

Panel on Planning, Lands and Works
2001 Population Census

Purpose

1. This short note briefly explains how the data collected from the 2001 Population Census is used in land use planning.

Background of the Population Census

2. A population census is a survey of the whole population. It aims at collecting data on demographic characteristics of the population such as size, age and sex composition, geographical distribution, as well as socio-economic characteristics, such as income level and accommodation type.
3. The 2001 Population Census provides information of the Hong Kong Resident Population as at 15 March 2001. It includes a wealth of data on the socio-economic characteristics of the population in Hong Kong. Volume I of the Main Report¹ published in June 2002 consolidates major socio-economic characteristics into main categories, such as demographic, household and education etc. The information is also grouped by broad district, e.g. new town.

Application of Census Results in Land Use Planning

4. As many land use planning tasks are population-based, the Census provides a useful reference for Planning Department's day-to-day work. However, in the planning context, we are more concerned about projections of population rather than a "snapshot" image of a single census year.
5. The application of Census results in planning is mainly on two aspects:

(A) For Projection of Future Population Profile

- (i) The Census results, together with past trends, are the basic ingredients in providing and updating previous population projections. The latest population projection covering the period 2002 – 2031, on the basis of the 2001 Census results, provides a reference case for the *Hong Kong 2030: Planning Vision and Strategy* study in the assessment of land requirements for future development areas and major uses, e.g. commercial, office and

¹ Volume II of the Main Report is on the methodology of the Census.

housing etc. (strategic planning).

- (ii) For the purpose of local level planning, we also need to know where the future population will be located (or what we call 'projected population distribution'). In this connection, the Planning Department prepares and updates sets of 10-year population distribution projections by District Council district, new town and tertiary planning unit. The latest version of this 10-year projections for 2002 – 2011, published in August 2002², was prepared on the basis of the 2001 Census results. This information enables us to plan and programme for the development of individual government, institution and community facilities for local districts.

(B) As Reference for Standards of Provision

The theoretical requirements for various land uses, community facilities and infrastructures are based on population size and standards of provision. In particular, many of the standards for the provision of government, institutional, community, recreational and open space facilities are based upon the growth or concentration of population in a given area, as set out in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (HKPSG). The population-based standards for these facilities (e.g. education, children & youth, and elderly facilities, etc.) are derived taking account of the size of population, and sometimes the demographic profile. The trend of the population increase and changes in the district profile of population provided by the Census can be based upon to facilitate planning work by the allocation of land resources and distribution of land uses.

Planning Department
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² The Planning Department in August 2002 published two reports : (i) "Projections of Population Distribution, 2002-2011" which presents the projected distribution of population by District Council District, New Town and Tertiary Planning Unit; (ii) "Projections of Population Age Structure, 2002-2011" which analyses the projected population of each District Council District and New Town by age group at five year intervals.