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*World Population Year*

**THE POPULATION  
OF  
HONG KONG**

C.I.C.R.E.D. Series

# THE POPULATION OF HONG KONG



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The Committee for International Coordination  
of National Research in Demography



## PREFACE

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*The Committee for International Coordination of National Research in Demography (C.I.C.R.E.D.) initiated two years ago a programme to have for the World Population Year 1974 a series of monographs giving for each country, following a common plan, information on past, present and future trends of population. This monograph on the Population of Hong Kong has been prepared at the invitation of C.I.C.R.E.D. I wish to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to C.I.C.R.E.D. for its financial assistance and to Mr. Jean Bourgeois-Pichat, Chairman of C.I.C.R.E.D., for his guidance and encouragement in connection with the preparation of this monograph.*

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## CHAPTER 1

### POPULATION GROWTH

Hong Kong, which comprises the Island of Hong Kong, Kowloon, the New Territories and over 200 neighboring islands, lies on the southeast coast of the Chinese province of Kwangtung. The Island of Hong Kong, with an area of 29 square miles, was ceded to the United Kingdom under the Treaty of Nanking in 1842. Kowloon and the Stonecutters Island, with an area of about four square miles, were ceded to the United Kingdom under the Convention of Peking in 1860. The New Territories, 370 square miles in area, were leased to Britain for 99 years in 1898.

The first population figure of Hong Kong Island was reported in the Government Gazette of May 15, 1841 to be 7,450 persons. The list of distribution included, among other small villages, 2,000 inhabitants at Chek-chu, 1,200 at Soo ke-wan, 2,000 in the boats, 800 in the bazaar, and 300 labourers from Kowlung.<sup>(1)</sup> No other details regarding the population were given. Population increased rapidly as foreign merchants and Chinese labourers moved in. A Registration Ordinance was introduced by the Government in 1844 to register all the inhabitants and to check the influx of undesirable elements. By June 1845, the population was estimated to be 23,817.<sup>(2)</sup>

The Tai Ping War which broke out in the southern part of China in the early 1850's pushed large number of refugees into Hong Kong. The growth of population continued and the total was 86,941 by 1859.

The 1861 total population, which included inhabitants in Kowloon, rose to 119,320, of whom 116,335 were Chinese. In the following decade, a mild commercial recession set in and halted the steady population increase. The population increased only by 2,665 to 121,985 by 1872.

From 1881 onwards, a serial of decennial population censuses were taken in Hong Kong.<sup>(3)</sup> The population further increased from 160,402 in 1881 to 221,441 in 1891 and further to 283,905 in 1901. In addition, the New Territories were estimated to have over 100,000 inhabitants.

In the first three decades of the twentieth century, Hong Kong's population continued to grow rapidly. The total population rose from 456,739 in 1911 to 840,473 in 1931, showing an increase of 84 per cent in these twenty years.

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(1) The present names for Chek-chu, Soo-ke-wan, and Kowlung are Stanley, Shaukiwan, and Kowloon, respectively.

(2) Including 595 Europeans, 362 Indians, and 300 visitors.

(3) Between 1881 and the Second World War, population censuses were carried out in 1881, 1891, 1897, 1901, 1906, 1911, 1921 and 1931 in Hong Kong.





## CHAPTER 2

### COMPONENTS OF GROWTH

The growth of a population is influenced by two factors: natural increase and migration. Migration was the major factor contributing to the growth of Hong Kong's population in the nineteenth century and in the first part of the twentieth century. Chinese inhabitants were allowed free entry into Hong Kong until April 1949 when immigrant controls had to be introduced due to the large inflow of immigrants into Hong Kong caused by the change of Government in China. Natural increase gained increasing importance in Hong Kong's population growth in the post-war period. In the 1950's natural increase accounted for about sixty per cent of the population increase. In recent years, its contribution towards the growth of population rose to nearly eighty per cent.

**Table 2.1**                      **Components of Population Growth**  
**(1948 – 1973)**

Period	Estimated Population Increase	Natural Increase	Estimated Migrational Increase
1948 – 1953	528,000	272,344	255,656
1954 – 1958	614,500	377,455	237,045
1959 – 1963	545,200	452,934	92,266
1964 – 1968	370,600	380,955	-10,355
1969 – 1973	371,000	290,560	80,440

Note: In estimating the population increase, end-year population figures were first computed by averaging the mid-year estimates of two consecutive years. The estimated migrational increase was the difference between the estimated population increase and the natural increase.

Source: Hong Kong Statistics 1947-1967, and Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics, various issues.

#### Fertility

The number of live births was below 50,000 a year in the first few post-war years. The number of babies born each year in the late 1950's doubled the number a decade ago. The annual number of live births fluctuated between 102,000 and 116,000 in the first half of the 1960's. The number has declined to around 80,000 a year in recent years. The crude birth rate rose from 27 per thousand in 1950 to a peak of 37.4 per thousand in 1958 and then started to

decline to below 30 per thousand in 1965 and further to below 20 per thousand in 1971.

**Table 2.2**                      **Number of Live Births and Crude Birth Rate**  
**(1948 – 1973)**

Year	Annual Live Births	Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 persons
1948 – 1953	47,475 – 75,544	26.4 – 33.7
1954 – 1958	83,317 – 106,624	35.2 – 37.4
1959 – 1963	104,579 – 115,263	32.9 – 37.0
1964 – 1968	82,992 – 108,519	21.7 – 30.7
1969	79,329	21.4
1970	77,465	20.0
1971	76,818	19.7
1972	79,053	19.7
1973	80,147	19.8

Source: Hong Kong Statistics 1947-1967, and Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics, various issues.

It was reported that to a very large extent the rapid decline in Hong Kong's crude birth rate from 35.5 per thousand in 1961 to 28.8 per thousand in 1965 could be attributed to "the relative decline in the number of young women of childbearing years" and 'a decline in the proportion of women married especially at the fertile ages 20-24'.<sup>(1)</sup> However, the further decline between 1966 and 1968 was believed to be largely due to genuine declines in marital fertility and not due to changes in age or sex distribution.

Between 1961 and 1966, the number of women aged between 15 and 19 rose from 80,000 to 181,000. Their percentage in the total population nearly doubled from 2.5 to 4.9 per cent. The number of women 20-24 years of age remained quite stable at over 90,000. Women in age groups 25-29 and 30-34 recorded a reduction of 6 to 20 per cent between 1961 and 1966. The number of women in older age groups rose by 10 to 15 per cent. The large increase in the number of women aged 15 to 19 compensated the reduction in the number of women aged 25 to 34 in the period. Though the proportion of women aged 15 to 49 in the population remained at 22 per cent in 1961 and 1966, one could expect the birth rates to have fallen as there were fewer women in the prime child-bearing years even if the age-specific fertility rates remained constant.<sup>(2)</sup>

Considerably smaller proportion of women in age groups 15-19 and 20-24 were married in 1966 and 1971 than in 1961. Slightly higher percentages of married women in older age groups above 30 were recorded in 1971 when compared with the 1961 proportions. It was noted that the tendency for a smaller proportion of the women 15-24 to be married might continue and decrease further for a few more years as "marriage squeeze"<sup>(3)</sup> might set in.

(1) R. Freedman and A.L. Adlakha, "Recent Fertility Decline in Hong Kong: the Role of the Changing Age Structure", *Population Studies*, Volume 22, No. 2, July 1968, p. 182.

(2) Age and sex distribution of the population will be discussed in detail in Chapter 3.

(3) R. Freedman, D.N. Namboothiri, A. Adlakha and K.C. Chan, "Hong Kong: The Continuing Fertility Decline, 1967", *Studies in Family Planning*, No. 44, 1969, p. 11.

Table 2.3

**Proportions of Currently Married  
Women in Childbearing Age  
(Percentage)**

Age-Group	1961	1966	1971
15 - 19	6.4	4.6	2.9
20 - 24	51.0	42.7	32.3
25 - 29	83.4	85.2	79.4
30 - 34	91.4	92.4	93.4
35 - 39	90.0	93.1	95.1
40 - 44	84.5	89.7	92.9
45 - 49	75.5	93.8	89.1
15 - 49	72.0	66.5	59.6

Source: The 1961 Census Report, 1966 By-Census Report, and 1971 Census Report of Hong Kong.

Between 1961 and 1965, the decreases in fertility rates were only noticed for women in their later part of fertile ages. Women of below 30 years of age had in fact higher rate in 1965 than those in 1961. Between 1965 and 1968, fertility rates fell for all age groups between 15 and 49, but sharp declines were found in the younger childbearing ages 20-35. The marked declines in fertility in the younger ages are "likely to have long-term effects and to be cumulative in their impact."<sup>(4)</sup>

Table 2.4

**Estimated Age-Specific Fertility Rates**

Age-Group	1961	1965	1966	1967	1968
	(per 1000 women)				
15 - 19	47	41	29	29	27
20 - 24	238	252	213	178	158
25 - 29	313	318	291	268	234
30 - 34	231	211	203	201	170
35 - 39	139	122	111	123	102
40 - 44	57	39	42	40	36
45 - 49	9	3	3	6	2
	(per 1000 married women)				
15 - 19	734	820	632	685	714
20 - 24	467	568	499	433	402
25 - 29	375	375	342	313	273
30 - 34	253	229	219	217	183
35 - 39	154	132	119	131	108
40 - 44	67	44	46	56	39
45 - 49	12	4	4	7	2

Source: R. Freedman, "Hong Kong Fertility Decline 1961-1968", Population Index, 36, 1970, pp. 9-10.

(4) R. Freedman et al., op. cit., p. 9.

A number of Hong Kong parents are still having large families. According to the 1961 Census data, among the 738,000 ever-married women 14 per cent had no child still living, 56 per cent had one to three living children, 20 per cent had four to five living children, and slightly less than 10 per cent had more than five living children. In 1971, 71,000 of the 880,000 ever-married women aged 15 years and over had no children. Forty-four per cent of married women at ages 15-19 and over one-quarter of married women at ages 20-24 had not given birth. Of the 329,000 ever-married women aged 50 and over, only eight per cent had never given birth. Half of the married women had one to three children, and nearly one-quarter gave birth to four or five children. Of the 149,000 married women who had more than five children, forty-four per cent were in the age group 40-49 and thirty-six per cent aged 50 years and over. More than 10,000 married women gave birth to nine children and a similar number of women had ten children or more.<sup>(5)</sup>

**Table 2.5** **Distribution of Ever-Married Women by Number of Children Born**

Number of Children*	1961	1971
0	99.0	71.2
1	161.5	149.8
2	144.2	159.4
3	114.9	137.3
4	90.4	121.0
5	60.7	92.2
6	36.1	65.1
7	17.9	39.6
8	8.3	22.5
9	3.2	10.8
10 and over	2.4	10.7
Total	738.6	879.6

\* The number of children refers to the number of living children in the 1961 Census and refers to the number of children born in the 1971 Census.

Source: The 1961 Census Report and the 1971 Census Report of Hong Kong.

### Mortality

The number of the deaths fluctuated mostly between 18,000 and 21,000 in the 1950's and the 1960's. In 1972 and 1973, the number of deaths increased slightly to over 21,000. This is probably because a larger proportion of the population entered the older age of over 60. The crude death rate has been declined from 10 per 1,000 persons to around 5 per 1,000 persons in recent years. The infant mortality rate fell drastically from 100 per 1,000 live births in the post-war period to below 20 per 1,000 live births in the 1970's. This decline in infant mortality was to a large extent attributable to the reduction of certain preventable diseases including pneumonia, gastro-enteritis, and tuberculosis.

(5) No direct comparison can be applied to the figures mentioned in this paragraph for 1961 and for 1971. This is because in the 1961 Census information was collected on the number of children still living, while in the 1971 Census information was collected on the number of children born.

**Table 2.6**                      **Number of Deaths, Crude Death Rate  
and Infant Mortality Rate  
(1948 – 1973)**

Year	Annual Deaths	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 persons	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 births
1948 – 1953	13,434 – 20,580	8 – 10	74 – 100
1954 – 1958	19,080 – 20,554	7 – 8	54 – 72
1959 – 1963	18,738 – 20,324	6 – 7	33 – 48
1964 – 1968	17,621 – 19,644	5.0 – 5.4	22.8 – 25.8
1969	18,730	5.0	21.8
1970	20,763	5.1	19.6
1971	20,253	5.0	18.4
1972	21,145	5.2	17.5
1973	21,360	5.1	16.8

Source: Hong Kong Statistics 1947-1967, and Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics, various issues.

The decline of mortality in the 1960's appeared in all age groups and in both sexes. The mortality rate fell more rapidly in the age groups below ten years old. In 1971 the age-specific mortality rates were less than one per 1,000 males in the four quinquennial groups between 5-9 and 20-24 and less than one per 1,000 females in the six quinquennial groups between 1-4 and 25-29. The age-specific mortality rates were lower for females than for males in all age groups, and the differences between the two sexes were wider in age groups over 25. For the two groups between 55 and 64 years the female mortality rates were less than half of the rates for males.

**Table 2.7**                      **Age-Specific Death Rates  
(per 1,000 persons)**

Age-Group	1961		1971	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
0	40.6	34.5	21.0	15.5
1 – 4	4.4	4.4	1.0	0.8
5 – 9	1.0	0.8	0.4	0.3
10 – 14	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.3
15 – 19	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.4
20 – 24	1.3	0.8	0.9	0.6
25 – 29	1.6	1.3	1.5	0.7
30 – 34	2.2	1.6	1.9	1.0
35 – 39	3.0	2.2	2.6	1.5
40 – 44	4.8	3.1	4.1	2.2
45 – 49	7.4	4.2	6.1	3.3
50 – 54	14.1	7.0	10.4	5.5
55 – 59	19.8	9.1	17.8	7.9
60 – 64	38.2	15.5	29.1	11.8
65 and over	72.8	41.6	63.6	41.0

Source: Abridged from Table 92 of Country Monograph Series No. 1 – Population of Hong Kong, published by ESCAP, U.N., 1974.



**Table 2.9      The Age Distribution of the Immigrant Population  
(At March 1961)**

Age Groups	Immigrant Population		
	Before Sept. 1949	After Sept. 1949	Total
0 - 4	0	15,694	15,694
5 - 9	0	52,298	52,298
10 - 14	13,407	98,919	112,326
15 - 19	26,814	64,858	91,672
20 - 24	36,092	96,460	132,552
25 - 29	83,289	107,649	190,938
30 - 34	119,273	95,317	214,590
35 - 39	121,861	74,928	196,789
40 - 44	114,885	58,247	173,132
45 - 49	98,424	46,487	144,911
50 - 54	72,870	35,180	108,050
55 - 59	49,456	26,958	76,414
60 - 64	34,246	22,010	56,256
65 - 69	21,073	15,395	36,468
70 and over	24,090	16,822	40,912
<b>Total</b>	<b>815,780</b>	<b>827,222</b>	<b>1,643,002</b>

Source: The 1961 Census Report of Hong Kong, Volume 2, Appendix XXIV.

During the ten-year period between 1961 and 1971, it was noted that about 2,000 to 6,000 Chinese people were granted entry permits each year. The net gain in the number of natives of Kwangtung Province admitted to Hong Kong reduced from over 10,000 in the early 1960's to only a few hundred in recent years.<sup>(6)</sup> The net gain in the number of resident aliens when compared with that of the preceding year varied between 350 and 3,400 with a net loss of over 4,000 for the year of 1968. According to these figures, a net balance of over 100,000 legal migrants were added to the Hong Kong population for the period 1961-1971.

(6) The Kwangtung Province natives, who were admitted to Hong Kong under the immigration quota system, should hold exit and re-entry permits issued by China.



**Table 2.10**                      **Estimated Number of Legal Migrants**

Year*	Number of Entries Approved of Chinese	Gain in Number of Kwangtung Natives Admitted	Gain in Number of Resident Aliens
1961-62	2,589	12,410	—
1962-63	6,283	15,627	351
1963-64	5,703	9,191	2,258
1964-65	4,050	8,132	2,771
1965-66	2,863	5,673	692
1966-67	1,872	3,244	1,304
1967-68	2,436	1,659	-4,256
1968-69	2,007	929	2,359
1969-70	2,580	410	2,345
1970-71	2,633	249	3,396
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,016</b>	<b>57,524</b>	<b>11,220</b>

\* From April 1 to March 31 of the following year.

Source: Hong Kong Population Projections, 1971-1991, pp. 20-21.

On the other hand, during the seven-year period 1964-1971 for which records were available, one could notice that more Hong Kong residents departed for overseas countries than returned to Hong Kong every year. It would probably be right to conclude that a net loss of about 10,000 Hong Kong residents to overseas countries a year occurred through migration in the recent years<sup>(7)</sup> The balances in the arrivals of Hong Kong residents from and departures to China fluctuated. However, during the seven years from 1964 to 1971 a net loss of 34,708 residents were recorded.

**Table 2.11**                      **Estimated Number of Arrivals and Departures of Hong Kong Residents**

Year*	From and To Other Countries			From and To China		
	Arrivals	Departures	Balance	Arrivals	Departures	Balance
1964-65	30,518	39,602	- 9,084	424,991	417,804	+ 7,187
1965-66	30,419	41,307	-10,888	410,867	435,575	-24,708
1966-67	40,159	58,633	-18,474	265,786	261,384	+ 4,402
1967-68	63,367	81,422	-18,055	253,231	249,998	+ 3,233
1968-69	97,375	103,312	- 5,937	288,989	290,973	- 1,984
1969-70	110,454	122,786	-12,332	413,243	395,398	+17,845
1970-71	136,487	140,677	- 4,188	318,185	314,145	+ 4,040
<b>Total</b>	<b>508,781</b>	<b>587,739</b>	<b>-78,958</b>	<b>3,385,706</b>	<b>3,420,414</b>	<b>-34,708</b>

\* From April 1 to March 31 of the following year.

Source: Hong Kong Population Projections, 1971-1991, p. 19.

(7) The net balance of departures and arrivals of Hong Kong residents over a fairly long period should be able to give some indication of the approximate size of emigration.

Numbers on illegal immigrants entering Hong Kong each year were difficult to estimate. Figures of illegal immigrants, based on the number of their registering for identity cards later on, were estimated to vary between 7,000 and 14,300 persons with an average number of about 10,400 persons a year for the period 1963-1970.<sup>(8)</sup>

**Table 2.12**                      **Estimated Number of Illegal Immigrants**

Year	Number of Illegal Immigrants
1961	25,662
1962	69,581
1963	13,455
1964	9,712
1965	6,949
1966	9,570
1967	11,396
1968	14,289
1969	8,041
1970	9,669
<b>Total</b>	<b>178,324</b>

Source: Hong Kong Population Projections, 1971-1991, p. 23.

(8) Estimates for the number of illegal immigrants were much higher for 1961 and 1962. They were estimated to be about 25,700 and 69,000 persons respectively.



**Table 3.2****Age Distribution  
(in thousands, 1891 – 1901)**

Age	1891	1901
The entire civil population:	217.9	283.9
Under 15	44.4	49.4
Over 15	173.5	234.5
The Chinese population:	210.9	274.5
Under 15	42.8	47.2
Over 15	168.1	227.3

Note: No comparative age data was available in the 1881 Census Report.

Source: The 1891 and 1901 Census Reports of Hong Kong.

The sex distribution of the population improved considerably in the first three decades of the twentieth century, reducing from 1,844 males to 1,000 females in 1911 to 1,348 males to 1,000 females in 1931.

**Table 3.3****Sex Distribution  
(in thousands, 1911 – 1931)**

Sex	1911	1921	1931
The entire civil population:	456.7	625.2	840.5
Male	296.1	382.9	482.6
Female	160.6	242.3	357.9
Sex ratio	1,844.1	1,508.1	1,348.4
The Chinese population:	437.7	607.2	821.4
Male	282.3	374.4	471.4
Female	155.4	232.8	350.0
Sex ratio	1,816.6	1,608.2	1,346.9

Source: The 1911, 1921, and 1931 Census Reports of Hong Kong.

During this period, over twenty-five per cent of the Chinese population, which constituted more than 97 per cent of the total civil population of that time, were children under 15 years. Over sixty per cent of the population were of the age between 15 and 50 years, and only ten per cent were 50 years old and over. In 1911, the number of males was more than doubled the number of females in each five-year age group between 15 and 40. The discrepancies tended to become much smaller in 1931. More women than men over 65 years of age were noticed in 1911 and in 1931.

**Table 3.4 Age and Sex Distribution of the Chinese Population  
(in thousands, 1911 – 1931)**

Age Group	1911		1921		1931	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0 – 5	13.3	12.6	27.2	26.5	43.5	43.7
6 – 10	16.8	17.2	23.4	24.7	32.4	31.7
11 – 15	17.9	16.5	30.2	25.7	40.7	34.3
16 – 20	31.3	12.9	50.2	23.2	64.7	35.6
21 – 25	40.6	15.4	49.8	22.6	63.3	37.4
26 – 30	37.0	15.7	45.3	23.6	52.2	36.4
31 – 35	35.4	15.5	38.0	20.1	42.9	29.3
36 – 40	26.4	11.8	36.1	19.6	36.9	26.6
41 – 45	23.4	10.5	24.2	12.8	28.9	20.4
46 – 50	13.5	6.7	19.3	11.3	24.0	17.8
51 – 55	11.6	6.8	12.3	7.1	16.5	12.3
56 – 60	5.9	4.1	8.3	6.3	11.1	10.1
61 – 65	4.9	4.2	4.5	3.8	6.5	6.2
66 – 70	2.2	2.5	3.8	2.6	3.5	4.0
Over 70	2.1	3.0	1.8	2.9	2.4	4.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>282.3</b>	<b>155.4</b>	<b>374.4</b>	<b>232.8</b>	<b>469.5</b>	<b>349.9</b>

Note: The totals of males and females in the above table do not agree with the totals of previous tables as the age of a number of residents was reported as unknown.

Source: The 1911, 1921, and 1931 Census Reports of Hong Kong.

The recent population of Hong Kong was a more settled one with a quite even sex distribution. The 1971 population of Hong Kong consisted of slightly over two million men and approximately 1.94 million women. The sex ratio, which was 1,058 men to 1,000 women in 1961, was further improved to 1,033 men to 1,000 women in 1971.

Forty-six per cent of the population were below the age of twenty in 1961 and in 1971. Of the 1.44 million youngsters of below 20 years old in 1961, half a million were children under 5, 776,000 were between 5 and 14 years, and only 165,000 were between 15 and 19 years. In 1971, the number of children under 5 was reduced to 376,000, but the number of children between 5 and 14 and the number of youngsters between 15 and 19 were increased to over one million and 428,000, respectively. The fact that more than one-quarter of the 1971 population were between the age 5-14 well reflected Hong Kong's baby boom in the late 1950's and the early 1960's. On the other hand, the low figure of less than 200,000 persons in the age group 25-29 in 1971 could partly be explained by the low birth rate during the Second World War period. The fact that the number of children below the age of 5 in 1971 was only three-quarters of the number of children in the same age group in 1961 pointed out clearly the rapid decline in the number of babies born in Hong Kong in the late 1960's. Less than twelve per cent of the population in 1961 were 50 years old and over, but the corresponding proportion of old people increased to sixteen per cent in 1971.

More males than females appeared in each of the first ten quinquennial age groups during the period. For example, there were in 1971 more than 224,000 men aged between 25 and 34, compared with 182,000 women in the same age range. Women seem to live longer than men in Hong Kong. More women than men were recorded in quinquennial age groups after the age of 50 in 1961 and after the age of 55 in 1971. The ratio was more than two women to a man in the age group 70-74 in 1971. For those who were older than 75, the ratio between women and men was three to one.

**Table 3.5**                      **Age and Sex Distribution of the Population**  
(in thousands, 1961 and 1971)

Age Group	1961		1971	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
0 - 4	257.7	243.0	193.2	183.0
5 - 9	220.4	204.9	259.3	248.8
10 - 14	185.9	165.1	267.7	255.9
15 - 19	90.2	74.9	219.6	208.2
20 - 24	111.3	91.5	173.2	163.2
25 - 29	137.2	116.8	107.1	86.6
30 - 34	140.9	122.2	117.1	95.5
35 - 39	132.4	111.6	129.5	115.6
40 - 44	107.3	95.7	133.6	121.9
45 - 49	86.5	80.7	113.0	105.4
50 - 54	60.1	63.8	101.0	94.3
55 - 59	37.2	49.8	74.9	75.7
60 - 64	23.6	40.0	52.3	63.4
65 - 69	13.2	27.8	28.4	45.3
70 and over	12.9	34.0	30.7	73.2
Total	1,607.8	1,521.8	2,000.6	1,936.0

Source: The 1961 Census Report and the 1971 Census Report of Hong Kong.

### Marital Status

In 1931, nearly half of the Chinese population were recorded as married, 46 per cent were single and the remaining five per cent were widowed. Of those married, 230,000 were males and 167,000 were females. This big difference in the number of married males and females revealed that a considerable number of married men probably did not bring their wives with them while coming to work in Hong Kong. Over 800 married males and 1,200 married females were under 16 years of age.<sup>(1)</sup> Almost three-quarters of the females aged between 15 and 19 years and one-quarter of the males aged between 20 and 24 years were married.

(1) More child marriages were found among Hakka women in the New Territories.

Ninety per cent of the 38,000 widowed were females and only ten per cent were males. Only two men and one woman indicated their marital status as divorced.

**Table 3.6 Marital Status of the Chinese Population  
(in thousands, 1931)**

Marital Status	Males	Females	Total
Single	235.5	148.4	383.8
Married	230.1	167.3	397.4
Widowed	3.9	34.3	38.2
Unknown	1.9	0.1	2.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>471.4</b>	<b>350.0</b>	<b>821.4</b>

Source: The 1931 Census Report of Hong Kong.

Child marriage no longer continued to be a common phenomenon. In 1961, only 14 persons under 15 years of age, three boys and eleven girls, were reported as already married.<sup>(2)</sup> Twenty-seven per cent of the 1961 population aged 15 and over were never married, and the corresponding proportion increased to 36 per cent in 1971. The number of married persons rose from 1.20 million in 1961 to 1.48 million in 1971. However, there were more widowed and divorced persons in 1961 than in 1971.

**Table 3.7 Conjugal Status  
(in thousands, 1961 and 1971)**

Conjugal Status	1961			1971		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Never married	333.6	170.2	503.8	545.7	368.6	914.3
Married	587.7	614.0	1,201.7	710.1	770.5	1,480.6
Widowed	16.7	118.7	135.4	20.2	105.4	125.6
Divorced	5.8	5.9	11.7	4.5	3.7	8.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>934.8</b>	<b>908.8</b>	<b>1,852.6</b>	<b>1,280.5</b>	<b>1,248.2</b>	<b>2,528.7</b>

Note: This table is confined to those of 15 years old and over.

Source: The 1961 Census Report and the 1971 Census Report of Hong Kong.

Only half a per cent of the males in the age group 15-19 were married in 1971, compared with three per cent of the females in the same age group. The proportion of married naturally increases as age advances. For males, the

(2) In accordance with the recommendations of the United Nations, information on marital status was collected only from persons aged 15 and above in 1971. Those who had not attained the age of 15 were automatically recorded as never married.





In each household, one person was assigned to be the head of the household. More male heads, about seven men to two women, were reported. In the 857,000 domestic households in 1971, over half a million persons were recorded as spouses, nearly two million persons were recorded as children, and another 434,000 persons were recorded as relatives of the heads of the households. Over 25,000 domestic servants and about 130,000 other persons were also reported living in these domestic households.

### **Ethnicity, Place of Birth, and Usual Language**

Information on the population's racial distribution was collected in the censuses carried out in the early part of this century. Over 97 per cent of the then civil population were Chinese. In the postwar censuses, a question on the place of origin was asked instead.<sup>(5)</sup> Over half of the recent population had Canton, Macau and adjacent places as their place of origin. Another one-third of the population were originated from Sze Yap, Chiu Chau and other parts of Kwangtung. Between four and five per cent of the population were of Hong Kong origin in 1971. Less than two per cent were from other countries, including 29,000 Britons 22,300 Asians, 5,300 from other European countries and 4,700 from the United States and Canada.

**Table 3.9** **Place of Origin**  
(in thousands, 1961 and 1971)

Place of Origin	1961	1971
Hong Kong	260.5	185.7
Canton, Macau and adjacent places	1,521.7	2,072.1
Sze Yap	573.9	684.8
Chiu Chau	257.3	391.4
Elsewhere in Kwangtung	244.2	250.2
Elsewhere in China	222.3	284.8
Other countries	49.7	64.9
Unknown	—	2.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,129.6</b>	<b>3,936.6</b>

Source: The 1961 Census Report and the 1971 Census Report of Hong Kong.

The proportion of population born in Hong Kong increased considerably during the post-war period. In the early part of this century, less than one-third of the population were native born. The proportion of Hong Kong born increased to 48 per cent in 1961 and 56 per cent in 1971. On the other hand, the proportion of population born in Kwangtung Province dropped from over 60 per cent in the pre-war period to around 40 per cent in recent years. Sixty per cent of the Hong Kong born population were below 15 years of age, another

(5) The place of origin was defined for the Chinese population as that part of China from which the family came and for the non-Chinese population as the nationality or country of origin claimed.

thirty per cent between 15 and 34 years, and only ten per cent aged 35 and above. Of those not born in Hong Kong, only four per cent were youngsters below 15 years of age, nearly thirty per cent between 15 and 35 years and over two-thirds were aged 35 and above.

**Table 3.10** **Place of Birth**  
(in thousands, 1911 – 1971)

Place of Birth	1911	1921	1931	1961	1971
Hong Kong	143.9	167.2	276.4	1,492.9	2,218.9
Kwangtung Province	280.0	431.9	531.1	1,425.6	1,475.6
Elsewhere in China	3.9	6.6	15.6	153.6	162.2
Other countries	8.1	8.7	18.4	57.5	79.9
Unknown	20.8	10.8	8.3	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>456.7</b>	<b>625.2</b>	<b>849.8</b>	<b>3,129.6</b>	<b>3,936.6</b>

Note: The 1931 total here included people in defence forces and mercantile marine.

Source: The Census Reports of Hong Kong, various years.

Nearly eighty per cent of the 1961 population aged 5 and above spoke Cantonese at home, and slightly over 15 per cent used Hakka, Hoklo or Sze Yap. According to the 1971 Census data, 88 per cent of the entire population spoke Cantonese with members of their families, and only 8 per cent usually spoke Hakka, Hoklo or Sze Yap. Other Chinese languages, including Mandarin, were spoken by about 90,000 persons in Hong Kong. Though twenty per cent of the population could speak some English, it was the usual language of only one per cent of the population. Five thousand persons of the 1971 population were dumb.

**Table 3.11** **Usual Language**  
(in thousands, 1961 and 1971)

Usual Language	1961	1971
Cantonese	2,076.2	3,469.2
Hakka, Hoklo or Sze Yap	407.5	315.6
Other Chinese languages	95.5	89.5
English	31.8	41.1
Other languages	16.3	16.1
Dumb	1.6	5.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,628.9</b>	<b>3,936.6</b>

Note: The 1961 total included only those aged 5 and above.

Source: The 1961 Census Report and the 1971 Census Report of Hong Kong.

## Education

Between 580,000 and 590,000 children were too young to go to school in 1961 and 1971.<sup>(6)</sup> Over forty per cent of the recent population had or were receiving primary school education. In 1961, 466,000 and 44,000 persons had or were receiving secondary school and university education, respectively. The corresponding figures for 1971 increased to 860,000 and 65,000. The number of persons who had no schooling recorded a reduction from 614,000 to 542,000 between 1961 and 1971.

**Table 3.12** Educational Attainment  
(in thousands, 1961 and 1971)

Educational Level	1961	1971
Too young to go to school	591.2	376.2
Kindergarten	*	202.5
Private tutor	108.7	134.4
Primary	1,304.9	1,755.9
Secondary	441.9	814.3
Post secondary	24.4	46.0
University	44.0	65.6
No schooling	614.5	541.7
Total	3,129.6	3,936.6

\* "Kindergarten" was not listed in the 1961 Census.

Source: The 1961 Census Report and the 1971 Census Report of Hong Kong.

Of the population aged 15 and over in 1961, about one-third had no formal schooling, forty per cent received primary school education and just over one-quarter had secondary school education or higher. The proportion of attaining secondary school or higher level increased to 33 per cent in 1971. Of those without any formal schooling, over seventy per cent were females. Of those with university training, about one-quarter were females.

**Table 3.13** Educational Attainment of All Aged 15 and Over  
(in thousands, 1961 and 1971)

Educational Level	1961		1971	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Private Tutor	70.6	38.1	86.8	47.2
Primary	454.1	277.9	547.4	433.1
Secondary	280.3	136.1	442.3	285.5
Post secondary	15.8	8.5	27.6	18.5
University	34.1	10.0	49.3	16.3
No schooling	88.9	438.2	127.1	447.6
Total	943.8	908.8	1,208.5	1,248.2

Source: The 1961 Census Report and the 1971 Census Report of Hong Kong.

(6) "Kindergarten" was not separately listed in the 1961 Census. However, a total of over 200,000 children were recorded as kindergarten students in 1971.

About 1,228,000 students, including 650,000 males and 578,000 females, were attending schools in 1971. Of this students population, 194,000 were kindergarten kids, 744,000 at primary schools, 281,000 at secondary and post-secondary schools, and eight thousand university students. Kindergarten kids were mostly aged between 4 and 7. Primary school students were mainly between 6 and 15 years of age, and secondary school students between 13 and 20. More post-secondary and university students were found in age groups 17-23 and 19-24, respectively. The ratio between male and female primary students was fairly close. The difference became somewhat wider among secondary and post-secondary school students. Among the eight thousand university students, two-thirds were male students and one-third female students.

**Table.3.14 Age and Sex Distribution of the Student Population  
(in thousands, 1971)**

Age Group	Males	Females	Total
4 and below	35.2	30.5	65.7
5 - 9	241.1	227.9	469.0
10 - 14	247.7	221.3	369.0
15 - 19	108.1	82.7	190.8
20 - 24	16.0	10.9	26.9
25 and over	1.7	4.5	6.2
Total	649.8	577.8	1,227.6

Note: The student population includes kindergarten kids.

Source: The 1971 Census Report of Hong Kong.



**Table 4.2 Age Distribution of the Chinese Population, by Area  
(in thousands, 1931)**

Age Group	Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and New Kowloon	New Territories	Marine	Total
Infancy (under 1)	20.7	3.1	2.3	26.1
Childhood (2-13)	123.8	25.2	17.4	166.4
Adolescence (14-20)	109.2	13.7	11.2	134.1
Early Adult Life (21-44)	302.6	35.5	27.9	366.0
Mature Age (45-64)	85.9	16.5	8.7	111.1
Old Age (65 and over)	12.5	3.8	1.4	17.7
Total	654.7	97.8	68.9	821.4

Source: The 1931 Census Report of Hong Kong.

In Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and New Kowloon, the numbers of single males and of married males were almost equal in 1931. For residents in the New Territories and the afloat population, single males outnumbered married males by 15 to 20 per cent. Around 47 per cent of the female population were married in all areas. The New Territories had the highest proportion, 16 per cent of the female population there, of widowed females. A large proportion of the females in the New Territories were married by age 21. In Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and New Kowloon married females became majority at the age of 24 or 25. For males, the difference in the age of marriage was only slight among different areas.

**Table 4.3 Marital Status of the Chinese Population, by Area  
(in thousands, 1931)**

Area and Sex	Marital Status			
	Single	Married	Widowed	Unknown*
<b>Hong Kong Island</b>				
<b>Kowloon and New Kowloon</b>				
Males	187.9	189.5	2.1	1.9
Females	116.8	131.3	25.1	0.1
<b>New Territories</b>				
Males	25.9	21.8	1.4	—
Females	17.7	23.0	7.9	—
<b>Marine</b>				
Males	21.7	18.8	0.4	—
Females	13.8	13.0	1.3	—
<hr/>				
Total: Males	235.5	230.1	3.9	1.9
Females	148.3	167.3	34.3	0.1

\* Street sleepers, who were not questioned on their marital status, were classified as unknown.

Note: Only two men and one woman in Hong Kong and Kowloon were listed as divorced.

Source: The 1931 Census Report of Hong Kong.

Significant changes in the area distribution of the Hong Kong Population took place during the post-war years. In 1961, over one million persons or 32 per cent of the entire population lived on Hong Kong Island. Kowloon had 725,000 persons or 23 per cent. The rapidest expansion occurred in New Kowloon. The number of inhabitants living in New Kowloon jumped from merely 23,000 in 1931 to more than 850,000 in 1961. About 410,000 persons or 13 per cent of the population resided in the New Territories. Another 137,000 persons lived afloat in small boats.

In 1971, both Hong Kong Island and Kowloon had a reduction of around 10,000 residents when compared to their 1961 figures.<sup>(2)</sup> On the other hand, the number of people living in New Kowloon further soared to close to one and a half million, showing an increase of seventy per cent over the 1961 figure. The population in the New Territories also increased by 60 per cent in the 1960's. This redistribution of population from overcrowded areas of Hong Kong Island and Kowloon to public housing estates in New Kowloon was mainly the result of urban development plans and re-housing schemes carried out by the Government. The marine population reduced drastically to only 80,000 persons. The population density for Hong Kong as a whole averaged about 10,000 persons per

(2) Central and Sheung Wan districts on Hong Kong Island had only about half of the number of their 1961 residents. Aberdeen district on the Island, however, expanded considerably as public housing estates in Aberdeen attracted large number of tenants.

square mile in 1971, ranging from slightly over below 2,000 persons per square mile in the New Territories to well over 200,000 persons per square mile in Kowloon.

**Table 4.4** **Population, by Area**  
(in thousands, 1961 and 1971)

Area	1961	1971
Hong Kong Island	1,004.9	996.2
Kowloon	725.2	716.3
New Kowloon	852.8	1,478.5
New Territories	409.9	665.7
Marine	136.8	79.9
Total	3,129.6	3,936.6

Source: The 1961 Census Report and the 1971 Census Report of Hong Kong.

The sex ratio in terms of males per 1,000 females was higher on Hong Kong Island than in the other land areas in the early part of the century. For example, in 1911, the sex ratio was 2,250 males per 1,000 females for Hong Kong Island, 1972 for Kowloon, 1410 for New Kowloon and 1,021 for the New Territories. However, the sex distribution improved greatly during the post-war years and became fairly close in recent years. The sex ratio fluctuated between 1,015 and 1,060 males per 1,000 females for all land areas in 1971. The sex ratio in the marine population also reduced from 1,492 in 1931 to 1,150 in 1971.

**Table 4.5** **Sex Distribution, by Area**  
(in thousands, 1911 – 1971)

Year and Sex	Hong Kong Island	Kowloon	New Kowloon	New Territories	Marine
1911					
Males	169.2	37.3	7.7	41.0	40.9
Females	75.1	18.9	5.5	40.2	20.9
1921					
Males	221.1	69.5	5.1	41.9	45.3
Females	126.3	44.4	4.4	41.3	25.9
1931					
Males	246.2	133.3	11.6	49.5	42.0
Females	163.0	107.1	11.0	48.7	28.1
1961					
Males	515.8	371.5	432.2	215.6	72.7
Females	489.1	353.7	420.6	194.3	64.1
1971					
Males	501.8	368.4	748.6	339.0	42.7
Females	494.4	347.9	729.9	326.7	37.2

Source: The 1911, 1921, 1931, 1961 and 1971 Census Reports of Hong Kong.





Of persons aged 15 years and over, the proportion of males and females who were never married tended to rise in all areas in the past decade, and the proportion of never married was consistently higher in the urban areas than in the rural areas. In 1971, between 42.5 and 44.5 per cent of the males and around 30 per cent of the females of 15 years old and over were never married in Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and New Kowloon as compared to 37.8 per cent of the males and 25.4 per cent of the females in the New Territories. The number of widowed persons and divorced persons showed a declining trend during the 1960's in all areas except that more widowed persons were recorded for New Kowloon in 1971 than in 1961.

**Table 4.7** **Conjugal Status, by Area**  
(in thousands, 1961 and 1971)

Year and Conjugal Status	Hong Kong Island	Kowloon	New Kowloon	New Territories	Marine
<b>1961</b>					
Never married	178.1	134.9	121.1	52.4	17.3
Married	383.4	281.8	328.4	156.7	51.4
Widowed	46.5	31.8	33.8	19.7	3.6
Divorced	3.6	3.2	3.4	1.3	0.2
<b>1971</b>					
Never married	260.5	187.5	329.0	121.0	16.3
Married	387.4	290.4	534.9	240.9	27.0
Widowed	35.8	25.5	45.0	18.6	0.7
Divorced	2.3	2.2	2.4	1.2	—

Note: This table is confined to those of 15 years old and over.

Source: The 1961 Census Report and the 1971 Census Report of Hong Kong.



## CHAPTER 5

### THE LABOUR FORCE

In 1931, 470,000 persons or 55 per cent of the total population of 850,000 persons<sup>(1)</sup> were reported to be gainfully occupied. The employed group included almost 372,000 males and 99,000 females, amounting to 75 per cent of the male population and 28 per cent of the female population respectively.

Of the employed group, 20 per cent was engaged in commerce and finance, 15 per cent each in transport and communications, and various manufacturing industries, and 13-14 per cent each in personal or domestic service, and fishing and agriculture. The largest group of male workers was engaged in commerce and finance, absorbing nearly one-quarter of occupied males. One-fifth of the male workers were working for various manufacturing industries and another one-sixth for transport and communications. Other major industrial groups, such as personal service, public administration and defence, building and decorating, agriculture, and fishing, each employed between 15,000 to 34,000 male employees. Of the employed females, over 30 per cent were in industries providing personal or domestic service and entertainments, and one-quarter were in agriculture. About 60 to 65 per cent of the male and the female employees were aged between 20-40.

**Table 5.1 Industrial Classification of Gainfully Occupied Population (in thousands, 1931)**

Industry	Males	Females	Total
Fishing	15.5	7.2	22.7
Agriculture	17.2	24.5	41.7
Mining and quarrying	3.7	0.2	3.9
Manufacture of chemicals and metals	24.9	0.9	25.8
Manufacture of textiles	4.6	5.6	10.2
Manufacture of clothing	13.5	3.0	16.5
Food, drinks and tobacco	9.1	2.1	11.2
Other manufacturing groups	22.2	2.4	24.6
Building and decorating	17.9	3.0	20.9
Utilities	1.8	—	1.8
Transport and communication	60.2	11.1	71.3
Commerce and finance	92.0	5.0	97.0
Public administration and defence	23.1	0.4	23.5
Professions	7.6	2.4	10.0
Entertainments	2.8	3.7	6.5
Personal service	34.1	27.1	61.2
Other industries	21.7	0.2	21.9
Total	371.9	98.8	470.7

Source: Summarized from Table 3.9 of the 1931 Census Report of Hong Kong.

(1) This total of 850,000 persons included 9,278 members of the Naval and Military Establishments.

Over 5,700 children under 14 years of age were gainfully occupied in 1931. Nearly half of them were boys and slightly over half were girls. Two-thirds of the occupied children were helping out in fishing, on farms or as boatmen. In addition, 114,000 children between 5-13 years old were classified as child labour with no gainful occupation.

Of the 1961 population, 1.21 million persons or 38 per cent were classified as economically active.<sup>(2)</sup> The number of economically active persons increased to 1.65 million or 42 per cent of the Hong Kong population in 1971. If children below 10 years of age were left out, then the proportion of economically active persons in the population would be around 55 per cent for both 1961 and 1971. The economically active population consisted of 865,000 males and 347,000 females in 1961 and 1,097,000 males and 558,000 females in 1971. The sex ratio of economically active population was 2,491 males to 1,000 females in 1961 and 1966 males to 1,000 females in 1971. Fifty-four per cent of the 1961 male population and 55 per cent of the 1971 male population were economically active, while only 23 per cent of the 1961 female population and 29 per cent of the 1971 female population were economically active.

**Table 5.2 Economic Activity Status of Hong Kong Population  
(in thousands, 1961 and 1971)**

Classification	1961	1971
Economically active	1,212.0	1,654.9
Males	864.8	1,096.9
Females	347.2	558.0
Economically inactive	1,921.1	2,281.7
Males	745.8	903.7
Females	1,175.3	1,378.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,133.1</b>	<b>3,936.6</b>

Source: The 1961 Census Report and the 1971 Census Report of Hong Kong.

Of the male population the participation in economic activity was very high between ages 20-60. For example, over 95 per cent of the males between 25 and 55 years of age and around 90 per cent of the males in age groups 20-24 and 55-59 were economically active in 1961 and 1971. Among the older group, nearly 80 per cent of those between 60 and 65 years of age and 40 per cent of those over 65 years continued to remain economically active. The patterns of

(2) The labour force approach was adopted for classifying persons into economically active or economically inactive. Persons who were engaged in productive work for more than 40 hours during the twenty days before the 1961 Census date or for more than 15 hours during the seven days before the 1971 Census date, including those who were not working but looking for work during the reference period, were included in the economically active population. The minimum age-limit for an economically active person was 6 years in the 1961 Census and 10 years in the 1971 Census.



**Table 5.4**                      **Employment Status of Working Population**  
(in thousands, 1961 and 1971)

Employment Status	1961	1971
Self-employed	123.9	130.7
Employer	57.4	40.7
Employee	957.0	1,375.9
Unpaid family worker	52.8	35.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,191.1</b>	<b>1,582.8</b>

Source: The 1961 Census Report and the 1971 Census Report of Hong Kong.

Craftsmen, labourers and production workers together formed the largest occupational group in Hong Kong's economically active population.<sup>(3)</sup> The number of workers in this group increased from 520,000 in 1961 to 747,500 in 1971, amounting to 43-45 per cent of the entire economically active population. Three-quarters of them were permanent in-workers. Clerical and sales workers, and service and recreation workers together totalled 415,000 persons in 1961 and 508,000 persons in 1971. Eighty per cent of these workers were permanent in-workers, and ten per cent were self-employed. Of the group of administrative and managerial workers, one-third were self-employed, another one-third were employers and only one-quarter were permanent in-workers. The number of farmers and fishermen reduced from 87,600 in 1961 to 52,700 in 1971, showing a reduction of 40 per cent in the number of farmers and fishermen in this 10-year period. Two-fifths of the farmers and fishermen in 1971 were classified as self-employed.

**Table 5.5**                      **Distribution of Economically**  
**Active Population by Occupation**  
(in thousands, 1961 and 1971)

Occupation	1961	1971
Professional and technical workers	56.1	80.7
Administrative and managerial workers	36.6	75.6
Clerical and sales workers	234.6	263.8
Farmers and fishermen	87.6	52.7
Miners and quarrymen	4.7	5.3
Transport and communication workers	58.0	96.9
Craftsmen, labourers and production workers	520.1	747.5
Service and recreation workers	180.2	243.8
Armed forces and unclassified	13.2	64.5
Unemployed*	20.9	24.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,212.0</b>	<b>1,654.9</b>

\* For 1971, only those with no previous working experience were included here. Those with working experience were classified accordingly by their previous occupations

Source: The 1961 Census Report and the 1971 Census Report of Hong Kong.

- (3) The occupation classification used in the 1961 and the 1971 Censuses was adopted from the International Standard Classification of Occupations laid down by the International Labour Office.





**Table 5.7**                      **Distribution of Working Population by Sex**  
(in thousands, 1971)

Industry	Males	Females
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	40.9	22.1
Mining and quarrying	3.4	1.1
Manufacturing	385.6	292.0
Construction and engineering	138.0	30.8
Utilities	8.1	0.7
Commerce	157.3	51.3
Transport and communication	106.0	8.7
Services	198.0	114.1
Unclassified	12.7	12.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,050.0</b>	<b>532.8</b>

Source: The 1971 Census Report of Hong Kong.

One-fifth of the 1961 economically active population had no previous schooling. The corresponding proportion reduced to one-sixth in 1971. Forty-six per cent of the economically active population had primary education. Those with secondary or higher education increased from 27 per cent in 1961 to 32 per cent in 1971. Over half of the fishermen and farmers in 1971 had no schooling before, while the corresponding figures for workers in manufacturing, transport and communication, construction, services and commerce were between 10 and 16 per cent. Nearly half of the labour force in utilities, commerce, and services had secondary or higher education. For transport and communication, construction and engineering and manufacturing industries, about 25-35 per cent of the workers received secondary or higher education. Over 90 per cent of the professional and technical workers and over half of the administrative, managerial, clerical and sales workers had secondary or higher education.

**Table 5.8**                      **Distribution of Economically Active**  
**Population by Educational Attainment**  
(in thousands, 1961 and 1971)

Educational Level	1961	1971
No schooling	243.6	269.0
Private tutor	77.5	89.6
Primary	559.7	759.8
Secondary	279.3	455.9
Post secondary	16.8	39.2
University	35.1	41.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,212.0</b>	<b>1,654.9</b>

Source: The 1961 Census Report and the 1971 Census Report of Hong Kong.





## CHAPTER 6

### POPULATION PROJECTIONS

Three series of population projections were prepared by the Hong Kong Government in the past decade. The first projection for 1961-1971 was made in 1963 on the basis of the demographic data gathered during the 1961 Population Census and the vital and migration statistics existed at that time. The second projected population figures for 1966-1981 were based on the results obtained from the 1966 By-Census, and the recent set of projections for 1971-1991 was prepared in 1973 from the results of the 1971 Census and recent vital and migration statistics. The component method was followed in making these population projections. Based on the existing vital and migration statistics, various assumptions on the course of mortality, fertility and migration were made to derive separate estimates of both sexes in each age group of the population.

#### **The Projections for 1961-1971**

The 1961 Census was carried out on February 11, 1961 for the marine population and on March 7, 1961 for the land population. The first step in preparing the projections was to estimate the population of Hong Kong on July 1, 1961 to be used as the base population for the projections. In arriving at this estimate, the Marine Census figures were in the first place adjusted to the date of the Land Census and added to the Land Census figures, then the totals for each individual years were further adjusted to reach the estimated population total for July 1, 1961 "by adding all the registered births, deducting all the registered deaths and adding the estimated numbers of immigrants" and finally the age distribution thus obtained was modified by graduation "to avoid distorting the dip in the age distribution represented by the Pacific War generation."<sup>(1)</sup>

The crude death rate of Hong Kong fell from about 10 per thousand in the late 1940's to below 6 per thousand in 1961, and the infant mortality rate declined from around 100 per thousand to below 40 per thousand. This rapid decline was largely due to "the massive extension of medical facilities for the poor and the improvement of standards of living and environmental sanitation".<sup>(2)</sup> The quinquennial age-specific death rates for males and for females computed for the years 1956 to 1961 showed a decline of between 15%

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(1) Population Projections for Hong Kong, 1961-1971, p. 2.

(2) Population Projections for Hong Kong, 1961-1971, p. 4.

and 50% for all groups up to 50 years of age. The death rates tended to increase for older people during this period. An exponential trend fitted to the mortality indices, obtained from computing the weighted average age-specific death rate for each of the six years 1956-1961 with weights showing the ratio of population in each age group to the total population, could be represented by the equation  $PV^{0.279} = 132.9$ , where P is the mortality index and V represents the year with 1956 as 1.

**Table 6.1**                      **Adjusted Age and Sex Distribution**  
**of Population on July 1, 1961**

Age Group	Males	Females
0 - 4	267,100	252,000
5 - 9	226,400	210,300
10 - 14	183,200	163,100
15 - 19	96,700	80,500
20 - 24	111,400	90,900
25 - 29	141,100	119,200
30 - 34	141,100	122,800
35 - 39	125,900	113,400
40 - 44	107,000	96,400
45 - 49	87,400	81,500
50 - 54	60,800	64,800
55 - 59	38,300	51,000
60 - 64	23,500	39,600
65 - 69	13,400	28,300
70 - 74	7,500	18,400
75 - 79	3,600	10,100
80 - 84	1,400	4,100
85 and over	500	1,600
Total	1,636,300	1,548,000

Source: Population Projections for Hong Kong, 1961-1971, p. 3.

The age-specific birth rates showed increases in the three quinquennial groups below 30 years of age, but recorded decreases in the other three quinquennial groups for ages 30 and up during the period 1956-1961. Except for the age group 20-24, of which the birth rates rose from 271 per 1000 in 1956 to 352 per 1000 in 1961, the changes in age-specific birth rates of other groups were not great.<sup>(3)</sup> The general fertility rate was computed to be 174.46 for 1961 with fluctuations between 170 and 180 during this period.<sup>(4)</sup> Factors which might have an effect on the fertility rate included improved medical services and housing conditions, the tendency towards later marriage, and the introduction of family planning program during this period.

- (3) During this period, for example, the birth rate for the age group 25-29 rose from 287 per 1000 to 297 per 1000 and the rate for ages 30-34 reduced from 192 per 1000 to 180 per 1000.
- (4) The age-specific birth rates of the 6 quinquennial groups were weighted by a ratio of 1:6.5:7.2:4.5:2.4:0.5, derived from data supplied by the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Hong Kong to obtain the general fertility rate.

In the late 1950's over one million persons left Hong Kong each year and a slightly larger number of people entered. The estimated average annual increase in the population due to migration was around 61,100 persons between April 1955 and March 1960. The annual increases fluctuated between 20,000 and 80,000. The information on those not born in Hong Kong collected in the 1961 Census showed that among the 316,000 persons with less than six years residence in Hong Kong 25 per cent were in the age group 10-19, 28 per cent between 20-29 and another 28 per cent between 30-49.

Three sets of estimates with different assumptions on mortality, fertility and migration trends were prepared in the first projections. In the high and medium projections the age-specific mortality rates were assumed to continue until 1971 the decreasing trend along the exponential curve  $PV^{0.279} = 132.9$ . This would mean that the 1966 age-specific death rates were assumed to be 15.5% below the 1961 level and the 1971 age-specific death rates 24% below the 1961 level. In the low projection, the 1961 mortality rates were assumed to remain unchanged till 1971. Table 6.2 shows the 1961 age-specific death rates and the projected age-specific death rates for 1964 and 1969.

**Table 6.2**                      **Projected Age-Specific Death Rates**  
**(1964 and 1969)**

Age Group	Age-Specific Death Rates		Projected Age-Specific Death Rates			
			1964		1969	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0 - 4	12.00	10.70	10.90	9.72	9.59	8.55
5 - 9	0.96	0.82	0.88	0.75	0.77	0.66
10 - 14	0.66	0.46	0.60	0.42	0.53	0.37
15 - 19	0.75	0.67	0.69	0.61	0.60	0.54
20 - 24	1.29	0.81	1.17	0.74	1.03	0.65
25 - 29	1.55	1.27	1.41	1.15	1.24	1.01
30 - 34	2.20	1.59	2.00	1.44	1.76	1.27
35 - 39	3.04	2.17	2.76	1.97	2.43	1.73
40 - 44	4.84	3.09	4.40	2.81	3.87	2.47
45 - 49	7.41	4.21	6.73	3.82	5.92	3.36
50 - 54	14.14	6.99	12.85	6.35	11.30	5.59
55 - 59	19.84	9.14	18.02	8.30	15.86	7.30
60 - 64	38.17	15.51	34.67	14.09	30.50	12.39
65 - 69	47.68	20.21	43.31	18.36	38.10	16.15
70 - 74	77.33	37.99	70.23	34.50	61.79	30.35
75 - 79	101.39	61.68	92.08	56.02	81.01	49.29
80 - 84	165.00	95.61	149.85	86.83	131.84	76.39
85 and over	216.00	196.87	196.17	178.80	172.58	157.30

Note: The 1961 rates were mid-year rates, and the projected figures were rates for the beginning of 1964 and 1969 respectively.

Source: Population Projections for Hong Kong, 1961-1971, p. 14.

The high projection assumed a slight increase of one per cent per annum in the fertility rate up to 1971. The medium projection assumed the fertility rate would remain unchanged at the 1961 level, and the low projection assumed a decrease of one per cent per annum in the fertility rate. Table 6.3 summarized the projected age-specific birth rates of the high, medium and low projections.

**Table 6.3**                      **Projected Age-Specific Birth Rates**  
**(1961 -- 1971)**

Age Group	Age-Specific Birth Rates 1961	Projected Age-Specific Birth Rates			
		1961-1966		1966-1971	
		High	Low	High	Low
15 - 19	61.1	62.7	59.6	65.9	56.7
20 - 24	351.8	360.8	343.2	379.2	326.4
25 - 29	297.2	304.8	289.9	320.4	275.7
30 - 34	180.3	184.9	175.9	194.4	167.3
35 - 39	104.1	106.8	101.6	112.2	96.6
40 - 44	25.5	26.2	24.9	27.5	23.7

Source: Population Projections for Hong Kong, 1961-1971, p. 15.

Regarding the effects of migration, a net gain of 122,000 persons was assumed for 1962. The high projection assumed a net annual gain of 80,000 persons by migration for the period mid-1962 to mid-1971, and the medium and the low projections assumed a net gain of 50,000 persons and 20,000 persons every year respectively. Furthermore, the age and sex distribution of the net increase by migration in the 1960's was assumed in the projections to follow the similar pattern estimated from information on recent arrivals gathered in the 1961 Census.<sup>(5)</sup>

(5) It was reported that majority of those emigrated from Hong Kong were among age groups of 15 to 29. This fact was accounted for in the estimated distribution shown in Table 6.4.

**Table 6.4**                      **The Estimated Age and Sex Distribution  
of the Net Increase by Migration  
(Percentages)**

Age Group	Males	Females
0 - 4	1.86	1.56
5 - 9	4.86	3.60
10 - 14	6.90	5.22
15 - 19	8.06	5.67
20 - 24	8.48	5.73
25 - 29	6.73	5.57
30 - 34	3.65	4.90
35 - 39	2.66	4.01
40 - 44	1.97	3.27
45 - 49	1.46	2.85
50 - 54	1.06	2.55
55 - 59	0.75	2.27
60 - 64	0.50	1.77
65 - 69	0.32	0.95
70 - 74	0.17	0.47
75 and over	0.07	0.11
<b>Total</b>	<b>49.50</b>	<b>50.50</b>

Source: Population Projections for Hong Kong, 1961-1971, p. 13.

Based on the various assumptions at these three different levels, the population of Hong Kong was projected to be between a low of 3.82 million persons and a high of 4.13 million persons for 1966 and between 4.39 million and 5.22 million for 1971.

**Table 6.5**                      **The First Population Projection of Hong Kong  
(1966 and 1971)**

Level of Projection	Mid-1966	Mid-1971
High	4,131,900	5,217,700
Medium	3,982,100	4,812,700
Low	3,824,900	4,388,700

Source: Population Projections for Hong Kong, 1961-1971, p. 15.

### **The Projections for 1966-1981**

A mid-term By-Census was taken by sample in 1966.<sup>(6)</sup> The By-Census date was June 18, 1966 for the boat population or August 2, 1966 for the land population. The By-Census population total computed from the sample was 3,716,400, with a 95 per cent accuracy range from 3,609,200 to 3,823,600. The

(6) The By-Census included a 5 per cent random sample of enumerator blocks at the first stage and a 20 per cent random sample of households at the second stage for the land population, and a 2.5 per cent sample of boats, stratified by size, for the boat population.



computed total of 3,716,400 persons for the 1966 population was more than 100,000 persons below the low projection figure of 3,824,900 persons prepared in 1963. This was partly due to the rapidly falling birth rate and the continued declining mortality rate between 1961 and 1966.

The vital and migration statistics available for this period showed that the crude death rate continued to decline from 6 per thousand in 1961 to slightly over 5 per thousand in 1966. The exponential function fitted to the mortality indices derived from the age-specific death rates for 1956-1965 was of the form  $PV^{0.222} = 126.5$ , implying a 13 per cent decrease in the mortality level between 1961 and 1966. The crude birth rate reduced from over 35 per thousand to below 26 per thousand during this period. The age-specific birth rates obtained in 1966 from a sample survey of birth records were 23, 228, 260, 194, 127 and 60 for the six quinquennial age groups 15-19, 20-24, . . . , 40-44, respectively. The first three rates were smaller and the last three were larger than the corresponding age-specific birth rates obtained in 1961. The median number of children for ever married women in age groups over 30 was found from the 1966 By-Census results to be increasing. The balance of migration for 1961-1967 was estimated to vary between a net loss of 14,500 persons a year to a net gain of 18,500 persons a year except the year 1962 during which immigration exceeded emigration by about 135,000 persons. From the information collected in the By-Census,<sup>(7)</sup> it was estimated that nearly 55 per cent of the new arrivals were males and 45 per cent females. About 28 per cent of the balance of migration were below 15 years of age, 63 per cent between 15 and 54, and the other 9 per cent were older persons of 55 years old and over.

**Table 6.6**                    **Age and Sex Distribution of Migrant Balance**  
(Percentages)

Age Group	Males	Females
0 - 4	6.41	5.39
5 - 9	4.67	3.89
10 - 14	5.12	2.83
15 - 19	4.00	4.45
20 - 24	6.26	5.16
25 - 29	7.51	5.31
30 - 34	5.28	3.77
35 - 39	5.51	2.32
40 - 44	2.91	2.59
45 - 49	2.13	1.75
50 - 54	1.61	1.98
55 - 59	0.91	1.98
60 - 64	0.74	1.65
65 and over	1.56	2.31
<b>Total</b>	<b>54.62</b>	<b>45.38</b>

Source: Hong Kong Population Projections, 1966-1981, p. 4.

(7) Answers to questions of where the respondent was at the 1961 Census and at the beginning of 1966 provided useful information on the age and sex patterns of the new arrivals in the past five years.

Another population projection for 1966-1981 was prepared based on the 1966 By-Census results and the changing vital statistics. Firstly, the 1966 By-Census population figures were adjusted, after graduation, to July 1, 1966.

**Table 6.7 Adjusted Age and Sex Distribution of Population on July 1, 1966**

Age Group	Males	Females
0 - 4	274,100	259,100
5 - 9	275,100	253,200
10 - 14	233,600	214,800
15 - 19	204,100	181,200
20 - 24	106,900	94,100
25 - 29	114,200	97,100
30 - 34	129,200	115,800
35 - 39	132,100	127,900
40 - 44	118,600	115,000
45 - 49	98,300	93,700
50 - 54	83,400	82,500
55 - 59	53,100	63,500
60 - 64	35,400	55,100
65 - 69	18,200	38,700
70 - 74	11,300	26,600
75 - 79	3,900	12,900
80 and over	2,600	7,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,894,100</b>	<b>1,838,300</b>

Source: Hong Kong Population Projections 1966-1981, p. 1.

The projections for 1966-1981 were also prepared at three levels, with the medium projection further divided into three groups. Table 6.8 summarizes the assumptions on mortality, fertility and migration trends for these projections.

**Table 6.8 Mortality, Fertility and Migration Trends Assumed in the 1966-1981 Projections**

Projection Level	Mortality	Fertility	Migration
High	To decline along the exponential curve $PV^{0.222} = 126.5$	Age-specific birth rates to remain at the 1966 level.	A net gain of 20,000 persons a year
Medium 1	To decline along the exponential curve $PV^{0.222} = 126.5$	10% decrease every 5 years for age group 15-29 and 2% increase for age group 30-44.	A net gain of 10,000 persons a year
Medium 2	To remain at the 1966 level	10% decrease every 5 years for age group 15-29 and no change for age group 30-44.	A net gain of 5,000 persons a year
Medium 3	To remain at the 1966 level	10% decrease every 5 years for age group 15-29 and 2% decrease for age group 30-44.	A net gain of 2,000 persons a year
Low	To remain at the 1966 level	10% decrease every 5 years for all age groups.	No gain

Source: Summarized from Hong Kong Population Projections 1966-1981.

The projected population figures thus obtained varied from 4,106,600 persons by low projection to 4,286,900 persons by high projection for 1971, and from 4,934,300 persons by low projection to 5,705,500 persons by high projection for 1981. This revised high projection figure of 4,286,900 persons for 1971 was still 100,000 persons less than the previous low projection figure for 1971 based on the 1961 Census data.

**Table 6.9      The Second Population Projection of Hong Kong  
(1971 and 1981)**

Level of Projection	Mid-1971	Mid-1981
High	4,286,900	5,705,500
Medium 1	4,208,000	5,329,700
Medium 2	4,159,700	5,145,100
Medium 3	4,135,600	5,060,900
Low	4,106,600	4,934,300

Source: Hong Kong Population Projections, 1966-1981.

### The Projections for 1971-1991

The 1971 Census, which took place on February 23, 1971 for persons living afloat in small boats and on March 9, 1971 for land population, returned the total number of the Hong Kong population at 3,936,630 persons. This population total was 350,000 persons below the high projection for 1971 or 170,000 persons below the low projection for 1971 based on the 1966 By-Census results.

Hong Kong's crude death rate continued to drop slightly from 5.3 per thousand in 1966 to 5.0 per thousand in 1971. From the age-specific death rates, it could be seen that the death rates for age groups 1-4 and 5-9 reduced by 60 to 80 per cent during 1961-1971. The reduction in the female death rates for quinquennial age groups between 10 and 44 years of age was mostly between 30 and 45 per cent, while the reduction in the male death rates for corresponding groups in this age range was generally not so great in the last decade. For age groups beyond 45 years, the decline in the death rates was less than 25 per cent for this ten year period. Infant mortality rate fell from 36.3 per thousand live births in 1961 to 18.4 in 1971.

The crude birth rate fell from 25.3 per thousand in 1966 to below 20 per thousand in 1971. The age-specific birth rates for the quinquennial groups 15-19, 20-24, . . . , 45-49 were found to be 17.0, 145.6, 243.8, 162.5, 83.6, 28.4 and 3.6, respectively. Compared with the 1966 age-specific birth rates, it could be noted that greater reduction in the birth rates was recorded in the less fertile age groups of less than 25 years or over 35 years of age. The reduction in the birth rates of younger age groups of 15-19 and 20-24 might partly be attributed

to the fact that young women tended to get married a few years later in recent years than a decade or so ago.

It was estimated for the ten-year period from mid-1961 to mid-1971 the total number of permanent immigrants entered Hong Kong legally was about 140,000 and the total number of permanent emigrants from Hong Kong was probably a few thousand higher. The total net negative balance of migration for the period was believed not to exceed 3,400. The number of illegal immigrants, based on the figures of their registering for identity cards, was estimated to average about 10,400 persons a year during the period 1963-1970.<sup>(8)</sup>

In making the projections, the 1971 Census data were firstly adjusted for error, graduated and brought forward to mid-1971.

**Table 6.10**                      **Adjusted Age and Sex Distribution  
of Population on July 1, 1971**

Age Group	Males	Females
0 - 4	209,300	196,700
5 - 9	262,700	252,000
10 - 14	271,800	259,600
15 - 19	227,300	215,100
20 - 24	177,400	164,400
25 - 29	116,500	95,400
30 - 34	115,200	94,400
35 - 39	133,100	118,300
40 - 44	134,900	123,800
45 - 49	116,200	108,400
50 - 54	101,300	94,600
55 - 59	76,700	78,900
60 - 64	54,700	64,300
65 - 69	28,400	47,200
70 - 74	18,400	36,100
75 - 79	7,600	21,500
80 - 84	3,900	11,400
85 and over	1,800	6,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,057,200</b>	<b>1,988,100</b>

Source: Hong Kong Population Projections, 1971-1991, p. 30.

(8) The number of illegal immigrants was estimated to be about 25,700 and 69,600 persons for 1961 and 1962, respectively.

The future mortality rates were assumed to remain unchanged at the 1971 level for the low projection, and to continue to fall at a slower tempo with differential rates of decline among different age groups for high and medium projections. In estimating the declining age-specific death rates for the future years, annual mortality indices between 1961-1971 for each of the broad age groups 0, 1-4, 5-24, 25-39, 40-54 and 55 and over were computed and fitted to an exponential equation.<sup>(9)</sup> Then the ratios of the mortality index for future years to the 1971 mortality index of the same age group were computed from the mortality trend equation of that group, and finally the estimated future age-specific death rates for males and for females were derived by applying the 1971 age-specific death rates to the ratios.

**Table 6.11**                      **Projected Age-Specific Death Rates**  
**(1981 and 1991)**

Age Group	1981		1991	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0	18.7	13.8	16.4	12.1
1 - 4	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.5
5 - 9	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3
10 - 14	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3
15 - 19	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.4
20 - 24	0.9	0.6	0.8	0.6
25 - 29	1.4	0.7	1.3	0.7
30 - 34	1.8	0.9	1.7	0.9
35 - 39	2.4	1.4	2.3	1.3
40 - 44	4.0	2.2	3.8	2.1
45 - 49	5.9	3.2	5.6	3.0
50 - 54	10.1	5.3	9.6	5.0
55 - 59	17.6	7.8	17.2	7.6
60 - 64	28.7	11.6	28.0	11.4
65 and over	62.7	40.4	61.3	39.5

Source: Hong Kong Population Projections, 1971-1991, pp. 26-27.

(9) The trend equations for the broad age groups 0, 1-4, 5-24, 25-39, 40-54, and 55 and over were found, in that order, to be:

$$Y = 1.731623X^{-0.352292}$$

$$Y = 2.696902X^{-0.689265}$$

$$Y = 1.563985X^{-0.283255}$$

$$Y = 1.325554X^{-0.174875}$$

$$Y = 1.243038X^{-0.133802}$$

$$Y = 1.106575X^{-0.059407}$$

The fertility rates were also assumed to fall further at a slower rate and with differential speed for different child-bearing ages. A study of the fertility rates of individual child-bearing ages during the three years 1969 to 1971 revealed that the fertility rates were declining, except that some increases were noted for ages below 18 and for ages 26-28. Assumptions on future age-specific fertility rates are summarized in Table 6.12.

**Table 6.12**                      **Assumptions on Future Age-Specific Fertility Rates**  
**(1981 and 1991)**

Age Group	High Projection		Medium Projection		Low Projection	
	1981 (% change over 1971)	1991 (% change over 1981)	1981 (% change over 1971)	1991 (% change over 1981)	1981 (% change over 1971)	1991 (% change over 1981)
15 - 23	-4%	0	-14%	-5%	-20%	-5%
24 - 28	+3%	+2%	-8%	-3%	-15%	-10%
29 - 34	-10%	-5%	-20%	-10%	-25%	-15%
35 - 49	-15%	-10%	-25%	-15%	-40%	-15%

Source: Hong Kong Population Projections, 1971-1991, p. 9.

From the 1971 age-specific fertility rates for individual years and the assumed rates of change in fertility rates for various child-bearing age groups, the projected age-specific fertility rates for individuals years were computed for the high, medium, and low projections. The average sex-ratio at birth was found to be 1,064 boys to 1,000 girls from birth registration records for years 1968 to 1971, and this ratio was assumed to remain the same for the projection period 1971-1991.

On the balance of migration, an annual net gain of 18,000, 10,000 and 3,000 persons was assumed for high, medium and low projections, respectively. It was further assumed that the number of legal immigrants would balance the number of emigrants every year and that the age and sex distribution of the net gain by migration in future years would be similar to the following age and sex distribution of illegal immigrants who registered for identity cards from mid-1969 to mid-1971.

**Table 6.13 Assumed Age and Sex Distribution of Net Migration  
(Percentages)**

Age Group	Males	Females
	(Sex ratio: 2,791 males to 1,000 females)	
Under 15	9.3	22.2
15 – 24	53.8	35.6
25 – 39	23.2	18.0
40 – 54	8.8	13.9
55 and over	4.9	10.3
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: Hong Kong Population Projections, 1971-1991, p. 28.

Based on these assumptions, the low projection gave an eight per cent increase of the population between 1971-1976, and estimated the 1981 population at slightly below 4,750,000 persons. The medium projection figures were about 50,000 persons more than the low projection for 1976 and 120,000 persons more for 1981. The high projection averaged an increase of two and one-half per cent per year for 1971-1981 and put the estimated population total beyond five million for 1981.

**Table 6.14 The Third Population Projection of Hong Kong  
(1971-1991)**

Year	High Projection	Medium Projection	Low Projection
1971	4,045,300	4,045,300	4,045,300
1972	4,122,800	4,114,400	4,106,900
1973	4,203,700	4,185,800	4,170,000
1974	4,288,300	4,260,100	4,234,900
1976	4,471,100	4,417,800	4,370,600
1981	5,010,900	4,865,500	4,741,200
1991	6,336,600	5,895,500	5,526,200

Source: Hong Kong Population Projections, 1971-1991.

The mid-1974 population was estimated to be 4,248,700, which was between the low projection figure 4,234,900 and the medium projection figure 4,260,100. If the growth of Hong Kong population continues to go along with the projections, it would be reasonable to have a population of around 4,800,000 persons for Hong Kong in 1981. Table 6.15 shows the age and sex distribution of the Hong Kong population in 1981 as projected by the low and medium projections.

**Table 6.15**                      **The Age and Sex Distribution of the  
Projected 1981 Population of Hong Kong  
(in thousands, low and medium projections)**

Age Group	Medium Projection			Low Projection		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
0 - 4	272.2	257.1	529.3	252.3	238.6	490.9
5 - 9	221.9	209.7	431.6	215.4	203.9	419.3
10 - 14	210.3	197.9	408.2	208.4	196.3	404.7
15 - 19	269.3	254.8	524.1	264.4	252.3	516.7
20 - 24	290.1	263.3	553.4	279.1	260.1	539.2
25 - 29	244.3	218.0	462.3	231.5	214.9	446.4
30 - 34	182.3	165.4	347.7	174.6	163.5	338.1
35 - 39	117.8	95.7	213.5	114.2	94.7	208.9
40 - 44	114.9	94.0	208.9	112.4	93.1	205.5
45 - 49	129.7	116.7	246.4	127.7	115.8	243.5
50 - 54	127.9	120.6	248.5	126.0	119.6	245.6
55 - 59	105.5	103.5	209.0	103.9	102.5	206.4
60 - 64	85.2	87.9	173.1	84.0	87.2	171.2
65 - 69	57.8	70.4	128.2	56.7	69.6	126.3
70 - 74	35.6	53.0	88.6	34.9	52.4	87.3
75 - 79	15.0	34.2	49.2	14.6	33.8	48.4
80 - 84	7.3	21.0	28.3	7.2	20.8	28.0
85 and over	3.1	12.1	15.2	3.0	11.8	14.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,490.2</b>	<b>2,375.3</b>	<b>4,865.5</b>	<b>2,410.3</b>	<b>2,330.9</b>	<b>4,741.2</b>

Source: Hong Kong Population Projections, 1971-1991.



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