A Guide to Reading the Publication
"Hong Kong Population Projections 2002-2031"

Background	Relevant Pages in the Publication

• The main use of population projections is to provide a common basis for Government programme planning and to facilitate business application in the private sector.   p.5-6

• Following the release the 2001 Population Census results, an updated set of population projections has been prepared.

Projection results

• Key projection results, including the size, growth and age and sex structure of the projected population, are presented in Table 1. Salient points include：   p.8-19 (Table 1)

   ♦ The Hong Kong Population will increase at an average annual rate of 0.9%, from 6.72 million in mid-2001 to 8.72 million in mid-2031.

   ♦ Migration would be the main source of growth of the population in the next 30 years.

   ♦ The population will show a continuous aging trend.

   ♦ The number of births is projected to remain at slightly above 50 000 per year. The number of deaths is projected to increase from 33 000 per year currently to 65 000 per year by the end of the projection period.   The increasing number of deaths is mainly attributable to the growing porportion of elderly in the population despite people are living longer (i.e. the mortality rate on the decline).

   ♦ The sex ratio (i.e. number of males per 1 000 females) of the population is projected to fall from 956 in 2001 to 771 in 2031.   Excluding foreign domestic helpers, the sex ratio is projected to come down, from 1021 in 2001 to 836 in 2031.

• Projected populations by age group and sex for each year in the projection period are presented.   p.12-41 (Table 3)

• Selected characteristics of the population with foreign domestic helpers excluded are presented in the Appendix.   p.71-78 (Appendix)

Projection methodology and assumptions

- The "component method" commonly used internationally, is adopted.   Under this method, the population of a base year is brought forward by age and sex under separate projections of fertility, mortality and migration, year after year until the end of the projection period.   Statistical studies using modelling methods as far as possible are made on the past trends are recent developments pertaining to the socio-economic conditions in Hong Kong to generate the fertility, mortality and migration assumptions.   Where government policies are involved, it is taken that existing policies will continue to apply.

- Salient points on fertility assumptions:

  - Hong Kong's fertility experienced a marked and continuous decline in the past two decades.
  - A slight rebound in fertility is projected.

- Salient points on mortality assumptions:
  - There has been a continuous decline in morality, with a corresponding increase in life expectancy.
  - Gradual continuation of past trends is assumed for both sexes with a slower rate of morality decline.

- Salient points on migration assumptions:
  - Past trends are generally assumed to continue.
  - In view of the increasingly close link with the mainland of China in the future, the number of Mobile Residents are projected to increase faster.

- A glossary on the concepts and definitions used in the projections are presented.

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