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香港的生育水平，在過去 33 年大致而言呈現下跌的趨勢。儘管總和生育率在近年輕微回升，仍然持續低於 2 100 的更替水平。

這篇文章簡述由 1981 年至 2014 年香港的生育趨勢，並分析影響生育趨勢的因素。

Broadly speaking, Hong Kong's fertility showed a declining trend over the past 33 years. Despite the moderate re-bounce in recent years, the total fertility rate of Hong Kong has been consistently below the replacement level of 2 100.

This article gives a brief account of the fertility trend in Hong Kong over the period from 1981 to 2014 and analyses the factors underlying the fertility trend.

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1981 年至 2014 年香港生育趨勢

The Fertility Trend in Hong Kong, 1981 to 2014

1. 引言

1.1 香港的生育水平，在過去 33 年大致而言呈現下跌的趨勢。儘管總和生育率在近年輕微回升，仍然持續低於 2 100 的更替水平¹。

1.2 這篇文章簡述由 1981 年至 2014 年香港的生育趨勢，並分析影響生育趨勢的因素。

1.3 有關出生及生育統計數字的編製方法，請參閱本文章的第 6 節。

2. 出生趨勢

2.1 香港每年的活產嬰兒數目從 1981 年的 86 751 名下降至 2003 年的 46 965 名，其後在近年有所回升。粗出生率（即 1 年內的活產嬰兒數目相對該年年中的人口）從 1981 年的每千名人口有 16.8 名活產嬰兒下降至 2003 年的 7.0 名，其後回升。在 2014 年，活產嬰兒數目是 62 305 名，而粗出生率是 8.6 名。（表 1）

1. Introduction

1.1 Broadly speaking, Hong Kong's fertility showed a declining trend over the past 33 years. Despite the moderate re-bounce in recent years, the total fertility rate of Hong Kong has been consistently below the replacement level¹ of 2 100.

1.2 This article gives a brief account of the fertility trend in Hong Kong over the period from 1981 to 2014 and analyses the factors underlying the fertility trend.

1.3 For the compilation approach of birth and fertility statistics, please refer to Section 6 of this article.

2. Birth trend

2.1 The annual number of live births in Hong Kong dropped steadily from 86 751 in 1981 to 46 965 in 2003 and then rebounded in recent years. The crude birth rate, i.e. the number of live births in a calendar year to the mid-year population, declined from 16.8 live births per 1 000 population in 1981 to 7.0 in 2003 and then rebounded. In 2014, the number of live births was 62 305 and the crude birth rate was 8.6. (Table 1)

1 更替水平指每千名女性平均需要生產的嬰兒數目以至使人口能自行更替。每名女性必須平均生產一名女兒，由該名女兒「更替」其母親，人口才能夠自行更替。計及出生時的性別比、嬰兒及兒童的死亡率等因素後，總和生育率應為每千名女性生產 2 100 名嬰兒，才能達到人口自行更替的水平。

1 Replacement level refers to the number of children 1 000 women needs to produce for a population to replace itself. Each woman would produce an average of one daughter, who may be said to "replace" her mother in the population. A total fertility rate of 2 100 per 1 000 women is considered to correspond to the replacement level, allowing for such factors as sex differential at birth and infant and childhood mortality.

表 1 1981 年至 2014 年的活產嬰兒數目及粗出生率
Table 1 Number of live births and crude birth rate, 1981 to 2014

| 年份 Year | 活產嬰兒數目 Number of live births | 粗出生率 Crude birth rate (每千名人口計算) (per 1 000 population) |
|------------|---------------------------------|---|
| 1981 | 86 751 | 16.8 |
| 1982 | 86 120 | 16.4 |
| 1983 | 83 293 | 15.6 |
| 1984 | 77 297 | 14.4 |
| 1985 | 76 126 | 14.0 |
| 1986 | 71 620 | 13.0 |
| 1987 | 69 958 | 12.6 |
| 1988 | 75 412 | 13.4 |
| 1989 | 69 621 | 12.3 |
| 1990 | 67 731 | 12.0 |
| 1991 | 68 281 | 12.0 |
| 1992 | 70 949 | 12.3 |
| 1993 | 70 451 | 12.0 |
| 1994 | 71 646 | 11.9 |
| 1995 | 68 637 | 11.2 |
| 1996 | 63 291 | 9.9 |
| 1997 | 59 250 | 9.1 |
| 1998 | 52 977 | 8.1 |
| 1999 | 51 281 | 7.8 |
| 2000 | 54 134 | 8.1 |
| 2001 | 48 219 | 7.2 |
| 2002 | 48 209 | 7.1 |
| 2003 | 46 965 | 7.0 |
| 2004 | 49 796 | 7.3 |
| 2005 | 57 098 | 8.4 |
| 2006 | 65 626 | 9.6 |
| 2007 | 70 875 | 10.2 |
| 2008 | 78 822 | 11.3 |
| 2009 | 82 095 | 11.8 |
| 2010 | 88 584 | 12.6 |
| 2011 | 95 451 | 13.5 |
| 2012 | 91 558 | 12.8 |
| 2013 | 57 084 | 7.9 |
| 2014 | 62 305 | 8.6 |

2.2 內地女性而其配偶為香港永久性居民在港所生的活產嬰兒（第一類嬰兒）數目，由 2005 年 9 879 名的頂峰下降至 2014 年的 5 179 名。另一方面，終審法院在 2001 年 7 月裁定中國公民在香港所生的嬰兒均擁有香港居留權。因此，其配偶為非香港永久性居民的內地女性在香港所生的嬰兒（第二類嬰兒）數目明顯上升，由 2001 年的 620 名增加至 2011 年的 35 736 名。自從 2013 年實施丈夫為非香港居民的內地孕婦在港分娩服務的零配額政策²後，這些嬰兒的數目維持在低水平，2014 年只有 823 名。（表 2）

2.2 The number of live births born in Hong Kong to Mainland women whose spouses are Hong Kong Permanent Residents (Type I Babies) decreased from the peak of 9 879 in 2005 to 5 179 in 2014. On the other hand, the Court of Final Appeal ruled in July 2001 that babies born in Hong Kong to Chinese nationals have the right of abode in Hong Kong. As a result, the number of babies born in Hong Kong to Mainland women whose spouses are not Hong Kong Permanent Residents (Type II Babies) increased significantly, from 620 in 2001 to 35 736 in 2011. Since the implementation of the zero-quota policy² on obstetric services for Mainland women whose spouses are not Hong Kong residents in 2013, the number of these babies has remained low, at only 823 in 2014. (Table 2)

表 2 2001 年至 2014 年內地女性在香港生產的嬰兒數目
Table 2 Births born in Hong Kong to Mainland women, 2001 to 2014

| 統計期間 Reference period | 活產嬰兒數目 Number of live births | 其中由內地女性在香港所生的活產嬰兒數目 Of which number of live births born in Hong Kong to Mainland women | | | 小計 Sub-total |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------|
| | | 其配偶為 香港永久性居民 whose spouses are Hong Kong Permanent Residents | 其配偶為 非香港永久性居民 ⁽¹⁾ whose spouses are not Hong Kong Permanent Residents ⁽¹⁾ | 其他 ⁽²⁾ Others ⁽²⁾ | |
| 2001 | 48 219 | 7 190 | 620 | ≈ | 7 810 |
| 2002 | 48 209 | 7 256 | 1 250 | ≈ | 8 506 |
| 2003 | 46 965 | 7 962 | 2 070 | 96 | 10 128 |
| 2004 | 49 796 | 8 896 | 4 102 | 211 | 13 209 |
| 2005 | 57 098 | 9 879 | 9 273 | 386 | 19 538 |
| 2006 | 65 626 | 9 438 | 16 044 | 650 | 26 132 |
| 2007 | 70 875 | 7 989 | 18 816 | 769 | 27 574 |
| 2008 | 78 822 | 7 228 | 25 269 | 1 068 | 33 565 |
| 2009 | 82 095 | 6 213 | 29 766 | 1 274 | 37 253 |
| 2010 | 88 584 | 6 169 | 32 653 | 1 826 | 40 648 |
| 2011 | 95 451 | 6 110 | 35 736 | 2 136 | 43 982 |
| 2012 | 91 558 | 4 698 | 26 715 | 1 786 | 33 199 |
| 2013 | 57 084 | 4 670 | 790 | 37 | 5 497 |
| 2014 | 62 305 | 5 179 | 823 | 22 | 6 024 |

註釋：(1) 包括香港非永久性居民（來港少於 7 年的內地人士包括在這類別）及非香港居民。

(2) 在出生登記時，內地母親並沒有提供嬰兒父親居民身分的資料。

≈ 沒有數字。

Notes: (1) Include Hong Kong Non-permanent Residents (persons from the Mainland having resided in Hong Kong for less than 7 years being grouped in this category) and non-Hong Kong residents.

(2) Mainland mothers did not provide the father's residential status during birth registration.

≈ Not available.

2 實際上可能還會有一些第二類嬰兒，如嬰兒父母是透過各項專才或專業計劃來港，或持單程證來港但仍未成為香港永久性居民。

2 There may in fact be some Type II Babies such as those born to parents admitted through various talent/professionals admission schemes or One-way Permits who have yet to become Hong Kong Permanent Residents.

2.3 除此之外，有一些嬰兒是香港女性在香港以外地方所生，並在小於 1 歲時被帶回香港。這些嬰兒並不包括在香港的活產嬰兒數目內。（表 3）

2.3 Besides, there were some babies born to Hong Kong women outside Hong Kong and were brought back to Hong Kong when they were less than 1 year old. They are not counted in the number of live births in Hong Kong. (Table 3)

表 3 1996 年至 2014 年香港女性在香港以外地方所生並在小於 1 歲時被帶回香港的活產嬰兒數目
Table 3 Number of live births born outside Hong Kong to Hong Kong women and brought back to Hong Kong when they were less than 1 year old, 1996 to 2014

| 年份 Year | 香港女性 ⁽¹⁾ 在香港以外地方所生並在小於 1 歲時被帶回香港的活產嬰兒數目 Number of live births born outside Hong Kong to Hong Kong women ⁽¹⁾ and brought back to Hong Kong when they were less than 1 year old |
|------------|--|
| 1996 | 3 653 |
| 1997 | 3 619 |
| 1998 | 2 981 |
| 1999 | 2 359 |
| 2000 | 2 208 |
| 2001 | 2 034 |
| 2002 | 1 694 |
| 2003 | 1 553 |
| 2004 | 1 588 |
| 2005 | 1 538 |
| 2006 | 1 601 |
| 2007 | 1 655 |
| 2008 | 1 919 |
| 2009 | 1 779 |
| 2010 | 1 701 |
| 2011 | 1 685 |
| 2012 | 1 745 |
| 2013 | 1 909 |
| 2014 | 1 857 |

註釋：(1) 包括香港永久性居民和香港非永久性居民。

Note: (1) Include Hong Kong Permanent Residents and Hong Kong Non-permanent Residents.

3. 生育趨勢

3.1 年齡別生育率是指某一年齡組別的女性在某一年內生產的活產嬰兒數目，相對該年年中該年齡組別的女性人口（不包括外籍家庭傭工）的比率。

3.2 在 1981 年至 2014 年間，較年輕的年齡組別的生育率有所下降。在年齡組別 15 至 19 歲及 20 至 24 歲的女性，其年齡別生育率在過去 33 年分別減少 75% 及 77%。另一方面，近年較年長的年齡組別的生育率大致呈上升趨勢。在 2003 年至 2014 年間，年齡組別 30 至 34 歲及 35 至 39 歲女性的生育率分別上升 64% 及 111%。這可能與本港女性遲婚的趨勢有關。（表 4）

3.3 總和生育率是量度現今生育水平對香港人口的潛在影響的一個指標。總和生育率是某年的年齡別生育率的總和。它是指 1 000 名女性，若她們在生育齡期（即 15 至 49 歲）經歷了一如該年的年齡別生育率，其一生之中活產子女的平均數目。配偶為香港居民（即香港永久性居民和香港非永久性居民）的內地女性在香港所生的嬰兒亦計算在內。

3.4 總和生育率從 1981 年的每千名女性有 1 933 名活產嬰兒下降至 2003 年的 901 名，然後有所回升。2014 年的總和生育率是 1 234 名。（表 4）

3.5 此外，若扣除其配偶為香港居民的內地女性在香港所生的嬰兒，總和生育率亦顯示香港的生育水平在近年回升。2014 年是 1 148 名，相對 2003 年只有 748 名。（表 4）

3. Fertility trend

3.1 The age specific fertility rate (AFR) is the number of live births occurring to women in a given age group during a calendar year to the total female population (excluding foreign domestic helpers) at mid-year in that age group.

3.2 The fertility rates in younger age groups declined during 1981 to 2014. For women in the age groups of 15 to 19 and 20 to 24, the AFRs decreased by 75% and 77% respectively in the past 33 years. On the other hand, the fertility rates in older age groups showed a generally upward trend in recent years, increasing by 64% and 111% for women in the age groups of 30 to 34 and 35 to 39 respectively from 2003 to 2014. This may be related to the trend of marriage postponement of Hong Kong women. (Table 4)

3.3 The total fertility rate (TFR) is one of the measures used to assess the potential impact of the current fertility on the Hong Kong population. The TFR is the sum of the AFRs in a given year and represents the average number of children that would be born alive to 1 000 women during their lifetime if they were to pass through their childbearing ages 15 to 49 experiencing the AFRs prevailing in that year. Babies born in Hong Kong to Mainland women whose spouses are Hong Kong residents (i.e. Hong Kong Permanent Residents and Hong Kong Non-Permanent Residents) are also taken into account.

3.4 The TFR decreased from 1 933 in 1981 to 901 in 2003 and then rebounded. The TFR in 2014 was 1 234. (Table 4)

3.5 Besides, if babies born in Hong Kong to Mainland women whose spouses are Hong Kong residents are excluded, the TFR also rebounded in recent years. It was 1 148 in 2014, compared to only 748 in 2003. (Table 4)

表 4 1981 年至 2014 年的年齡別生育率及總和生育率
Table 4 Age specific fertility rates and total fertility rate, 1981 to 2014

| 年份 Year | 年齡別生育率 Age specific fertility rates | | | | | | | 總和生育率 ⁽¹⁾ Total fertility rate ⁽¹⁾ | 總和生育率 (不包括其配偶為香港居民 ⁽²⁾ 的 內地女性在香港所生的嬰兒) Total fertility rate (excluding babies born in Hong Kong to Mainland women whose spouses are Hong Kong residents ⁽²⁾) |
|--|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---|---|
| | 年齡組別 Age group | | | | | | | | |
| | 15 - 19 | 20 - 24 | 25 - 29 | 30 - 34 | 35 - 39 | 40 - 44 | 45 - 49 | | |
| (每千名女性的活產嬰兒數目) (Number of live births per 1 000 women) | | | | | | | | | |
| 1981 | 12 | 86 | 153 | 97 | 34 | 7 | 1 | 1 933 | ≈ |
| 1982 | 10 | 80 | 149 | 94 | 35 | 6 | 1 | 1 860 | ≈ |
| 1983 | 10 | 76 | 140 | 87 | 31 | 5 | 1 | 1 722 | ≈ |
| 1984 | 8 | 64 | 127 | 82 | 29 | 5 | § | 1 559 | ≈ |
| 1985 | 8 | 58 | 122 | 81 | 28 | 5 | § | 1 491 | ≈ |
| 1986 | 7 | 49 | 112 | 79 | 27 | 4 | § | 1 367 | ≈ |
| 1987 | 6 | 43 | 106 | 80 | 27 | 4 | § | 1 311 | ≈ |
| 1988 | 6 | 43 | 112 | 89 | 29 | 5 | § | 1 400 | ≈ |
| 1989 | 6 | 40 | 100 | 82 | 29 | 5 | § | 1 296 | ≈ |
| 1990 | 6 | 40 | 99 | 80 | 28 | 4 | § | 1 272 | ≈ |
| 1991 | 7 | 39 | 97 | 81 | 30 | 5 | § | 1 281 | ≈ |
| 1992 | 7 | 45 | 100 | 85 | 31 | 5 | § | 1 347 | ≈ |
| 1993 | 7 | 49 | 95 | 84 | 31 | 5 | § | 1 342 | ≈ |
| 1994 | 7 | 49 | 95 | 87 | 32 | 5 | § | 1 355 | ≈ |
| 1995 | 6 | 43 | 90 | 85 | 32 | 5 | § | 1 295 | ≈ |
| 1996 | 6 | 37 | 81 | 79 | 32 | 5 | § | 1 191 | 1 103 |
| 1997 | 6 | 33 | 73 | 76 | 32 | 5 | § | 1 127 | 1 046 |
| 1998 | 5 | 31 | 65 | 68 | 30 | 5 | § | 1 016 | 923 |
| 1999 | 5 | 31 | 62 | 65 | 29 | 5 | § | 981 | 864 |
| 2000 | 5 | 32 | 65 | 70 | 31 | 5 | § | 1 032 | 899 |
| 2001 | 4 | 29 | 57 | 62 | 29 | 5 | § | 931 | 802 |
| 2002 | 4 | 30 | 59 | 62 | 28 | 4 | § | 941 | 806 |
| 2003 | 4 | 29 | 57 | 58 | 27 | 5 | § | 901 | 748 |
| 2004 | 4 | 29 | 57 | 61 | 28 | 5 | § | 922 | 749 |
| 2005 | 3 | 27 | 58 | 67 | 31 | 5 | § | 959 | 770 |
| 2006 | 3 | 25 | 57 | 72 | 35 | 5 | § | 984 | 807 |
| 2007 | 3 | 24 | 57 | 76 | 40 | 6 | § | 1 028 | 879 |
| 2008 | 3 | 23 | 56 | 79 | 43 | 7 | § | 1 064 | 926 |
| 2009 | 3 | 24 | 54 | 78 | 43 | 7 | § | 1 055 | 931 |
| 2010 | 3 | 25 | 58 | 84 | 48 | 8 | § | 1 127 | 992 |
| 2011 | 3 | 27 | 64 | 87 | 52 | 9 | § | 1 204 | 1 065 |
| 2012 | 3 | 21 | 64 | 100 | 58 | 11 | § | 1 285 | 1 186 |
| 2013 | 3 | 18 | 55 | 85 | 52 | 11 | 1 | 1 124 | 1 053 |
| 2014 | 3 | 20 | 61 | 95 | 57 | 11 | 1 | 1 234 | 1 148 |

註釋： (1) 總和生育率的計算包括其配偶為香港居民的內地女性在香港所生的嬰兒在內。

(2) 包括香港永久性居民和香港非永久性居民。

§ 少於 0.5。

≈ 沒有數字。

Notes: (1) Babies born in Hong Kong to Mainland women whose spouses are Hong Kong residents are included in the computation of total fertility rate.

(2) Include Hong Kong Permanent Residents and Hong Kong Non-permanent Residents.

§ Less than 0.5.

≈ Not available.

3.6 一般生育率是指按每年出生的活產嬰兒數目相對該年年中 15 至 49 歲女性人口的比率。一般生育率由 1981 年的每千名 15 至 49 歲女性（扣除外籍家庭傭工）有 65.2 名活產嬰兒下降至 2003 年的 24.9 名，然後有所回升。2014 年是 35.9 名。

（表 5）

3.7 計算總和生育率時，男女性別的活產嬰兒均包括在內，而再生產率則只針對女性人口的更替。粗再生產率及淨再生產率是再生產率的兩種指標。

3.8 假設既定的年齡別生育率，粗再生產率量度一個有 1 000 名婦女的組群在其一生中的女兒數目。粗再生產率和總和生育率的計算方法大致相同，其分別在於前者只計算活產女嬰，而後者則包括所有活產嬰兒。

（表 5）

3.9 假設既定的年齡別生育率及死亡率，淨再生產率量度一個有 1 000 名婦女的組群在其一生中的女兒數目。因此，淨再生產率是在既定的年齡別生育率及死亡率下，量度一個新生女性組群的自我更替程度。若淨再生產率為 1 000 是代表能完全自我更替，高於 1 000 則反映人口已高於自我更替水平，而低於 1 000 則是人口不足以自我更替。淨再生產率從 1981 年的 921 跌至 2003 年的 430，然後有所回升。2014 年是 592。（表 5）

3.6 General fertility rate relates the number of live births in a calendar year to the mid-year female population aged 15 to 49. The general fertility rate declined from 65.2 live births per 1 000 female population (excluding foreign domestic helpers) aged 15 to 49 in 1981 to 24.9 in 2003 and then rebounded. It was 35.9 in 2014. (Table 5)

3.7 While the TFR involves live births of both sexes, reproduction rates are restricted to the replacement of the female population only. There are two measures: gross reproduction rate and net reproduction rate.

3.8 The gross reproduction rate is a measure of the number of daughters that a cohort of 1 000 women will have during their lifetime assuming a fixed schedule of AFRs. The calculation is the same as the TFR except that female live births instead of all live births are used in computing the gross reproduction rate. (Table 5)

3.9 The net reproduction rate is a measure of the number of daughters that a cohort of 1 000 women will have during their lifetime assuming a fixed schedule of AFRs and a fixed set of mortality rates. Thus, the net reproduction rate is a measure of the extent to which a cohort of newly born girls will replace themselves under given schedules of age specific fertility and mortality. A rate of 1 000 means exact replacement, a rate above 1 000 indicates that the population is more than replacing itself, and a rate below 1 000 means that the population fails to replace itself. The net reproduction rate decreased from 921 in 1981 to 430 in 2003 and then rebounded. It was 592 in 2014. (Table 5)

表 5 1981 年至 2014 年的一般生育率、粗再生產率及淨再生產率
Table 5 General fertility rate, gross reproduction rate and net reproduction rate, 1981 to 2014

| 年份 Year | 一般生育率 General fertility rate (每千名15 - 49歲女性計算) (per 1 000 females aged 15 - 49) | 粗再生產率 Gross reproduction rate (每千名女性計算) (per 1 000 females) | 淨再生產率 Net reproduction rate (每千名女性計算) (per 1 000 females) |
|------------|--|--|--|
| 1981 | 65.2 | 938 | 921 |
| 1982 | 63.8 | 900 | 883 |
| 1983 | 60.7 | 836 | 821 |
| 1984 | 55.6 | 753 | 741 |
| 1985 | 53.9 | 722 | 712 |
| 1986 | 49.8 | 663 | 653 |
| 1987 | 47.9 | 638 | 629 |
| 1988 | 51.1 | 675 | 665 |
| 1989 | 46.8 | 628 | 619 |
| 1990 | 45.4 | 613 | 604 |
| 1991 | 45.1 | 620 | 611 |
| 1992 | 46.3 | 650 | 643 |
| 1993 | 44.7 | 647 | 639 |
| 1994 | 44.1 | 650 | 643 |
| 1995 | 41.1 | 624 | 618 |
| 1996 | 37.4 | 576 | 570 |
| 1997 | 34.7 | 540 | 534 |
| 1998 | 30.5 | 485 | 481 |
| 1999 | 28.9 | 471 | 466 |
| 2000 | 30.2 | 493 | 489 |
| 2001 | 26.8 | 446 | 442 |
| 2002 | 26.3 | 454 | 450 |
| 2003 | 24.9 | 433 | 430 |
| 2004 | 25.1 | 445 | 441 |
| 2005 | 26.1 | 457 | 454 |
| 2006 | 27.0 | 468 | 465 |
| 2007 | 28.4 | 493 | 490 |
| 2008 | 29.5 | 513 | 509 |
| 2009 | 29.2 | 507 | 503 |
| 2010 | 31.3 | 545 | 541 |
| 2011 | 33.6 | 576 | 573 |
| 2012 | 36.4 | 617 | 613 |
| 2013 | 32.4 | 537 | 534 |
| 2014 | 35.9 | 596 | 592 |

4. 影響生育趨勢的因素

4.1 生育趨勢與以下因素有關：

(i) 遲婚

已婚女性的比例在過去 33 年明顯下跌。根據人口普查／中期人口統計的結果，在 1981 年 25 至 29 歲女性人口中，已婚女性佔 69%，但 2011 年該比例下跌至 27%。遲婚的趨勢亦可在女性初婚年齡中位數上升中顯示。初婚年齡中位數由 1981 年的 23.9 歲上升至 2014 年的 29.1 歲。遲婚縮短了女性的生育時期。

(ii) 女性獨身情況增加

未婚女性的比例在所有年齡組別都明顯增加。根據人口普查／中期人口統計的結果，40 至 44 歲年齡組別的女性人口中未婚女性所佔的百分比，由 1981 年的 3% 上升至 2011 年的 17%。

(iii) 延遲低次活產

在 1981 年，約有 90% 的第一次活產是於婚後首 3 年內出生。在 2000 年，這個比率跌至 58%，其後有所回升。在 2014 年是 70%。

(iv) 縮減高次活產

第 3 次及以上的活產百分比由 1981 年的 23% 迅速下降至 2014 年的 8%。即是說，高次活產生育率在過去 33 年下跌了 15 個百分點。

(v) 離婚率上升

在過去 33 年，粗離婚率急速上升。在 2014 年，按每千名人口計算的粗離婚率是 2.76，相對 1981 年的只有 0.40。離婚率的上升亦有助解釋較低的生育率。

4. Factors underlying the fertility trend

4.1 The fertility trend was associated with the following factors, viz.:

(i) *Marriage postponement*

The proportion of married women dropped remarkably during the past 33 years. According to the results of the population censuses / by-censuses, 69% of women aged 25 to 29 were married in 1981 whereas the corresponding figure was 27% in 2011. Marriage postponement is further revealed by the increasing median age at first marriage for women, which rose from 23.9 in 1981 to 29.1 in 2014. Marriage postponement for women shortens their childbearing exposure period.

(ii) *Increased prevalence of spinsterhood*

There is a significant increase in the proportion of never married women among all age groups. According to the results of the population censuses / by-censuses, the percentage of never married women in the age group 40 to 44 increased from 3% in 1981 to 17% in 2011.

(iii) *Postponement of low-order live births*

About 90% of the first order live births were born within 3 years after marriage in 1981. In 2000, the proportion declined to 58% and then rebounded. It was 70% in 2014.

(iv) *Curtailment of high-order live births*

The percentage of third and higher order live births declined rapidly from 23% in 1981 to 8% in 2014. In other words, the fertility rates in respect of these high-order live births dropped by 15 percentage points in the past 33 years.

(v) *Increased divorce rates*

The crude divorce rate increased rapidly over the past 33 years. In 2014, the rate was 2.76 per 1 000 population, compared to only 0.40 in 1981. The increase in divorce rates also helps explain lower fertility rates.

(vi) 30 至 49 歲的已婚女性生育率上升

30 至 49 歲的已婚女性生育率由 2001 年每千名女性生產 28.3 名嬰兒上升至 2011 年的 43.8 名，這是近年生育率上升的部分原因。

(vii) 內地女性在香港產子數目

在編製出生數字時，所有內地女性在香港所生的嬰兒均計算在內；而在編製生育率時，則只計算配偶為香港居民的內地女性在香港所生的嬰兒（主要為第一類嬰兒）。自從 2013 年實施丈夫為非香港居民的內地孕婦在港分娩服務的零配額政策後，第二類嬰兒的數目維持在低水平，因此對出生數字的影響甚微。另一方面，2014 年第一類嬰兒的數目是 5 179 名，佔本港活產嬰兒的 8%。相對 2005 年 9 879 名（17%）的頂峰，其對出生及生育數字的影響亦有所下降。

(vi) *Increased marital fertility rates for women aged 30 to 49*

The marital fertility rates for women aged 30 to 49 increased from 28.3 per 1 000 women in 2001 to 43.8 in 2011. This partly explains the recent increase in fertility rates.

(vii) *Number of births to Mainland women*

In the compilation of birth statistics, all babies born in Hong Kong to Mainland women are included. In the compilation of fertility rates, only babies born in Hong Kong to Mainland women whose spouses are Hong Kong residents (which mainly consist of Type I Babies) are included. Since the implementation of the zero-quota policy on obstetric services for Mainland women whose spouses are not Hong Kong residents in 2013, the number of Type II Babies has remained low and its impact on birth statistics is minimal. On the other hand, the number of Type I Babies was 5 179 in 2014, accounting for 8% of all live births in Hong Kong. Compared to the peak of 9 879 (17%) in 2005, the effect of Type I Babies on birth and fertility statistics has been declining.

5. 與其他亞洲經濟體的比較

5.1 近年，香港的總和生育率跟其他亞洲經濟體（如南韓、新加坡和台灣）相若，但卻遠低於西方國家。

5.2 其實大部分亞洲經濟體的總和生育率自 1990 年代都曾下跌，然後回升，只是低位發生在不同年份而已。總的來說，自 2011 年，所有的生育水平都是在 1 200 名左右（除日本有 1 400 名以外）。（圖 1）

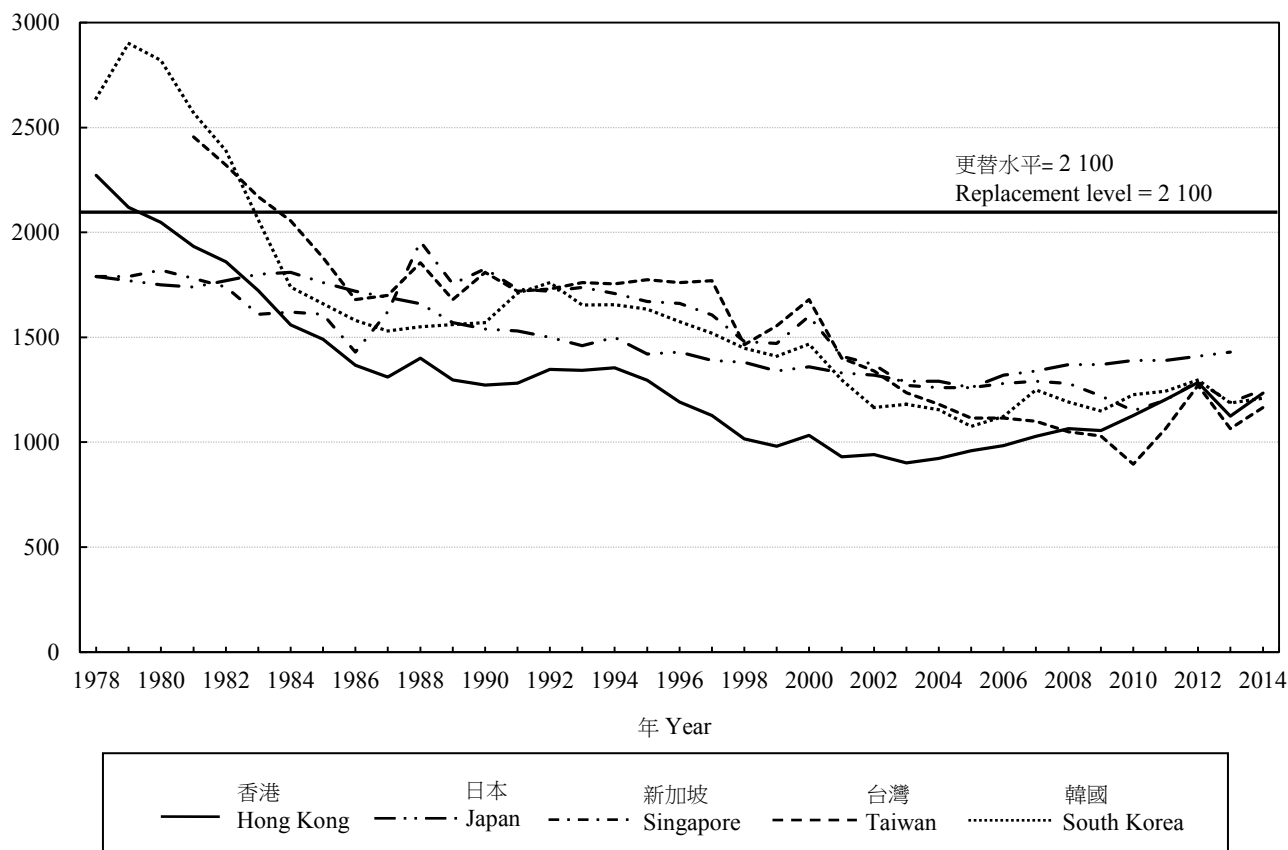
5. Comparison with other Asian economies

5.1 In recent years, Hong Kong's TFR has been similar to that of other Asian economies (e.g. South Korea, Singapore and Taiwan), but much lower than that in western countries.

5.2 In fact, most Asian economies' TFRs have declined in the late 1990s and have rebounded at some points, though the troughs occurred during different periods. In general, all have been at the level of about 1 200 (except Japan, at 1 400) since 2011. (Chart 1)

圖 1 香港及其他亞洲經濟體的總和生育率
Chart 1 Hong Kong and other Asian economies' total fertility rate

總和生育率（每千名女性的活產嬰兒數目）
 Total fertility rate (Number of live births per 1 000 women)



6. 出生及生育統計數字編製方法

6.1 出生統計數字和生育統計數字很相似，但兩類統計是有分別的。出生統計數字是以出生嬰兒為重點，而生育統計數字則以生產嬰兒的女性為重點。

6.2 出生統計數字是指活產嬰兒數目及活產嬰兒數目相對整體人口計算的出生率。出生統計數字包括活產嬰兒數目、粗出生率等等。活產嬰兒數目包括所有在香港出生的嬰兒，不論其父母是否香港居民。

6. Compilation approach of birth and fertility statistics

6.1 Birth statistics and fertility statistics are similar but there are differences between these two types of statistics. Birth statistics focus on babies born and fertility statistics focus on women giving births.

6.2 Birth statistics refer to the number of live births and various birth rates calculated by relating live births to the overall population. Birth statistics include, *inter alia*, number of live births and crude birth rate. All live births born in Hong Kong are included, regardless of whether the parents are Hong Kong residents.

6.3 另一方面，在編製生育數字時，活產嬰兒包括：(i) 女性香港居民在香港所生的嬰兒；(ii) 其配偶為香港居民的內地女性在香港所生的嬰兒；及 (iii) 女性香港居民在香港以外地方所生並在 1 年內帶回香港的嬰兒。但是，其配偶並非香港居民的內地女性在香港所生的嬰兒則不包括在內。

6.4 至於編製生育數字所採用的女性人口，則包括居港人口內在生育齡期（即 15 至 49 歲）的所有女性（外籍家庭傭工除外）。由於出生嬰兒已包括其配偶為香港居民的內地女性在香港所生的嬰兒，故這些母親亦計算在內。過去數年的情況顯示，由內地婦女所生的嬰兒，若其父親為香港居民，則稍後嬰兒的母親通常會成為香港人口的一分子（一般在 4 年內），故此在計算生育統計時，這些暫未在香港定居的女性亦包括在內。

6.3 On the other hand, in the calculation of fertility statistics, live births include those: (i) born in Hong Kong to women who are Hong Kong residents; (ii) born in Hong Kong to Mainland women whose spouses are Hong Kong residents; and (iii) born outside Hong Kong to women who are Hong Kong residents and brought back to Hong Kong within 1 year. However, babies born in Hong Kong to Mainland women whose spouses are not Hong Kong residents are not included.

6.4 As for the female population used in the calculation of fertility statistics, all women of childbearing ages (i.e. aged 15 to 49) in the Hong Kong Resident Population (excluding foreign domestic helpers) are included. Since babies born in Hong Kong to Mainland women whose spouses are Hong Kong residents are included in births, these mothers are also taken into account. The situation in the past few years shows that for the babies who were born in Hong Kong to Mainland women, if the babies' fathers are Hong Kong residents, the babies' mothers will usually become part of the Hong Kong population, normally within 4 years. Hence, these women who have not yet settled in Hong Kong for the time being are included in compiling fertility statistics.