



VIET NAM POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS 2009

AGE-SEX STRUCTURE AND MARITAL STATUS OF THE POPULATION IN VIET NAM



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PREFACE

The Viet Nam National Population and Housing Census 2009 was conducted at 00:00 on April 1st, 2009 under Prime Ministerial Decision No. 94/2008/QĐ-TTg dated July 10th, 2008. This was the fourth population Census and the third housing Census conducted in Viet Nam since 1975. The purpose of this Census was to collect basic information on population and housing of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam for national development planning for the period 2011–2020.

Besides the major findings of the national population and housing Census, which were published in July 2010, in-depth analysis of some important issues including birth, death, migration, urbanization, age-sex structure of the population, and education was undertaken to provide important information about the current status as well as appropriate policy recommendations related to these issues.

The monograph “Age-sex structure and marital status of the population in Viet Nam” was developed using the data of the 15% sample survey which was included in the VNPHC2009 in order to provide the readers with the most up-to-date information about Viet Nam’s age-sex structure and marital status.

Analysis shows that the current age structure of the population in Viet Nam is typical for a population which has recently completed its transition from high to low mortality and fertility. The age and sex structure in Viet Nam suggests certain new demographic features including a golden population structure, population ageing and household characteristics typically seen at the completion of population transition. Analysis on marital status in Viet Nam reflect the trends towards later marriage age and higher singulate mean age at marriage. However, early marriage and child marriage still exist among ethnic minority groups.

This monograph also suggests some policies to respond to demographic changes including to take advantage of the population structure and improve the quality of the young labour force, enhance healthcare/reproductive health and professional training for the young population while ensuring social security for the elderly.

The Viet Nam General Statistics Office (GSO) would like to express its special thanks to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for their financial and technical support in the VNPHC2009, especially for data analysis and preparation of this monograph. We also would like to express our sincere thanks to Dr. Nguyen Duc Vinh from the Institute of Sociology and Mr. Nguyen Van Phai - independent consultant, for their great efforts in analyzing data and developing this monograph. Our gratitude also goes to other national and international experts, UNFPA staff, and GSO staff for their hard work and valuable inputs during the development of this monograph.

We are honoured to introduce a special publication with an in-depth look into the age-sex structure of the population and marital status, which is now a topic of interest among researchers, managers, policy makers as well as the whole society. We look forward to your feedback and comments on this monograph to improve the quality of future GSO publications.

General Statistics Office

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

This monograph presents results from in-depth analysis of the age-sex structure, household structure, and marital status of the population in Viet Nam based on data from the 2009 Viet Nam Population and Housing Census.

• AGE-SEX STRUCTURE

The analysis reveals that, the age-sex structure of population in Viet Nam in 2009 is typical for a population that has recently completed the demographic transition from high to low fertility and mortality. The proportion of children declined while the proportion of the elderly increased. In rural areas, the proportion of the age group 15–19 is highest and is much higher than in the adjacent age groups. In urban areas, the proportion of the age group 20–24 is largest but only slightly higher than adjacent age groups.

Age-sex structures of population in geographical regions and provinces are shaped not only by fertility and mortality but also migration. The age pyramids of the Northern Midlands and Mountains are typical for populations with high fertility and mortality rates. The age structure of population in the Central Highlands is also influenced by in-migration.

The populations in the Red River Delta and Mekong River Delta have low fertility and mortality rates, leading to lower proportions of children and higher proportions of the elderly than in other regions. As the net migration rate in the Red-River Delta is negative and a out-migrants are mainly in working ages, the proportion of the population in working ages is relatively low. The age pyramids of the Central Coast - North and South reflect populations with high migration rates. The proportion of population in the age groups 20–24 and 30–34 in the North and South Central Coast are low as there is a high out-migration rate of young adults. In contrast, the proportion of the population in the age group 20–24 in the Southeast is relatively high as there is a high in-migration rate among the young ages.

The total dependency ratio of Viet Nam has declined dramatically since 1979. If the population aged 15–64 is considered as the non-dependent group, Viet Nam's total dependency ratio had reached the level of a "golden population structure" (<50) by the end of 2007, and fell further to 44.7 by 2009. The decline in the total dependency ratio in Viet Nam is mainly caused by the drop in the fertility rate, while the decrease in the mortality rate has led to a slight increase in the old-aged dependency ratio. Among the six geographical regions, the Southeast, Mekong River Delta, Red River Delta, and Northern Midlands Mountains are experiencing a period of "golden population structure". The North and South Central Coast is expected to achieve a "golden population structure" by 2011. In 2009, 43 of 63 provinces/cities in Viet Nam have obtained a "golden population structure". The provincial total dependency ratio is lowest in Binh Duong (28) and highest in Lai Chau (71). Among the ten largest ethnic groups, six groups have entered the "golden population structure". The Gia Rai and Hmong are the two ethnic groups with the highest total dependency ratio (72.9 and 95.0 respectively).

The population of Viet Nam is aging rapidly as reflected in the aging index (60+) increasing from 18.2 in 1989 to 24.3 in 1999, and 35.5 in 2009, with the expectation of further increases in the future. In 2047, the number of people in old age will be 1.5 times higher than the number of children. The seven provinces with the highest aging indexes (>50) are Ha Tinh, Hung Yen, Ninh Binh, Nam Dinh, Hai Duong, Ha Nam and Thai Binh.

The sex ratio of Viet Nam's population was 97.6 males per 100 females in 2009. However, the sex ratio of the under-15 population in 54 provinces/cities is higher than the normal level (>105). This will lead to the situation of male surplus and female shortage among the marriage age population in the near future.

The number of women aged 15–49 will continue to increase until 2028 (an increase of about 75 thousand women per year) and decline afterward, but the proportion of women aged 15–49 has peaked at the highest level in 2009. Thus even if the TFR remains at the present level (TFR=2.03), the number of newborns will continue increasing in the next decade or so, but the crude birth rate in Viet Nam will gradually decrease.

• HOUSEHOLD STRUCTURE

Similar to the age and sex structures, household structure of Viet Nam's population has significantly changed in the last three decades during the demographic transition. The average size of households declined quickly, from 4.8 people in 1989 to 4.5 in 1999 and 3.8 in 2009. Households with four members are the most common in Viet Nam accounting for 28.5% at present. The reduction in household size is mainly caused by the remarkable drop in the number of children under 15.

From 1999 to 2009, the proportion of one-person households in Viet Nam has risen from 4.4% to 7.3%. Meanwhile, the proportion of one-person households with people in older ages (65+) has increased 1.5 times, from 1.8% to 2.6%. Most people living in one-person household are females, especially those aged 45 or older.

Because of fertility decline, the proportion of households with children aged under 15 also dropped rapidly, from 85.9% in 1989 to 58.0% in 2009. The proportion of households with people in older ages has not changed much. The proportion of household without dependents has more than doubled, from 14.3% in 1989 to 30.8% in 2009, while the proportion of households with at least half the members in dependent ages has decreased from 53.8% to 33.5%.

Until 2009, most household heads in Viet Nam were male and this tendency seems to have increased

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