



NPFDB's Management

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POPULATION SIZE, GROWTH AND DYNAMICS

When Malaysia was formed in 1963, the population of the whole country was approximately nine million. The total population increased to about 10.8 million in 1970 and 13.7 million in 1980. The rate of population growth had declined gradually from a high level of 3.0 percent per annum in 1966 to 2.3 percent in 1980. (Refer to Table 1)

The 1991 Population Census for Malaysia gives a population of about 18.5 million. The annual growth rate of the population for the period 1980-1991 was 2.6 percent. The 2000 population is estimated to be 22.8 million with an average annual growth rate of 2.0 percent during the 1995-2000 period.

In terms of age structure, the present population can be best described as 'youthful'. Due to high fertility in the last two decades coupled with declining mortality, as many as 34 percent of the current population are under the age of 15. With regards to the aged population (65 years and older), there has been a clear trend towards ageing of population, currently hovering at about 3.9 percent as compared to 3.1 percent in 1970.

Table 1: Percentage Distribution of Population by Age Groups Malaysia, 1970-2000

Age Groups	1970	1980	1991	1995	2000
0-14	44.9	39.6	37.2	35.4	33.9
15-64	52.0	56.7	59.1	60.9	62.2
65 and above	3.1	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.9
Total Population (In Million)	10.8	13.7	18.5	20.7	22.8
Average Annual Growth Rate (%)	2.8	2.3	2.6	2.3	2.0

Source: Department of Statistics, 1970 and 1980 Population Censuses. EPU, 1996, Seventh Malaysia Plan. EPU, 1999, Mid Term Review of the Seventh Malaysia Plan.

Fertility

Fertility trends in Peninsular Malaysia can be divided into two phases i.e. the period of high fertility before independence (1957) and the period of sharp fertility decline from 1958 onwards as a result of socio-economic development.

Fertility transition which began in the 1960s was further accelerated by the introduction of the National Family Planning Programme in 1966, indicating a tapering off in the Crude Birth

Rate (CBR) to the current level of around 26 per thousand population and the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) to 3.2. (Figure 1) This means women in Malaysia today have an average of 3.2 children in contrast to double this number during 1960s. The TFR is expected to decline further, as more women continue their education and have full-time jobs, thus delaying marriage and childbearing.

Figure 1: Total Fertility Rate (TFR) Malaysia, 1970-1996

Areas	1970	1980	1991	1996
Peninsular Malaysia	4.9	3.9	3.3	3.2
Sabah	5.4	5.6	5.7	3.4
Sarawak	4.6	4.1	3.2	3.1

Source: Department of Statistics.

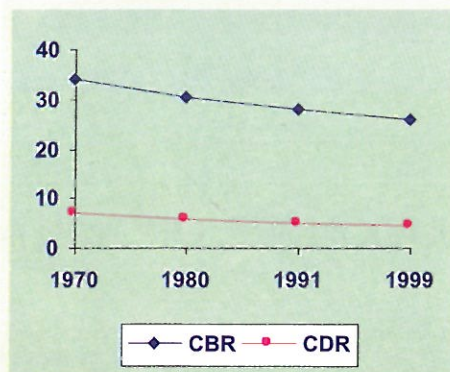
Mortality

Malaysia could be said to be at the demographic transition state where mortality decline is already minimal and fertility contributed more significantly to growth rate. Mortality has been declining steadily as witnessed by the decline in Crude Death Rate (CDR) of 12 per thousand population in 1957 to 4.9 in 1990 and 4.6 in 1999. Between the period 1957, the decline in mortality was substantial in virtually all age groups, while between the period 1967-1969 and 1977-1990, the decline was greatest in infants and in women in the reproductive age groups. This arose from the expansion of maternal and child health programmes and the implementation of other social programmes, including the National Family Planning Programme.

In 1970, Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) was 40.8 per thousand live births but by 1999 this has declined to 7.9, a level almost equivalent to those of the developed countries, though efforts are being consolidated to further reduce this rate. Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) has declined from 60 per 100,000 live births in 1980 to 20 in 1999. (Table 2)

With the general decline in mortality, the expectation of life at birth of Malaysians increased from 55.8 years to about 70 year for male and 58.2 years to more than 74 years for female between the period of 1957 to 1999.

Figure 2: Crude Birth Rate and Crude Death Rate, Malaysia, 1970-1999



Vital Rate	1970	1980	1991	1999
Crude Birth Rate	33.8	30.3	27.9	25.7
Crude Death Rate	7.0	5.5	4.9	4.6

Source: Department of Statistics

Table 2 : Mortality Rates, Malaysia, 1970-1999

Vital Rates	1970	1980	1991	1995	1999
Infant Mortality Rate	40.8	24.0	24.0	10.4	7.9
Toddler Mortality Rate	4.2	2.0	2.0	0.8	0.6
Neonatal Mortality Rate	22.9	14.8	14.8	6.7	6.5
Maternal Mortality Ratio (per 100,000 Live Births)	150	60	40	20	20

Note : All rates per 1,000 unless indicated
Source : Department of Statistics.

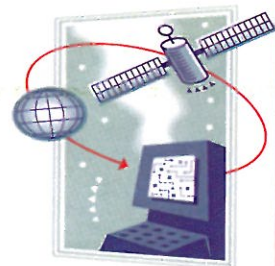
Migration

Rural-rural migration has in the 1970s, been the most significant type of population movement. This being mainly due to the government's emphasis on rural development. Rural land development had been instrumental in prompting rural-rural migration in most states of Malaysia during the 1970s to mid 1980s period. By the late 1980s, however, this had shrunk in importance as a result of structural shifts in the Malaysian economy which lessened its traditional dependence on the rural sector and the limited scope for new rural land development schemes.

Inter-state migration flows, on the other hand, was closely related with the level of development in both sending and receiving states, with migrants being attracted to economically dynamic regions where job opportunities were expanding. The state of Pahang, with the largest land development scheme, was a major destination for migrants over the 1970s but this ceased to be the case since the 1980s. Selangor and the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur have continued to be major destinations with Johor emerging as another main attraction.

International migration has emerged as an important factor affecting population trends in Malaysia lately. Over the 1980-1991 period, international migration has altered population growth, adding about 0.4 percentage point to the growth.

With the continuing decline in fertility, relatively low level of mortality and the inflow of international migrants being controlled, the population of Malaysia will continue to increase at a slower rate in the future.



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