

For information

**Legislative Council Subcommittee
to Study the Subject of Combating Poverty**

**Indicators of Poverty
- An update for 2005 -**

Background

The Commission on Poverty (CoP) agreed in its earlier meetings to have a set of multi-dimensional indicators for monitoring the poverty situation in Hong Kong at a macro level, and to update these indicators regularly. Moreover, these macro poverty indicators are meant to give a broad indication of how the poverty situation evolves over time and to highlight areas for more focused study. They provide additional reference information for bureaux and departments to formulate and evaluate policies to assist the needy. An update of these indicators up to the third quarter of 2005 was released in CoP Paper 26/2005 and discussed at the CoP meeting on 25 November 2005.

Purpose

2. This paper provides an annual update of the poverty indicators for the year 2005. The set of poverty indicators is listed at Annex I. Detailed analysis of their performance is given at the Annex II, with the data listed at the Statistical Appendix. Members are invited to note the performance of the poverty indicators in 2005 and the highlights of analysis given below.

Highlights of analysis

3. There was a general improvement in the poverty indicators, in tandem with the sustained revival in economic activity. Among the 18 life-cycle-based poverty indicators, most of them exhibited improvements in 2005. This was contributed in part by the sustained economic upturn, and in part by the continued effort of the Government and other community groups in the provision of social services. As to the six district-based indicators, all the districts attained improvements one way or the other in 2005. The improvements had been most distinct for Sham Shui Po and North District among the less well-off ones.

4. The 12 indicators under the following 10 groups exhibited improved performance in 2005 :

- Unemployed persons (Indicator 11)
- Persons unemployed for six months or longer, and 12 months or longer (Indicator 12)
- Employed persons working 35 hours or above per week and with monthly employment earnings less than 50% of the median (Indicator 13)
- Persons living in households with income below average Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) payment (Indicators 2 and 10)
- School attendance rate of youth aged 16-19 (Indicator 5)
- Persons aged 20-24 with tertiary education (Indicator 6)
- Non-engaged youth aged 15-19 and 20-24 (Indicator 7)
- Elderly patients under the medical fee waiver mechanism of public hospitals and clinics (Indicator 17)
- Persons living in private temporary housing and private shared units (Indicators 8 and 18)
- Children aged 0-5 and 6-14 with single parent and in households with income below average CSSA payment (Indicator 3)

5. On the other hand, mixed performance was seen for the six indicators under the following two groups:

- Persons living in workless households (Indicators 1 and 9)

The economic upturn since mid-2003 had reduced significantly the number of persons living in workless households in 2004. Nevertheless the pace of improvement slowed down in 2005, with a slight decrease in the total number and percentage share but an increase in number and proportion of people for some younger age groups (those aged 0-5 and 15-19).

It is recognised that “workless” does not necessarily imply “poverty”. In fact, most of the workless households have household heads aged 60 or above and / or being economically inactive. They could have relied on income other than employment earnings, such as welfare assistance for the poor and asset income for the richer ones. It is estimated that two-thirds of the persons aged 0-59 living in workless households were classified as living in the low-income households with monthly household income

below average CSSA payment, while the other one-third was not. Yet participation of these workless people in the economy, apart from generating income, would also constitute a useful role model especially for children and youngsters.

□ CSSA recipients (Indicators 4, 14, 15 and 16)

The size of CSSA recipients decreased marginally in both absolute and proportionate terms. But a more detailed analysis of the recipients by age group reveals that the shares of children CSSA recipients aged 0-5 and those young recipients aged 15-21 in the population of the corresponding age groups edged higher between end-2004 and end-2005.

On the other hand, the shares of children recipients aged 6-14, able-bodied recipients aged 15-59 and elderly recipients aged 60 or above in the population of the respective age groups all edged lower, while that of disability/ill health recipients aged 15-59 remained unchanged.

However, it is worth noting that while the number of able-bodied recipients aged 15-59 and having been on CSSA for less than one year decreased from 26 000 at end-2004 to 19 000 at end-2005 (largely because more jobs were available and fewer of such people needed to apply for CSSA), the number of those able-bodied recipients who had been on CSSA for more than one year increased further from 117 000 to 119 000. Further analysis indicated that able-bodied adults who had been on CSSA for less than three years generally had better chances to benefit from the recent economic recovery and join the labour market again. This points to the importance of getting unemployment CSSA recipients out of the welfare safety net at an early stage (Indicator 14).

6. As to the six district-based indicators, improvements had been widespread across most of the districts in 2005. In particular, 15 out of the 18 districts recorded declines in the proportion of low-income households (Indicator 20) and the unemployment rate (Indicator 24). In aggregate, the number and proportion of low-income households (excluding elderly households), workless households (Indicator 19) and single-parent low-income households (Indicator 21) all fell in 2005. Furthermore, while the overall median monthly employment earnings held stable at \$10,000 (Indicator 23), the overall median monthly household income picked up further to \$15,700 in 2005 (Indicator 22) as total employment increased. Among the 18 districts, seven districts had improved employment earnings and 10

had improved household income. The Central and Western, Eastern and North Districts were the ones with improvements in both indicators.

7. Among the less well-off districts, Sham Shui Po and North District attained improvements in five indicators, while Yau Tsim Mong, Kwai Tsing, Tuen Mun and Tai Po attained four. Yet the performance was less encouraging for Kwun Tong, Yuen Long, Islands and Sha Tin, where only two indicators turned better in the former three districts whilst only one indicator did so in the last district. Viewed from another perspective, in 2005 three districts (Kwai Tsing, Tuen Mun and Yuen Long) were found to have fared less well than the overall average on all the six fronts as represented by Indicators 19-24.

Economic Analysis and Business Facilitation Unit

Financial Secretary's Office

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Indicators of Poverty

Children/youth (aged 0-14 / 15-24)
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Children aged 0-5 and 6-14 living in workless households2. Children aged 0-5 and 6-14 living in households with income below average CSSA payment3. Children aged 0-5 and 6-14 with single parent and in households with income below average CSSA payment4. CSSA recipients aged 0-5 and 6-14, and those aged 15-21 who are on child rate5. School attendance rate of youth aged 16-196. Persons aged 20-24 with tertiary education7. Non-engaged youth aged 15-19 and 20-248. Children aged 0-5 and 6-14 living in private temporary housing and private shared units
Working people / adults (aged 15-59)
<ol style="list-style-type: none">9. Persons aged 15-19 and 20-59 living in workless households10. Persons aged 15-19 and 20-59 living in households with income below average CSSA payment11. Unemployed persons aged 15-19, 20-24 and 25-5912. Persons unemployed for 6 months or longer, and 12 months or longer13. Employed persons aged 15-19, 20-24 and 25-59 working 35 hours or above per week and with monthly employment earnings less than 50% of the median14. Adult able-bodied CSSA recipients having been on CSSA for 1 or less, and longer than 1 year15. Adult recipients of permanent disability/temporary disability/ill health CSSA
Older people (aged 60 or above)
<ol style="list-style-type: none">16. Recipients of old-age CSSA17. Number of elderly patients under the medical fee waiver mechanism of public hospitals and clinics18. Elderly persons living in private temporary housing and private shared units
Community
<ol style="list-style-type: none">19. Workless households by district20. Households with income below average CSSA payment by district21. Single-parent households with income below average CSSA payment by district22. Median monthly household income by district23. Median monthly employment earnings by district24. Unemployed persons by district

**Indicators of Poverty
- An update for 2005 -**

Background

A set of selected poverty indicators up to the third quarter of 2005 was released in CoP Paper 26/2005 and discussed at the CoP meeting on 25 November 2005. Members generally agreed that instead of a single income-based indicator, a set of multi-dimensional indicators should be used for monitoring the poverty situation in Hong Kong at a macro level, supplemented by the more detailed and specific indicators at the district level. Moreover, the poverty indicators selected should not be simplistically employed as a tool for assessing the progress of the Government's poverty alleviation work, as the indicators themselves particularly those involving short-term movements, are subject to the influence of a host of factors other than Government policies and actions.

2. The basic idea behind the multi-dimensional approach is that given the general affluence of the Hong Kong economy, it would not be appropriate to measure the size of the poor based on a single income-based indicator or a poverty line alone. We should also be concerned about the other relevant aspects of people's living, and be vigilant of the risk of certain groups of people falling into poverty. The gist of the considerations behind the choice of the poverty indicators has already been discussed in CoP Paper 26/2005 and will not be repeated here.

3. As stated in CoP Paper 26/2005, the set of selected poverty indicators would be updated on an annual basis. The purpose of this paper is to present the figures compiled for the whole year of 2005, and to incorporate, where feasible, the suggestions from Members about these indicators. The following paragraphs will give a consolidated view of the performance of the poverty indicators by segregating the life-cycle-based Indicators No. 1-18 into those which exhibited improvements and those which had mixed performance in 2005. The community-based Indicators No. 19-24 will be discussed separately, as performance of the individual indicators varied among districts. The detailed statistics for the indicators are listed at the Statistical Appendix.

Indicators exhibiting improvements in 2005

Employment and earnings / income

4. The sustained robust economic growth had contributed to further improvement in the labour market conditions. The overall unemployment rate went down from an average of 6.8% in 2004 to that of 5.6% in 2005, with an addition of 77 000 jobs for the year. Meanwhile, labour earnings in terms of payroll per person engaged bounced up by 3.5% in money terms, reversing the downtrend in the preceding three years. The trend has been extended well into 2006, with the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate falling to 5.2% in the first quarter and further to 4.9% in March-May.

5. It is against this favourable economic background that the indicators relating to employment and earnings/income fared generally well in 2005, as summarised below :

- *Unemployed persons aged 15-19, 20-24 and 25-59* (Indicator 11)
The number of unemployed persons aged 15-59 went down from 236 000 in 2004 to 196 000 in 2005, leading to a 1.2 percentage points fall in the unemployment rate for persons of this age group to 5.7%. The improvement was most distinct for the youngsters aged 15-19, followed by persons in the prime working age group of 25-59.
- *Persons unemployed for six months or longer, and 12 months or longer* (Indicator 12)
The problem of long-term unemployment was significantly relieved upon the sustained economic upturn. The number of persons unemployed for six months or longer dropped from 83 000 in 2004 to 61 000 in 2005. The decline was equally marked for those unemployed for 12 months or longer, from 50 000 to 37 000.
- *Employed persons aged 15-19, 20-24 and 25-59 working 35 hours or above per week and with monthly employment earnings less than 50% of the median* (Indicator 13)
There was an across-the-board decline in both the number and proportion of full-time workers (i.e. working 35 hours or above per week) earning less than 50% of the median employment earnings in 2005. Taking the full-time low-income employed persons aged 15-59 together, there were

161 000 of them in 2005, representing 6.0% of the total full-time workforce of this age group, improved considerably from the corresponding figures of 181 000 and 6.9% in 2004. In proportionate terms, the low-income workers were still concentrated among the younger age group of 15-19, conceivably due to their lesser working experience in the labour market.

Nevertheless, it is noticed that less than one-fifth (28 000 or 17%) of these full-time low-income workers actually lived in the households with income below the average Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) payment in 2005. This means that most of the low-income workers either lived on their own or there were other household members earning better income or other sources of income, and hence they did not fall into the low-income household category.

□ *Persons living in households with income below average CSSA payment (Indicators 2 and 10)*

Taking these two indicators together, there were 729 000 persons aged 0-59 living in households with income below average CSSA payment in 2005, representing 13.0% of the population of this age group. These were much reduced from the corresponding figures of 806 000 and 14.4% in 2004, as contributed by improved employment and pay conditions. The improvement took place across all age groups, namely 0-5, 6-14, 15-19 and 20-59.

Therefore, contrary to the misconception in some quarters, the set of multi-dimensional indicators is able to indicate the size of the poor should household income be used as the sole criterion, i.e. a total of 729 000 persons among those aged 0-59. Taking into account also older persons aged 60 or above, the size of the poor would be 1.03 million in 2005. This is close to the estimate of 1.13 million by counting all the persons living in households with income below 50% of the median household income, which is one of the criteria used by the Hong Kong Council of Social Services (HKCSS) in sizing the poor. Yet HKCSS is also of the view that income alone is not adequate for reflecting the situation of poverty in an affluent society like Hong Kong. Attention should be paid to the wider social and preventive aspects of poverty as well.

Education

6. Expenditure on education has taken up the largest share of the Government's total expenditure, amounting to \$55.6 billion or 24% of the total in 2005/06. This has contributed to a continuous upgrade of the education and skill levels of local workforce, thereby strengthening their capability in meeting the requirements of a knowledge-based economy. Coupled with the environment of a free and fair society, education is an effective channel for upward social mobility and for avoiding entrenched poverty.

7. The education-related indicators have improved steadily over the years :

□ *School attendance rate of youth aged 16-19 (Indicator 5)*

This indicates the proportion of youth continuing with their study after the nine-year universal free education. The attendance rate picked up further from 80.8% in 2004 to 82.5% in 2005.

□ *Persons aged 20-24 with tertiary education (Indicator 6)*

52.2% of the population of this age group attained tertiary education in 2005, rising further from that of 50.6% in 2004. 62% of them attained degree tertiary education.

Health

8. In 2005/06, the Government's expenditure on health amounted to \$31.6 billion or 14% of the total. This supports a wide range of medical and health care services for the general public at heavily subsidized rates. As to patients who need further financial support, they could apply for the medical fee waiver. Statistics show that the number of elderly people requiring additional support decreased slightly in 2005/06 :

□ *Elderly patients under the medical fee waiver mechanism of public hospitals and clinics (Indicator 17)*

Despite the ageing of the population, the number of elderly people under the medical fee waiver mechanism of public hospitals fell slightly in 2005/06. Actually only a very small proportion of the elderly people used this service, at around 1% for both the age groups of 60 or above and 65 or above.

Living conditions

9. The provision of public housing has contributed substantially to improving the living conditions of the needy :

- *Persons living in private temporary housing and private shared units (Indicators 8 and 18)*

The total number of children aged 0-14 living in such private housing declined further from 17 000 in 2004 to 16 000 in 2005, whereas their share in the population of the corresponding age group held stable at 1.6%. There was, however, some increase in the number of children aged 0-5 living in such housing.

Meanwhile, notwithstanding the gradual ageing of the population, the size of the elderly living in poor housing conditions declined further in both absolute and proportionate terms. In 2005, there were 24 000 elderly persons aged 60 or above living in private temporary housing and private shared units, reduced from that of 28 000 in 2004. Their share in the population of the respective age group likewise fell, from 2.8% to 2.3%. The same trend was observed for those elderly persons aged 65 or above. The corresponding number declined from 21 000 in 2004 to 18 000 in 2005, and the proportion from 2.7% to 2.3%.

Community / family support

10. The improved economic conditions in 2005 also benefited the single-parent low-income families :

- *Children aged 0-5 and 6-14 with single parent and in households with income below the average CSSA payment (Indicator 3)*

The number of children aged 0-14 living in such low-income households stood at 26 000 in 2005, representing a share of 2.5% in the population of this age group. These were smaller than the respective figures of 27 000 and 2.6% in 2004, with the decline occurring among both the 0-5 and 6-14 age groups.

11. Upon continuous efforts of the education sector and the other community groups, the problem of non-engaged youth showed signs of abating :

- *Non-engaged youth aged 15-19 and 20-24* (Indicator 7)
In 2005, there were 11 400 non-engaged youth aged 20-24, equivalent to 2.7% of the population of this age group. These were the same as the figures in 2004. Nevertheless, the number of non-engaged youth aged 15-19 declined to 10 100 or 2.3% of the population of this age group in 2005, from 11 200 and 2.5% in 2004.

Indicators showing mixed performance in 2005

Employment

12. The economic upturn since mid-2003 had reduced significantly the number of persons living in workless households in 2004. Nevertheless the pace of improvement slowed down in 2005, with the numbers and percentage shares rising back for some of the age groups. It could be that despite the better employment conditions, it might still be difficult for some of the workless households to have at least one member getting back to work, due to job matching problems, health reasons, the need to take care of dependent family members, or some other reasons.

- *Persons living in workless households* (Indicators 1 and 9)
In aggregate terms, there was a total of 398 000 persons aged 0-59 living in workless households in 2005, representing 7.1% of the population of this age group, slightly smaller than the corresponding figures of 405 000 and 7.2% in 2004.

Analysed by individual age group, the number and proportion of persons aged 6-14 and 20-59 living in workless households declined in 2005, whereas those in respect of persons aged 0-5 and 15-19 increased. Among persons at the prime working age of 20-59, there were 246 000 or 5.9% of them living in workless households in 2005, somewhat reduced from the figures of 252 000 and 6.1% in 2004.

It is recognised that “workless” does not necessarily imply “poverty”. In fact, most of the workless households have household heads aged 60 or above and / or being economically inactive. They could have relied on income other than employment earnings, such as welfare assistance for the poor and asset income for the richer ones. It is estimated that two-thirds of the persons aged 0-59 living in workless households were classified as living in the low-income households with monthly household income

below average CSSA payment, while the other one-third was not. Yet participation of these workless people in the economy, apart from generating income, would also constitute a useful role model especially for children and youngsters.

Community / family support

13. The number of CSSA recipients could be classified as income-related indicators, as these are the people who are genuinely in need of income support and are receiving it. Thus effectively they are the group being supported by the community mainly in terms of income. Yet a decrease in their numbers and shares should not be interpreted as the community providing less income support to the disadvantaged group. Rather it could indicate more people have been able to move to self-reliance.

□ *CSSA recipients* (Indicators 4, 14, 15 and 16)

The total number of CSSA recipients decreased marginally from 542 000 at end-2004 to 540 000 at end-2005, with their share in total population edging down from 7.8% to 7.7%.

But a more detailed analysis of the recipients by age group reveals that children CSSA recipients aged 0-5 as a share in the population of the corresponding age group increased from 8.2% at end-2004 to 8.5% at end-2005, as did the share of young recipients aged 15-21 who were on child rate, from 7.0% to 7.4%.

On the other hand, the shares of children recipients aged 6-14, able-bodied recipients aged 15-59, and elderly recipients aged 60 or above in the population of the respective age groups all edged lower between end-2004 and end-2005, while that of disability/ill health recipients aged 15-59 remained unchanged. Regarding the elderly recipients, 17.2% of the population aged 60 or above and 19.3% of those aged 65 or above were on CSSA at end-2005, both slightly below the corresponding figures of 17.3% and 19.4% at end-2004. The proportions were considerably smaller for those persons who were on adult rates.

However, it is worth noting that while the number of able-bodied recipients aged 15-59 and having been on CSSA for less than one year decreased from 26 000 at end-2004 to 19 000 at end-2005 (largely because

more jobs were available and fewer of such people needed to apply for CSSA), the number of those able-bodied recipients who had been on CSSA for more than one year increased further from 117 000 to 119 000. Further analysis indicated that able-bodied adults who had been on CSSA for less than three years had better chances to benefit from the recent economic recovery and join the labour market again. This points to the importance of getting unemployment CSSA recipients out of the welfare safety net at an early stage (Indicator 14).

Performance of the district-based poverty indicators in 2005

14. Improvements in the poverty indicators were widespread across most of the districts, especially those pertaining to the proportion of low-income households (Indicator 20) and the unemployment rate (Indicator 24), where 15 out of the 18 districts experienced improvements in 2005. In aggregate, the number of low-income households (excluding elderly households) declined further from 273 000 in 2004 to 259 000 in 2005, and their share in the total number of households from 13.7% to 12.8%. The numbers and proportions of workless households and single-parent low-income households also fell over the period (Indicators 19 and 21).

15. While the overall median monthly employment earnings held stable at \$10,000 (Indicator 23), the overall median monthly household income picked up further to \$15,700 in 2005 (Indicator 22) as total employment increased. Among the 18 districts, seven districts had improved employment earnings and 10 had improved household income. The Central and Western, Eastern and North Districts were the ones with improvements in both indicators.

16. Appendix I shows the performance of the indicators in each of the districts in 2005 relative to that in 2004. While Eastern District had all the six indicators improved in 2005, Sham Shui Po and North District attained improvements in five of them. Concurrently, 10 districts got improvements in four indicators, including Yau Tsim Mong, Kwai Tsing, Tuen Mun and Tai Po. The performance was less encouraging for Kwun Tong, Yuen Long and Islands, where just two indicators turned better as well as for Sha Tin where only one indicator improved.

17. Viewed from another perspective, in 2005 three districts were found to have fared less well than the overall average on all the six fronts as represented by Indicators 19-24 (Appendix II). This, however, still represented an improvement

from the situation in 2004 when five districts had below-average performance. Sham Shui Po and Kwun Tong were the two districts falling out of the “all-six hit” list in 2005. Moreover, the performance of North District also attracted attention. It no longer had a larger proportion of workless households, lower median monthly employment earnings and a higher unemployment rate than the overall average in 2005, though it turned to have proportionately more single-parent low-income households. Yet the situation of Islands District deserved closer monitoring, which had three more employment/income related indicators falling below the overall average in 2005. Also, Kowloon City, Sha Tin and Sai Kung were newly included in the list in 2005, though they had only one indicator faring less well than the overall average.

Concluding remarks

18. It is clear from the analysis for 2005 that economic and employment growth are vital for improving the well-being of the disadvantaged and low-income group in general. Apart from helping them directly with jobs and employment earnings, economic growth also provide the Government with the necessary resources for its spending on education, health, welfare and other social services. Government spending serves an important function of nurturing equal and fair development opportunities for everyone in society.

19. Among the 18 life-cycle-based poverty indicators, most of them exhibited improvements in 2005, with only the few relating to workless households and CSSA recipients showing mixed performance within the sub-groups. As to the district-based indicators, all the districts attained improvements one way or the other in 2005. Among the less well-off ones, the improvements had been most distinct for Sham Shui Po and North District.

A Comparison of the Poverty Indicators between 2004 and 2005

In the following table, the indicators which performed better in 2005 than in 2004 in the individual districts are marked by a “✓”. The shaded rows represent the districts having more distinct improvements in 2005.

Indicator	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Proportion of workless households	Proportion of low-income households	Proportion of single-parent low-income households	Median monthly household income	Median monthly employment earnings	Unemployment rate
Central & Western		✓		✓	✓	✓
Wan Chai	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Eastern	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Southern	✓	✓	✓			✓
Yau Tsim Mong	✓	✓			✓	✓
Sham Shui Po	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Kowloon City		✓	✓	✓		✓
Wong Tai Sin		✓	✓	✓		
Kwun Tong			✓			✓
Kwai Tsing	✓	✓		✓		✓
Tsuen Wan	✓	✓		✓		✓
Tuen Mun	✓	✓	✓			✓
Yuen Long		✓			✓	
North	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Tai Po		✓	✓		✓	✓
Sha Tin						✓
Sai Kung	✓	✓		✓		✓
Islands					✓	✓

A Comparison of the District-based Indicators with the Overall Average

In the following table, the indicators which fared less well in the individual districts as compared to the overall average in 2005 are marked by a “x”. The shaded rows are the districts where all the six indicators showed below average performance.

Indicators	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Proportion higher than the overall average :			Median below the overall median :		
	Workless households	Low-income households	Single-parent households	Monthly household income	Monthly employment earnings	Unemployment rate above the overall average
Yau Tsim Mong	x			x		
Sham Shui Po	x			x	x	x
Kowloon City ^(new)	x					
Wong Tai Sin	x	x		x	x	x
Kwun Tong	x	x		x	x	x
Kwai Tsing	x	x	x	x	x	x
Tuen Mun	x	x	x	x	x	x
Yuen Long	x	x	x	x	x	x
North		x	x	x		
Tai Po		x	x	x		x
Sha Tin ^(new)			x			
Sai Kung ^(new)			x			
Islands	x	x		x		x

Indicators of Poverty

Section I	Indicators for Children / Youth Aged 0-14 and 15-24
Section II	Indicators for Working people / Adults Aged 15-59
Section III	Indicators for Older People Aged 60 or above
Section IV	Indicators for the Community

Notes

- (1) Unless otherwise stated, foreign domestic helpers are excluded from the compilation of all the indicators.
- (2) While data from the General Household Survey of the Census and Statistics Department and from the Hospital Authority are annual average figures, those on recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance from the Social Welfare Department are period-end figures.
- (3) The district-based indicators under Section IV are based on the data collected from the General Household Survey in May - August each year, as well as the mid-year population estimates by District Council district as compiled by the Planning Department.

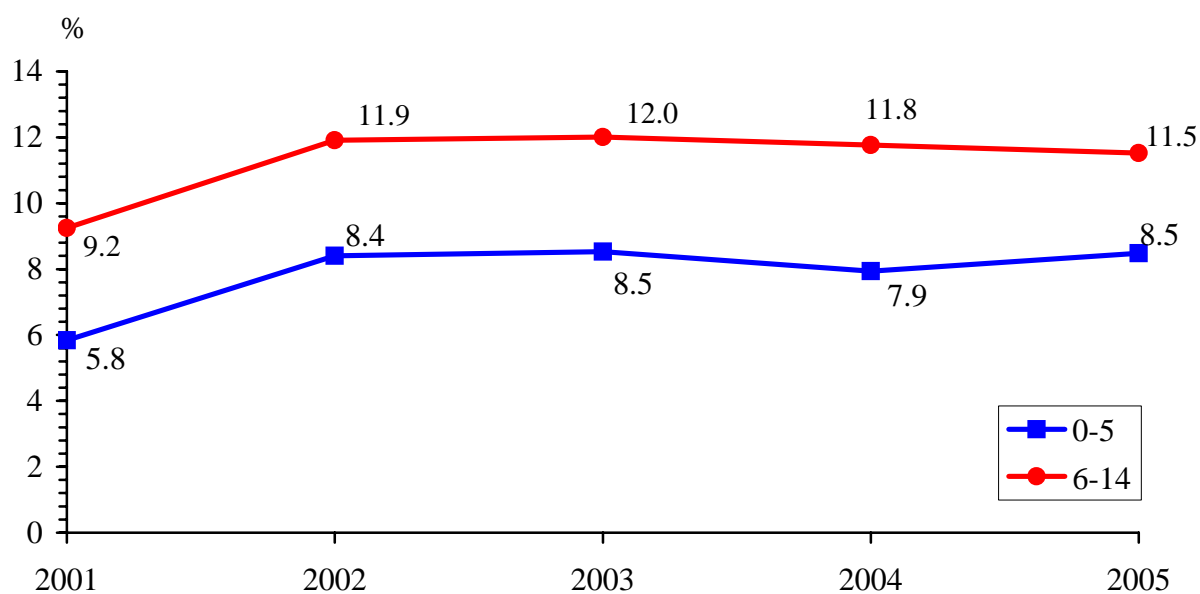
Section I : Indicators for Children / Youth Aged 0-14 and 15-24

1. Children aged 0-5 and 6-14 living in workless households

Number

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
0-5	20 500	28 300	27 600	25 100	27 100
6-14	69 600	89 800	89 200	84 900	80 300

Proportion of children living in workless households by age group

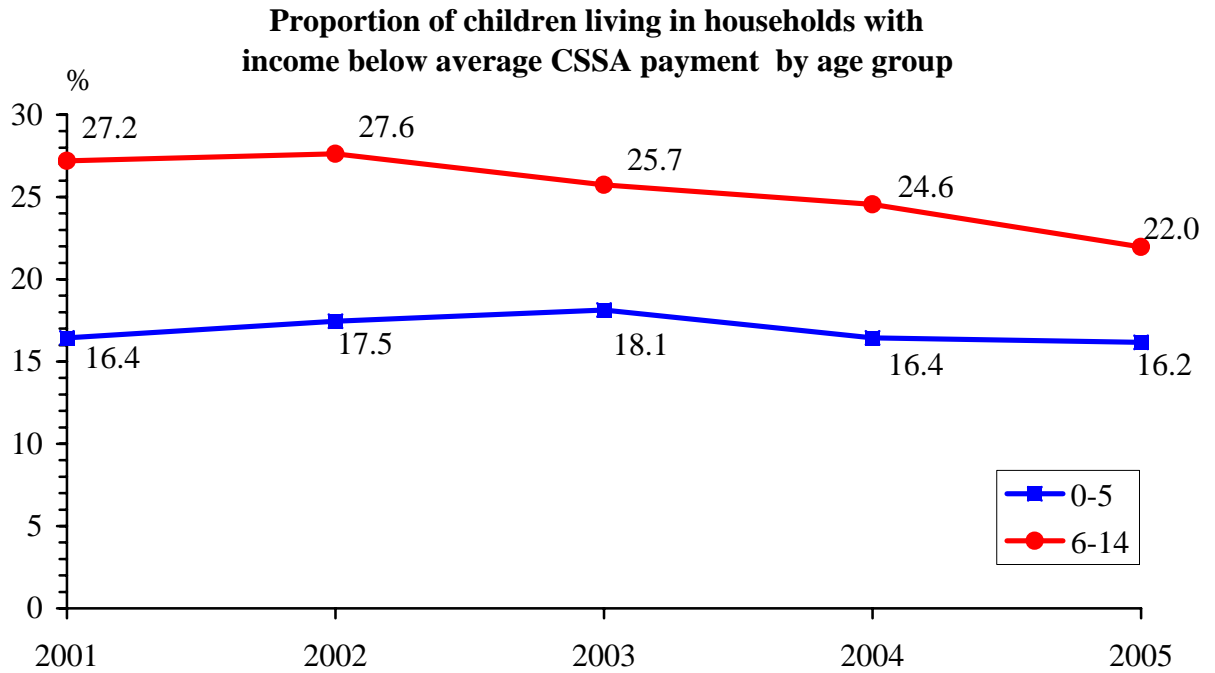


Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

2. Children aged 0-5 and 6-14 living in households with income below average CSSA payment

Number

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
0-5	57 500	58 800	58 800	52 000	51 600
6-14	204 800	208 100	191 300	177 100	152 900



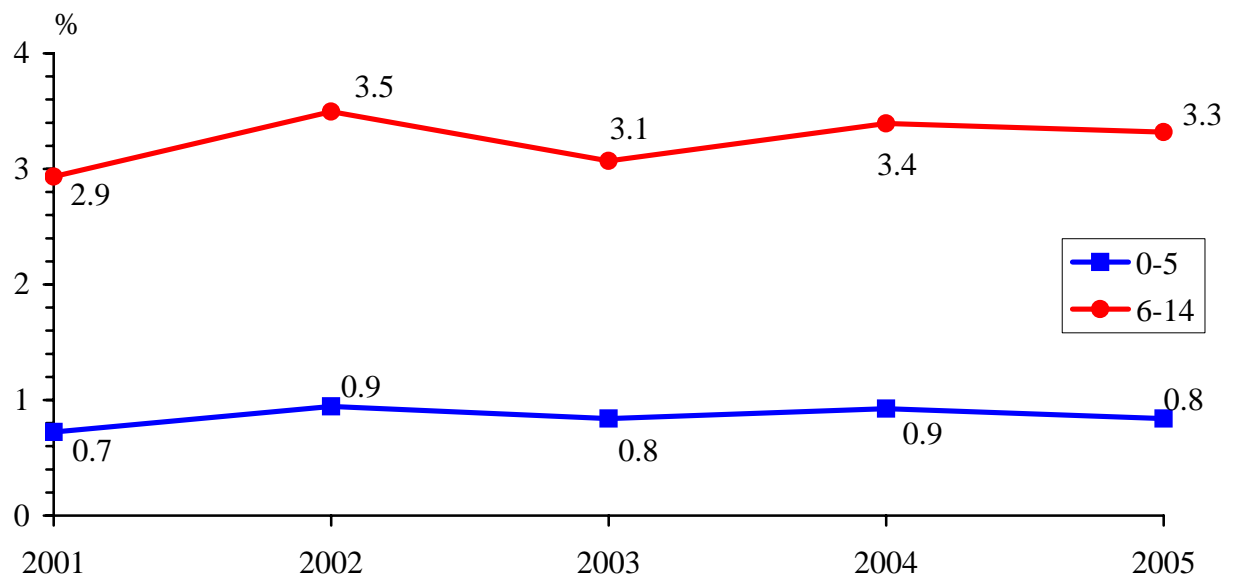
Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

3. Children aged 0-5 and 6-14 with single parent and in households with income below average CSSA payment

Number

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
0-5	2 500	3 200	2 700	2 900	2 700
6-14	22 100	26 300	22 800	24 500	23 100

Proportion of children with single parent and in households with income below average CSSA payment by age group



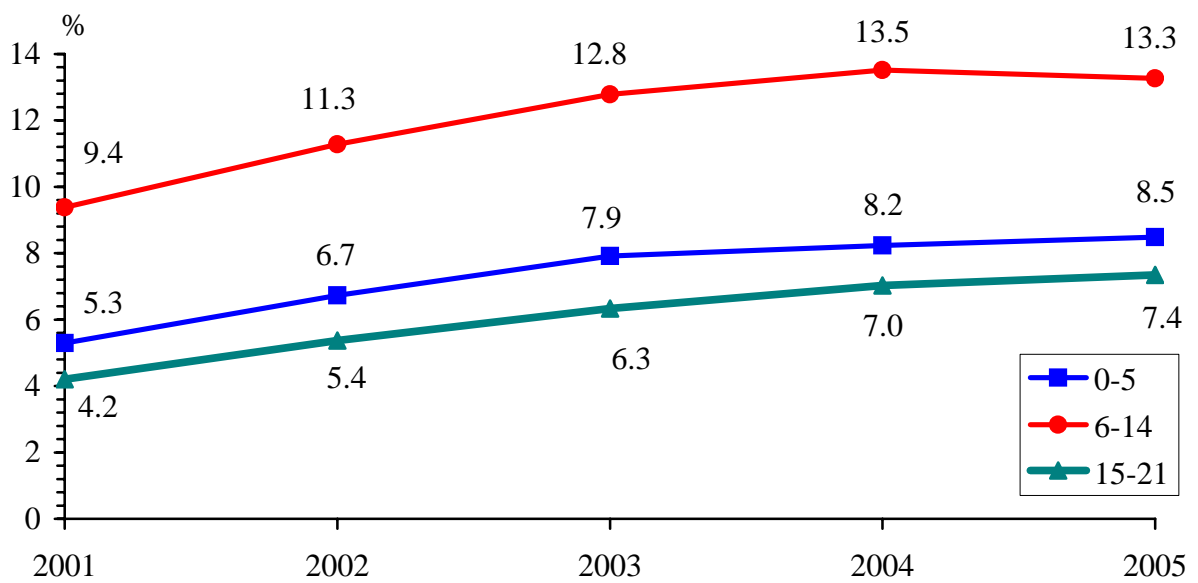
Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

4. CSSA recipients aged 0-5 and 6-14, and those aged 15-21 who are on child rate

Number

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
0-5	18 200	22 300	25 300	26 200	24 900
6-14	70 800	84 400	93 600	95 600	91 800
15-21	26 300	33 000	39 500	44 300	46 400

Proportion of child rate CSSA recipients by age group

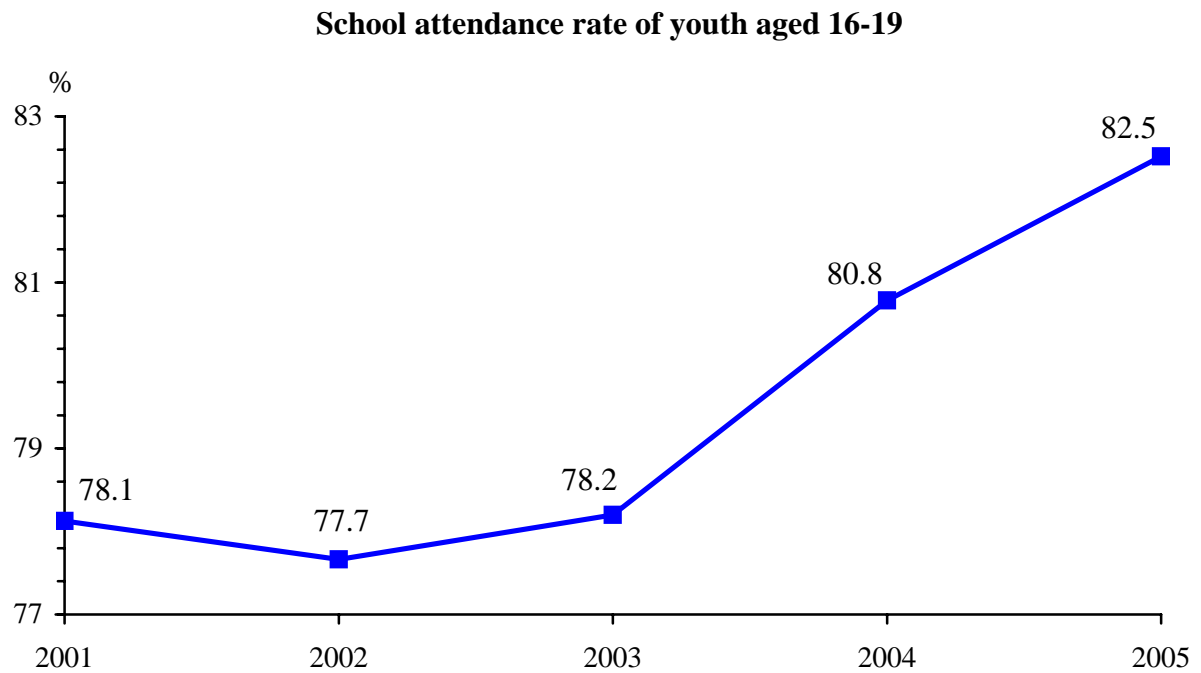


Source : Social Welfare Department.

5. School attendance rate of youth aged 16-19

Number

<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
280 400	274 200	268 900	284 600	293 400



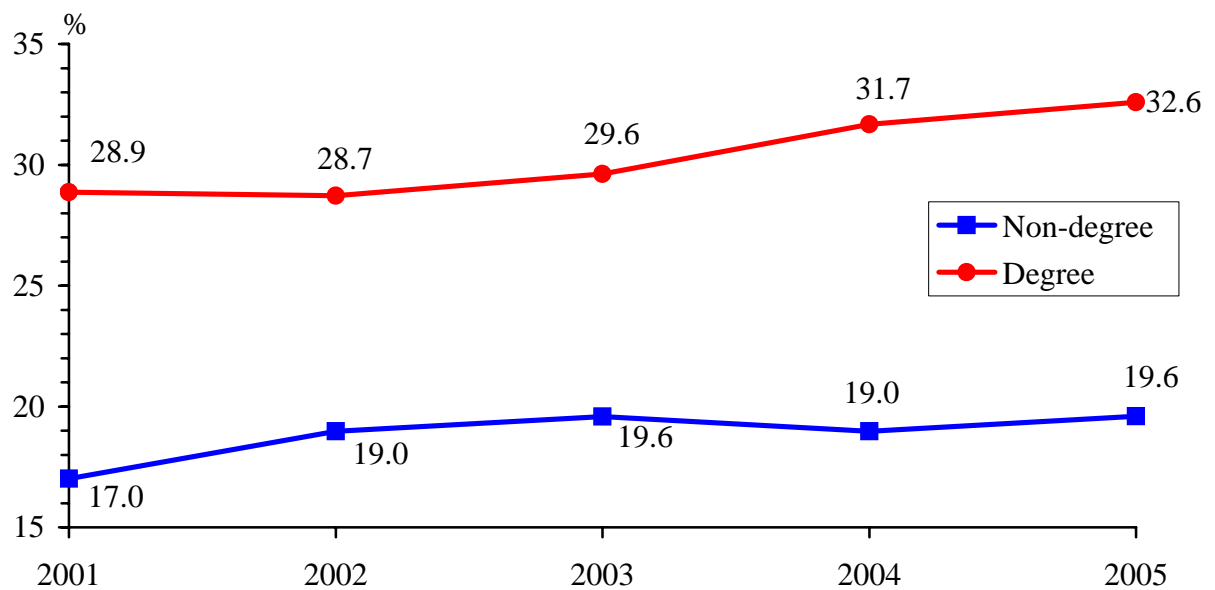
Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

6. Persons aged 20-24 with tertiary education

Number

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
Non-degree	73 900	79 600	80 400	80 200	83 500
Degree	125 400	120 500	121 600	133 900	138 900

Proportion of persons aged 20-24 with tertiary education



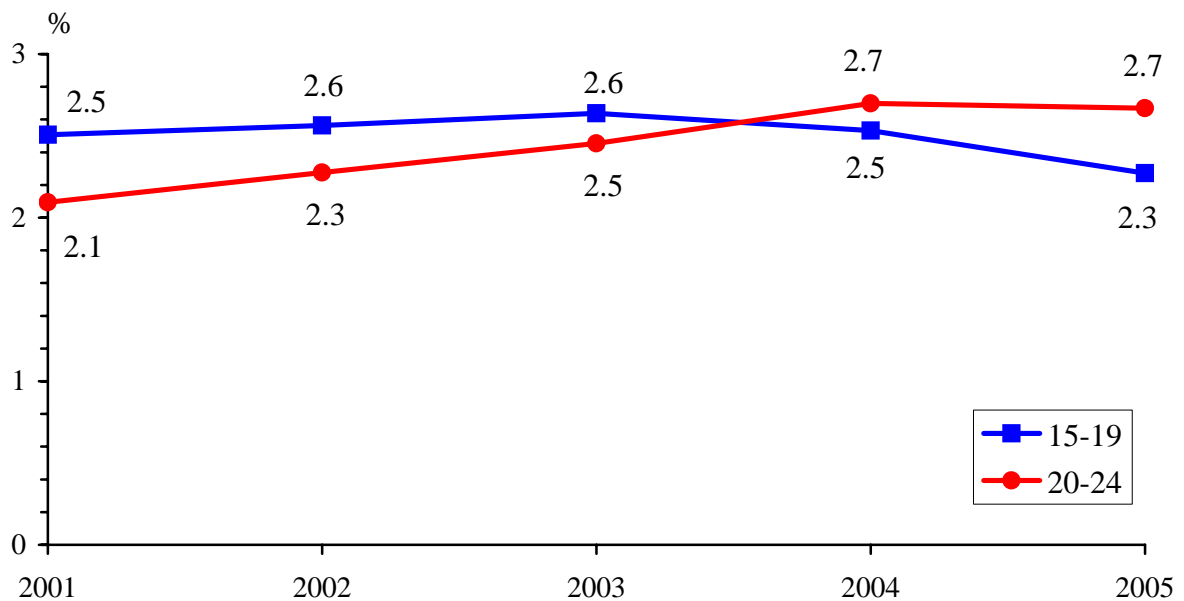
Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

7. Non-engaged youth* aged 15-19 and 20-24

Number

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
15-19	11 100	11 200	11 400	11 200	10 100
20-24	9 100	9 500	10 100	11 400	11 400

Proportion of non-engaged youth by age group



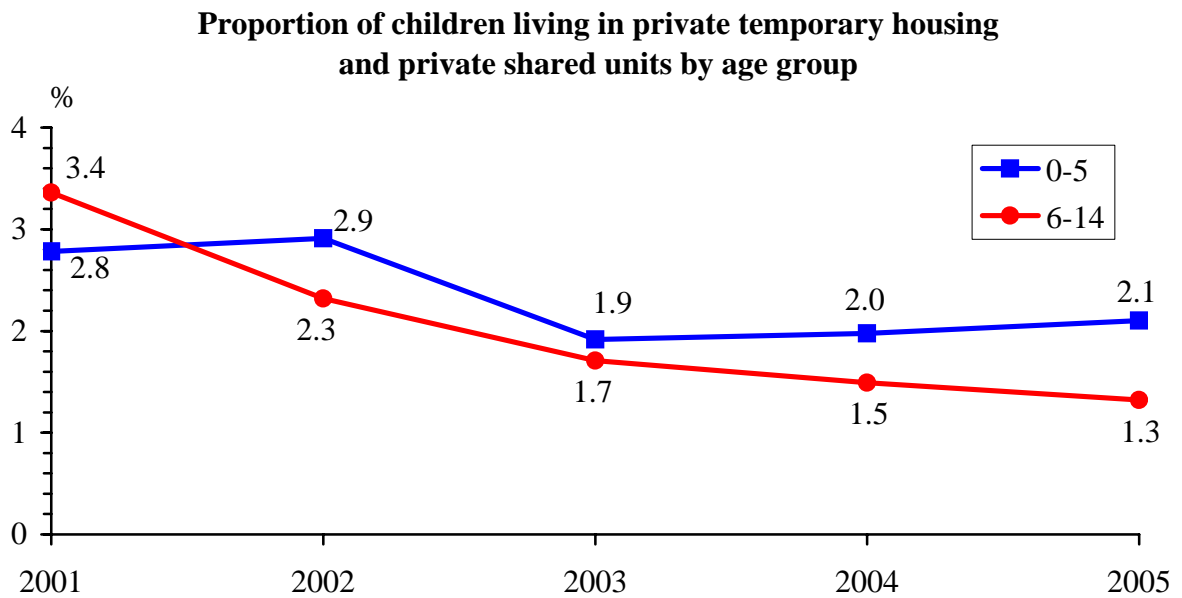
Note : (*) In this indicator, "non-engaged youth" refer to persons aged 15-24 who are economically inactive for reasons other than "students", "home-makers" and "health problems". Unemployed youth of this age group are not included. For further details about the definitions of non-engaged youth and unemployed youth, reference can be made to Footnote (1) under paragraph 6 of Annex II in CoP Paper 26/2005.

Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

8. Children aged 0-5 and 6-14 living in private temporary housing and private shared units

Number

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
0-5	9 700	9 800	6 200	6 300	6 700
6-14	25 300	17 500	12 700	10 800	9 200



Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

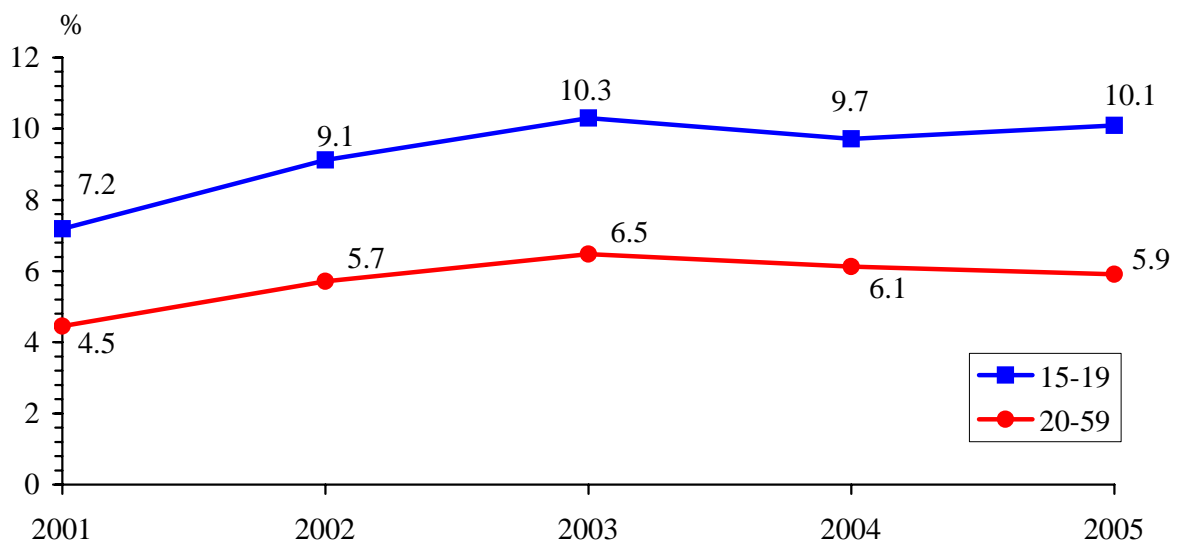
Section II : Indicators for Working People / Adults Aged 15-59

9. Persons aged 15-19 and 20-59 living in workless households

Number

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
15-19	31 700	39 600	44 300	42 500	44 400
20-59	176 100	229 000	261 500	252 300	246 400

Proportion of persons living in workless households by age group

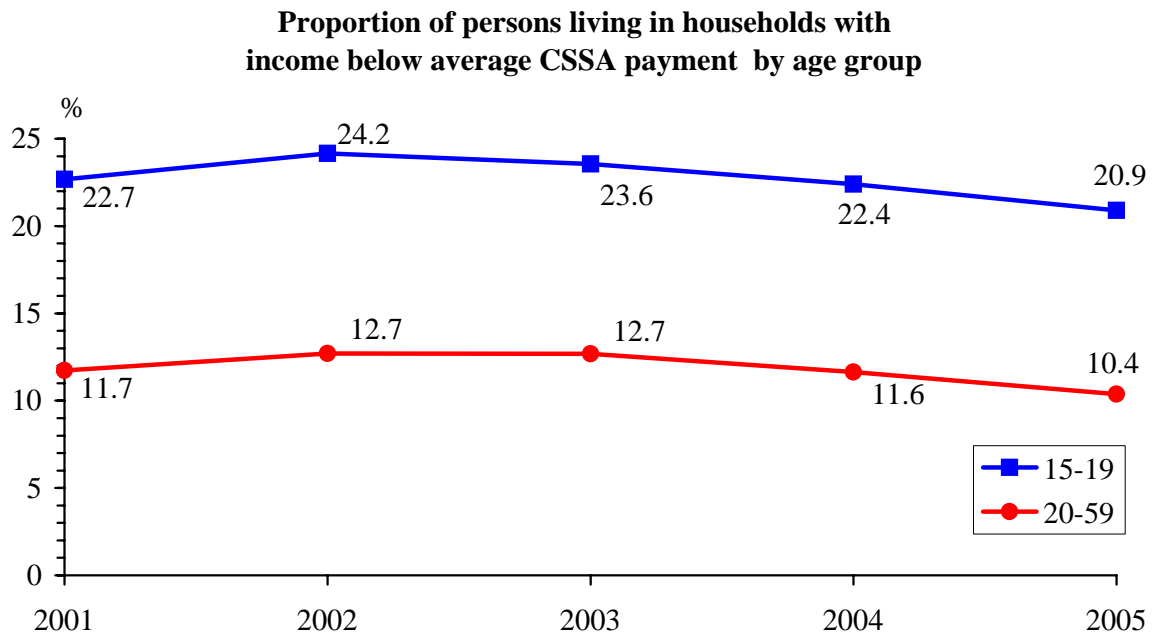


Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

**10. Persons aged 15-19 and 20-59 living in households with income below average
CSSA payment**

Number

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
15-19	99 800	104 800	101 400	98 000	92 000
20-59	463 900	509 100	512 100	479 100	432 600

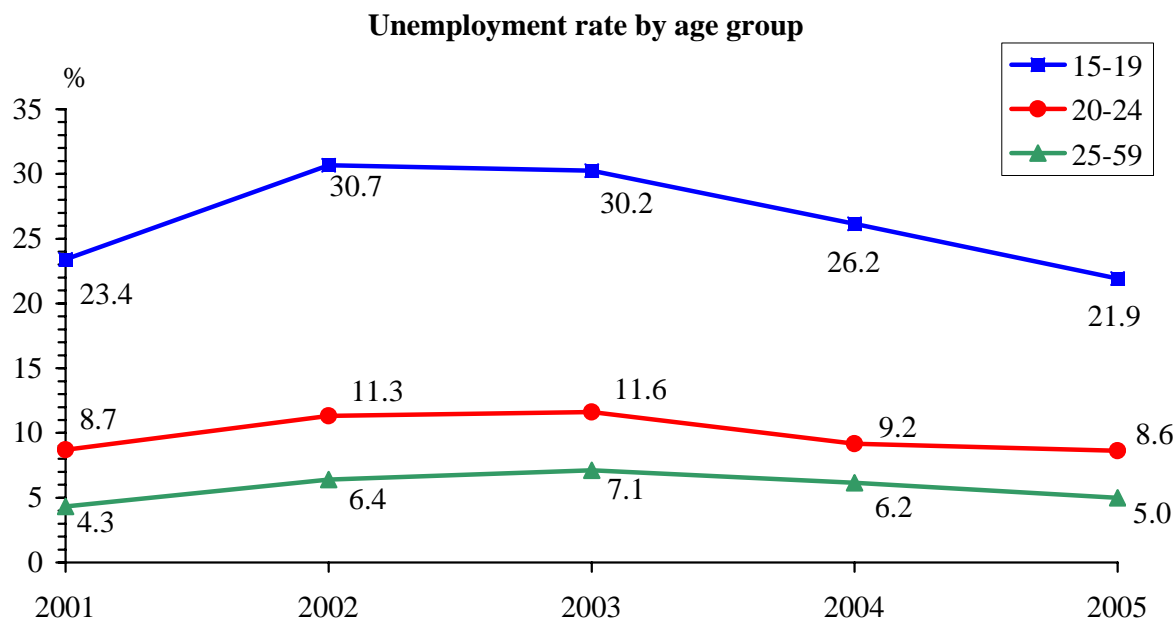


Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

11. Unemployed persons aged 15-19, 20-24 and 25-59*

Number

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
15-19	17 000	23 000	21 500	18 400	14 400
20-24	29 200	36 400	37 100	30 000	28 300
25-59	125 500	190 300	213 500	187 500	153 700



Note : (*) In order for the number of unemployed persons and the corresponding unemployment rates compiled for this indicator to be consistent with the unemployment statistics normally released, foreign domestic helpers (FDHs) have not been excluded. Yet FDHs should have insignificant effect on this indicator.

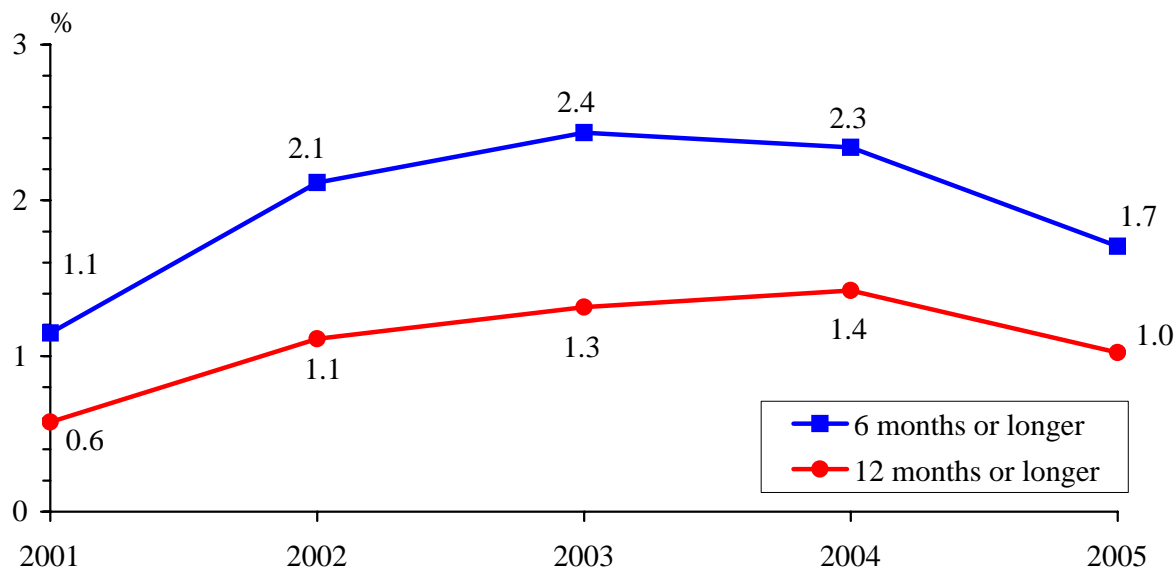
Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

12. Persons unemployed for 6 months or longer, and 12 months or longer

Number

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
≥ 6 months	39 300	73 700	85 100	83 100	61 100
≥ 12 months	19 700	38 700	46 000	50 400	36 600

Long-term unemployment rate by duration of unemployment



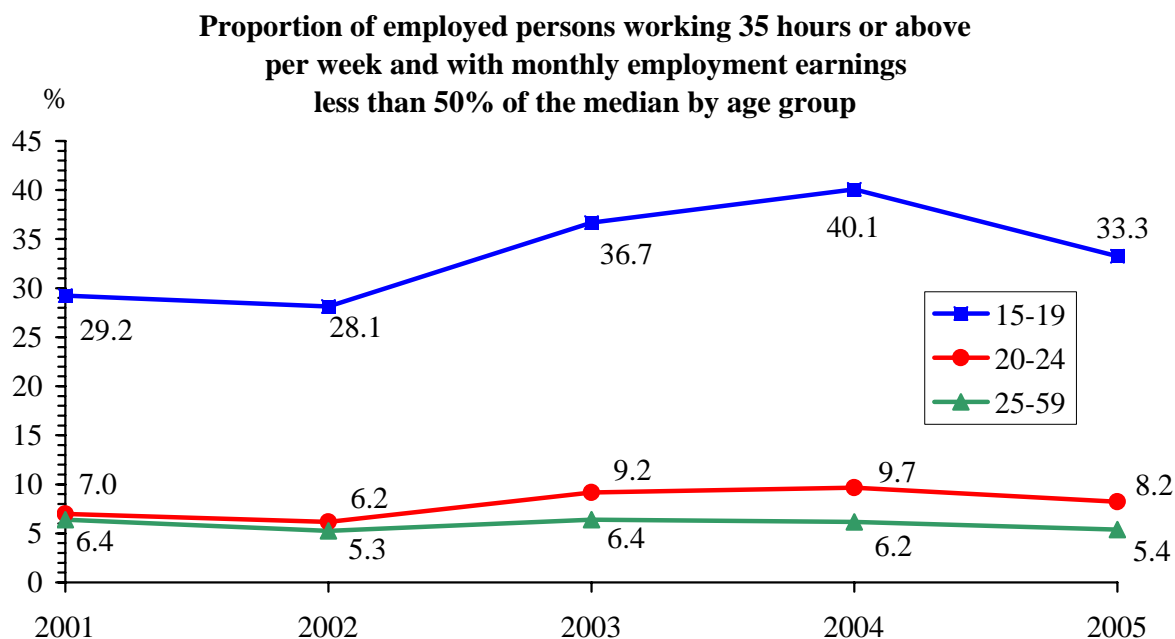
Note : (*) In order for the number of long-term unemployed persons and the corresponding long-term unemployment rates compiled for this indicator to be consistent with the unemployment statistics normally released, foreign domestic helpers (FDHs) have not been excluded. Yet FDHs should have insignificant effect on this indicator.

Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

13. Employed persons aged 15-19, 20-24 and 25-59 working 35 hours or above per week and with monthly employment earnings less than 50% of the median

Number

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
15-19	12 900	11 000	12 800	14 600	12 100
20-24	17 100	13 800	19 300	21 500	18 700
25-59	148 500	122 200	144 500	145 200	130 300



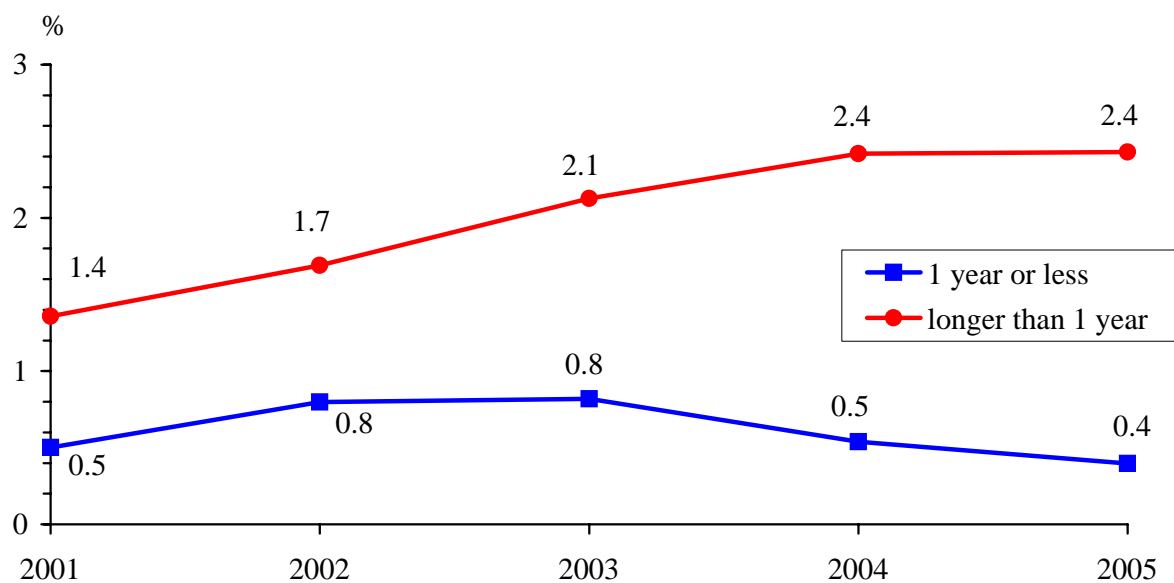
Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

14. Adult able-bodied CSSA recipients* having been on CSSA for 1 year or less, and longer than 1 year

Number

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
≤ 1 year	23 300	37 300	38 900	26 000	19 500
> 1 year	63 100	79 200	101 100	116 700	118 900

Proportion of adult able-bodied CSSA recipients by duration on CSSA



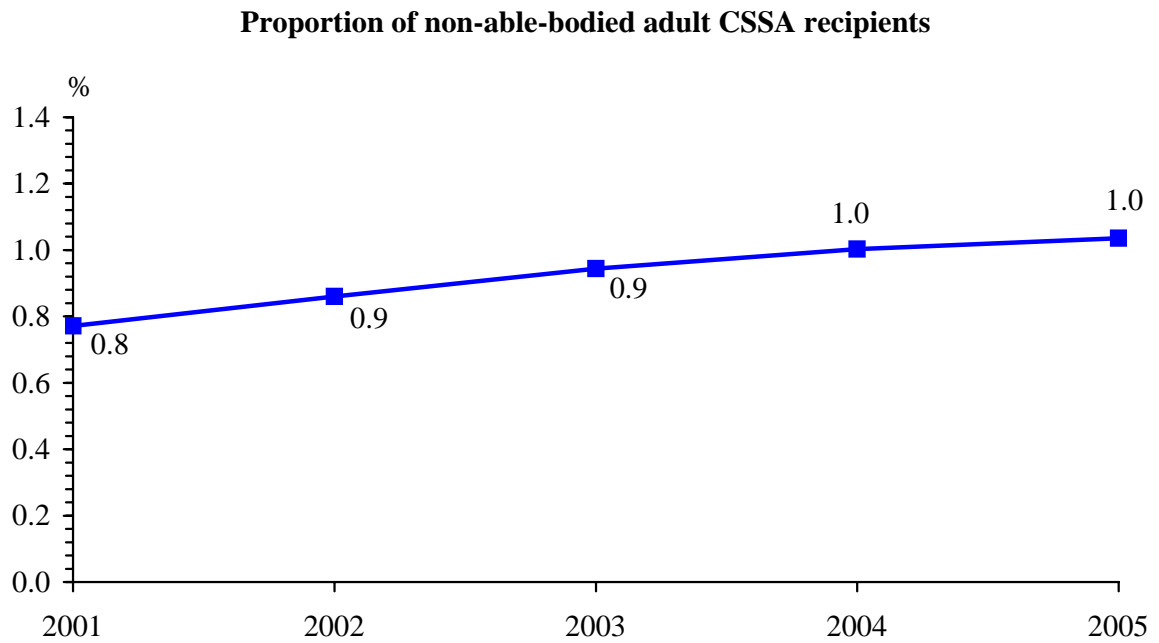
Note : (*) Excluding recipients aged 15-21 who are on child rate. They have been grouped under Indicator 4 along with other child rate CSSA recipients.

Source : Social and Welfare Department.

15. Adult recipients of permanent disability/temporary disability/ill health CSSA

Number

<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
35 900	40 300	44 800	48 400	50 700



Source : Social and Welfare Department.

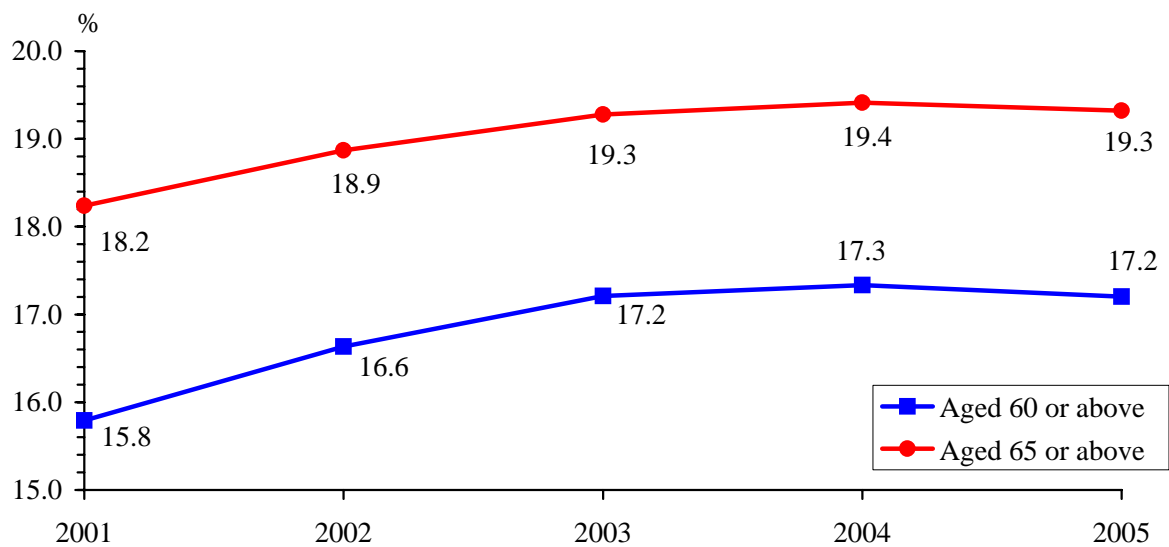
Section III : Indicators for Older People Aged 60 or Above

16. Recipients of old-age CSSA*

Number

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
Aged 60 or above	160 000	170 500	179 300	184 800	187 700
Aged 65 or above	140 000	149 000	156 500	161 400	164 500

Proportion of old-age CSSA recipients



Note : (*) Including the elderly CSSA recipients who are on the old age able-bodied rate, 50% or 100% disabled rate, or the rate for elderly in need of constant attendance.

Source : Social and Welfare Department.

17. Elderly patients under the medical fee waiver mechanism of public hospitals and clinics

	<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of successful applicants</u>	<u>Share in population aged 60 or above</u>
Aged 60 or above	2004/05	10 108	0.9%
	2005/06	9 357	0.9%
Aged 65 or above	2004/05	8 854	1.1%
	2005/06	8 164	1.0%

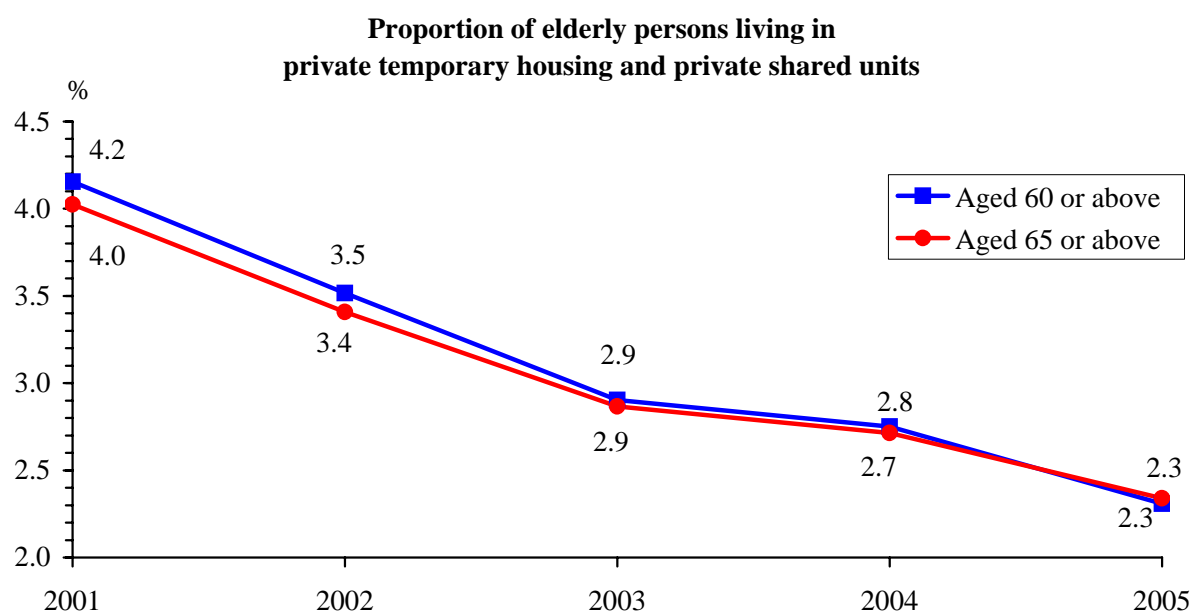
Note : Data prior to April 2004 are not available.

Source : Hospital Authority.

18. Elderly persons living in private temporary housing and private shared units

Number

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
Aged 60 or above	40 100	34 600	28 800	27 700	23 600
Aged 65 or above	28 800	25 300	21 800	21 100	18 500



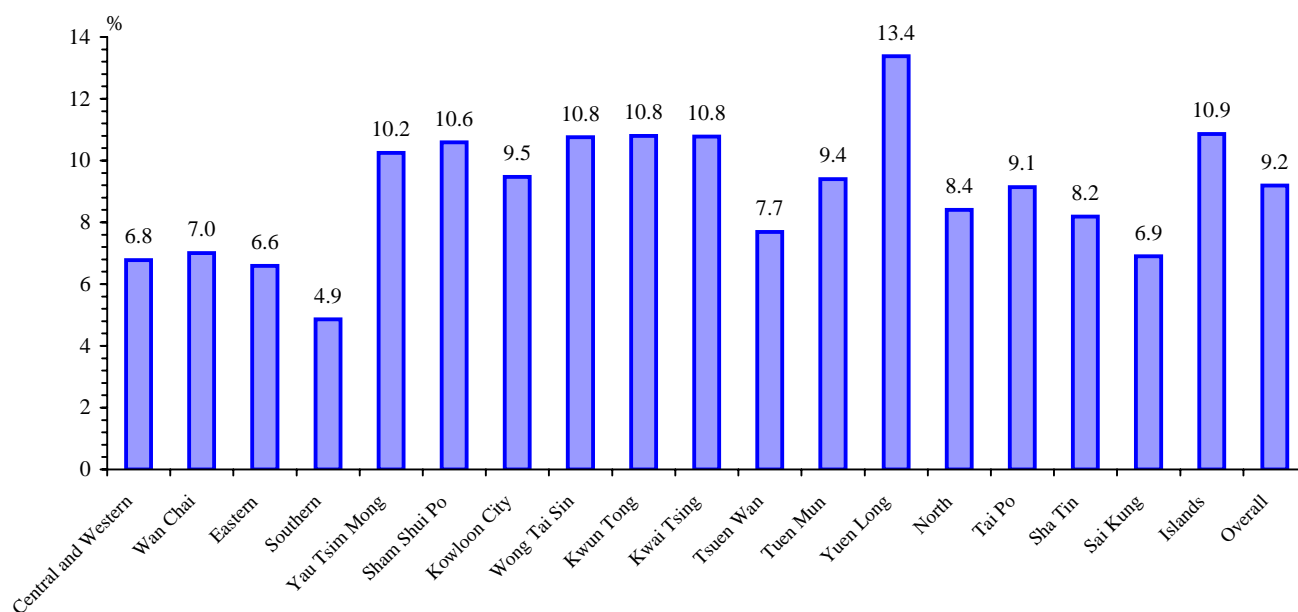
Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

Section IV : Indicators for the Community

19. Workless households* by district

District						Proportion in all households* in the respective districts (%)				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Central and Western	4 100	5 900	4 800	5 000	5 500	5.1	7.8	6.5	6.5	6.8
Wan Chai	2 200	3 600	3 900	3 600	3 500	4.4	7.5	8.1	7.6	7.0
Eastern	9 000	12 700	13 000	12 100	11 400	5.3	7.4	7.6	7.1	6.6
Southern	3 900	4 000	5 600	4 900	3 700	5.1	5.2	7.3	6.3	4.9
Yau Tsim Mong	9 100	9 900	11 500	9 800	9 500	10.6	11.2	13.5	10.3	10.2
Sham Shui Po	9 400	11 600	15 800	13 700	11 100	9.5	11.4	15.7	13.3	10.6
Kowloon City	7 500	10 400	11 000	8 200	9 900	7.3	10.2	10.7	8.2	9.5
Wong Tai Sin	8 800	13 000	13 200	12 500	13 000	7.6	10.8	10.8	10.5	10.8
Kwun Tong	12 700	15 600	19 200	17 200	17 900	8.2	9.8	11.9	10.7	10.8
Kwai Tsing	10 300	11 500	16 100	17 300	16 100	8.0	8.6	11.6	12.2	10.8
Tsuen Wan	5 000	6 800	5 500	6 600	6 500	6.3	8.8	6.8	7.9	7.7
Tuen Mun	9 700	15 000	16 500	15 600	14 300	7.0	10.4	10.8	10.2	9.4
Yuen Long	11 000	16 500	22 200	18 400	21 700	8.7	11.5	14.8	12.1	13.4
North	8 000	7 400	8 500	9 900	6 900	9.9	9.3	10.4	11.7	8.4
Tai Po	5 500	6 800	7 700	7 400	7 700	6.6	8.1	9.5	8.5	9.1
Sha Tin	10 700	13 800	15 700	13 800	14 700	6.2	7.8	8.8	7.7	8.2
Sai Kung	4 500	6 400	6 900	8 700	8 400	4.9	6.2	6.5	7.2	6.9
Islands	2 200	3 700	2 700	3 200	4 300	8.5	12.5	8.3	8.2	10.9
Overall	133 600	174 800	199 800	188 000	186 100	7.2	9.1	10.3	9.4	9.2

Proportion of workless households* by district, 2005

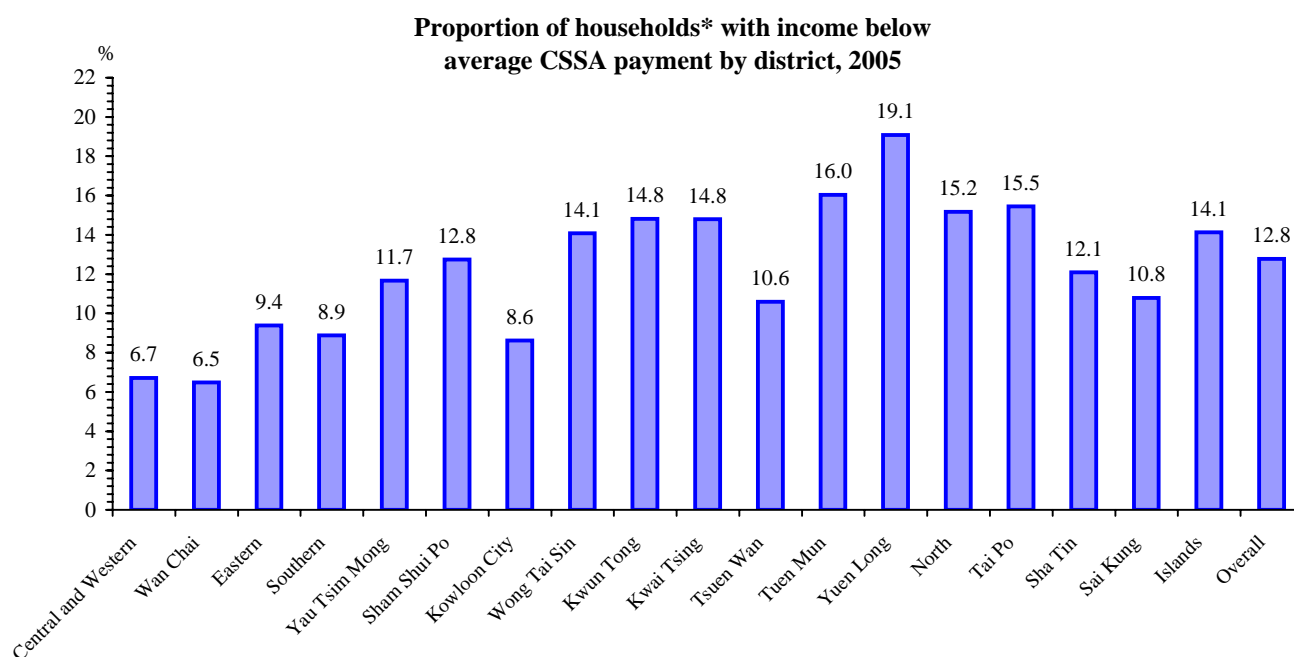


Notes : (*) Households with members aged 60 or above only are excluded.
 Figures may not add up to the respective totals due to rounding.

Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

20. Households* with income below average CSSA payment by district

District						Proportion in all households* in the respective districts (%)				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Central and Western	6 800	8 400	6 000	5 400	5 400	8.4	11.2	8.1	7.0	6.7
Wan Chai	3 800	5 000	5 500	4 000	3 200	7.5	10.2	11.3	8.5	6.5
Eastern	17 500	19 100	18 900	16 800	16 200	10.3	11.1	11.0	9.9	9.4
Southern	7 400	9 900	8 200	8 500	6 800	9.8	13.0	10.7	10.9	8.9
Yau Tsim Mong	14 700	16 000	16 500	11 600	10 800	17.1	18.1	19.4	12.2	11.7
Sham Shui Po	18 200	21 300	19 300	16 600	13 300	18.4	20.9	19.2	16.0	12.8
Kowloon City	11 600	13 500	13 900	10 000	9 000	11.2	13.2	13.5	9.9	8.6
Wong Tai Sin	17 000	20 900	22 100	18 300	17 000	14.7	17.4	18.1	15.3	14.1
Kwun Tong	25 600	25 100	29 700	22 600	24 600	16.5	15.8	18.5	14.0	14.8
Kwai Tsing	21 600	21 000	24 900	22 900	22 000	16.8	15.7	18.0	16.1	14.8
Tsuen Wan	8 600	10 600	9 700	9 000	8 900	11.0	13.7	11.8	10.8	10.6
Tuen Mun	23 500	28 800	29 500	29 000	24 500	17.0	19.9	19.4	18.9	16.0
Yuen Long	24 200	32 800	36 000	30 200	30 900	19.2	22.9	24.1	19.8	19.1
North	14 800	14 700	16 300	14 700	12 500	18.4	18.3	20.1	17.4	15.2
Tai Po	11 300	14 400	14 300	13 800	13 100	13.7	17.1	17.5	15.9	15.5
Sha Tin	22 500	24 900	26 100	21 400	21 700	13.0	14.0	14.6	11.9	12.1
Sai Kung	11 400	13 200	15 500	13 300	13 200	12.4	12.8	14.5	11.0	10.8
Islands	3 900	5 300	4 300	5 400	5 600	15.1	17.9	13.2	13.8	14.1
Overall	264 500	305 000	316 900	273 300	258 900	14.2	15.9	16.3	13.7	12.8

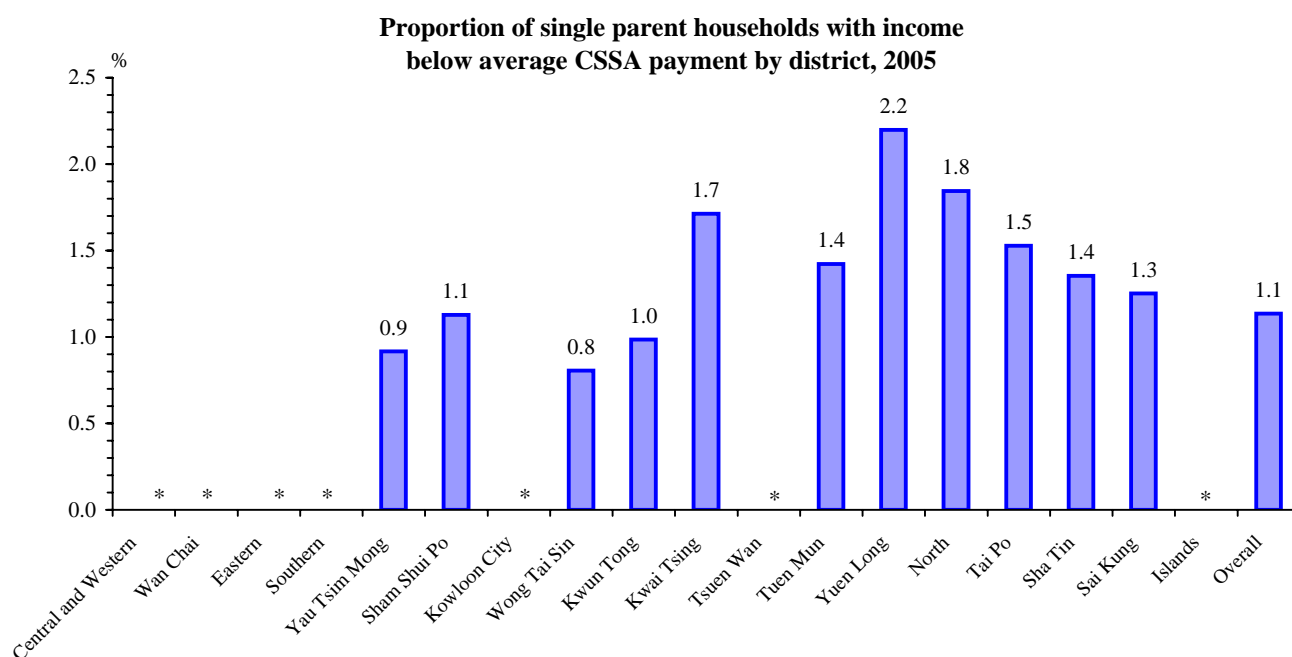


Notes : (*) Households with members aged 60 or above only are excluded.
 Figures may not add up to the respective totals due to rounding.

Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

21. Single parent households with income below average CSSA payment by district

District						Proportion in all households in the respective districts (%)				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Central and Western	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Wan Chai	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Eastern	1 300	1 500	1 000	1 200	*	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.6	*
Southern	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Yau Tsim Mong	*	1 600	*	*	1 000	*	1.6	*	*	0.9
Sham Shui Po	*	1 900	1 600	2 000	1 400	*	1.6	1.3	1.6	1.1
Kowloon City	*	1 500	*	1 300	*	*	1.3	*	1.1	*
Wong Tai Sin	1 600	2 100	2 300	1 400	1 100	1.2	1.5	1.6	1.0	0.8
Kwun Tong	2 100	2 000	2 500	2 700	1 900	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.0
Kwai Tsing	2 300	1 200	2 200	2 800	2 800	1.7	0.8	1.4	1.7	1.7
Tsuen Wan	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Tuen Mun	2 600	2 900	2 600	2 900	2 400	1.7	1.9	1.6	1.8	1.4
Yuen Long	2 100	3 500	2 900	3 500	3 900	1.5	2.3	1.7	2.0	2.2
North	1 100	1 400	1 500	*	1 700	1.2	1.6	1.6	*	1.8
Tai Po	1 500	1 600	2 000	1 800	1 400	1.7	1.7	2.2	1.9	1.5
Sha Tin	2 000	2 500	2 600	2 300	2 700	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.4
Sai Kung	*	*	1 100	1 000	1 600	*	*	1.0	0.8	1.3
Islands	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Overall	22 400	27 100	25 600	26 200	25 900	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.1



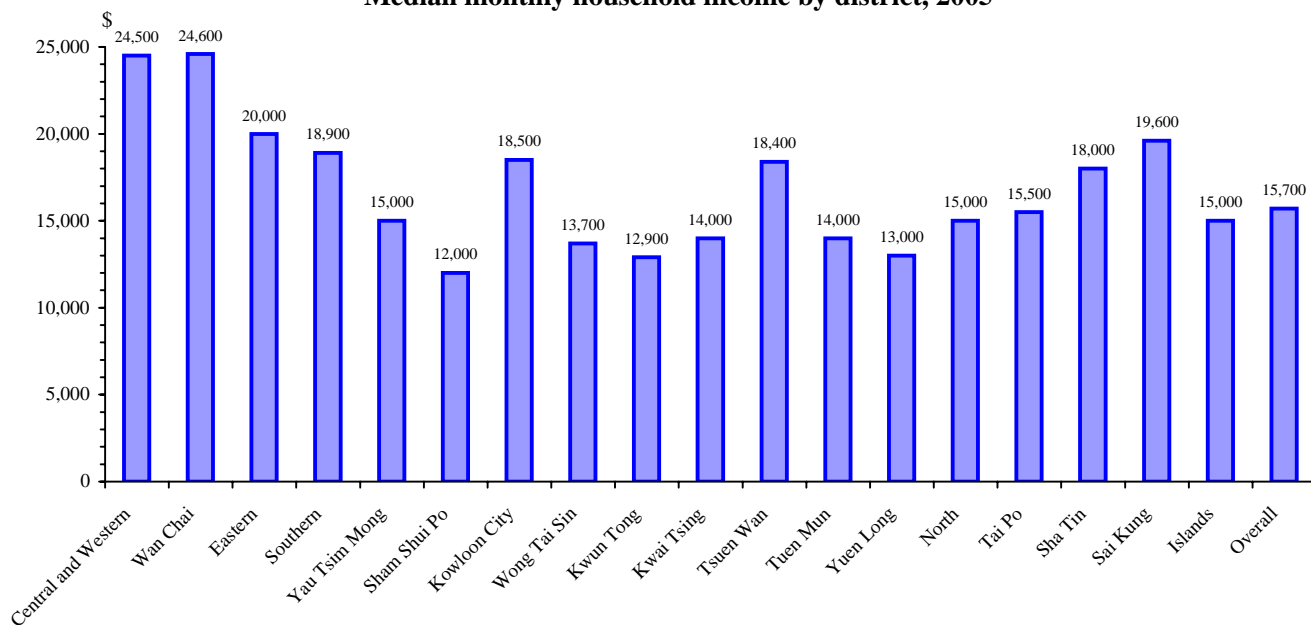
Notes : (*) Figures of small magnitude are suppressed owing to large sampling error.
 Figures may not add up to the respective totals due to rounding.

Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department

22. Median monthly household income by district

District	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Central and Western	24,000	22,000	22,000	23,000	24,500
Wan Chai	23,900	22,000	22,000	20,800	24,600
Eastern	21,300	19,800	19,700	19,500	20,000
Southern	21,000	20,000	19,000	19,500	18,900
Yau Tsim Mong	14,700	13,500	11,300	15,000	15,000
Sham Shui Po	13,300	12,500	11,000	11,500	12,000
Kowloon City	19,000	18,200	16,000	17,000	18,500
Wong Tai Sin	15,500	14,000	13,000	13,100	13,700
Kwun Tong	15,000	15,000	12,500	13,100	12,900
Kwai Tsing	15,000	14,900	13,000	13,400	14,000
Tsuen Wan	20,000	19,000	20,000	17,100	18,400
Tuen Mun	16,500	14,000	14,600	14,000	14,000
Yuen Long	15,000	13,500	12,500	13,000	13,000
North	15,000	15,000	13,700	14,000	15,000
Tai Po	18,000	17,000	15,000	15,500	15,500
Sha Tin	19,900	19,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
Sai Kung	20,000	20,000	19,000	19,500	19,600
Islands	18,000	15,900	15,000	16,000	15,000
Overall	17,500	16,000	15,000	15,300	15,700

Median monthly household income by district, 2005

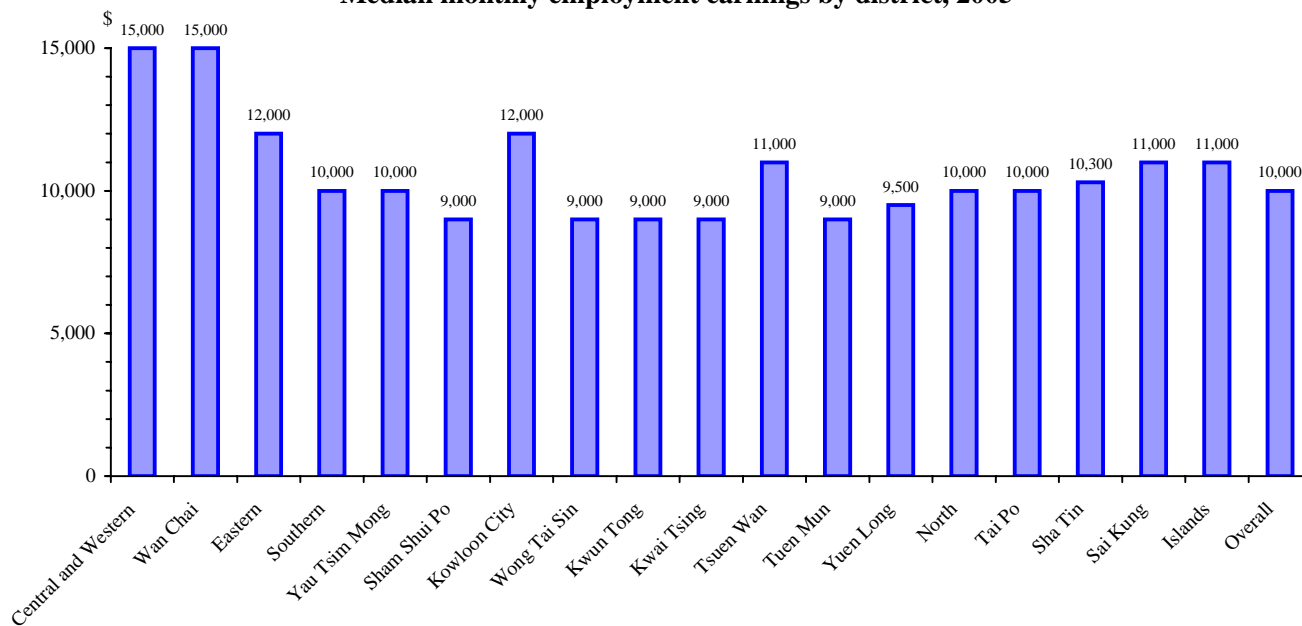


Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

23. Median monthly employment earnings by district

District	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Central and Western	15,000	15,000	13,000	14,000	15,000
Wan Chai	15,000	14,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Eastern	12,000	11,000	12,000	11,000	12,000
Southern	11,000	11,000	10,300	10,000	10,000
Yau Tsim Mong	10,000	10,000	9,500	9,900	10,000
Sham Shui Po	10,000	9,500	9,000	9,000	9,000
Kowloon City	12,000	12,000	11,300	12,000	12,000
Wong Tai Sin	10,000	9,800	9,000	9,000	9,000
Kwun Tong	10,000	10,000	9,000	9,000	9,000
Kwai Tsing	10,000	9,500	8,500	9,000	9,000
Tsuen Wan	12,000	12,000	11,500	11,000	11,000
Tuen Mun	10,000	10,000	9,500	9,000	9,000
Yuen Long	10,000	10,000	9,800	9,000	9,500
North	10,500	10,000	10,000	9,000	10,000
Tai Po	11,000	10,000	9,800	9,700	10,000
Sha Tin	11,000	11,000	10,500	10,800	10,300
Sai Kung	12,000	12,000	11,300	11,000	11,000
Islands	12,000	11,000	10,000	10,000	11,000
Overall	10,500	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000

Median monthly employment earnings by district, 2005

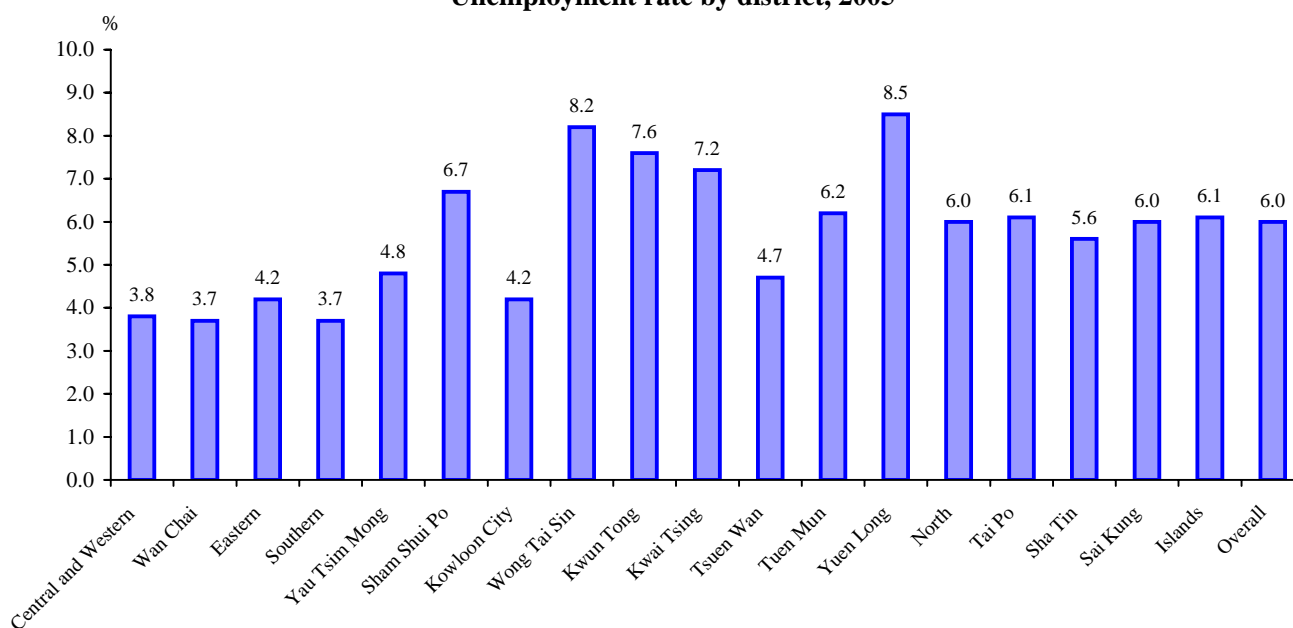


Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department

24. Unemployed persons by district

District						Unemployment rate by district* (%)				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Central and Western	3 300	6 900	6 000	5 300	5 300	2.3	5.0	4.4	4.0	3.8
Wan Chai	2 400	2 900	4 300	2 800	3 200	2.5	3.2	5.2	3.2	3.7
Eastern	11 300	16 200	18 800	16 000	13 300	3.4	5.0	6.0	5.1	4.2
Southern	5 600	8 600	9 500	6 800	5 500	3.8	5.8	6.6	4.5	3.7
Yau Tsim Mong	7 500	11 900	14 000	10 300	7 800	5.1	7.9	9.8	6.3	4.8
Sham Shui Po	12 800	16 900	17 300	15 000	12 600	7.4	9.4	10.3	8.4	6.7
Kowloon City	8 100	12 900	13 100	10 200	8 200	4.3	6.7	6.9	5.5	4.2
Wong Tai Sin	11 300	22 500	19 200	16 600	17 600	5.4	10.4	9.1	7.9	8.2
Kwun Tong	14 800	25 400	27 300	22 300	22 100	5.3	9.1	9.7	8.0	7.6
Kwai Tsing	15 400	25 900	30 500	24 300	18 500	6.4	10.0	11.9	9.5	7.2
Tsuen Wan	6 700	8 700	10 900	8 500	6 900	4.7	6.2	7.3	5.7	4.7
Tuen Mun	15 400	21 300	28 600	22 800	16 500	6.0	8.3	10.6	8.4	6.2
Yuen Long	13 000	24 500	31 100	22 200	22 600	5.8	9.9	12.3	8.4	8.5
North	7 000	13 600	15 900	12 900	8 700	4.9	9.4	10.5	8.7	6.0
Tai Po	7 500	13 800	16 100	12 500	9 100	4.9	8.8	10.3	7.8	6.1
Sha Tin	13 700	23 800	27 800	23 000	18 300	4.3	7.1	8.3	6.9	5.6
Sai Kung	6 900	12 300	14 700	13 700	13 500	3.9	6.3	7.5	6.3	6.0
Islands	3 500	3 700	3 800	4 000	4 000	7.7	7.6	7.1	6.5	6.1
Overall	166 100	271 900	308 900	248 900	213 900	4.9	7.8	8.8	7.0	6.0

Unemployment rate by district, 2005



Note : (*) Referring to the unemployment rate in May - August which is not seasonally adjusted.

Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department