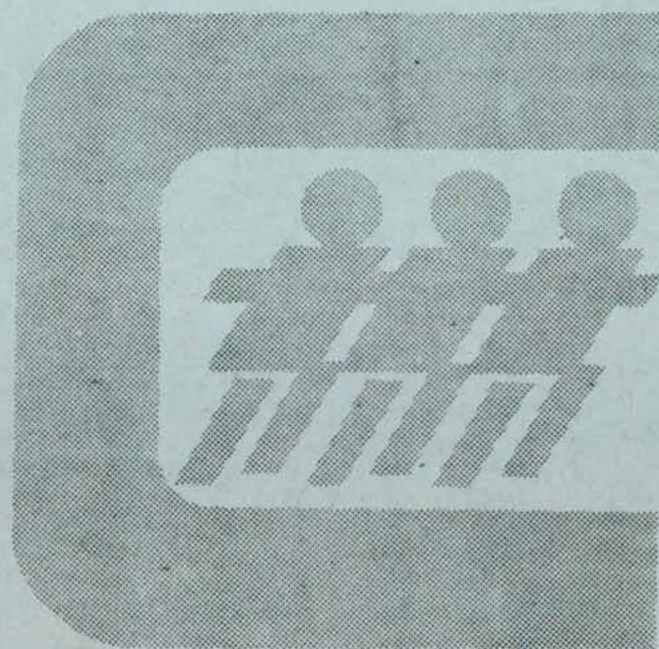


HONG KONG 1981 CENSUS

Summary Results

Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong



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HONG KONG 1981 CENSUS

Summary Results

November 1981

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Foreword

This report presents the summary findings of the 1981 Census. It contains information on detailed characteristics of the population in the form of summary tables. Comparisons of the findings of this Census have been made with those of the 1971 Census and the 1976 By-Census, where this is possible.

Figures in this report refer to the population of Hong Kong on 9th March 1981. An adjustment has been made to the total headcount to allow for persons in non-contact households and omitted quarters. Tables showing the demographic, social and economic characteristics of the population exclude transients and Vietnamese refugees (which together amount to 34 506 persons) and 123 252 residents who were away from Hong Kong on the reference night.

The 1981 Census was conducted as a two-phase operation, consisting of a 100% headcount by age and sex, and a 20% sample for the detailed characteristics of the population. Whilst the total count of persons (by age, sex and type of living quarter) and households (by household size) are obtained from the complete enumeration, their breakdown by other characteristics are provided by estimates derived from the 20% sample.

Detailed analysis and interpretation of the Census results are not given in this report. This will be presented in the Main Report to be published in 1982.

C.C. Greenfield
Commissioner for Census & Statistics

A. BASIC DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

1. Size and Growth of Population

(a) <u>Total Census Count</u> :	5 021 066	(as at 9th March 1981)
including :	4 986 560	residents
	13 906	transients
	20 600	Vietnamese refugees

Resident population (excluding transients and Vietnamese refugees but including 123 252 residents who were away from Hong Kong on the reference night) : 5 109 812.

(b) Growth of Population

<u>Year</u>	Population from censuses since 1961	
	<u>Total Population</u> (excluding transients, etc.)	<u>Average Annual Growth</u> %
1961	3 129 648	2.3
1971	3 936 630	2.1
1976	4 402 990	2.8
1981	4 986 560	

There was an increase of 1.05 million people or 27% over 1971, giving an average annual growth rate of 2.4%.

(c) Birth Rate, Death Rate and Rate of Natural Increase

	Number per thousand population		
	<u>1971</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1980</u>
Crude birth rate	19.7	17.7	17.1
Crude death rate	- 5.0	- 5.1	- 5.0
Crude rate of natural increase	14.7	12.6	12.1

Source : Birth and Death Statistics, 1971 - 1980
Half-yearly Population Estimates, 1971 - 1980

The birth rate has continued to decrease during the past ten years, whilst the death rate has remained more or less stable. As a result, the rate of natural increase has been declining since 1971.

2. Population Distribution

(a) Broad Geographical Distribution

Distribution of population by census area
1971, 1976 and 1981

<u>Census Area</u>	Enumerated Population			%		
	<u>1971</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1981</u>
Hong Kong Island	996 183	1 026 870	1 183 621	25.3	23.3	23.7
Kowloon	716 272	749 600	799 123	18.2	17.0	16.0
New Kowloon	1 468 699	1 617 260	1 651 064	37.3	36.8	33.2
New Territories	675 582	950 060	1 303 005	17.2	21.6	26.1
Marine	79 894	59 200	49 747	2.0	1.3	1.0

There was a substantial increase in the population of the New Territories, which almost doubled during the past ten years. On the other hand, the marine population continued to decline. Its number in 1981 was less than two-thirds of that in 1971.

(b) Population Change in Selected Districts

Districts with substantial increase in population
during 1976 - 1981

<u>Census District</u>	Population (nearest thousand)		
	<u>1976</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>Absolute Increase</u>
Tsuen Wan New Town	452 000	599 000	+ 147 000
Sha Tin New Town	39 000	109 000	+ 70 000
Tuen Mun New Town	34 000	90 000	+ 56 000
North Point & Quarry Bay	193 000	252 000	+ 59 000
Shau Kei Wan & Chai Wan	161 000	192 000	+ 31 000

Districts with net loss of population
during 1976 - 1981

<u>Census District</u>	Population (nearest thousand)		
	<u>1976</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>Absolute Decrease</u>
Kowloon City & Wong Tai Sin	272 000	225 000	- 47 000
Kwun Tong	413 000	396 000	- 17 000
Cheung Sha Wan	172 000	165 000	- 7 000

3. Population Density

(a) Overall Density

<u>Census Area</u>	Density (persons per square kilometer)		
	<u>1971</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1981</u>
Hong Kong, Kowloon, New Kowloon & Tsuen Wan	17 541	19 858	21 595
New Territories (excluding Tsuen Wan)	482	584	828
Overall	3 754	4 207	4 760

(b) Density of Population in Selected Districts

	<u>Census Districts</u>	<u>Persons per</u>
		<u>sq. km. (1981)</u>
Districts with largest density : (in descending order)	Sham Shui Po	165 445
	Mong Kok	161 041
	Hung Hom	119 837
Districts with smallest density : (in ascending order)	Tsuen Wan Other Area	164
	Sha Tin Other Area	177
	Tai Po Other Area	218

4. Age and Sex Structure

(a) Sex Composition

Sex ratio (number of males per thousand females),
1971, 1976 and 1981

<u>Year</u>	<u>Sex Ratio</u>
1971	1 033
1976	1 046
1981	1 093

The rapid increase in the sex ratio of the population during the period 1976 to 1981 is a result of the large influx of illegal immigrants, who were predominantly young and male.

(b) Age Structure

Percentage distribution of population by age,
1971, 1976 and 1981

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1981</u>
	%	%	%
Under 15	35.8	30.1	24.8
15 - 64	59.7	64.4	68.6
65 and over	4.5	5.5	6.6
Dependency ratio*	674	553	457
Median age	21.7	23.9	26.0

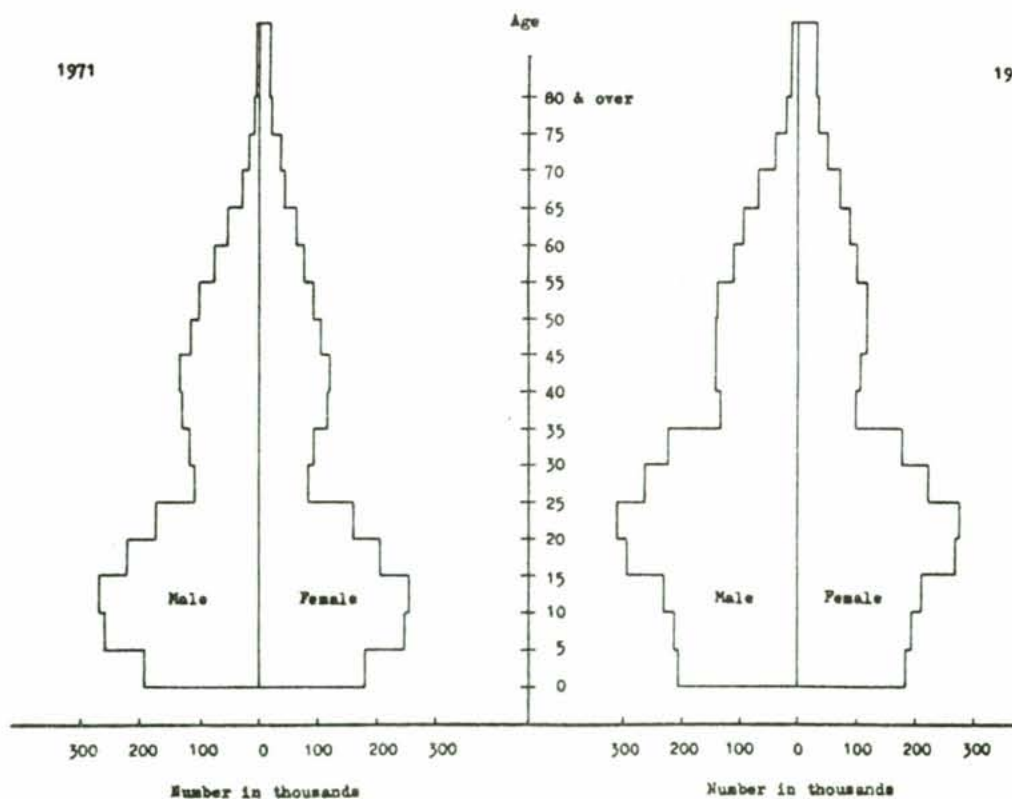
* no. of persons below age 15 and people aged 65 and over per 1 000 persons in the 15 to 64 age group.

The trends were :

- (a) a smaller proportion of the population aged below 15;
- (b) slowly increasing proportion of the population aged 65 and over;
- (c) a continuous rise in the proportion of the population of working age (those aged 15 to 64) resulting in a steady decline in the dependency ratio.

(c) Population Pyramid

Population pyramids, 1971 and 1981



Special features of the pyramid for 1981 were :

- (a) indentation at ages 35 to 39 mainly the result of World War II;
- (b) bulge in the age group 15 to 24 due to high fertility in the late 1950s and early 1960s;
- (c) decreasing number of children aged 15 and under.

5. Place of Birth

Percentage distribution of population by place of birth, 1971, 1976 and 1981

<u>Place of Birth</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1981</u>
	%	%	%
Hong Kong	56.4	58.9	57.2
China	41.6	38.6	39.6
Elsewhere	2.0	2.4	3.2
Unknown	0.0	0.1	-

The proportion of the population born in Hong Kong has decreased by 1.7% points during the past five years due to the influx of immigrants.

6. Place of Origin

Percentage distribution of population by place of origin, 1971 and 1981

<u>Place of Origin</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1981</u>
	%	%
Hong Kong	4.7	2.5
Guangzhou, Macau & adjacent places	52.7	49.3
Siyi	17.4	16.3
Chaozhou	9.9	11.4
Elsewhere in Guangdong province	6.4	9.4
Elsewhere in China	7.2	9.1
Other countries	1.7	2.0

Some 98% of the population were of Hong Kong or China origin. Other groups included :

	<u>Persons</u>
Countries in South East Asia	28 637
United Kingdom	25 703
India, Pakistan, Bangladesh & Sri-Lanka	11 867
U.S.A., Australia and New Zealand	9 715
Japan	6 740
Other countries	18 244

B. FERTILITY

7. Number of Children Ever Born

	Average Number of Children Born (to Ever-Married Women) aged 15 - 49
1971	3.4
1976	3.0
1981	2.5

The diminishing number of live births to ever-married women is concurrent with the decline in fertility during the past ten years.

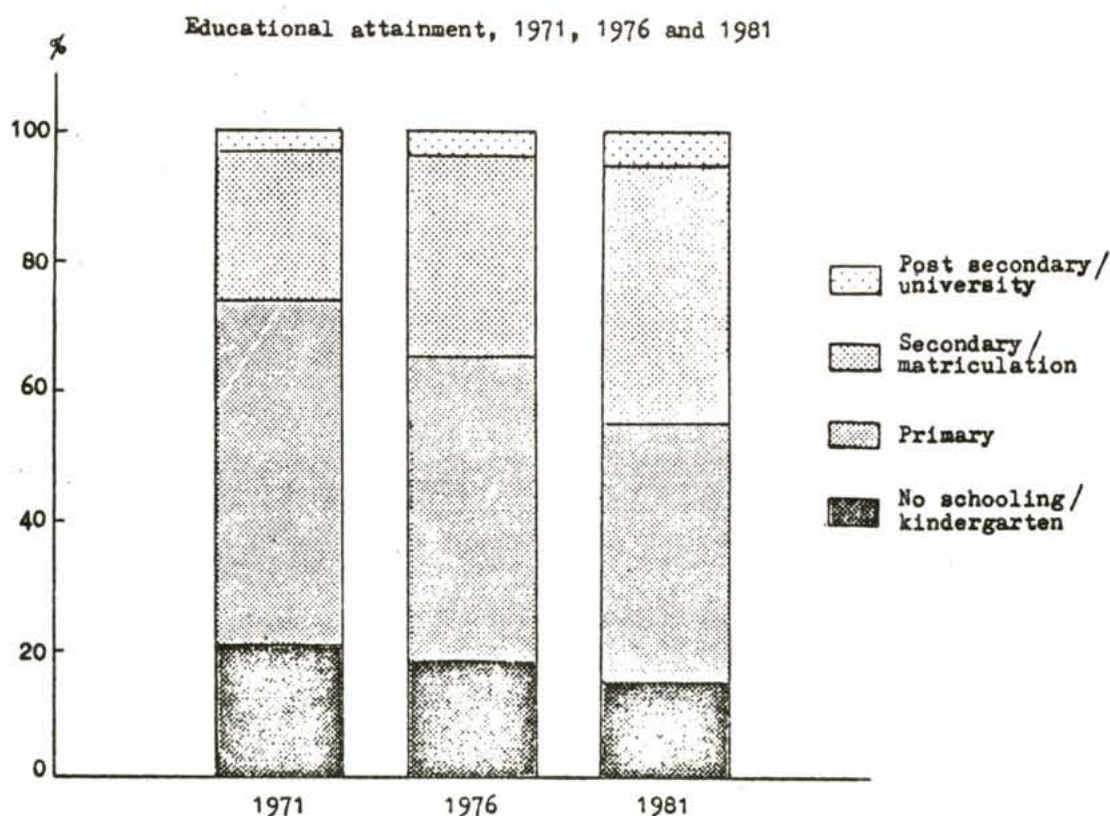
C. EDUCATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS

8. Educational Attainment

Percentage distribution of population aged 5 and over
by educational attainment,
1971, 1976 and 1981

	<u>1971</u> %	<u>1976</u> %	<u>1981</u> %
No schooling/ kindergarten	21.0	18.5	15.5
Primary	53.0	47.0	39.8
Secondary/ matriculation	22.9	30.8	39.2
Post-secondary/ university	3.1	3.7	5.5

There was a marked improvement in the educational attainment of the population over the past ten years.



9. School Attendance

Proportion of population attending school or educational institution full-time by age, 1971, 1976 and 1981

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Proportion of Population</u>		
	<u>1971</u> %	<u>1976</u> %	<u>1981</u> %
3 - 5	55	62	83
6 - 11	95	98	98
12 - 14	85	87	92
15 - 16	58	66	74

10. Field of Education

Some 257 896 people, representing 6.9% of the population aged 15 and over, had received or were receiving professional / technical education in post-secondary colleges, Technical Institutes, Colleges of Education, the School of Nursing, the Technical Teachers' College and universities. Of this total, 186 385 were undertaking or had undertaken a vocational course.

Distribution of population with professional / technical education by field, 1981

<u>Field of Education</u>	<u>Persons</u>	<u>%</u>
Arts and social science	55 619	21.6
Pure sciences	18 564	7.2
Education	29 305	11.4
Business, commercial and computer studies	49 893	19.3
Medical and health related studies	23 400	9.1
Architecture and construction engineering	21 521	8.3
Mechanical, electrical, electronic and marine engineering	36 396	14.1
Textile, design and other industrial technology	8 610	3.3
Transport and other vocational studies (including social work and law)	14 588	5.7
Total	257 896	100.0

D. ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

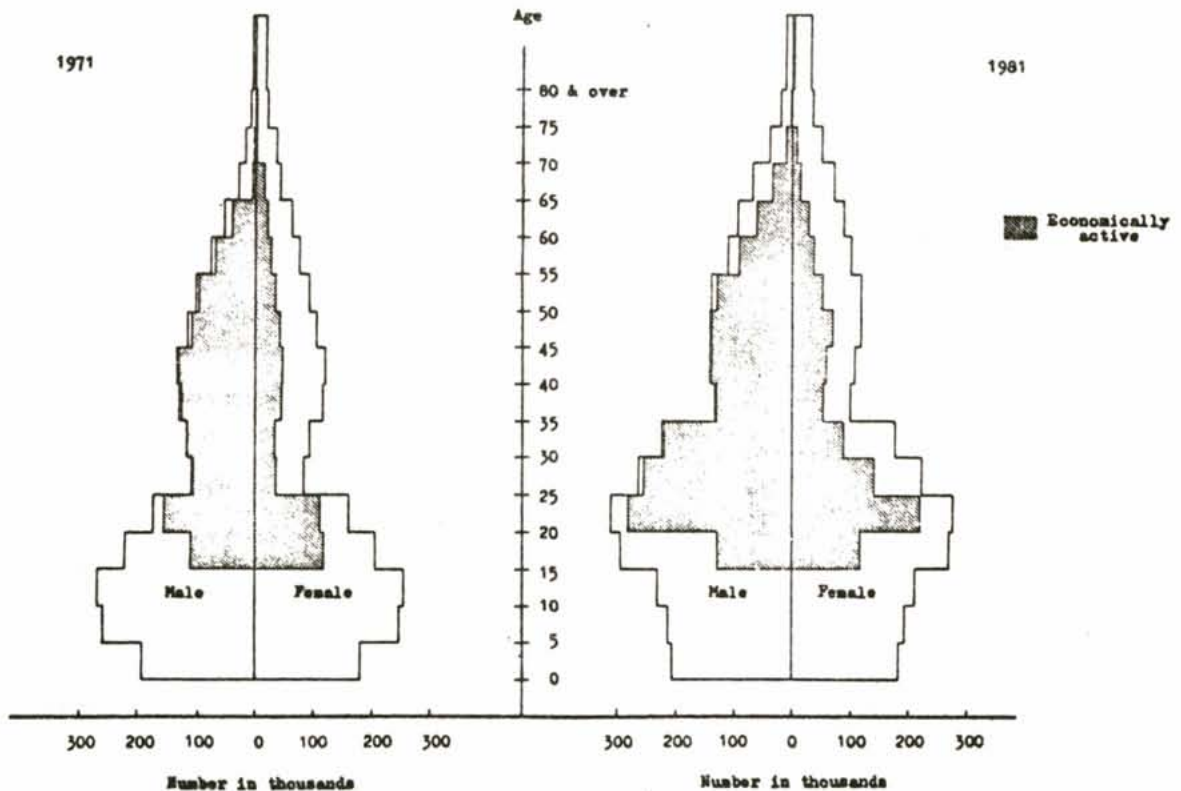
11. Labour Force

Population aged 15 and over and economically active population, 1971, 1976 and 1981

	<u>1971</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1981</u>
Population aged 15 and over	2 528 726	3 077 730	3 749 053
Economically active population	1 618 982	1 922 500	2 503 804

The size of the labour force increased at an average annual rate of 4.5% during the period 1971 to 1981, and that of the population aged 15 and over at a somewhat lower rate of 4.0%.

Economically active population (or labour force), 1971 and 1981



12. Median Age of Labour Force

The labour force (aged 15 - 64) has become younger as a result of changes in the age structure of the population :

	Median Age of Labour Force aged 15 - 64		
	<u>1971</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1981</u>
Male	36.7	34.9	32.8
Female	28.9	27.5	28.3
Overall	35.0	32.3	31.2

13. Sex Composition of the Labour Force

A larger proportion of females were in the labour force in 1981 than ten years ago. The sex ratio (males per 1 000 females) of the labour force decreased from 2 028 in 1971 to 1 925 in 1976, and to 1 828 in 1981.

Sex ratio of the labour force by occupation, 1981

<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Sex Ratio</u>
Professional, technical and related workers	1 648
Administrative and managerial workers	6 169
Clerical and related workers	894
Sales workers	2 645
Service workers	1 934
Agricultural workers and fisherfolk	2 117
Production and related workers, transport equipment operators and labourers	1 918
Armed forces and unclassifiable	2 734

14. Labour Force Participation Rates

Age-specific labour force participation rate
by sex, 1981

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Male</u> %	<u>Female</u> %
15 - 19	45.2	42.6
20 - 24	90.9	79.7
25 - 34	98.3	56.8
35 - 44	98.6	53.4
45 - 54	96.0	46.7
55 and over	60.3	24.9
Overall (15 and over)	82.5	49.5

15. Activity Status

Percentage distribution of economically active population
(aged 15 and over) by activity status,
1971, 1976 and 1981

<u>Activity Status</u>	<u>1971</u> %	<u>1976</u> %	<u>1981</u> %
Self-employed	8.0	8.6	5.9
Employer	2.5	2.8	3.6
Employee (including outworkers)	85.0	85.0	86.5
Unemployed	4.5	3.6	4.0

16. Occupational Structure

Percentage distribution of working population
by occupation, 1971, 1976 and 1981

<u>Occupation</u>	<u>1971</u> %	<u>1976</u> %	<u>1981</u> %
Professional, technical and related workers	5.2	5.5	6.0
Administrative and managerial workers	2.4	2.2	2.7
Clerical and related workers	8.3	9.7	12.2
Sales workers	10.6	11.5	10.3
Services workers	14.8	14.9	15.6
Agricultural workers and fisherfolk	3.8	2.7	2.1
Production and related workers, transport equipment operators and labourers	52.3	52.1	50.4
Armed forces and unclassifiable	2.6	1.4	0.7

17. Industry

Percentage distribution of working population
by industry, 1971, 1976 and 1981

<u>Industry</u>	<u>1971</u> %	<u>1976</u> %	<u>1981</u> %
Manufacturing	47.0	44.8	41.2
Agriculture and fishing	3.9	2.6	2.0
Construction	5.4	5.6	7.7
Wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels	16.2	19.5	19.2
Transport, storage and communication	7.4	7.4	7.5
Finance, insurance, real estate and business services	2.7	3.4	4.8
Services	15.0	15.4	15.6
Others and unclassifiable	2.4	1.3	2.0

18. Hours of Work

On average, less hours were worked per week in 1981 than
in 1971 :

	Average Hours of Work, 1971, 1976 and 1981		
	<u>1971</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1981</u>
Male	58	53	52
Female	53	50	47
Overall	56	52	50

19. Secondary Occupation

Percentage of employees with secondary occupation,
1981

	<u>%</u>
Male	2.0
Female	1.2
Overall	1.7

A total of 34 269 employees had a secondary occupation during the 30 days before the census reference date. About a quarter of them were production and related workers, and less than two-fifths were service workers or professional and technical workers.

20. Income from Employment

Percentage distribution of working population
(excluding unpaid workers) by monthly
income from main employment

<u>Income from Main Employment (HK\$)</u>	<u>1976</u> %	<u>1981</u> %
Under \$ 1 000	71.8	18.7
\$ 1 000 - \$ 1 999	21.0	49.6
\$ 2 000 - \$ 2 999	3.8	18.2
\$ 3 000 - \$ 4 999	}	9.2
\$ 5 000 and over	} 3.4	4.3
Median monthly income	\$ 738	\$ 1 516

The overall median monthly income from main employment doubled in the past five years. Discounting the increase in consumer prices between 1976 and 1981, real income has increased by 37%, at an average annual rate of 7.1%.

E. HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

21. Number of Domestic Households

Because of decreasing household size, the number of households grew at a faster rate than the population :

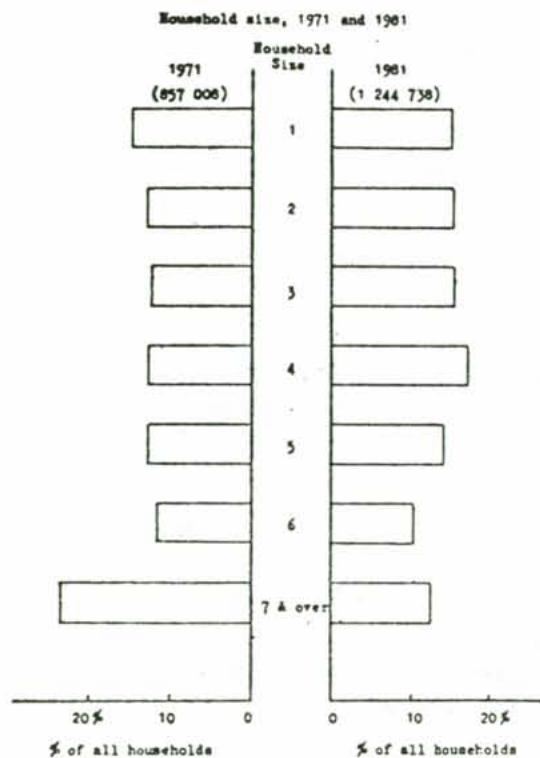
<u>Census Year</u>	<u>Number</u>	Number of domestic households, 1971, 1976 and 1981	
		<u>Average Annual Growth</u> %	<u>Average Annual Growth of Population</u> %
1971	857 008		
1976	1 024 680	3.3	2.1
1981	1 244 738	4.3	2.8

22. Household Size

Percentage distribution of domestic households by household size, 1971, 1976 and 1981

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>1971</u> %	<u>1976</u> %	<u>1981</u> %
1	14.7	14.7	15.2
2 - 3	25.0	27.6	30.8
4 - 5	25.4	28.6	31.5
6 and over	34.9	29.1	22.5
Average household size	4.5	4.2	3.9

The average household size has dropped by 13.3% over the past ten years.



23. Household Composition

Percentage distribution of domestic households
by household composition, 1976 and 1981

<u>Household Composition</u>	<u>1976</u> %	<u>1981</u> %
One person	14.8	15.2
One unextended nuclear family	60.2	54.4
One vertically extended nuclear family	9.4	13.6
One horizontally extended nuclear family	2.0	2.4
Two or more nuclear families	6.0	6.3
Non-family nuclear households	7.6	8.1

24. Household Income

Percentage distribution of domestic households
by household income, 1971, 1976 and 1981

<u>Household Income (HK\$)</u>	<u>1971</u> %	<u>1976</u> %	<u>1981</u> %
Under \$ 1 000	70.3	29.1	9.5
\$ 1 000 - \$ 1 999	21.5	40.5	19.0
\$ 2 000 - \$ 2 999	}	16.2	22.3
\$ 3 000 - \$ 4 999		}	26.2
\$ 5 000 - \$ 6 999			8.2
\$ 7 000 - \$ 9 999	}	14.2	6.4
\$10 000 and over			5.4
Median monthly household income			
(at current prices)	\$ 708	\$ 1 425	\$ 2 955
(at 1971 prices)	\$ 708	\$ 944	\$ 1 308

The overall median household income increased 3.2 times during the 10-year period. Discounting the increase in consumer prices between 1971 and 1981, real household income has increased by 84.7%, at an average annual rate of 6.3%; and between 1976 and 1981, by 38.6%, at an average annual rate of 7.4%.

F. HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

25. Type of Housing

Percentage distribution of land-based population
by type of housing 1971, 1976 and 1981

<u>Type of Housing</u>	<u>1971</u> %	<u>1976</u> %	<u>1981</u> %
Public and aided	37.8	40.6	38.5
Housing Authority home ownership estates	-	-	0.6
Private	} 53.7*	48.8	51.4
Institutions		1.1	0.9
Temporary	8.5	9.5+	8.6

* including resettlement cottages

+ including simple stone structures in Hong Kong Island,
Kowloon and New Kowloon.

The decrease in the proportion of the population in public and aided housing in the past five years is a result of the influx of immigrants, who reside mainly in private housing.

26. Sharing of Living Quarters

Degree of sharing by type of housing,
1971, 1976 and 1981

<u>Type of Housing</u>	Degree of Sharing (average number of domestic households, per living quarter)		
	<u>1971</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1981</u>
Public and aided	1.01	1.01	1.01
Housing Authority home ownership estates	-	-	1.00
Private	} 1.56	} 1.39	1.35
Institutions			1.03
Temporary	1.08	1.13	1.11
Overall	1.29	1.21	1.19

27. Type of Living Quarter and Accommodation

Number of domestic households by type of living quarter and accommodation, 1981

<u>Type of Living Quarter and Accommodation</u>	<u>No. of Households</u>	<u>%</u>
Housing Authority rental blocks		
Self-contained	282 783	22.8
Non-self-contained	104 310	8.4
Housing Authority home ownership estates	7 176	0.6
Housing Authority cottages	4 225	0.3
Housing Authority temporary huts	22 291	1.8
Housing Society rental blocks	25 972	2.1
Private housing blocks		
Self-contained	580 004	46.8
whole house / flat	321 890	26.0
room / cubicle	229 310	18.5
bedspace, cockloft, etc.	28 804	2.3
Non-self-contained	6 834	0.6
Modern houses / modern village houses	26 328	2.1
Simple stone structures	57 775	4.7
Institutions	2 313	0.2
Other permanent housing	29 485	2.4
Roof-top structures	9 552	0.8
Other private temporary housing	78 595	6.4
Total	1 237 643	100.0

28. Tenure

Percentage distribution of domestic households by tenure, 1971, 1976 and 1981

<u>Tenure</u>	<u>1971</u> %	<u>1976</u> %	<u>1981</u> %
Owner	18.1	23.2	27.9
Sole-tenant	45.5	46.3	44.0
Main tenant	5.9	4.3	3.9
Sub-tenant	20.2	14.5	11.7
Co-tenant	4.1	4.7	5.6
Rent free	6.2	3.5	2.5
Provided / subsidised by employer	*	3.5	4.4

* information is not separately available

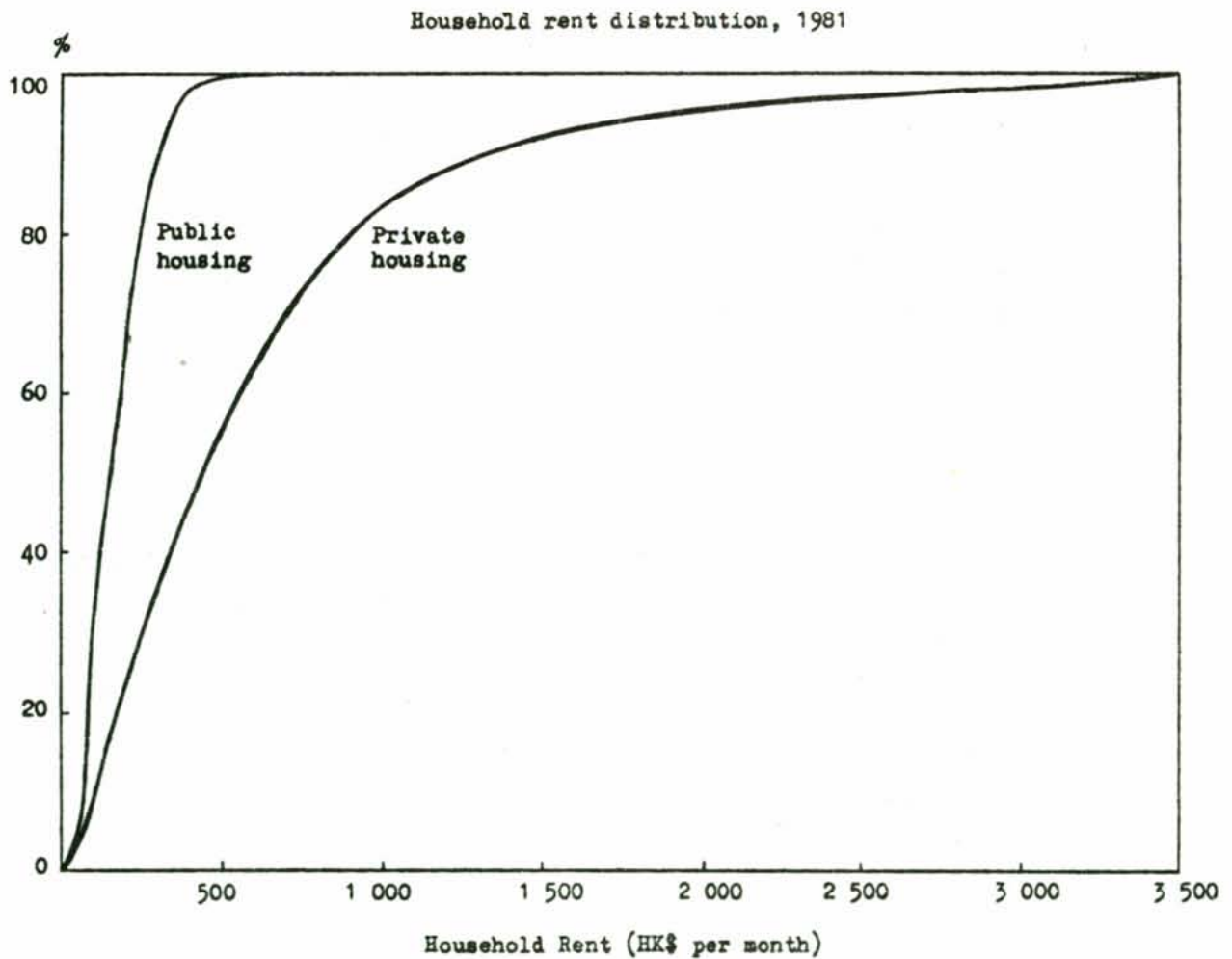
There was a significant increase in the proportion of households owning their own accommodation. The proportion of sub-tenants dropped appreciably from one-fifth to about one-ninth.

29. Household Rent

Median household rent per month by type of housing
1971, 1976 and 1981

<u>Type of Housing</u>	Median Household Rent per Month (HK\$)		
	<u>1971</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1981</u>
Public and aided	\$ 41	\$ 60	\$ 151
Private (including institutions)	\$ 152*	\$ 274	\$ 442
Temporary	\$ 44	\$ 50	\$ 80

* including resettlement cottages



G. INTERNAL MOVEMENT

30. Area of Origin and Area of Destination

A total of 806 130 people who were living in Hong Kong in 1976 were recorded as having moved between census districts during the past five years. This represented some 19% of the population aged 5 and over who were living in Hong Kong in 1976.

Number (and percentage distribution) of moved persons (aged 5 and over and who lived in Hong Kong 5 years ago) by area of origin and area of destination, 1981

<u>Area of Origin</u>	<u>Area of Destination</u>				<u>Total</u>
	Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and New Kowloon	New Towns	Rural New Territories	Marine	
Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and New Kowloon	474 756 (58.9%)	192 408 (23.9%)	19 115 (2.4%)	-	686 279 (85.2%)
New Towns	36 025 (4.5%)	21 221 (2.6%)	9 373 (1.2%)	-	66 619 (8.3%)
Rural New Territories	15 821 (2.0%)	18 597 (2.3%)	2 748 (0.3%)	-	37 166 (4.6%)
Marine	9 955 (1.2%)	3 363 (0.4%)	2 748 (0.3%)	-	16 066 (1.9%)
Total	536 557 (66.6%)	235 589 (29.2%)	33 984 (4.2%)	-	806 130 (100.0%)