

**Follow-up to the Subcommittee meeting on 10 July 2007
to Study the Subject of Combating Poverty**

1. Non-older-person households with monthly household income below \$4,000

The number of non-older-person households (i.e. persons aged below 65 living alone or with other persons also aged below 65) with monthly household income below \$4,000 increased by 76% from 44 105 in 1996 to 77 737 in 2006. Salient characteristics of these households in 2006 are outlined below.

- ♦ Analysed by household size, 1-person and 2-person households made up 76% of non-older-person households with monthly household income below \$4,000, higher than the territorial figure of 41%.
- ♦ The average size of household was 1.9, lower than the territorial average of 3.
- ♦ The proportion of those without working members was 76%, higher than the territorial figure of 18%.
- ♦ 53% (i.e. 40 839 households) of these non-older-person households were owner-occupiers, comparable to the territorial figure.
- ♦ The proportion of households having at least one member from the Mainland having resided in Hong Kong for less than 7 years was 6%, slightly lower than the territorial figure of 7%.
- ♦ The proportion of single parent households was 6%, higher than the territorial figure of 3%.

There were 144 414 persons in these non-older-person households in 2006. Among them,

- ♦ some 22% were in the age group of 45-54 and another 28% aged 55-64;
- ♦ females outnumbered males, with a sex ratio of 877 males per 1000 females; and
- ♦ over one-third (or 36%) were home-makers and retirees.

More detailed statistics of these non-older-person households and their members are in Annex 1.

2. Persons with monthly employment income below \$4,000.

The number of working persons with monthly income from main employment below \$4,000 increased from 300 030 in 1996 to 390 562 in 2006. Excluding foreign domestic helpers, there were 196 868 such persons in 1996 and 215 455 persons in 2006. Characteristics of these working persons (excluding foreign domestic helpers) in 2006 are highlighted below.

- ♦ There were more women than men in this group, with a sex ratio of 739 males per 1000 females.
- ♦ Some 51% were with education attainment at lower secondary or below.
- ♦ Half were working as service workers/shop sales workers or in elementary occupations in wholesale, retail and import/export trades, restaurants and hotels; and community, social and personal services.

Detailed statistics are shown in Annex 2.

Information on whether a person is working full-time and part-time was not collected in the population census/by-census but only in the General Household Surveys (GHS) conducted continuously. According to the results of the GHS in 2006, about 51% of working persons (excluding foreign domestic workers) with monthly income below \$4,000 were on part-time employment¹ voluntarily.

¹ A complete framework for defining full-time and part-time workers is not available for the General Household Survey (GHS). Notwithstanding this, as data on the hours of work and the reasons for the insufficient hours of work are collected, the number of persons voluntarily engaged in part-time employment can be roughly estimated. These persons refer to employed persons who do not satisfied with the definition of under-employed but with working hours less than 35 (excluding foreign domestic helpers and unpaid family workers), i.e. including (i) those employed persons who worked less than 35 hours of work during the seven days before enumeration due to reasons other than slack work, material shortage, mechanical breakdown and inability to find a full-time job; and (2) those employed persons who worked less than 35 due to unavailability for additional work in the seven days before enumeration and not seeking additional work in the 30 days before enumeration.

**Key Statistics of Non-older-person Households
with Monthly Household Income Below \$4,000 in 2006**

	Non-older-person Households with Monthly Household Income below \$4,000		All Domestic Households	
	Number	%	Number	%
i. Number of households	77 737		2 226 546	
ii. Number of households by household size				
1 person	40 605	52.2	367 653	16.5
2 persons	18 657	24.0	535 846	24.1
3 persons and more	18 475	23.8	1 323 047	59.4
iii. Average domestic household size	1.9		3.0	
iv. Number of households by type of household				
With working members	18 344	23.6	1 835 740	82.4
Without working members	59 393	76.4	390 806	17.6
v. Number of households with tenure of accommodation being owner-occupier	40 839	52.7*	1 174 132	52.8*
vi. Number of households having at least one member from Mainland having resided in Hong Kong for less than 7 years	4 692	6.0	148 617	6.7
vii. Number of single parent households	4 495	5.8	72 223	3.2
viii. Number of household members	144 414		6 636 909	
ix. Number of household members by age group				
Less than 15 years	19 867	13.8	936 013	14.1
15-24 years	18 289	12.7	887 266	13.4
25-34 years	12 192	8.4	1 030 335	15.5
35-44 years	22 567	15.6	1 219 204	18.4
45-54 years	31 722	22.0	1 155 816	17.4
55-64 years	39 777	27.5	641 050	9.7
65 years and over	0	0.0	767 225	11.6
x. Number of household members by sex				
Male	67 461	46.7	3 148 565	47.4
Female	76 953	53.3	3 488 344	52.6
Sex ratio (the number of males per 1 000 females)	877		903	
xi. Number of household members by activity status				
Working	19 385	13.4	3 294 823	49.6
Unemployed	18 674	12.9	203 957	3.1
Home-maker	27 312	18.9	641 232	9.7
Student	31 857	22.1	1 252 828	18.9
Retired person	24 741	17.1	895 626	13.5
Others	22 445	15.5	348 443	5.3

Note: * The figures exclude domestic household living on board vessels.

**Key Statistics of Working Persons ^(#)
with Monthly Income from Main Employment Below \$4,000 in 2006**

	Working Persons with Monthly Income from Main Employment below \$4,000		All Working Persons	
	Number	%	Number	%
i. Number of working persons	390 562		3 344 986	
ii. Number of working persons (after excluding foreign domestic helpers)	215 455		3 157 837	
iii. Number of working persons by sex				
Male	92 683	23.7	1 795 676	53.7
Female	297 879	76.3	1 549 310	46.3
Sex ratio (the number of males per 1 000 females)	311		1 159	
iv. Number of working persons (after excluding foreign domestic helpers) by sex				
Male	91 582	42.5	1 794 107	56.8
Female	123 873	57.5	1 363 730	43.2
Sex ratio (the number of males per 1 000 females)	739		1 316	
v. Number of working persons by educational attainment (Highest level attended)				
No schooling /Pre-primary	12 466	3.2	52 431	1.6
Primary	68 801	17.6	407 342	12.2
Lower secondary	89 194	22.8	633 896	19.0
Upper secondary	102 824	26.3	1 033 920	30.9
Sixth Form	45 055	11.5	209 494	6.3
Post-secondary: Diploma/Certificate	11 991	3.1	151 934	4.5
Post-secondary: Sub-degree course	15 420	3.9	163 423	4.9
Post-secondary: Degree course	44 811	11.5	692 546	20.7
vi. Number of working persons (after excluding foreign domestic helpers) by educational attainment (Highest level attended)				
No schooling /Pre-primary	9 390	4.4	49 034	1.6
Primary	48 165	22.4	385 654	12.2
Lower secondary	51 698	24.0	594 883	18.8
Upper secondary	53 517	24.8	981 037	31.1
Sixth Form	12 654	5.9	174 507	5.5
Post-secondary: Diploma/Certificate	7 881	3.7	147 456	4.7
Post-secondary: Sub-degree course	11 069	5.1	158 783	5.0
Post-secondary: Degree course	21 081	9.8	666 483	21.1
vii. Number of working persons by industry and occupation				
Service workers and shop sales workers in wholesale, retail and import / export trades, restaurants and hotel	39 702	10.2	338 972	10.1
Elementary occupations in wholesale, retail and import / export trades, restaurants and hotel	17 173	4.4	78 189	2.3
Service workers and shop sales workers in community, social and personal services	13 273	3.4	143 136	4.3
Elementary occupations in community, social and personal services	213 726	54.7	332 835	10.0

**Key Statistics of Working Persons ^(#)
with Monthly Income from Main Employment Below \$4,000 in 2006 (Cont'd)**

	Working Persons with Monthly Income from Main Employment below \$4,000		All Working Persons	
	Number	%	Number	%
viii. Number of working persons (after excluding foreign domestic helpers) by industry and occupation				
Service workers and shop sales workers in wholesale, retail and import / export trades, restaurants and hotel	39 702	18.4	338 972	10.7
Elementary occupations in wholesale, retail and import / export trades, restaurants and hotel	17 173	8.0	78 189	2.5
Service workers and shop sales workers in community, social and personal services	13 273	6.2	143 126	4.5
Elementary occupations in community, social and personal services	38 639	17.9	145 818	4.6

Note: # The figures exclude unpaid family workers.