The proportion of rural older persons decreased from 72.5% in 2009 to 67.2% in 2019. However, the proportion of rural older persons increased at more advanced ages. This trend is expected along with a swift urbanization in the coming decades.

In 2009–2019 period, the proportions of older persons in all socioeconomic regions and residential (urban and rural) areas increased.
DIFFERENTIAL INCREASE IN AGEING ACROSS PROVINCES

Provinces with high TFR or high net migration rate, i.e. immigrants outnumber out-migrants, tend to have low ageing indices (such as provinces in the Northern Mountains and the Central Highlands).

FORECAST: The ageing index will increase in all provinces in upcoming years. A noteworthy point is in 2029, there will be 14 provinces with ageing indices higher than 100 (i.e. they will have more older population (60 years old and above) than child population (0–14 years old)). In 2039, there will be 41 such provinces.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- The changes in the distribution of urban and rural older persons requires policy responses that are relevant and sensitive to the economic and health status and specific characteristics of both older women and men. Especially in rural areas with less socioeconomic and health care development, higher proportion of older persons at more advanced age would need swift policy planning and implementation.

- Correlations between three indices (TFR, net migration rate and ageing index) imply a number of policy issues on aging population, family planning and migration in provincial socioeconomic development plan.

*Total fertility rate (TFR) is the average number of live births a woman has during her childbearing years (15–49 years) if the woman is to pass through the child-bearing years according to an age-specific fertility rate (ASFR) observed during the study period, usually the 12 months prior to the time of Census.*