



20th Population Census Conference
19 – 21 June, 2002
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Utilization and Analysis of the 2000 Round of Censuses



DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS IN MALAYSIA WITH SPECIAL FOCUS ON WOMEN

Rabieyah Mat & Roszaini Omar
Department of Statistics, Malaysia
<http://www.statistics.gov.my>

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The examination of the demographic trends in Malaysia from a gender perspective is imperative given the increasing concerns of the Malaysian government to address women's issues. The National Policy for women formulated in 1989 which reflected the government's commitment towards the advancement of women will continue to be operationalized which included the implementation of gender sensitive and awareness training programmes. Data base by gender is being developed to provide input for planning and implementation of programmes for women. Growing importance is being given to the production of statistics by gender.

1.2 As in most countries around the world, women make up for almost half of the total population of Malaysia. In view of the current concern and commitment of the Malaysian Government towards its development and in the spirit of sharing of information during this seminar, this paper sets out to shed some light on Malaysian women's demographic trends in Malaysia based on the 1970, 1980 and 1991 Population Census and present trend based on the 2000 Population Census. It examines the changing demographic pattern of the population by age group and sex. With the aim to focus on women, this paper provides basic data on the distribution of women by age group and marital status.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 History of Census

The 2000 Population and Housing Census of Malaysia was the fourth decennial census to be conducted since the formation of Malaysia in 1963. The 2000 Census collected data on the characteristic of the living quarters, households and population in Malaysia. The three earlier censuses were conducted in 1970, 1980 and 1991. Prior to the formation of Malaysia, the census was conducted as early as 1901.

2.2 Legal Basis

Under the Constitution of Malaysia, census taking is a federal responsibility and the legal basis for the census is provided by the Census Act of 1960, which empowers the government to conduct a census from time to time. The responsibility for conducting the 2000 Population and Housing Census was vested upon the Department of Statistics, which implemented the project in collaboration with the state governments of Malaysia.

2.3 Census Organisation

The entire Population and Housing Census Malaysia 2000 project was under the direct purview of the Census Steering Committee (CSC) chaired by the Chief Secretary to the Government. Technical support was provided

by the Census Technical Committee chaired by the Director-General of the Economic Planning Unit. The Chief Statistician of Malaysia was appointed the Commissioner of Census who was responsible for the entire 2000 Census operation.

2.4 Census Reference Date and Survey Period

In selecting the census reference day, due consideration was given to a variety of factors. The census reference date should fall on a day whereby population movement is at its minimal. The selected date should not fall on public holidays, school holidays, festive seasons or on any major event-taking place such as the performance of the Haj where a sizable number of persons would be performing the pilgrimage and this may not be counted. The monsoon period and the fasting month should also be avoided for field operational reasons.

The Census reference date for the three Censuses of 1980, 1991 and 2000 were on 10th June, 14th August and 5th July respectively. In the 2000 Census the enumeration was carried out over a period of sixteen days beginning from 5th July until 20th July 2000. Consistent with usual practice, mopping-up activities were also undertaken after the enumeration period, that is, from 21st July until 30th July.

2.5 Enumeration Procedure

The 'de jure' approach was adopted for the first time in the 2000 Census whereby all persons on Census Day (5th July 2000) were enumerated according to their place of usual residence. This differed from the 'de facto' approach used in the previous censuses whereby all persons were enumerated at the place where they physically were on Census Night.

2.6 Areas Covered

The whole of Malaysia was divided into small census geographic units known as enumeration blocks (EB). Each EB was assigned an enumerator and a combination of 7 EBs formed a census circle (CC) which was the responsibility of a supervisor. A District Superintendent was responsible for each census district (CD) comprising about 15 CCs. All District Superintendents in one administrative district (AD) came under the responsibility of the Assistant Commissioner of Census who, in most cases was the District Officer in the administrative district concerned. All Assistant Commissioners of each state were under the control of the Deputy Commissioner for that state. The Deputy Commissioner of each state was in turn responsible directly to the Commissioner of Census.

2.7 Persons Covered

All persons including foreigners who stayed or intended to stay in Malaysia for six months or more in the year 2000 were included in the Census. They were counted at their place of usual residence in line with the 'de jure' approach adopted in Census 2000.

2.8 Topics Enumerated

The list of topics canvassed in the 2000 Census was arranged under three broad headings namely Population, Household and Housing. Comparisons were made with those canvassed in the three previous Malaysian censuses in 1970, 1980 and 1991 as encapsulated in Appendix 1.

3 POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

3.1 In the year 2000, the population of Malaysia was 23.3 million after taking into account census under-enumeration. The population increased more than two folds over the 30 year period from 10.3 million in 1970 to 23.3 million in the year 2000. The increase had resulted in an average annual growth rate of about 2.6% per annum for the 1980-1991 period and the 1991-2000 period.

3.2 Population density in Malaysia continued to increase over the census period. From 31 persons per square kilometre in 1970 the density has

increased to 42 in 1980, leaping to 56 in 1991 and further to 71 in the year 2000. Likewise the level of urbanization in Malaysia is on the increase. The percentage of population living in urban areas increased from 26.9% in 1970 to 34.2% in 1980 and 50.6% in 1990. By the year 2000, more than two thirds of the population (61.8%) reside in the urban areas of Malaysia.

3.3 Historically, the censuses in Malaysia provide, among other socio-economic characteristic, information on ethnicity. This information is vital as major input in the formulation and monitoring of government policies and programmes spelt out in the 5 year Development Plans. Malaysia is a multi-racial country with more than 70 identified ethnic groups. These ethnic groups are broadly classified into 4 major groups namely Malays/Bumiputera, Chinese, Indians and others. Of the total number of Malaysians in the year 2000, Malays/Bumiputera comprised 65.1%, Chinese 26.0%, Indians 7.7% and the others 1.2%. These proportions saw a marked increase in the Malays/Bumiputera group which were 60.6% in 1991, 59.3% in 1980 and 55.6% in 1970.

4 CHANGING AGE STRUCTURE

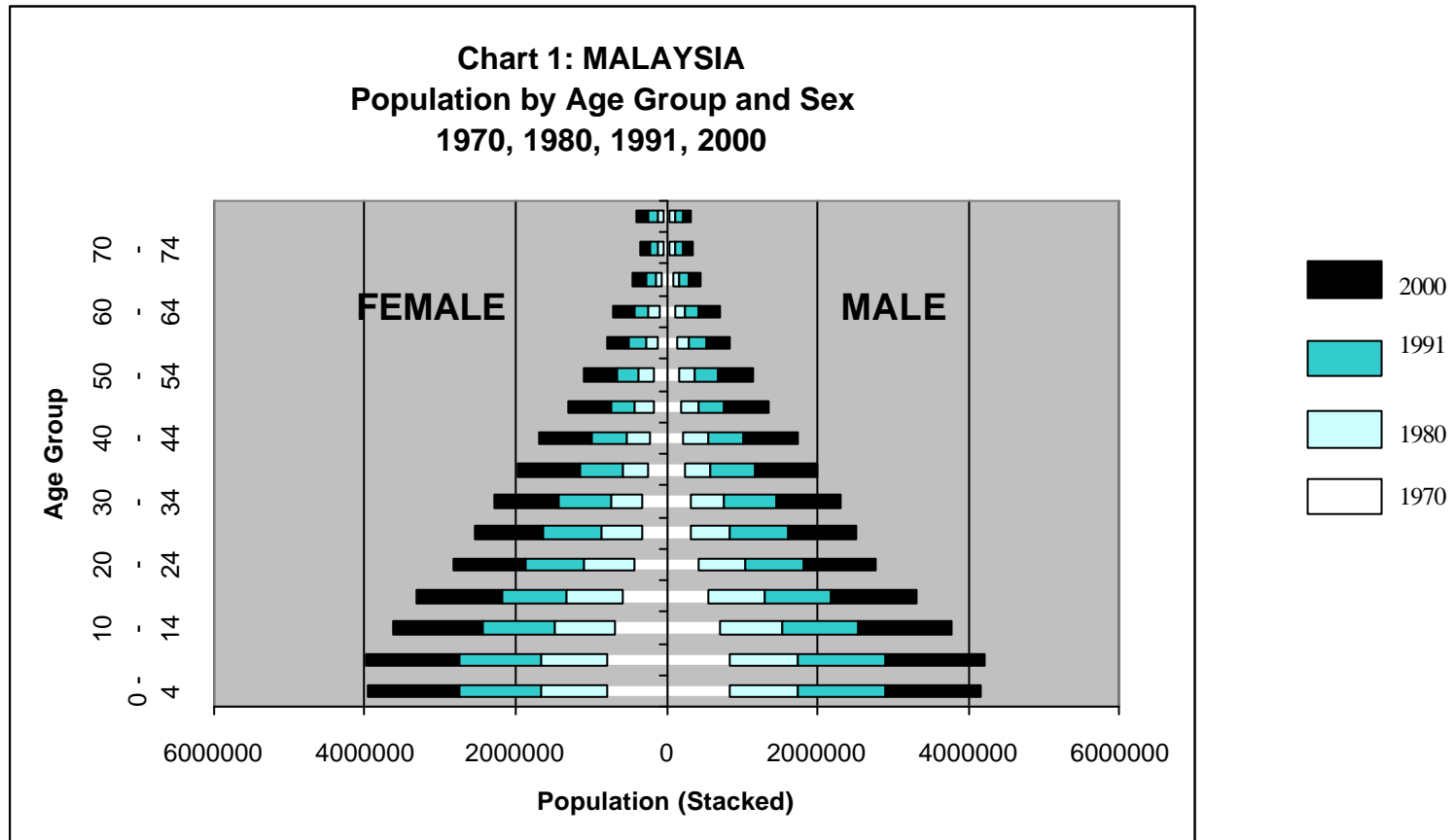
4.1 The age structure of the population largely depends on the changing trends in fertility, mortality and migration. The transition from high fertility and mortality rates to low rates causes predictable shifts in the age structure of the population in Malaysia. The age pyramid (Chart 1, 2 and 3) show the

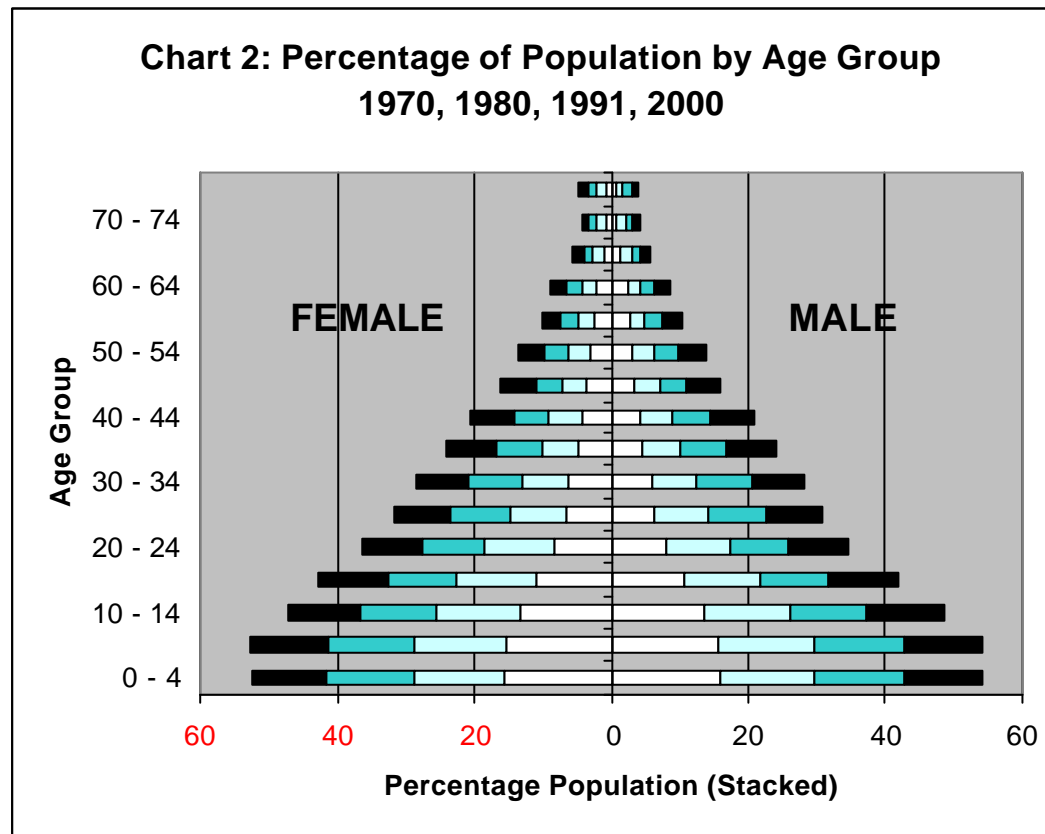
changes that took place during the 1970, 1980, 1990 and 2000 in the age/sex compositions of the Malaysian population.

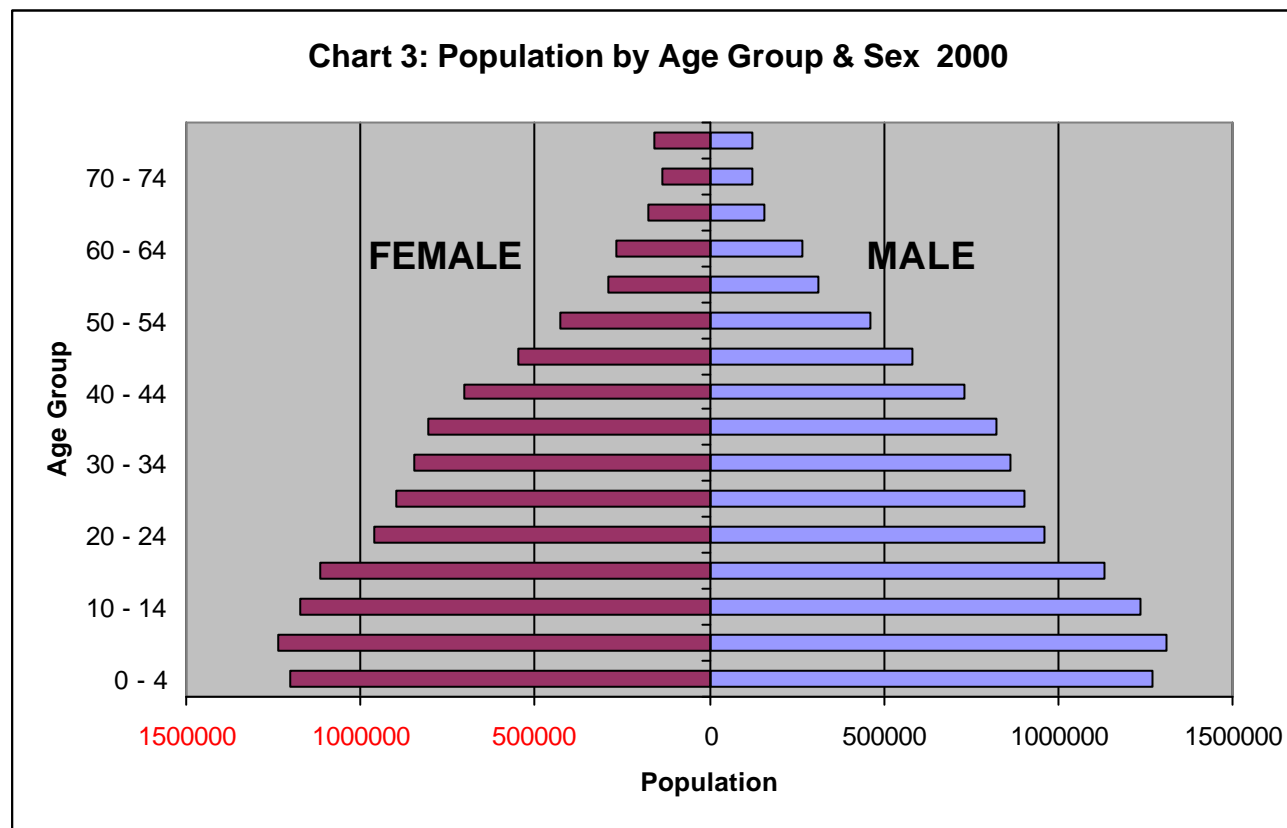
4.2 It is clear that in the 1970's, Malaysia had typical age structures produced by relatively high birth and death rates which are reflected by the high percentage of young children and the regular shape of the pyramid. By 1990, Malaysia experienced a more rapid decline in birth and death rates (Table 1). The proportion of the young population continued to decline while the older age group increased. This trend continued to the present era in the year 2000.

Table 1: Crude Birth Rates (CBR) and Crude Death Rates (CDR)

	Crude Birth Rate			Crude Death Rate		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
1960	40.9	40.7	41.0	9.5	10.2	8.7
1970	32.4	32.8	31.9	6.7	7.5	5.8
1980	30.6	31.4	29.9	5.3	6.0	4.5
1990	27.9	28.4	27.4	4.6	5.2	4.1
2000	24.5	25.0	24.0	4.4	5.0	3.8







- 4.3 In a normal situation, the age distribution by sex for a growing population resembles the shape of a pyramid where the number of persons in any age group is normally larger than that in the immediate older age group. This regular pattern may be modified by changes in any component such as age, selective migration or continuous reductions in fertility. In 1970, 1980, 1991 and 2000 the age structure of the population in Malaysia reflected this shape.
- 4.4 Table 2a (percentage) & Table 2b (absolute values), shows that overall, the share of the population below the age of 4 years declined from 15.9% in 1970 to 13.6% in 1980 and further to 12.8% in 1991. By the year 2000, the percentage decreased further to 11.1%. For the males under the same age, the proportion fell from 16.1% in 1970 to 11.3% in 2000. The share of the females in the same age category fell by 4.7% percentage points in the corresponding period from 15.7% in 1970 about 11.0% to 22.2% in 2000.
- 4.5 The number and percentage of the population in the 25 and above age group increased in the 1970-2000 period. While the natural progression of the population surviving from one age cohort to the following age cohort is always smaller in number to the effects of mortality, any increase in the corresponding age group would suggest a net inflow of population attributed to external migration. For example, the population in the age groups 15-24 and 25-34 in 1970 survived approximately to the age groups 25-34 and 35-44 respectively in 1991 and 35-44 and 45-50 in the year 2000. This results in the rise in proportion for the age group for example in the 25-44 from 21.5% in 1980 to 29.7% in 2000.

**TABLE 2a: PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION BY AGE GROUP AND SEX
THE POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS MALAYSIA
1970, 1980, 1991 AND 2000**

AGE GROUP	1970			1980			1991			2000		
	TOTAL	SEX		TOTAL	SEX		TOTAL	SEX		TOTAL	SEX	
		MALE	FEMALE		MALE	FEMALE		MALE	FEMALE		MALE	FEMALE
TOTAL	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
0 - 4	15.86	16.06	15.65	13.55	13.85	13.24	12.77	13.02	12.50	11.13	11.29	10.97
5 - 9	15.66	15.87	15.45	13.57	13.83	13.31	12.82	13.05	12.59	11.48	11.65	11.31
10 - 14	13.43	13.53	13.33	12.44	12.62	12.25	11.20	11.34	11.05	10.86	10.99	10.74
15 - 19	10.90	10.69	11.12	11.37	11.20	11.54	9.95	9.89	10.00	10.14	10.07	10.22
20 - 24	8.29	8.06	8.52	9.63	9.24	10.02	8.92	8.80	9.05	8.64	8.52	8.76
25 - 29	6.31	6.22	6.41	8.06	7.87	8.24	8.68	8.55	8.80	8.13	8.03	8.23
30 - 34	6.04	5.96	6.13	6.66	6.69	6.63	7.95	7.90	8.00	7.71	7.66	7.76
35 - 39	4.86	4.71	5.01	5.11	5.20	5.02	6.65	6.65	6.65	7.36	7.33	7.39
40 - 44	4.26	4.24	4.28	4.75	4.82	4.68	5.33	5.39	5.27	6.45	6.50	6.41
45 - 49	3.54	3.48	3.60	3.60	3.56	3.65	3.82	3.91	3.73	5.10	5.17	5.02
50 - 54	3.13	3.17	3.09	3.16	3.15	3.16	3.47	3.48	3.46	3.99	4.09	3.89
55 - 59	2.49	2.61	2.37	2.43	2.39	2.48	2.56	2.51	2.61	2.70	2.77	2.64
60 - 64	2.15	2.23	2.08	2.05	2.01	2.09	2.14	2.05	2.23	2.41	2.37	2.45
65 - 69	1.33	1.45	1.20	1.43	1.44	1.43	1.39	1.32	1.47	1.50	1.42	1.59
70 - 74	0.91	0.93	0.89	1.12	1.11	1.13	1.11	1.03	1.19	1.14	1.07	1.22
75+	0.84	0.79	0.89	1.07	1.03	1.11	1.25	1.12	1.39	1.25	1.09	1.42

TABLE 2b: TOTAL POPULATION BY AGE GROUP AND SEX
THE POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS MALAYSIA
1970, 1980, 1991 AND 2000

AGE GROUP	1970			1980			1991			2000		
	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE
	10,319,324	5,198,418	5,120,906	13,136,109	6,588,756	6,547,353	17,498,091	8,828,580	8,669,511	22,198,276	11,262,136	10,936,140
0 - 4	1,636,244	834,724	801,520	1,779,564	912,497	867,067	2,233,649	1,149,819	1,083,830	2,471,108	1,270,988	1,200,120
5 - 9	1,616,043	825,025	791,018	1,782,782	911,412	871,370	2,243,666	1,152,009	1,091,657	2,549,311	1,312,400	1,236,911
10 - 14	1,386,024	703,514	682,510	1,633,536	831,730	801,806	1,959,516	1,001,121	958,395	2,411,581	1,237,519	1,174,062
15 - 19	1,125,011	555,511	569,500	1,493,464	737,713	755,751	1,740,361	873,259	867,102	2,251,565	1,134,431	1,117,134
20 - 24	855,677	419,210	436,467	1,265,133	608,779	656,354	1,561,527	776,862	784,665	1,917,252	959,086	958,166
25 - 29	651,349	323,351	327,998	1,058,434	518,755	539,679	1,518,279	754,937	763,342	1,804,016	904,154	899,862
30 - 34	623,741	309,815	313,926	874,744	440,840	433,904	1,390,755	697,434	693,321	1,710,728	862,286	848,442
35 - 39	501,368	245,040	256,328	671,303	342,508	328,795	1,163,706	586,998	576,708	1,633,946	825,390	808,556
40 - 44	439,562	220,533	219,029	624,041	317,324	306,717	933,012	475,833	457,179	1,432,771	731,770	701,001
45 - 49	365,119	180,924	184,195	473,354	234,297	239,057	668,750	345,623	323,127	1,131,445	582,645	548,800
50 - 54	323,095	164,804	158,291	414,754	207,698	207,056	606,986	306,871	300,115	885,662	460,501	425,161
55 - 59	256,944	135,571	121,373	319,848	157,209	162,639	448,308	221,870	226,438	600,433	311,720	288,713
60 - 64	222,289	116,023	106,266	269,745	132,581	137,164	373,735	180,700	193,035	534,248	266,597	267,651
65 - 69	136,756	75,426	61,330	188,166	94,581	93,585	243,509	116,117	127,392	333,274	159,559	173,715
70 - 74	93,635	48,115	45,520	146,563	72,881	73,682	193,705	90,598	103,107	253,722	120,776	132,946
75+	86,467	40,832	45,635	140,678	67,951	72,727	218,627	98,529	120,098	277,214	122,314	154,900

5 DIFFERENTIAL AGE DISTRIBUTION TRENDS

5.1 The trend of age distribution of Malaysia changed its direction around the 1960's when it started experiencing fertility decline (from 6.0 total fertility rate (TFR) in 1960 to 4.0 in 1980 and down to 3.2 in 2000). The age distribution was younger in the 1970's but became increasingly older in the 1990's.

Table 3: Age Distribution by broad Age Group, 1970-2000

<u>Broad Age Group</u> (Years)	<u>1970</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>2000</u>
0-14	44.9	39.6	36.8	35.4
15-64	52.0	56.8	59.5	62.6
65+ above	3.1	3.6	3.7	3.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

5.2 The proportion under age 15 saw a rapid decline from 44.9% in 1970 to 35.4% in the year 2000. The proportion aged 65 and over pointed at a different direction. From 3.1% in 1970, it has increased to almost 4.0% in the year 2000. The proportion of the elderly was on the increase while the proportion of children decreased reflecting the decline in both birth and death rates beginning in the 1970's. The upwards trends of the 15-64 age group (52.0% in 1970 to 62.6% in 2000) reflects the baby boom observed after the second world war. Table 3 shows the dominant direction of age distribution towards the working age group (15-64 years). This is also reflected by the increasing median age from 15.5 years in 1970 to 20.5 years in the year 2000.

**Table 4: Mean Age and Median Age by Males and Females
Malaysia 1970, 1980, 1991 and 2000**

	1970	1980	1991	2000
Mean Age				
Male	22.2	23.4	24.5	26.1
Female	22.2	23.8	25.2	26.3
Total	22.2	23.6	24.9	26.6
Median Age				
Male	15.4	15.9	20.2	20.6
Female	15.5	16.1	20.3	20.6
Total	15.5	16.0	20.3	20.6

5.3 The increase in the median age from 1970 to 2000 was in line with the decline in fertility alongside increases in life expectancy. The median age of the population increased for both males and females. There were marginal differentials in the overall median age between both sexes. It was however noted that the median age of females were slightly higher than the males throughout the 30 year period.

6 AGE PATTERNS BY SEX RATIO

6.1 The sex ratio defined as the number of males per 100 females tends to reduce at older ages. Overall, the sex ratio has increased. From 102 in 1970 the sex ratio increased to 103 in 2000. Over the years the excess of females over males is most marked in the older age groups as shown in Table 5. Although, more males are born than females, the ratio changes as they age. It is interesting to note that both males and females have

experienced increasing life expectancy over the years. However, current levels show that on average the life expectancy of females at birth is about 5 years longer than the males as reflected in Table 6.

Table 5 :Sex Ratio by age groups, 1970-2000

<u>Age Groups</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>2000</u>
0-14	104	105	105	106
15-19	98	98	101	102
20-54	98	98	101	103
55-64	111	97	96	104
65+above	108	98	87	87
Total	102	101	102	103

Table 6: Life expectancy at birth by sex , 1970, 1980, 1991, 2000

<u>Sex</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>2000</u>
Male	61.6	66.5	69.2	70.2
Female	65.6	71.0	73.4	75.0

6.2 At the young age group (0-14 years) the sex ratio increased from 104 in 1970 to 106 in 2000. There is a marked increase in the 15-19 age group from 98 in 1970 to 102 in 2000. Likewise, in the 20-54 age group the sex ratio is reversed from excess females over males in 1970 and 1980 to excess males over females in 1991 and 2000. In the older age group particularly the 55 – 64, the sex ratio over the years appeared to be somewhat erratic from more males in 1970 to less males compared to females in 1980 and 1991 and to the same situation as in 1970 by the year

2000. The 65 and over age group saw a steady decline of the sex ratio from 108 in 1990 to 98 in 1980 and stabilised at 87 in 1991 and 2000.

7 TRENDS IN THE DEPENDENCY RATIO

7.1 The dependency ratio is presented in three ways: the under age 15 dependency ratio, the aged 65 and above and the total dependency ratio which is the sum of these two ratios. It is seen as shown in Table 7 that the under-age 15 dependency ratio declined rapidly while the age 65 and over dependency ratio remained stable. The downward trends of the under-age 15 dependency rate overrides the aged 65 and over dependency ratio thereby causing the total dependency ratio to decline from 92.4% in 1970 to 59.7% in the year 2000. This change clearly reflected the overall marked improvement of the well-being of the population in Malaysia over the years. The significant decline of the overall dependency ratio was mainly attributed by the sharp decline of the young who were dependant on the working age group. This also reflected the marked increase of the working age group.

Table 7: Age Dependency Ratio (%) 1970-2000

<u>Dependency Ratio</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>2000</u>
Under Aged 15	86.5	69.6	61.9	53.5
Aged 65 + above	5.9	6.4	6.3	6.2
Total	92.4	76.0	68.2	59.7

8 MARITAL STATUS

8.1 Marriage undoubtedly has an effect on the overall fertility levels and thus on the size and age structure of the population. A classification of the Malaysian population aged 15 years and above by marital status is given in Table 8 for the years 1970, 1980, 1991 and 2000. It is observed that change in the structure and composition of families are closely related to trends marriage in and marital status of the population. The distribution of population (aged 15 years and over) by marital status categorised by *never married, currently married, widowed and divorced/permanently separated* show marginal differences between 1970, 1980, 1991 and 2000.

8.2 Basically all marital status categories recorded a slight reduction in percentages except for those never married which showed a small increase from 31.3% in 1970 to 35.0% in the year 2000. However, it is interesting to observe that in the never married category, the proportion among the males was much higher than the proportion of never married women. The difference was almost 10 percentage points, between the sexes throughout the census period.

8.3 The proportion of never married males in 1970 was 36.7% while the females registered 26.0%. In 2000, the proportion of males in this category increased to 39.0%. The percentage of unmarried females increased at the same rate to 30.9% in the year 2000.

Table 8: Percentage Distribution of the Population aged 15 years and over by Marital Status and by Sex, Malaysia 1970, 1980, 1991 and 2000.

Total

<u>Marital Status</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>2000</u>
Never Married	31.3	35.0	34.6	35.0
Currently Married	60.2	57.9	59.4	59.8
Widowed	7.2	5.7	5.0	4.4
Divorced or permanently separated	1.3	1.4	1.0	0.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number (000')	5,681.4	7,881.2	11,061.3	14,766.3

Male

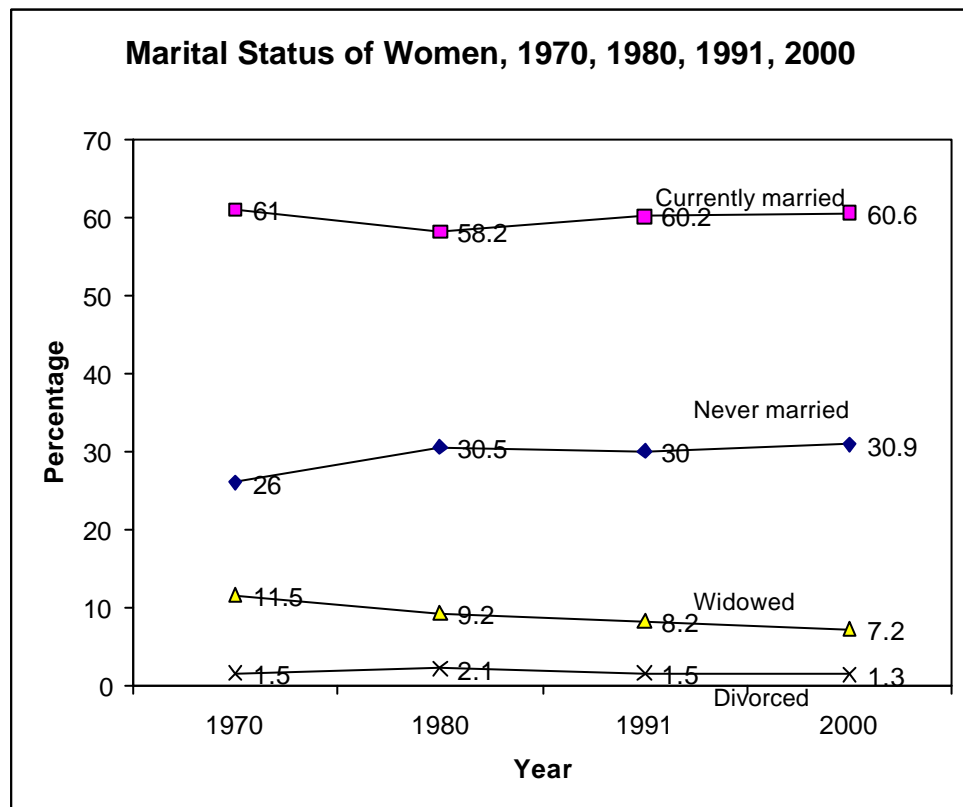
<u>Marital Status</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>2000</u>
Never Married	36.7	39.7	39.2	39.0
Currently Married	59.3	57.5	58.6	58.9
Widowed	2.9	2.1	1.7	1.7
Divorced or permanently separated	1.1	0.7	0.5	0.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number (000')	2,835.2	3,885.6	5,525.6	7,325.1

Female

<u>Marital Status</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>2000</u>
Never Married	26.0	30.5	30.0	30.9
Currently Married	61.0	58.2	60.2	60.6
Widowed	11.5	9.2	8.2	7.2
Divorced or permanently separated	1.5	2.1	1.5	1.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number (000')	2,846.2	3,995.6	5,535.6	7,325.0

8.4 Chart 3 illustrates the stable pattern in the proportion of married women over the last 3 decades. Between 1970 and 1980 the proportion of married women slightly dropped from 61.0% in 1970 to 58.2% in 1980 but stabilised at around 60% in 1991 and 2000. Along with the trend towards later marriages, there have been slight decreasing rates of widowed and divorced categories.

Chart 3 – Marital Status of Women 1970, 1980, 1991 and 2000.



8.5 As Table 9 suggests, amongst the married women, the highest proportion married are in the 30-34 age group. The percentage unmarried remained at about 16-17% for the past three decades. It is obvious that amongst the younger age group (15-19), the rates has declined over the 30 year period

from 5.4% in 1970 to 1.2% in 2000. The marriage rate showed a marked increase in the 35-39 age group. This pattern is in line with the increasing mean age at marriage. The shift of the increasing proportion of married women in the older age group over the 1970-2000 period reflects the overall improvement in the well-being of the women. The proportion of women in the 65 and above who remained married increased almost two folds from 2.5% in 1970 to 4.3% in 2000.

Table 9: Percentage distribution of currently married females (aged 15 years and above) 1970, 1980, 1991 and 2000

Age Group	1970	1980	1991	2000
15-19	5.4	3.2	1.9	1.2
20-24	14.2	13.3	9.2	6.7
25-29	15.7	17.8	16.6	14.0
30-34	16.3	16.1	17.7	16.3
35-39	13.2	12.6	15.2	16.2
40-44	10.8	11.5	12.0	14.0
45-49	8.5	8.5	8.3	10.7
50-54	6.4	6.5	7.1	7.8
55-59	4.2	4.5	4.9	4.9
60-64	2.8	2.9	3.3	3.9
65 above	2.5	3.1	3.8	4.3
Total	100.00	100.00	100.0	100.0
Total numbers	1,736,936	2,326,319	3,335,086	4,438,432

9 MEAN AGE AT FIRST MARRIAGE

9.1 In a community where almost all births occur in marriage, the age at first marriage would have a strong influence on the level of fertility which in

turn will affect the age structure of the population. Between 1970 and 2000, the mean age at first marriage in Malaysia increased for both sexes. Overall, the mean age increased from 23.8 years in 1970 to 26.9 years by the year 2000 as shown in Table 10.

**Table 10: Mean Age at Marriage by Sex
1970,1980,1991 and 2000¹**

Years	Males	Females	Total
1970	25.6	22.1	23.8
1980	26.6	23.5	25.0
1991	28.2	24.7	26.4
2000	28.6	25.1	26.9

9.2 In 1970, males were marrying at an average age of 25.6 years, some three and a half years older than their female counterparts, that is, 22.1 years. The corresponding average age at marriage for males and females in 1980 was 26.6 and 23.5 years respectively. The increase in the postponement of marriage for males and females was more noticeable in the rural areas than in the urban areas. In the rural areas, an increase of 1.9 years for males and 1.1 years for females was observed. A rise in the average age at first marriage would be a contributory factor in the decline of fertility levels which subsequently would lead to a smaller proportion of the population at the younger ages.

¹ The calculation is based on those in the 15-54 age group

10 CONCLUSION

Official statistics play an important role in monitoring women's demographic trends within the country. The demographic trends explored from this report has looked at patterns which is characterised by marginal differences between men and women of varying ages. It also looked at birth rates, death rates, fertility, mean and median ages, sex ratio, dependency ratio and marital status.

It is recognised that Malaysia will continue to grow at a gradual rate of 2.0% per year. With women forming half of the total population of the country, these are some of the important aspects that need to be monitored for the country's continued development, growth and progress.

*Rabiyah Mat & Roszaini Omar
Department of Statistics
Putrajaya, Malaysia
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TOPICS COVERED IN THE POPULATION AND HOUSING

CENSUSES OF MALAYSIA, 1970, 1980, 1991 AND 2000

CENSUS TOPICS	1970	1980	1991	2000
(A) POPULATION				
GEOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS				
<i>Place where person was found on Census Day</i>	4	4	4	4
<i>Place of usual residence at time of Census</i>	X	X	4	4
DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS				
<i>Sex</i>	4	4	4	4
<i>Age</i>	4	4	4	4
<i>Date of Birth</i>	4	4	4	4
<i>Marital Status</i>	4	4	4	4
<i>Ethnicity</i>	4	4	4	4
<i>Religion</i>	4	4	4	4
<i>Citizenship/residence status</i>	4	4	4	4
<i>Identity Card (Colour)</i>	4	4	X	X
<i>Language Spoken</i>	4	4	X	X
<i>Disability</i>	4	4	X	4
FERTILITY AND MORTALITY				
<i>Number of children born alive</i>	4	4	X	4
<i>Number of children living</i>	4	4	X	4
<i>Age at first marriage</i>	X	4	X	X
<i>Number of times married</i>	4	4	X	X
<i>Number of years married</i>	4	X	X	X
MIGRATION CHARACTERISTICS				
<i>Birthplace</i>	4	4	4	4
<i>Period of residence in Malaysia</i>	4	4	X	X
<i>Period of residence in present locality</i>	4	4	X	X
<i>Place of last previous residence</i>	X	4	X	X
<i>Reason for migration</i>	X	4	X	X
<i>Place of residence five years ago</i>	X	X	4	4
<i>Year of first arrival in Malaysia (for foreign-born)</i>	X	X	X	4

CENSUS TOPICS	1970	1980	1991	2000
<u>EDUCATION CHARACTERISTICS</u>				
<i>Literacy</i>	4	4	X	4
<i>School attendance</i>	4	4	4	4
<i>Highest level of schooling attained</i>	4	4	4	4
<i>Highest educational certificate obtained</i>	4	4	4	4
<i>Vocational training</i>	X	4	X	X
<i>Field of study</i>	X	X	X	4
<u>ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS</u>				
<i>Type of economic activity (during previous week)</i>	4	4	4	4
<i>Number of hours worked (during previous week)</i>	X	X	4	4
<i>Type of economic activity (during last twelve months)</i>	4	4	X	X
<i>Occupation</i>	4	4	4	4
<i>Industry</i>	4	4	4	4
<i>Employment status</i>	4	4	4	4
<i>Employment Sector (Government/Private/Own)</i>	X	X	X	4
(B) <u>HOUSEHOLD</u>				
<u>HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS</u>				
<i>Relationship to head of household</i>	4	4	4	4
<i>Number of persons in household</i>	4	4	4	4
<i>Type of occupancy</i>	4	X	X	X
<i>Rent (furnished/unfurnished)</i>	4	X	X	4
<i>Main cooking fuel</i>	4	X	X	X
<i>Household equipment</i>	4	4 ^(a)	4 ^(a)	4 ^(a)
<i>Household income</i>	4	4	X	X
^(a) This topic was canvassed in the household section of the questionnaire in the Population Census.				
(C) <u>LIVING QUARTERS</u>				
<i>Location of living quarters</i>	4	4	4	4
<i>Type of living quarters</i>	4	4	4	4
<i>Type of foundation</i>	4	X	X	X
<i>Construction material of outer walls</i>	4	4	4	4
<i>Construction material of roof</i>	4	4	X	X
<i>Condition</i>	4	4	X	X

CENSUS TOPICS	1970	1980	1991	2000
Occupancy status	4	4	X	4
Year (period) of construction	4	4	4	X
Type of ownership (tenure)	4	4	4	4
Rent (furnished/unfurnished)	4	X	4	4
Type of water supply	4	4	4	4
Type of lighting	4	4	4	4
Type of toilet facility	4	4	4	4
Bathing facility	4	4	X	X
Cooking facility	4	4	X	X
Main cooking fuel	4	X	X	X
No of bedrooms	4	4	X	4
Garbage collection facility	X	X	X	4
Number of persons (occupants)	4	4	4	4
Number of households	4	4	4	4