Major demographic indicators of selected economies

(data as at 30 June 2019)

Research Office
Legislative Council Secretariat

1. Introduction

1.1 This document compares the demographic statistics of Hong Kong and seven selected economies. The comparison aims to present a broad picture of Hong Kong's demographic structure relative to these economies.

1.2 The demographic statistics selected for comparison comprises:

(a) overall population size, population growth rate, population by sex and sex ratio (**Table 1**);

(b) population by age group, median age and dependency ratio (**Table 2**); and

(c) other major demographic indicators on fertility, mortality, life expectancy, and household size (**Table 3**).

Table 1 — Population by sex in selected economies in 2018

		Hong Kong	Japan	The Mainland	Singapore[1]	South Korea	Taiwan	United Kingdom	United States
Population									
Population (million)[2]		7.45	126.44	1 395.38	3.99	51.83	23.59	66.44	327.17
Annual growth rate		+0.8%	-0.2%	+0.4%	+0.7%	+0.1%	+0.1%	+0.6%	+0.6%
Population by sex									
Male	Number (million)	3.41	61.53	713.51	1.96	25.87	11.71	32.79	161.13
	Percentage share	45.8%	48.7%	51.1%	49.0%	49.9%	49.7%	49.4%	49.2%
	Annual growth rate	+0.5%	-0.2%	+0.3%	+0.6%	+0.04%	-0.1%	+0.6%	+0.6%
Female	Number (million)	4.04	64.91	681.87	2.04	25.96	11.88	33.65	166.04
	Percentage share	54.2%	51.3%	48.9%	51.0%	50.1%	50.3%	50.6%	50.8%
	Annual growth rate	+1.0%	-0.2%	+0.5%	+0.8%	+0.1%	+0.2%	+0.6%	+0.6%
Sex ratio[3]		844	948	1 046	959	996	986	975	970

Notes: (1) Resident population in Singapore excludes 1.64 million foreigners staying in Singapore for one year or more.   The use of resident population figures is due to the lack of detailed demographic breakdown for the foreigners in Singapore.

(2) Individual figures may not add up to the total due to rounding.

(3) Sex ratio = males per 1 000 females.

Table 2 — Population by age group and dependency ratio in selected economies in 2018

		Hong Kong	Japan	The Mainland	Singapore	South Korea	Taiwan	United Kingdom	United States
Population by age group									
Aged 0-14	Number (million)	0.86	15.42	235.23	0.59	6.63	3.05	11.91	60.89
	Percentage share	11.6%	12.2%	16.9%	14.8%	12.8%	12.9%	17.9%	18.6%
	Annual growth rate	+1.9%	-1.1%	+0.7%	-0.6%	-2.3%	-1.4%	+0.9%	-0.1%
Aged 15-64	Number (million)	5.32	75.45	993.57	2.86	37.55	17.11	42.36	213.85
	Percentage share	71.5%	59.7%	71.2%	71.5%	72.4%	72.5%	65.8%	65.4%
	Annual growth rate	-0.2%	-0.7%	-0.5%	+0.02%	-0.2%	-0.6%	+0.3%	+0.2%
Aged 65 or above	Number (million)	1.27	35.58	166.58	0.55	7.65	3.43	12.17	52.43
	Percentage share	17.0%	28.1%	11.9%	13.7%	14.8%	14.6%	18.3%	16.0%
	Annual growth rate	+4.2%	+1.2%	+5.2%	+6.0%	+4.0%	+5.1%	+1.5%	+3.2%
Median age (years)		45.3	46.8	37.7	40.8	42.1[1]	40.5	40.1	38.2
Dependency ratio									
Child dependency ratio[2]		162	204	237	207	177	178	281	285
Elderly dependency ratio[3]		238	472	168	192	204	201	287	245
Overall dependency ratio[4]		400	676	404	399	380	379	568	530

Notes: (1) Average age.
(2) Child dependency ratio = number of persons aged 0-14 per 1 000 persons aged 15-64.
(3) Elderly dependency ratio = number of persons aged 65 or above per 1 000 persons aged 15-64.
(4) Overall dependency ratio is the number of persons aged under 15 and those aged 65 or above per 1 000 persons aged 15-64.   It shows the relationship between those who have the responsibilities to provide support in society and those who depend on them for upbringing and education, and/or for medical services and maintenance.

Table 3 — Major demographic indicators in selected economies in 2018

	Hong Kong	Japan	The Mainland	Singapore	South Korea	Taiwan	United Kingdom	United States
Fertility								
Number of live births	54 330	918 397	15 230 000	35 040	326 900	181 601	744 000	3 789 000
Crude birth rate[1]	7.2	7.3	10.9	8.8	6.4	7.7	11.2	12.5
Total fertility rate[2]	1.07	1.42	1.60	1.14	0.98	1.06	1.76	1.73
Mortality								
Number of death	47 479	1 362 482	9 930 000	20 095	298 900	172 784	623 000	2 835 000
Crude death rate[3]	6.3	10.8	7.1	5.0	5.8	7.3	9.4	8.6
Expectation of life at birth[4]								
Male (years)	82.2	81.1	73.7	81.0	79.7	77.3	79.9	76.1
Female (years)	87.6	87.2	78.1	85.4	85.7	83.7	83.4	81.1
Household								
Average household size (persons)	2.8	2.3	3.0	3.2	2.4	2.7	2.4	2.5

Notes: (1) Crude birth rate = number of live births per 1 000 population.

(2) Total fertility rate is the average number of children that would be born alive to a woman during her lifetime if she were to pass through her childbearing life experiencing the age specific fertility rates prevailing in a given year.

(3) Crude death rate = number of deaths per 1 000 population.

(4) Life expectancy at birth is the average number of years of life that a person born in a given year is expected to live if he or she were subjected to the prevalent mortality condition as reflected by the set of age-sex specific mortality rates for that year.

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