 219 000 were Mobile Residents.

Demographic characteristics *[Slides 3, 4 and 5]*

3. The ageing trend in the population continued during the past ten years, with the median age rising from 34 in 1996 to 36 in 2001 and further to 39 in 2006. This could be attributed to the continuing low fertility rate and mortality improvement over the period. Comparing the 1996 and 2006 population pyramids, it is noted that the base of the 2006 pyramid has shrunk owing to a reduction of the proportion of children aged below 15. The apex of the pyramid, however, grew bigger because of an increase in the proportion of people aged 65 and over.

4. The sex ratio has fallen below parity. From 1 000 males per 1 000 females in 1996, the sex ratio dropped to 911 in 2006. The corresponding sex ratios after excluding foreign domestic helpers were 1 037 and 961.

5. As regards marital status, the proportion of never-married persons

among the male population aged 15 and over decreased from 34.2% in 1996 to 33.9% in 2001 but increased again to 34.3% in 2006. For the females, the proportion was 28.9% in 1996, rising to 30.1% in 2001 and further increased to 30.7% in 2006.

6. About 95% of the population were ethnic Chinese. The two largest non-Chinese ethnic groups in Hong Kong were Filipinos and Indonesians.

7. Cantonese was the most commonly used language at home for about 91% of the population aged 5 and over. Another 6% claimed that they could speak the dialect. About 40% of the population claimed to speak Putonghua as the usual language or to be able to speak it.

Education *[Slide 6]*

8. The educational level of the population has improved. The proportion of population aged 15 and over with secondary or higher education increased from 68% in 1996 to 75% in 2006. In particular, the proportion of those with post-secondary education in degree courses or above also increased significantly from 10% to 15%.

9. About 81% of the students studying full-time courses in schools or educational institutions in Hong Kong attended schools in the same area as that of their residence. About 34% of students walked to school.

Economic characteristics *[Slide 7]*

10. The labour force increased from 3.2 million in 1996 to 3.6 million in 2006, despite a drop in the overall labour force participation rate from 63% to 60% over the same period. This was mainly due to the increase in population size and the changes in the age-sex structure of the population.

11. In 2006, about 33% of the working population were managers, administrators, professionals and associate professionals, up from 29% in 1996. In contrast, the proportion of working population engaged as craft and related workers dropped from 12% in 1996 to 8% in 2006.

12. “Wholesale, retail and import/export trades, restaurants and hotels” was

the largest economic sector, employing more than 27% of the working population. This was followed by “Community, social and personal services” which also employed almost 27% of the working population.

13. The median monthly income from main employment of the working population was \$10,000 in 2006, representing an increase of 5% over the past ten years. In the same period, prices decreased by 2%, as measured by the Composite Consumer Price Index.

Households *[Slide 8 and 9]*

14. Over the last decade, the number of domestic households increased by 20% from 1.86 million to 2.23 million. As it increased at a faster rate than the population, the average household size decreased from 3.3 to 3.0.

15. The median monthly income of domestic households was \$17,250, a slight decrease of 1% over that ten years ago.

Housing *[Slides 10, 11 and 12]*

16. Some 3.4 million persons lived in private permanent housing, 2.1 million in public rental housing and 1.2 million in subsidized sale flats. There were 1.17 million households who owned the quarters they lived in. Among these households, 52% did not need to pay mortgage payment and loan repayment. Owner-occupiers living in private permanent housing with mortgage payment or loan repayment incurred a median monthly payment of \$9,500, and the median mortgage payment and loan repayment to income ratio was 29%.

17. Domestic households renting whole private housing units paid a median monthly rent of \$5,500. Those living in public rental housing paid less, with a median monthly rent of \$1,390.

Geographical characteristics *[Slides 13 and 14]*

18. There was substantial internal migration of the population during the last decade. While ten years ago, Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories had respectively 21%, 32% and 47% of the population, by now the

respective proportions were 18%, 29% and 52%.

19. Many districts in the New Territories like Islands, Sai Kung and Yuen Long recorded a marked population growth because of new towns development, whereas districts like Wan Chai, Southern and Kowloon City experienced population decrease.

20. Among the District Council districts, Yuen Long had the largest proportion of young people aged below 15 in its population; whilst Wong Tai Sin had the largest proportion of people aged 65 and over.

21. Among the District Council districts, Kwun Tong had the largest number of domestic households at 194 000. However, the most significant growth was found in Sai Kung, where the number of domestic households increased by nearly 125% from 57 000 in 1996 to 127 000 in 2006.

Population retrojection *[Slide 15]*

22. Based on the population benchmark from the results of the 2006 Population By-census, the population figures for mid-2001 to mid-2006 have been revised. The revision has also incorporated more accurate estimates of population changes that were not yet available at the time when the previous population figures were prepared. A downward adjustment of the population of about 2% was observed.

23. Moreover, the provisional population estimate for end-2006, at 6.9 million, is also available today.

Concluding remarks

24. Other summary findings of the 2006 Population By-census are included in the report “Hong Kong 2006 Population By-census Summary Results”. Detailed results of the 2006 Population By-census will be released in stages in 2007 and 2008.

25. The By-census results would be widely used for government planning and policy formulation, particularly in areas such as education, housing, transport, medical and social services. Business people and the public would

also find the data useful.

26. With the full co-operation of the public, the data collection operation of the By-census was very smooth. This was a reflection of the community's awareness of the important role that quality statistics play in building Hong Kong's future.

27. Thank you.

(Should you have any questions, please feel free to ask.)