



ETHNIC GROUPS IN VIET NAM:

An analysis of key indicators
from the 2009 Viet Nam Population and Housing Census



CONTENTS

Abbreviation	4
List of figures	5
List of tables	6
Introduction	7
1. Demographic characteristics	9
2. Total Fertility Rate and Infant Mortality Rate	19
3. Educational level, professional and technical qualifications	25
4. Labor force and employment	33
5. Housing and living conditions	41
6. Summary and conclusions	47
References	53
Appendix	55

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, is an international development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity. UNFPA supports countries in using population data for policies and programmes to reduce poverty and to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV/AIDS, and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect.

The views expressed in this publication are those of the author, and do not necessarily represent those of the UNFPA, the United Nations or any of its affiliated organizations.

ABBREVIATION

IMR	Infant Mortality Rate
TFR	Total Fertility Rate
SMAM	Singulate Mean Age at Marriage
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1. Average household size by ethnic group, 2009	13
Figure 2. Singulate Mean Age at Marriage by ethnic group, 2009	17
Figure 3. Literacy rate of the population aged 15 and older by ethnic group, 2009	26
Figure 4. Prevalence of educational levels by ethnic group, 2009	30
Figure 5. Prevalence of completion of different technical levels by ethnic group, 2009	31
Figure 6. Percentage of economically active population by ethnic group and sex, 2009	34
Figure 7. Percentage of economically inactive population by ethnic group and sex, 2009	37
Figure 8. Unemployment rate by ethnic group and sex, 2009	38
Figure 9. Percentage of population by water source used and ethnic group, 2009	43
Figure A. 1. Population pyramids of 10 ethnic groups with the largest population, 2009	55

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. Population size of 10 ethnic groups by sex	10
Table 2. Population proportion by age groups, dependency ratio, aging index and male:female sex ratio of 10 key selected ethnic groups in 2009	11
Table 3. Distribution of the 6 largest ethnic groups by socio-economic regions, 2009	15
Table 4. Total fertility rate by ethnic group in 1989, 1999 and 2009	20
Table 5. Infant and under-five mortality rates by ethnic group, 2009	22
Table 6. Annual average population growth rate by ethnic group with the largest population	23
Table 7. School attendance rate of the population aged 5 years and older by ethnic group and sex, 2009	26
Table 8. Net enrollment rate of the population aged 5 years and older by sex and ethnic group, 2009	29
Table 9. Percentage of working population of the 6 largest ethnic groups by economic sectors, 2009	36
Table 10. Percentage of population with housing by type of house and ethnic group, 2009	42
Table 11. Percentage of population by types of toilet facilities used and ethnic group, 2009	44
Table 12. Percentage distribution of population by ethnic group and socio-economic condition, 2009	45
Table A. 1. Distribution of 6 ethnic groups with the largest population by city/province, 2009	57

INTRODUCTION

Viet Nam is known as a country in which many ethnic groups are living together. The Kinh ethnic group accounts for the largest proportion with approximately 86 per cent but additionally, another 53 ethnic groups as well as a substantial number of Vietnamese of foreign origin are living in Viet Nam. The Constitution of Viet Nam recognizes equity amongst all ethnic groups as a priority and as reflected in the documents issued by the 9th National Congress, the cause of ethnic groups and ethnic solidarity hold a long term strategic position in the revolutionary cause of the country. The Party and State have made substantial efforts to develop and enforce national policies which support cultural and ethnic diversity, with the aim of ensuring equal development, strengthening solidarity, promoting mutual support among ethnic groups, improving material and spiritual lives, reducing poverty, broadening people's knowledge, and reducing socio-economic disparity between all 54 ethnic groups in Viet Nam.

The robust data from the 2009 Viet Nam Population and Housing Census enables analysis and studies regarding demographic as well as socio-economic patterns observed within different ethnic groups. The majority of the above mentioned indicators are generated from results derived from the sample survey of 15 per cent of the total population. The statistics of the 2009 census show that the size of the different ethnic groups varies widely. Among the ethnic groups, six consist of more than 1 million people; 14 ethnic groups have populations ranging from 100,000 to 1,000,000 people. All remaining ethnic groups have populations of less than 100,000 people, and several groups only comprise a few hundred people.

Although the sample size of the survey is taken from 15 per cent of the total population recorded in the 2009 census, the following analysis (with specific indicators) will focus on a selection of ethnic groups with the aim to ensure statistical reliability and representation. Indicators on age and sex structure will be analyzed for the 10 ethnic groups with the largest populations (from

400,000 people and over) including the Kinh (73,594,427 people), Tay (1,626,392 people), Thai (1,550,423 people), Muong (1,268,963 people), Khmer (1,260,640 people), Hoa (823,071 people), Nung (968,800 people), Mong (1,068,189 people), Dao (751,067 people) and Gia Rai (411,275 people). Other indicators will be analyzed for 6 ethnic groups that consist of one million or more people namely the Kinh, Tay, Thai, Muong, Khmer and Mong. Indicators related to education and technical training are analyzed for the ethnic group of Kinh and for the category “others”.

This booklet is the tenth in a series published by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in recent years. Its contents analyse various indicators including age profiles, sex and marriage patterns; total fertility and mortality rates; levels of educational attainment and technical training, each by ethnicity withdrawing from publications generated from the 2009 Viet Nam Population and Housing Census, including the Completed Results, Major Findings¹ and a series of the 2009 census monographs. Other indicators have been aggregated and calculated from the original data.

UNFPA would like to thank the national consultant, Mr. Nguyen Van Phai and other staff at UNFPA for their invaluable contribution to the development and finalization of this booklet.

In publishing this booklet, it is hoped ready access will be provided to basic information on various ethnic groups in Viet Nam with the aim to facilitate the design of evidence-based policy and program development in order to reduce socio-economic disparity and vulnerability while maintaining the rich cultural diversity of the ethnic minorities in Viet Nam and improving their quality of life.

¹ Central Population and Housing Census Steering Committee (2010), 'The 2009 Viet Nam Population and Housing Census: Completed Results'

Central Population and Housing Census Steering Committee (2010), 'The 2009 Viet Nam Population and Housing Census: Major Findings'



1. DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

AGE AND SEX PATTERNS

The 2009 Viet Nam Population and Housing Census collected a variety of information sufficient enough to determine the population size and structure of 54 ethnic groups in Viet Nam. However, in order to have a relatively detailed study about the age and sex structure of various ethnic groups in Viet Nam, the present paper refers to the 10 largest ethnic groups with population size ranging from 400,000 people and higher. These 10 ethnic groups include Kinh, Tay, Thai, Muong, Khmer, Hoa, Nung, Mong, Dao and Gia Rai (Table 1).

Table 1. Population size of 10 ethnic groups by sex

Ethnic group	Total population (person)	Male (person)	Female (person)	Weight in the total population (%)
Entire country	85,846,997	42,413,143	43,433,854	100
Kinh	73,594,427	36,304,095	37,290,332	85.73
Tay	1,626,392	808,079	818,313	1.89
Thai	1,550,423	772,605	777,818	1.81
Muong	1,268,963	630,983	637,980	1.48
Khmer	1,260,640	617,650	642,990	1.47
Hoa	823,071	421,883	401,188	0.96
Nung	968,800	485,579	483,221	1.13
Mong	1,068,189	537,423	530,766	1.24
Dao	751,067	377,185	373,882	0.87
Gia Rai	411,275	201,905	209,370	0.48

Source: Table 5, page 134, *The 2009 Viet Nam Population and Housing Census: Completed Results*

Observations of the statistics for the 10 above mentioned ethnic groups (Annex 1) found that the age pyramids of the first group which includes the three ethnic groups Mong, Dao and Gia Rai, are characterized by large bases and rapidly narrowing tops. It also becomes clear that the fertility and mortality rates among these ethnic groups are relatively high while fertility decline is happening slowly.

The second group comprises three ethnic groups i.e. Nung, Khmer and Hoa. The continuously narrowing base together with a relatively large body and slowly narrowing top of the age pyramid for this group show that the total fertility rate (TFR) has declined continuously over the last 15 years and that the total mortality rate (TMR) is relatively low. Out of these 3 ethnic groups, the age

pyramid for the Hoa is unique. Although the base of their pyramid is shrinking continuously, the rate of shrinking is smaller than that of the Nung and Khmer ethnic groups. More specifically, the population in the age groups 20-24 and 25-29 is smaller than that of the 30-34 age group, a fact possibly caused by international migration. Out of the 10 most populous ethnic groups included in the analysis, only the Hoa ethnic group witnessed a decrease in population when comparing the year 2009 with 1999.

The final group consists of the three ethnic groups Tay, Thai and Muong. The age patterns for these three ethnic groups are very similar, therefore their age pyramids look similar. Their TFR during the periods 1994-1999 and 1999-2004 decreased rapidly. However, due to the increase in the number of births during the 5 years prior to the census, the population in the 0-4 age group is larger than that of the 5-9 group. As the fertility rate in this ethnic group is not high, the body of the pyramid is larger compared to group 1. The Kinh ethnic group accounts for the largest percentage comprising 86 per cent of the national population and thus its age and sex structures are similar to that of the national population.

Table 2. Population proportion by age groups, dependency ratio, aging index and male:female sex ratio of 10 key selected ethnic groups in 2009

Ethnic group	Population proportion			Aging index	Dependency ratio			Sex ratio
	0-14	15-59	60+		Young	Old	Total	
Entire country	24.5	66.9	8.9	35.5	35.4	9.3	44.7	97.6
Kinh	23.4	67.6	9.0	38.5	33.5	9.6	43.1	94.7
Tay	24.2	67.9	7.9	32.5	34.6	8.3	42.9	98.7
Thai	29.0	64.6	6.4	22.0	43.8	7.2	51.0	99.3
Muong	24.9	67.9	7.2	28.9	35.7	7.6	43.3	98.9
Khmer	25.6	67.4	7.0	27.3	37.0	7.3	44.3	96.1
Hoa	22.3	67.6	10	44.9	31.7	10.3	42.1	105.2
Nung	27.8	64.8	7.4	26.5	41.6	7.9	49.5	100.5
Mong	45.8	50.0	4.2	9.1	89.4	5.6	95.0	101.3
Dao	33.5	60.8	5.6	16.7	53.7	6.4	60.0	100.9
Gia Rai	39.9	54.1	6.0	15.0	71.4	7.8	79.2	96.4

The data in Table 2 shows that, among 10 ethnic groups with the largest population in the study, the Mong and Gia Rai ethnic groups have a “young population”, i.e. the population under 15 years old accounts for 35 per cent or higher. The proportion of population under 15 years old in Mong and Gia Rai is 45.8 per cent and 39.9 per cent, respectively. Other ethnic groups are at different stages of the “aging” process. However, none of them are yet experiencing an “aged” population. Ethnic groups with a small ratio of population in the age group of 0-14 (lower than the average national level) and high ratio of population in the age group over 60 (higher than that of the average national level) are the Hoa (with 22.3 per cent) and Kinh (23.4 per cent). Correspondingly, only the Hoa and Kinh have an aging index higher than the national level. At the time of the 2009 census there were 4.5 people aged 60 and over for every 10 children (under 15 years old) in the Hoa ethnic group while for the Mong there was one person aged 60 and over for every 11 children. In 6 of the 10 ethnic groups with the largest population sizes, the Total Dependency Ratio is less than 50 percent, meaning that these six ethnic groups are entering a phase of “demographic bonus”. The dependency ratio of the Hoa, Tay, Kinh and Muong are lowest with about 42-43 per cent. In these ethnic groups, there are 2.5 people of working age (15-64 years old with full working capacity) for every 1 person of non-working age. At the time of the census, the Thai ethnic group did not appear to be in a stage of “demographic bonus”. However, the dependency ratio for this group is currently 51 percent and they will thus enter such a “demographic bonus” period within the next one or two years. The dependency ratio for the Mong, Dao and Gia Rai ethnic groups range from 60 to 95 per cent.

Data in Table 2 also indicate that four out of 10 ethnic groups in the study have male:female sex ratios higher than 100, i.e. the Hoa (105.2), Mong (101.3), Dao (100.9) and Nung (100.5). The high sex ratio experienced by the Mong, Dao and Nung ethnic groups might be attributed to poor living conditions and poor/limited access to good quality maternal health services resulting in high mortality rates among females. The male:female sex ratio of children under 1 year of age and among the 1-4 age group in the Mong, Dao and Nung ethnic groups

are at the standard biological ratio i.e. for the Nung (107 versus 105.5), the Mong (101.6 versus 102.4) and the Dao (104.3 versus 105.3). These figures indicate that sex selection does not happen in these three ethnic groups. Meanwhile, the high sex ratio among the Hoa may be attributed to two causes i.e. sex selection (resulting in a high sex ratio of 110.6 among children under 5 years old) and international migration among young and middle aged females (resulting in a remarkably high sex ratio in these age groups). The sex ratio in the age groups of 30-34 and 35-40 is very high for the Hoa ethnic group with 120.3 males per 100 females.

HOUSEHOLD SIZE

Results generated from the last three censuses in Viet Nam show that the average household size has decreased substantially from 4.82 people in 1989 to 4.51 in 1999 and 3.78 in 2009. The tradition of inter-generational cohabiting in extended families as well as marriage and fertility patterns, have a direct impact on household size. The household size tends to decrease when improvements in overall economic development occur. This relationship can be seen clearly by analyzing the household size of 6 ethnic groups with a population of 1 million and over (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. Average household size by ethnic group, 2009

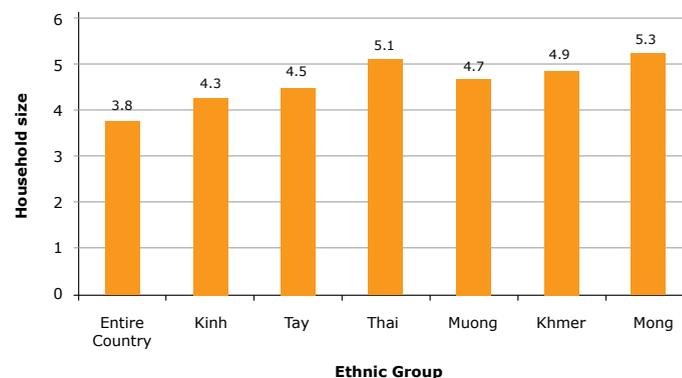


Figure 1 shows that the ethnic groups with a higher level of socio-economic development have a lower fertility rate (referring to Total Fertility Rate Section). For example, the Kinh and Tay ethnic groups have small household sizes while the Mong and Thai people have high fertility rates, extended families and large household sizes.

ETHNIC DISTRIBUTION BY REGIONS

Ethnic distribution by socio- economic regions

The data in Table 3 indicates that the Kinh people account for the biggest proportion of the population in five (out of six) socio- economic regions: 84.7 per cent in the Central Highlands and 98.5 per cent in the Red River Delta. In the Northern Midland and Mountain regions, the Kinh people account for only 45.3 per cent.

The majority of Tay, Thai, Muong and Mong people are living in the Northern Midland and Mountain areas, while most Khmer people are living in the Mekong River Delta.

Ethnic distribution by provinces and cities

The Kinh people account for the majority of the population in 53 cities/provinces out of 63 nation-wide. Minorities of Kinh people live in 14 provinces located in the Northern Midland and Mountain areas. However, three provinces out of these 14 i.e. Thai Nguyen, Bac Giang and Phu Tho provinces, have a greater proportion of Kinh people. Other ethnic groups are distributed throughout the following areas:

- Most people of the Tay ethnic group live in the northern mountainous provinces of Red river. The distribution of Tay people is as follows: Lang Son (16 per cent), Cao Bang (12.8 per cent), Tuyen Quang (11.4 per cent), Ha Giang (10.4 per cent), Bac Kan (9.6 per cent), Yen Bai (8.3 per cent) and Thai Nguyen (7.6 per cent).
- The majority of the Thai ethnic group are living in the North West provinces and mountainous provinces located in Nghe An and Thanh Hoa provinces. More than one third of the Thai's population (accounting for 36.9 per cent) are living in Son La province, 12 per cent in Dien Bien province and 7.7 per cent of

Table 3. Distribution of the 6 largest ethnic groups by socio-economic regions, 2009

Ethnic group	Total population	Red River Delta	Northern Midland and Mountain	North and South Central Coast	Central Highland	Southeast	Mekong River Delta
Entire country	85,846,997	19,584,287	11,053,590	18,835,154	5,115,135	14,067,361	17,191,470
Kinh	73,594,427	19,281,129	5,009,353	17,027,036	3,309,836	13,155,502	15,811,571
Tay	1,626,392	57,063	1,400,519	12,524	104,798	50,704	784
Thai	1,550,423	9,363	967,801	523,165	40,556	9,057	481
Muong	1,268,963	75,222	788,909	345,943	35,544	22,702	643
Khmer	1,260,640	284	370	1,278	2,436	72,796	1,183,476
Mong	1,068,189	2,826	971,515	43,889	48,877	992	90

them are living in Lai Chau province. Approximately one fifth of the Thai's population (accounting for 19 per cent) are living in Nghe An province and one seventh of them (14.5 per cent) are living in Thanh Hoa province.

- The Muong ethnic group: Over 80 per cent of the Muong's population are distributed throughout three provinces of Hoa Binh (with 39.6 per cent), Thanh Hoa (29.6 per cent) and Phu Tho (14.5 per cent).
- The majority of the Mong ethnic group live in the high mountainous provinces along the Northern border i.e. Ha Giang, Dien Bien, Son La and Lao Cai with a percentage of 21.7 per cent, 16.0 per cent, 14.7 per cent and 13.7 per cent respectively.
- Approximately three quarters of Khmer (accounting for 73.4 per cent) are living in the three provinces of the Mekong River Delta i.e. Soc Trang (31.5 per cent), Tra Vinh (25.2 per cent) and Kien Giang (16.7 per cent).

MARRIAGE PATTERN

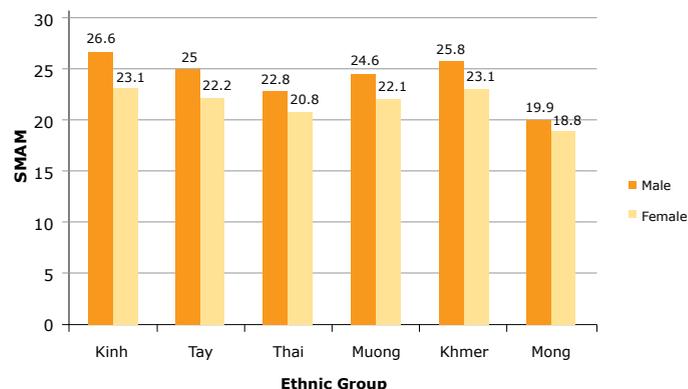
Marriage is a factor closely associated with fertility, and births out of wedlock are very uncommon in Viet Nam. The census data confirm a direct correlation between earlier marriage and an increase of the fertility rate. Therefore, further analysis of marriage patterns will be useful in understanding the dynamics of fertility for certain groups of the population.

One practical indicator used to study the marital patterns of a certain group of population is the Singulate Mean Age at first Marriage (SMAM) for that population group. Each population group is characterized by its own culture and, marriage being an integral part of such culture, as a result the average marriage age can be very different among different ethnic groups. The SMAM calculated for the most populous ethnic groups in Viet Nam clearly reflect this difference.

Figure 2 illustrates that the Kinh people are having the highest SMAM (singulate mean age at marriage) for their first marriage: 26.6 years for males and 23.1 years for females. This figure is not significantly higher than the

national SMAM due to the fact that the Kinh ethnic group accounts for 85 percent of the population. The SMAM of male Khmer is lower than that of the Kinh's (with 25.8) and the SMAM of female Khmer is equal to that of the Kinh's ethnic group. The SMAM of Tay, Muong, and Thai people are lower and the lowest SMAM is found among the Mong people with 19.9 for males and 18.8 for females. This reflects the fact that early marriage is very popular among the Mong people.

Figure 2. Singulate Mean Age at Marriage by ethnic group, 2009





2. TOTAL FERTILITY RATE AND INFANT MORTALITY RATE

TOTAL FERTILITY RATE

Although the sample survey represents 15 per cent of the total population in the census, it is difficult to extrapolate the results regarding fertility for all 54 ethnic groups in Viet Nam as these rates are not always statistically significant due to the small population size of a number of ethnic groups. The analysis of fertility rates is therefore only done for ethnic groups with a population of more than 1 million people to ensure statistically robust results. Selected ethnic groups include the Kinh, Tay, Thai, Muong, Khmer and Mong.

Table 4 presents the changes in the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of all ethnic groups across three census periods of 1989, 1999 and 2009. All ethnic groups in the study (except the Kinh ethnic group) have a high total fertility rate with the Mong ethnic group experiencing the highest. The Gia Rai ethnic group comes second and the Dao ethnic group ranks third. Data from the census show

a declining trend in the TFR for almost all ethnic groups in the past 20 years with a very notable decline in the TFR of the Mong. In 1999, according to the age-specific fertility rate (ASFR) of the Mong ethnic group, a Mong woman was estimated to deliver 9 children. However, in 2009, the number of children born by a Mong mother had diminished to about 5 per woman. This reduction in fertility may reflect a change in desired family size as well as expanded coverage of family planning and reproductive health programmes in the mountainous/isolated areas where many people of ethnic minority are living.

Table 4. Total fertility rate by ethnic group in 1989, 1999 and 2009

Ethnic group	Year 1989	Year 1999	Year 2009
Entire country	3.80	2.30	2.03
Kinh	3.60	1.87	1.95
Tay	4.30	2.10	1.92
Thai	5.70	2.56	2.19
Muong	4.40	1.95	1.89
Khmer	5.30	2.31	2.00
Mong	9.30	7.06	4.96

Although overall fertility decline is seen as a general trend, variations exist among different ethnic groups. For example, the lowest TFR was found among the Hoa ethnic group with 1.4 children per woman, a figure much lower than the average national TFR (the national TFR was 2 children per woman). The total fertility rate of Kinh, Tay, Thai, Muong, Khmer was lower than the national TFR (ranging from 1.9 to 2 children/woman).

The TFR of the Mong ethnic group remains very high however, with approximately 5 children per woman i.e. 3 children per woman higher than that of the national TFR. Extra effort will thus be required to ensure universal access to reproductive health services for populations living in the mountainous and isolated areas. The results of the 2009 census also demonstrate that the Infant Mortality Rate (deaths occurring during the first 12

months of life) of this ethnic group was 46/1,000 live births, a figure about three times higher than that of the national level (16/1,000 live births). Furthermore, life expectancy of people in this ethnic group is 64.3 years which is 8.5 years lower than the national average. The Mong ethnic group has the literacy rate of population aged 10 years and over of 46 per cent, the percentage of population over 15 years old who have never attended school of 61.4 per cent, and the percentage of population living in permanent houses of only 5.7 per cent, while the national figures are 94 per cent, 5 per cent and 46.7 per cent respectively. A similar situation holds true for the other ethnic groups. It is clear that high fertility in combination with poverty and illiteracy can create a vicious cycle that inhibits the development of ethnic minorities in general and the Mong ethnic minority group in particular. Although many programs have been designed and implemented by the Government to support the ethnic minorities, still many "pockets of poverty" in the country exist, many of which contain people of ethnic origin.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE

Table 5 presents indicators regarding the Infant and Under-five Mortality Rates (U5MR) of the ethnic groups with a population greater than 1 million people. Ethnic groups with a population smaller than one million are grouped in one category. The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) of the Kinh is the lowest with 13/1,000 live births. The IMR of other ethnic groups is higher than that of the average national level. The IMR of the Mong is the highest with 46/1,000 live births (i.e. infants less than one year old).

Table 5. Infant and under-five mortality rates by ethnic group, 2009

Ethnic group	Infant mortality rate (children less than 1 year old) per 1,000 live births	Under-five mortality rate per 1,000 live births	Average life expectancy at birth	Average life expectancy at birth of male	Average life expectancy at birth of female
Entire country	16	24	72.8	70.2	75.6
Kinh	13	19	74.0	71.5	76.7
Tay	23	36	70.3	67.5	73.3
Thai	27	41	69.2	66.3	72.2
Muong	22	34	70.7	68.0	73.7
Khmer	18	27	72.1	69.5	74.9
Mong	46	72	64.3	61.3	67.5

The 2009 census data on infant mortality and the average life expectancy indicate significant differentials between ethnic minority groups and the national average. It is clear that continued efforts to address poverty and to ensure universal access to health, education and other social protection services amongst these populations is highly necessary.

POPULATION GROWTH RATE

Table 6 presents the average annual population growth rate between the two census periods (1989-1999 and 1999-2009) for each of the 10 largest ethnic groups. Interestingly, the Hoa ethnic group experienced a negative growth rate, with a population decline during last two censuses. In contrast, the Khmer ethnic group was the only group to have witnessed an increased growth rate over time: 1.64 per cent during the 10 years between 1989-1999 compared to 1.78 per cent in the period between 1999-2009. All other ethnic groups witnessed a significant reduction in average annual population growth.

As can be expected, it is possible to see the relation between the population growth rate of different ethnic groups and the TFR. The highest TFR within 12 months prior to the 2009 census are found for 3 ethnic groups i.e. for the Mong with 4.96, for the Thai with 2.19 and the Khmer with 2. These are also the three ethnic groups with the highest average population growth rate for the last 10 years.

Table 6. Annual average population growth rate by ethnic group with the largest population

Ethnic group	Population size (person)			The average annual growth rate (%)	
	1989	1999	2009	1989-1999	1999-2009
Entire country	64,375,762	76,323,173	85,846,997	1.70	1.18
Kinh	55,900,224	65,795,718	73,594,427	1.63	1.12
Tay	1,190,342	1,477,514	1,626,392	2.16	0.96
Thai	1,040,549	1,328,725	1,550,423	2.44	1.54
Muong	914,596	1,137,515	1,268,963	2.18	1.09
Khmer	895,299	1,055,174	1,260,640	1.64	1.78
Mong	558,053	787,604	1,068,189	3.45	3.05
Hoa	900,185	862,371	823,071	-0.43	-0.47
Nung	705,709	856,412	968,800	1.94	1.23
Dao	473,945	620,538	751,067	2.69	1.91
Gia Rai	242,291	317,557	411,275	2.71	2.59

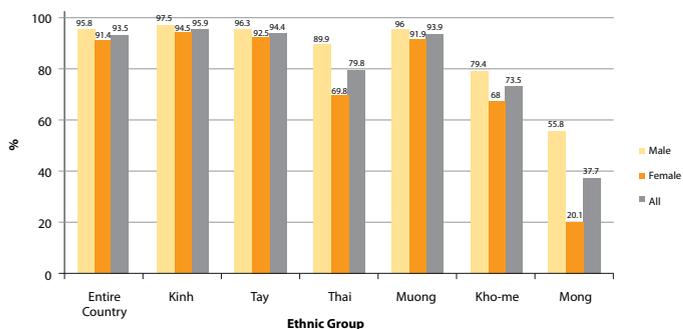


3. EDUCATIONAL LEVEL, PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS

LITERACY RATE

Figure 3 shows the literacy rate of the population aged 15 years and over for 6 ethnic groups with a population greater than 1 million people. Literacy rate is highest among the Kinh with 95.9 per cent and lowest among the Mong people with 37.7 per cent. Although no significant difference can be found between the three ethnic groups of the Kinh, Tay and Muong in terms of literacy (the difference is approximately 1 percentage point), if a comparison is made between these three ethnic groups and the rest, it is obvious that the literacy rate of the Kinh, Tay and Muong ethnic groups are much higher than that of the Thai, Khmer and Mong.

Figure 3. Literacy rate of the population aged 15 and older by ethnic group, 2009



Although the literacy rate of males is higher than that of females amongst ethnic groups, the rate is especially low for the Mong (nearly 26 per cent), Thai (20 per cent), and Khmer (11 per cent) suggesting females from ethnic minorities have to face many unfavorable conditions in accessing the education system.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE STATUS

Table 7. School attendance rate of the population aged 5 years and older by ethnic group and sex, 2009

Ethnic group	Attendance school rate (%)			Drop-out rate (%)			Never attendance school rate (%)		
	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All
Entire country	25.8	23.6	24.7	70.7	69.7	70.2	3.5	6.7	5.1
Kinh	25.8	23.6	24.7	72.1	72.3	72.2	2.1	4.1	3.1
Tay	25.7	25.4	25.5	72.1	69.4	70.8	2.2	5.2	3.7
Thai	27.1	23.9	25.5	65.7	53.8	59.8	7.2	22.3	14.7
Muong	23.8	22.5	23.2	73.9	72.4	73.1	2.3	5.1	3.7
Khmer	18.3	16.8	17.5	64.4	57.9	61.1	17.3	25.4	21.4
Mong	33.1	22.1	27.6	33.4	15.7	24.6	33.5	62.2	47.8

Among the six ethnic groups, the Khmer group has the lowest proportion of population aged from 5 years and over who are attending school (17.5 per cent). The rate of school attendance in 2009 was highest among the Mong with 27.6 per cent. However, the never attendance school rate of this ethnic group is remarkably high as well (47.8 per cent).

Sex-disaggregation of these data shows striking differentials. The attendance school rate of males are all higher than those of females. Especially the difference of the attendance school rate between males and females of Mong is 10 per cent. The never attendance school rate of females of this group is also high at 62.2 per cent, i.e. 30 percentage points higher than this rate for males. These data illustrate the great need to strengthen existing policies and create an enabling environment for girls in the disadvantaged and mountainous areas to gain access to their local education facilities.

ENROLLMENT RATE

Table 8 presents the net enrollment rate educational level and ethnic group. In general, the net enrollment rate in primary school is consistent and relatively high for all 6 ethnic groups. The differences in the enrollment rate by ethnic group are more apparent at higher educational levels. For example, the enrollment rate at primary school level for the Mong is 72.6 per cent: 25 percentage points lower than that of the Tay's. At the junior secondary level however, the difference in the enrollment rate between the two ethnic groups is 53.5 percentage points. The net enrollment rate at the junior secondary level for the Mong and Tay was 34.1 and 86.7 per cent respectively. At the upper secondary level the differences in the enrollment rate between these two was 48.9 percent, the rates being 6.6 per cent and 55.5 per cent respectively.

Table 8 also shows that at the college and university level, the differences in absolute value by ethnic group are not substantial but the gap in relative value is quite large. The higher the educational levels, the more differences can be seen between the Kinh and other ethnic groups. In comparison with other ethnic

minorities, the net enrollment rate is better for the Tay and the Muong. Very poor net enrollment rates are found among the Khmer and Mong. This is particularly true at higher educational levels such as the junior secondary and upper secondary level.

As is the general trend in Viet Nam, for all ethnic groups with the exception of the Mong, the net enrollment rates for females are often higher than those of males. At the primary, junior secondary and higher secondary school levels the Mong net enrollment rates for females are, on the contrary, lower than those of males.

EDUCATIONAL LEVEL

As mentioned before, in order to ensure the statistical representation of data, the analysis regarding the differences of educational levels (prevalence of graduation at each educational level) has been done by two groups: the groups of Kinh and of the “others” including all the remaining ethnic groups. Results of the analysis are presented in the following Figure 4.

Table 8. Net enrollment rate of the population aged 5 years and older by sex and ethnic group, 2009

Ethnic group	Primary school			Lower secondary school			Upper secondary school			College			University		
	Male	Fe- male	All	Male	Fe- male	All	Male	Fe- male	All	Male	Fe- male	All	Male	Fe- male	All
Entire country	95.5	95.4	95.5	81.4	83.9	82.6	81.4	83.9	82.6	6.0	7.4	6.7	9.1	1.1	9.6
Kinh	96.9	97.1	97.0	85.3	88.1	86.7	58.0	65.9	61.8	8.5	7.0	7.7	10.5	11.7	11.1
Tay	97.3	97.6	97.5	85.5	89.8	87.6	48.3	63.3	55.5	3.6	2.4	3.0	2.6	3.8	3.2
Thai	93.0	92.5	92.7	73.9	72.6	73.3	29.5	30.4	29.9	1.7	1.5	1.6	1.1	1.0	1.1
Muong	95.6	95.7	95.7	80.9	86.0	83.3	36.6	46.5	41.4	1.5	1.1	1.3	1.5	1.8	1.7
Khmer	85.5	87.4	86.4	44.4	48.2	46.3	14.2	16.6	15.4	1.0	0.8	0.9	1.2	1.0	1.1
Mong	78.3	66.6	72.6	43.2	24.2	34.1	9.7	3.4	6.6	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2

Figure 4. Prevalence of educational levels by ethnic group, 2009

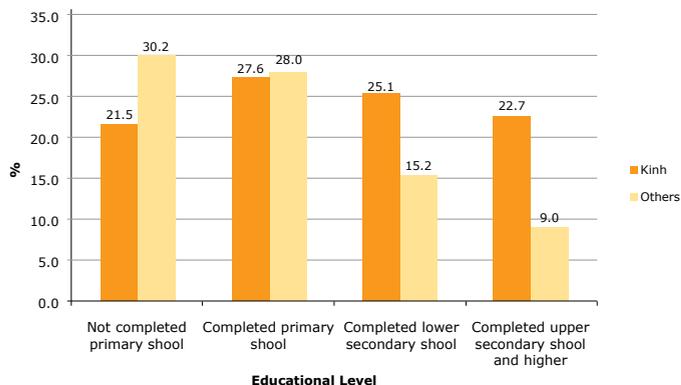
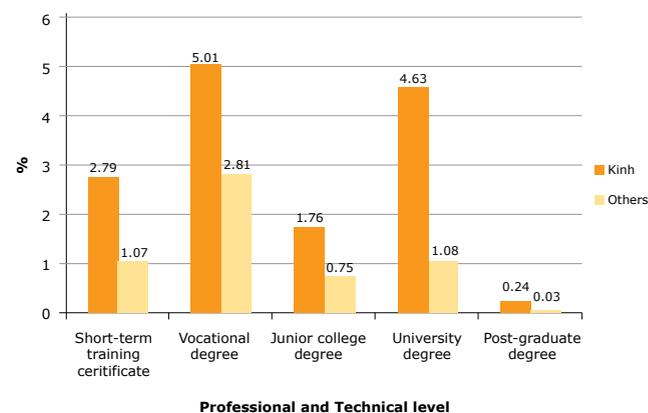


Figure 4 indicates the difference of the educational levels between the Kinh and the remaining ethnic groups. It becomes clear that this difference increases when higher educational levels are taken into consideration. The prevalence of uncompleted primary school among the “others” category is 1.5 times higher than that of the Kinh ethnic group (30.2 per cent versus 21.5 per cent). The rate of completed primary school for the Kinh is slightly lower than for the group of “others” with 27.6 per cent versus 28 per cent respectively. However, at higher levels, the graduation prevalence among the Kinh is higher than that of the “others” ethnic group. At the junior secondary school level, the graduation prevalence of Kinh is 1.7 times higher than that of the “others” ethnic group (25.1 per cent compared with 15.2 per cent). At the high school level and higher, the graduation prevalence of Kinh is even 2.5 times higher than that of the “others” group (22.7 per cent compared with 9 per cent). It is therefore recommended that more in-depth studies and analyses will be conducted to understand the causes hindering access to schooling and preventing ethnic groups from pursuing higher education.

PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS

Similar to the analysis of educational levels, technical skills (prevalence of completion of shorter-term-training, vocational training, junior college, university and post-graduate level) are classified by the two categories: Kinh and “others” (including all other ethnic groups in the study). The following Figure 5 describes these significant differences.

Figure 5. Prevalence of completion of different technical levels by ethnic group, 2009



The analysis shows a slight difference of completion prevalence between educational levels and technical levels. With regard to technical levels, the prevalence of completion among the Kinh ethnic group is much higher than that of the “others” group at all technical levels. The difference between Kinh and “others” group is highest at university level with 3.55 percentage points, slightly higher than “secondary technical level” with 2.2 percentage points.

From the above it becomes obvious that improving the technical skill levels of ethnic minority groups remains a big challenge in Viet Nam. In order to be able to take advantage of the demographic bonus that is occurring in these ethnic minorities at the moment and to enable them to make the best contribution to their household

and local economic development, it is essential however to improve the educational levels and technical expertise of the population group of working age. Improving educational levels and technical expertise will also contribute to poverty reduction and help to reduce the gap in development between the Kinh ethnic group and other ethnic minorities who are living in disadvantaged and isolated areas.



4. LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT

ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION

The economically active population is defined as the part of the population which supplies or is willing to supply labour for the production of material goods and services. The economically active population includes both employed and unemployed people and is also known as the labor force.

The economically active rate is an important measure, reflecting the level of labor force participation of a certain group of people. This criterion is determined by the percentage of the economically active population in the corresponding group of population (usually calculated for the population aged 15 and over).

Figure 6. Percentage of economically active population by ethnic group and sex, 2009

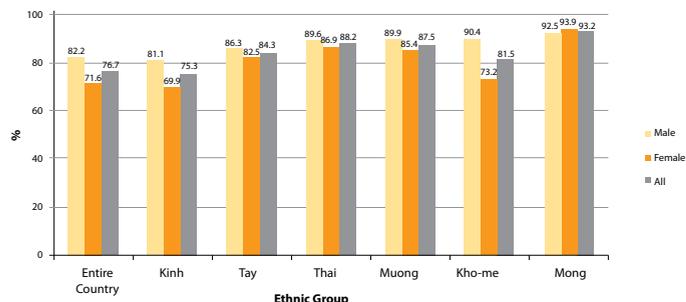


Figure 6 shows the differences in the prevalence of the economically active population by ethnic group (again for the 6 ethnic groups with the largest population at the time of the 2009 census). Among the 6 ethnic groups that have the largest population, the Mong people have the highest prevalence of economically active population (93.2 per cent), followed by the Thai people (88.2 per cent) and the Muong people (87.5 per cent) while the lowest prevalence is registered for the Kinh people of only 75.3 per cent. A high percentage of economically active population reflects a high level of participation (employed) or willingness to participate (unemployed) of the population but at the same time it also reflects a low level of economically inactive population (including housewives and people engaging in study). As depicted in Table 8, when comparing all educational levels among the 6 ethnic groups in the study, the lowest net enrollment rate of the Mong people may indicate that the majority of the Mong population are engaging in economic activities.

Figure 6 shows that, in general, the gender difference in terms of the prevalence of economically active population of the six selected ethnic groups tends to be similar to that of the whole country, i.e. the proportion of economically active men is higher than that of women, except in the case of the Mong people. However, this difference varies among the ethnic groups. The ethnic group with the biggest difference in the rate of the economically active population (with the men's rate being higher than the rate for women) is the Khmer people with 17.2 percentage points, followed by the Kinh people with 11.2 percentage points, while the lowest difference is found for the Thai people with just 2.7 percentage points. Only slightly higher than that is the 3.8 percentage point difference for the Tay people. The Mong people are furthermore the only ethnic group with a larger economically active female than male population. However, this difference is relatively small with only 1.4 percentage points.

EMPLOYMENT

Employment is one of the important criteria to evaluate the economic development of a specific population. An analysis of the employment size and patterns, especially of the changes over time, will enable us to assess the impact of economic transformation of a segment of the population, and based on that, to propose appropriate employment policies to facilitate further socio-economic development.

One important indicator which reflects the level of development through employment criteria is the employment structure by economic sectors. Regarding the employment aspect, a developed country will have a great proportion of its population working in state, private, and foreign investment sectors. Table 10 below shows the proportion of workers of the 6 largest ethnic groups as employed in various economic sectors.

Table 9. Percentage of working population by ethnic group and by economic sectors, 2009

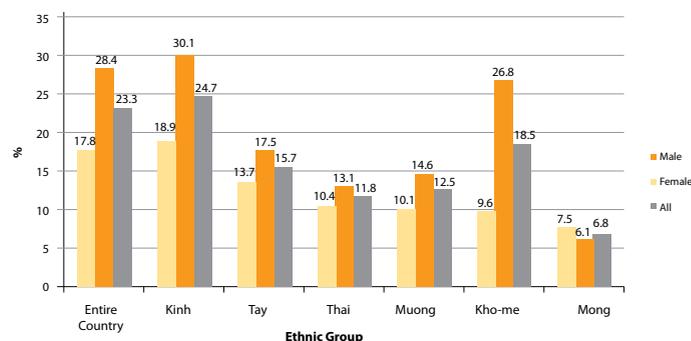
Economic sector	Kinh	Tay	Thai	Muong	Khmer	Mong	Entire country
Self-employed	3.5	0.6	0.4	0.5	3.8	0.2	3.1
Household enterprises	74.6	87.0	93.9	90.7	85.8	98.5	77.0
Cooperative/Collective	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.3
Private enterprises	7.3	1.6	0.7	1.9	5.0	0.0	6.5
State	10.5	9.5	4.5	5.0	2.8	1.3	9.6
Foreign invested enterprises	3.8	1.1	0.3	1.9	2.5	0.0	3.4

Data in Table 9 shows that, among the 6 ethnic groups with the largest population, the Kinh people have a higher proportion of people working in state sectors (10.5 per cent), private sectors (7.3 per cent) and economic sectors involving foreign investment (3.8 per cent) than the rest of the 5 ethnic groups as well as a higher such proportion than the average level of the country. Among the rest of the 5 ethnic groups, the Tay, Muong and Khmer people have a higher proportion of workers in the state, private and foreign investment sectors than the Thai and Mong people.

ECONOMICALLY INACTIVE POPULATION

Figure 7 below shows the percentage of the economically inactive population of the 6 largest ethnic groups.

Figure 7. Percentage of economically inactive population by ethnic group and sex, 2009



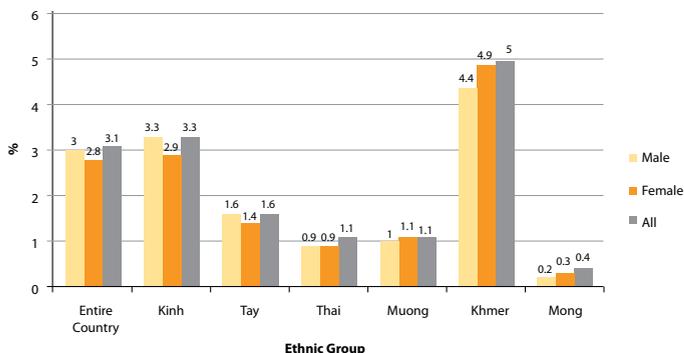
The picture of the economically inactive population stands in direct contrast to the picture of an economically active population. The differences in the percentage of the economically inactive population among ethnic groups are quite large. Among the six ethnic groups with the largest population, the highest rate of economic inactivity is found in the Kinh ethnic group with 24.7 per cent which is 1.4 percentage points higher than the national average, followed by the Khmer with 18.5 per cent and the Tay with 15.7 per cent. The lowest percentage of 6.8 is found in the Mong ethnic group. Thus, the rate of the economically inactive population among the Kinh is 4 times higher than that of the Mong. In general but with exclusion of the Kinh, the rates of the economically inactive population for the five remaining ethnic groups are all below 20 per cent. A low level of economically inactive population might suggest a low prevalence of people doing housework and low rate of school attendance of population aged 15 years and over.

Figure 7 shows that the gender difference in the proportion of economically inactive population among ethnic groups tends to contrast with that of the economically active population. Only the Mong ethnic group has a higher proportion of an economically inactive population of men than the corresponding figure of women. This finding is in contrast with the results for the remaining 5 ethnic groups, for which the difference in percentages between male and female of each ethnic group is similar to that of the economically active population.

UNEMPLOYMENT

One of the important criteria to evaluate the employment status of a population is the unemployment rate. The unemployment rate is determined by the ratio between the number of unemployed people and the economically active population (number of employed and unemployed people). Figure 8 below shows the difference in unemployment rates of the 6 largest ethnic groups.

Figure 8. Unemployment rate by ethnic group and sex, 2009



Similar to the national unemployment rate, the unemployment rates of the 6 largest ethnic groups are not high but display differences. The Khmer people have the highest unemployment rate (5 per cent) which is 1.5 times higher than the national average level. The ethnic groups of the Mong, Thai, Muong, and Tay have very low unemployment rates, from the lowest rate of 0.4 per

cent to 1.6 per cent. According to official definitions, the unemployed are those who are not working but having a desire to work and who have actually spent time looking for employment. Perhaps for ethnic minorities, the unemployment rate is low partly due to different perceptions of this definition. For example, people of particular ethnic minority groups may have a desire to work but may not actually be looking for employment because of limited opportunities in the remote communities where they live.

Figure 8 shows that, with the exception of the Thai people, there are gender differences in unemployment rates among ethnic groups. While the Kinh and Tay people have higher unemployment rates for men than for women, for the ethnic groups of the Muong, Khmer and Mong, the unemployment rate of women is higher than that of men.



5. HOUSING AND LIVING CONDITIONS

HOUSING CONDITIONS

Housing conditions are classified into 4 types: permanent house, semi-permanent house, less permanent house and simple house. Table 10 presents the percentage of the population with housing by house types and ethnic group.

Table 10. Percentage of population with housing by type of house and ethnic group, 2009

Ethnic group	Perma- nent house	Semi- perma- nent house	Less perma- nent house	Simple house
Entire country	46	39	8	7
Kinh	49	39	6	6
Tay	30	31	24	15
Thai	36	32	16	17
Muong	47	25	14	13
Khmer	3	34	36	27
Mong	6	40	29	24

Data in Table 10 shows that, among the 6 ethnic groups with the largest population, the Kinh ethnic group have the best housing conditions. There are 88 per cent of Kinh people living in either permanent houses or semi-permanent houses. Ranking second is the Muong ethnic group, with nearly three-quarters (72 per cent) of the population living in permanent or semi-permanent houses. About two-thirds of the Thai people are living in either permanent houses or semi-permanent ones as well. The Khmer and Mong people have the worst housing conditions. Only 37 per cent of the Khmer people are living in permanent or semi-permanent houses. For the Mong this rate is 46 per cent.

LIVING CONDITIONS

Figure 9 shows the percentage of the population with clean water sources (including running water, rain water, bore wells and protected dug wells) or unhygienic water by ethnic group.

Figure 9. Percentage of population by water source used and ethnic group, 2009

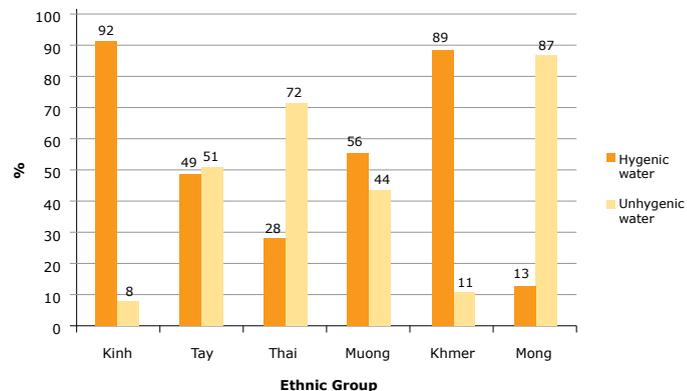


Figure 9 shows a big difference in the use of water resources among ethnic groups. The Kinh people have the highest rate of clean water use (92 per cent), followed by the Khmer people (89 per cent). The rest of the selected ethnic groups have low rates of clean water use the lowest of which are found among the Mong (13 per cent) and the Thai ethnic groups (28 per cent). Thus, ensuring access to clean water for the ethnic minorities should be considered a priority within the context of the overall development of mountainous areas.

Equally there are differences with regard to toilet facilities used by ethnic groups. The data shown in Table 11 indicate that the Kinh people have the highest percentage (59 per cent) of people using hygienic toilet facilities (flush toilet with septic tanks or sewage pipes) and the lowest proportion of people who don't have toilet facilities (5 per cent).

Table 11. Percentage of population by types of toilet facilities used and ethnic group, 2009

Ethnic group	Hygienic toilet facilities	Non-hygienic toilet facilities	No toilet facilities
Entire country	53	39	8
Kinh	59	36	5
Tay	21	67	12
Thai	11	75	14
Muong	15	76	8
Khmer	27	55	18
Mong	3	27	70

Among the rest of the 5 ethnic groups, the proportion of people using hygienic toilet facilities is very low (below 30 per cent). This rate is particularly low for the Mong people with only 3 per cent of people using hygienic facilities and up to 70 per cent of people living in households without toilet facilities. It is clear that the ethnic minorities are facing insecure and unhygienic living conditions. Further effort will be required to address these aspects of vulnerability amongst ethnic minority groups.

THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF HOUSEHOLDS

The 2009 Viet Nam Population and Housing Census did not directly collect information about living standards (income) of the population. However, the 2009 Census has collected some information on housing (structure, living area, etc.), living conditions (water source, electricity, toilet facilities, etc.) and household amenities (televisions, refrigerators, motorcycles, etc.). Based on this information, principle component analysis was used to obtain an indirect indicator of household socio-economic status. Households are classified into five quintiles of this indicator on social-economic status as: poorest, poor, average, rich, richest. It should be noted that this

classification is not consistent with the living standard classification that is often assembled from data from the living standard surveys conducted by the GSO. Table 12 presents the percentage distribution of the population of the 6 selected ethnic groups with populations greater than 1 million, as well as of the national population classified by 5 socio-economic quintiles.

Table 12. Percentage distribution of population by ethnic group and socio-economic condition, 2009

Ethnic group	Poorest	Poor	Average	Rich	Richest
Entire country	15.3	17.6	20.3	21.7	25.2
Kinh	8.9	16.7	21.9	24.3	28.2
Tay	51.8	22.0	11.5	7.5	7.1
Thai	63.7	26.5	5.9	2.2	1.7
Muong	37.9	28.8	21.9	8.0	3.4
Khmer	40.5	28.5	16.3	10.7	4.0
Mong	95.6	3.6	0.5	0.2	0.2

The data in Table 12 show that the Kinh ethnic group benefit from the best economic conditions: more than half of the population (52.5 per cent) are living in households with socio-economic conditions classified as "rich" or "richest" while only one-quarter of the Kinh population (25.6 per cent) can be classified in the category of "poorest" or "poor". The proportion of Kinh people living in households determined to be "poorest" is also the smallest with 8.9 per cent which is just half of the national average (15.3 per cent). The remaining ethnic groups have rather high proportions of population living in poor socio-economic conditions, ranging from 40 to 95 per cent. Not surprisingly, among the 6 selected ethnic groups in the study the Mong people experience the lowest socio-economic conditions. In fact, up to 95.6 per cent of Mong people are living in households classified as "poorest" while the 0.4 per cent of Mong people in the "rich" and "richest" quintile is nearly

negligible. It should be noted that the Thai people are equally burdened by very low socio-economic conditions. The rate of Thai people living in households with socio-economic conditions classified as “poorest” or “poor” is about 90.2 per cent.



6. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The analysis of key indicators from the 2009 Census for selected ethnic groups shows that there are big differences between ethnic minorities and the Kinh people as well as between the ethnic minorities themselves in terms of demographic patterns, educational, economic and social criteria.

During the last 10 years, the annual population growth of the 10 largest ethnic groups, with the exception of the Hoa and Khmer groups, was lower than the growth during the period 1989 – 1999. The Mong and Gia Rai people are classified as a “young population”, i.e. the proportion of their population below 15 years old accounts for 35 per cent and higher. The remaining ethnic groups are in various stages of aging and none of the selected ethnic groups can be classified as an “aged population”.

In addition, there are 6 ethnic groups that have a total dependency ratio below 50 per cent i.e. they have started to experience a “demographic bonus”. In ascending order

by total dependency ratio, these are the Hoa, Tay, Kinh, Muong, Khmer and Nung ethnic groups. Three ethnic groups, namely the Mong, Dao, and Nung have a high male:female sex ratio (more than 100).

Amongst the studied ethnic groups, the Mong people have the lowest SMAM (19.9 for men and 18.8 for women), suggesting that early marriage persists as a cultural custom within the ethnic minorities of Viet Nam. Creating opportunities for women to raise their levels of education will help to reduce early marriage for women of such descent.

The trend of fertility decline has become more commonplace throughout the country over the last 20 years. The most prominent observation is the decrease in the TFR among the Mong people. The selected ethnic groups have a lower TFR than replacement rate and they are all lower than the national level. Although both the Total Fertility Rate and Total Mortality Rate in the study have decreased rapidly in the last 20 years, there are many differences between the ethnic groups. In particular, the TFR of the Mong people is still very high, i.e. 2.5 times higher than the national rate except the Thai and Mong people. At the same time, the IMR of the Mong people is as high as 46/1,000, which is nearly three times higher than the national average. Higher mortality rates affect average life expectancy, therefore life expectancy of the Mong people is the lowest with only 67.5 years. Thus, further efforts are needed in the areas of healthcare and maternal and child health services in order to meet demand in the remote and mountainous areas.

When comparing the literacy rates among the ethnic groups, the Kinh people stand out with having the highest literacy rate (95.5 per cent), followed by the Tay and Muong ethnic groups with slightly lower rates. The literacy rate of the Mong people is the lowest at a mere 37.7 per cent. In general, the higher the education level, the bigger is the difference in enrollment rates among the various ethnic groups.

Gender disparity is demonstrated clearly by the literacy rate, the attending school rate by age, and the never attended rate. Women obviously belong to

a disadvantaged category within their own population, especially in the case of the Mong, Thai and Khmer ethnic groups. The main reason why women find it difficult to participate in economic activities is their limited access to education. This, in turn, is reflected by the fact that the rate of economically inactive population amongst females of these ethnic groups is clearly higher than that of males.

There is an obvious difference in educational and technical qualification levels between the Kinh people and the remaining ethnic groups. With regard to any level of technical qualification, the proportion of Kinh people is always higher than the other ethnic groups. At higher levels, the difference becomes even more apparent. The results of the current study thus indicate that raising the technical qualification levels for the ethnic minorities remains a huge challenge for Viet Nam. Investment is needed to improve the educational and technical levels for the ethnic minorities overall in order to take advantage of the occurring demographic bonus and thus help to develop the local economy. At the same time, improving the educational and technical levels for the ethnic minority groups and in particular for the women of those groups, will contribute to hunger eradication, poverty reduction and also narrow the gap in development between the Kinh ethnic group and other ethnic minorities as well as between the ethnic groups living in remote and mountainous areas.

From the perspective of an economically active population, the results of the census show that, among the ethnic groups, the Mong people have the largest ratio of an economically active population, followed by the Thai and Muong people, whereas the smallest ratio in this regard lies with the Kinh people. The Kinh people however, benefit from the best employment and economic structure as they, in comparison with the 5 remaining ethnic groups, have the highest proportion of workers working in state, private and foreign investment sectors. This proportion is also higher than the national average. Of all 6 ethnic groups analyzed, the Mong people have the lowest proportion of workers working in state, private and foreign investment sectors. This result suggests that policies need to be developed to encourage

investment and to create jobs in the areas with extreme living conditions in which many of the ethnic minorities are living.

The differences in the proportion of economically inactive population among the ethnic groups are substantial. Among the 6 ethnic groups in the study, the Kinh people have the highest economic inactivity rate, followed by the Khmer and the Tay, while the Mong people have the lowest rates. A low proportion of an economically inactive population suggests a low prevalence of the population involved in housework, and a low rate of young people aged 15 years and over currently attending school. This can be a consequence of dropping out among young people in ethnic minority groups. It is therefore necessary for local authorities to establish and offer more support to boarding as well as day schools for children of ethnic minorities in order to reduce the drop-out rate among children from families coping with difficult living conditions.

The Kinh people have the best housing conditions. Up to 88 per cent of Kinh people live in permanent or semi-permanent houses. Compared to the Kinh people, other ethnic minorities still face enormous disadvantages with regard to living conditions such as housing, access to clean water, electricity and hygienic toilet. Among the 6 selected ethnic groups, the Khmer people have the poorest housing conditions. Up to 63 per cent of the Khmer people are living in less permanent or simple houses. The Mong ethnic people have the lowest percentage of the population using clean water sources (13 per cent) and have the highest proportion of the population living in households without toilet facilities (70 per cent) as compared with other ethnic groups.

In general, the Kinh people have the best economic conditions with more than half of the population living in "rich" or "richest" households, while they also have the lowest proportion of population living in "poorest" households - just more than half of the national average. Other ethnic groups all have to cope with lower socio-economic conditions. Most Mong people are living in households with socio-economic conditions classified as "poorest".

Differentials of key indicators among ethnic groups based on the census data reveals the fact that although there have been improvements over the years, ethnic minorities remain vulnerable and significantly disadvantaged as compared to the Kinh. These ethnic groups face higher fertility rates, higher infant mortality rates, inadequate housing and poor living conditions. Although the rate of labour force participation is high, ethnic minorities, especially females, are still facing difficulties in gaining access to educational opportunities or to possibilities for improving their technical skills and qualifications.

Overall, there is clear evidence of persevering poverty, inequity and vulnerability. Although many government programmes have been designed to address this disparity over the years, it appears that significant efforts are still required. Further analysis of the Population and Housing Census data can provide a strong foundation to measure the impact of such efforts, and to provide a robust base of evidence against which policy impact can be measured in the years to come.

REFERENCES

Central Population and Housing Census Steering Committee (2010), 'The 2009 Viet Nam Population and Housing Census: Completed Results'.

Central Population and Housing Census Steering Committee (2010), 'The 2009 Viet Nam Population and Housing Census: Major Findings'.

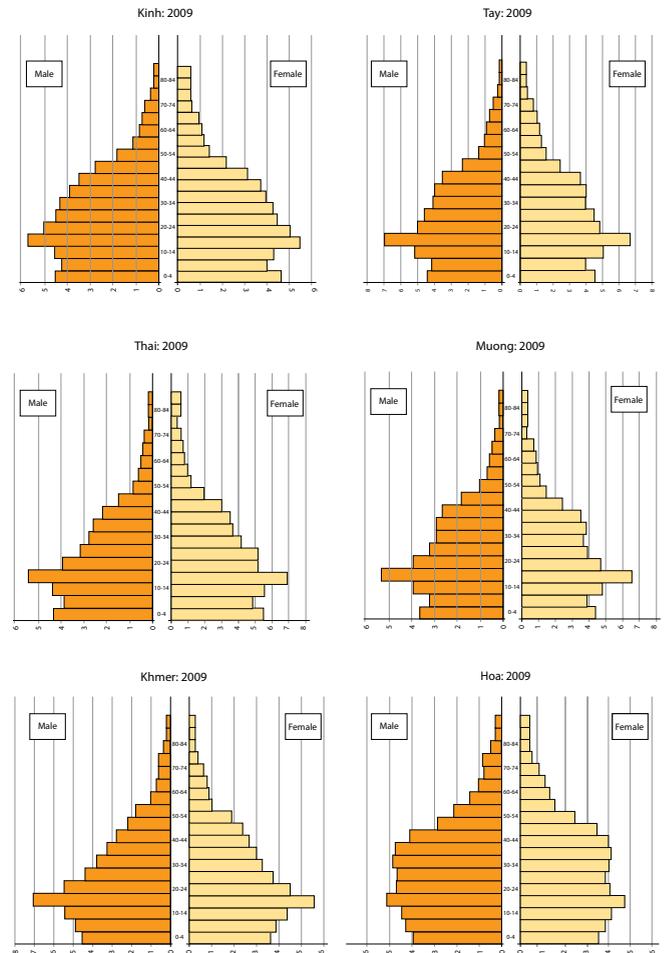
Central Population and Housing Census Steering Committee (2010), 'The 2009 Viet Nam Population and Housing Census: Some Key Indicators'.

General Statistics Office and UNFPA (2011), 'Education in Viet Nam: An Analysis of Key Indicators'.

General Statistics Office and UNFPA (2011), 'Age - Sex Structure, and Marital Status of the Population in Viet Nam'.

APPENDIX

Figure A. 1. Population pyramids of 10 ethnic groups with the largest population, 2009



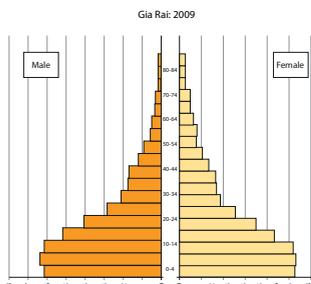
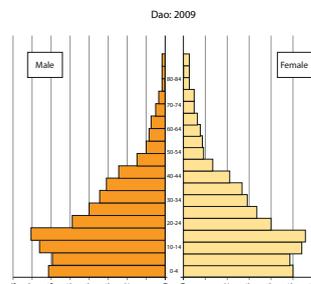
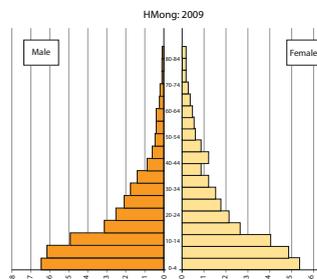
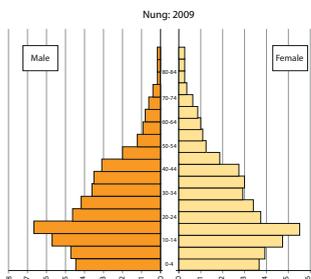


Table A. 1. Distribution of 6 ethnic groups with the largest population by city/province, 2009

City/ Province	Total population	Kinh	Tay	Thai	Muong	Khmer	Mong
Ha Noi	6,451,909	6,370,244	14,551	4,413	49,339	129	1,013
Ha Giang	724,537	95,969	168,719	195	468	9	231,464
Cao Bang	507,183	29,189	207,805	73	255	5	51,373
Bac Kan	293,826	39,280	155,510	53	219	15	17,470
Tuyen Quang	724,821	334,993	185,464	348	725	34	16,974
Lao Cai	614,595	212,528	94,243	1,971	958	19	146,147
Dien Bien	490,306	90,323	1,581	186,270	666	19	170,648
Lai Chau	370,502	56,630	1,023	119,805	933	1	83,324
Son La	1,076,055	189,461	1,577	572,441	81,502	34	157,253
Yen Bai	740,397	342,892	135,314	53,104	14,619	9	81,921

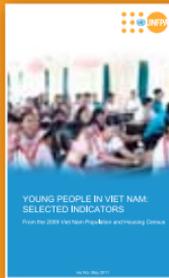
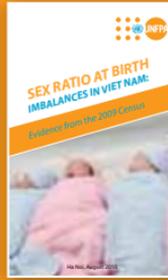
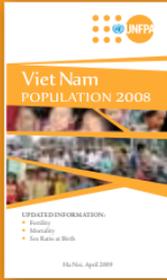
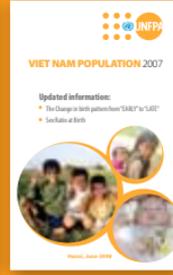
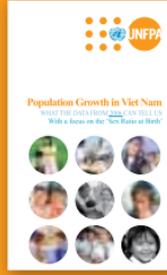
City/ Province	Total population	Kinh	Tay	Thai	Muong	Khmer	Mong
Hoa Binh	785,217	207,569	23,089	31,386	501,956	42	5,296
Thai Nguyen	1,123,116	821,083	123,197	928	1,687	76	7,230
Lang Son	732,515	124,433	259,532	116	319	40	1,224
Quang Ninh	1,144,988	1,011,794	35,010	450	535	19	460
Bac Giang	1,554,131	1,356,012	39,939	454	461	31	325
Phu Tho	1,316,389	1,108,991	3,526	657	184,141	36	866
Vinh Phuc	999,786	956,927	1,335	492	644	11	274
Bac Ninh	1,024,472	1,021,061	1,484	380	216	3	71
Hai Duong	1,705,059	1,699,646	980	127	227	70	31
Hai Phong	1,837,173	1,833,699	1,050	243	323	7	12
Hung Yen	1,127,903	1,126,467	573	123	220	5	35
Thai Binh	1,781,842	1,779,506	646	558	391	11	151

City/ Province	Total population	Kinh	Tay	Thai	Muong	Khmer	Mong
Ha Nam	784,045	782,405	390	473	277	3	186
Nam Dinh	1,828,111	1,823,801	690	1,932	436	8	575
Ninh Binh	898,999	875,579	354	172	22,614	18	18
Thanh Hoa	3,400,595	2,801,321	795	225,336	341,359	93	14,799
Nghe An	2,912,041	2,489,952	744	295,132	688	60	28,992
Ha Tinh	1,227,038	1,224,869	280	500	549	11	4
Quang Binh	844,893	824,466	81	332	126	10	6
Quang Tri	598,324	528,888	42	79	68	5	3
Thua Hue	1,087,420	1,040,069	145	577	238	26	25
Da Nang	887,435	883,343	224	108	183	45	7
Quang Nam	1,422,319	1,306,951	608	209	692	43	27
Quang Ngai	1,216,773	1,055,154	78	27	117	11	9

City/ Province	Total population	Kinh	Tay	Thai	Muong	Khmer	Mong
Binh Dinh	1,486,465	1,451,914	193	293	201	40	2
Phu Yen	862,231	811,005	2,329	87	154	34	1
Khanh Hoa	1,157,604	1,095,981	1,704	217	612	147	6
Ninh Thuan	564,993	432,399	109	51	146	40	3
Binh Thuan	1,167,023	1,080,724	5,192	217	810	713	5
Kon Tum	430,133	201,153	2,630	4,249	5,386	60	26
Gia Lai	1,274,412	713,403	10,107	3,584	6,133	222	1,245
Dak Lak	1,733,624	1,161,533	51,285	17,135	15,510	543	22,760
Dak Nong	489,392	332,431	20,475	10,311	4,070	513	21,952
Lam Dong	1,187,574	901,316	20,301	5,277	4,445	1,098	2,894
Binh Phuoc	873,598	701,359	23,228	1,196	2,482	15,578	586
Tay Ninh	1,066,513	1,050,376	234	182	501	7,578	10

City/ Province	Total population	Kinh	Tay	Thai	Muong	Khmer	Mong
Binh Duong	1,481,550	1,421,233	5,443	3,869	10,227	15,435	57
Dong Nai	2,486,154	2,311,315	15,906	1,190	5,337	7,059	68
Ba Ria Vung Tau	996,682	972,095	1,352	230	693	2,878	19
HCMC	7,162,864	6,699,124	4,541	2,390	3,462	24,268	252
Long An	1,436,066	1,431,644	72	17	48	1,195	12
Tien Giang	1,672,271	1,667,459	18	32	15	744	5
Ben Tre	1,255,946	1,251,364	32	17	27	578	15
Tra Vinh	1,003,012	677,649	24	66	43	317,203	11
Vinh Long	1,024,707	997,792	32	10	41	21,820	1
Dong Thap	1,666,467	1,663,718	17	60	14	657	0
An Giang	2,142,709	2,029,888	31	50	52	90,271	9
Kien Giang	1,688,248	1,446,455	224	68	155	210,899	11

City/ Province	Total population	Kinh	Tay	Thai	Muong	Khmer	Mong
Can Tho	1,188,435	1,152,255	112	52	64	21,414	8
Hau Giang	757,300	729,502	22	15	33	21,169	5
Soc Trang	1,292,853	830,508	40	36	50	397,014	6
Bac Lieu	856,518	765,572	62	12	10	70,667	1
Ca Mau	1,206,938	1,167,765	98	46	91	29,845	6
Total	85,846,997	73,594,427	1,626,392	1,550,423	1,268,963	1,260,640	1,068,189



*These publications can be accessed via webpage:
<http://vietnam.unfpa.org>*

*Photos: United Nations Viet Nam/ Aidan Dockery –
Bruce Campbell – Doan Bao Chau - Elizabeth Krijgh*

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND IN VIET NAM

Address: UN Apartment Building, 1st Floor,
2E Van Phuc, Hanoi, Viet Nam

Tel: (84-4) 3823 6632 - Fax: (84-4) 3823 2822

Email: unfpa-fo@unfpa.org