



人口与劳动绿皮书 (2006)

REEN BOOK OF POPULATION AND LABOR (2006)

中国人口与劳动问题报告 No.7

人口转变的社会经济后果

Demographic Transition and Its Social and Economic Consequences

权威机构 · 品牌图书 · 每年新版

**REPORTS ON
CHINA'S
POPULATION AND LABOR
No.7**

主编/蔡 昉 副主编/顾宝昌



社会科学文献出版社
SOCIAL SCIENCES ACADEMIC PRESS (CHINA)



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主 编 / 蔡 昉

副 主 编 / 顾宝昌

出 版 人 / 谢寿光

出 版 者 / 社会科学文献出版社

地 址 / 北京市东城区先晓胡同 10 号

邮政编码 / 100005

网 址 / <http://www.ssap.com.cn>

网站支持 / (010) 65269967

责任部门 / 皮书出版中心

(010) 85117872

电子信箱 / pishubu@ssap.cn

项目经理 / 范广伟

责任编辑 / 杨桂凤 李长运

责任印制 / 盖永东

总 经 销 / 社会科学文献出版社发行部

(010) 65139961 65139963

经 销 / 各地书店

读者服务 / 市场部

(010) 65285539

法律顾问 / 北京建元律师事务所

排 版 / 北京中文天地文化艺术有限公司

印 刷 / 北京四季青印刷厂

开 本 / 787 × 1092 毫米 1/16 开

印 张 / 21.5

字 数 / 347 千字

版 次 / 2006 年 4 月第 1 版

印 次 / 2006 年 4 月第 1 次印刷

书 号 / ISBN 7 - 80230 - 075 - 4/F · 371

定 价 / 49.00 (含光盘)

本书如有破损、缺页、装订错误，

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副 主 编 顾宝昌

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前 言

人口与经济增长之间究竟具有怎样的关系，一直是理论界争论不休且无结论的话题。不同的理论模型支配着学者和政策制定者对人口增长的看法，从而导致不同的政策取向。20世纪70年代以来中国执行的计划生育政策，取得了巨大的效果，然而，恰恰在人口数量矛盾不那么突出，而人口结构异常的现象显露出来之后，关于如何看待人口与经济的关系，以及计划生育政策如果以及以什么形式继续下去等一系列问题的争论又一次展开。中国以前所未有的速度完成的人口转变及其后果，也是人类历史上最大的人口转变及其后果。因此，分析这个难得的人口转变经验，在理论上总结其规律性的东西，为未来的政策调整提供依据，是中国人口学家得天独厚的条件。

本辑绿皮书结合近年来人口学家和经济学家关于人口转变的社会经济后果、人口总量和结构的最新预测，尝试进行人口政策评价，探讨未来可行的人口政策调整思路，旨在引起社会各界和学者、政策制定者对有关问题的关注。作者本着实事求是的原则分析问题，充分肯定了计划生育政策的成效，以及稳定现行低生育水平的政策，主要从经济和社会发展的角度，正面提出问题以及解决问题的意见。

与以往的编写办法不同之处在于，本辑绿皮书的作者不限于中国社会科学院人口与劳动经济研究所的科研人员，我们还邀请了国家人口和计划生育委员会、国家统计局、中国人民大学、北京大学、清华大学、中国人口与发展研究中心、中国劳动和社会保障科学研究院等单位的学者撰写有关章节。三个专题报告和各章的执笔人分别为：专题报告一，陈立、郭震威；专题报告二，吴要武、李天国；专题报告三，盛来运、彭丽荃；第一章，顾宝昌；第二章，王广州；第三章，都阳；第四章，郑真真；第五章，蔡昉、王美艳；第六章，王美艳；第七章，王德文、蔡昉；第八章，蔡昉；第九章，胡



鞍钢；第十章，郭志刚；第十一章，曾毅。我们特别感谢为了本书的出版，中国社会科学院科研局提供的资助，以及人口与劳动经济研究所科研处和社会科学文献出版社有关同志付出的大量劳动。

蔡 昉

Abstracts

Thematic Report 1 Analysis on Population Situation in 2005

Chen Li and Guo Zhenwei

This report provides a quantitative analysis on the development in Chinese population and achievements of China's population and family-planning program in 2005 as well as for the entire period of Tenth Five-Year Plan. While revealing the great success in demographic transition, it also calls for caution that the current low fertility can be potentially unstable, and suggests that further policy efforts should be made in order to maintain the desired low fertility level.

Thematic Report 2 Employment Situation and Trends in China

Wu Yaowu and Li Tianguo

In the report, we provide an overview for China's employment status at present and changing trends in future. As the result of the aging of labor force and the decline in labor force participation, employment pressure in urban area has been gradually lessened. As the strong economic growth creates a large amount of employment opportunities, the economy's demand for labor continues to increase. China now faces a turning point characterized by a brand new situation in terms of demand for and supply of labor force, which challenges the urban labor market. This report also analyzes another significant phenomenon, the informalization of urban employment, relating to the reemployed and migrant workers alike.



Thematic Report 3

The Current Situation of Rural Migrant Laborers: Quantity, Components and Individual Characteristics

Sheng Laiyun and Peng Liquan

This report draws an overall picture on the latest development of rural labor migration, by providing authoritative information about migrant workers in terms of total number, spatial distribution, job types, duration of being in off-farm work, demographic characteristics, income level and change. It also depicts the obstacles migrant workers confront while migrating to and working in the city. It finally makes some policy suggestions for improving the labor mobility.

Chapter 1

China's Population Dynamics in the New Period

Gu Baochang

This chapter argues that China's population dynamics has eventually ended the period characterized with rapid population growth, and historically entered a new period. It discussed some major features of China's population dynamics in the new period in terms of population growth, fertility level, childbearing behavior, population aging, sex ratio at birth, and urban system, etc. In the conclusion, it urges to upgrading the understanding of the population dynamics in China in the new period, which would be crucial to the realization of the goal of a harmonious society in China.

Chapter 2

Population Projection and Analysis

Wang Guangzhou

In this chapter, author has discussed the major problems with Chinese population projection, given relevant population projection results, analyzed the main features of population situation and challenges of Chinese population in the

future. The whole process of the projection and analysis has been divided into three parts. Firstly, based on the comparison of the data sources which often used for Chinese population projection by demographers, author used the census data as main data sources for Chinese population projection. After the evaluation of the data quality of the fifth census of China, the problems of underreporting should be taken a serious consideration. Using the different census data and statistical yearbook data, the population age structure was re-estimated as an attempt to solve the conflicts between the total population and age structure problems. Using the newly established and relatively reasonable age structure, the main indicators and parameters of the population projection and population development process were reexamined. Secondly, after the parameters estimation, related research result review and main characters analysis of China's population, author has taken fertility level, life expectancy and sex ratio at birth as the projection control parameters. By means of the age component population projection method, author has given four different possible levels projection scenarios. Thirdly, based on the parameters assumption, author has projected the total Chinese population and age structure in the future. Further more, as an important research topic, the population aging and labor force problems are also discussed.

The main conclusions for this chapter are: 1. Chinese women's total fertility rate in 2004 is 1.75; 2. the total population will reach 1.45 billion and will get into zero or negative increase around 2030; 3. the population aging and labor force aging problems will be the main population challenges in the future.

Chapter 3

Fertility, Labor Market and Economic Growth

Du Yang

In last few decades, both economists and demographers have paid attention to fertility change and its impact on economic development. Combining with the practice since China's reform, in this chapter, we review the relationships between fertility changes and economic development in China. First, we point out two different ways that fertility takes effect on economic development. On one hand,



current fertility change will affect the labor size of the economy in a few decades. On the other hand, there are interactions between fertility and human capital accumulation while the latter is taken granted as the most essential engine driving economic growth in modern economics. Second, we focus on the relationships between human capital and demographic variables. By reviewing the main progress from Malthusian to new growth theory, we find that economic reform and family-planning policy have both played fundamental roles on economic development in the past two decades. Third, we show different labor outcomes in Malthusian and Post-Malthusian eras. China is approaching to the turning point that population “denominator effect” is not dominant any more, which implies that quantity control should not be the priority of population policy and should give way to human capital accumulation and structural adjustment.

Chapter 4

Imbalanced Sex Ratio at Birth and Social Consequences

Zheng Zhenzhen

Imbalanced sex ratio at birth has been observed in China since the late 1980s, with a trend of increasing in recent years. The sex ratio at age zero reached 121.2 in the year of 2004. The higher sex ratio at birth has spread from several spots in 1990 to all the provinces in China, except for Xinjiang and Xizang. The sex ratio at birth by parity and by the sex of existing child reveals a couple's strong desire for balanced sex structure and son preference of children.

The distorted sex ratio at birth is determined by mixed factors of social/policy environment, economic development, family needs, and individual's opinions. Lower status of women and a lack of old age security are the key issues considered in a couple's desire to have at least a son. The limited choice of total number of children, due to both social-economic development and family-planning policy, is making the situation worse.

The sex selection of fetus is a harmful practice not only to baby girls but to the whole society. Marriage squeeze is one of demographic-social consequences, it is

estimated that 10 percent of men will be squeezed out of marriage market in the future. The practice is especially harmful to women's health, in aspects of physical, mental, and social well-being. In a society with strong son preference, women are sandwiched between the low fertility policy/norm and son preference, and sometimes have to manage to have a son with all costs.

The major interventions to balance sex ratio at birth are administrative management, education and advocacy activities, such as "Care for Girls" campaign. There are other programs or actions, though not specifically designed for intervention with sex ratio at birth, such as social support system and law amendment, may have a better and long term effect. To address the causes of the problem, a comprehensive and multi-sector intervention is needed.

Chapter 5

Aging and Labor Shortage in China

Cai Fang and Wang Meiyun

By investigating the demographic transition in China and its impact on population structure, this chapter first asserts the long-range trend of labor supply, then examines the possible impacts of the forthcoming labor shortage on the sustainability of the Chinese economy in light of the changes in comparative advantage, human capital endowments, and resources allocation. The chapter concludes with policy suggestions, advocating the necessary adjustments in response to those challenges.

Chapter 6

Population Aging and Pension System

Wang Meiyun

This chapter first examines the demographic transition in China and its impact on population structure, then by reviewing urban pension system reform accompanied by overall market-oriented reform, it reveals the unsustainability and vulnerability of the current pay-as-you-go (PAYG) system, and lastly discusses



related issues that are important to building up a sustainable pension system and to supporting the transition from PAYG to a fully funded system. The chapter also reviews rural pension system reform and gives some suggestions for its reform.

Chapter 7

The Gain and Loss of Demographic Dividends

Wang Dewen and Cai Fang

This chapter focuses on the role of demographic transition in the process of economic growth. With the increase of per capita income level, population situation will witness a shift from a stage of high birth rate, high death rate and low natural growth rate to a stage of low birth rate, low death rate and low natural growth rate. A high share of working-age population with a low dependency ratio will create a demographic “opportunity window” for countries to fully utilize their abundant labor forces resources and realize economic take-off. Developmental experiences from the East Asian miracle demonstrate that the choice of development strategy is a precondition for Japan, Korea, Singapore, Hong Kong SAR and Taiwan Province to turn their potential advantage of abundant labor forces resources into the actual advantage, and reap demographic dividends. China’s rapid economic growth in the reform era has also largely benefited from the fundamental transformation of development strategy from the priority of heavy industry to the principle of comparative advantage. The contribution of demographic transition is estimated about one-third to the East Asian miracle and one-fourth to China’s rapid economic growth. The “opportunity window” only happens in a specific period during demographic transition, and is almost unconvertible. In the wake of demographic dividends, the increase of dependency ratio due to population aging will claim demographic debt. The failure of pay-as-you-go (PAYG) pension system in Japan infers that a sound pension system should be set up to meet the challenges of an aging society.

Chapter 8

Population Development and Sustainability of Economic Growth

Cai Fang

This chapter examines demographic factors in China's fast-growing economy and finds a large contribution of the favorable population structure - the declining dependency ratio - to the overall growth performance in the reform period. However, as the demographic transition has reached its final stage - steady state population dynamics with low total fertility rate of 1.7-1.8, the demographic dividend tends to diminish in the next few years. The chapter has discussed the policy implications of the population change to the sustainability of further growth, suggesting a host of policy reforms.

Chapter 9

China's GHDI: The Long-run Trend and Prospect

Hu Angang

This chapter attempts to assess the state one-child policy that has been implemented for more than two decades, from a perspective of outside demography. Any policy making and policy adjustment should be determined in response to long-term goal and ultimate benefit of the country. Therefore, before we make any policy decision/suggestion, we are bound to understand our development objectives. The chapter defines and estimates the General Human Development Index, explores its relevance to a country's general welfare, and compares China with India in GHDI and population developments. It concludes with some policy implications.



Chapter 10 Demographic Exploration of Population by Current Fertility Policy

Guo Zhigang

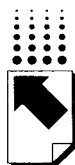
This paper conducts an exploratory study on current fertility policy by integrating sample data from the 2000 population census with population distribution under deferent sort of fertility policies. It provides the national distribution by the policy, distribution by lifetime number of children for couples, and average number of children implicated by current fertility policy. This paper also investigates the current sex-age structure and sex ratio at birth by population under different policies. In addition, it analyzes total fertility rate and mean age at first marriage, as well as their dynamics. Finally, this paper attempts to measure the cumulative potential of fertility under population control in the past. These results may provide reference data about the current fertility policy and its effects.

Chapter 11 Necessity and Feasibility of the Two-Children Plus Late Childbearing Policy in China

Zeng Yi

Based on the 2000 census and other latest available data, this article projects and compares the population size, age structure, labor force, pension deficits rate, shortage of females with marriageable ages and governmental expenditures on the family-planning program during the period of 2000-2080 under the scenarios of retaining the current fertility policy unchanged and soft-landing to a two-children plus late childbearing policy. The results show that the total population size under the soft-landing to a two-children plus late childbearing policy will reach a peak of about 1.48 billion around year 2038 and then gradually decline; and the results evidently indicate that soft-landing to a two-children plus late childbearing policy is much better than retaining the current policy unchanged, and it will avoid or

substantially reduce the serious problems to be caused by retaining the current fertility policy unchanged, such as too high proportions of elderly and elderly living alone, too high old age dependency ratio, quickly shrinking of labor force, high pension deficit rate, dangerous trend of unbalance of males versus females with marriageable ages, and high economic and political expenditures for the government to implement the current fertility policy in the future.



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