

## **Briefing Note on 2011 Population Census**

### **Introduction**

It is an established practice since 1961 for Hong Kong to conduct a population census every ten years and a by-census in the middle of the intercensal period. Population censuses were conducted in 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2001 while population by-censuses in 1966, 1976, 1986, 1996 and 2006. Following this practice, the next round of population census will be conducted in 2011.

### **Objectives of Population Censuses/By-censuses**

2. The aim of conducting population censuses/by-censuses is to obtain up-to-date benchmark information on the socio-economic characteristics of the population and on its geographical distribution. They provide benchmark data for studying the direction and trend of population changes. The data are key inputs for making projections concerning population, household, labour force and employment. Population censuses/by-censuses differ from other general household sample surveys in their sizable scale, which makes it feasible to provide statistics of high precision even for population sub-groups and small geographical areas. Such information is vital to the Government for planning and policy formulation and important to the private sector and academia for business and research purposes.

### **Legislation and Census Period**

3. The Census and Statistics (2011 Population Census) Order has been made under section 9 of the Census and Statistics Ordinance to enable the conduct of the 2011 Population Census ("11C") from 30 June (Thursday) to 2 August (Tuesday) 2011. All persons specified under the Order are obliged to provide the required information.

## Design of the Census

### Questionnaires

4. Two types of questionnaires will be used in the 11C. Short form questionnaire will be used to enumerate about nine-tenths of households on basic characteristics of household members (e.g. year and month of birth and sex). Long form questionnaire will be used to enumerate the remaining one-tenth households on a broad range of socio-economic characteristics of household members. A scientific sampling scheme will be used to select households for enumeration by either the long form or short form questionnaire. Statistics on the size and characteristics of the population can be compiled by combining data of the short form and long form questionnaires through the use of statistical methods.

### Census Reference Moment

5. During the 34-day census period of the 11C, factors such as births, deaths, arrivals and departures may lead to changes in the population size. Hence, there must be a standard time-point for enumerating the population and this time-point is called “census reference moment”. The census reference moment for the 11C will be 3 a.m. on 30 June 2011.

### Unit of enumeration

6. For land population, quarters will be taken as the basic enumeration unit. During the enumeration, information is recorded on a household basis, while individual persons are the ultimate targets of enumeration. Each unit of quarters may have more than one household and each household may have more than one member. As for marine population, the targets of enumeration are persons living in vessels.

### Notification about the Census

7. The Census and Statistics Department (“C&SD”) will send notification letters to all quarters<sup>1</sup> by phase during the period from 23 June to end June 2011 on the detailed arrangements of the 11C. For quarters without clear identifiable postal address (e.g. households in the rural areas using communal letter boxes), marine population and non-residential buildings with persons living therein, the C&SD will arrange census officers to visit the households concerned directly.

---

<sup>1</sup>According to a frame of quarters, which comprises a list of addresses of permanent quarters in built-up areas and a list of area segments in non-built-up areas.

### Multi-modal data collection approach

8. A multi-modal data collection approach will be used in the 11C under which the data collection process will be divided into two phases. In the first phase from 30 June to 15 July 2011, households are encouraged to choose self-enumeration mode through submission of an e-questionnaire online or by postal return (applicable to short form questionnaire only). For the remaining households not choosing self-enumeration mode, the C&SD will arrange census officers to conduct face-to-face interviews in the second phase, which will commence on 16 July 2011. The census officers will wear a uniform (green T-shirt with purple collar), carry a red satchel with the census logo and identify themselves with a Census Officer's Certificate of Identity issued by the C&SD.

9. Census officers will distribute a self-administered questionnaire to households that cannot be contacted during the second phase. The households concerned will be encouraged to return the completed questionnaire before a designated date to the C&SD by post.

10. In case clarification of the information provided by households is required, census officers will contact the households concerned by phone or visit.

### Data topics

11. Same as the previous censuses / by-censuses, the following factors are considered in deciding the data topics for 11C:

- (i) usefulness of data;
- (ii) willingness and ability of the respondents to answer;
- (iii) ability of enumerators to understand the questions and communicate with the respondents;
- (iv) existence of other data source / data collection channel;
- (v) processing efforts;
- (vi) comparability of data with previous censuses/by-censuses;
- (vii) keeping the interviewing time within reasonable length; and
- (viii) recommendations of the United Nations and international practices.

12. Extensive consultations on the data topics for the 11C have been conducted. After consolidating the views received and taking into account the factors mentioned above, a total of 41 data topics have been included for the 11C. The data topics (see Annex 1) are basically the same as those of the 2006 Population By-census, but with suitable refinements to the classifications.

### Data confidentiality

13. The C&SD will implement strict procedures to ensure that all data collected in the 11C on individual persons and households will be handled in strict confidence for privacy protection. Under the Census and Statistics Ordinance, it is an offence for census officers to disclose particulars of individual persons or households to unauthorised persons. All completed questionnaires will be destroyed within one year after the commencement of the Census.

### **Census Results**

14. Findings of the 11C will be released by phase starting from February 2012. Detailed statistics for individual District Council districts will be published through various means including publications and the 11C website (<http://www.census2011.gov.hk>). In the meantime, up-to-date statistics for District Council districts are available from the continuous General Household Survey. Key statistics for 2010 are presented in Annex 2 for reference.

### **Support for the Census**

15. The successful conduct of the 11C relies on the support from the wide community. The C&SD would like to solicit members' support to:

- (i) publicise the conduct of the 11C to residents in your district, and in particular, request households to cooperate and provide the information required accurately; and
- (ii) advise on any special operational arrangements required in your district to facilitate the conduct of fieldwork.

Census and Statistics Department  
April 2011

## Data topics<sup>(1)</sup> for the 2011 Population Census

### Short Form

- |                                    |                                            |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 1. Year and month of birth         | 7. Type of quarters                        |
| 2. Sex                             | 8. No. of households in quarters (derived) |
| 3. Ethnicity                       | 9. No. of occupants in quarters (derived)  |
| 4. Place of birth                  | 10. Whether a member of the household      |
| 5. Whereabouts at reference moment | 11. Household size (derived)               |
| 6. Occupancy of quarters           |                                            |

### Long Form

All the items in the short form and the following items:

#### ***Demographic and social characteristics***

12. Marital status
13. Usual language
14. Ability to speak other languages/dialects
15. Nationality

#### ***Educational characteristics***

16. School attendance
17. Educational attainment (highest level attended)
18. Educational attainment (highest level completed)
19. Field of education
20. Place of study
21. Mode of transport to place of study

#### ***Internal migration characteristics***

22. Duration of residence in Hong Kong
23. Place of residence 5 years ago

#### ***Economic characteristics***

24. Economic activity status
25. Industry
26. Occupation
27. Whether having secondary employment
28. Earnings from main employment
29. Earnings from secondary employment
30. Other cash income (including cash income from rent)
31. Place of work
32. Mode of transport to place of work

#### ***Housing characteristics***

33. Type of accommodation
34. Number of rooms in the residence (including living / dining rooms, bedrooms, other rooms, kitchens, bathrooms / toilets)
35. Tenure of accommodation
36. Rent (including rates, government rent and management fees)
37. Mortgage payment or loan repayment

#### ***Household characteristics***

38. Relationship to other member of the household
39. Type of household
40. Household income (derived)
41. Household composition (derived)

Note: (1) Aside from the above, the 2011 Population Census also covers data topics on population coverage (i.e. 'Total amount of time spent in Hong Kong, the mainland of China, Macao and other places in the past 6 months', 'Total amount of time that will be spent in Hong Kong in the coming 6 months', 'Usual accommodation in Hong Kong at present', and 'Usual reason for living outside Hong Kong'). The data topics 'Mortgage payment or loan repayment', 'Other cash income' and 'Number of rooms in the residence' include more than one data item.

**2010 General Household Survey<sup>#</sup>**  
**Key Statistics\* of District Council Districts**

District Council district	Population	Median age	Labour force participation rate (%)		Number of domestic households	Median monthly domestic household income (HK\$)
			Male	Female		
Central and Western	259 300	39	70.0	57.6	93 200	25,600
Wan Chai	158 900	41	70.3	60.7	58 300	29,000
Eastern	586 900	42	67.1	53.7	193 800	22,000
Southern	272 500	41	70.7	55.0	86 500	20,000
Yau Tsim Mong	304 900	39	70.0	53.8	108 600	18,200
Sham Shui Po	366 800	42	63.3	47.9	127 900	14,000
Kowloon City	365 800	40	66.5	53.2	122 500	20,000
Wong Tai Sin	416 800	43	65.6	45.9	139 200	15,000
Kwun Tong	609 700	42	63.9	47.8	209 800	14,000
Kwai Tsing	508 500	40	66.4	49.7	168 800	14,500
Tsuen Wan	291 800	40	70.7	55.9	98 100	20,800
Tuen Mun	489 700	39	72.1	49.9	167 200	16,000
Yuen Long	556 600	37	70.9	49.5	181 600	15,000
North	305 100	38	69.8	48.6	97 500	17,000
Tai Po	291 300	40	70.6	54.5	93 100	20,000
Sha Tin	619 400	40	69.1	52.7	201 500	20,000
Sai Kung	424 100	38	73.2	57.8	134 500	23,000
Islands	150 900	37	72.5	54.0	52 400	17,800
Whole Territory	6 979 000	40	68.6	52.0	2 334 300	18,000

# Statistics on the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the population at the District Council district level are published once a year. These statistics are compiled based on data collected in the General Household Survey from January to December each year as well as the mid-year population estimates by District Council district compiled jointly by the Census and Statistics Department and an inter-departmental Working Group on Population Distribution Projections.

\* Covers land-based non-institutional population only.