

Commission on Poverty

Indicators of Poverty - An update for 2006 -

Background

The Commission on Poverty (CoP) agreed in its earlier meetings to have a set of multi-dimensional indicators for monitoring the poverty situation in Hong Kong at a macro level, and to update these indicators regularly. Moreover, these macro poverty indicators are meant to give a broad indication of how the poverty situation evolves over time and to highlight areas for more focused study. They provide additional reference information for bureaux and departments to formulate and evaluate policies to assist the needy. An earlier update of these indicators for the year 2005 was released in CoP Paper 14/2006 and discussed at the CoP meeting on 27 September 2006.

Purpose

2. This paper provides an update of the poverty indicators for the year 2006. The set of poverty indicators is listed at Annex I. Detailed analysis of their performance is given at Annex II, with the relevant data listed at the Statistical Appendix.¹ Members are invited to note the poverty indicators for 2006 and the highlights of analysis given below.

Highlights of analysis

3. There was a continued and almost across-the-board improvement in the poverty indicators in 2006, in tandem with the sustained strong economic upturn. Among the 18 life-cycle-based poverty indicators, most of them exhibited improvements. This was attributable on one hand to the spectacular overall economic performance last year, and on the other hand to the concerted efforts of the Government and other community groups in the provision of social services. As to the six district-based indicators, all the districts attained improvements one way or the other in 2006. The improvement was most distinct for Kwun Tong among the

¹ The time series of some poverty indicators enumerated from the General Household Survey has been revised to take into account enhancements in the estimation method and the results of the 2006 Population By-census, which provide a benchmark for revising the population and related figures compiled since the 2001 Population Census.

less well-off districts.²

4. The 10 indicators under the following 8 groups exhibited an improved performance in 2006:

- ❑ Unemployed persons (Indicator 11)
- ❑ Persons unemployed for six months or longer, and 12 months or longer (Indicator 12)
- ❑ Persons living in households with income below average Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) payment (Indicators 2 and 10)
- ❑ Persons living in workless households (Indicators 1 and 9)
- ❑ School attendance rate of youth aged 16-19 (Indicator 5)
- ❑ Persons aged 20-24 with tertiary education (Indicator 6)
- ❑ Elderly patients under the medical fee waiver mechanism of public hospitals and clinics (Indicator 17)
- ❑ Children aged 0-5 and 6-14 with single parent and in households with income below average CSSA payment (Indicator 3)

5. On the other hand, different performance was seen for the 8 indicators under the following 4 groups:

- ❑ Employed persons working 35 hours or above per week and with monthly employment earnings less than 50% of the median (Indicator 13)

An across-the-board increase in the number and share was seen among various age groups for employed persons aged 15-59, with the overall figures going up from 155 800 and 5.9% in 2005 to 213 600 and 8.0% in 2006 respectively. This was due in part to the increased availability of full-time low-skilled jobs for previously underemployed workers, especially those in the elementary occupations group, alongside the sustained economic recovery.

- ❑ Persons aged 0-14 and 60 or above living in private temporary housing and private shared units (Indicators 8 and 18)

Both the numbers and shares of children in the 0-5 and 6-14 age groups with poor living conditions decreased in 2006. However, those in respect of the older age groups of 60 or above, and 65 or above increased over the

² Less well-off districts refer to districts whose median monthly household income (Indicator 22) and median monthly employment earnings (Indicator 23) together are lower than their respective overall average figures in 2006. They include Sham Shui Po, Wong Tai Sin, Kwun Tong, Kwai Tsing, Tuen Mun, Yuen Long, North, and Islands.

same period, although the absolute numbers involved were relatively small.

□ Non-engaged youth aged 15-19 and 20-24 (Indicator 7)

Both the number and share of non-engaged youth in the 20-24 age group decreased slightly in 2006. However, the number of those aged 15-19 inched up to 9 900 from 9 800, albeit with the respective share in the population remaining unchanged at 2.3%.

□ CSSA recipients with different attributes (Indicators 4, 14, 15 and 16)

The size of CSSA recipients decreased in both absolute and proportionate terms. However, within this group, the number and share of adult recipients of permanent disability/temporary disability/ill health CSSA edged higher between end-2005 and end-2006. Meanwhile, whereas the number of elderly CSSA recipients aged 60 or above showed a marginal increase from 187 700 to 187 800, their share in the respective age group fell from 17.3% to 16.7%. Furthermore, both the number and share of recipients aged 65 or above decreased. Regarding CSSA recipients aged 15-21 who were on child rate, the number decreased for the first time since 1995 (the earliest year this age-group specific figure is available), although the respective share remained broadly stable.

On the other hand, the numbers and shares of children recipients aged 0-5 and 6-14, as well as adult able-bodied recipients having been on CSSA for various durations, all went down. In particular, the number of adult able-bodied recipients having been on CSSA for more than a year decreased slightly from 118 900 to 112 600, having leaped by more than seven folds during 1995-2005. These developments attested to the importance of continued economic growth in generating more job opportunities for CSSA recipients to move away from “welfare” to “self-reliance”.

6. As to the six district-based indicators, improvements had been widespread across most of the districts in 2006. In particular, 12 out of the 18 districts recorded declines in both the proportion of low-income households (Indicator 20) and the unemployment rate (Indicator 24). Among the 18 districts, 13 had improved median household income (Indicator 22), and 9 districts had improved median employment earnings (Indicator 23). The Central and Western, Wan Chai, Southern, Kowloon City, Kwun Tong, Sha Tin and Sai Kung districts were the ones with

improvements in both indicators. In aggregate, the number and proportion of low-income households, workless households (Indicator 19) and single-parent low-income households (Indicator 21) all fell in 2006. Furthermore, the overall median monthly household income and the overall median monthly employment earnings picked up to \$16,700 and \$10,500, along with the improvement in labour market conditions.

7. As for the less well-off districts, Wong Tai Sin, Kwai Tsing, Tuen Mun, Yuen Long and North districts attained improvements in four indicators. By comparison, the performance was less encouraging for Islands district, where only one indicator turned better.

Economic Analysis and Business Facilitation Unit
Financial Secretary's Office
30 May 2007

Indicators of Poverty**Children/youth (aged 0-14 / 15-24)**

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)

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 1 year or less, and longer than 1 year
15. Adult recipients of permanent disability/temporary disability/ill health CSSA

Older people (aged 60 or above)

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

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

**Indicators of Poverty
- An update for 2006 -**

Background

The choice and compilation of poverty indicators which best suit the case for Hong Kong was discussed at the Commission on several occasions in 2005 (please refer to CoP Paper 3/2005, 10/2005, 26/2005 and 14/2006). Members generally agreed that instead of a single income-based indicator, a set of multi-dimensional indicators should be used for monitoring the poverty situation in Hong Kong at a macro level, supplemented by the more detailed and specific indicators at the district level. Moreover, the poverty indicators selected should not be simplistically employed as a tool for assessing the progress of the Government's poverty alleviation work, as the indicators themselves particularly those involving short-term movements, are subject to the influence of a host of factors other than Government policies and actions. The last update of poverty indicators for the year 2005 was released in CoP Paper 14/2006 and discussed at the CoP meeting on 27 September 2006.

2. The fundamental concept behind the multi-dimensional approach is that given the general affluence of the Hong Kong economy, it would not be appropriate to measure the size of the poor based on a single income-based indicator or a poverty line alone. We should also be concerned about the other relevant aspects of people's living, and be vigilant of the risk of certain groups of people falling into poverty. The gist of the considerations behind the choice of the poverty indicators is available in CoP Paper 26/2005.

3. As stated in CoP Paper 26/2005, the set of selected poverty indicators would be updated on an annual basis. The purpose of this paper is to present the figures compiled for the year 2006. The following paragraphs will give a consolidated view of the performance of the poverty indicators by segregating the life-cycle-based Indicators No. 1-18 into those which exhibited improvements and those which had different performance in 2006. The community-based Indicators No. 19-24 will be discussed separately, as the performance of the individual indicators varied among districts. The detailed statistics for the indicators are listed at the Statistical Appendix.

Indicators exhibiting improvements in 2006

Employment and earnings / income

4. The sustained robust economic growth had transpired into stronger labour demand and contributed to further improvement in the labour market conditions. With the net creation of 70 800 jobs for 2006 as a whole, the overall unemployment rate remained on a declining trend throughout the year, reaching a near six-year low of 4.4% at year-end. It averaged at 4.8% for 2006 as a whole, down 0.8 of a percentage point from 5.6% in 2005. Meanwhile, labour earnings in terms of payroll per person engaged rose by 2.4% in money terms, extending the uptrend established since early 2005. This favourable development extended well into the early part of this year, with the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate edging down further to 4.3% in the three months ending February and remaining static in the subsequent periods ending March and April, the lowest level in nearly nine years.

5. It is against this favourable economic backdrop that the indicators relating to employment and earnings/income in general continued to change for the better in 2006, as summarised below:

□ *Unemployed persons aged 15-19, 20-24 and 25-59 (Indicator 11)*

The number of unemployed persons aged 15-59 went down from 192 800 in 2005 to 167 800 in 2006, leading to a 0.8 percentage point fall in the unemployment rate for this particular age group to 4.8%. The improvement was most distinct among persons aged 25-29, followed by those aged 20-24.

□ *Persons unemployed for six months or longer, and 12 months or longer (Indicator 12)*

The problem of long-term unemployment eased distinctly further, in tandem with the sustained economic upturn. The number of persons unemployed for six months or longer dropped from 60 000 in 2005 to 44 900 in 2006. The decline was equally notable for those unemployed for 12 months or longer, from 36 100 to 26 400.

□ *Persons aged 0-14 and 15-59 living in households with income below average CSSA payment (Indicators 2 and 10)*

Taking these two indicators together, there were 618 600 persons aged

0-59 living in households with income below average CSSA payment in 2006, representing 11.4% of the population of this age group. They were smaller than the corresponding figures of 692 800 and 12.8% in 2005, thanks to better employment and pay conditions over the year. The improvement occurred across all age groups, namely, 0-5, 6-14, 15-19 and 20-59.

Should household income be used as the sole criterion for defining the size of the poor, the set of multi-dimensional indicators would suggest a total of 618 600 persons among those aged 0-59 in 2006. Taking into account also older persons aged 60 or above, the size of the poor would be around 822 800.

- *Persons aged 0-14 and 15-59 living in workless households* (Indicators 1 and 9)

In aggregate terms, there was a total of 356 600 persons aged 0-59 living in workless households in 2006, representing 6.6% of the population of this age group, smaller than the corresponding figures of 374 300 and 6.9% in 2005. Analysed by age group, an across-the-board decrease in both the number and proportion of these people was observed over the year across all the age groups of 0-5, 6-14, 15-19 and 20-59.

Education

6. Expenditure on education has continued to take up the largest share of the Government's expenditure, amounting to \$53.1 billion or 22% of total public expenditure in 2006/07. This has contributed to a continuous upgrading of the education and skill levels of local workforce, thereby strengthening their capability in coping with the changing work requirements of the modern economy. Coupled with the environment of a free and fair society, education is an effective channel for upward social mobility and for avoiding entrenched and intergenerational poverty.

7. The education-related indicators have improved steadily over the past year:

- *School attendance rate of youth aged 16-19* (Indicator 5)

This indicates the proportion of youth continuing with their study after the nine-year universal free education. In 2006, the attendance rate remained

on the rise to 83.5%, from 82.8% in 2005.

□ *Persons aged 20-24 with tertiary education (Indicator 6)*

55.2% of the population of this age group attained tertiary education in 2006, up further from 52.8% in 2005. More than three-fifths of these students attained tertiary degree education in 2006.

Health

8. In 2006/07, the Government's expenditure on health amounted to \$32.1 billion or 13% of total public expenditure. This supports a wide range of medical and health care services for the general public at heavily subsidized rates. As to patients who need further financial support, they could apply for the medical fee waiver. Statistics show that the number of elderly people requiring additional support decreased significantly in 2006/07:

□ *Elderly patients under the medical fee waiver mechanism of public hospitals and clinics (Indicator 17)*

Despite the ageing of the population, both the number and share of elderly people under the medical fee waiver mechanism of public hospitals dropped considerably in 2006/07. Actually only a very small proportion of the elderly people used this service, at less than 1% for both the age groups of 60 or above and 65 or above.

Community / family support

9. The improved economic conditions in 2006 also benefited the single-parent low-income families:

□ *Children aged 0-5 and 6-14 with single parent and in households with income below the average CSSA payment (Indicator 3)*

The number of children aged 0-14 living in such low-income households stood at 23 100 in 2006, representing a share of 2.5% in the population of this age group. These were smaller than the corresponding figures of 24 500 and 2.6% in 2005. Yet whilst a decline was seen among the 6-14 age group, the number and share for the 0-5 age group was virtually unchanged, at 2 400 and 0.9%.

Indicators showing different performance in 2006

Employment

10. Whereas the overall labour market conditions improved notably further over the course of 2006, not all of the people within the labour force benefited fully from such favourable developments.

- *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 (Indicator 13)*

In 2006, there was an across-the-board increase in both the number and proportion of full-time workers (i.e. working 35 hours or above per week) earning less than 50% of the median employment earnings for the 15-19, 20-24, and 25-59 age groups. Taking all the groups together, the total was 213 600, representing 8.0% of all the full-time workers in the same age group. These were higher than the corresponding figures of 155 800 and 5.9% in 2005. One possible reason was the availability of more full-time low-skilled jobs, especially those in the elementary occupations category, along with the sustained pick-up in economic activity. In view of the decline in underemployment across all the age groups in 2006, some of the previously underemployed workers might have taken up full-time work with better pay and job security, even though in absolute terms their earnings were still lower than the overall median level. Also worth noting was that the median employment earnings of all employed persons actually improved to \$10,500 in 2006, from \$10,000 in 2005. Within the employed workforce, low-income workers were found mainly (more than two-fifths) among the youngest age group of 15-19, conceivably due to their lack of working experience.

Living conditions

11. The provision of public housing has contributed substantially to improving the living conditions of the needy, but that many elders are still suffering from poor living conditions continues to attract concerns and leads to calls for further efforts from both the Government and the community at large:

- *Persons aged 0-14 and 60 or over living in private temporary housing and private shared units (Indicators 8 and 18)*

The total number of children aged 0-14 living in such private housing declined further from 14 700 in 2005 to 13 400 in 2006, as did their share in the population of the corresponding age group from 1.5% to 1.4%.

However, there was a mild increase in the size of the elderly living in poor housing conditions. In 2006, 24 000 elderly persons aged 60 or above lived in private temporary housing and private shared units, which was up from 23 200 in 2005. Their share in the population of the respective age group likewise rose from 2.3% to 2.4%. The same trend was observed for those elderly persons aged 65 or above. The corresponding number rose from 18 200 in 2005 to 18 700 in 2006, and the proportion from 2.3% to 2.4%.

Community / family support

12. Notwithstanding continuous efforts of the education sector and the other community groups, the problem of non-engaged youth has remained an area of concern requiring close monitoring:

□ *Non-engaged youth aged 15-19 and 20-24* (Indicator 7)

In 2006, there were 11 500 non-engaged youth aged 20-24, representing a share of 2.6% in the population of this age group. These figures improved somewhat from those of 11 700 and 2.7% respectively in 2005. Nevertheless, the number of non-engaged youth aged 15-19 inched up from 9 800 to 9 900 over the same period, although the respective share in the population of this age group held stable at 2.3%. Taking these two age groups together, the number of non-engaged youth showed a mild decline to 21 400 in 2006 from 21 500 in 2005, whilst the respective share remained unchanged at 2.5%.

13. The number of CSSA recipients could be classified as an income-related indicator, as these are the people who are genuinely in need of income support and are receiving it. In general, CSSA recipients have been on the decline in 2006. In effect, they are the group being supported by the community mainly in terms of income. Yet a decrease in their numbers and shares over the past year should not be interpreted as the community providing less income support to the disadvantaged group. Rather, it could indicate that more people have been able to move to self-reliance.

□ *CSSA recipients with different attributes* (Indicators 4, 14, 15 and 16)

The total number of CSSA recipients across all categories decreased from 540 000 at end-2005 to 521 600 at end-2006, with their share in the total population edging down from 7.9% to 7.6%.

But a breakdown by age group reveals that adult recipients of permanent disability/temporary disability/ill health CSSA recipients as a share in the population of the corresponding age group edged up from 1.0% at end-2005 to 1.1% at end-2006. On the other hand, the share of CSSA recipients aged 15-21 who were on child rate remained broadly stable, despite a slight drop in the absolute number. Regarding the elderly recipients, 16.7% of the population aged 60 or above and 19.0% of those aged 65 or above were on CSSA at end-2006, both down from the corresponding figures of 17.3% and 19.4% at end-2005. In absolute terms, this group of older-aged CSSA recipients however witnessed a slight increase over the period, from 187 700 to 187 800.

As for able-bodied CSSA recipients aged 15-59, the number decreased to 128 200 at end-2006 from 138 400 at end-2005. So did the respective proportion, from 2.9% to 2.6%. It is particularly worth noting that among these adult able-bodied recipients, the number of those having been on CSSA for more than one year registered a decline in 2006, after a sharp jump of 754% over the preceding ten-year period from 1995 to 2005. Conceivably, the increased job opportunities at the lower segment of the labour market, which had been created amid the recent strong and broad-based economic recovery, induced more of the CSSA recipients to rejoin the workforce.

14. On the community-related indicators, extensive improvements were observed across most of the districts. The improvement was particularly visible in respect of the unemployment rate (Indicator 24), where 16 out of the 18 districts were better off in 2006. The numbers and proportions of workless households (excluding elderly households) and single-parent low-income households also fell over the period (Indicators 19 and 21). Among the 18 districts, 13 of them had improved median household income (Indicator 22) and 9 districts had improved median employment earnings (Indicator 23). The Central and Western, Wan Chai, Southern, Kowloon City, Kwun Tong, Sha Tin and Sai Kung districts were the ones with improvements in both indicators.

15. For all the districts as a whole, the number of low-income households (excluding elderly households, Indicator 20) declined further from 242 300 in 2005 to 221 000 in 2006, and their share in the total number of households from 12.4% to 11.2%. Both the overall median monthly household income and overall median monthly employment earnings picked up further from \$16,000 and \$10,000 in 2005 to \$16,700 and \$10,500 in 2006 respectively along with the improvement in the labour market conditions.

16. Appendix I shows the performance of the indicators in each of the districts in 2006 relative to that in 2005. While the Kwun Tong and Sha Tin districts had all the six indicators improved in 2006, Central and Western, Tai Po and Sai Kung districts attained improvements in five of them. Concurrently, 7 districts, including Eastern, Wong Tai Sin, Kwai Tsing, Tsuen Wan, Tuen Mun, Yuen Long, and North districts, saw improvements in four indicators. The performance was less remarkable for Yau Tsim Mong and Islands districts, where only one indicator improved.

17. Viewed from another perspective, in 2006 five districts, namely Wong Tai Sin, Kwai Tsing, Tuen Mun, Yuen Long and North districts were found to have fared less well than the overall average on all the six Indicators 19-24 (Appendix II), as against three districts in 2005. Nevertheless, all these five districts actually recorded improvements in four out of six indicators in 2006 as compared with 2005. The performance of Islands district also merits attention, which had four more employment/income-related indicators falling below the overall average in 2006.

Concluding remarks

18. It is clear from the analysis for 2006 that economic and employment growth has continued to be the most vital factor for improving the well-being of the disadvantaged and low-income group. Apart from helping these people directly with jobs and employment earnings, economic growth also provide the Government with the necessary resources for its substantial spending on education, health, welfare and other social services. Government spending serves an important function of creating a favourable and fair environment in which everyone in the society faces equal development opportunities for moving up along the social and economic ladders through their own efforts.

19. Among the 18 life-cycle-based poverty indicators, most of them exhibited improvements in 2006, with only the few relating to living conditions and CSSA

recipients showing a mixed performance within the sub-groups, and the one on full-time workers earning less than 50% of the median employed earnings showing subdued performance. As to the district-based indicators, all the districts attained improvements one way or the other in 2006. Among the less well-off ones, the improvements had been most distinct for Kwun Tong district.

A Comparison of the Poverty Indicators between 2005 and 2006

In the following table, the indicators which performed better in 2006 than in 2005 in the individual districts are marked by a “✓”. The shaded rows represent the districts having more distinct improvements in 2006.

Indicator	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Proportion of workless households	Proportion of low-income households	Proportion of single-parent low-income households	Median monthly household income	Median monthly employment earnings	Unemployment rate
Central & Western	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Wan Chai				✓	✓	✓
Eastern	✓	✓		✓		✓
Southern		✓		✓	✓	
Yau Tsim Mong		✓				
Sham Shui Po			✓		✓	✓
Kowloon City				✓	✓	✓
Wong Tai Sin	✓	✓		✓		✓
Kwun Tong	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kwai Tsing	✓	✓	✓			✓
Tsuen Wan	✓	✓		✓		✓
Tuen Mun		✓	✓		✓	✓
Yuen Long	✓	✓		✓		✓
North		✓	✓	✓		✓
Tai Po	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Sha Tin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sai Kung		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Islands						✓

A Comparison of the District-based Indicators with the Overall Average

In the following table, the indicators which fared less well in the individual districts as compared to the overall average in 2006 are marked by a “x”. The shaded rows are the districts where all the six indicators showed below average performance.

Indicators	19	20	21	22	23	24
	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	x			x		x
Sham Shui Po	x	x		x	x	x
Wong Tai Sin	x	x	x	x	x	x
Kwun Tong	x			x	x	x
Kwai Tsing	x	x	x	x	x	x
Tuen Mun	x	x	x	x	x	x
Yuen Long	x	x	x	x	x	x
North	x	x	x	x	x	x
Tai Po		x	x		x	x
Islands	x	x		x	x	x

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) While data from the General Household Survey of the Census and Statistics Department and from the Hospital Authority are annual average figures, those on recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance from the Social Welfare Department are period-end figures.
- (3) The district-based indicators under Section IV are based on the data collected from the General Household Survey for the whole year from 2001 to 2006, as well as the mid-year population estimates by District Council district as compiled by the Planning Department.
- (4) The time series of some poverty indicators enumerated from the General Household Survey has been revised to take into account enhancements in the estimation method and the results of the 2006 Population By-census, which provides a benchmark for revising the population and related figures compiled since the 2001 Population Census.

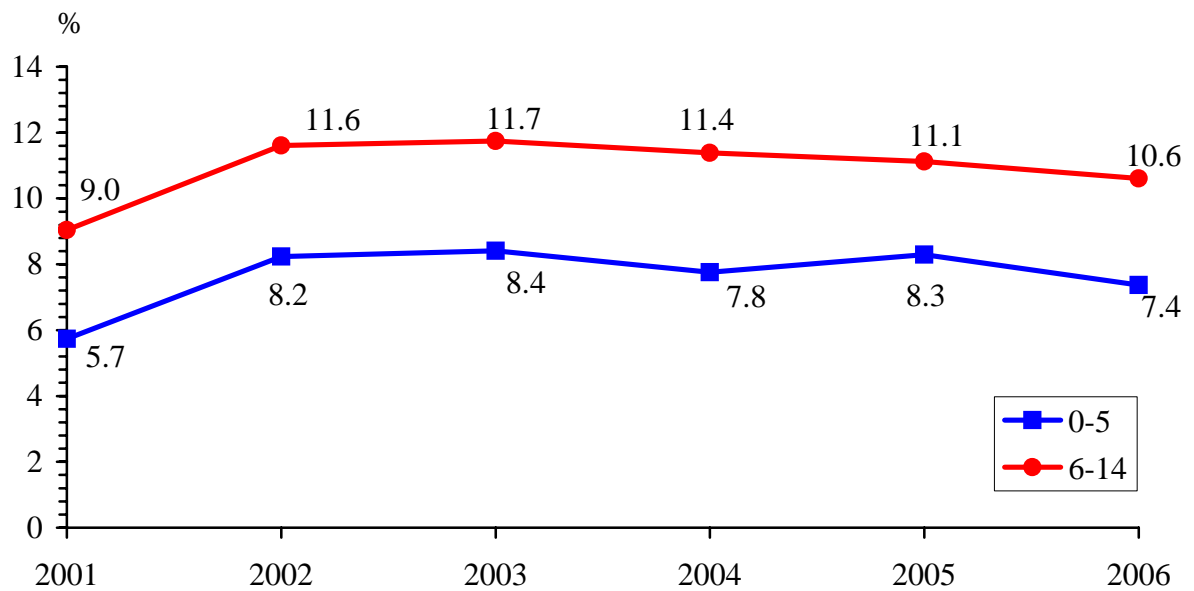
Section I : Indicators for Children / Youth Aged 0-14 and 15-24

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>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
0-5	19 900	26 400	25 300	22 200	22 800	19 700
6-14	67 500	86 500	86 600	81 400	76 200	70 700

Proportion of children living in workless households by age group

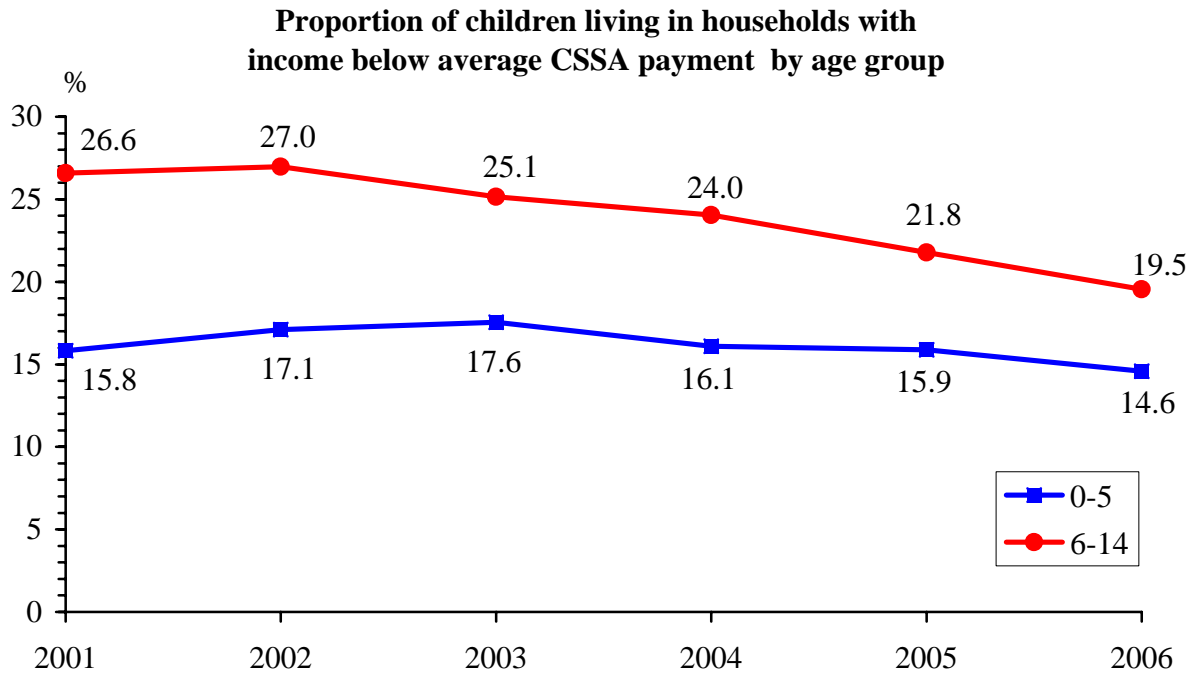


Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

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>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
0-5	54 900	54 800	52 800	46 100	43 700	39 000
6-14	198 500	201 100	185 400	171 800	149 200	130 200



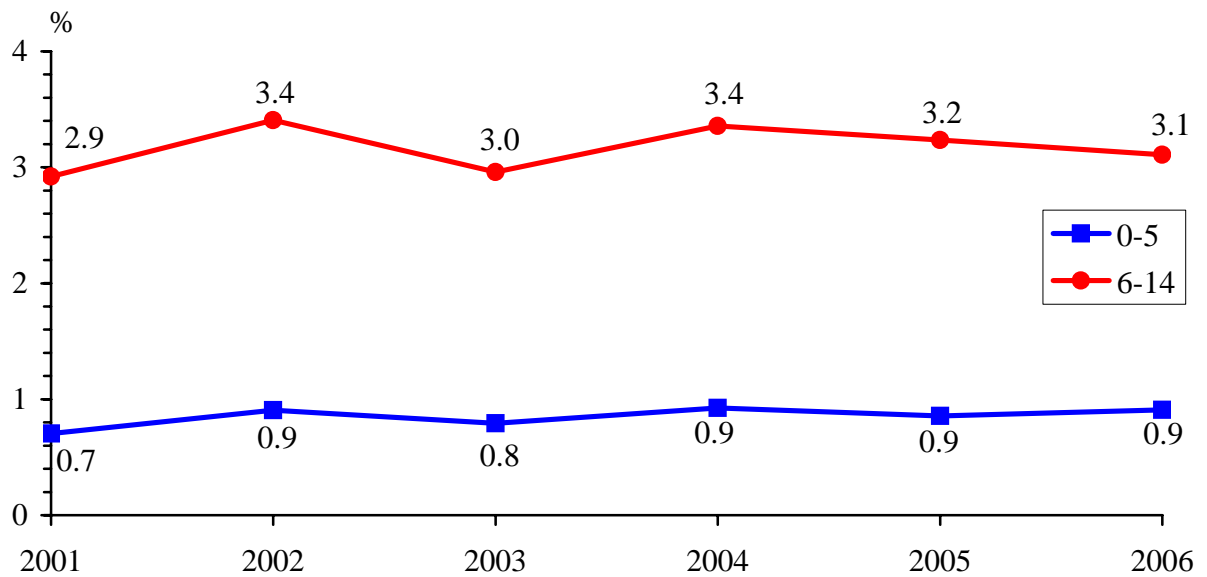
Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

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>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
0-5	2 400	2 900	2 400	2 600	2 400	2 400
6-14	21 800	25 400	21 800	24 000	22 200	20 700

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



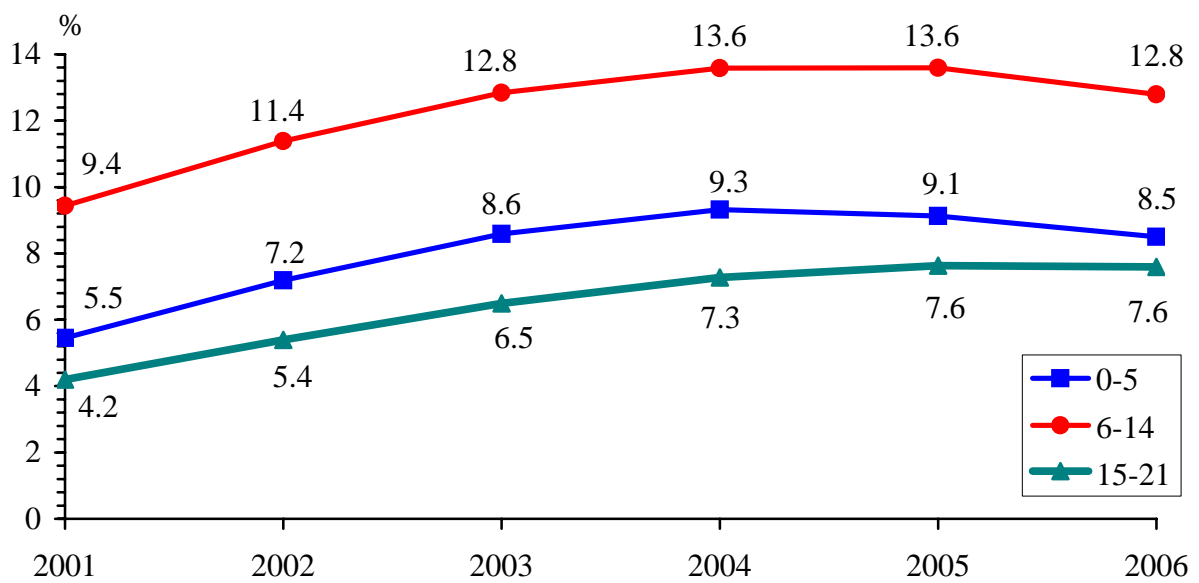
Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

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>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
0-5	18 200	22 300	25 300	26 200	24 900	23 000
6-14	70 800	84 400	93 600	95 600	91 800	85 000
15-21	26 300	33 000	40 200	45 100	47 300	46 800

Proportion of child rate CSSA recipients by age group

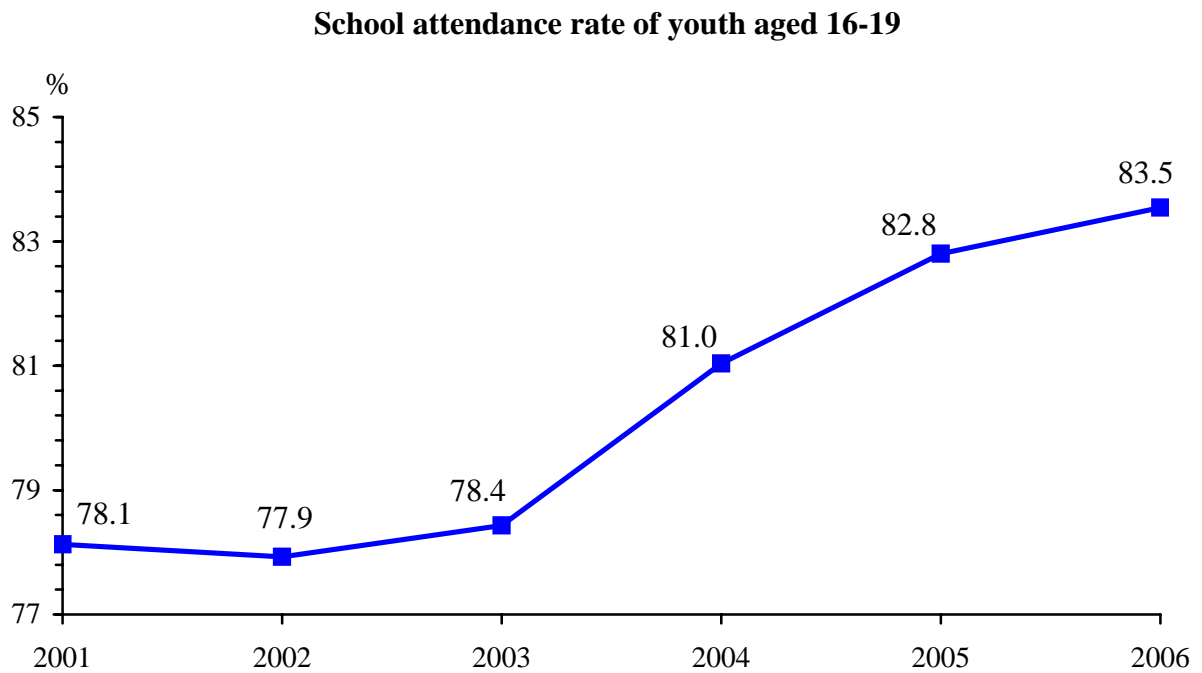


Source : Social Welfare Department.

5. School attendance rate of youth aged 16-19

Number

<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
280 300	273 100	266 300	280 000	286 600	293 900



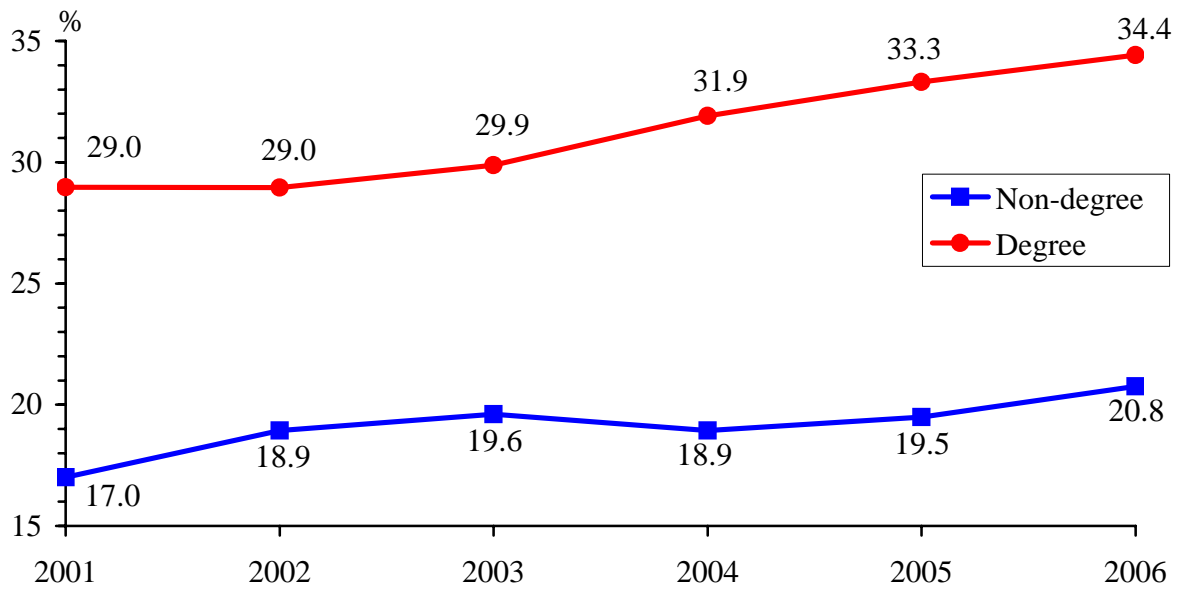
Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

6. Persons aged 20-24 with tertiary education

Number

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Non-degree	74 100	80 100	81 800	81 400	84 600	90 100
Degree	126 100	122 500	124 700	137 300	144 500	149 400

Proportion of persons aged 20-24 with tertiary education



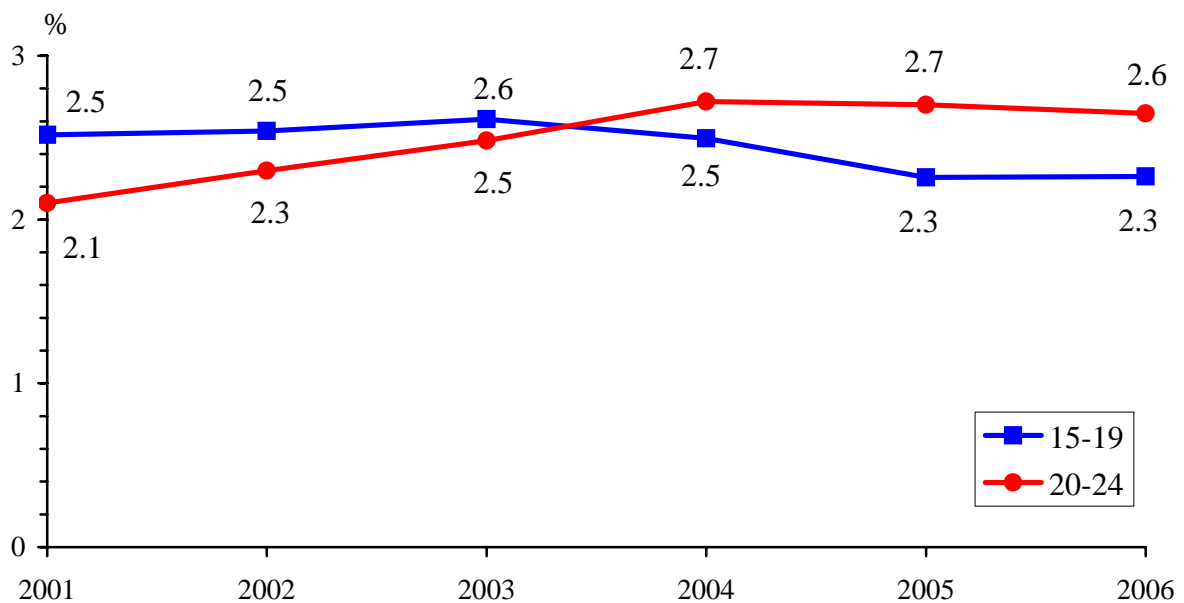
Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

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

Number

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
15-19	11 200	11 000	11 200	10 800	9 800	9 900
20-24	9 100	9 700	10 400	11 700	11 700	11 500

Proportion of non-engaged youth by age group



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.

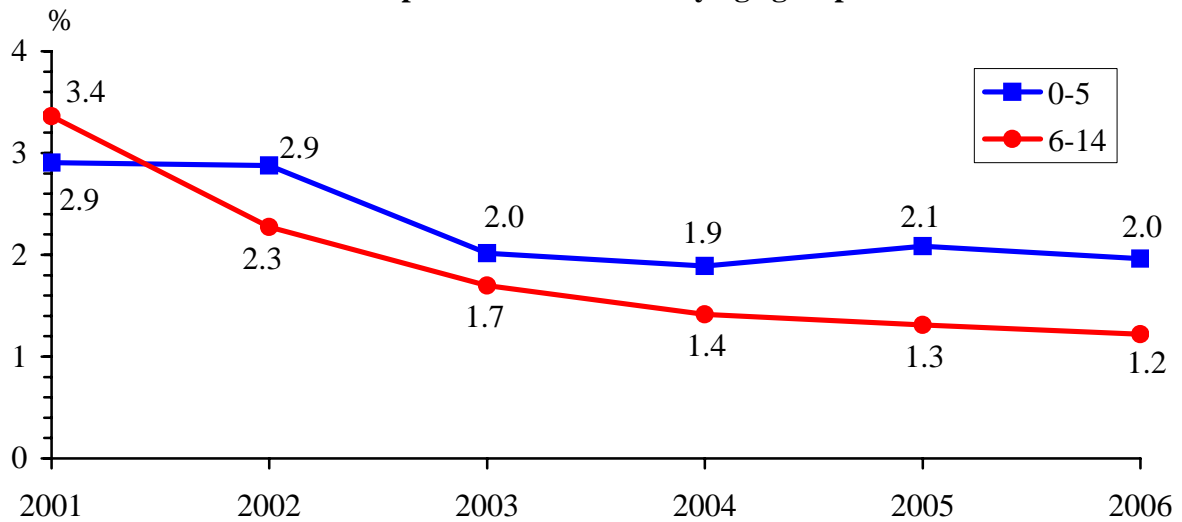
Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

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>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
0-5	10 100	9 200	6 100	5 400	5 700	5 200
6-14	25 100	16 900	12 500	10 100	9 000	8 100

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



Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

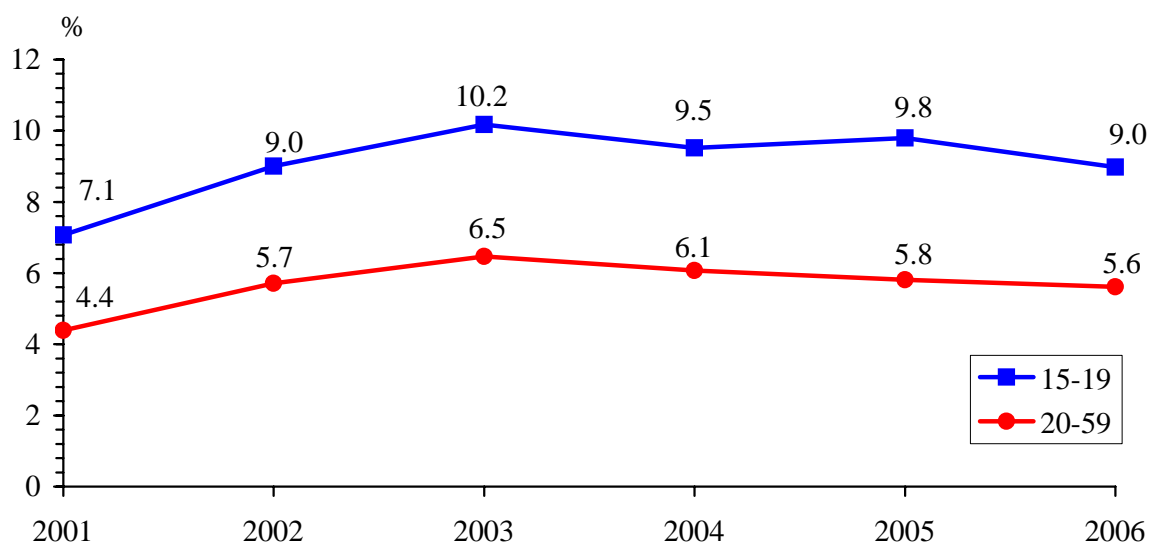
Section II : Indicators for Working People / Adults Aged 15-59

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>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
15-19	30 700	38 500	42 800	40 100	41 400	38 200
20-59	171 400	224 200	254 800	242 300	233 800	228 000

Proportion of persons living in workless households by age group

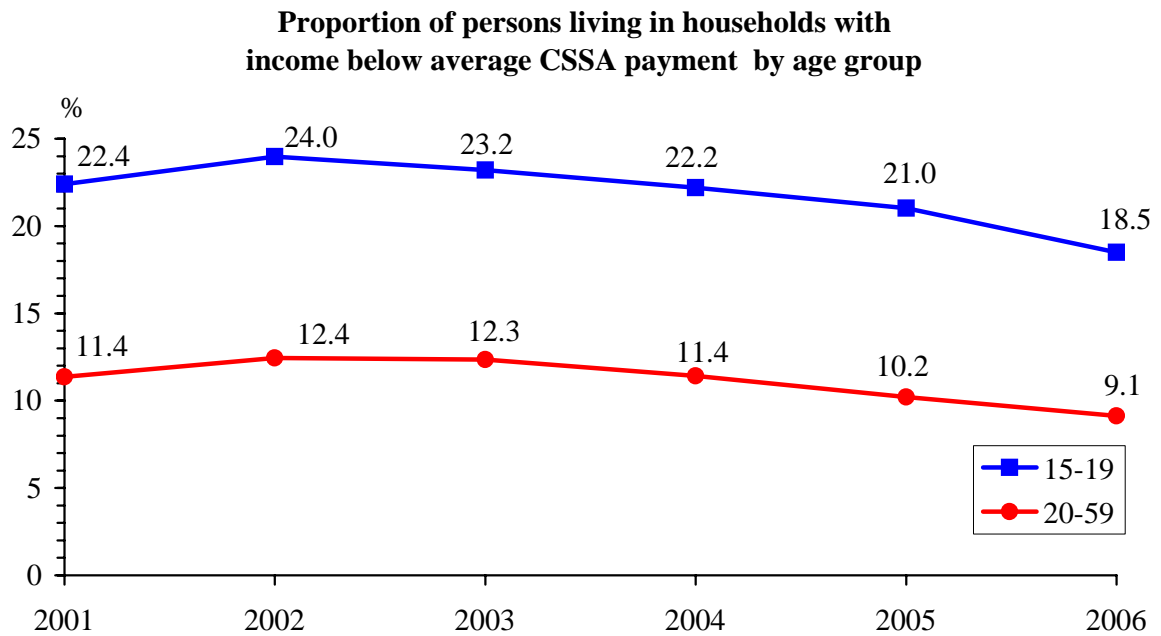


Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

**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>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
15-19	97 400	102 400	97 500	93 500	88 900	78 700
20-59	443 200	488 800	486 400	455 700	411 000	370 800

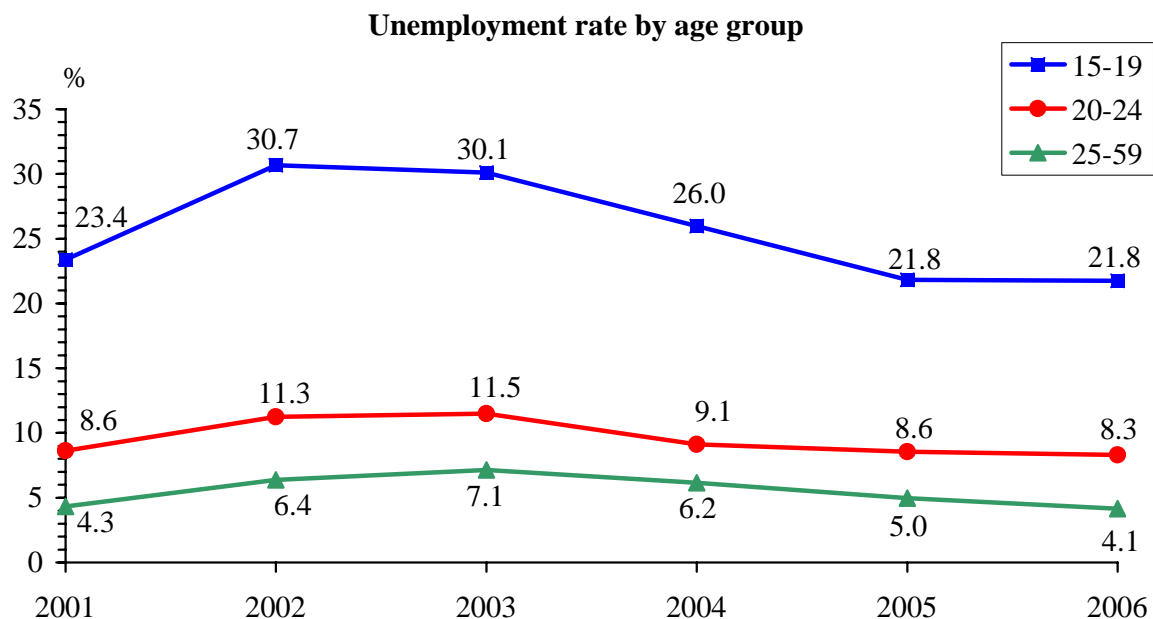


Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

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

Number

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
15-19	16 900	22 600	20 900	17 700	13 700	13 000
20-24	29 100	36 700	37 500	30 400	28 500	27 300
25-59	125 400	188 600	211 700	184 800	150 600	127 500



Note : (*) 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.

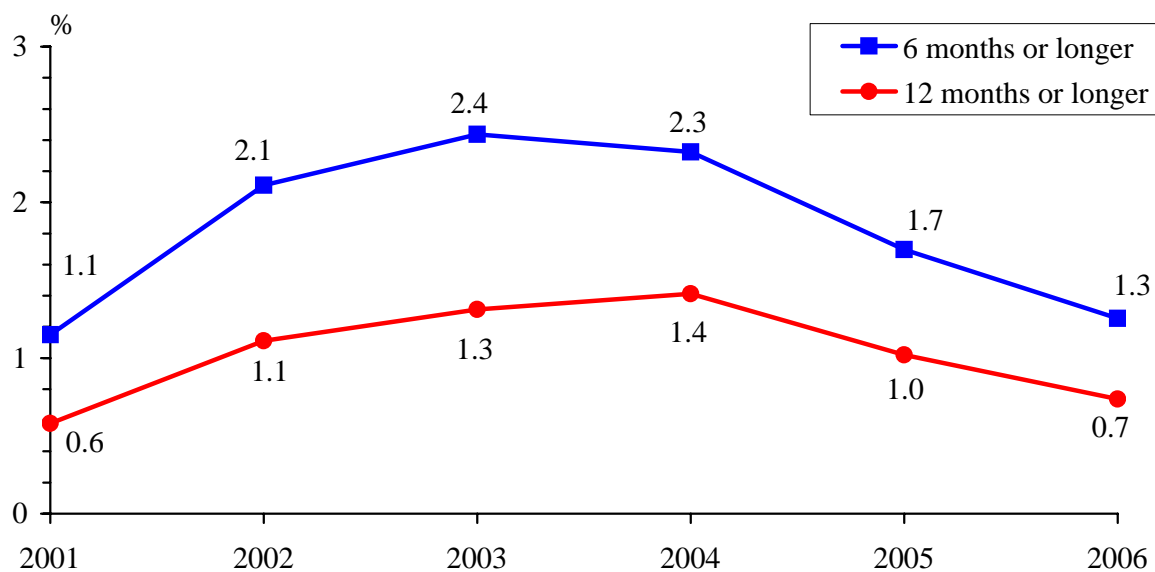
Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

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>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
≥ 6 months	39 400	73 300	84 600	81 700	60 000	44 900
≥ 12 months	19 800	38 600	45 600	49 700	36 100	26 400

Long-term unemployment rate by duration of unemployment



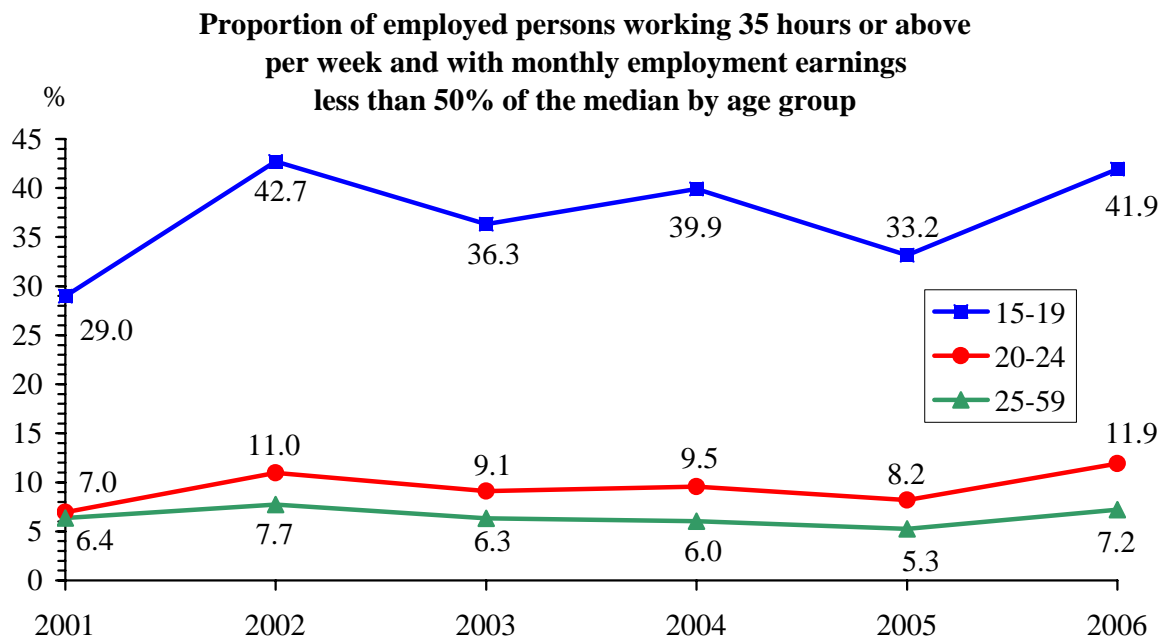
Note : (*) In order for the number of long-term unemployed persons and the corresponding long-term unemployment rates compiled for this indicator to be consistent with the unemployment statistics normally released, foreign domestic helpers (FDHs) have not been excluded. Yet FDHs should have insignificant 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>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
15-19	12 800	16 400	12 400	14 100	11 500	13 800
20-24	17 100	24 700	19 500	21 500	18 800	26 400
25-59	147 500	178 500	141 400	140 400	125 500	173 300



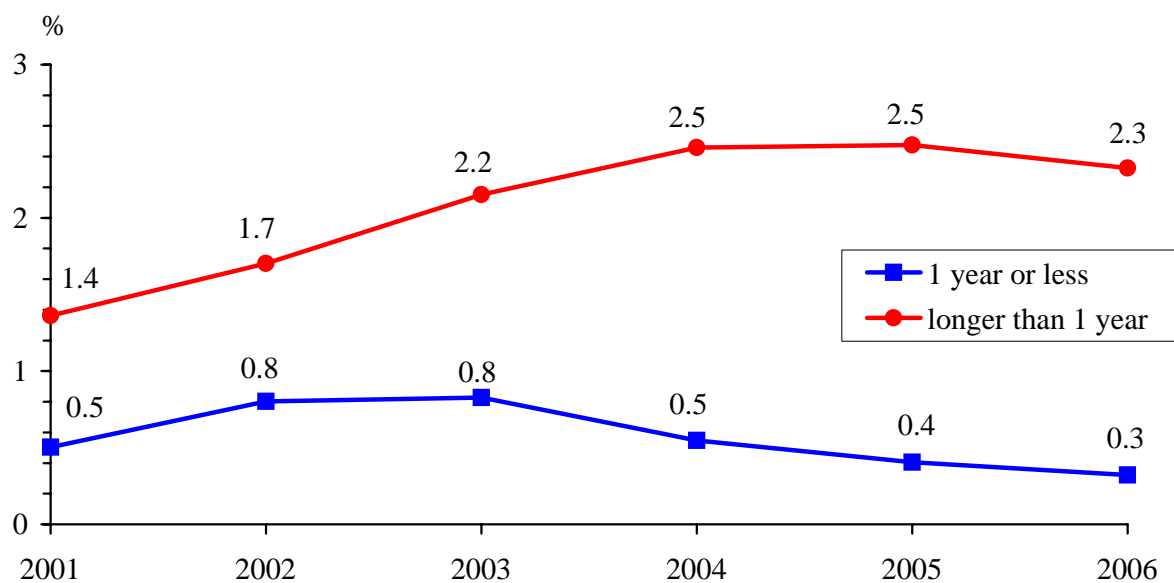
Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

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>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
≤ 1 year	23 300	37 300	38 900	26 000	19 500	15 600
> 1 year	63 100	79 200	101 100	116 700	118 900	112 600

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



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.

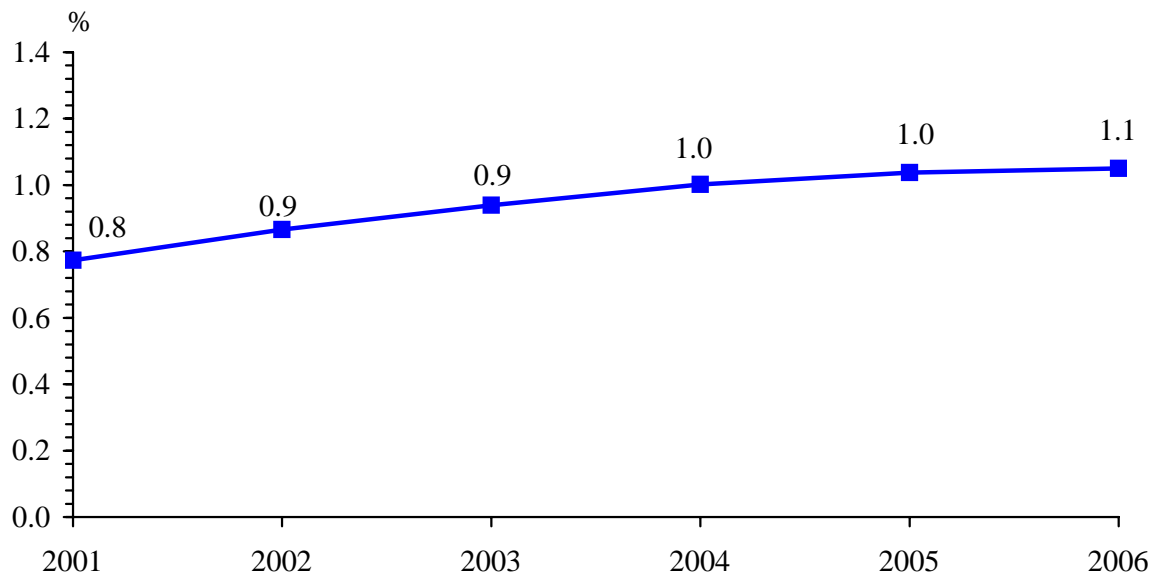
Source : Social and Welfare Department.

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

Number

<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
35 900	40 300	44 100	47 600	49 800	50 900

Proportion of non-able-bodied adult CSSA recipients



Source : Social and Welfare Department.

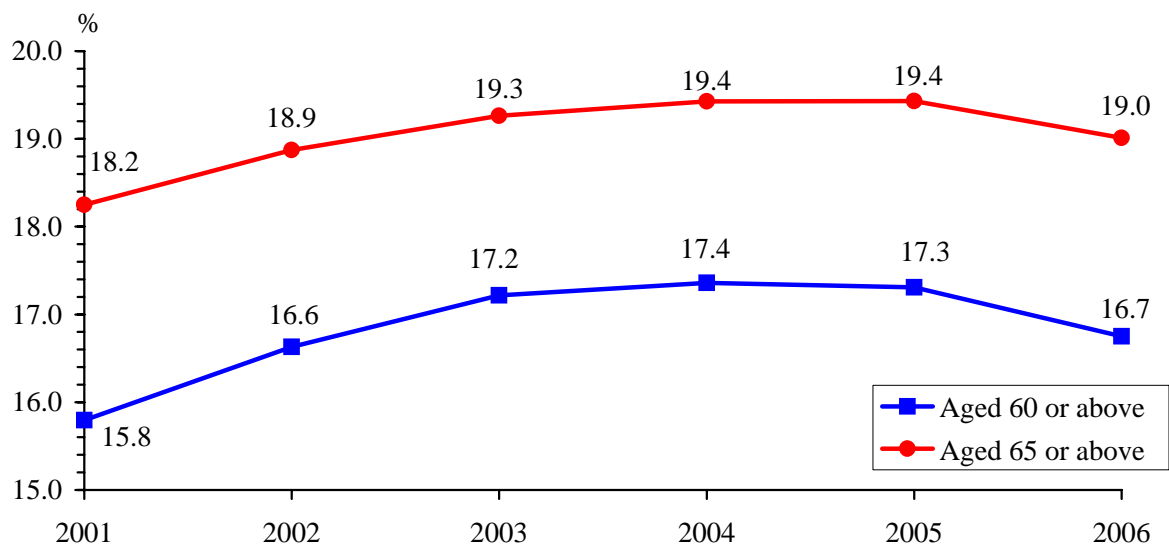
Section III : Indicators for Older People Aged 60 or Above

16. Recipients of old-age CSSA*

Number

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Aged 60 or above	160 000	170 500	179 300	184 800	187 700	187 800
Aged 65 or above	140 000	149 000	156 500	161 400	164 500	164 100

Proportion of old-age CSSA recipients



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. 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 respective age population</u>
Aged 60 or above	2004/05	11 189	1.1%
	2005/06	10 640	1.0%
	2006/07	8 026	0.7%
Aged 65 or above	2004/05	9 789	1.2%
	2005/06	9 238	1.1%
	2006/07	6 860	0.8%

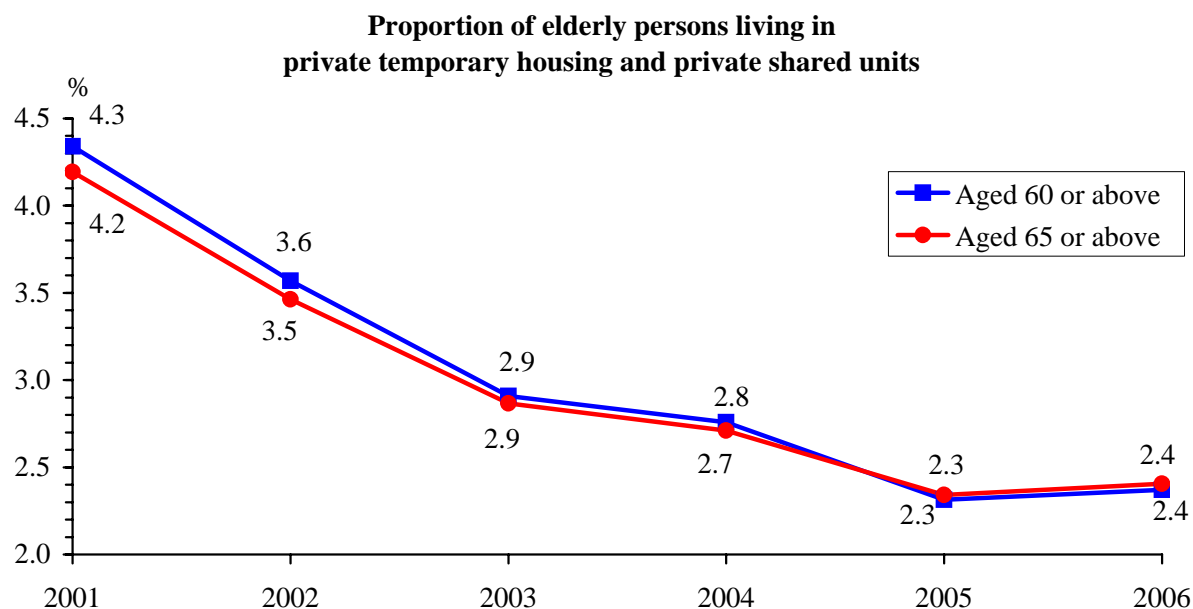
Note : Data prior to April 2004 are not available.

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>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Aged 60 or above	41 300	34 400	28 300	27 300	23 200	24 000
Aged 65 or above	29 700	25 400	21 500	20 800	18 200	18 700



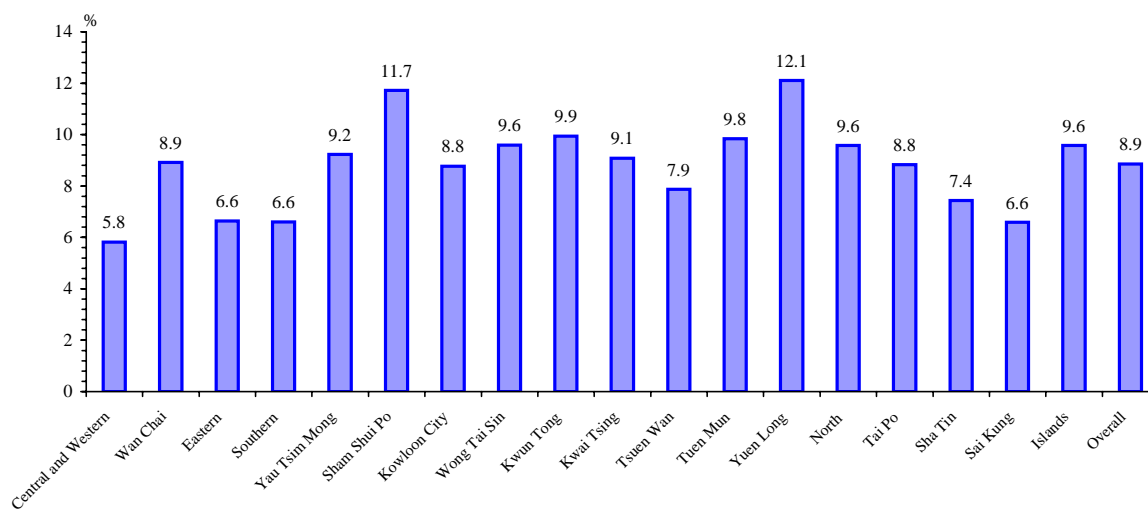
Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

Section IV : Indicators for the Community

19. Workless households* by district

District							Proportion in all households* in the respective districts (%)					
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Central and Western	3 900	5 600	5 100	5 500	5 900	4 500	4.9	7.6	6.9	7.3	7.4	5.8
Wan Chai	3 000	3 600	3 700	3 700	3 800	4 200	6.0	7.6	8.0	8.0	7.8	8.9
Eastern	8 900	11 200	12 100	11 800	11 500	11 100	5.2	6.7	7.3	7.2	6.9	6.6
Southern	4 100	3 700	5 300	4 100	4 200	4 900	5.5	5.0	7.2	5.6	5.7	6.6
Yau Tsim Mong	8 500	9 300	11 100	10 000	8 500	8 000	10.0	10.7	12.9	11.0	9.2	9.2
Sham Shui Po	10 200	11 500	14 400	12 000	10 500	12 500	10.3	11.3	14.4	11.8	10.0	11.7
Kowloon City	7 500	9 500	10 100	8 200	8 800	9 000	7.3	9.5	10.1	8.3	8.7	8.8
Wong Tai Sin	7 800	12 100	12 500	12 000	11 800	11 200	6.7	10.3	10.6	10.3	10.1	9.6
Kwun Tong	13 000	15 500	17 400	16 700	16 500	16 600	8.4	10.0	11.0	10.7	10.3	9.9
Kwai Tsing	9 600	11 300	14 300	14 700	14 300	13 300	7.5	8.4	10.5	10.8	10.1	9.1
Tsuen Wan	4 800	5 800	6 000	6 300	6 900	6 800	6.2	7.6	7.5	7.9	8.2	7.9
Tuen Mun	9 700	13 800	14 800	14 200	14 300	14 700	6.9	9.6	10.0	9.7	9.7	9.8
Yuen Long	11 100	16 200	19 500	16 700	20 400	18 800	8.6	11.4	13.3	11.3	13.0	12.1
North	7 800	7 800	8 200	9 000	7 400	7 600	9.6	9.8	10.2	10.9	9.1	9.6
Tai Po	5 000	7 200	7 500	7 700	7 900	7 200	6.1	8.7	9.3	9.2	9.7	8.8
Sha Tin	10 200	11 400	13 600	12 600	13 200	13 000	6.0	6.5	7.9	7.3	7.7	7.4
Sai Kung	4 700	6 200	7 200	8 500	7 800	7 900	5.1	6.1	6.9	7.3	6.6	6.6
Islands	2 700	3 400	3 000	3 000	3 700	3 900	9.6	12.1	9.4	8.3	9.4	9.6
Overall	132 400	165 000	185 800	176 700	177 300	175 200	7.1	8.8	9.8	9.2	9.0	8.9

Proportion of workless households* by district, 2006

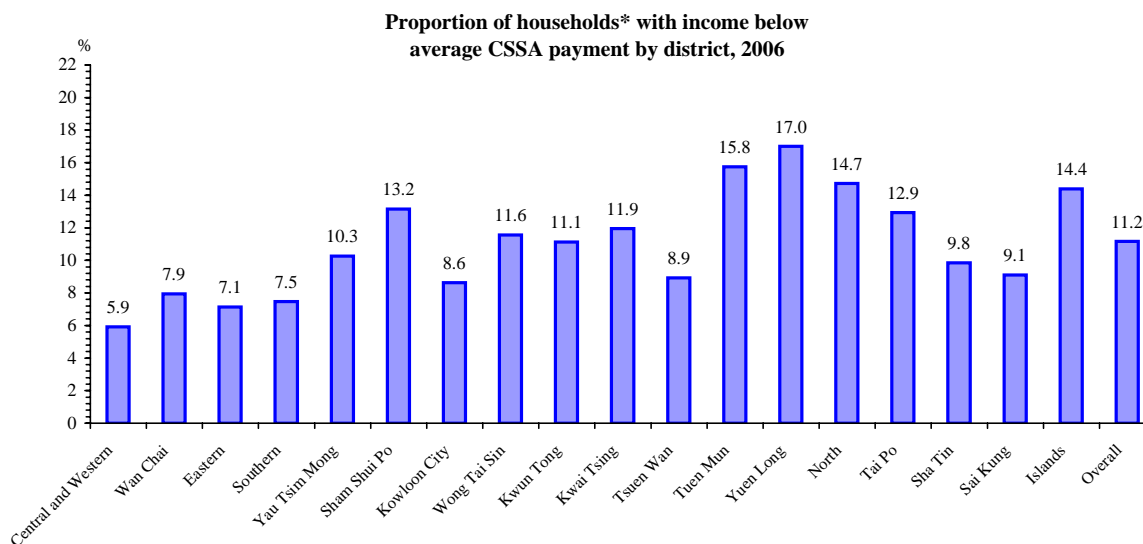


Notes : (*) Households with members aged 60 or above only are excluded.
 Figures may not add up to the respective totals due to rounding.

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	2005	2006	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Central and Western	6 200	7 500	5 600	6 100	5 300	4 600	7.7	10.1	7.8	8.1	6.6	5.9
Wan Chai	3 700	4 400	4 200	3 600	3 100	3 700	7.5	9.2	9.1	7.7	6.4	7.9
Eastern	16 300	17 900	16 000	15 500	14 200	12 000	9.6	10.6	9.6	9.4	8.6	7.1
Southern	7 300	7 700	7 800	7 300	6 100	5 500	9.8	10.4	10.5	9.9	8.2	7.5
Yau Tsim Mong	13 500	14 500	14 200	11 800	10 500	8 900	15.8	16.7	16.6	12.9	11.3	10.3
Sham Shui Po	17 300	18 900	18 400	16 700	13 600	14 000	17.4	18.7	18.3	16.4	13.0	13.2
Kowloon City	11 800	12 400	13 000	10 100	8 800	8 800	11.4	12.4	12.9	10.2	8.6	8.6
Wong Tai Sin	16 300	19 600	18 800	17 500	16 100	13 600	14.0	16.6	16.0	15.0	13.8	11.6
Kwun Tong	25 400	24 000	25 100	21 400	21 800	18 500	16.5	15.5	15.9	13.8	13.6	11.1
Kwai Tsing	21 200	20 800	22 700	21 600	19 400	17 500	16.5	15.6	16.7	15.8	13.6	11.9
Tsuen Wan	7 900	9 700	9 300	8 700	8 700	7 800	10.2	12.6	11.7	11.0	10.5	8.9
Tuen Mun	22 700	27 100	27 200	27 100	23 600	23 500	16.2	18.8	18.4	18.5	16.0	15.8
Yuen Long	23 300	29 600	30 200	29 200	30 500	26 400	18.1	20.9	20.6	19.6	19.5	17.0
North	15 900	15 700	15 100	14 400	12 600	11 700	19.6	19.8	18.7	17.5	15.5	14.7
Tai Po	11 900	14 400	13 600	13 000	11 900	10 600	14.5	17.4	16.8	15.7	14.6	12.9
Sha Tin	21 000	21 600	22 000	20 100	19 400	17 200	12.3	12.4	12.7	11.7	11.4	9.8
Sai Kung	10 600	12 600	13 500	13 500	12 000	10 900	11.5	12.6	12.9	11.6	10.2	9.1
Islands	3 800	5 400	4 800	5 500	4 700	5 800	13.6	19.1	15.1	15.1	12.0	14.4
Overall	256 100	283 800	281 500	263 000	242 300	221 000	13.8	15.0	14.8	13.7	12.4	11.2

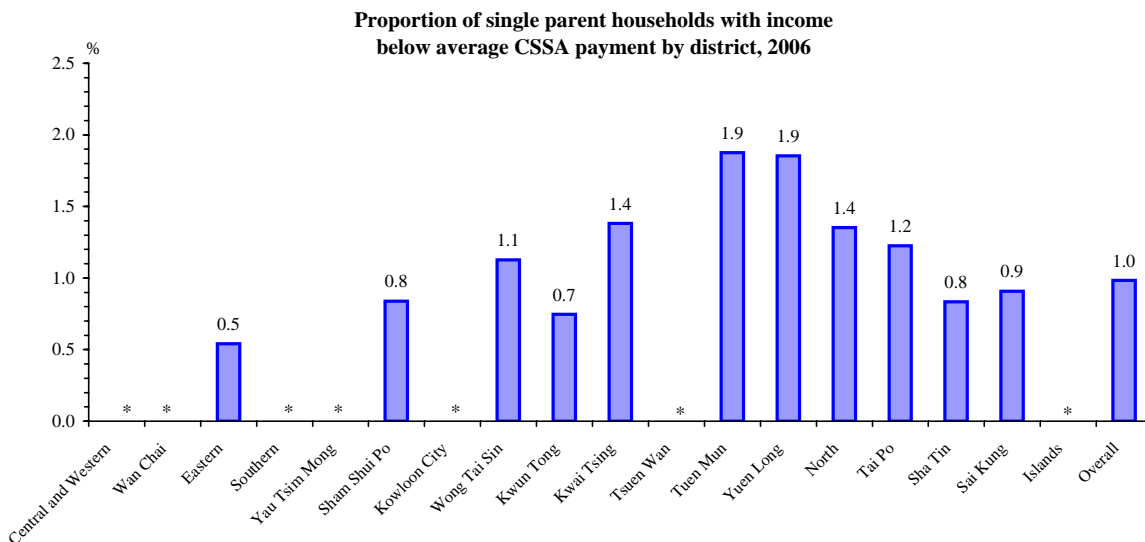


Notes : (*) Households with members aged 60 or above only are excluded.
 Figures may not add up to the respective totals due to rounding.

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	2005	2006	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Central and Western	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Wan Chai	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Eastern	1 300	1 300	*	1 100	1 000	1 000	0.7	0.7	*	0.6	0.5	0.5
Southern	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Yau Tsim Mong	*	1 100	*	*	*	*	*	1.1	*	*	*	*
Sham Shui Po	1 200	1 700	1 700	1 700	1 300	1 100	1.0	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.1	0.8
Kowloon City	*	*	*	1 000	*	*	*	*	*	0.9	*	*
Wong Tai Sin	1 300	1 900	1 600	1 300	1 300	1 500	1.0	1.4	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.1
Kwun Tong	2 100	2 200	2 200	2 300	1 800	1 500	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.0	0.7
Kwai Tsing	2 000	1 600	2 000	2 300	2 400	2 300	1.4	1.1	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.4
Tsuen Wan	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Tuen Mun	2 400	2 800	2 300	3 000	2 500	3 000	1.6	1.8	1.5	1.9	1.6	1.9
Yuen Long	2 000	3 000	2 300	3 200	3 300	3 100	1.4	2.0	1.4	2.0	1.9	1.9
North	1 100	1 500	1 200	1 100	1 400	1 200	1.2	1.7	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.4
Tai Po	1 100	1 200	1 400	1 200	1 200	1 100	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.2
Sha Tin	1 800	2 100	2 000	1 800	1 900	1 600	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.8
Sai Kung	*	*	*	1 200	1 500	1 200	*	*	*	1.0	1.2	0.9
Islands	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Overall	20 700	24 200	21 900	23 800	23 300	21 900	1.0	1.2	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.0



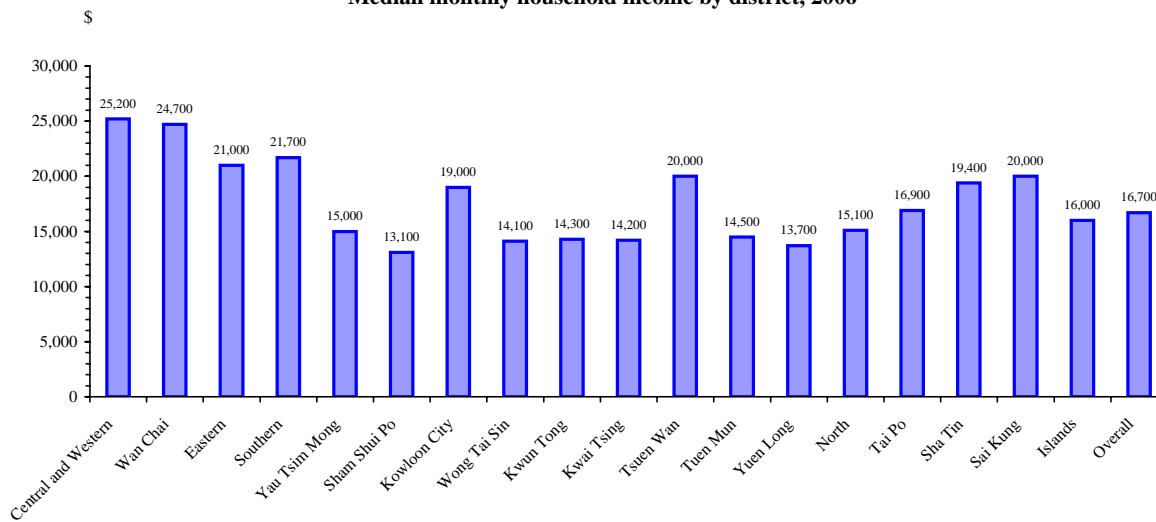
Notes : (*) Figures of small magnitude are suppressed owing to large sampling error.
Figures may not add up to the respective totals due to rounding.

Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department

22. Median monthly household income by district

District	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Central and Western	24,000	24,500	23,000	22,000	24,000	25,200
Wan Chai	23,500	24,000	23,000	23,200	23,000	24,700
Eastern	22,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	21,000
Southern	22,000	20,500	19,700	19,900	19,600	21,700
Yau Tsim Mong	14,000	14,500	13,000	15,000	15,700	15,000
Sham Shui Po	14,000	13,000	12,000	12,000	13,100	13,100
Kowloon City	19,600	19,000	17,000	18,000	18,700	19,000
Wong Tai Sin	16,100	14,600	13,400	13,500	14,000	14,100
Kwun Tong	15,100	14,700	13,400	13,100	13,100	14,300
Kwai Tsing	15,600	15,500	13,700	14,000	14,500	14,200
Tsuen Wan	20,000	20,000	20,000	18,000	18,200	20,000
Tuen Mun	16,800	15,000	14,700	14,500	15,000	14,500
Yuen Long	15,700	14,500	13,500	13,000	13,000	13,700
North	16,000	15,000	14,500	15,000	15,000	15,100
Tai Po	18,700	17,000	15,700	16,000	16,000	16,900
Sha Tin	20,000	20,000	18,500	18,300	18,500	19,400
Sai Kung	20,600	20,000	19,700	20,000	19,700	20,000
Islands	17,100	15,500	15,000	15,100	16,800	16,000
Overall	18,000	17,000	15,700	16,000	16,000	16,700

Median monthly household income by district, 2006

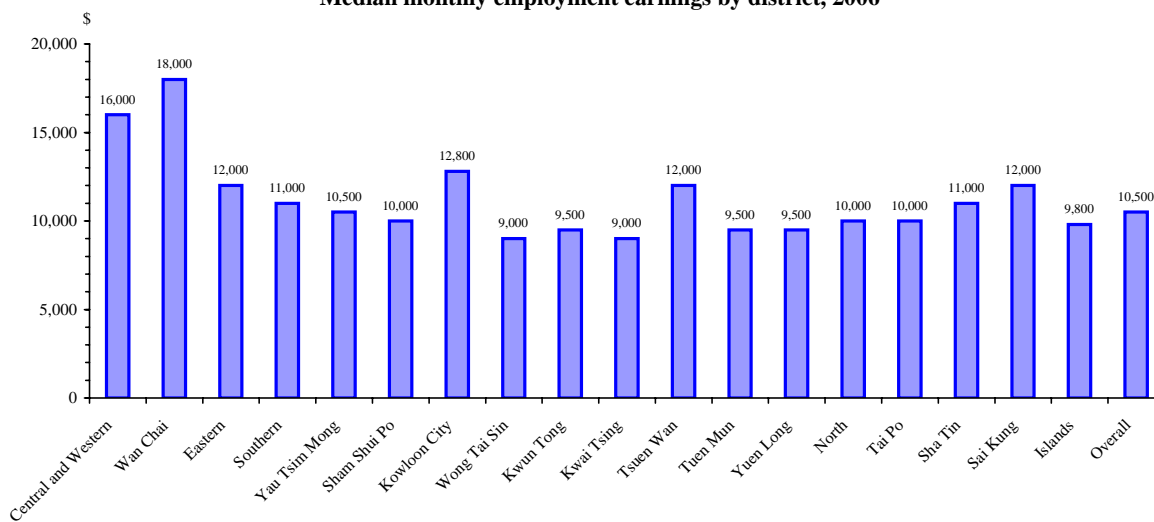


Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department.

23. Median monthly employment earnings by district

District	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Central and Western	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	16,000
Wan Chai	15,000	15,000	15,300	15,000	16,000	18,000
Eastern	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
Southern	12,000	11,000	11,000	10,500	10,500	11,000
Yau Tsim Mong	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	11,000	10,500
Sham Shui Po	10,000	10,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	10,000
Kowloon City	12,000	12,000	11,000	12,000	12,000	12,800
Wong Tai Sin	10,000	9,600	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000
Kwun Tong	10,000	10,000	9,500	9,000	9,000	9,500
Kwai Tsing	10,000	10,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000
Tsuen Wan	12,000	12,000	11,500	11,500	12,000	12,000
Tuen Mun	10,000	10,000	9,500	9,000	9,000	9,500
Yuen Long	10,000	10,000	10,000	9,500	9,500	9,500
North	10,000	10,000	10,000	9,500	10,000	10,000
Tai Po	11,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Sha Tin	12,000	11,000	11,000	10,500	10,500	11,000
Sai Kung	12,000	12,000	11,000	11,300	11,000	12,000
Islands	12,000	11,000	11,000	10,500	11,200	9,800
Overall	11,000	10,300	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,500

Median monthly employment earnings by district, 2006

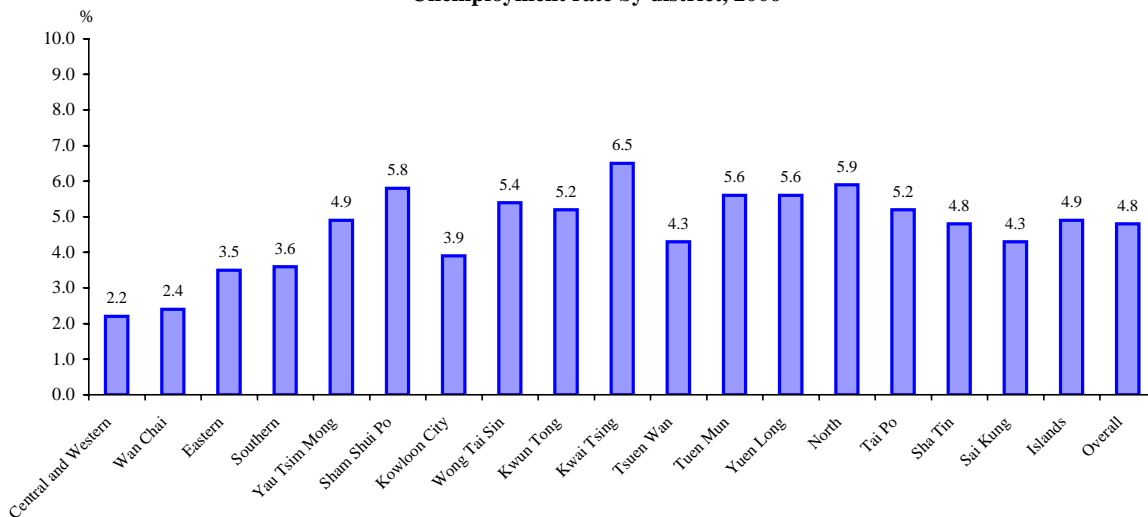


Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department

24. Unemployed persons by district

District							Unemployment rate by district* (%)					
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Central and Western	4 400	6 800	5 500	4 400	4 600	3 100	2.9	4.9	4.0	3.4	3.2	2.2
Wan Chai	2 700	2 600	3 700	2 600	2 500	2 100	2.9	2.9	4.4	3.0	3.0	2.4
Eastern	11 600	16 500	17 900	15 600	11 500	11 200	3.6	5.1	5.7	5.0	3.7	3.5
Southern	5 900	8 400	8 800	7 100	5 200	5 200	4.0	5.6	6.1	4.8	3.6	3.6
Yau Tsim Mong	8 200	11 000	12 300	11 100	7 400	7 600	5.6	7.3	8.5	6.8	4.5	4.9
Sham Shui Po	11 500	14 600	15 800	13 400	12 000	10 500	6.7	8.2	9.3	7.6	6.5	5.8
Kowloon City	8 900	11 800	12 200	10 200	8 200	7 400	4.6	6.3	6.4	5.5	4.3	3.9
Wong Tai Sin	11 600	19 000	16 900	16 300	15 500	11 400	5.4	8.9	8.1	7.9	7.4	5.4
Kwun Tong	16 700	23 700	24 100	23 100	18 700	15 100	6.0	8.5	8.7	8.3	6.6	5.2
Kwai Tsing	15 300	22 900	25 800	22 800	17 200	17 200	6.3	9.1	10.3	9.0	6.7	6.5
Tsuen Wan	6 500	8 400	9 800	8 800	6 600	6 700	4.6	5.9	6.6	6.1	4.5	4.3
Tuen Mun	15 200	21 500	24 700	22 100	17 800	14 500	6.1	8.3	9.3	8.4	6.9	5.6
Yuen Long	14 300	24 800	27 700	21 000	21 000	14 500	6.3	10.0	10.8	8.1	8.1	5.6
North	8 800	12 100	14 700	12 100	9 400	8 200	6.1	8.6	10.0	8.2	6.5	5.9
Tai Po	7 400	12 600	13 600	12 200	9 200	7 900	4.8	8.2	9.0	7.7	6.2	5.2
Sha Tin	14 600	22 000	24 500	20 200	16 700	15 700	4.5	6.6	7.4	6.1	5.2	4.8
Sai Kung	7 400	12 200	13 400	12 600	11 200	9 800	4.1	6.4	6.8	5.8	5.1	4.3
Islands	3 200	3 400	4 200	4 000	3 500	3 300	6.9	7.1	7.9	6.6	5.2	4.9
Overall	174 300	254 300	275 500	239 500	197 900	171 600	5.1	7.3	8.0	6.8	5.6	4.8

Unemployment rate by district, 2006



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

Source : General Household Survey, Census and Statistics Department