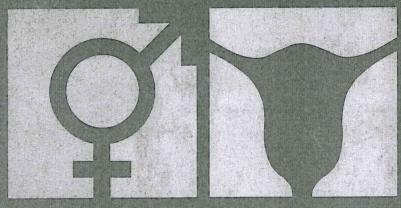
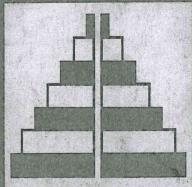
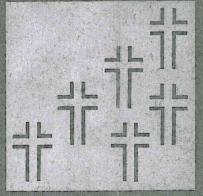
Demographic Trends in Hong Kong 1971-82

An analysis based on vital registration statistics of births, marriages, and deaths and on census results







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Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong



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INSTITUT NATIONAL D'ÉTUDES
DÉMOGRAPHIQUES
BIBLIOTHE QUE
27, Rue du Commandeur
75675 PARIS CEDEX 14
Tél: 320.13.45



Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong

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Age-specific fertility rates

Table 5.2 examines the trend in age-specific fertility rates. The rate relate the number of live births occurring to women in a given age group during a calendar year to the total female population in that age group at the middle of that year. At the younger ages these rates can be affected by the proportions of women married. For example, in a country like Hong Kong where fertility is almost entirely channelled through marriage, declines in the proportions of women marrying at the younger ages, as highlighted in Chapter 4 will, other things being equal, result in a reduction in the age specific fertility rates at these ages. However, the relationship is complicated by the prema fact that changes in the interval between marriage and the birth of the first child can also affect the rates at the younger ages. Declines in age-specific rates at the older the ages will almost exclusively reflect reductions in marital fertility through greater rates resort to family planning.

Over the past 10 years, the age-specific fertility rates have declined at even age. In the age group 15-19, which in 1971 already had a relatively low level of fertility compared with most countries, there was a drop of about one-third in the rate between 1971 and 1981; a similar decline occurred for women aged 20 to 24. The changes at these ages were associated in part with the changes in first marriage patterns described earlier.

However, there was also a marked decline in marital fertility between 1971 and 1981 as is apparent from the even greater reductions in the age-specific fertility rates at ages 25 and over. The declines in rates over age 35 were most substantial, amounting to 58 per cent at ages 35 to 39, 76 per cent at ages 40 to 44, and 81 per cent at ages 45 to 49.

Table 5.2 Age-specific fertility rates (per 1 000 women); 1971-81

Age of Women						
15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49
17 17 18 19 18 17 17 15 13 12	145 139 133 133 122 110 105 99 90 89 87	243 248 243 219 199 192 186 179 166 161	162 146 142 137 126 120 115 114 110 104 98	83 77 72 66 55 49 46 44 42 40 35	28 26 24 21 18 15 13 11 9	4 3 3 3 2 2 1 1 1
Index	of rate	with that	for 1971	taken as	base (100)*
100 102 105 111 105 102 102 90 75 73 69	100 96 91 92 84 76 73 69 62 61	100 102 100 90 82 79 77 73 68 66 64	100 90 87 85 78 74 71 70 68 64	100 93 87 79 65 59 55 52 51 47	100 91 83 74 64 51 46 40 33 30 24	100 89 89 69 67 42 31 31 25 22
	17 17 18 19 18 17 17 15 13 12 12 12 Index 100 102 105 111 105 102 102 90 75 73	17 145 17 139 18 133 19 133 18 122 17 110 17 105 15 99 13 90 12 89 12 87 Index of rate 100 100 102 96 105 91 111 92 105 84 102 76 102 73 90 69 75 62 73 61	15-19 20-24 25-29 17 145 243 17 139 248 18 133 243 19 133 219 18 122 199 17 110 192 17 105 186 15 99 179 13 90 166 12 89 161 12 87 155 Index of rate with that 100 100 100 102 96 102 105 91 100 111 92 90 105 84 82 102 76 79 102 73 77 90 69 73 75 62 68 73 61 66	15-19 20-24 25-29 30-34 17 145 243 162 17 139 248 146 18 133 243 142 19 133 219 137 18 122 199 126 17 110 192 120 17 105 186 115 15 99 179 114 13 90 166 110 12 89 161 104 12 87 155 98 Index of rate with that for 1971 100 100 100 100 100 102 96 102 90 105 91 100 87 111 92 90 85 105 84 82 78 102 76 79 74 102 73 77 71 90 69 73 70 75 62 68 68 73 61 66 64	15-19 20-24 25-29 30-34 35-39 17 145 243 162 83 17 139 248 146 77 18 133 243 142 72 19 133 219 137 66 18 122 199 126 55 17 110 192 120 49 17 105 186 115 46 15 99 179 114 44 13 90 166 110 42 12 89 161 104 40 12 87 155 98 35 Index of rate with that for 1971 taken as 100 100 100 100 100 100 102 96 102 90 93 105 91 100 87 87 111 92 90 85 79 105 84 82 78 65 102 76 79 74 59 102 73 77 71 55 90 69 73 70 52 75 62 68 68 51 73 61 66 64	15-19 20-24 25-29 30-34 35-39 40-44 17 145 243 162 83 28 17 139 248 146 77 26 18 133 243 142 72 24 19 133 219 137 66 21 18 122 199 126 55 18 17 110 192 120 49 15 17 105 186 115 46 13 15 99 179 114 44 11 13 90 166 110 42 9 12 89 161 104 40 9 12 87 155 98 35 7 Index of rate with that for 1971 taken as base (100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 102 96 102 90 93 91 105 91 100 87 87 83 111 92 90 85 79 74 105 84 82 78 65 64 102 76 79 74 59 51 102 73 77 71 55 46 90 69 73 70 52 40 75 62 68 68 51 33 73 61 66 64 47 30

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^{*}Computed on unrounded figures.