POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The age-sex structures have changed significantly during the past three decades in Viet Nam, particularly over recent years. Therefore, national and local socio-economic development policies and plans should integrate these changes in order to cope with challenges and take advantage of opportunities caused by the demographic transition for the benefits of the country’s development.

- As the fertility rate was low and stable during the last 15 years, in most provinces, the proportion of children at the age of kindergarten and primary school did not increase significantly. Thus, the national education system should focus on increasing the number of schools but on improving the quality of education. Indeed, in planning for development of pre- and elementary schools, local authorities should take migrant children into account to prevent school and teacher shortages.

- The increasing proportion of young people aged 16-30 (defined by the Youth Law) in the total population, particularly over recent years. Therefore, national and local socio-economic development policies and plans should integrate these changes in order to cope with challenges and take advantage of opportunities caused by the demographic transition for the benefits of the country’s development.

- The proportion of people aged 15-64 increased over time, requiring more social services to accommodate the needs of this vulnerable group. Government bodies responsible for social security, social insurance, retirement and the health care system, should be ready for these demographic changes, which will only be amplified in the future. Specific old-aged programmes should be developed, especially for those who are poor and live in rural areas.

- In addition, more work is needed to prevent an increase in the sex ratio at birth imbalance. Recommendation is to eliminate income gap between men and women and balance the division of unpaid work and care work between men and women.

- The changes in population structure varied remarkably across sub-population groups and geographical regions. Therefore, policies on population, marriage, family and socio-economic development, should correspond to diversified demographic, socio-economic and cultural features across Viet Nam.

FACTSHEET

This factsheet presents key highlights of changes in population age-sex structure in Viet Nam, using the data from two Viet Nam Population and Housing Censuses, conducted in 2009 and 2014 and the Intercensal Population and Housing Survey (IPS 2014). The factsheet also includes policy implications and recommendations on how Viet Nam should address both opportunities and challenges brought about by its population dynamics in the development and implementation of social and economic policies, and programmes.

The proportion of young people aged 16-30 (as defined by Youth Law in 2005), was 25.0 per cent, an increase of 3.3 per cent since 2009.

- Viet Nam is in the first quarter of the population bonus period. As of 1 April 2014, 52 out of 63 provinces had reached the demographic window of opportunity, nine provinces increase from 2009.

- By 2014, for every 100 people under the age of 15, there were about 43 people aged 60 and older.

- The percentage of older persons living alone accounted for 3.2 per cent of people aged 60 and older, and 16.4 per cent of those aged 80 and older.

- In 2014, approximately 32.4 per cent of people, aged 60 and older, were living alone with the lowest housing conditions. This figure was only 3.1 per cent for the group with the highest living conditions.
**KEY FINDINGS**

- **The population age-sex structure reflects demographic transition in Viet Nam**

  - **Female**
  - **80+** category, which was 52 in 2014. The sex ratio declined in the total dependency ratio from nearly 90 million in 1999 to 62.8 million in 2014, unleashing a decline in the overall sex ratio of the population in Viet Nam increased over the last decades. In 2014, the proportion of the population aged 0-14 and 65 and above was 18.2 and 11.3 per cent, respectively. In addition, the North and South Central Coast regions had high level of out-migration, while the Central Highlands and the Northern Mountainous and Highland areas had the lowest ageing index values.

  - **Male**
  - **1.8**
  - **0.5**

- **2. The population age structure of Viet Nam in 2014 has a typical ageing shape**

  - **4.2**
  - **4.6**
  - **Urban**
  - The child dependency ratio and the average income of the provinces.
  - Data analysis shows a negative relationship between the total dependency ratio and the average income of the provinces. Among the ethnic groups, the Mong had the highest fertility rate among people with lower levels of education. There is a correlation between living alone and education level. The percentage of older people living alone was, reaching 3.2 per cent among provinces with higher per capita income. Among the ethnic groups, the Mong had the highest fertility rate among people with lower levels of education. There is a correlation between living alone and education level.

  - **3.5**

- **3. The old-age dependency ratio**

  - 2 1.1 0.5
  - 18.2 and 11.3 per cent, respectively. In addition, the North and South Central Coast regions had high level of out-migration, while the Central Highlands and the Northern Mountainous and Highland areas had the lowest ageing index values.

- **2. The child dependency ratio**

  - 60-64

- **4. The ageing index**

  - The ageing index of Viet Nam has been increasing rapidly over the last 35 years. For every 100 people aged under 15, there were approximately 17 people aged over 60. Twenty years later (1999), the child dependency ratio was, which was three times as high as 1979. Among 10 ASEAN countries, Viet Nam’s population age dependency index ranks third, following Thailand and Singapore. The increase of the ageing index reflects an improvement in the health and life expectancy of the Vietnamese people. However, it also poses challenges for the provision of old-age pensions and care.

  - **6.8**

- **5. The population age-sex structure reflects demographic transition in Viet Nam**

  - 52 out of 63 provinces already reached this proportion, a nine provinces increase from 2009. This population bundle could be turned into population dividend if appropriate policies are developed and implemented to take advantage of this opportunity.

  - **2014**

- **1. The population age-sex structure reflects demographic transition in Viet Nam**

  - 1999, to 69.1 per cent in 2009 and increased to 69.4 per cent in 2014. The size of this population increased by 18.1 million, from 46.7 million in 1999 to 62.8 million in 2014, unleashing a potential labor force for economic development of the country.

  - **Female**

- **2. The child dependency ratio**

  - Figure 3 shows the U-shaped relationship between the ageing index and the average income of the provinces. In general, the poor provinces had a relatively heavy ageing index, probably because these provinces had higher fertility rates and thus more children. The provinces with high incomes also had a low ageing index, but this was due mainly to higher in-migration of young people.

  - **1.8**

- **3. The old-age dependency ratio**

  - The dependency ratios of provinces with high average income per capita were lower than those with low income per capita, and vice versa. In other words, provinces in the population bundle phase tend to have higher per capita incomes.

  - **6.8**

- **4. The ageing index**

  - The overall sex ratio of the population in Viet Nam, 1999 increased over the last decades. In 2014, the proportion of the population aged 0-14 and 65 and above was 18.2 and 11.3 per cent, respectively. In addition, the North and South Central Coast regions had high level of out-migration, while the Central Highlands and the Northern Mountainous and Highland areas had the lowest ageing index values.

  - **2.6**

- **5. The population age-sex structure reflects demographic transition in Viet Nam**

  - **Male**

  - **1.8**

- **6. The child dependency ratio**

  - The child dependency ratio and the average income of the provinces.

  - **2.6**

- **7. The overall sex ratio of the population in Viet Nam**

  - The overall sex ratio of the population in Viet Nam, 1999 increased over the last decades. In 2014, the proportion of the population aged 0-14 and 65 and above was 18.2 and 11.3 per cent, respectively. In addition, the North and South Central Coast regions had high level of out-migration, while the Central Highlands and the Northern Mountainous and Highland areas had the lowest ageing index values.

  - **4.2**

- **8. The child dependency ratio**

  - The child dependency ratio and the average income of the provinces.

  - **2.6**

- **9. The overall sex ratio of the population in Viet Nam**

  - The overall sex ratio of the population in Viet Nam, 1999 increased over the last decades. In 2014, the proportion of the population aged 0-14 and 65 and above was 18.2 and 11.3 per cent, respectively. In addition, the North and South Central Coast regions had high level of out-migration, while the Central Highlands and the Northern Mountainous and Highland areas had the lowest ageing index values.

  - **4.2**