An Information Note for Members of the Legislative Council

Hong Kong Population Projections 2004–2033

INTRODUCTION

This note is intended to inform Members of the Legislative Council that an updated set of population projections is released on 30 June 2004.   It provides a description of the projection results as well as a brief account of the methodology and assumptions adopted.

BACKGROUND

2.   Population projections of Hong Kong by age and sex are usually issued at intervals of two to three years: one following each population census or by-census, and another around the middle of the intercensal period if there is deemed to be a need for updating in the light of analysis of available data.

3.   The need for updating the current set of population projections, issued after the 2001 Population Census, has been established.   The updated set of population projections, using the mid-2003 population estimate as the base and covering the period from 2004 to 2033, has been prepared by the Census and Statistics Department.

4.   A press conference announcing the results of the population projections is held on 30 June 2004.   The publication "Hong Kong Population Projections 2004–2033" showing the detailed projection results, along with the projection methodology and assumptions, is put on sale at the same time.   A copy of this publication is attached herewith for Members' reference.

POPULATION COVERAGE

5.   The Hong Kong population is measured by the "Hong Kong Resident Population", which comprises "Usual Residents" and "Mobile Residents".   In simple terms, "Usual Residents" are Residents who stay all the time or the majority of their time in Hong Kong and "Mobile Residents" are Residents who only spend the minority of their time in Hong Kong.

6.   In more strict statistical definitions, "Usual Residents" refer to two categories of

people: (1) Hong Kong Permanent Residents who have stayed in Hong Kong for at least three months during the six months before or for at least three months during the six months after the reference time-point, regardless of whether they are in Hong Kong or not at the reference time-point; and (2) Hong Kong Non-permanent Residents who are in Hong Kong at the reference time-point.

7.   As for "Mobile Residents", they are Hong Kong Permanent Residents who have stayed in Hong Kong for at least one month but less than three months during the six months before or for at least one month but less than three months during the six months after the reference time-point, regardless of whether they are in Hong Kong or not at the reference time-point.

PROJECTION METHODOLOGY

8.   The "component method", which is commonly used internationally, is adopted for making the population projections.   Under this method, the population of a base year is brought forward by age and sex under separate projections of fertility, mortality and movement, year after year until the end of the projection period.

9.   The starting point for the projections is the population situation in 2003. Statistical studies using modelling methods as far as possible are made on the past trends and recent developments pertaining to the socio-economic conditions in Hong Kong to generate the fertility, mortality and movement assumptions.   Where government policies are involved, it is taken that existing policies will continue to apply.   For example, the existing policy of a daily quota of 150 One-way Permit Holders entering Hong Kong from the mainland of China is taken to apply in the projection period.

PROJECTION ASSUMPTIONS

10.   Hong Kong's fertility has experienced a marked and continuous decline in the past two decades.   Fertility is measured by the total fertility rate, which is the number of children born to 1 000 women during their life time.   The total fertility rate decreased significantly over the last 20 years from 1 722 births per 1 000 women in 1983 to 925 in 2003.   This decline was very significant compared with the experience of developed economies with low fertility.   The current fertility level of Hong Kong is already well below those experienced in low fertility economies such as Japan and Germany.   The total fertility rate is projected to remain at 925 births per 1 000 women from 2004 to 2006, to increase gradually to 993 by 2011 and then to remain at that level for the rest of the projection period.

11.   Hong Kong experienced a continuous decline in mortality during the past two decades, with a corresponding increase in life expectancy.   In 2003, the expectation of life at birth was 78.6 years for males and 84.3 years for females.   Compared with other economies, Hong Kong enjoys a very low mortality.   Further medical advancement and continuing socio-economic development might lead to further decline in mortality, though the rate of decline would be smaller.   The expectation of life at birth is expected to increase to 82.5 years for males and 88 years for females in 2033.

12.   The recent trends of the residency and mobility patterns of the Hong Kong population provide the basis for formulating the assumptions on movement components.

13.   Assumptions on fertility, mortality and movement entail a certain degree of uncertainty.   These assumptions will hence be revised in a roll-forward manner in each round of population projections conducted at intervals of two to three years.

PROJECTION RESULTS (TABLES 1A AND 1B)

14.   The Hong Kong Resident Population is projected to increase at an average annual rate of 0.7%, from 6.80 million in mid-2003 to 8.38 million in mid-2033.   Between mid-2004 and mid-2011, the annual growth rate of the population would accelerate somewhat, from 0.6% in mid-2004 to 0.9% in mid-2011.   Yet with an increased number of deaths upon aging of the population, the annual growth rate is expected to slacken to 0.4% towards the end of the projection period.

15.   Within the Hong Kong Resident Population, the number of Usual Residents is projected to increase at an average annual rate of 0.6% from 6.62 million in mid-2003 to 8.02 million in mid-2033, and the number of Mobile Residents at a faster rate of 2.3% from 185 000 to 365 000.   This is mainly related to the increasing trend of Hong Kong residents working and staying for more of their time in the Mainland, along with closer economic ties between the two places.

16.   The population is expected to remain on an aging trend.   The proportion of the population aged 65 and over is projected to rise markedly, from 11.7% in 2003 to 27% in 2033, though the rise would be gradual up to around 2015 (when the proportion would reach 14.3%) and would be at a much faster pace thereafter.   Meanwhile, the proportion of the population aged under 15 would decrease gradually from 16% in 2003 to 11% by the end of the projection period.

17.   The aging trend is also revealed by the increasing median age of the population, from 38 in 2003 to 49 in 2033.

18.   The changing age structure of the projected population can also be seen from variation in the age dependency ratio.   This is a demographic indicator reflecting the age composition of the population.   It is defined as the number of persons aged "under 15" and "65 and over" per 1 000 persons aged 15–64.   The ratio is projected to fall slightly, from 378 in 2003 to 334 in 2011, and then to rise continuously to 598 in 2033.

19.   The sex ratio (i.e. the number of males per 1 000 females) of the population is projected to fall noticeably, from 939 in 2003 to 698 in 2033.   There will be variations in the sex ratio by age group.   In particular, the sex ratio for the age group 25–44 is expected to be much affected by the presence of foreign domestic helpers comprising mostly younger females.   Also relevant is the continued entry of One-way Permit Holders in the coming years, many being Hong Kong men's wives living in the Mainland.   Based on data which exclude foreign domestic helpers, the sex ratio of the population is higher, but still will come down from 997 in 2003 to 749 in 2033.   The movement of mainland wives into Hong Kong and the fact that females live longer than males are main reasons.

20.   The change in population size involves increase and decrease factors.   Increase arises from birth and in-movement whereas decrease arises from death and out-movement.

21.   The number of births is projected to remain at about 46 000 per annum.

22.   The number of deaths is projected to increase from about 37 000 per year currently to about 71 000 at the end of the projection period.   The increase in the number of deaths is mainly attributable to the growing proportion of older persons in the population despite a longer life expectancy.

23.   It is projected that, by around 2016, the annual number of deaths will exceed the annual number of births.

24.   Over the entire period from mid-2003 to mid-2033, the overall population is projected to increase by 1.58 million.   There is a negative natural increase of 0.16 million (indicating 0.16 million more deaths than births) and a net in-movement (i.e. inflow less outflow) of 1.74 million.

25.   Both One-way Permit Holders and births are important constituents of population growth.   The ratios of the inflow of One-way Permit Holders and number of births to the overall population increase are 104% and 88% respectively.   And, not counting the arrival of

One-way Permit Holders mentioned above, there will be a net inflow of 100 000 persons, bearing a ratio of 6% to the overall population increase.

26.   Deaths offset part of the population increase.   The ratio of the number of deaths to the overall population increase is 98%.

27.   Compared with the last set of population projections, there is some downward adjustment.   The extent of adjustment is around 2–3% for 3–5 years from the start of the projection period; and by the end of it, the figure for the year 2031 is adjusted from the previous 8.72 million downwards to 8.32 million, i.e. about 4.5%.   Such an extent of revision does not compare unfavourably with the performance of other statistical authorities.

28.   Different data users make different uses of population projections.   They may require analysis and study to be conducted on different sectors of the population.   For example, some studies only concern Usual Residents.   Some would require analysis on persons in certain specific age groups.   Different data users, especially different government departments, may need more detailed computations done on the basis of the basic projections, and the Census and Statistics Department will render the required service.   For quite a number of studies, they may require analysis to be conducted on the projected populations with foreign domestic helpers excluded.   Hence, an appendix in the publication "Hong Kong Population Projections 2004–2033" presents such statistics.   In this note, a relevant table at the Appendix is provided for the same purpose.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROJECTION RESULTS FOR THE WORK OF THE TASK FORCE ON POPULATION POLICY

29.   Before the Task Force on Population Policy published its report in February 2003, it had examined the then population projections and identified the major problems and challenges facing Hong Kong in terms of demographic trends and characteristics. It formulated a set of recommendations to address the problems and challenges; and these were set out in the Task Force's report.

30.   Since the publication of the Report, there have been appropriate follow-up actions in respect of all the recommendations through a concerted effort among the responsible Bureaux and Departments.

31.   The latest projections confirm that some trends of major concern, such as aging and low fertility, will persist.

32.   When the Task Force's report was published, the Administration undertook to review annually the implementation of the relevant decisions and programs, with a view to publishing a report every two to three years. The current set of population projections together with all the supporting details will serve as important input into further studies and deliberations of the Task Force.

33.   The Task Force will commission in-depth studies and present study findings and analyses to the community, with a view to engaging this Council and the public in informed discussion on the challenges to our population policy and working out possible new policies to meet them.   And, as a basic principle, policy formulation will have full regard of Hong Kong's long-term social and economic development, family values and the aspirations of different sectors in the community.

Census and Statistics Department
30 June 2004

表一　　　主要統計摘要
Table 1　Key Summary Statistics

甲.　　　選定年份的主要人口特徵

A .　　　Significant Characteristics of the Population for Selected Years

	二零零三年年中(基準) Mid-2003 (Base)	二零零八年年中 Mid-2008	二零一三年年中 Mid-2013	二零一八年年中 Mid-2018	二零二三年年中 Mid-2023	二零二八年年中 Mid-2028	二零三三年年中 Mid-2033
人口 Population	6 803 100	7 058 900	7 386 900	7 691 800	7 970 200	8 202 200	8 384 100
常住居民 *Usual Residents*	6 617 800	6 843 600	7 141 600	7 416 500	7 664 900	7 866 900	8 018 800
流動居民 *Mobile Residents*	185 300	215 300	245 300	275 300	305 300	335 300	365 300
五年期間的 平均每年增長率 Average annual growth rate over a 5-year period	0.8%	0.7%	0.9%	0.8%	0.7%	0.6%	0.4%
性別比率 (男性數目與每千名女性的 比率) Sex ratio (males per 1 000 females)	939	890	842	800	763	730	698
人口百分比 Percentage of population							
零至十四歲 *Aged 0–14*	16%	14%	12%	12%	12%	11%	11%
十五至六十四歲 *Aged 15–64*	73%	74%	75%	72%	69%	65%	63%
六十五歲及以上 *Aged 65 and over*	12%	12%	13%	16%	19%	24%	27%
撫養比率 Dependency ratio							
少年兒童撫養比率 *Child dependency ratio*	216	182	163	163	168	171	171
老年撫養比率 *Elderly dependency ratio*	161	163	178	219	282	362	428
總撫養比率 *Overall dependency ratio*	378	346	341	383	449	533	598
年齡中位數 Median age	38	40	42	44	46	47	49

表一　　　主要統計摘要
Table 1　Key Summary Statistics

表一　　（續）　　　　主要統計摘要
Table 1　(Cont'd.)　　Key Summary Statistics

乙.　　　人口增長的組成部分
B .　　　Components of Population Growth

統計時點 （年中） Reference time-point (Mid-year)	居港人口 Hong Kong Resident Population	常住居民 Usual Residents	流動居民 Mobile Residents	與上一統計時點 比較 Compared with the previous reference time- point 人口增長 Population growth	出生 Births	死亡 Deaths	淨遷移 （移入減移出） Net movement (Inflow *less* outflow)
					由上一統計時點至 本統計時點 From the previous reference time-point to this reference time-point		
2003 [1]	6 803 100	6 617 800	185 300	16 100	48 700	35 200	2 600
2004	6 842 500	6 651 200	191 300	39 500	45 100	37 400	31 800
2005	6 888 800	6 691 500	197 300	46 300	45 900	37 900	38 300
2006	6 939 700	6 736 400	203 300	50 800	44 700	38 600	44 700
2007	6 996 200	6 786 900	209 300	56 500	44 700	39 400	51 200
2008	7 058 900	6 843 600	215 300	62 700	45 200	40 200	57 600
2009	7 123 000	6 901 700	221 300	64 100	45 800	41 000	59 300
2010	7 188 500	6 961 200	227 300	65 500	46 400	41 900	61 000
2011	7 255 400	7 022 100	233 300	66 900	47 000	42 900	62 800
2012	7 321 700	7 082 400	239 300	66 200	47 400	43 900	62 800
2013	7 386 900	7 141 600	245 300	65 200	47 500	45 000	62 800
2014	7 449 700	7 198 400	251 300	62 800	47 500	46 000	61 300
2015	7 511 600	7 254 300	257 300	61 900	47 700	47 000	61 300
2016	7 572 600	7 309 300	263 300	61 000	47 800	48 100	61 300
2017	7 632 700	7 363 300	269 300	60 100	47 900	49 100	61 300
2018	7 691 800	7 416 500	275 300	59 200	48 000	50 100	61 300
2019	7 750 000	7 468 600	281 300	58 100	48 000	51 100	61 300
2020	7 807 000	7 519 700	287 300	57 100	47 900	52 100	61 300
2021	7 862 800	7 569 500	293 300	55 800	47 800	53 200	61 300
2022	7 917 300	7 617 900	299 300	54 400	47 600	54 400	61 300
2023	7 970 200	7 664 900	305 300	52 900	47 300	55 600	61 300
2024	8 020 100	7 708 800	311 300	49 900	46 900	56 800	59 800
2025	8 068 300	7 751 000	317 300	48 200	46 500	58 000	59 800
2026	8 114 800	7 791 500	323 300	46 500	46 100	59 300	59 800
2027	8 159 500	7 830 200	329 300	44 700	45 600	60 700	59 800
2028	8 202 200	7 866 900	335 300	42 800	45 100	62 100	59 800
2029	8 243 000	7 901 700	341 300	40 700	44 600	63 600	59 800
2030	8 281 700	7 934 400	347 300	38 700	44 200	65 200	59 800
2031	8 318 200	7 964 900	353 300	36 600	43 700	66 900	59 800
2032	8 352 600	7 993 300	359 300	34 400	43 400	68 800	59 800
2033	8 384 100	8 018 800	365 300	31 500	43 100	71 300	59 800

註釋：　(1) 基準年人口估計。　　　　　　　　　Note:　(1) Base year population estimates.

選定年份的主要人口特徵(不包括外籍家庭傭工)
Significant Characteristics of the Population for Selected Years (Excluding Foreign Domestic Helpers)

	二零零三年 年中(基準) Mid-2003 (Base)	二零零八年 年中 Mid-2008	二零一三年 年中 Mid-2013	二零一八年 年中 Mid-2018	二零二三年 年中 Mid-2023	二零二八年 年中 Mid-2028	二零三三年 年中 Mid-2033
人口 Population	6 589 100	6 815 000	7 113 000	7 395 400	7 651 300	7 868 300	8 035 200
常住居民 *Usual Residents*	6 403 800	6 599 700	6 867 700	7 120 100	7 346 000	7 533 000	7 669 900
流動居民 *Mobile Residents*	185 300	215 300	245 300	275 300	305 300	335 300	365 300
五年期間的 平均每年增長率 Average annual growth rate over a 5-year period	0.7%	0.7%	0.9%	0.8%	0.7%	0.6%	0.4%
性別比率 (男性數目與每千名女性的 比率) Sex ratio (males per 1 000 females)	997	950	901	857	819	783	749
人口百分比 Percentage of population							
零至十四歲 *Aged 0–14*	16%	14%	13%	12%	12%	12%	11%
十五至六十四歲 *Aged 15–64*	72%	73%	74%	71%	68%	64%	61%
六十五歲及以上 *Aged 65 and over*	12%	13%	14%	17%	20%	25%	28%
撫養比率 Dependency ratio							
少年兒童撫養比率 *Child dependency ratio*	226	191	172	173	178	183	183
老年撫養比率 *Elderly dependency ratio*	168	171	187	232	299	386	458
總撫養比率 *Overall dependency ratio*	395	362	359	404	477	569	641
年齡中位數 Median age	38	41	43	45	47	48	50
外籍家庭傭工數目 Number of foreign domestic helpers	213 900	243 900	273 900	296 400	318 900	333 900	348 900

Report on "Hong Kong Population Projections 2004-2033"

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