

Commission on Poverty

Indicators of Poverty - An Update -

Background

At the CoP meeting held on 11 April 2005, Members discussed CoP Paper 10/2005 on indicators of poverty. It was agreed that, instead of using a single income-based indicator to draw a poverty line, a multi-dimensional approach be adopted for measuring and sizing the problem of poverty. The fact that Hong Kong is a generally affluent community and that a broad range of social services and support is available means that identifying and addressing the specific needs of the disadvantaged groups are more important than trying to single out those who are poor only in the income sense.

2. It was also agreed that the poverty indicators would focus on the following social groups :

- Children / youth
- Working people / adults
- Older people
- Community

and that the set of indicators would cover the following six areas :

- Earnings / income support
- Health
- Education / training
- Employment
- Living conditions
- Community / family support

3. Members agreed further that the indicators could be used in future to track and monitor the poverty situation in Hong Kong from a macro perspective, and to facilitate broad strategy setting and policy planning.

Recent work in refining the indicators and some trends shown by the indicators

4. The Secretariat, working with the Government Economist's Office and other relevant bureaux and departments, has refined the set of indicators over the past few months. Some CoP Members were also consulted and their views have been incorporated in the process. The detailed considerations for refining the indicators are given in Annex I. The actual figures and trends for the indicators compiled for the four social groups are shown in Annex II.

5. These macro indicators are meant to give an overview of how the poverty situation evolves over time. It should be noted that more detailed and specific indicators are used operationally to guide the planning and implementation of government programmes, including those at the district level. For instance, the Social Welfare Department has developed a protocol for district welfare planning which, together with a set of evidence-based social indicators of district welfare needs, could help District Social Welfare Officers assess district welfare needs and conduct district planning. The Education and Manpower Bureau likewise makes reference to district demographic profile and indicators in various domains at school/student level to plan the provision of school places and the mix of different curricula and modes of school operation. While the Labour Department plans its employment services primarily on a territory-wide basis, it has strengthened its assistance to districts with greater needs, e.g. in organising district-based job fairs or in setting up new job centres in the more remote districts of Yuen Long and the North.

6. Latest figures available up to the third quarter of 2005 show that along with the economic upturn and the improvement in labour market conditions, poverty as measured by the employment and earnings indicators has turned for the better. There has been a marked decline in the number of unemployed persons. There has also been a significant fall in the number of long-term unemployed, showing that many people who were out-of-work for a long time are getting back to work. Also, there are proportionately fewer people living in low-income households as the number of employed persons having low earnings declined.

7. An important and effective strategy to tackle poverty is to prevent our younger generation from falling into poverty when they grow up. Education is key in this process. Taking a longer-term perspective, the school attendance rate and educational attainment of our youth have continued to improve. Education, together with employment, are vital for promoting social mobility. In this connection, a study has been commissioned by the Government Economist's Office to look into income mobility in Hong Kong. Results are expected to be available in mid-2006.

The way forward

8. The revised set of poverty indicators is listed at Annex III. These indicators would help trace the poverty situation over time and provide reference in policy formulation . The indicators would be supplemented, where appropriate, by more detailed studies and other district-specific information and statistics.

9. Subject to any further suggestions from Members, we plan to issue the annual outcome of these indicators by around March/April each year. Like similar work in other countries, these indicators would be revised and enhanced along with the changing needs and expectations of society.

Economic Analysis and Business Facilitation Unit
Financial Secretary's Office
21 November 2005

Considerations in Refining the Poverty Indicators

Under the multi-dimensional approach, poverty will be looked at or measured from different perspectives, with some people living in the households without job, some in the households with low income, some facing low employment earnings, and some receiving assistance under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme (CSSA), etc. The indicators are thus inter-related, and there are overlapping among them. For example, an unemployment CSSA recipient, if he/she is the only breadwinner in the family, would also be counted as living in a workless household. Further, if there is one family member who is not eligible for CSSA, even this CSSA household would have income falling below the average CSSA payment level.

2. Therefore, under a multi-dimensional approach, the number of persons or households counted should not be added together. They represent a variety of tools for looking at the same thing - poverty or disadvantaged groups - from different perspectives.

3. The six categories of indicators proposed in CoP Paper 10/2005 are still considered a suitable frame for understanding the problem of poverty. A number of the indicators originally proposed are retained, while some refinements and new suggestions are included. This Annex gives a detailed account of the rationale for these changes.

Earnings / income support

4. Indicators relating to earnings and income support are fundamental in reflecting the standard of living of the four social groups. Relevant indicators include primarily people living in households with income below the average CSSA payment level, the various groups of welfare recipients, and working people having earnings less than the lower quartile.

5. Indicators on the number of persons in households with income below average CSSA payment level are used to indicate those who may live in poverty. Nevertheless, some of them might have already been receiving assistance under the CSSA Scheme, i.e. their basic necessities are assured under the social security system. The purpose of tracking those receiving CSSA is to reflect the size and composition of the needy people who are receiving welfare assistance, with some of them potentially able to help themselves. As to the working people earning low income, they could already be in poverty or may turn into poverty, if they are not assisted by the low

income assistance programmes under the CSSA Scheme, or if they do not have other household members earning better income.

6. The originally proposed indicator on full grant recipients under the School Textbook Assistance Scheme has been deleted, as the income limit for full grant implies that the recipients should have already been captured under those households with income below the average CSSA payment level.

Health

7. Health is another major area deserving attention, as a healthy body is essential for study, work and living in general. Effort has been made to collate expert views on what indicators in this respect could be employed in the Hong Kong context. Indicators like infant mortality and life expectancy at birth are commonly used for international benchmarking of health status and for tracking the progress in poverty alleviation even in some developed economies. Yet Hong Kong probably has already achieved a very high level of health protection for its citizens. Furthermore, Hong Kong, as distinct from some other advanced economies, is more homogeneous in terms of ethnical and spatial distribution, which are usually important in driving health phenomena of this kind. Hence there is not much point in monitoring the trend of these health-related indicators in the case of Hong Kong. Similarly, the proportion of vaccination among infants and children, which is sometimes used as an indicator, is not applicable, as all stipulated vaccinations are provided for free of charge to Hong Kong residents.

8. For the purpose of poverty monitoring, it is desirable to find out the illnesses or health deficiencies that tend to occur more often among the poor locally. But the greatest limitation is that patient records kept by the Hospital Authority are totally devoid of their income or social status. The same problem applies to the health and development information about children and youth accumulated under the Student Health Service launched in school year 1995/96. Therefore, if there are any health problems which the poor are more susceptible to, it might be worth conducting some special survey to collect the necessary data for further analysis.

9. Fortunately, the universal medical and health care services currently provided by the Government are of high quality and are available to the poor. In addition to the heavily subsidized medical and health services, the poor is under the protection of a medical fee waiver mechanism of public hospitals and clinics. Before some better indicators are identified, reference will continue to be made to the elderly recipients under the medical fee waiver mechanism as an indication of the sick and

poor old people needing help. This indicator is not extended to the younger social groups, because the chances of them facing catastrophic or chronic illness are much lower.

Education / training

10. Unlike the indicators relating to income and earnings, those relating to education and training are not directly reflective of poverty. But they are essential, because education is the most effective means for preventing the younger generation from falling into poverty when they grow up. Studies overseas indicate that education is the main driver of upward intergeneration income mobility.

11. In CoP Paper 10/2005, attempt has been made to track the children/youth not having even the basic educational attainment, like those dropping out from schools, those failing to obtain Secondary 3 education, and those having poor results at the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE). But education experts cautioned that these negative observations might not be a fair indication of the group being at risk of poverty, as most of the school drop-outs were successfully placed back to school, and there are many alternatives in study and training for students failing the HKCEE.

12. On reflection, it is also possible to look at education in the context of poverty prevention from a positive perspective. With the heavy emphasis on knowledge and credentials in workplace nowadays, the more is invested in education, the less the chance on average that a person would not be able to make his or her ends meet after growing up. Therefore, the education-related indicators will monitor the proportions of the population who receive further education after the nine years universal education. The higher these proportions, the better will be the prospect for the younger generation in future.

Employment

13. Employment is considered fundamental in lifting people out of poverty, and in some cases by moving them from welfare to self-reliance. To be even more constructive, work is also a channel for achieving upward social mobility. It is thus useful to have a check on the numbers of persons unemployed and the unemployment rate. Although unemployed is not equivalent to poverty, it is likely that persons who have been persistently unemployed would have difficulty in sustaining their daily living. As such, figures on long-term unemployment are relevant as an indicator of poverty.

14. The other dimension of looking at unemployment and along with it poverty is the number of persons living in workless households. As can be expected, the effect of unemployment is much wider than that on the unemployed persons themselves. It would affect also their family members, and in a wider sense the economy at large. Children and youth living in workless households would be an area of particular concern, as they are at the critical stage of life development but are not in the position to take care of their own well being.

Living conditions

15. Housing is one important aspect of people's living, especially for the pre-school children and elderly who spend a predominant proportion of their time at home. A home should at least enable safe and healthy living.

16. The provision of subsidized housing has contributed substantially to improving the living conditions of the poor over the past few decades. Now with about half of the households living in subsidized housing and the Government's pledge of a short waiting time for public rental housing, living environment should not be a great concern, except for the small group who live in some shared housing units in the old buildings or in some temporary housing. Children living under this environment have little space to move around, and it is easier for adults to get into trouble with the co-tenants. The housing-related indicators are included to capture this group of people with poor living conditions.

Community / family support

17. This category of indicators is intended to measure the support that members of families and the community are able to provide to persons in need of help. The kind of support involved could be very diverse in nature, given the variety of needs associated with the daily living of people at different ages. It could be care-taking of young children, after-school learning support for pupils, consultation services for adults, and health care support for the elderly, etc. Therefore, it is unlikely that indicators at the macro level would be adequate for dealing with these localised issues.

18. The originally proposed indicator on children under the care of aided child care centres was meant to reflect the effectiveness of child care services in catering for the poor. But subsequently it is found that the income limit for such services is rather generous, to the extent that households with income well above the median could also use the services. This indicator is thus deleted from the list. Nevertheless, the indicator on children with single parent and in low-income households is indicative of the potential difficulties faced by some children and youth in terms of family support.

Indicators Compiled for the Four Social Groups

On the basis of the consideration discussed in Annex I, a group of macro indicators is proposed for the four social groups. The data underlying the indicators are sourced primarily from the General Household Survey of the Census and Statistics Department which covers all the domestic households in Hong Kong. Unless otherwise stated, foreign domestic helpers are excluded from all the data compilation, as their well being in Hong Kong has been safeguarded by some special conditions on employment. In addition, the indicators also utilise data from administrative records of the Social Welfare Department and Hospital Authority. Still it has to be pointed out that the indicators thus compiled are not without limitations. For instance, they have not taken into account transfers among household members, transfers or receipts in kind, and ownership of assets. As the indicators are inter-related, there are bound to be overlaps.

2. This Annex will discuss briefly the interpretations and implications of the indicators. Detailed figures have been compiled for the indicators, as given in Appendix A. The situation in 2004 (i.e. before the establishment of the Commission on Poverty) is taken as the baseline. While earlier data are also presented for trend analysis purpose, those for the first three quarters of 2005 are included to show the latest position. The plan is to update the poverty indicators on an annual basis in future.

Children / youth (aged 0-14 / 15-24)

3. For children and youth, the indicators on income and family support, employment and living conditions are included for tracking the existing poverty situation, while those on education and training are for ensuring poverty would be prevented at an early stage. The following eight indicators will be looked at for this social group:

- Children aged 0-5 and 6-14 living in workless households
- Children aged 0-5 and 6-14 living in households with income below average CSSA payment
- Children aged 0-5 and 6-14 with single parent and in households with income below average CSSA payment
- CSSA recipients aged 0-5 and 6-14, and those aged 15-21 who are on child rate
- School attendance rate of youth aged 16-19
- Persons aged 20-24 with tertiary education

- Non-engaged youth aged 15-19 and 20-24
- Children aged 0-5 and 6-14 living in private temporary housing and private shared units

4. A substantial proportion of the persons captured by the first indicator on workless households would also come under the second indicator on low-income households, meaning that poverty could be the results of no jobs or low earnings relative to household size. For children aged 0-14, there were around 110 000 of them living in workless households and 229 000 in low-income households in 2004, representing 10.6% and 22.1% respectively of the population of this age group. These had improved over the situation in 2003. Further improvements are observed in the proportions of youngsters in low-income households, along with the rebound in wages and payroll at the beginning of 2005. Yet the number of children with single parent and in low-income households held broadly stable. There were 27 000 of them in 2004, accounting for 2.6% of the population aged 0-14.

5. Yet despite the decline in the unemployment CSSA caseloads upon improved labour market conditions, the proportion of children and youth receiving CSSA has shown no signs of abating. There could be many reasons causing this to happen. A plausible reason is they are mostly recipients of CSSA other than that of unemployment CSSA. Currently, there are around 40 000 active single-parent CSSA cases and 18 000 low-earnings CSSA cases, which added together exceeds the 43 000 unemployment CSSA caseloads.

6. In terms of education and training, the proportions of youth who remain in education after the 9-year universal education and who have tertiary education are on a continuous uptrend. In 2004, over 80% of the youth aged 16-19 were in education, and over 50% of the youth aged 20-24 were in or have attained tertiary education. About two-thirds of the latter group were associated with the more heavily subsidized degree courses. On the other hand, the proportion of non-engaged youth (i.e. those who are not in education or training, but not actively seeking employment either) aged 15-19 has been declining, while those aged 20-24 showed signs of edging up. The Government has launched various youth employment and training programmes since 1999, and established a special committee for tackling the issues relating to non-engaged youth⁽¹⁾ more recently. In 2004, the number of non-engaged youth is estimated at 23 000, representing 2.6% of the population aged 15-24.

(1) At the Task Force on Continuing Development and Employment-related Training for Youth, non-engaged youth is defined to include also the unemployed youth (i.e. those actively seeking employment). But for the purpose of analysing poverty, it is useful to have the two groups separated. Unemployed youth will be covered separately under the next sub-section "working people/adults". Yet these two groups of youth will be brought together for discussion in paragraph 22 below.

7. In terms of housing, the living conditions of children and youth improved apparently in the few years up to 2004 and held broadly stable then. In 2004, there were 17 000 children and youth aged 0-14 resided in private temporary housing or shared units, equivalent to 1.6% of the population in this age group.

Working people / adults (aged 15-59)

8. Persons aged 15-24 are grouped under the indicators for both children/youth and working people/adults, as persons aged 15 and above are classified as working population by definition, but in the developed economies like Hong Kong a large proportion of them would still be in education.

9. For working people/adults, the focus is more on employment, income and earnings. They are the group who are expected to take care of themselves and their dependents in normal circumstances. Against this consideration, the following seven indicators have been chosen for poverty tracking and analysis purposes :

- Persons aged 15-19 and 20-59 living in workless households
- Persons aged 15-19 and 20-59 living in households with income below average CSSA payment
- Unemployed persons aged 15-19, 20-24 and 25-59
- Persons unemployed for 6 months or longer, and 12 months or longer
- Employed persons aged 15-19, 20-24 and 25-59 working 35 hours or above per week and with monthly employment earnings less than 50% of the median
- Adult able-bodied CSSA recipients having been on CSSA for 1 year or less, and longer than 1 year
- Adult recipients of permanent disability/temporary disability/ill health CSSA

10. Among the persons aged 15-59, there were 295 000 of them living in workless households and 577 000 in low-income households in 2004, representing 6.5% and 12.7% of the population of this age group. Similar to the situation among children, the improvement in 2005 has been more obvious in terms of persons living in low-income households as compared to workless households. As the job market improves, it definitely benefits some jobless households. But there are some households which are more difficult to have at least one person getting back to employment, which could be due to job matching problems, health reasons, or the need to take care of the young and/or old family members, etc.

11. In order to analyse how far the poverty situation has changed in terms of employment and labour income, it would be better to focus directly on the working age people who are in the labour force. In 2004, there were 236 000 unemployed persons aged 15-59 and 83 000 of them had been unemployed for six months or longer, equivalent to an unemployment rate at 6.9% and a long-term unemployment rate at 2.3%. In terms of labour income, 181 000 of the full-time employed persons aged 15-59 or 6.9% of them earned less than 50% of the median monthly employment earnings in 2004. The proportion of low employment earnings was much higher among persons aged 15-19, as a result of their low educational attainment and lack of working experience, but the numbers involved were small. Yet all these indicators show visible improvement in the current year.

12. Turning to the 143 000 adult able-bodied CSSA recipients at end-2004, they amounted to 3.0% of the population aged 15-59. Among them, over 80% of them have been on CSSA for longer than one year, and their numbers continued to edge up despite the strengthened labour demand. Yet improvement does take place among those recipients who have been on CSSA for one year or less. This suggests that it is important to pull the welfare recipients out of the safety net at an early stage. Meanwhile, there were 48 000 non-able-bodied adult CSSA recipients at end-2004, at around 1.0% of the population aged 15-59. This percentage share held broadly stable.

Older people (aged 60 or above)

13. For elderly people, the concern is about health and living conditions, apart from income support. The following are the three relevant indicators :

- Recipients of old-age CSSA
- Number of elderly patients under the medical fee waiver mechanism of public hospitals and clinics
- Elderly persons living in private temporary housing and private shared units

14. There were 185 000 old-age CSSA recipients at end-2004, equivalent to 17.3% of the aged population. The figure does not capture elderly poor who are not on CSSA for whatever reasons. In respect of the medical fee waiver under public hospitals and clinics, insofar as the elderly group is concerned, the target recipients are those who are not on CSSA but have financial difficulties in meeting their medical expenses. In 2004/05, there were 23 000 elderly persons eligible for this medical fee waiver, representing 2.1% of the aged population. Some of the poor elderly on

CSSA might also have health problems, but their medical expenses at public hospitals and clinics have already been waived under the CSSA mechanism.

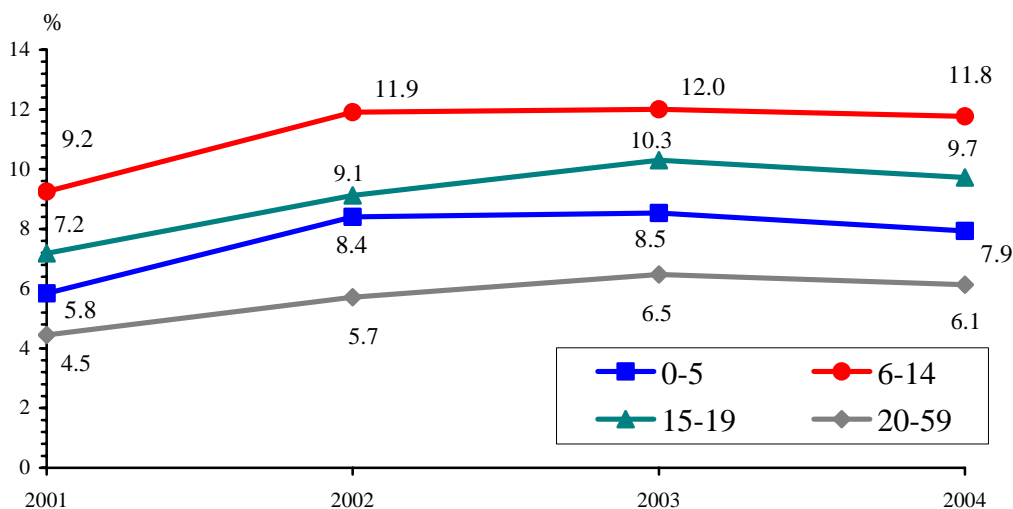
15. 28 000 elderly persons lived in private temporary housing or shared units in 2004, representing 2.8% of the population aged 60 and above. Living conditions of the poor elderly have continued to improve. Moreover, some of the elderly who are captured by this indicator should have already been counted in the above two indicators.

A recapitulation of the lifecycle approach

16. There are several indicators which are related but have been put separately under the above three social groups within the lifecycle approach. It is opportune to group them together for a more focused analysis. These consolidated data are presented at Appendix B.

17. Among the persons aged 0-59, 405 000 or 7.2% of them lived in workless households in 2004. In terms of proportion, the problem is more acute among those aged 6-19 (Chart 1), as most of them should be students who were not in the position to take up jobs. Relatively speaking, persons aged 0-5 fared better in this respect. But it is worth noting that still 6.1% of the persons aged 20-59 were in workless households.

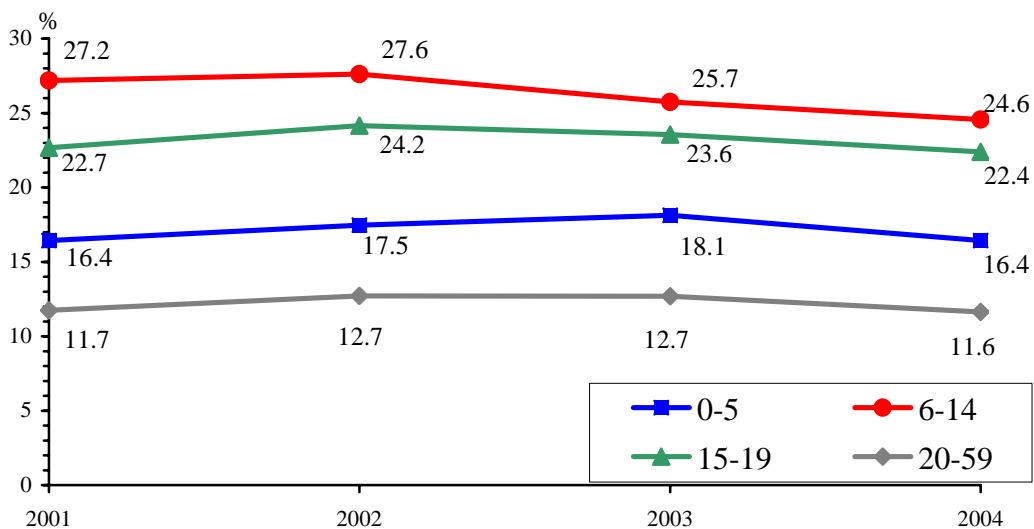
Chart 1 : Proportion of persons living in workless households by age group



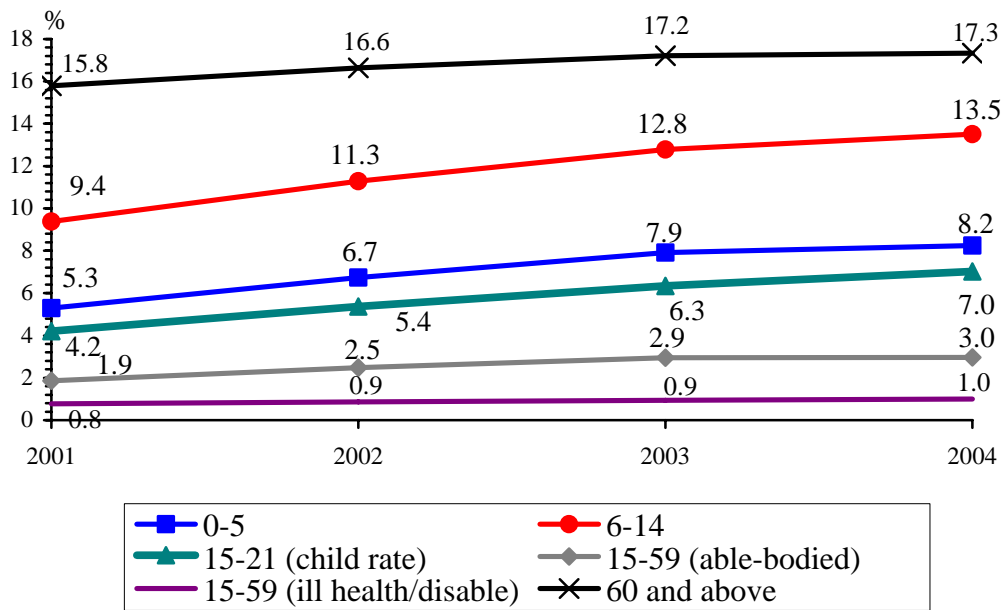
18. With persons living in workless households mostly being a subset of those living in low-income households, there is a larger poverty group in terms of low-income. There were 806 000 persons aged 0-59 living in low-income households in 2004, representing 14.4% of the population of this age group. As in CoP 10/2005, we have chosen not to track the work and financial positions of those aged 60 and above, as most of them should have retired. Among them, they could live on personal savings, investment income, pension, and/or family support, and all these are more prone to be under-reported than income/earnings of the employed persons.

19. Chart 2 shows that there have been an across-the-board decline in the proportions of persons living in low-income households. Since workless and low-income are inter-related, the position of the lines for various age groups are similar to those in Chart 1, with proportionately more of those aged 6-19 suffering from low income, at 22-25%. But since persons aged 6-19 accounted for only around one-fifth of the population aged 0-59, the overall poverty rate was thus much lower.

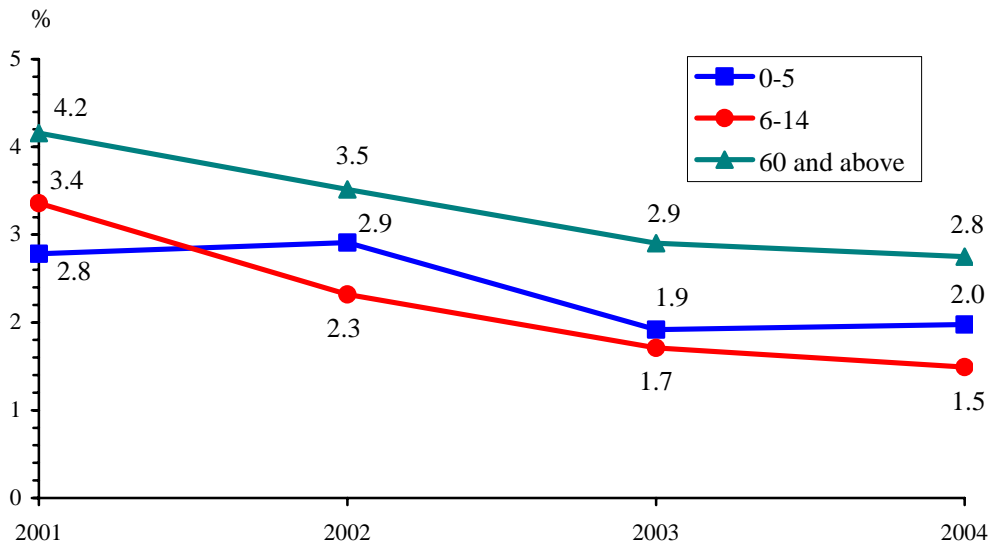
Chart 2 : Proportion of persons living in households with income below average CSSA payment by age group



20. Being on CSSA is another indicator which canvasses people of different ages and characteristics. As shown in Chart 3 below, proportionately more of the elderly and children are on CSSA. Among the 542 000 CSSA recipients at end-2004, children and elderly each accounted for around one-third of the total. The remaining one-third was shared among the able-bodied and non-able-bodied recipients at a ratio of around 3:1. In the discussion about moving from welfare to self-reliance, the focus is on the 143 000 able-bodied adult CSSA recipients, who took up 3.0% of the population aged 15-59.

Chart 3 : Proportion of CSSA recipients by nature and age group

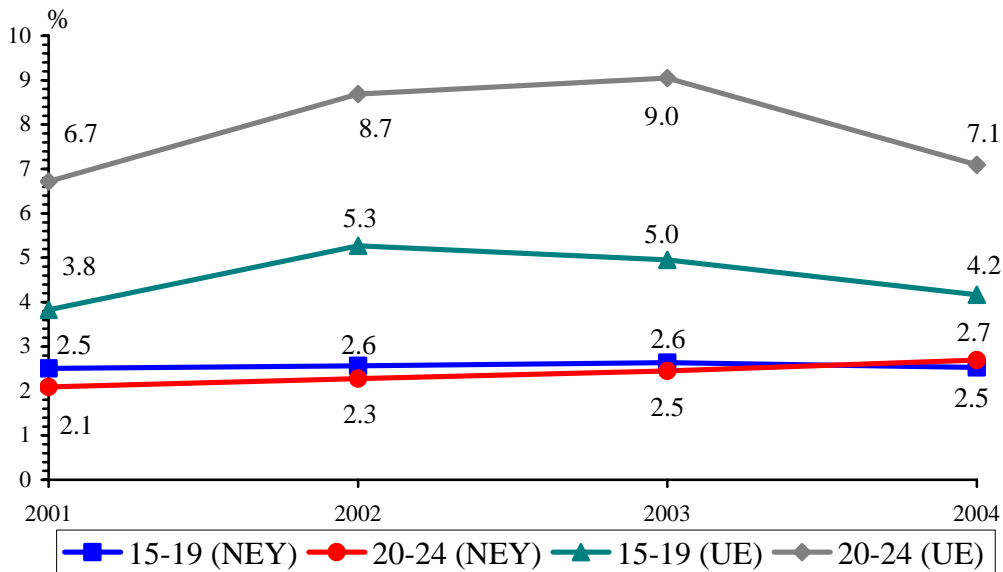
21. Chart 4 below analyses poverty in terms of living conditions. Relative to other types of poverty proportion, the scale of this problem is milder. Taking the old and the young together, there were 45 000 persons facing poor living conditions in 2004, representing 2.2% of the population aged 0-14 and 60 and above.

Chart 4 : Proportion of children and elderly living in private temporary housing and private shared units

22. Lastly, on non-engaged and unemployed youth, the number of unemployed youth is slightly more than double that of non-engaged youth. As can be expected, the numbers of unemployed youth and their unemployment rates have been moving up and down along with the economic cycle, as they are seeking jobs in the labour market.

On the contrary, the numbers and proportions of non-engaged youth have been more stable. Since they are in fact economically inactive, their changes are thus not tied to the economic cycle. To tackle the issues relating to these two groups of “non-working” youth, some different policies and approaches might be required. Chart 5 shows the relative proportions of these two groups in their respective age groups.

Chart 5 : Proportion of non-engaged and unemployed youth by age group



Notes : NEY refers to non-engaged youth.

UE refers to unemployed youth.

Community

23. Beyond the life cycle, there are six indicators which are included to reflect the differences in well being among districts. Unlike the indicators in the other three social groups, some of these indicators are measured in terms of households, as an alternative for sizing the poverty problem. The six indicators are listed below :

- Workless households by district
- Households with income below average CSSA payment by district
- Single parent households with income below average CSSA payment by district
- Median monthly household income by district
- Median monthly employment earnings by district
- Unemployed persons by district

24. In terms of household numbers, there were 188 000 workless households and 273 000 low-income households in 2004, representing 9.4% and 13.7% respectively of the total number of households⁽²⁾. These compared with 405 000 persons or 7.2% of the population aged 0-59 living in workless households, and 806 000 persons or 14.4% in low-income households.

25. The following are the few districts with proportionately more workless households, altogether accounting for 60.9% of all the workless households in 2004 :

- ♦ Yau Tsim Mong
- ♦ Sham Shui Po
- ♦ Wong Tai Sin
- ♦ Kwun Tong
- ♦ Kwai Tsing
- ♦ Tuen Mun
- ♦ Yuen Long
- ♦ North

26. Apart from Yau Tsim Mong, these districts also had more low-income households in proportionate terms, while Tai Po and Islands were also singled out in this respect. Taken together, they accounted for 63.4% of all the low-income households in 2004.

27. In 2004, there were 26 000 single-parent households spreading across the 18 districts, representing 1.2% of the total number of households. Sham Shui Po, Kwun Tong, Kwai Tsing, Tuen Mun, Yuen Long and Tai Po were the six districts with proportionately more single-parent households, with the absolute numbers ranging from 1 800 to 3 500 for each of these individual districts.

28. Analysed in terms of monthly household income and monthly employment earnings, the following districts stood out in 2004 as having their respective medians below the overall median :

- ♦ Yau Tsim Mong
- ♦ *Sham Shui Po*
- ♦ *Wong Tai Sin*
- ♦ *Kwun Tong*

(2) Households with only elderly members aged 60 or above have been excluded from the compilation of these statistics, due to consideration as discussed in paragraph 18 above.

- ♦ *Kwai Tsing*
- ♦ Tuen Mun
- ♦ *Yuen Long*
- ♦ North
- ♦ Tai Po (applicable only to employment earnings)

Their discrepancies from the overall median were less severe in terms of employment earnings, with their medians all lying within 90-99% of the overall median. This is also the case for some of them in terms of household income. But for Sham Shui Po, Wong Tai Sin, Kwun Tong, Kwai Tsing and Yuen Long (the italic ones), their median monthly household income amounted to just 75-88% of the overall median. The larger differences in terms of household income should mostly be related to more or fewer employed persons within one household.

29. Likewise, these districts fared less well in terms of unemployment rate. Except for Yau Tsim Mong, their unemployment rates were higher than the overall average by 0.8 (Tai Po) to 2.5 (Kwai Tsing) percentage points in 2004.

30. Bringing these six district-based indicators together, the table below shows that five districts had their position in 2004 faring less well than the overall average on all fronts :

	Proportion higher than the overall average :			Median below the overall median :		Unemployment rate above the overall average
	Workless households	Low-income households	Single-parent households	Monthly household income	Monthly employment earnings	
Yau Tsim Mong	✓			✓	✓	
Sham Shui Po	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wong Tai Sin	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Kwun Tong	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kwai Tsing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tuen Mun	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Yuen Long	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
North	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Tai Po		✓	✓		✓	✓
Islands		✓				

Indicators of Poverty*

Children/youth (aged 0-14 / 15-24)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Children aged 0-5 and 6-14 living in workless households 2. Children aged 0-5 and 6-14 living in households with income below average CSSA payment 3. Children aged 0-5 and 6-14 with single parent and in households with income below average CSSA payment 4. CSSA recipients aged 0-5 and 6-14, and those aged 15-21 who are on child rate 5. School attendance rate of youth aged 16-19 6. Persons aged 20-24 with tertiary education 7. Non-engaged youth aged 15-19 and 20-24 8. Children aged 0-5 and 6-14 living in private temporary housing and private shared units
Working people / adults (aged 15-59)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Persons aged 15-19 and 20-59 living in workless households 10. Persons aged 15-19 and 20-59 living in households with income below average CSSA payment 11. Unemployed persons aged 15-19, 20-24 and 25-59 12. Persons unemployed for 6 months or longer, and 12 months or longer 13. Employed persons aged 15-19, 20-24 and 25-59 working 35 hours or above per week and with monthly employment earnings less than 50% of the median 14. Adult able-bodied CSSA recipients having been on CSSA for one 1 or less, and longer than 1 year 15. Adult recipients of permanent disability/temporary disability/ill health CSSA
Older people (aged 60 or above)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 16. Recipients of old-age CSSA 17. Number of elderly patients under the medical fee waiver mechanism of public hospitals and clinics 18. Elderly persons living in private temporary housing and private shared units
Community
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 19. Workless households by district 20. Households with income below average CSSA payment by district 21. Single-parent households with income below average CSSA payment by district 22. Median monthly household income by district 23. Median monthly employment earnings by district 24. Unemployed persons by district

Note : (*) This set of indicators should be read in conjunction with the caveats mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Annex I and paragraph 1 of Annex II of this paper.

Indicators of Poverty

Section I	Indicators for Children / Youth Aged 0-14 and 15-24
Section II	Indicators for Working people / Adults Aged 15-59
Section III	Indicators for Older People Aged 60 or Above
Section IV	Indicators for the Community

Notes

- (1) Unless otherwise stated, foreign domestic helpers are excluded from the compilation of all the indicators.
- (2) The latest position is presented up to the third quarter of 2005. But readers should bear in mind the influence of seasonality in reading the quarterly data.
- (3) While data from the General Household Survey of the Census and Statistics Department and from the Hospital Authority are annual/quarterly average figures, those on recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance from the Social Welfare Department are period-end figures.
- (4) The district-based indicators under Section IV are based on the data collected from the General Household Survey in May - August each year, as well as the mid-year population estimates by District Council district as compiled by the Planning Department.

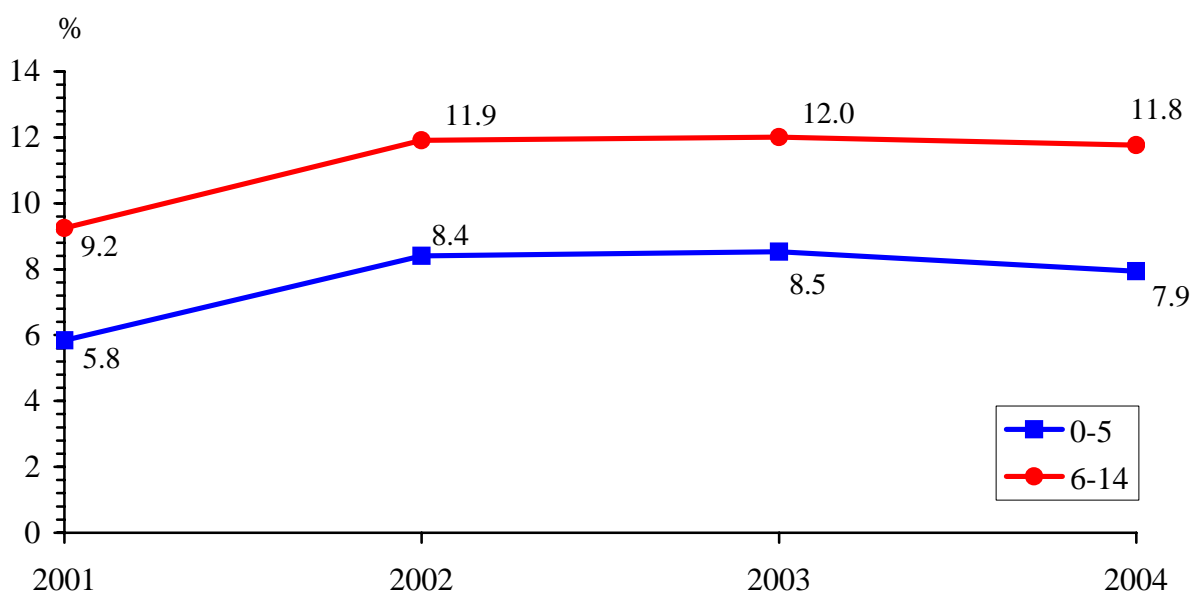
Section I : Indicators for Children / Youth Aged 0-14 and 15-24

1. Children aged 0-5 and 6-14 living in workless households

Number

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
0-5	20 500	28 300	27 600	25 100
6-14	69 600	89 800	89 200	84 900

Proportion of children living in workless households by age group



Proportion in all persons of the respective age groups

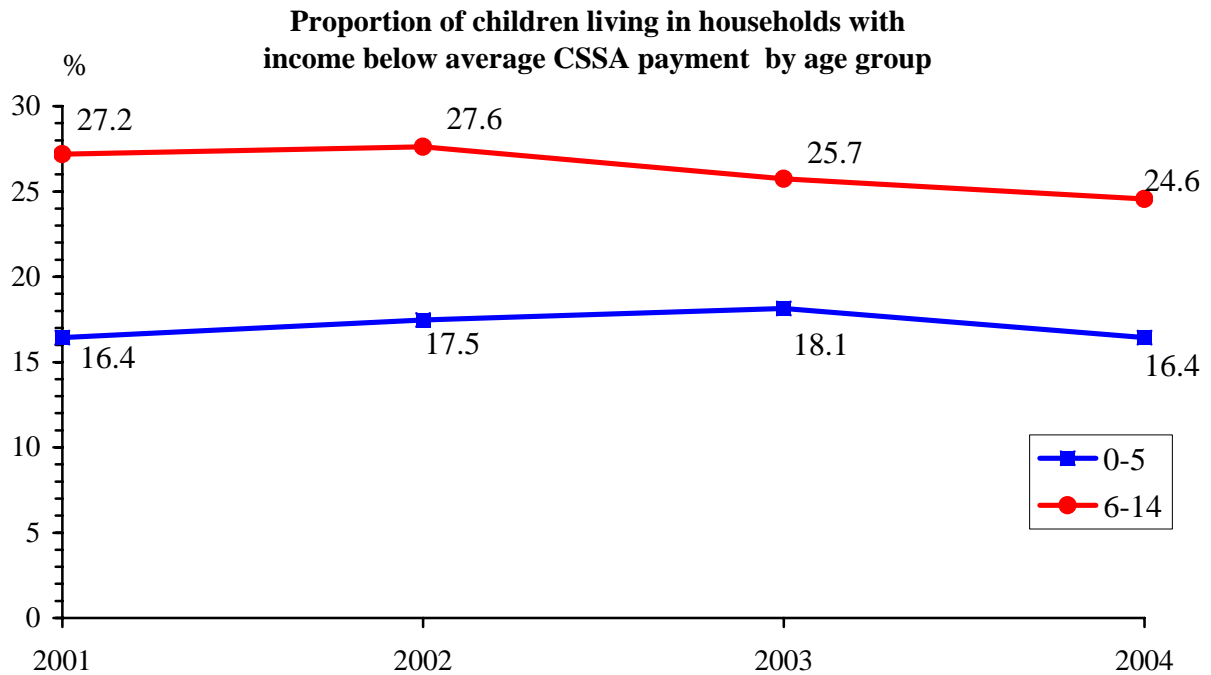
	<u>2004</u>				<u>2005</u>		
	<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>	<u>Q4</u>	<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>
0-5	8.5%	7.6%	7.3%	8.3%	9.3%	8.7%	8.0%
6-14	11.9%	11.2%	11.9%	12.1%	12.5%	10.9%	11.4%

Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

2. Children aged 0-5 and 6-14 living in households with income below average CSSA payment

Number

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
0-5	57 500	58 800	58 800	52 000
6-14	204 800	208 100	191 300	177 100



Proportion in all persons of the respective age groups

	<u>2004</u>				<u>2005</u>		
	<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>	<u>Q4</u>	<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>
0-5	16.5%	15.6%	16.4%	17.3%	16.0%	16.0%	16.2%
6-14	24.7%	23.8%	25.1%	24.7%	23.1%	21.7%	22.0%

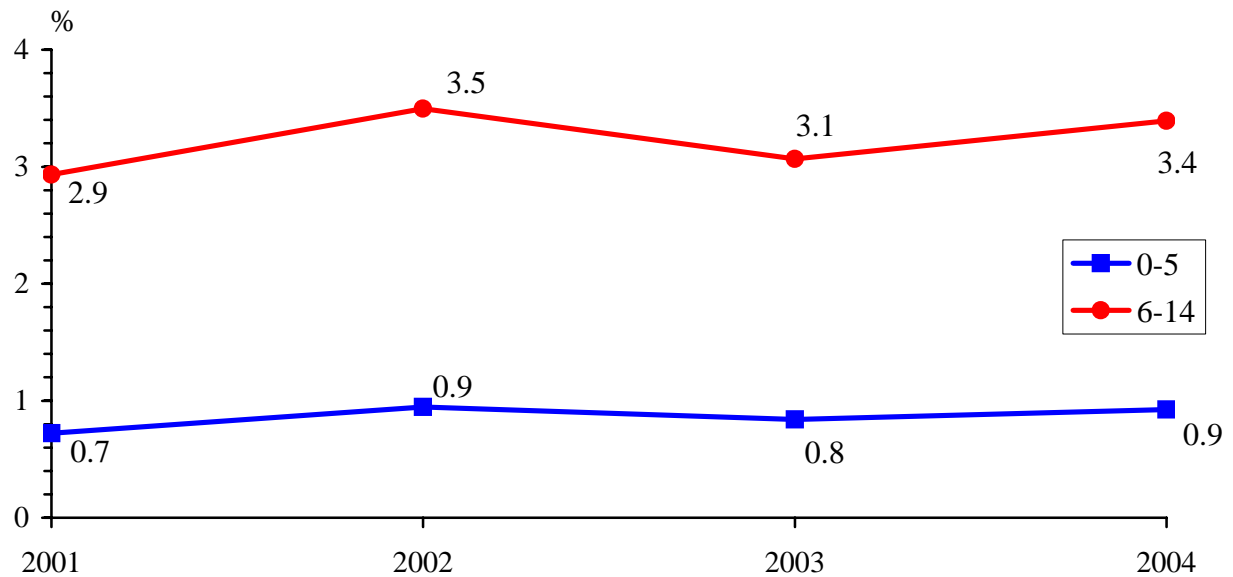
Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

3. Children aged 0-5 and 6-14 with single parent and in households with income below average CSSA payment

Number

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
0-5	2 500	3 200	2 700	2 900
6-14	22 100	26 300	22 800	24 500

Proportion of children with single parent and in households with income below average CSSA payment by age group



Proportion in all persons of the respective age groups

	<u>2004</u>				<u>2005</u>		
	<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>	<u>Q4</u>	<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>
0-5	1.0%	0.8%	0.9%	0.9%	0.8%	0.8%	0.9%
6-14	3.3%	3.1%	3.4%	3.7%	3.2%	3.2%	3.5%

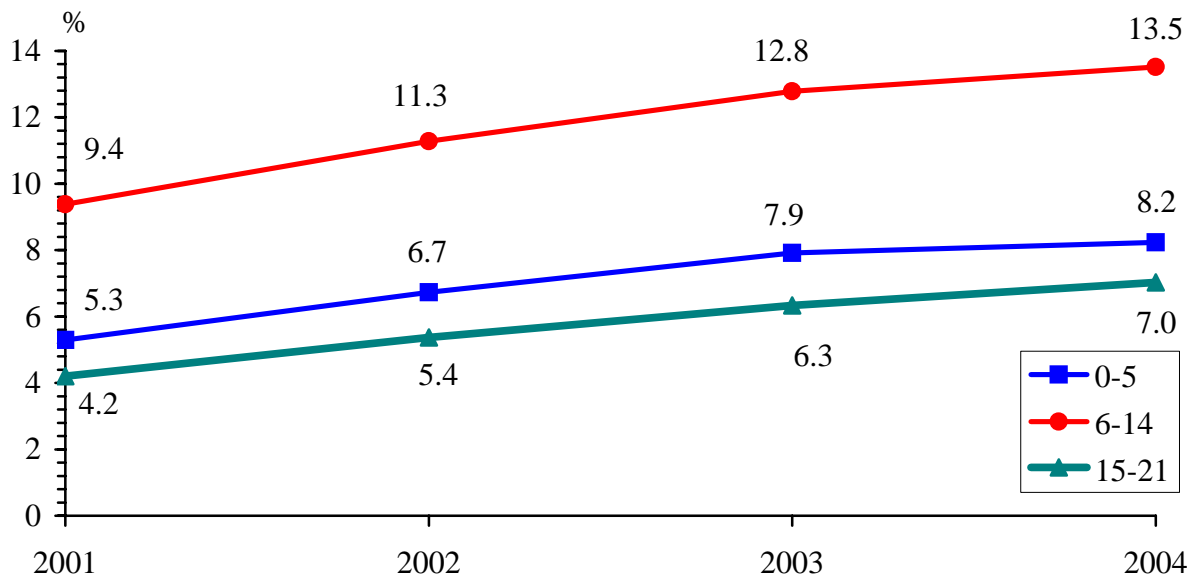
Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

4. CSSA recipients aged 0-5 and 6-14, and those aged 15-21 who are on child rate

Number

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
0-5	18 200	22 300	25 300	26 200
6-14	70 800	84 400	93 600	95 600
15-21	26 300	33 000	39 500	44 300

Proportion of child rate CSSA recipients by age group



Proportion in population of the respective age groups

	<u>2004</u>				<u>2005</u>		
	<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>	<u>Q4</u>	<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>
0-5	8.1%	8.2%	8.3%	8.2%	8.1%	8.1%	7.9%
6-14	13.0%	13.2%	13.4%	13.5%	13.5%	13.6%	13.5%
15-21	6.7%	7.1%	6.2%	7.0%	7.3%	7.8%	6.6%

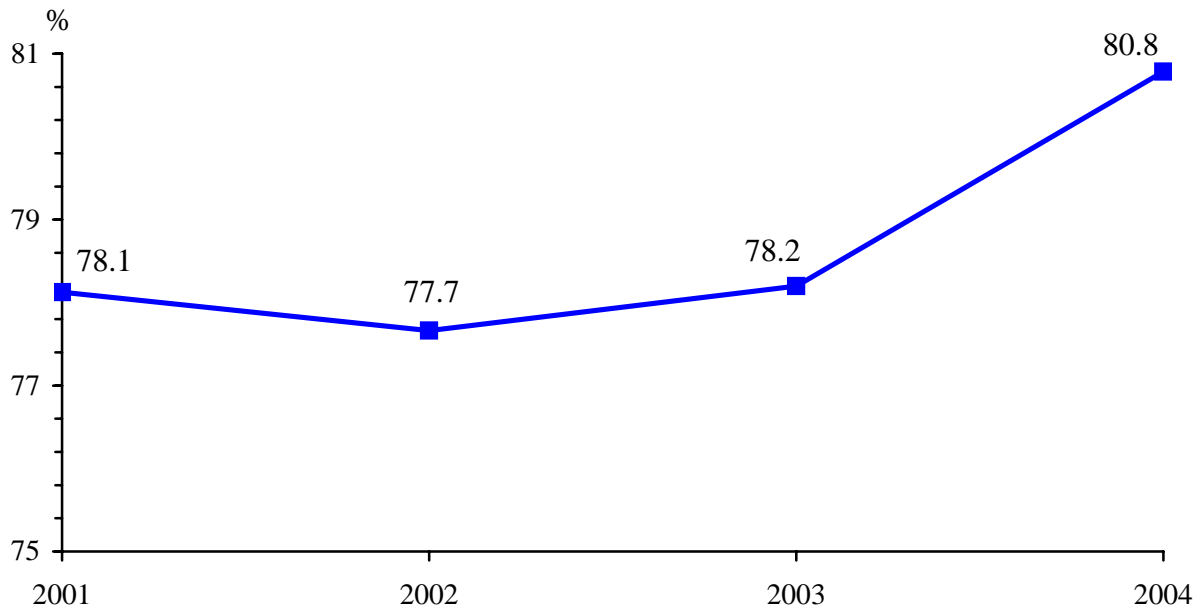
Source : Social Welfare Department.

5. School attendance rate of youth aged 16-19

Number

<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
280 400	274 200	268 900	284 600

School attendance rate of youth aged 16-19



Proportion in all persons aged 16-19

<u>2004</u>				<u>2005</u>		
<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>	<u>Q4</u>	<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>
79.7%	81.9%	80.9%	80.6%	82.0%	83.3%	83.0%

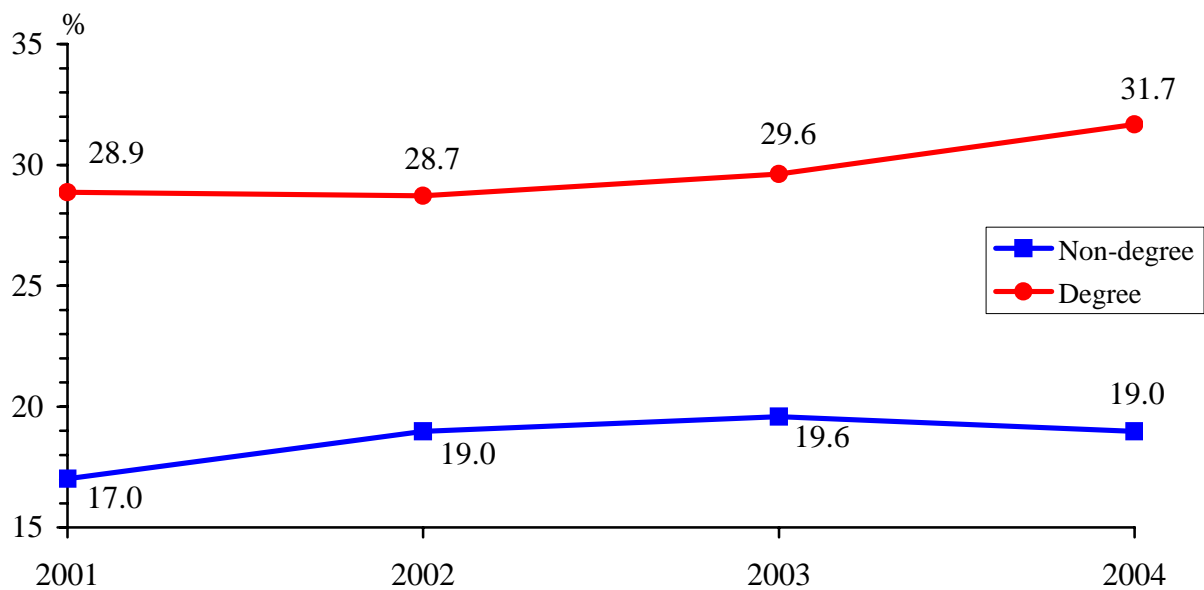
Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

6. Persons aged 20-24 with tertiary education

Number

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
Non-degree	73 900	79 600	80 400	80 200
Degree	125 400	120 500	121 600	133 900

Proportion of persons aged 20-24 with tertiary education



Proportion in all persons aged 20-24

	<u>2004</u>				<u>2005</u>		
	<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>	<u>Q4</u>	<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>
Non-degree	19.2%	18.6%	18.7%	19.3%	18.8%	19.4%	19.9%
Degree	31.0%	30.9%	31.9%	32.8%	32.8%	31.4%	31.9%

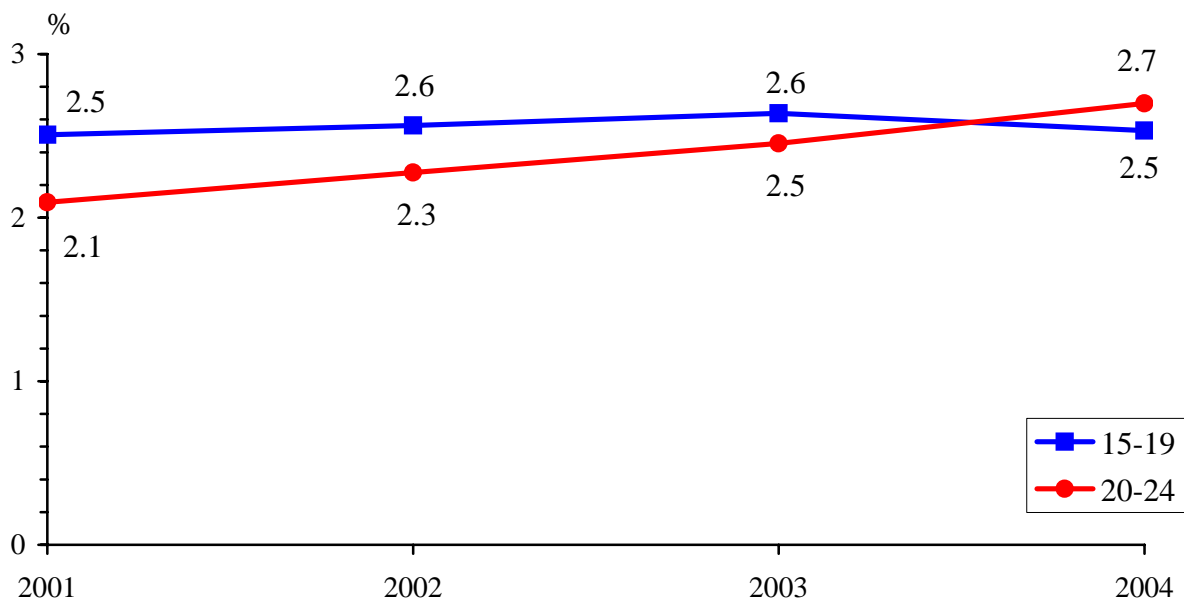
Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

7. Non-engaged youth* aged 15-19 and 20-24

Number

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
15-19	11 100	11 200	11 400	11 200
20-24	9 100	9 500	10 100	11 400

Proportion of non-engaged youth by age group



Proportion in all persons of the respective age groups

	<u>2004</u>				<u>2005</u>		
	<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>	<u>Q4</u>	<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>
15-19	2.6%	2.3%	2.7%	2.5%	2.3%	1.8%	2.4%
20-24	2.9%	2.2%	3.0%	2.6%	2.6%	2.6%	3.1%

Note : (*) In this indicator, "non-engaged youth" refer to persons aged 15-24 who are economically inactive for reasons other than "students", "home-makers" and "health problems". Unemployed youth of this age group are not included. For further details about the definitions of non-engaged youth and unemployed youth, reference can be made to Footnote (1) under paragraph 6 of Annex II in CoP Paper 26/2005.

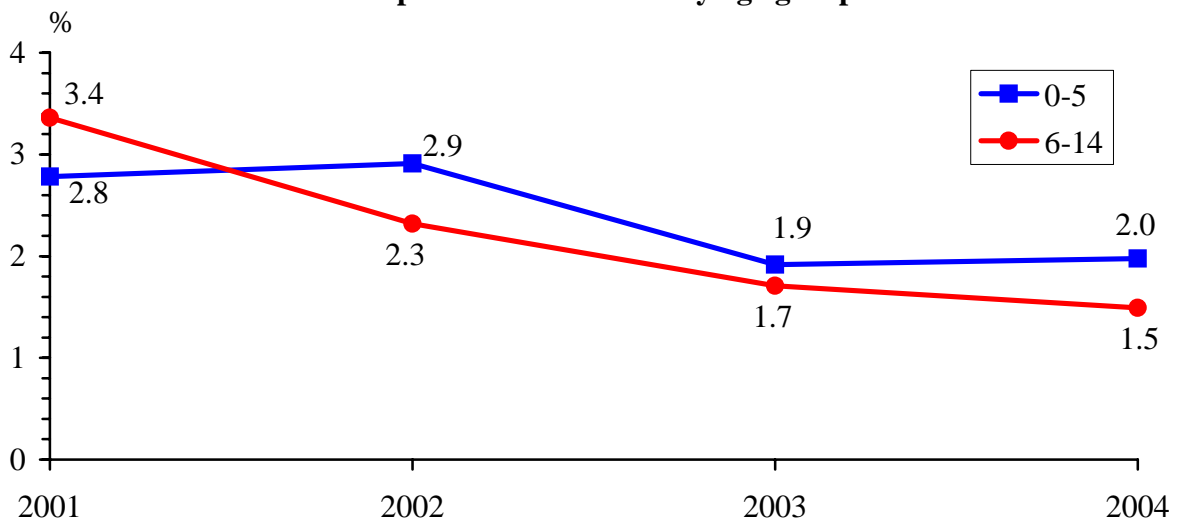
Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

8. Children aged 0-5 and 6-14 living in private temporary housing and private shared units

Number

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
0-5	9 700	9 800	6 200	6 300
6-14	25 300	17 500	12 700	10 800

Proportion of children living in private temporary housing and private shared units by age group



Proportion in all persons of the respective age groups

	<u>2004</u>				<u>2005</u>		
	<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>	<u>Q4</u>	<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>
0-5	1.7%	2.0%	2.0%	2.1%	2.1%	2.2%	2.0%
6-14	1.8%	1.3%	1.2%	1.7%	1.5%	1.4%	1.3%

Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

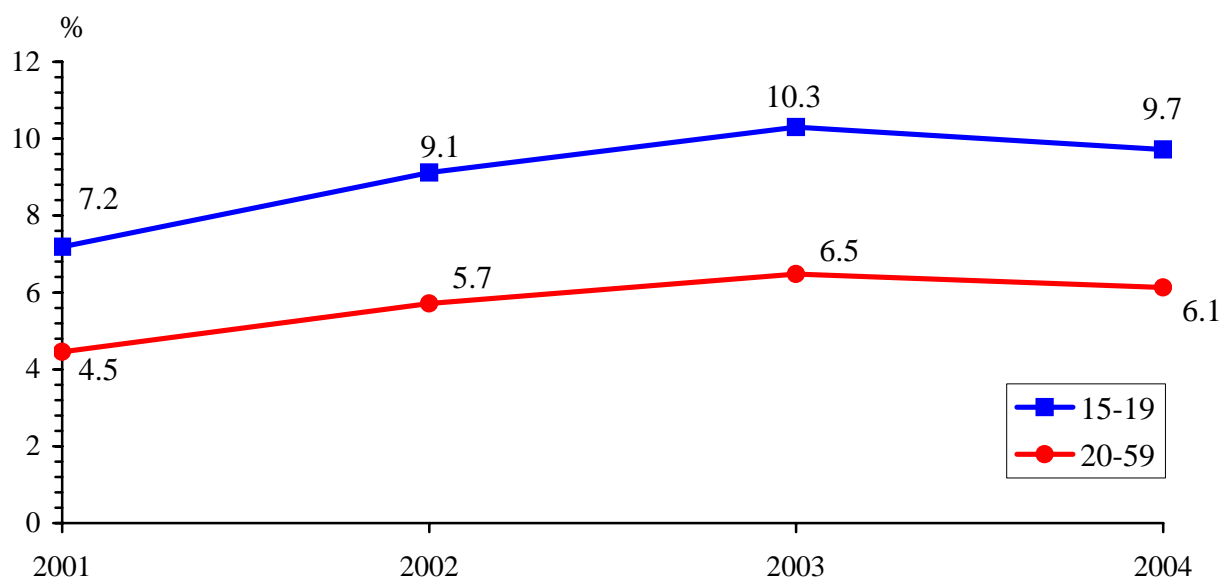
Section II : Indicators for Working People / Adults Aged 15-59

9. Persons aged 15-19 and 20-59 living in workless households

Number

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
15-19	31 700	39 600	44 300	42 500
20-59	176 100	229 000	261 500	252 300

Proportion of persons living in workless households by age group



Proportion in all persons of the respective age groups

	<u>2004</u>				<u>2005</u>		
	<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>	<u>Q4</u>	<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>
15-19	10.7%	9.4%	9.3%	9.5%	9.9%	9.4%	10.6%
20-59	6.2%	5.9%	6.3%	6.1%	6.2%	5.9%	5.8%

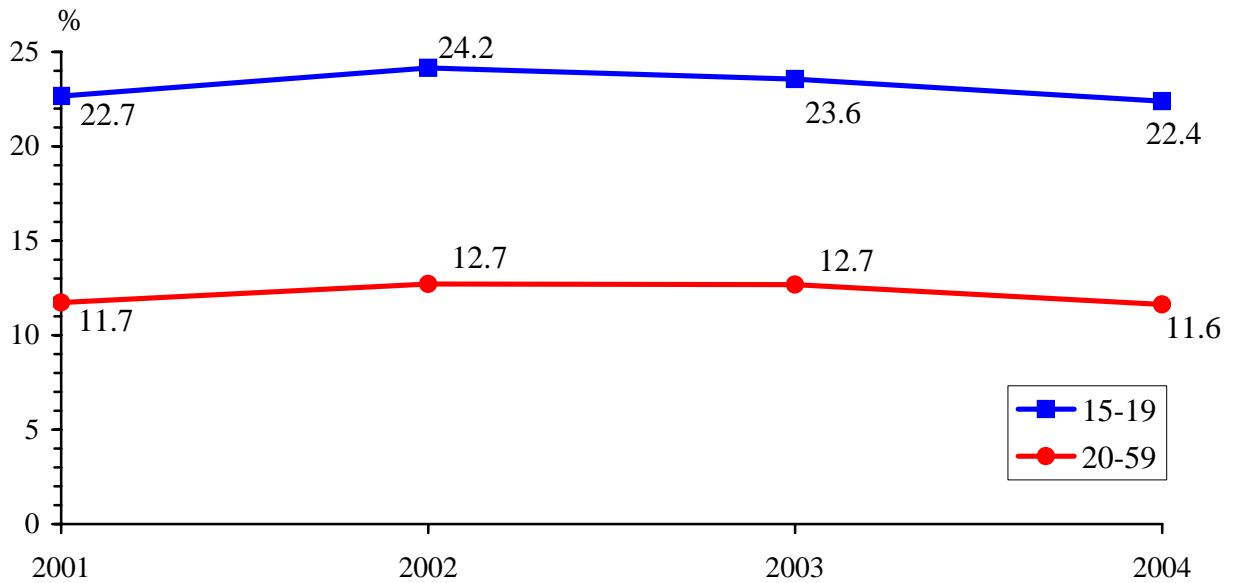
Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

**10. Persons aged 15-19 and 20-59 living in households with income below average
CSSA payment**

Number

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
15-19	99 800	104 800	101 400	98 000
20-59	463 900	509 100	512 100	479 100

**Proportion of persons living in households with
income below average CSSA payment by age group**



Proportion in all persons of the respective age groups

	<u>2004</u>				<u>2005</u>		
	<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>	<u>Q4</u>	<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>
15-19	22.8%	22.6%	22.5%	21.7%	21.4%	20.7%	21.7%
20-59	12.0%	11.4%	11.8%	11.3%	10.7%	10.6%	10.3%

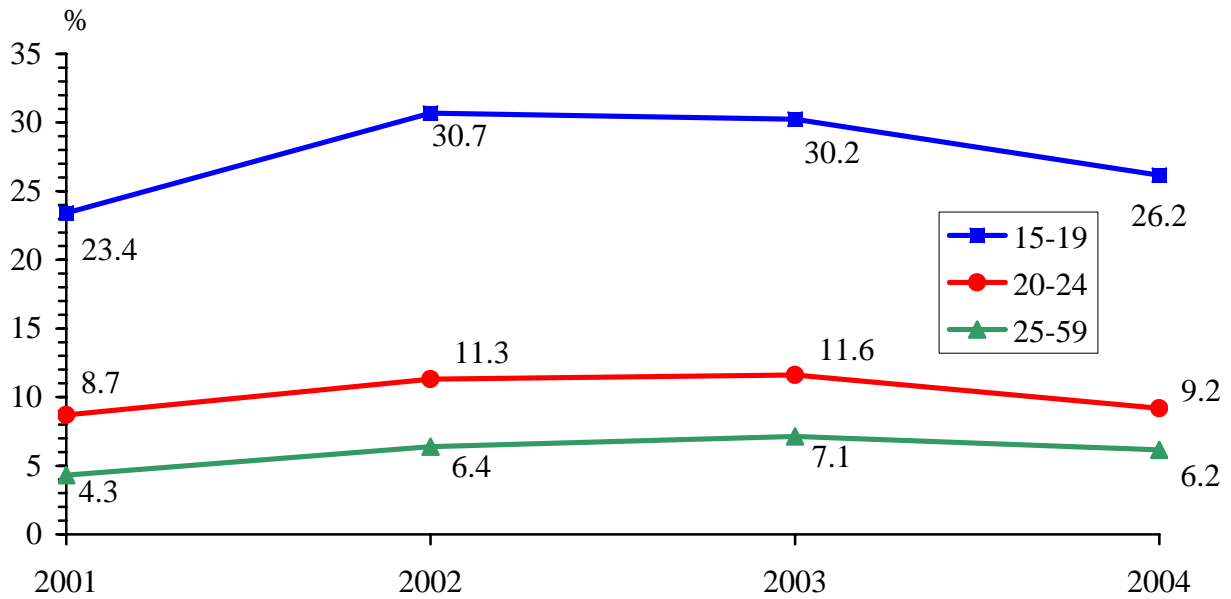
Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

11. Unemployed persons aged 15-19, 20-24 and 25-59*

Number

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
15-19	17 000	23 000	21 500	18 400
20-24	29 200	36 400	37 100	30 000
25-59	125 500	190 300	213 500	187 500

Unemployment rate by age group



Unemployment rate by age group[#]

	<u>2004</u>				<u>2005</u>		
	<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>	<u>Q4</u>	<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>
15-19	25.1%	29.0%	28.6%	21.5%	17.8%	24.9%	25.4%
20-24	8.5%	9.4%	11.5%	7.4%	7.3%	8.6%	10.6%
25-59	6.6%	6.1%	6.1%	5.9%	5.5%	5.1%	4.8%

Notes : (*) In order for the number of unemployed persons and the corresponding unemployment rates compiled for this indicator to be consistent with the unemployment statistics normally released, foreign domestic helpers (FDHs) have not been excluded. Yet FDHs should have insignificant effect on this indicator.

(#) Unemployment rate which is not seasonally adjusted.

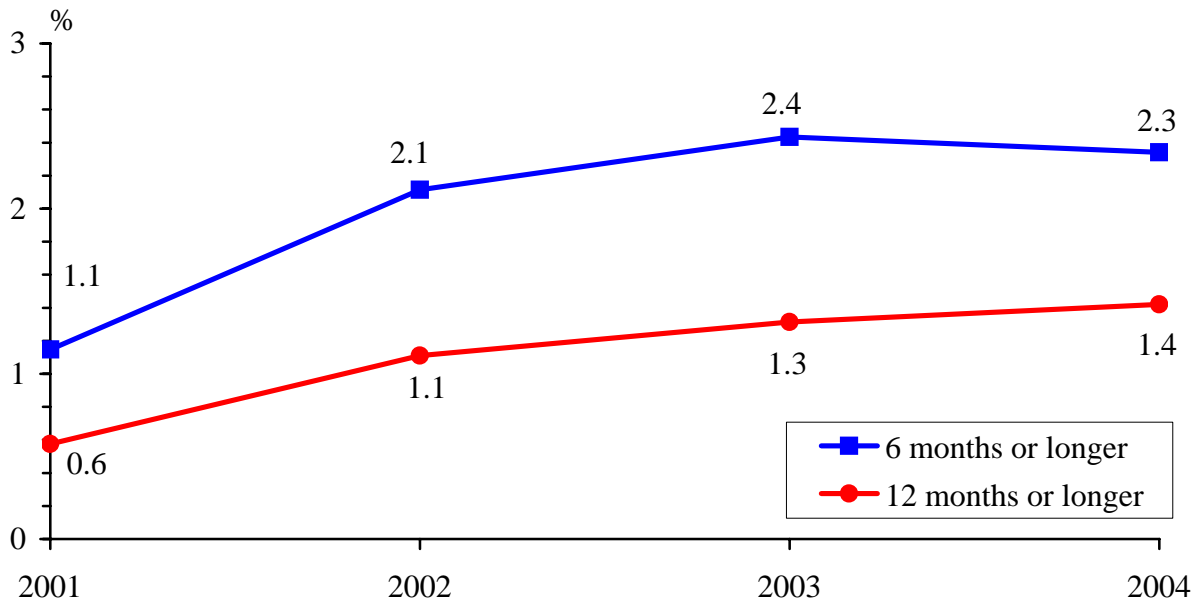
Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

12. Persons unemployed for 6 months or longer, and 12 months or longer

Number

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
≥ 6 months	39 300	73 700	85 100	83 100
≥ 12 months	19 700	38 700	46 000	50 400

Long-term unemployment rate by duration of unemployment



Long-term unemployment rate by duration of unemployment

	<u>2004</u>				<u>2005</u>		
	<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>	<u>Q4</u>	<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>
≥ 6 months	2.6%	2.3%	2.3%	2.2%	1.9%	1.6%	1.7%
≥ 12 months	1.5%	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%	1.2%	0.9%	1.0%

Note : (*) In order for the number of long-term unemployed persons and the corresponding long-term unemployment rates compiled for this indicator to be consistent with the unemployment statistics normally released, foreign domestic helpers (FDHs) have not been excluded. Yet FDHs should have insignificant effect on this indicator.

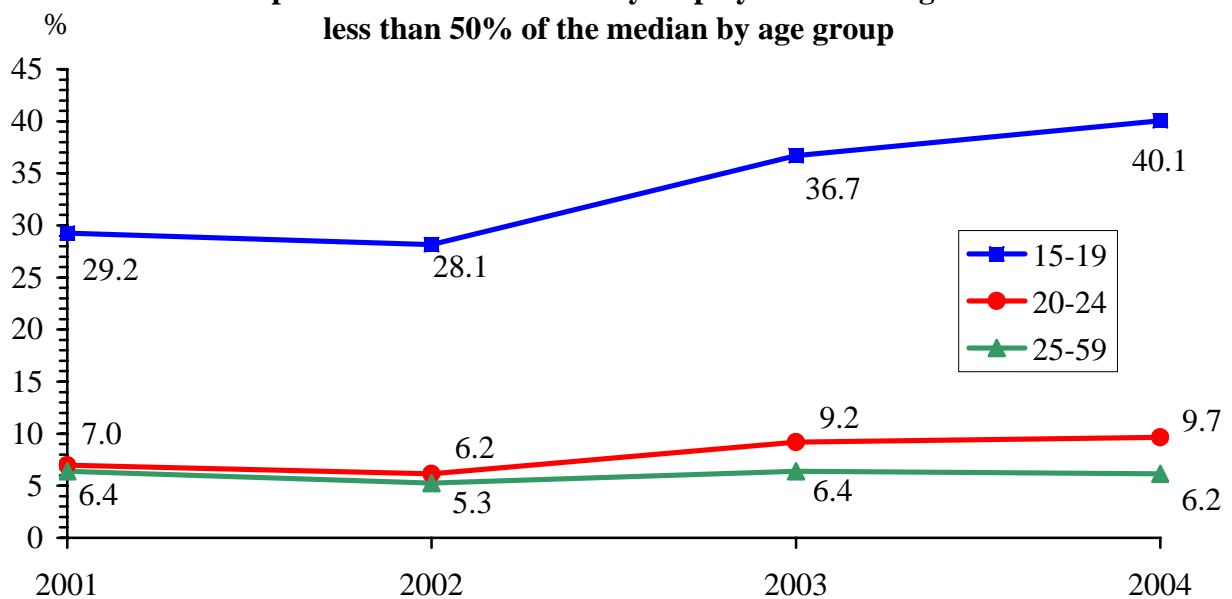
Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

13. Employed persons aged 15-19, 20-24 and 25-59 working 35 hours or above per week and with monthly employment earnings less than 50% of the median

Number

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
15-19	12 900	11 000	12 800	14 600
20-24	17 100	13 800	19 300	21 500
25-59	148 500	122 200	144 500	145 200

Proportion of employed persons working 35 hours or above per week and with monthly employment earnings less than 50% of the median by age group



Proportion in all employed persons working 35 hours or above per week

	<u>2004</u>				<u>2005</u>		
	<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>	<u>Q4</u>	<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>
15-19	58.1%	42.1%	38.7%	35.0%	31.6%	34.8%	38.9%
20-24	17.2%	9.6%	10.6%	8.7%	7.8%	9.2%	9.4%
25-59	8.9%	6.1%	6.0%	6.3%	5.8%	5.5%	5.3%

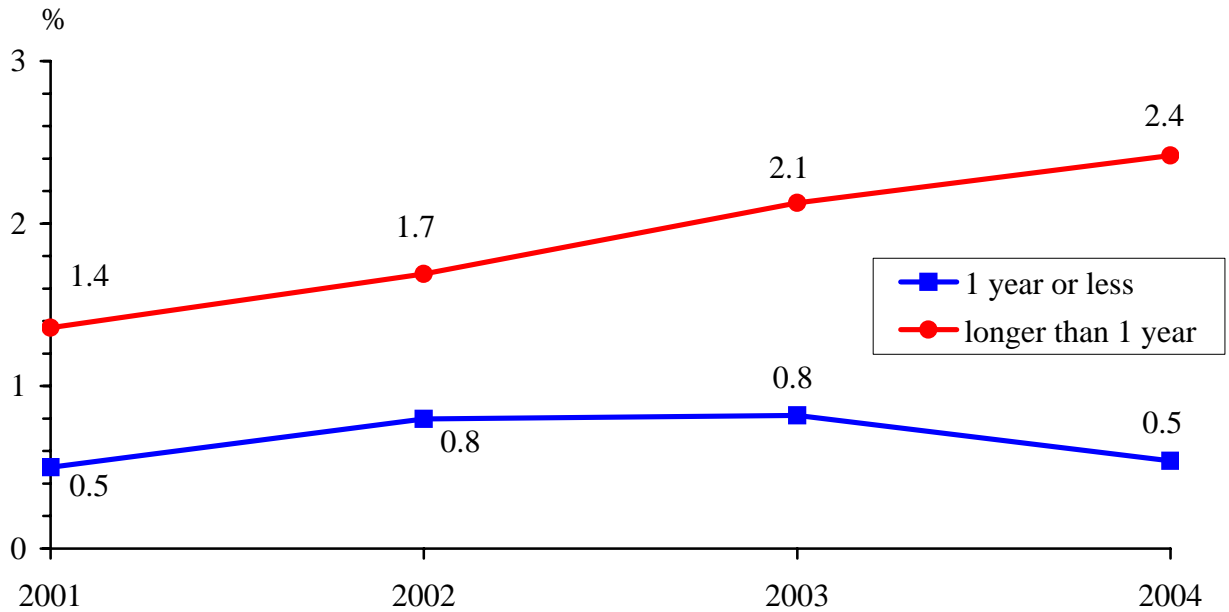
Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

14. Adult able-bodied CSSA recipients* having been on CSSA for 1 year or less, and longer than 1 year

Number

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
≤ 1 year	23 300	37 300	38 900	26 000
> 1 year	63 100	79 200	101 100	116 700

Proportion of adult able-bodied CSSA recipients by duration on CSSA



Proportion in population of the respective age groups

	<u>2004</u>				<u>2005</u>		
	<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>	<u>Q4</u>	<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>
≤ 1 year	0.8%	0.6%	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.4%
> 1 year	2.2%	2.3%	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%

Note : (*) Excluding recipients aged 15-21 who are on child rate. They have been grouped under Indicator 4 along with other child rate CSSA recipients.

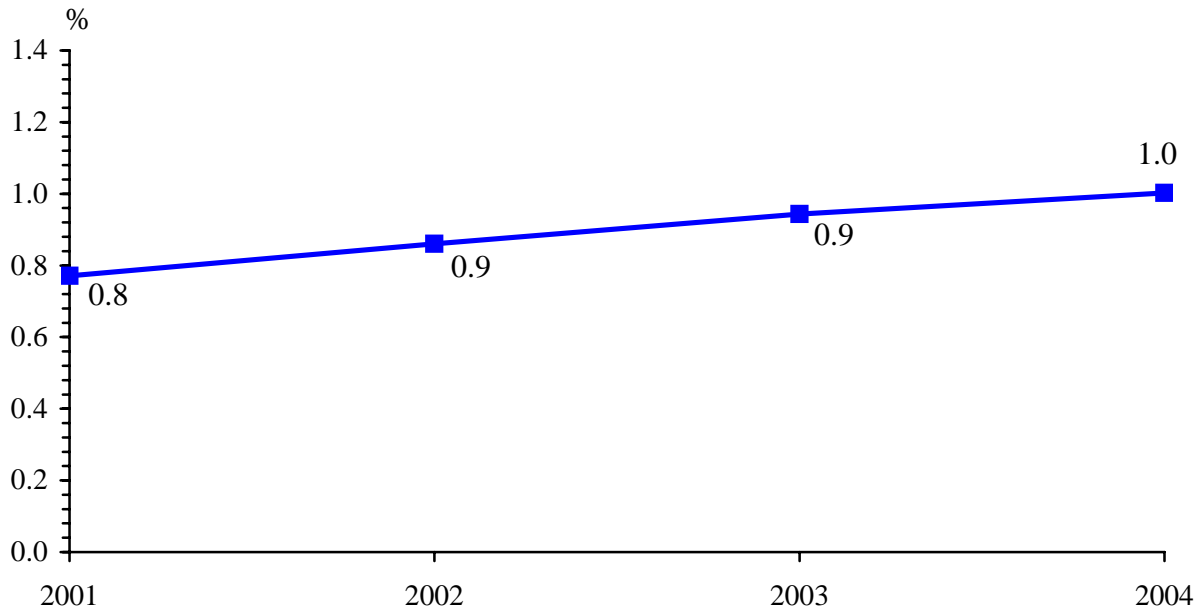
Source : Social and Welfare Department.

15. Adult recipients of permanent disability/temporary disability/ill health CSSA

Number

<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
35 900	40 300	44 800	48 400

Proportion of non-able-bodied adult CSSA recipients



Proportion in population of the respective age groups

	<u>2004</u>				<u>2005</u>		
<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>	<u>Q4</u>	<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>	
1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	

Source : Social and Welfare Department.

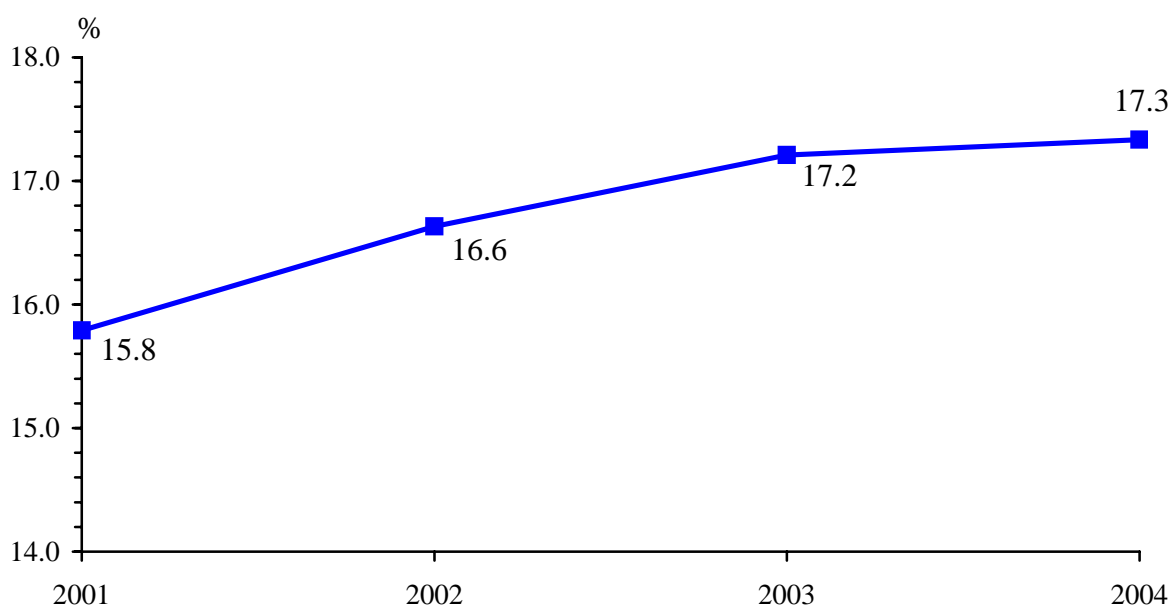
Section III : Indicators for Older People Aged 60 or Above

16. Recipients of old-age CSSA*

Number

<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
160 000	170 500	179 300	184 800

Proportion of old-age CSSA recipients



Proportion in population aged 60 or above

<u>2004</u>				<u>2005</u>		
<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>	<u>Q4</u>	<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>
17.2%	17.2%	17.3%	17.3%	17.3%	17.2%	17.2%

Note : (*) Including the elderly CSSA recipients who are on the old age able-bodied rate, 50% or 100% disabled rate, or the rate for elderly in need of constant attendance.

Source : Social and Welfare Department.

17. Number of elderly patients under the medical fee waiver mechanism of public hospitals and clinics

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of successful applicants</u>	<u>Share in population aged 60 or above</u>
2004/05	22 781	2.1%

Note : Data prior to April 2004 are not available.

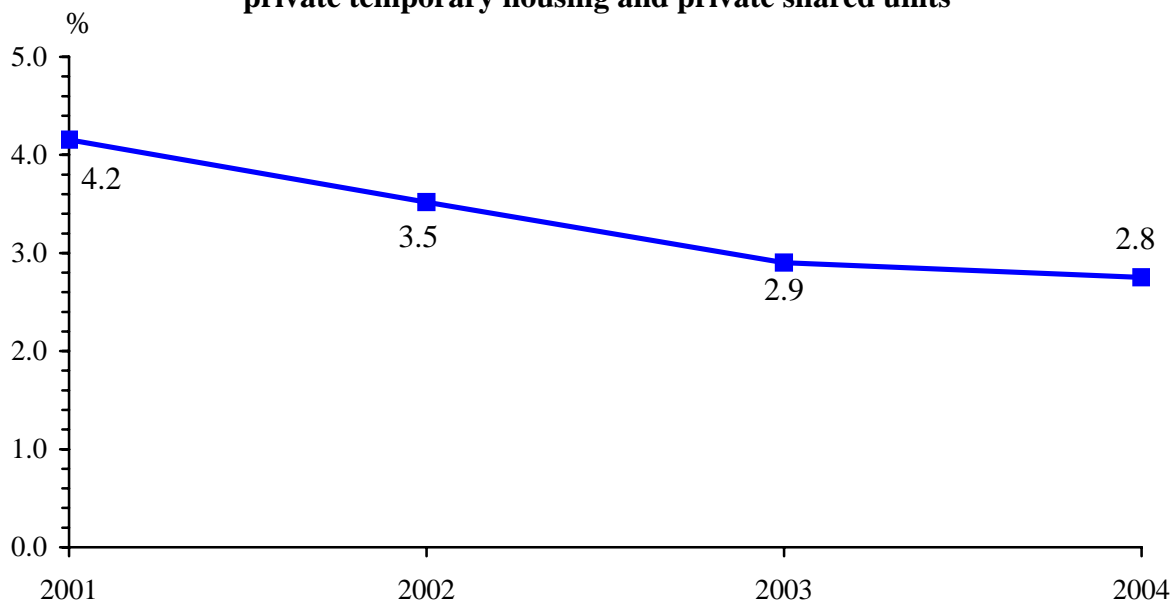
Source : Hospital Authority.

18. Elderly persons living in private temporary housing and private shared units

Number

<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
40 100	34 600	28 800	27 700

Proportion of elderly persons living in private temporary housing and private shared units



Proportion in all persons aged 60 or above

<u>2004</u>				<u>2005</u>		
<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>	<u>Q4</u>	<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>
2.6%	2.8%	2.9%	2.6%	2.9%	2.5%	2.0%

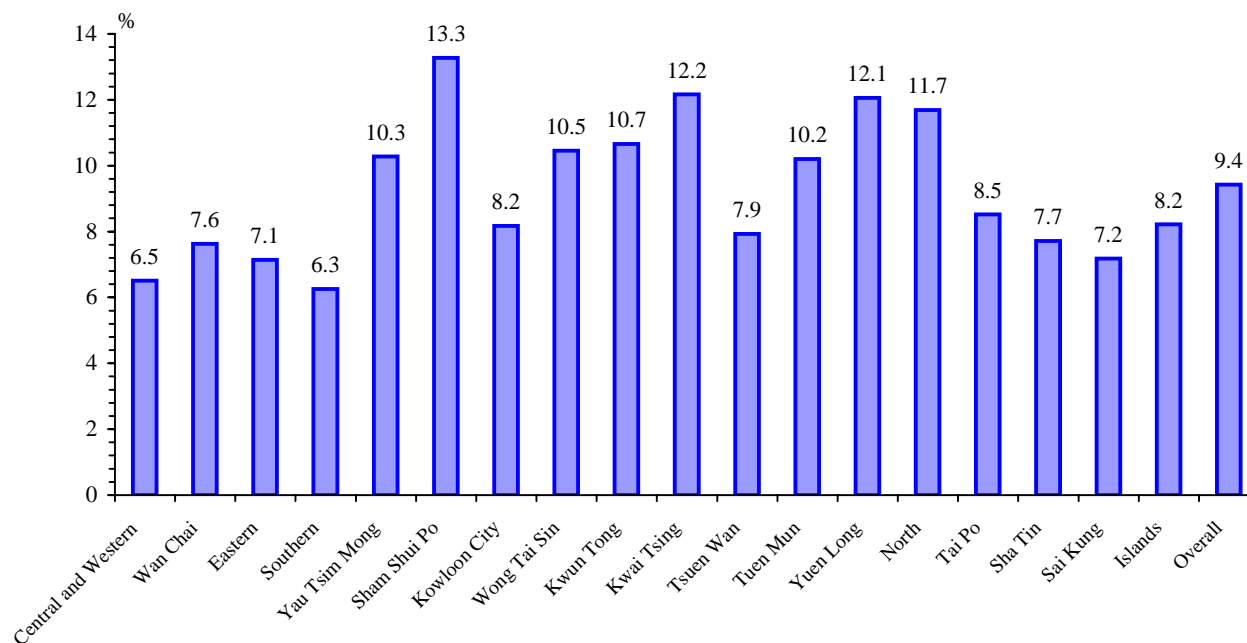
Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

Section IV : Indicators for the Community

19. Workless households* by district

District					Proportion in all households* in the respective districts (%)			
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2001	2002	2003	2004
Central and Western	4 100	5 900	4 800	5 000	5.1	7.8	6.5	6.5
Wan Chai	2 200	3 600	3 900	3 600	4.4	7.5	8.1	7.6
Eastern	9 000	12 700	13 000	12 100	5.3	7.4	7.6	7.1
Southern	3 900	4 000	5 600	4 900	5.1	5.2	7.3	6.3
Yau Tsim Mong	9 100	9 900	11 500	9 800	10.6	11.2	13.5	10.3
Sham Shui Po	9 400	11 600	15 800	13 700	9.5	11.4	15.7	13.3
Kowloon City	7 500	10 400	11 000	8 200	7.3	10.2	10.7	8.2
Wong Tai Sin	8 800	13 000	13 200	12 500	7.6	10.8	10.8	10.5
Kwun Tong	12 700	15 600	19 200	17 200	8.2	9.8	11.9	10.7
Kwai Tsing	10 300	11 500	16 100	17 300	8.0	8.6	11.6	12.2
Tsuen Wan	5 000	6 800	5 500	6 600	6.3	8.8	6.8	7.9
Tuen Mun	9 700	15 000	16 500	15 600	7.0	10.4	10.8	10.2
Yuen Long	11 000	16 500	22 200	18 400	8.7	11.5	14.8	12.1
North	8 000	7 400	8 500	9 900	9.9	9.3	10.4	11.7
Tai Po	5 500	6 800	7 700	7 400	6.6	8.1	9.5	8.5
Sha Tin	10 700	13 800	15 700	13 800	6.2	7.8	8.8	7.7
Sai Kung	4 500	6 400	6 900	8 700	4.9	6.2	6.5	7.2
Islands	2 200	3 700	2 700	3 200	8.5	12.5	8.3	8.2
Overall	133 600	174 800	199 800	188 000	7.2	9.1	10.3	9.4

Proportion of workless households* by district, 2004

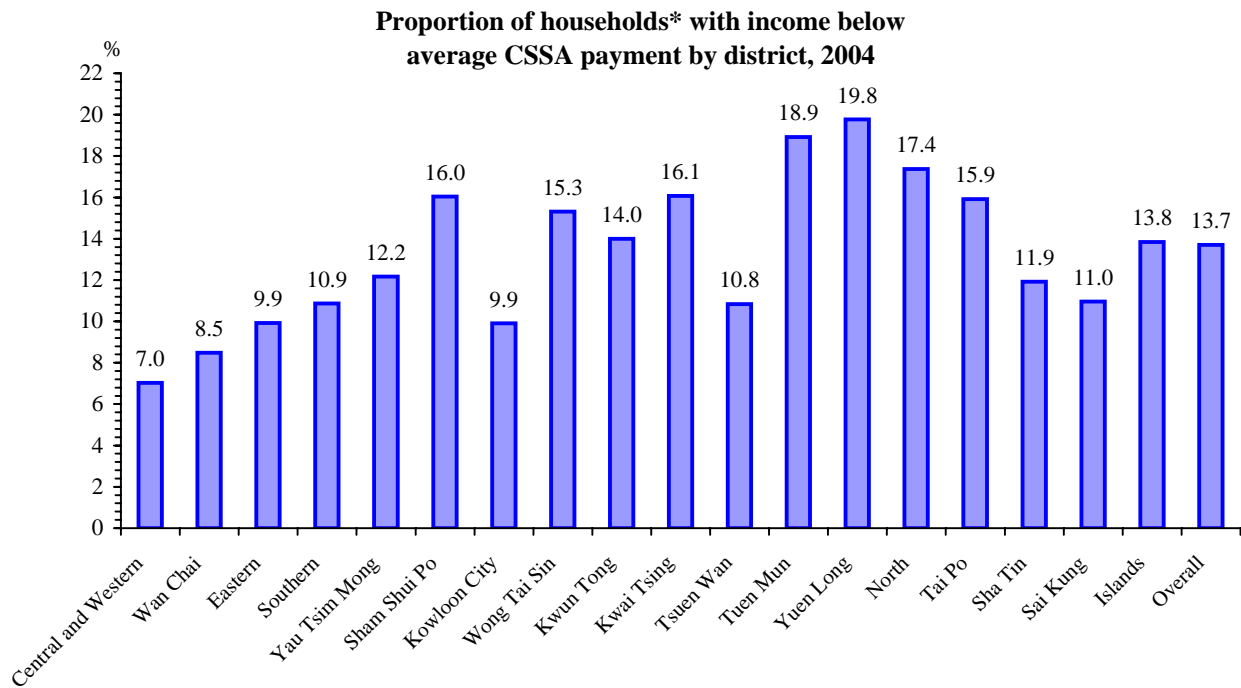


Notes : (*) Households with members aged 60 or above only are excluded.
 Figures may not add up to the respective totals due to rounding.

Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

20. Households* with income below average CSSA payment by district

District					Proportion in all households* in the respective districts (%)			
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2001	2002	2003	2004
Central and Western	6 800	8 400	6 000	5 400	8.4	11.2	8.1	7.0
Wan Chai	3 800	5 000	5 500	4 000	7.5	10.2	11.3	8.5
Eastern	17 500	19 100	18 900	16 800	10.3	11.1	11.0	9.9
Southern	7 400	9 900	8 200	8 500	9.8	13.0	10.7	10.9
Yau Tsim Mong	14 700	16 000	16 500	11 600	17.1	18.1	19.4	12.2
Sham Shui Po	18 200	21 300	19 300	16 600	18.4	20.9	19.2	16.0
Kowloon City	11 600	13 500	13 900	10 000	11.2	13.2	13.5	9.9
Wong Tai Sin	17 000	20 900	22 100	18 300	14.7	17.4	18.1	15.3
Kwun Tong	25 600	25 100	29 700	22 600	16.5	15.8	18.5	14.0
Kwai Tsing	21 600	21 000	24 900	22 900	16.8	15.7	18.0	16.1
Tsuen Wan	8 600	10 600	9 700	9 000	11.0	13.7	11.8	10.8
Tuen Mun	23 500	28 800	29 500	29 000	17.0	19.9	19.4	18.9
Yuen Long	24 200	32 800	36 000	30 200	19.2	22.9	24.1	19.8
North	14 800	14 700	16 300	14 700	18.4	18.3	20.1	17.4
Tai Po	11 300	14 400	14 300	13 800	13.7	17.1	17.5	15.9
Sha Tin	22 500	24 900	26 100	21 400	13.0	14.0	14.6	11.9
Sai Kung	11 400	13 200	15 500	13 300	12.4	12.8	14.5	11.0
Islands	3 900	5 300	4 300	5 400	15.1	17.9	13.2	13.8
Overall	264 500	305 000	316 900	273 300	14.2	15.9	16.3	13.7

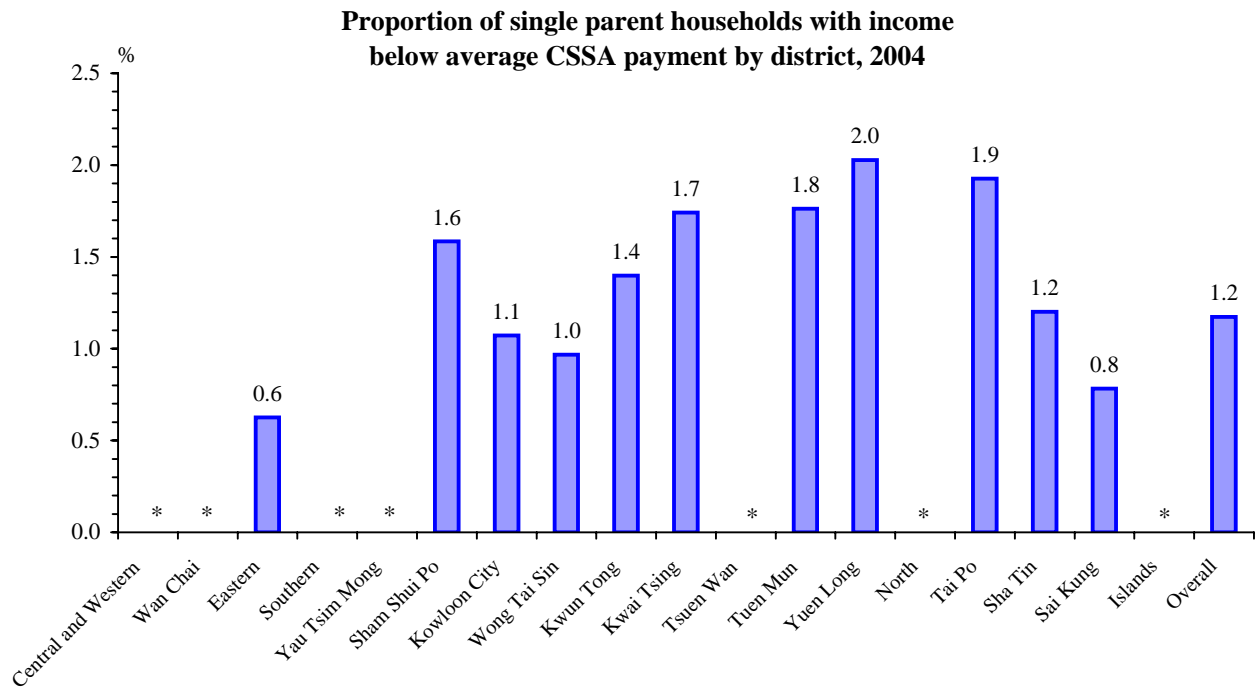


Notes : (*) Households with members aged 60 or above only are excluded.
 Figures may not add up to the respective totals due to rounding.

Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

21. Single parent households with income below average CSSA payment by district

District					Proportion in all households in the respective districts (%)			
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2001	2002	2003	2004
Central and Western	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Wan Chai	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Eastern	1 300	1 500	1 000	1 200	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.6
Southern	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Yau Tsim Mong	*	1 600	*	*	*	1.6	*	*
Sham Shui Po	*	1 900	1 600	2 000	*	1.6	1.3	1.6
Kowloon City	*	1 500	*	1 300	*	1.3	*	1.1
Wong Tai Sin	1 600	2 100	2 300	1 400	1.2	1.5	1.6	1.0
Kwun Tong	2 100	2 000	2 500	2 700	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.4
Kwai Tsing	2 300	1 200	2 200	2 800	1.7	0.8	1.4	1.7
Tsuen Wan	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Tuen Mun	2 600	2 900	2 600	2 900	1.7	1.9	1.6	1.8
Yuen Long	2 100	3 500	2 900	3 500	1.5	2.3	1.7	2.0
North	1 100	1 400	1 500	*	1.2	1.6	1.6	*
Tai Po	1 500	1 600	2 000	1 800	1.7	1.7	2.2	1.9
Sha Tin	2 000	2 500	2 600	2 300	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.2
Sai Kung	*	*	1 100	1 000	*	*	1.0	0.8
Islands	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Overall	22 400	27 100	25 600	26 200	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.2



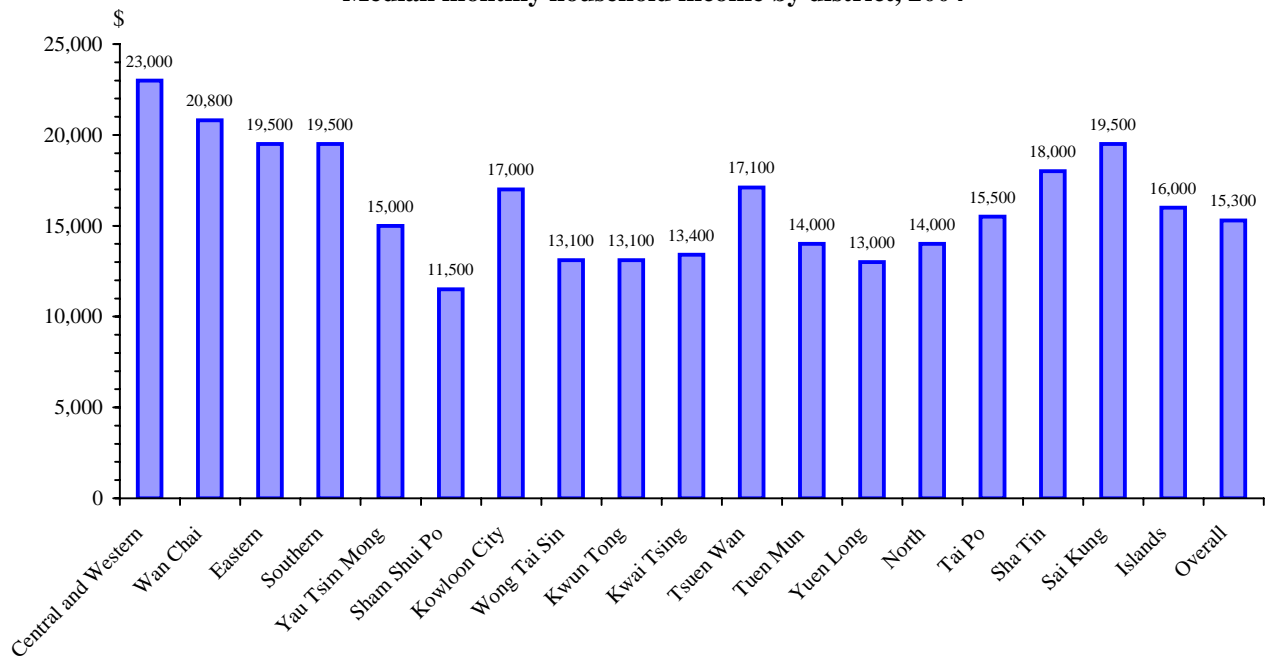
Notes : (*) Figures of small magnitude are suppressed owing to large sampling error.
 Figures may not add up to the respective totals due to rounding.

Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department

22. Median monthly household income by district

<u>District</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
Central and Western	24,000	22,000	22,000	23,000
Wan Chai	23,900	22,000	22,000	20,800
Eastern	21,300	19,800	19,700	19,500
Southern	21,000	20,000	19,000	19,500
Yau Tsim Mong	14,700	13,500	11,300	15,000
Sham Shui Po	13,300	12,500	11,000	11,500
Kowloon City	19,000	18,200	16,000	17,000
Wong Tai Sin	15,500	14,000	13,000	13,100
Kwun Tong	15,000	15,000	12,500	13,100
Kwai Tsing	15,000	14,900	13,000	13,400
Tsuen Wan	20,000	19,000	20,000	17,100
Tuen Mun	16,500	14,000	14,600	14,000
Yuen Long	15,000	13,500	12,500	13,000
North	15,000	15,000	13,700	14,000
Tai Po	18,000	17,000	15,000	15,500
Sha Tin	19,900	19,000	18,000	18,000
Sai Kung	20,000	20,000	19,000	19,500
Islands	18,000	15,900	15,000	16,000
Overall	17,500	16,000	15,000	15,300

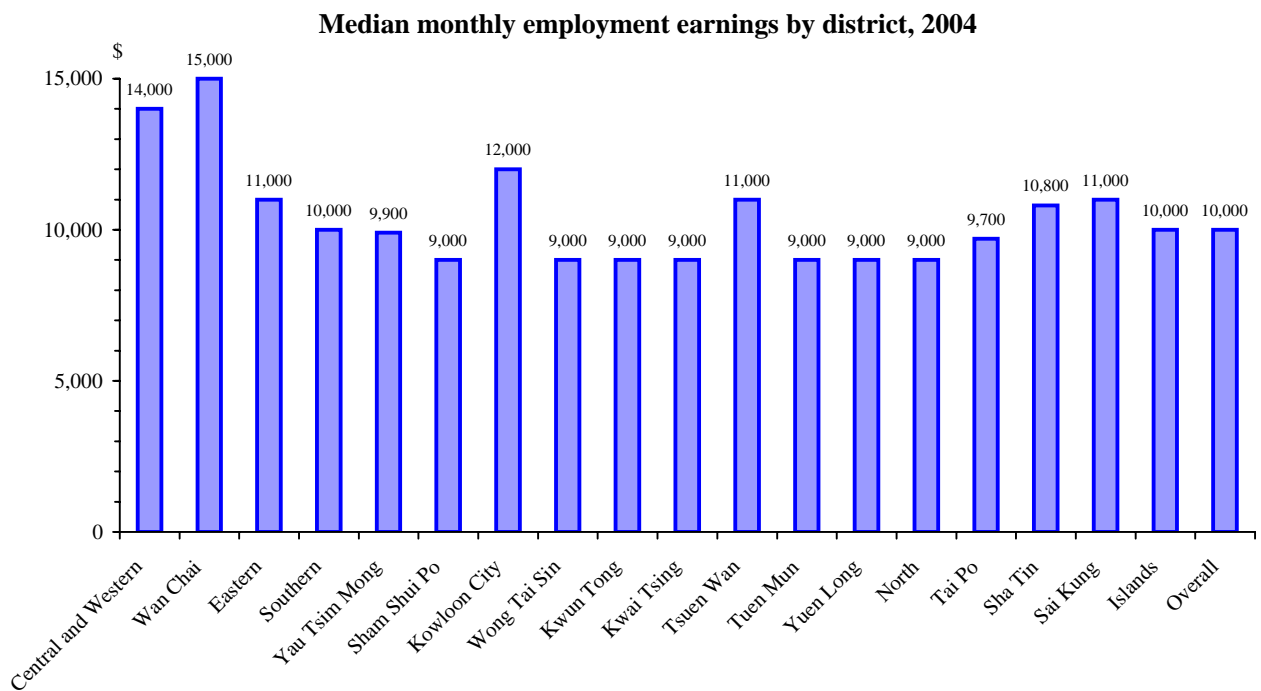
Median monthly household income by district, 2004



Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

23. Median monthly employment earnings by district

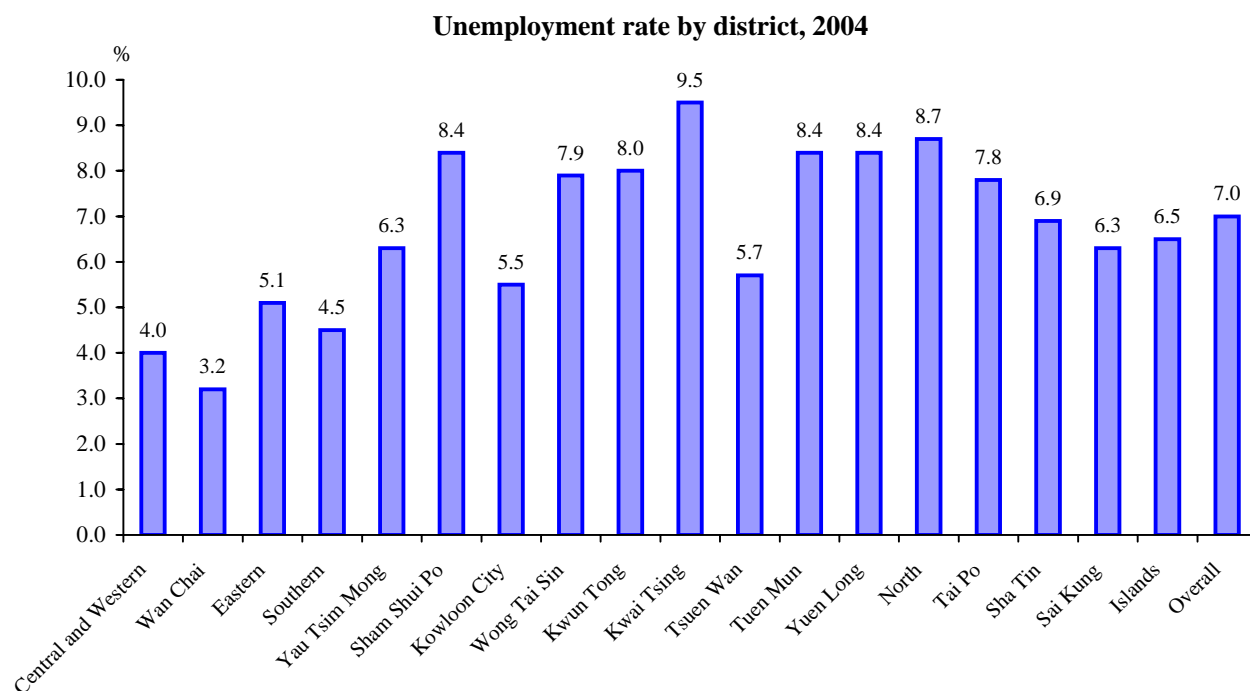
<u>District</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
Central and Western	15,000	15,000	13,000	14,000
Wan Chai	15,000	14,000	15,000	15,000
Eastern	12,000	11,000	12,000	11,000
Southern	11,000	11,000	10,300	10,000
Yau Tsim Mong	10,000	10,000	9,500	9,900
Sham Shui Po	10,000	9,500	9,000	9,000
Kowloon City	12,000	12,000	11,300	12,000
Wong Tai Sin	10,000	9,800	9,000	9,000
Kwun Tong	10,000	10,000	9,000	9,000
Kwai Tsing	10,000	9,500	8,500	9,000
Tsuen Wan	12,000	12,000	11,500	11,000
Tuen Mun	10,000	10,000	9,500	9,000
Yuen Long	10,000	10,000	9,800	9,000
North	10,500	10,000	10,000	9,000
Tai Po	11,000	10,000	9,800	9,700
Sha Tin	11,000	11,000	10,500	10,800
Sai Kung	12,000	12,000	11,300	11,000
Islands	12,000	11,000	10,000	10,000
Overall	10,500	10,000	10,000	10,000



Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department

24. Unemployed persons by district

District	Unemployment rate by district* (%)							
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2001	2002	2003	2004
Central and Western	3 300	6 900	6 000	5 300	2.3	5.0	4.4	4.0
Wan Chai	2 400	2 900	4 300	2 800	2.5	3.2	5.2	3.2
Eastern	11 300	16 200	18 800	16 000	3.4	5.0	6.0	5.1
Southern	5 600	8 600	9 500	6 800	3.8	5.8	6.6	4.5
Yau Tsim Mong	7 500	11 900	14 000	10 300	5.1	7.9	9.8	6.3
Sham Shui Po	12 800	16 900	17 300	15 000	7.4	9.4	10.3	8.4
Kowloon City	8 100	12 900	13 100	10 200	4.3	6.7	6.9	5.5
Wong Tai Sin	11 300	22 500	19 200	16 600	5.4	10.4	9.1	7.9
Kwun Tong	14 800	25 400	27 300	22 300	5.3	9.1	9.7	8.0
Kwai Tsing	15 400	25 900	30 500	24 300	6.4	10.0	11.9	9.5
Tsuen Wan	6 700	8 700	10 900	8 500	4.7	6.2	7.3	5.7
Tuen Mun	15 400	21 300	28 600	22 800	6.0	8.3	10.6	8.4
Yuen Long	13 000	24 500	31 100	22 200	5.8	9.9	12.3	8.4
North	7 000	13 600	15 900	12 900	4.9	9.4	10.5	8.7
Tai Po	7 500	13 800	16 100	12 500	4.9	8.8	10.3	7.8
Sha Tin	13 700	23 800	27 800	23 000	4.3	7.1	8.3	6.9
Sai Kung	6 900	12 300	14 700	13 700	3.9	6.3	7.5	6.3
Islands	3 500	3 700	3 800	4 000	7.7	7.6	7.1	6.5
Overall	166 100	271 900	308 900	248 900	4.9	7.8	8.8	7.0



Note : (*) Referring to the unemployment rate in May - August which is not seasonally adjusted.

Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department

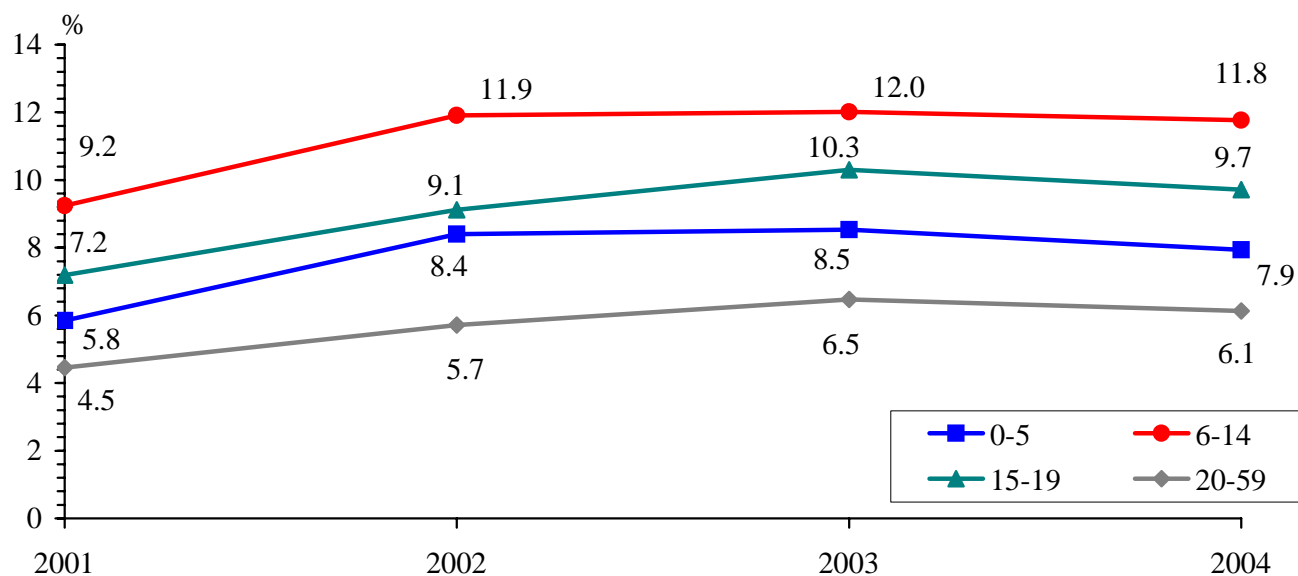
A Recapitulation of the Indicators under the Lifecycle Approach

1. Persons aged 0-5, 6-14, 15-19 and 20-59 living in workless households

Number

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
0-5	20 500	28 300	27 600	25 100
6-14	69 600	89 800	89 200	84 900
15-19	31 700	39 600	44 300	42 500
20-59	176 100	229 000	261 500	252 300

Proportion of persons living in workless households by age group



Proportion in all persons of the respective age groups

	<u>2004</u>				<u>2005</u>		
	<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>	<u>Q4</u>	<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>
0-5	8.5%	7.6%	7.3%	8.3%	9.3%	8.7%	8.0%
6-14	11.9%	11.2%	11.9%	12.1%	12.5%	10.9%	11.4%
15-19	10.7%	9.4%	9.3%	9.5%	9.9%	9.4%	10.6%
20-59	6.2%	5.9%	6.3%	6.1%	6.2%	5.9%	5.8%

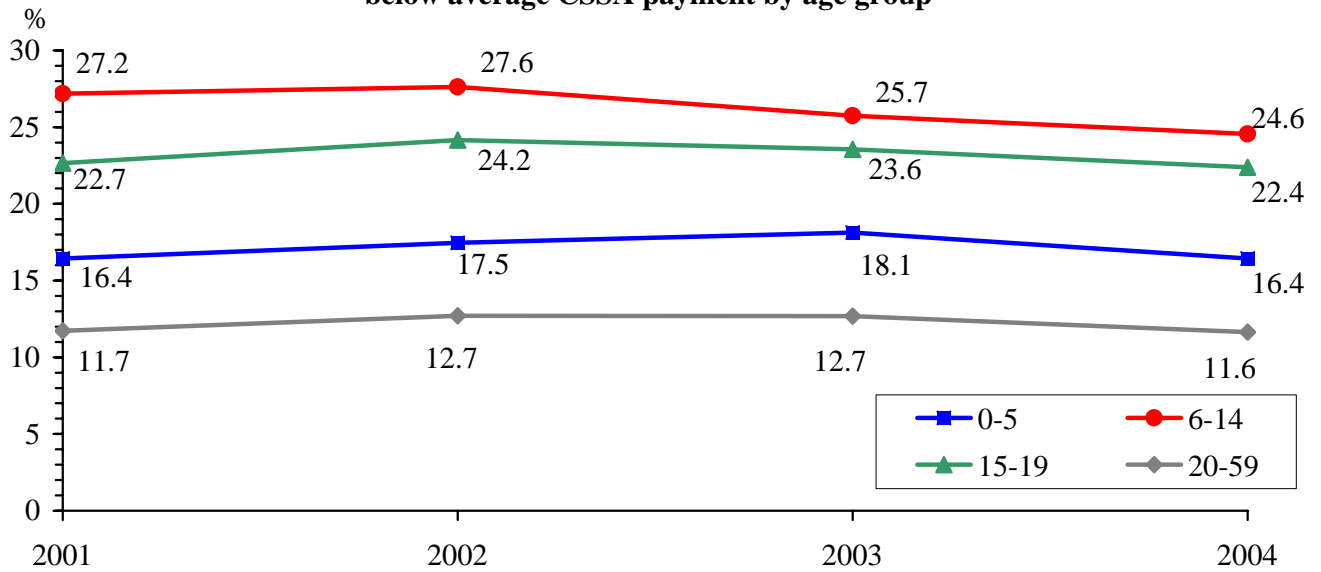
Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

2. Persons aged 0-5, 6-14, 15-19 and 20-59 living in households with income below average CSSA payment

Number

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
0-5	57 500	58 800	58 800	52 000
6-14	204 800	208 100	191 300	177 100
15-19	99 800	104 800	101 400	98 000
20-59	463 900	509 100	512 100	479 100

Proportion of persons living in households with income below average CSSA payment by age group



Proportion in all persons of the respective age groups

	<u>2004</u>				<u>2005</u>		
	<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>	<u>Q4</u>	<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>
0-5	16.5%	15.6%	16.4%	17.3%	16.0%	16.0%	16.2%
6-14	24.7%	23.8%	25.1%	24.7%	23.1%	21.7%	22.0%
15-19	22.8%	22.6%	22.5%	21.7%	21.4%	20.7%	21.7%
20-59	12.0%	11.4%	11.8%	11.3%	10.7%	10.6%	10.3%

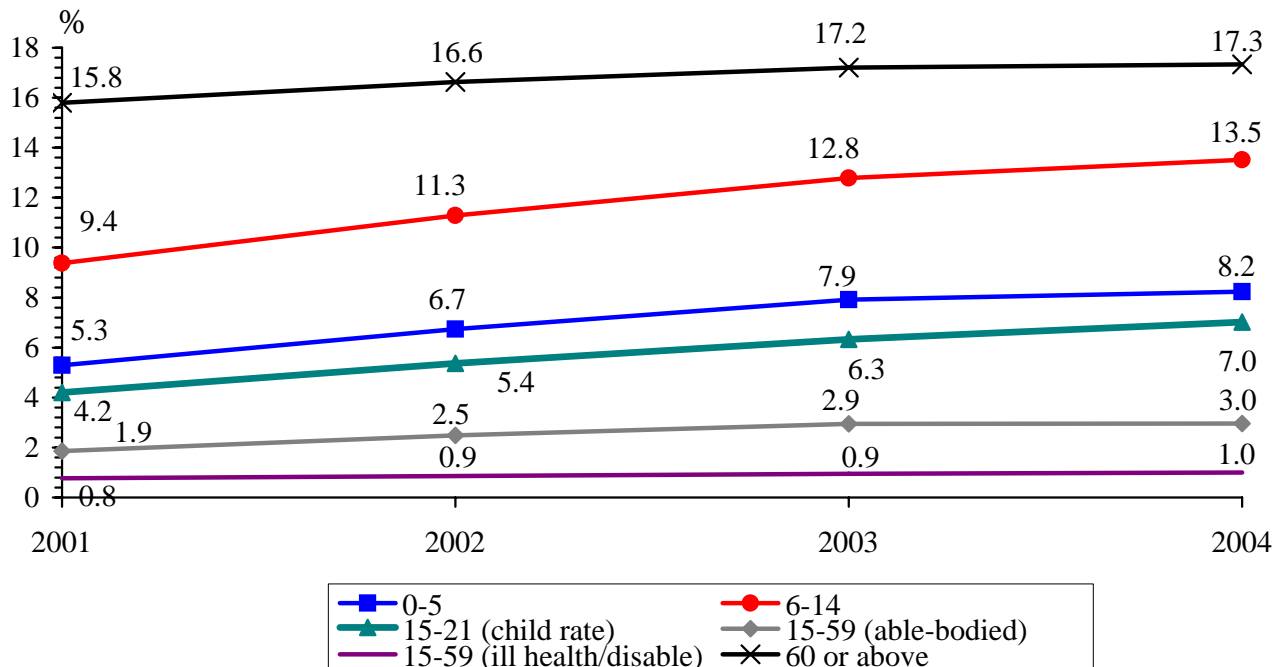
Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

3. CSSA recipients by nature and age group

Number

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
0-5	18 200	22 300	25 300	26 200
6-14	70 800	84 400	93 600	95 600
15-21 (child rate)	26 300	33 000	39 500	44 300
15-59 (able-bodied)	86 400	116 500	140 000	142 800
15-59 (ill health/disable)	35 900	40 300	44 800	48 400
60 or above	160 000	170 500	179 300	184 800

Proportion of CSSA recipients by nature and age group



Proportion in population of the respective age groups

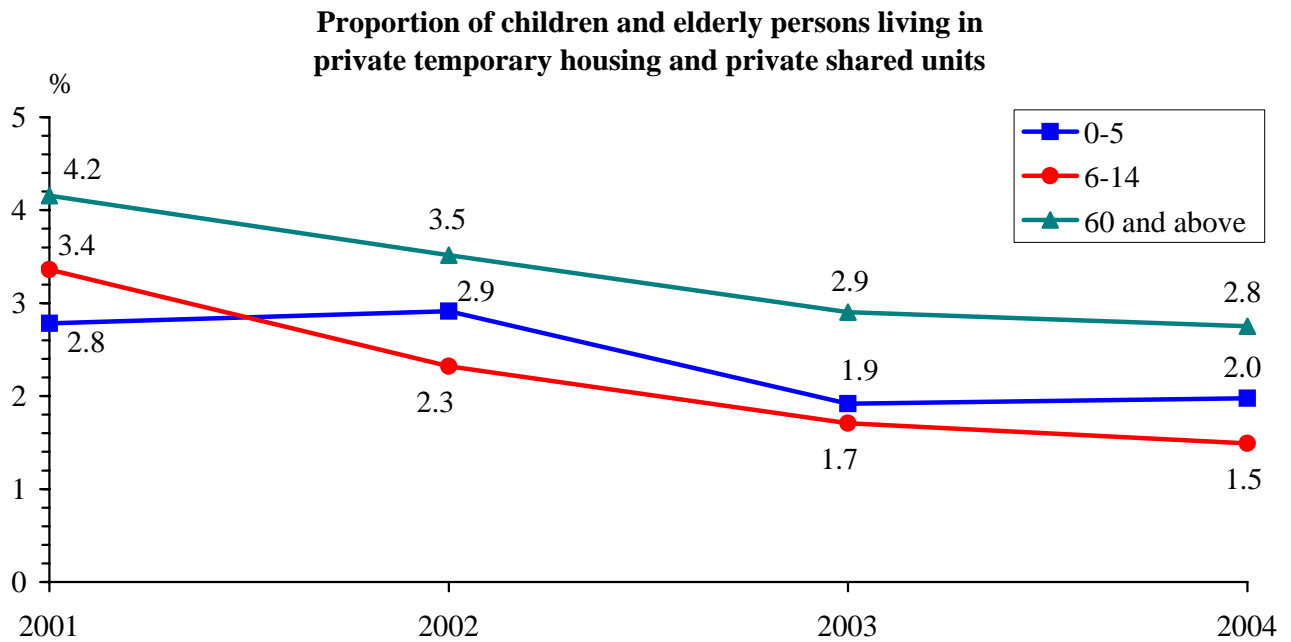
	<u>2004</u>				<u>2005</u>		
	<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>	<u>Q4</u>	<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>
0-5	8.1%	8.2%	8.3%	8.2%	8.1%	8.1%	7.9%
6-14	13.0%	13.2%	13.4%	13.5%	13.5%	13.6%	13.5%
15-21 (child rate)	6.7%	7.1%	6.2%	7.0%	7.3%	7.8%	6.6%
15-59 (able-bodied)	2.9%	2.9%	3.0%	3.0%	2.9%	2.9%	2.9%
15-59 (ill health/disable)	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%
60 or above	17.2%	17.2%	17.3%	17.3%	17.3%	17.2%	17.2%

Source : Social Welfare Department.

4. Children and elderly persons living in private temporary housing and private shared units

Number

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
0-5	9 700	9 800	6 200	6 300
6-14	25 300	17 500	12 700	10 800
≥ 60	40 100	34 600	28 800	27 700



Proportion in all persons of the respective age groups

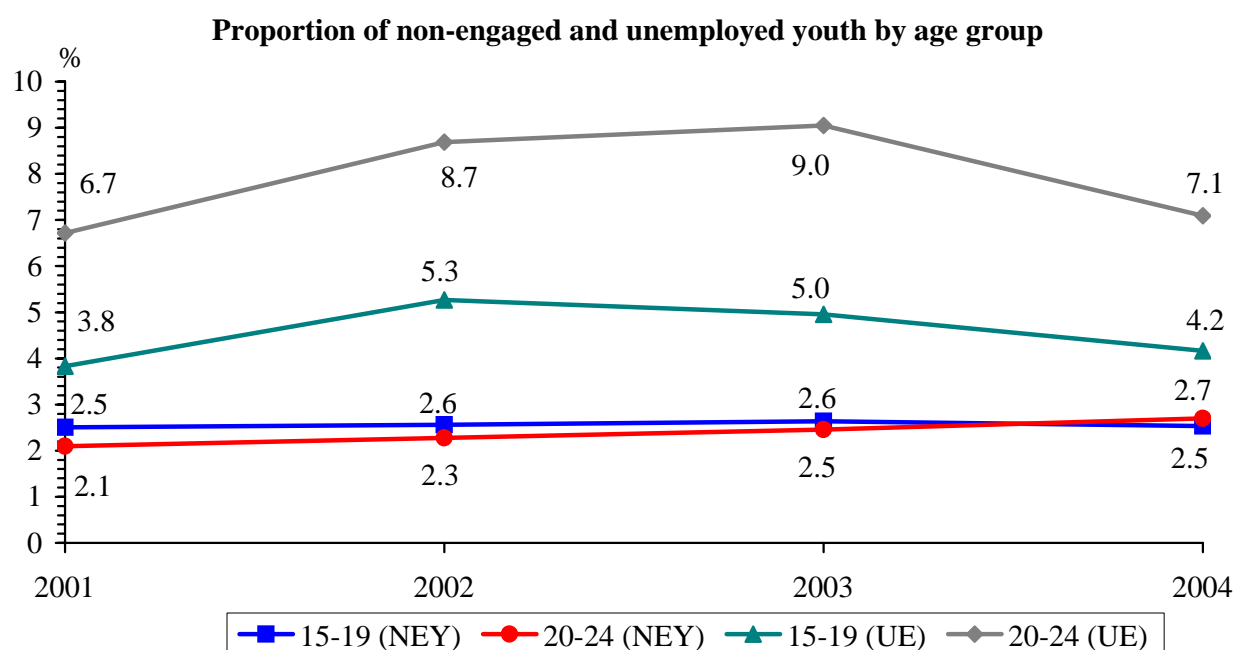
	<u>2004</u>				<u>2005</u>		
	<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>	<u>Q4</u>	<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>
0-5	1.7%	2.0%	2.0%	2.1%	2.1%	2.2%	2.0%
6-14	1.8%	1.3%	1.2%	1.7%	1.5%	1.4%	1.3%
≥ 60	2.6%	2.8%	2.9%	2.6%	2.9%	2.5%	2.0%

Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

5. Non-engaged and unemployed youth* aged 15-19 and 20-24

Number

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
Non-engaged youth (NEY)				
15-19	11 100	11 200	11 400	11 200
20-24	9 100	9 500	10 100	11 400
Unemployed persons (UE)				
15-19	17 000	23 000	21 500	18 400
20-24	29 200	36 400	37 100	30 000



Proportion in all persons of the respective age groups

	<u>2004</u>				<u>2005</u>		
	<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>	<u>Q4</u>	<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>
Non-engaged youth							
15-19	2.6%	2.3%	2.7%	2.5%	2.3%	1.8%	2.4%
20-24	2.9%	2.2%	3.0%	2.6%	2.6%	2.6%	3.1%
Unemployed persons							
15-19	3.8%	4.5%	5.1%	3.3%	2.6%	3.5%	4.1%
20-24	6.5%	7.2%	9.0%	5.7%	5.6%	6.6%	8.4%

Note : (*) For the definitions of non-engaged youth and unemployed youth, see Footnote (1) under paragraph 6 of Annex II in CoP Paper 26/2005.

Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.