

**THE BASIC STUDY REPORT
ON
POPULATION AND FAMILY PLANNING
IN
THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM**

MARCH 1993

JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY

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PREFACE

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) decided to dispatch a study team to survey population structure, population dynamics and the system of population statistics in the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. The basic study team was headed by Mr. Fumihiko Nishi, Data Base Administrator, Statistical Information Division, Statistics Bureau, Management and Coordination Agency, and others in the team consisted of members from CRC Research Institute, Inc. The team visited Viet Nam from December 13 to 30, 1992.

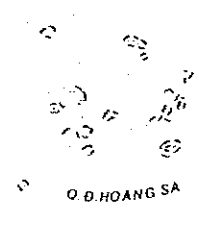
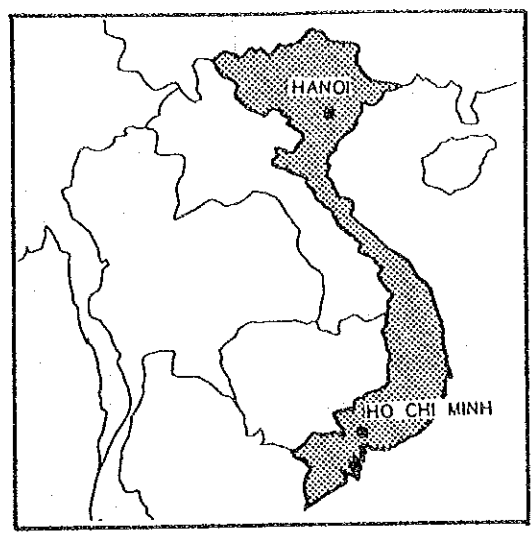
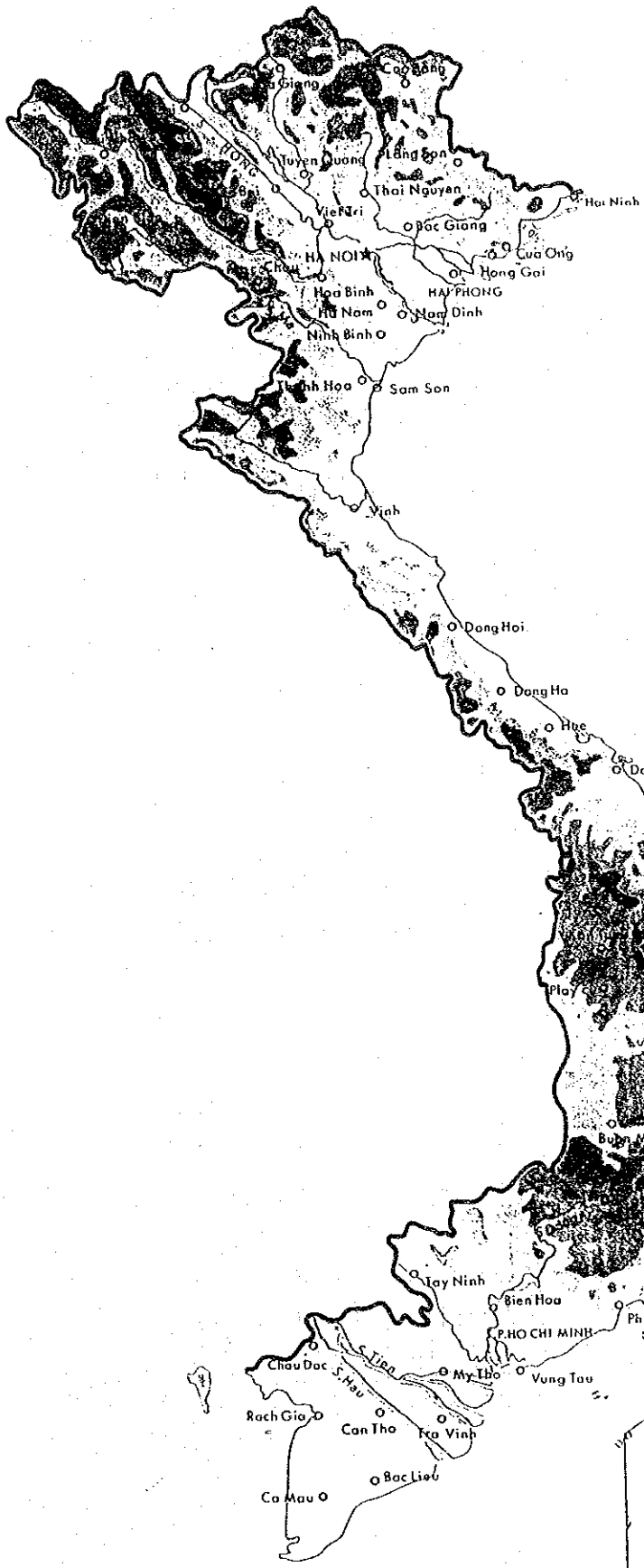
The team exchanged views with the Vietnamese authorities concerned and conducted field visits in the country. Upon returning to Japan, further analysis was made on the data and information obtained and the present report has been prepared.

I hope that this report will serve for Japan's cooperation in the fields related to population statistics in the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Officials concerned of the Government of Viet Nam for the cooperation extended to the study team.

March, 1993

Sekai Nishino
Vice President
Japan International
Cooperation Agency



SUMMARY

- (1) The Government of Japan has decided to extend its technical assistance program to the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam (hereinafter referred to as "Viet Nam"). Concerning the area of population and family planning, Japan International Cooperation Agency has dispatched a team to conduct a basic study of population and family planning in Viet Nam. The study is intended to support planning and execution of Japanese aid programs effectively to assist Viet Nam, as well as collection, analysis and utilization of demographic data carried out by Viet Nam itself.

- (2) Viet Nam is located in the eastern part of Indochina with land area of approximately 330 thousand square kilometers. In Viet Nam, the second population census was conducted under the guidance of UNFPA (The United Nations Population Fund) after Viet Nam was unified (the first population census was in 1979). According to the result, the population of Viet Nam has increased from 52.7 million to 64.4 million and the population density from 160 to 195 persons per square kilometer compared with the 1979 census.

The number of households is 12.9 million, which is an increase of 3.2 million households as of the 1979 census. The average number of persons per household also has decreased from 5.22 in 1979 to 4.84. This shrinkage of number of people per household will lead to an increase of number of household, which is estimated to be doubled to about 25.8 million households in the next 25 years. Moreover, the population in Viet Nam is expected to reach 72 million level, which means exceeding 80 million by the year 2000.

- (3) The Vietnamese government has been vigorously pushing forward a wide range of economic reform measures in order to encourage economic development. Some changes, made during the years 1988 - 1992, with respect to the statistical system and statistical activities in Viet Nam can be recognized, which were motivated by the extensive UNFPA aid to promote Viet Nam's family planning program. For example, the implementation of a national census and a sampling survey on health has been absolutely different in nature from the statistical approach previously followed, and has thus had a tremendous impact on the Vietnamese officials in charge of statistics and encouraged reform of statistical practices in general. However, the leadership of the General Statistical Office (GSO) seems to be in perplexity about how to proceed with reform, while the need to change the statistical system and statistical activities is clearly perceived.

The statistical reform should be initiated by establishing the statistical law. Furthermore, there is a need for "statistics by survey" in place of "statistics by report" along with study and training on the theory and practice of sampling survey. It is because demographic theory, sociology, economic theory and economic policy are very closely interrelated in the implementation and analysis of a statistical survey and preparation of statistical indices.

- (4) In Viet Nam, it has been pointed out that its statistics data, unsystematic and unorganized, have caused insufficiency in policy-making procedure. Accordingly, the Vietnamese government started to establish a statistical basis of population related statistics with technical and financial assistance by UNFPA. That is, the Vietnamese Demographic and Health Survey (VNDHS) in 1988 and Population Census in 1989. Furthermore, the data sources regarding population,

civil registration and survey of population changes were examined.

Population Census was conducted by GSO in cooperation with many institutions. The achievement of the 1989 census, in its scope, its accuracy, its use of highly specialized staff and computing technologies, in the speed of processing and the wide range of statistical outputs, should be seen as an outstanding advance in meeting the growing demand for population statistics.

VNDHS was a nationwide representative sample survey to collect data on fertility, family planning and a few indicators of child and maternal health, and other information useful to family planning program managers and population policy makers.

- (5) Currently there are some norms set for age at first birth, the number of children, and spacing of children concerning population policy. In July 1991 the Council of Ministers issued a decree on the functions, obligations, rights, mechanism and working regulations of NCPFP to increase its efficiency, successfully implementing the population and family planning program.

The targets of the program are to reduce the crude birth rate from 30.3 per thousand in 1990 to 27.3 per thousand in 1995 and to increase the contraceptive prevalence rate from 42.5% in 1990 to 50.5% in 1995. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) proposed a financial support (\$36 million, of which \$25 million is funded from UNFPA's regular fund) for a comprehensive population program which is aimed at achieving Vietnamese population and development objectives by assisting the Government of Viet Nam over a four-year period starting January 1992.

- (6) In Vietnamese Statistical System, there are some problems that have to be solved; that is, the shortage of the GSO staff members and the GSO budget, the lack of knowledge of the sampling survey method and the lack of principal statistical indices such as labor productivity.

With assistance of UNFPA, the quality of population statistics in Viet Nam has been improved significantly. Even so, however, the value of high quality population statistics in Viet Nam would be impaired seriously if the quality of other remainings, including health and economic statistics, are not improved. Considering population statistics in relation to family planning, data on the maternal and child health care (for example, causes of infant mortality and nutritional conditions) and dynamic statistics (infant mortality) are not available. Therefore, it is necessary to supplement such data in order to form a family planning and monitor the results thereof.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Objectives

The Government of Japan has decided to broaden its technical assistance program to the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam (hereinafter referred to as "Viet Nam"), which has been pursuing the economic reform policy (Doi Moi) since 1986. From 1992 onward, preparatory steps for resumption of full-scale implementation of aid programs are being taken in various sectors including health, social infrastructure, agricultural production, and environmental protection.

Concerning the area of population and family planning, it is considered necessary to collect and analyze information pertaining to population structure and population dynamics and fertility trends, recent demographic and governmental activities, and the situation concerning development of national and regional demographic statistics systems including the type and quality of data obtainable therefrom, so as to better comprehend the problems to be addressed.

Under these circumstances, Japan International Cooperation Agency has decided to dispatch a team to conduct a basic study of population and family planning in Viet Nam. The study is intended to effectively support planning and execution of Japanese aid programs to assist Viet Nam, as well as collection, analysis and utilization of demographic data by Viet Nam itself. Towards this end the following study objectives have been established.

- (1) Comprehension of statistical systems as may exist for population registration and national census taking
- (2) Comprehension of the implementation status of population survey and fertility survey
- (3) Collection and analysis of basic demographic data

- (4) Comprehension of the history and status of population policy
- (5) Comprehension of information systems related to medical care and family planning services

1.2 The Study Team and Schedule

(1) Study team member

The member of the study team is as follows:

MR. Fumihiko NISHI	Statistics Bureau
Team Leader	Management and Coordination Agency
MR. Shiro SHIMAMURA	CRC Research Institute, Inc.
Consultant	
MR. Yasushi NAKAMURA	CRC Research Institute, Inc.
Consultant	

(2) Schedule

December 13(Sun)	Tokyo - Bangkok
14(Mon)	Bangkok - Hanoi
	Courtesy call on Embassy of Japan
15(Tue)	Courtesy call on NCPFP, GSO
16(Wed)	GSO Dept. of Labour and Population, Socio-Cultural
	Dept. of manufacturing Statistics
	Dept. of Agricultural, Forestry and Irrigating Statistics
	National Census Committee
17(Thu)	GSO Dept. of Trade, Material Supply, Price Statistics
	Dept. of Capital Construction, Transport and Post Office
	Statistics
	Central Computer Center
18(Fri)	State Planning Committee

19(Sat) Ha Tay Province:
 Provincial Population and
 Family Planning
 Provincial Statistical Office
 District Statistical Office

20(Sun) Hanoi - Ho Chi Minh City

21(Mon) Ho Chi Minh Statistical Office &
 Computer Center

22(Tue) Long An Province
 Provincial Statistical Office

23(Wed) Ho Chi Minh City - Hanoi

24(Thu) Ministry of Health, the Police
 Department

25(Fri) Ministry of Justice
 UNFPA, NCPFP, GSO
 Report to Embassy of Japan

26(Sat) Mr. Nishi left for Tokyo

27(Sun) Preparation for Progress Report

28(Mon) GSO

29(Tue) Hanoi - Bangkok

30(Wed) Bangkok - Tokyo

2. OVERVIEW OF VIET NAM

2.1 Country Setting

Viet Nam is located in the eastern side of Indochina bordered in the east by Gulf of Tongking, the south by South China Sea, the west by Cambodia and Laos, and the north by China. Viet Nam, which is shaped like an extended S, has a length of 1,650 km from the top north to the bottom south with width of 600 km as a maximum and 48 km as a minimum in the narrowest in the middle section of the country and its coastal line is 3,260 km long. Its area is about 330 thousand square kilometers.

The main ethnic group is Vietnamese (the Kinh), which accounts for 87% of the population and the remainings are consisted of about 50 other ethnic groups such as Tay (1.8%) and Thai (1.6%).

2.2 Population

In Viet Nam, the second population census was conducted under the guidance of UNFPA (the United Nations Population Fund) after Viet Nam was unified (The first population census was in 1979). Its result is described in the followings. In addition, there was a total of 40 administrative units consisting of 3 cities (Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh, Hai Phong), one special area (Vung Tau-Con Dao), and 36 provinces (refer to Figure 1) at the time of the census. However, according to the alternation of administrative divisions at a provincial level, there are 53 administrative units consisting of the above four cities and 49 provinces as of December 1992, each of which are further divided into 10-15 districts and, then, subdivided into 10-15 communes.

Northern Uplands

- 4. Cao Bang
- 5. Ha Tuyen
- 6. Lang Son
- 7. Lai Chau
- 8. Hoang Lien Son
- 9. Bac Thai
- 10. Son La
- 11. Vinh Phu
- 12. Ha Bac
- 13. Quang Ninh

Red River Delta

- 1. Thu do Ha Noi
- 3. Thanh pho Hai Phong
- 14. Ha Son Binh
- 15. Hai Hung
- 16. Thai Binh
- 17. Ha Nam Ninh

North Central

- 18. Thanh Hoa
- 19. Nghe Tinh
- 20. Binh Tri Thien

Central Coast

- 21. Quang Nam-Da Nang
- 22. Nghia Binh
- 23. Phu Khanh
- 24. Thuan Hai

Central Highlands

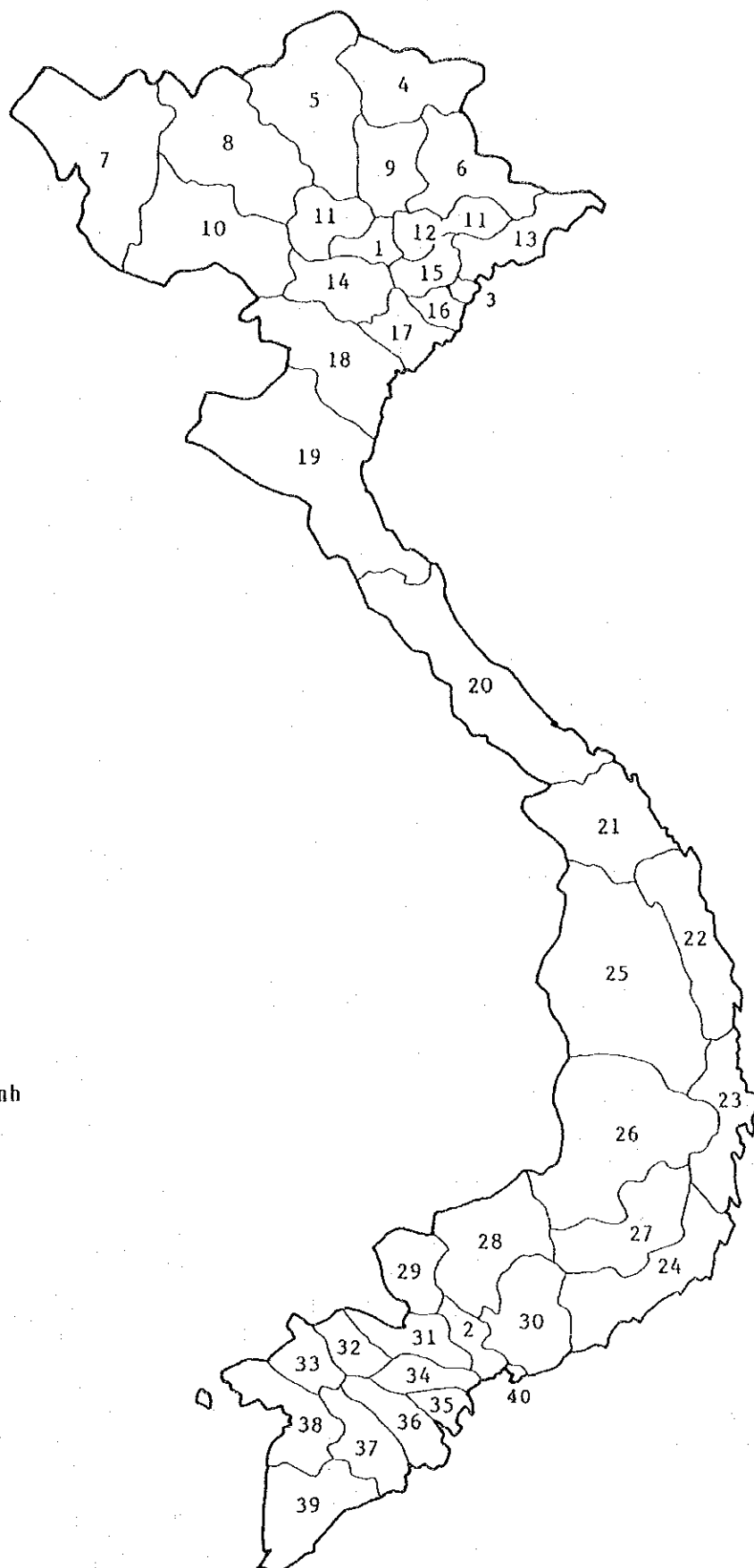
- 25. Gia Lai-Kong Tum
- 26. Dac Lac
- 27. Lam Dong

Southeast

- 2. Thanh pho Ho Chi Minh
- 28. Song Be
- 29. Tay Ninh
- 30. Dong Nai
- 40. Vung Tau-Con Dao

Mekong River Delta

- 31. Long An
- 32. Dong Thap
- 33. An Giang
- 34. Tien Giang
- 35. Ben Tre
- 36. Cuc Long
- 37. Hau Giang
- 38. Kien Giang
- 39. Minh Hai



Source : G S O

Fig. 1 Administration Areas

(1) Population Size and Growth

The population of Viet Nam was 64.4 million people on the 1989 census, representing an increase of 22 per cent comparing with the total of 52.7 million at the time of 1979 census.

Table 1 Population and Growth Rates (1921-1989)

Year	Population(000)	Annual growth rate (%)	North(000)	South(000)
1921	15,584		8,837	6,474
1926	17,100	1.86	9,696	7,404
1931	17,702	0.69	10,235	7,467
1936	18,972	1.39	10,947	8,025
1939	19,600	1.09	11,400	8,200
1943	22,150	3.06	12,481	9,669
1951	23,061	0.50	12,759	10,302
1954	23,835	1.10	13,029	10,806
1960	30,172	3.93	16,100	14,072
1965	34,929	2.93	18,630	16,299
1970	41,063	3.24	21,575	19,488
1976	49,160	3.00	25,833	23,327
1979	52,742	2.16	27,278	25,184
1989	64,412	2.10	32,210	31,157

Source : G S O

Table 1 shows the population and growth rates between 1921 and 1989. Viet Nam's population growth for this period can be divided into five distinct growth periods. The first period (1921-1951) is characterized by large fluctuations in the rate of population growth, largely induced by catastrophic events such as the global economic depression, the suppression of peasant uprisings by the French, and famine of 1945 (which caused two million deaths). The second period (1954-1960), covering the pre-war years of political normalcy and economic prosperity is outstanding for its high population growth rate of 3.9% per year. The third period (1960-1976), covering the years of political turbulence and the war with the United States, witnessed a somewhat slower (but still high by absolute standards) annual growth rate of 3.1%. The fourth period, covering the years immediately after the war and reunification, saw a sharp

decline in the population growth rate down to 2.16%, induced partly by the economic devastation and large-scale out-migration due to the war and partly by falling fertility. The final period (1979-1989), period of population normalcy, is characterized by a continuous drop in fertility and an annual population growth rate which decreased to 2.1%.

Table 2 Population and Growth Rates by Province (1979-1989)

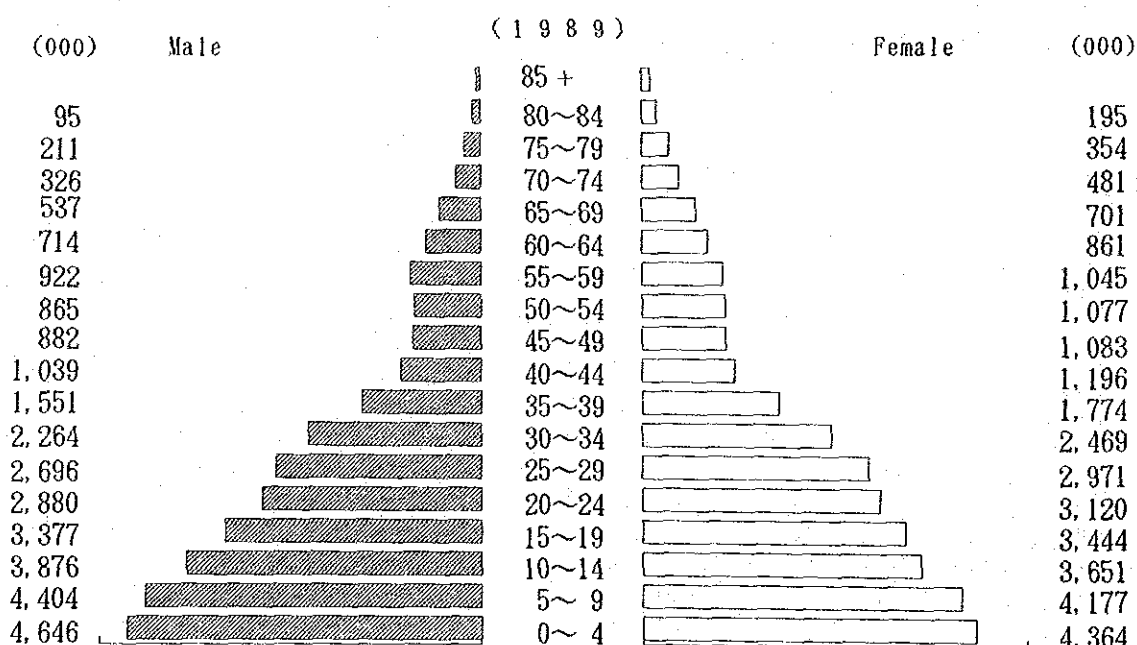
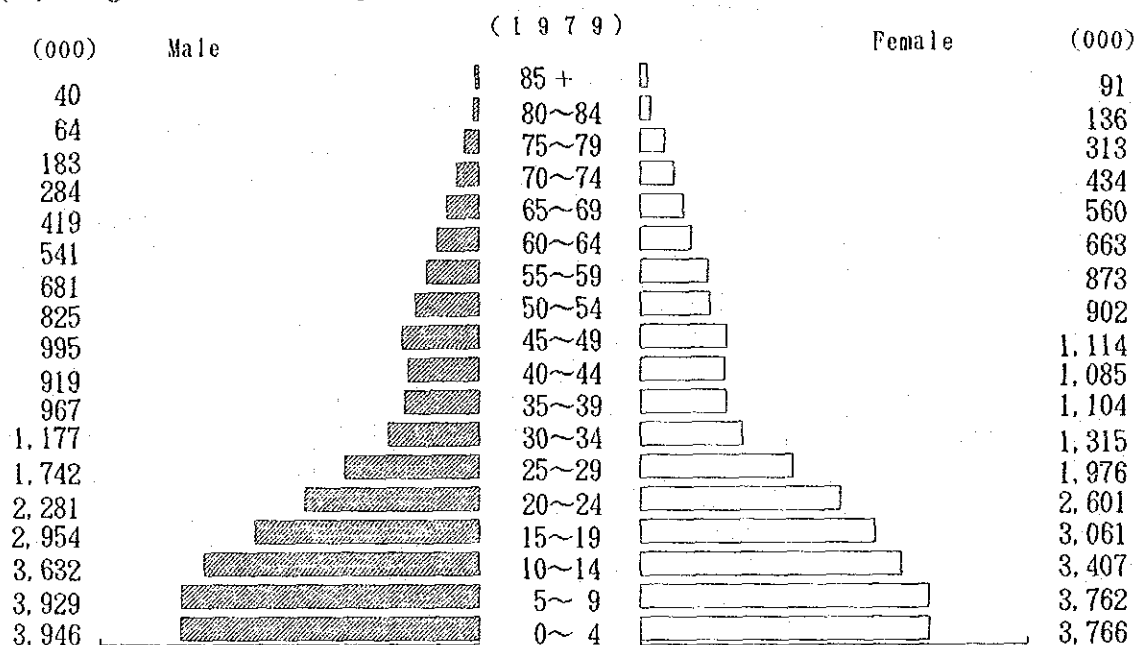
Province	Census of 1/10/1979	Census of 1/4/1989	Average annual growth rate
Whole country	52,741,766	64,411,713	2.10
Ha Noi	2,456,928	3,056,549	2.30
Ho Chi Minh	3,293,146	3,934,326	1.87
Hai Phong	1,150,562	1,447,614	2.42
Cao Bang	471,836	565,967	1.92
Ha Tuyen	774,557	1,026,315	2.96
Lang Son	478,325	610,501	2.57
Lai Chau	316,150	437,983	3.43
Hoang Lien Son	771,493	1,032,248	3.07
Bac Thai	809,076	1,032,749	2.57
Son La	482,264	682,385	3.65
Vinh Phu	1,376,744	1,806,164	2.86
Ha Bac	1,562,642	2,061,280	2.92
Quang Ninh	661,546	814,150	2.19
Ha Son Binh	1,426,838	1,840,126	2.68
Hai Hung	1,959,174	2,439,823	2.31
Thai Binh	1,382,931	1,632,525	1.75
Ha Nam Ninh	2,595,192	3,156,454	2.06
Thanh Hoa	2,348,828	2,991,317	2.55
Nghe Tinh	2,870,774	3,581,528	2.33
Binh Tri Thien	1,760,750	1,994,502	1.31
Quang Nam-Da Nang	1,458,674	1,739,081	1.85
Nghia Binh	1,985,442	2,287,843	1.49
Phu Khanh	1,177,950	1,462,693	2.28
Thuan Hai	917,308	1,169,930	2.56
Gia Lai-Kon Tum	584,600	872,780	4.22
Dac Lac	482,133	973,851	7.40
Lam Dong	388,256	639,168	5.25
Song Be	650,496	939,083	3.87
Tay Ninh	675,555	791,762	1.67
Dong Nai	1,291,940	2,006,689	4.64
Long An	949,200	1,120,727	1.75
Dong Thap	1,173,486	1,336,930	1.37
An Giang	1,474,719	1,793,566	2.08
Tien Giang	1,257,964	1,484,404	1.74
Ben Tre	1,033,879	1,214,066	1.69
Cuu Long	1,496,093	1,811,665	2.02
Hau Giang	2,226,313	2,681,650	1.96
Kien Giang	985,491	1,198,584	2.06
Minh Hai	1,213,050	1,561,760	2.66
Vung Tau-Con Dao	91,610	136,225	4.18

*) excluding special population groups 7

Source : G S O

Variation in the growth rates of the provinces for the period 1979-1989 is wide (see Table 2). For example, the provinces having very high growth rates (e.g., Dac Lac, Lam Dong and Gia Lai-Kon Tum) have been attracting migrants because of the establishment of new economic zones and major construction sites.

(2) Age and sex composition



Source : G S O

Fig. 2 Age-sex Pyramids of the Population (1979/1989)

The age pyramid in Viet Nam (see Fig. 2) is typical of that observed in most less-developed countries, with a very wide base and a narrow top. In Viet Nam, the top, especially starting with the age group 35, is especially narrow, reflecting largely the influence of wars over 35 years, 1945-1979. On the contrary, the proportion of children aged 14 years and lower is exceptionally high (39%), thus, the median age of the population is low (20.2 years in 1989).

However, there was a noticeable aging of the Vietnamese population between 1979 and 1989, caused by declining fertility rates. The median age of the population increased by nearly two years, from 18.3 in 1979 to 20.2 in 1989. The median age of males increased by 1.9 years and of females increased by 2.1 years. These increases were mainly due to a decreasing proportion of children aged 0-14, from 42.6 per cent in 1979 to 39.0 per cent in 1989, corresponding the increase of the proportion of adults (see table 3).

Table 3 Age-sex Distribution of the Population (1979/1989)

	1 9 7 9		1 9 8 9		Sex ratio	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	1 9 7 9	1 9 8 9
0- 4	3, 946	3, 766	4, 646	4, 364	104.8	106.5
5- 9	3, 929	3, 762	4, 404	4, 177	104.4	105.4
10-14	3, 632	3, 407	3, 876	3, 651	106.6	106.2
15-19	2, 954	3, 061	3, 377	3, 444	96.5	98.1
20-24	2, 281	2, 601	2, 880	3, 120	87.7	92.3
25-29	1, 742	1, 976	2, 696	2, 971	88.2	90.7
30-34	1, 177	1, 315	2, 264	2, 469	89.5	91.7
35-39	967	1, 104	1, 551	1, 774	87.6	87.4
40-44	919	1, 085	1, 039	1, 196	84.7	86.9
45-49	995	1, 114	882	1, 083	89.3	81.4
50-54	825	902	865	1, 077	91.5	80.4
55-59	681	873	922	1, 045	78.1	88.2
60-64	541	663	714	861	81.5	83.0
65-69	419	560	537	701	74.9	76.6
70-74	284	434	326	481	65.4	67.8
75-79	183	313	211	354	58.5	59.7
80-84	64	136	95	195	47.2	48.7
85+	40	91	48	110	43.7	43.5
Total	25, 579	27, 163	31, 333	33, 072	94.2	94.7

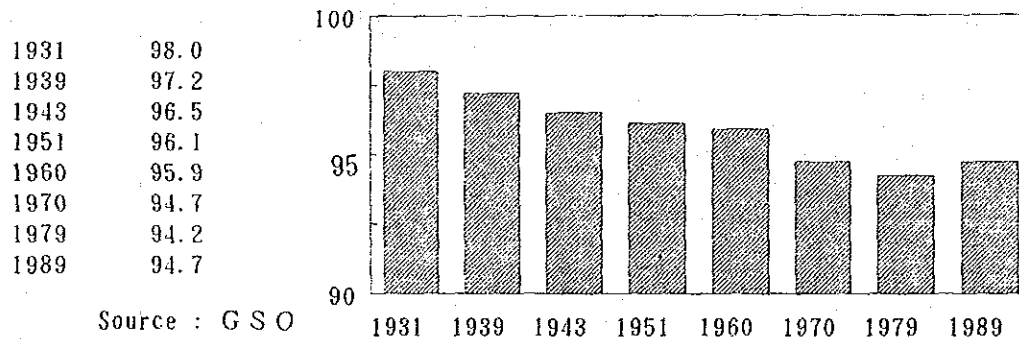
Source : G S O

Per cent distributions

	1 9 7 9		1 9 8 9	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0-4	15.4	13.9	14.8	13.2
5-9	15.4	13.8	14.1	12.6
10-14	14.2	12.5	12.4	11.0
15-19	11.5	11.3	10.8	10.4
20-24	8.9	9.6	9.2	9.4
25-29	6.8	7.3	8.6	9.0
30-34	4.6	4.8	7.2	7.5
35-39	3.8	4.1	5.0	5.4
40-44	3.6	4.0	3.3	3.6
45-49	3.9	4.1	2.8	3.3
50-54	3.2	3.3	2.8	3.3
55-59	2.7	3.2	2.9	3.2
60-64	2.1	2.4	2.3	2.6
65-69	1.6	2.1	1.7	2.1
70-74	1.1	1.6	1.0	1.5
75-79	0.7	1.2	0.7	1.1
80-84	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.6
85+	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Median age	17.2	19.3	19.1	21.4

Source : G S O

Table 4 Sex Ratios (1931-1989)



Source : G S O

Table 4 shows the sex ratios of Viet Nam from 1931 to 1989. At the beginning of the 1930s, the sex ratio was not high.

Viet Nam's low sex ratio can be ascribed to three factors: (a) excessive male mortality (particularly, in the middle age groups) attributed to war, (b) large-scale emigration of males, and (c) low mortality rate of girls compared with other developing countries.

Table 5 Sex Ratios by Province (1979/1989)

	1 9 7 9	1 9 8 9
Northern Uplands	89.2	94.7
Cao Bang	87.3	92.9
Ha Tuyen	93.2	96.4
Lang Son	90.3	94.8
Lai Chau	94.1	98.4
Hoang Lien Son	93.5	97.7
Bac Thai	93.7	96.2
Son La	93.7	99.6
Vinh Phu	83.0	91.1
Ha Bac	82.2	91.3
Quang Ninh	100.8	102.0
Red River Delta	82.3	90.7
Ha Noi	88.9	93.2
Hai Phong	84.5	91.9
Ha Son Binh	83.6	92.4
Hai Hung	78.7	88.9
Thai Binh	76.7	87.0
Ha Nam Ninh	80.5	89.9
North Central	86.3	93.3
Thanh Hoa	84.3	92.7
Nghe Tinh	86.8	94.1
Binh Tri Thien	88.2	92.6
Central Coast	88.2	91.9
Quang Nam-Da Nang	85.6	90.7
Nghia Binh	87.5	90.9
Phu Khanh	90.8	93.5
Thuan Hai	90.7	93.8
Central Highlands	94.2	98.9
Gia Lai-Kong Tum	95.1	97.3
Dac Lac	94.3	100.0
Lam Dong	92.9	99.4
Southeast	87.5	92.2
Ho Chi Minh	84.2	88.4
Song Be	89.0	95.8
Tay Ninh	91.1	92.4
Dong Nai	93.4	97.9
Vung Tau-Con Dao	86.4	98.7
Mekong River Delta	90.0	91.4
Long An	88.0	90.1
Dong Thap	93.2	90.7
An Giang	91.9	95.7
Tien Giang	87.1	88.5
Ben Tre	86.2	89.8
Cuu Long	88.7	90.2
Hau Giang	90.6	91.5
Kien Giang	92.9	92.3
Minh Hai	91.9	93.0

Source : G S O

Table 5 shows the sex ratios by province. The highlands of the central and mountain regions of the north had relatively high sex ratios. The main reason for this was that this area had high fertility and received a number of migrants. Although the sex ratio of the Red River Delta rose from 82.3 in 1979 to 90.7 in 1989, it was still the lowest in the country. At the province having high sex ratios such as Dac Lac (100.0), Lam Dong (99.4), Vung Tau-Con Dao (98.7), Dong Nai (97.9) had high recent immigration rates. Although Quang Ninh province had low immigration, it had the highest sex ratio (102.0) because of many workers from Hai Phong, Thai Binh and Ha Nam Ninh provinces came to Quang Ninh province (regardless their families stayed home which they worked there).

(3) Household

**Table 6 Growth Rate of Population and Household Numbers
(1979/1989)**

	1 9 7 9	1 9 8 9	Increase (%)	Annual growth rate %
Population	50.463.918	62.656.941	24.2	2.28
Households	9.665.866	12.958.041	34.1	3.09
Average household size	5.22	4.84		

* : excluding special enumeration groups

Source : G S O

Table 6 shows growth rate of population and household numbers in 1979 and 1989. The 1989 census enumerated 12,958 thousand households, an increase of 3,292 thousand households since the 1979 population census. While the population (excluding special groups) increased 2.28 per cent per year, households increased by 3.09 per cent per year. The average number of persons in a household decreased to 4.84 in 1989 from 5.22 in 1979.

Table 7 Percent Distribution of Households by Numbers of People (1979/1989)

Persons	1979	1989	1989	
	Total(%)	Total(%)	Urban	Rural
1	6.9	5.0	4.6	5.1
2	10.4	9.7	9.8	9.7
3	13.5	15.0	17.0	14.5
4	15.0	18.9	20.6	18.5
5	14.4	17.2	16.3	17.4
6	12.5	13.4	11.7	13.8
7	10.1	8.9	7.5	9.3
8	7.3	5.6	4.9	5.8
9	4.6	2.9	2.9	2.9
10+	5.3	3.4	4.7	3.0
Total households	9,665,866	12,958,041	2,556,430	10,401,611
Average household size	5.22	4.84	4.85	4.83

Source : G S O

The average number of persons in a household in urban areas was 4.85 and in rural areas 4.83.

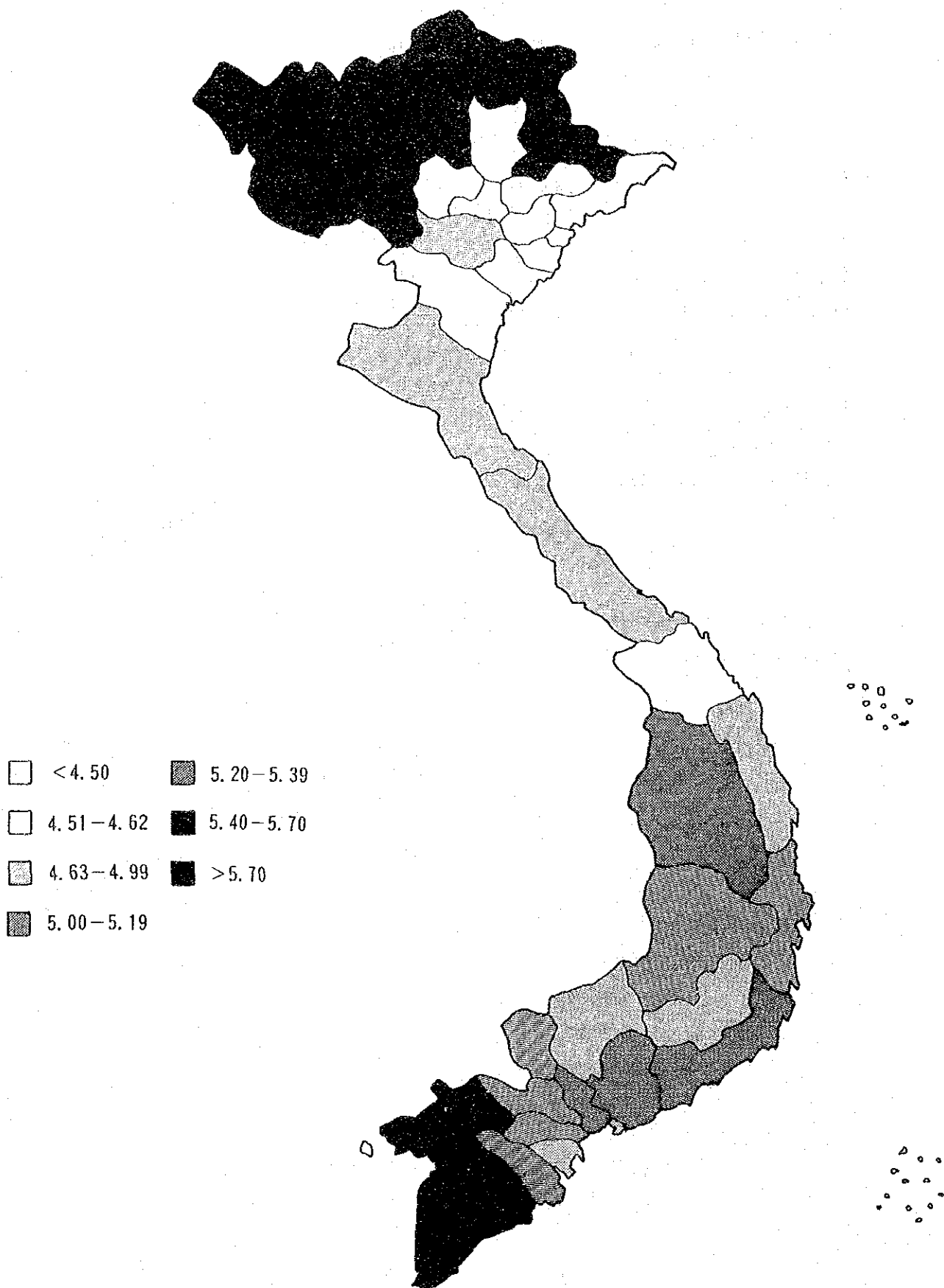


Fig. 3 Average Household Size by Province

Figure 3 shows the average number of people per household, by province. Almost all mountain provinces had an average of five or more people per household. The following provinces had shown large households: Son La (6.3 persons per household), Lai Chau (6.3), Cao Bang (5.7), Ha Tuyen (5.6). In contrast, the plains provinces, especially provinces having high population density, had small households: e.g. Thai Binh (3.9), Hai Hung (4.0), Ha Nam Ninh (4.0). Social and agricultural policies were the main reasons for these patterns. The policy of land allocation for building houses in rural areas was the most important one. In the northern part of the country, where the land availability for houses is small, parents frequently allocate a land for constructing new houses to the couples who want to live separately from their parents after marriage. Old people also want to live separately from their children in order to get a subsidy from the government.

In some provinces in the Red River Delta, therefore, the number of one- and two- persons households in rural areas constituted up to 25 % of the total. However, this kind of household was rare in mountain areas and the Mekong River Delta.

Household size decreased mainly due to an increase of three and four person households and a decreasing number of large households. The proportion of one-person households decreased from 6.9 to 5.0 %, probably due to a reduced number of government officials living away from their families.

A continued decrease of household size will lead to a rapid increase of the number of households in the near future. Even with the medium variant of the population projection, in the next 25 years the number of households will double to about 25.8 million households.

Most household heads in Viet Nam are young. The proportion of household heads under the age 40 is 45%, in which the age group 30-34 was found to be the most concentrated in both urban and rural areas.

In young age group, most households are headed by husband. The older the age group, the less the sex differential in the proportion of household heads. This is, apparently, due to the higher mortality rate of the male population.

(4) Distribution of the Population

Table 8 Percentage of Land and Population by Geographical Region

	Percentage		
	L a n d	Population	
		1 9 7 9	1 9 8 9
Nothern Uplands	29.7	15.3	15.9
Red River Delta	5.2	21.7	21.4
North Central	15.5	13.8	13.5
Central Coast	13.7	11.0	10.5
Central Highlands	16.8	2.9	3.9
Southeast	7.1	11.9	12.3
Mekong River Delta	12.0	23.4	22.4

Source : G S O

Table 9 Density and Annual Growth Rate (1979/1989)

	Density(persons/square kilometer)		Annual growth rate
	1 9 7 9	1 9 8 9	
Whole country	160	195	2.10
Nothern Uplands	79	103	2.82
Red River Delta	633	784	2.24
North Central	136	167	2.16
Central Coast	123	148	1.94
Central Highlands	26	45	5.64
Southeast	256	333	2.77
Mekong River Delta	299	359	1.94

Source : G S O

Table 8 shows percentage of land and population by geographical region and Table 9 shows density and annual growth rate(1979/1989). The average population density of the country has slightly increased, from 160 to 195 persons per square kilometer during intercensal period. The population of Viet Nam is concentrated in fertile river deltas in the north and the south, while the highlands and other coastal areas are less densely settled.

The combined areas of the Red River Delta, Mekong River Delta and Southeast region (containing Ho Chi Minh City and some bordering provinces) only comprise 24.3% of national area but hold 56.2% of the population. In contrast, the Northern Uplands and Central Highlands, occupying 46.5% of the area, contain only 19.8% of the population of the country.

Excluding the cities of Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh city, provincial population densities vary from 26 persons per square kilometer in Lai Chau in the Northern Uplands to 1,065 persons per square kilometer in Thai Binh, a coastal province in the Red River Delta(see table 10). Out of the four provinces with population density under 50 persons per square kilometer in 1989, two are in the Northern Uplands and two in the Central Highlands. On the other hand, out of the ten cities and provinces with density exceeding 500 persons per square kilometer, five are located in the Red River Delta, two in the Southeast and three in the Mekong River Delta.

**Table 10 Area, Density and Population Growth Rate
of Cities and Provinces (1979/1989)**

	Area (km ²)	Density		Growth rate	TFR	IMR
		1979	1989			
Whole country	330,036	160	195	2.10	4.00	45.00
Nothern Uplands						
Cao Bang	8,445	56	67	1.92	5.00	61.60
Ha Tuyen	13,632	57	75	2.96	4.90	52.80
Lang Son	8,187	58	75	2.57	4.90	56.50
Lai Chau	17,142	18	26	3.43	6.80	66.10
Hoang Lien Son	14,852	52	70	3.07	5.20	56.30
Bac Thai	6,503	124	159	2.57	3.90	45.00
Son La	14,210	34	48	3.65	6.00	54.50
Vinh Phu	4,569	301	395	2.86	3.50	33.10
Ha Bac	4,616	339	447	2.92	3.50	36.30
Quang Ninh	5,938	111	137	2.19	3.40	35.00
Red River Delta						
Ha Noi	2,141	1,148	1,428	2.30	2.80	40.00
Hai Phong	1,503	767	963	2.42	2.90	26.00
Ha Son Binh	5,796	246	318	2.68	4.00	47.90
Hai Hung	2,553	767	956	2.31	2.90	38.00
Thai Binh	1,532	903	1,065	1.75	2.60	31.60
Ha Nam Ninh	3,796	684	831	2.06	3.30	34.90
North Central						
Thanh Hoa	11,168	210	268	2.55	4.10	36.20
Nghe Tinh	22,500	128	159	2.33	4.60	53.30
Binh Tri Thien	17,560	100	114	1.31	4.80	49.60
Central Coast						
Quang Nam-Da Nang	11,989	122	145	1.85	3.80	47.10
Nghia Binh	11,908	167	192	1.49	4.40	51.50
Phu Khanh	9,804	120	149	2.28	4.50	44.80
Thuan Hai	11,422	80	102	2.56	5.10	43.90
Central Highlands						
Gia Lai-Kong Tum	25,596	23	34	4.22	6.50	78.50
Dac Lac	19,800	24	49	7.40	6.20	44.90
Lam Dong	10,173	38	63	5.25	5.00	43.70
Southeast						
Ho Chi Minh	2,089	1,576	1,883	1.87	2.20	30.10
Song Be	9,546	68	98	3.87	4.40	45.70
Tay Ninh	4,017	168	197	1.67	4.40	39.10
Dong Nai	7,585	170	265	4.64	4.80	33.80
Vung Tau-Con Dao	237	387	575	4.18	2.80	32.40
Mekong River Delta						
Long An	4,338	219	258	1.85	4.20	42.30
Dong Thap	3,276	358	408	1.37	4.00	48.90
An Giang	3,423	431	524	2.08	3.90	50.52
Tien Giang	2,339	538	635	1.74	4.00	30.00
Ben Tre	2,247	460	540	1.69	3.90	41.10
Cuu Long	3,857	388	470	2.02	4.00	40.50
Hau Giang	6,161	361	435	1.96	4.20	45.40
Kien Giang	6,243	158	192	2.06	5.40	53.80
Minh Hai	7,670	158	204	2.66	4.60	44.40

Source : G S O

These high density provinces lie along the two big rivers, the Red River and the Mekong River; Thai Binh, Hai Hung, Ha Nam Ninh provinces along the Red River and An Giang, Ben Tre, Tien Giang provinces along the Mekong River. Provinces next to these provinces usually have densities from 200-500 persons per square kilometer (Vinh Phu, Ha Bac, Ha Son Binh in the northern part and Cuu Long, Dong Thap and Hau Giang in the southern part). On the other hand, the coastal provinces generally have densities from 100-200 persons per square kilometer and the mountain provinces below 100 persons per square kilometer.

Table 10 also shows that the high-density provinces have low fertility rates. This is because of the redistribution of the population, of which this policy is aimed at reducing population pressure in the high-density provinces and increasing population in the low-density provinces. In the northern part of the country since 1961, the population of Thai Binh and Ha Nam Ninh provinces has been partly moved to settle in the northwest mountain provinces (Lai Chau, Son La, Hoang Lien Son) and northeast mountain provinces (Bac Thai, Ha Tuyen, Vinh Phu). Thus, by the end of the 1970s and the beginning of the 1980s, population redistribution reached a high level.

(5) Urbanization and Migration

Table 11 Population by Urban and Rural Area (1975-1989)

Year	Population (000)			(%)	
	Total	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
1975	47.638	10.242	37.396	21.50	78.50
1976	49.160	10.127	39.033	20.60	79.40
1977	50.413	10.108	40.305	20.05	79.95
1978	51.421	10.130	41.291	19.70	80.30
1979	52.462	10.094	42.368	19.24	80.76
1980	53.722	10.301	43.421	19.17	80.83
1981	54.927	10.223	44.704	18.61	81.39
1982	56.170	10.760	45.410	19.16	80.84
1983	57.373	10.981	46.392	19.14	80.86
1984	58.653	11.102	47.551	18.93	81.07
1985	59.872	11.360	48.512	18.97	81.03
1986	61.109	11.817	49.292	19.34	80.66
1987	62.452	12.271	50.181	19.65	80.35
1988	63.727	12.662	51.065	19.87	80.13
1989	63.367	12.740	50.627	20.11	79.89

Source : G S O

The proportion of the Vietnamese population living in urban areas increased only slightly from 19.2% in 1979 to 20.1% in 1989.

Table 12 Age-specific Migration Rate (1984-1989)

Age group	Total (%)			Intra-provincial (%)	Inter-provincial (%)
	Total	Male	Female		
Total	4.45	4.99	3.96	1.96	2.48
5 ~ 9	2.77	2.81	2.73	1.20	1.57
10 ~ 14	2.62	2.65	2.60	1.12	1.50
15 ~ 19	4.00	3.98	4.02	1.82	2.18
20 ~ 24	8.00	8.96	7.21	3.43	4.57
25 ~ 29	8.21	10.24	6.45	3.42	4.79
30 ~ 34	5.94	7.73	4.90	2.74	3.20
35 ~ 39	4.80	5.77	3.97	2.24	2.57
40 ~ 44	4.67	5.61	3.87	2.26	2.41
45 ~ 49	3.93	5.31	2.82	1.87	2.06
50 ~ 54	3.05	4.12	2.20	1.42	1.64
55 ~ 59	2.41	2.94	1.94	1.12	1.29
60 ~ 64	2.21	2.34	2.10	0.99	1.21
65 ~ 69	2.19	2.06	2.30	0.91	1.29
70 ~ 74	2.38	2.11	2.56	1.08	1.30
75 ~ 79	2.35	2.08	2.50	1.09	1.26
80 ~ 84	2.26	2.32	2.24	0.96	1.30
85 +	2.09	2.54	1.90	0.87	1.22

Source : G S O

Internal migration rates are moderate. Between the 1984 and 1989, 4.5% of the population aged 5 years and over had migrated, 2.0 % within a province and 2.5 between provinces.

Migration rates of males are higher than females at every age group. The main streams of migration are from northern to southern regions and from the Red River Delta and Central Coast to the Central Highlands.

(6) Education

The literacy rate for persons aged 10 years and over was 88% in 1989, an increase of at least 3 % as of 1979. The rate for males was 92% compared with 84% of females. Among younger cohorts the gap between male and female literacy has been nearly eliminated. However, only 11% of the population aged 10 and over completed secondary school,

and only 2% completed college or university.

(7) Economically active population and unemployment

Economic activity rates in 1989 are 78% for males and 71% for females aged 13 years and over. Unemployment rates are high, however, at 5.8% of the total labor force and 13.2% of of the urban labor force. It is an especially severe problem among persons under 20 years and over.

There was little change in the industrial composition of the labor force between 1979 and 1989, with 71% in agriculture and 12% in industry later in the years. There was a significant shift of the labor force away from collective towards private enterprises during the intercensal period, with the exception of the agriculture industry. The share of the private sector in industrial labor force increased from 26 to 44%.

Table 13 shows employed population by industry aged 13 years and over.

Table 13 Employed Population by Industry

Industry	Total	Collective	Government	Mixed	Private and capitalist	Not stated
Total	28.791.392	16.071.247	4.182.292	27.100	8.439.696	71.057
01. Industrial	3.013.831	554.501	1.109.437	14.656	1.333.775	1.462
02. Building	540.167	14.837	376.164	934	147.889	343
03. Agriculture	21.225.569	15.280.271	424.710	431	5.516.842	3.315
04. Forestry-Wood	129.177	4.294	112.232	323	12.257	71
05. Transport	469.472	81.199	202.763	5.010	180.251	249
06. Communication	34.664	226	34.394	4	-	40
07. Business	1.649.540	58.853	471.042	4.842	1.114.172	631
08. Other production	12.836	43	11.645	7	1.129	12
09. Tourism-Services	149.580	4.087	56.661	513	88.232	87
10. Science	44.166	143	43.876	-	-	147
11. Education	722.333	12.429	703.124	82	6.254	444
12. Art-Culture	53.156	2.540	47.779	143	2.648	46
13. Social service, Sport	224.560	23.137	183.242	72	17.999	110
14. State.-Fin.,-Insur.	88.784	5.286	71.113	37	12.296	52
15. Government management	278.709	16.906	261.564	30	-	209
16. Other without production	88.781	12.294	71.131	10	5.292	54
Not stated	66.067	201	1.415	6	660	63.785

*) excluding special enumeration groups
Source : G S O

(8) Marital status

The singulate mean age at marriage of the population is 24.5 years for males and 23.2 years for females. The singulate mean age at marriage in urban areas is especially high: 26.5 years for males and 24.7 years for females.

(9) Fertility

The crude birth rate, which was probably in the mid-40 per thousand in the late 1950s, has declined to around 32 per thousand in the 1980s. The total fertility rate is 3.8 (2.23 in urban areas and 4.27 in rural areas).

The curve of the age-specific fertility rates suggests that fertility is affected by (a) a rising marital age, which depresses the fertility of the young women, and (b) the family planning programme, which depresses the fertility of women aged 30 and over.

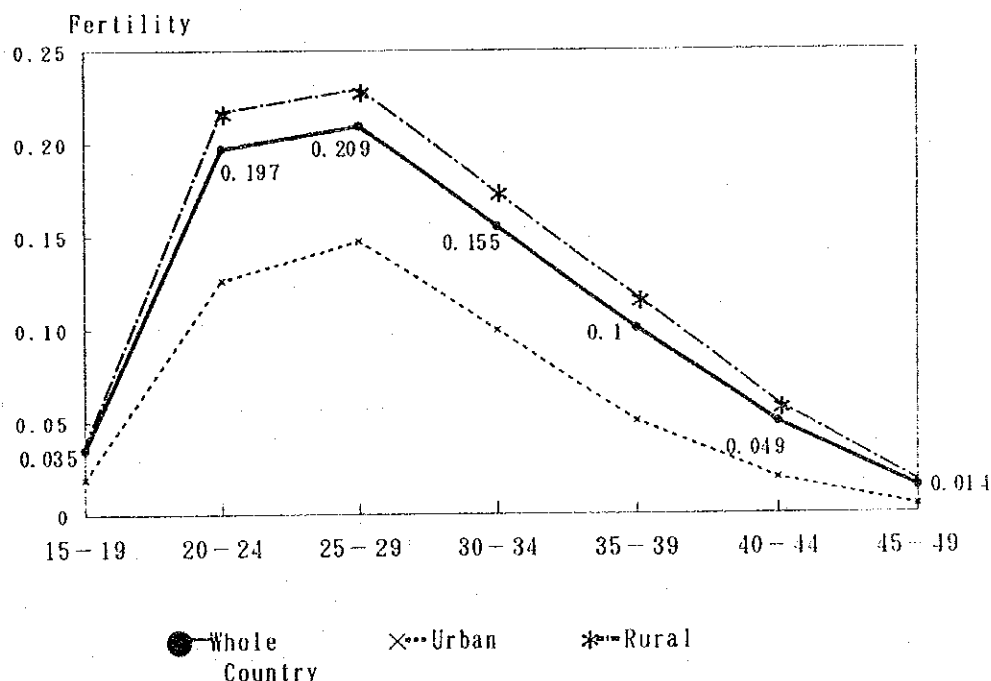


Fig. 4 Age-specific Fertility Rates, 1988-1989

(10) Mortality

The life expectation at birth in Viet Nam is around 63.0 years for males and 67.5 years for females, with the infant mortality rate of around 45 per thousand. On the other hand, the crude death rate for the year preceding the census is the 8.0 per 1000 population.

(11) Population projections

The population of Viet Nam will reach a level of 72 million persons in 1994. This means that the Vietnamese population will not decrease to less than 80 million persons by the year 2000, which will actually consist a very large labor force: 45 million persons, an increase of about 10 million in comparison with the 1989 labor force.

3. STATISTICAL SYSTEM

3.1 Present Situation

The Vietnamese government has been vigorously pushing forward a wide range of economic reform measures since 1988 in order to encourage economic development. This governmental attitude leads to liberal approval for establishment of private enterprises, curtailing government undertakings, and steps are being taken to liberalize price-setting and foreign exchange and to move towards a market oriented economy. Yet, no general measures have been taken to establish a statistical system and statistical activities appropriate for a market oriented economy.

Some changes, occurred during the years 1988 - 1992, with respect to the statistical system and statistical activities in Viet Nam can be recognized and be classified, by cause, into those motivated by external factors and those by internal factors.

Changes in the statistical system and statistical activities which were motivated by external factors are the consequence of extensive UNFPA aid to promote Viet Nam's family planning program, in which the implementation of a national census and a sampling survey with respect to health and family planning are included.

While UN staff members have been delegated to Viet Nam to assist these statistical surveys and to analyze the results obtained, mini-computers are simultaneously being installed not only in the General Statistical Office (GSO) but also in principal regions to develop a statistical database on population. Implementation of the surveys with respect to population and health care under the auspices of the United Nations has been absolutely different in nature from the socialist statistical approach previously followed, and has thus had a tremendous impact on the Vietnamese

officials in charge of statistics and encouraged reform of statistical practices in general.

The changes motivated by internal factors were primarily due to the fact that the General Statistical Office (GSO) became an independent institution under the direct jurisdiction of the Prime Minister's Office in 1988, transferred from the jurisdiction of the State Planning Committee. A contributing factor for the changes attributes to the fact that financing of regional statistical institutions was changed, by decree, from the national budget to regional budgets. However, the effectiveness of such changes, especially the impact of the changes on budget allotment system, are controversial and the Director General of the General Statistical Office indicated the willingness to implement radical reforms in the statistics system. Although some changes since 1988 can be seen in terms of the statistical system and statistical activities as mentioned earlier, the basic stance remains nearly unchanged; that is, the statistical approach based on the systems of the former Soviet Union or the COMECON still prevails.

In fact, the leadership of the General Statistical Office seems to be in perplexity about how to proceed with reform, while the need to reform the statistical system and statistical activities is clearly perceived.

3.2 Changes in the Statistical Systems in the Socialist Countries in Asia

Since the 1980s, changes, corresponding to the transfer toward market-oriented economy, in the statistics systems of five representative socialist states in Asia (Russia, the People's Republic of China, Mongolia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam) are significantly different from one country to another. No significant change can be seen so

far in Russia, Mongolia or the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. During the early 1980s, however, the People's Republic of China carried out a radical reform in its statistical system, which has started by the implementation of a family planning program and population census under the guidance of UNFPA.

The reform, with the cooperation of Statistics Bureau of Japanese Government, has greatly incorporated a Japanese-style statistical system, thus, resulted in the establishment of Statistics Law. It cannot be denied that reform of the statistical system has definitely contributed to economic development in the People's Republic of China.

Current conditions on statistics in Viet Nam are similar to the ones which prevailed in the People's Republic of China during the early 1980s when U.N. aid was firstly offered. Thus, the reform measures for the statistical system can be a critical issue for Viet Nam. Important characteristics of the statistical system implemented under the socialist system and problems need to be addressed along with transition to a market-oriented economy are summarized below. It is significant indeed to pay ample attention to these above mentioned factors in carrying out reform of the statistical system in Viet Nam.

- (1) Statistics under the socialist system were compiled primarily based on reporting by state-owned enterprises.

As long as all the enterprises in a country are state-owned, statistics can be compiled on the basis of reporting by those enterprises. However, reform to introduce a market-oriented economy will eventually result in an increased number of private sector businesses, then a need for "statistics by survey" in place of "statistics by report." Budget could remain small and a relatively small number of enumerators was sufficient when the nature of statistics compiled in Viet Nam had been "by report."

However, reform to introduce "statistics by survey" will definitely require a proper establishment of legal basis, larger budget and an increased number of assigned personnel.

(2) Because "statistics by report" was the mainstream under the socialism, the variety of statistics compiled through sampling survey had been extremely limited. This fact is also applicable to Viet Nam as well because scientific and technical knowledge with respect to sampling survey is minimal. In response to market-oriented economic reforms, though, sampling survey will become the mainstream method of collecting statistical data. Therefore, not only change in the manner to conduct a census, but also study and training with respect to the theory and practice of sampling survey is indispensable.

(3) Demographic theory, sociology, economic theory and economic policy are very closely interrelated in the implementation and analysis of a statistical survey and preparation of statistical indices. However, under the situation that only Marxism as an economic theory is accepted in socialist states beginning with the former Soviet Union, indices based on modern economic theories of the Western bloc are hardly available in those countries; which makes it difficult to comprehend actual internal economic conditions and may even mislead their economic policies. As for the condition in Viet Nam, education on economic theory and economic policy is probably indispensable, along with education on statistical method.

(4) Statistics compiled in socialist countries had been the tools in evaluating the consequences of five year plans. In other words, no statistics were compiled with respect to items not mentioned by a five year plan. However, statistics must be always available not only in terms of economic aspects but also of social aspects of a state; thus, a comprehensive statistical system must be established indeed.

3.3 The General Statistical Office

(1) Organization

The General Statistical Office (GSO) was established in 1956. It comes under the direct jurisdiction of the Prime Minister's Office and employs 280 headquarters staff (including 70 computer center staff).

The GSO administers almost all statistics activities carried out in Viet Nam and comprises six statistical survey departments.

- 1) Department of Agricultural, Forestry and Irrigation Statistics
- 2) Department of Manufacturing Statistics
- 3) Department of Capital, Construction, Transport and Post Office Statistics
- 4) Department of Trade, Material Supply and Price Statistics
- 5) Department of Population, Labor and Social Welfare Statistics
- 6) Department of Balance, Finance and Banking Statistics

An regional organization includes Provincial Statistical Offices (PSO) in 53 provinces (including 3 special direct jurisdiction cities and 1 special area), each of which employs 40 - 50 staff members. The budget for provincial statistics is appropriated from independent provincial budgets and not from the national government budget.

Each PSO has jurisdiction over an average of 8 District Statistical Offices (DSO), and each DSO employs 5 - 7 statistical staff. Furthermore, each DSO has jurisdiction over about 25 communes, each of which appoints one person to act as a statistical staff, in a part-time capacity.

(2) Activities of each statistics department

1) Department of Population, Labor and Social Welfare Statistics

This department has 26 staff members and comprises five groups: the Demographic Statistics Group, the Labor and Wage Statistics Group, the Education and Training Statistics Group, the Cultural and Health Care Statistics Group and the Livelihood Statistics Group. Statistical surveys performed by the department include the followings.

(a) Survey of Population Changes

This is a sampling survey which has been conducted every year since 1981 on January 1st. Principal items questioned in this sampling survey are number of births, number of deaths, migration and so on. The number of samples has been 10% of the entire population during the period of 1981 - 1990 and 2% since 1991. Data are enumerated at the provincial level and compiled at the national level. Staff members of PSO are trained to recruit enumerators under the responsibility of each PSO. The PSOs collect data from the police allocated in each commune in order to calculate the migration at the end of December every year. Details of the survey method shall be explained later (refer to Section 4.4). Reports are published both in Vietnamese and in English.

(b) Household survey

A household survey was conducted during the year 1956 - 1986 as a part of education and training statistics, then, again, in 1988 and in 1992. The principal items surveyed in the years up to 1988 were housing and living conditions, income

and expenditure, for which 6,000 households were sampled. In 1992, 4,800 households were sampled to survey household economy and living conditions. The PSOs were wholly responsible for the recruitment of enumerators and for implementation of the survey. The report on this survey is only available in Vietnamese.

(c) Other surveys by report

- Survey on labor wages (annual survey)
- Survey on education and training (annual survey)
- Survey on living conditions (annual survey)
This survey has not necessarily been conducted every year since 1987 due to financial difficulties.
- Survey on culture and health care (annual survey)

These above-mentioned four surveys are the products compiled from reports submitted by government agencies and state-owned enterprises.

However, the reliability of the data from these reports is considered to be very low since a fair number of communes either failed to submit reports, or submitted significantly late. Moreover, the majority of staff members employed during these survey years were educated and trained in the former Soviet Union regardless of the current situation that they are now being educated and trained along with the theory and methods of the United Nations. Accordingly, the 1989 census was considered to be a good experience under the guidance of UNFPA.

A survey planned for the future is the Inter-Census Demographic Survey (ICDS) scheduled to implement in 1994. It is also called the Multi-Round Survey (MRS) since it will continue surveying the same selected households semi-

annually in order to follow-up on population-related items. Items to be surveyed include births, deaths and number of household members. The survey sample will consist of 120,000 households, and the effort is supported by UNFPA funding of about US\$1.5 million. The GSO is willing to carry out surveys simultaneously on labor force, employment, poverty, education and health care, for which they are expecting foreign assistance.

2) Department of Agricultural, Forestry and Irrigation Statistics

In Viet Nam, food production has increased since 1976. For example, crop production, which was 13.5 million tons in 1976, increased to 24.0 million tons in 1992 at an annual rate of 3.5% during those 16 years. (It's noteworthy that the population also increased during the same period at an annual rate of 2.5%). This can be explained from the fact that one and a half million tons of rice is now exported to Africa and the Middle East. About 75% of agricultural production in Viet Nam is crops (90% of rice and 10% of miscellaneous), while the other 25% is livestock.

Privatization of agriculture has been under way since 1988, so that now the proportion of state-owned enterprises and cooperatives represent 2% while private farmers represent 98%. There are 10 million farmers which is equivalent to 77% of Viet Nam's entire 13 million households. The average number of household members is 5.5, with the average area of farmland 2,500 square meters per household and 420 square meters per capita. Moreover, the average monthly income per farmer is 175,000 - 250,000 Dong (about US\$17.5 - 25).

The livestock raised in Viet Nam are basically buffalo (2.9 million), milk cows (3.2 million), pigs (13.8 million) and domestic fowl (120 million).

The Department of Agricultural, Forestry and Irrigation Statistics, employing 19 staff members, changed its statistics collecting method from report (declaration) to survey basis in 1988. In reality, however, statistical techniques, which are nearly identical to those used by report, are still being followed. The statistical surveys currently carried out are the following nine ones:

- Survey of planted acreage (3 surveys per year: May, August, October)
- Survey of production (3 surveys per year: June, September, October)
- Survey of livestock (2 surveys per year: April, October)
- Survey of labor and materials (1 survey per year: July)

In addition, special surveys are performed concerning agricultural economy, foodstuff stockpiles and livestock raising costs. Statistics concerning state-owned enterprises and cooperatives are collected from the four state-owned milk cow and draft animal (buffalo) stockbreeding farms and the twelve state-owned pig raising farms by means of report.

The survey on planted acreage depends on reports submitted by each village (one commune comprises eight villages each of which consists of 500 households; accordingly, one commune comprises 4,000 households) and village heads are in charge of the planted acreage survey. Five percent of households are sampled for the production survey, and planted acreage is reported simultaneously.

Three villages are sampled at every commune and households are sampled in an even distribution; One

thousand households are sampled in a large village while 200 households are sampled in a small village. Village heads are also in charge of the production survey. Enumerators are paid 30,000 Dong (about US\$3) per month, on average.

The livestock survey is performed twice a year; by means of sampling in April and by an exhaustive enumeration in October. Considering the nature of enumerators, often filling in reports from their memory without actually visiting livestock farms, statistical error should not be negligible.

Sampling for the labor force and materials survey is based on population census and it is communes that are in charge of the survey. Then, survey reports are compiled by provinces and submitted to the national government.

3) Department of Manufacturing Statistics (20 staff members)

As of 1992, state-owned enterprises numbered 2,599 (546 under the jurisdiction of the national administration and 2,053 of local administrations), while private enterprises numbered 456,559. State-owned enterprises under the national administration are to report to the respective ministries responsible where reports on these enterprises are sent to the General Statistical Office.

Reports submitted by enterprises under local administrations are assembled and sent to the GSO by each province. Then, they are classified into monthly, periodical, semi-annual and annual reports. While monthly reports cover production of principal commodities and total production, semi-annual and annual reports cover the areas such as total

production, production of principal commodities, labor force, wages, number of facilities (used), fixed assets, depreciation, and housing.

Private enterprises are exhaustively surveyed by enumerators on a semi-annual basis, concerning value of principal commodities produced, volume of principal commodities produced, prices of principal commodities, sales amount, number of laborers (by gender), average wage, fixed assets, costs, and taxes. In addition, 5 - 10% of these enterprises are sampled semi-annually by provinces to investigate the value of production by principal commodities and total production value.

The numbers of industrial laborers are as follows.

	Total	State-owned		Private
		Central	Local	
Laborers 1990 (1,000)	2,251	400	344	1,507
-Do- 1991 (1,000)	2,213	301	322	1,529
Production 1991 (%)	100.0	38.1	20.9	41.0

4) Department of Balance, Finance and Banking
Statistics (20 staff members)

The department was given technical guidance by the United Nations specialists upon transition from the MPS (Material Product System) to the SNA (System of National Account of United Nations) in June 1992. The current frequency of error in national income statistics in Viet Nam is about 30%, according to the director of the department, and the reasons are given as follows:

- (a) While the service industry accounts for 20% of income in Viet Nam, no accurate statistics are available.

- (b) Many enterprises are not necessarily registered.
- (c) Price indices are not accurate.

In addition, it is indicated by the United Nations' officer that a 30% in-house consumption rate for agricultural production in Viet Nam is higher compared with neighboring countries, which is about 15%.

- 5) Department of Commerce and Price Statistics (27 staff members)

A price survey is conducted monthly, while commerce survey on private enterprises is performed annually by census and semi-annually by sampling.

As for commerce survey on private enterprises, Viet Nam has 700,000 privately run, 16,500 state-run and 15,000 cooperative commercial stores with the number of laborers employed 952,000 in the private sector and 250,000 in the public sector enterprises. Statistics concerning state-owned stores and cooperatives are compiled by semi-annual report (April and October).

Survey on private sector stores is performed annually in July and the sample to be surveyed is 3 - 5% of the total with the compilation under responsibility of provinces. The areas covered by this survey are the number of stores, labor force, the proportion of establishment registered, and taxes, including items such as sales amount, taxes, profit, laborers, registration, and floor area. An average of 25,000 stores are sampled throughout the entire nation where survey is conducted by approximately 50 enumerators per province. Each province is divided into either urban communities or local regions, and communes are sampled from each of them. Enumerators, then, survey all stores until 3 - 5% of target will be

achieved.

Prices are surveyed on the 5th, 15th and 25th day of each month, covering 170 commodities. Five districts from a large province, 1 district from a mountainous province, and 2 districts from the remaining provinces are sampled, and 2 enumerators are assigned to each district sampled (1 enumerator for a small district). Therefore, a total of 100 districts with 150 enumerators are sampled throughout the entire Viet Nam.

In each district, prices are surveyed and averaged by visiting 3 state-owned stores and 7 private stores. Then, after national averages are computed, price indices are calculated by weighting sales amount by commodity. Accordingly, weights assigned vary from month to month and price indices are published 5 months later.

- 6) Department of Capital, Construction, Transport and Post Office Statistics (21 staff members)

The department comprises three divisions, respectively in charge of construction statistics, communication statistics, and transport statistics. Statistics on these areas are gathered both from reports by state-owned enterprises and from survey on private enterprises.

Survey on transport statistics is carried out annually on July 1st. There are 125 state-run enterprises involved in transport which come under the jurisdiction of the national administration, and 280 under local administrations while private enterprises have been sampled since 1991. Items to be surveyed include wages, number of people required for the transport, volume of freight transported and its ton-kilometers, taxes, labor force, and facilities.

As for construction statistics, only the item of capital investment by state-run enterprises, local administrative institutions, and cooperatives are available. As for housing, on the other hand, a sampling survey was performed in 1992. It was found that housing investment is nearly shared equally by the government and the private sector.

Communication statistics, gathered by means of report, indicated that the current number of telephones is 2,521,000.

7) Central Computer Center

The Central Computer Center was established in Hanoi in 1969. The center is under the jurisdiction of the GSO and is in charge of information processing, work commissioned by other ministries/agencies and by the private sector, and study and training involving micro-computers. Work commissioned other than the GSO is chargeable and the profits gained thereby are appropriated for the maintenance of existing systems. As of now, additional computer centers have also been established in Ho Chi Minh City, Da Nang City and the PSO of Hanoi City in which survey reports from neighboring provinces for data entry and compilation are collected. Compilation of data at the provincial and national levels is under responsibility of the GSO. Out of the four computer centers, only those at the GSO and the PSO in Ho Chi Minh City are equipped with mini-computers.

As of December 1992, there are 20 provinces equipped with computers other than these four computer centers. The computers in these provinces were used for the 1989 demographic census, and then, installed after completion of the census. Furthermore, micro-

computers have been installed in departments of the GSO and the PSO in Ho Chi Minh City, outside of their computer centers.

There are 70 staff members employed at the GSO computer center, including 10 programmers with 10 - 20 years experience, 30 operators primarily in charge of data entry, and the remaining 20 are in charge of administration and accounting. The center has a total of 2 mini-computers and approximately 30 micro-computers, some of which were procured within the GSO's own funds. On the other hand, the Ho Chi Minh City computer center has 65 staff members, including 20 programmers, 9 system engineers, 25 data entry operators and 11 datacoding operators. The reason why this center employs so many personnel is because it accepts a lot of commissioned work. Its computer resources consist of 1 mini-computer and approximately 50 micro-computers including those procured within its own funds.

(3) Publication of Statistics Books

There are some statistics published by the GSO including the latest 1990 statistical year book, only available in Vietnamese edition.

Those available in English are;

- "Vietnam Economy 1986 - 1991."
- "Statistical data of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (1986 - 1991)"

Those available both in Vietnamese and English are;

- "Statistical data of Vietnam's agriculture, forestry and fishery (1976 - 1991)"
- "The Pivotal areas of commodity production"

Every province and special city publishes its own statistical year books. No statistical publications are available in English at a provincial level, however, those including both statistics and commentary published by special cities are available written both in Vietnamese and English.

In any case, these reports consist of 20 - 30 pages only and the contents worthy of economic analysis cannot be found. When compared with those published by the former Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China, the statistical documents available in Viet Nam is very little and quite limited both in terms of quantity and quality.

3.4 Statistics on Health

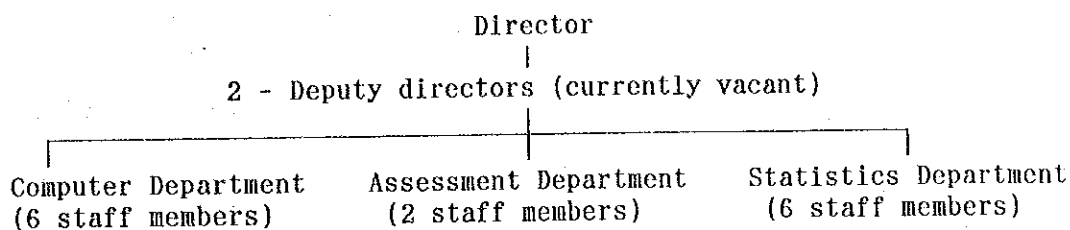
(1) Organization

It is the Ministry of Health that is in charge of statistics on health. In order to strengthen the capability of its information collection system, the Health Statistics and Information Center was established in October 1991.

The objective of the center is to collect, process and quickly provide information. It is, therefore, significant to promote establishment of an information system as required for the development of health care service and establishment of a statistical information network among the Vietnamese health care sectors for data collection and processing throughout the entire social level, from the grass roots to the central levels.

Training of regional statistical information personnel and educational information for managers are executed. The center also carries out an environmental hygiene survey for the assessment of the effects caused by national programs and international aid programs. Currently, it has 14 staff

members (all university graduates) including 8 with doctoral degrees and 6 engineers. Organization of the Center is as follows.



The statistics department is in charge of collecting survey reports and the assessment department is to prepare survey programs.

(2) Birth and Death Statistics

1) Birth statistics

When a mother becomes pregnant, a maternity passbook is given to her, same as in Japan. After a child is born, a birth certificate is issued by the communal health center. Then, the mother registers the child's birth to the communal registry with the birth certificate where formal certificate is given in return. With this certificate, the child is allowed to enter primary school at the age 6. However, in case of rural areas, birth registration shall not necessarily be made when the child birth takes place at home even though child birth normally takes place at a communal health center.

2) Death statistics

In the case of a death, a hospital issues a death certificate and assigns a death statistics code number. Thus, registration of death is quite similar to the procedure utilized at birth registration.

In case of a death in a hospital or at home, the visiting doctor can assign the code of death cause. However, no code can be assigned without a doctor's visit. Therefore, the number of deaths of which the cause is unknown is increasing, and is suspected to account for about 10% of all cases. The WHO classification criteria have been adopted for mortality statistics.

Complete statistics regarding cause of death are not compiled in Viet Nam. Although statistics on mortality due to the top ten causes of death, as well as infectious diseases, are compiled, statistics with respect to all causes of death are not compiled.

The infant mortality rate is 50 per 1,000 live births according to the United Nations report. However, the statistics published by the Ministry of Health only covers certain districts where infant mortality rates were compiled by UNICEF. Moreover, the infant mortality rate is surveyed only through the population census.

3) Assessment

Statistics on birth and death appear to be well-collected from an organizational point of view. However, the reports, in contrast, leave a poor impression in terms of the quality. The reasons can be described follows:

First, although funds have been appropriated to pay staff at the Health Statistics and Information Center of the Ministry of Health, no funds are appropriated for undertaking any activities.

Second, causes of death reported outside of hospitals are extremely inaccurate.

Third, infants died within several days or several weeks after birth are very likely not to be registered.

Fourth, even if computers are being installed, no print-out paper is available. And the shortage of staff members is a serious matter.

4. Population Related Statistics

In Viet Nam, it has been pointed out that its statistical data, unsystematic and unorganized, have caused insufficiency in policy-making procedure. Accordingly, the Vietnamese government started to establish a statistical basis of population related statistics with technical and financial assistance by UNFPA.

4.1 Population Census

(1) Legal Basis and the organization

In August 1987, the Council of Ministers issued a declaration that there would be a national census in 1989. In this declaration, the Council instructed all institutions to participate together with the GSO in carrying out the census. At the same time, the Council proposed a Nation-wide structure of steering committees, which would control census operations at various geographic or administrative levels, of which the entire operation was controlled by the Central Steering Committee.

Such steering committees were set up in all Provinces and Districts where the census steering committee structure was extended down to the grass-roots level.

(2) Census Coverage

The census, counted all persons usually reside in Viet Nam at the time of the census, was nationally declared as midnight 31 March/ 1 April.

However, this "de jure" approach was not always to follow since there were some difficulties in identifying temporary visitors or residents, temporarily absent overseas, etc.

(3) Scope of the Census

The full enumeration covered 13 basic topics. In addition, some questions on children' birth and surviving were asked to a sample of women who were at childbearing age. Questions on housisng conditions and facilities were also asked to a sample of households, mostly limited to urban areas.

(4) The Questionnaire

The design of the questionnaire and its content have been frequently revised. It was felt uneasy for enumerators to ask questions on occupation and industry because the concept of industry was not easily understood. The training on the classifications or purposes was also inadequate, as were instructions on the forms or in the various manuals.

(5) Sample Design

Two census schedules, a short form containing the core topics for all households in the country and a long form which contained the core topics and additional topics on fertility and mortality, were adopted (the long form was used only in a representative sample of households). Taking account of geographic structure, the census organization, type of data and the level of detail required, 5% of the sample enumeration areas(EAs) was deemed sufficient to provide usable estimates at both national and provincial levels. In practice, the final number of selected EAs amounted to 5621.

(6) Pre-Testing

Three pre-tests were conducted in order to test various census instruments and procedures.

The first pre-test conducted in Binh Tri Thien Province was, in many respects, the main one. It was a relatively large scale one, covering 80,000 persons with selected staff from all Provinces participated.

Then, an urban field test followed in Ho Chi Minh city in August 1988, which focused on logistical problems such as team size and control and the use of maps in locating households.

The final stage of testing was a pilot census conducted in Quang Ninh Province in December 1988. This pilot census was intended to provide a chance to observe census operations under realistic field conditions to evaluate the effectiveness of field logistics, training manuals and procedures.

(7) Fieldwork

1) Mapping

A draft of a training manual of mapping and listing for the census was prepared following the training course for mapping was conducted. This manual explained the essential characteristics of census maps, including standard scales, demarcation of boundaries, the need for geographic features, and the mapping of census dwellings. Then, procedures were established to prepare maps for checking, validation, and up-dating.

Enumeration Areas were formed based on the population density expected travelling time.

Each enumerator received a map of his/her EA, with complete details of dwellings with clear boundaries; and with essential features required to identify and locate each dwelling, the route to be followed during enumeration was also provided.

2) Listing

The listing was completed in two stages. The initial listing was completed by mid-December 1988. The second phase, in mid-March 1989, was to up-date household lists and maps to provide enumerators with the most reliable estimates of what would be expected in their EA's.

3) Publicity

There were a number of strategies adopted for publicity. One of the most effective one was the preparation of publicity material for the use at schools. Another important strategy was to involve as many people as possible in census discussions. While those two strategies helped penetrate into each family in Viet Nam, they were also supported by well-orchestrated campaigns through the mass media. Moreover, a large number of posters were produced and reading material was widely distributed.

4) Recruitment and Training of Enumerators

As a rule, enumerators recruited locally had completed secondary school.

Over 200,000 enumerators and supervisors were employed, in addition to a further 12% reserve force who were trained to prepare themselves against poor performance, sickness, accident or unexpectedly difficult work assignments.

The entire country was divided into enumeration areas; each equivalent to one enumerator workload. While in areas where travel was easy, such as the urban areas or on the coastal plains, EA's comprised between

500 - 600 persons, in areas with more difficult terrain, such as the highlands, EA's could have as few as 300 people, and for the more remote island communities, even less.

5) Enumeration

Interviews were daily recorded in the household register and information was checked by the supervisor. Spot checks by supervisors and District staff on the work of enumerators were also made on a regular basis. Supervisors were also expected to check completed questionnaires on a daily basis to discuss problems with enumerators, and to revisit households when necessary.

(8) Data Processing

For census data processing, Provinces were assigned to each of three regional processing centers in Ha Noi, Ho Chi Minh city and Da Nang.

(9) Post-Enumeration Survey (PES)

The PES was conducted on 10 and 11 April 1989, 3 days after the census enumeration was completed. The field work was carried out by fieldworkers, who had been census supervisors. The PES covered 100 EAs (60 out of the 100 EAs was allocated to the urban areas).

As a result of PES, overall rate of net under-coverage was approximately 0.5 %, of which the urban rate was estimated to be 0.7 % while the rural rate was 0.4 %.

4.2 Demographic and Health Survey

The Vietnamese Demographic and Health Survey (VNDHS) was a nationwide representative sample survey conducted in May and June 1988 to collect data on fertility, family planning and a few indicators of child and maternal health. A total of 4,807 households and 4,172 eligible women aged 15 to 49 years old were interviewed.

(1) Survey Objectives

The survey was designed to collect data on fertility, family planning, characteristics of women in the reproductive ages, and other information useful to family planning program managers and population policy makers. The data was expected to facilitate program planning and evaluation and to help assess the impact of the family planning program on demographic indicators. Since it was the first attempt as a nationally representative survey, its focus was to design a short questionnaire to collect information on a limited number of essential indicators.

(2) Organization

The VNDHS was carried out by the Permanent Secretariat staff of NCPFP, with financial support by UNFPA. The NCPFP was responsible for the over-all implementation of the survey, including sample design, preparation of survey instruments, field work, data collection and processing, and analysis of data, in cooperation with a several research institutes.

A steering committee was formed to direct implementation of the survey, of which members included representatives from various collaborating institutions. PCFP (the Provincial Committee for Population and Family Planning) were responsible for the technical as well as administrative aspects of the survey in their province. The

provincial offices were responsible for training supervisors and interviewers, who were recruited locally. They conducted the field work in the sample areas selected by the national steering committee.

(3) Enumeration

The survey was based on a national sample designed to provide independent estimates for the two major regions of the country. A total of 151 urban blocks and rural communes from 12 provinces were selected as sample units.

Of these 151 sample units, 4,806 households were identified as target households, with a total of 25,386 individuals. A total of 4,172 ever married women of the reproductive ages (15-49 years old) were identified as eligible respondents.

Training of supervisors and interviewers from 12 selected provinces were carried out in separate training courses in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh city. Those courses focused on interviewing skills, methods to use the related manuals, and on selection of households and eligible respondents from the sample areas which had been selected by the steering committee.

Completed questionnaires were carefully edited in the field, then, sent to the national survey director in Hanoi.

(4) Questionnaire

Considering the fact that this was the first nationwide survey on fertility and family planning, it concentrated on basic information which has only 72 questions in 18 pages.

(5) Supervisor's training

The field work was executed by the staff of PCFPF and Family Planning Offices from 12 provinces selected for the survey.

The training courses were carried out in Hanoi for the provinces in the north, and in Ho Chi Minh city for the southern ones, including the explanation of the objectives of the survey, the fieldwork to be done by provincial staff, the core questionnaires and related documents, the guide to define households for sampling, and interviewing skills.

(6) Organization of the Field Work

PCFPF was responsible for the field work in his/her own province and 2 to 3 teams were set up in each province.

A brief review meeting was usually held after completing interviews in each sample unit to correct any errors or misunderstandings, and to improve performance in the next sample unit.

(7) Editing and Data Entry

All questionnaires completed were sent directly to the NCPFP office in Hanoi for editing where office editing and data entry were completed by early August 1988, and the tabulations for the preliminary results of the survey was conducted in September 1988.

(8) Survey Results

For the country as a whole, nearly 99 % of the selected households were successfully interviewed and the overall response rate for individual interviews was also very high, nearly one hundred percent, although there was only a slight difference in response rate by region.

Approximately 17 % of ever-married women reside in urban areas and 83 percent in rural areas. More than half of the interviewed women aged 15-49 in the survey had more than 3 children while women having more than 4 living children was 35 % indeed. The fertility level in Viet Nam has been quite high, and the small family norm of 2 children per family seemed only the beginning to be accepted by Vietnamese women, especially those living in rural areas.

This survey actually showed a high degree of contraceptive awareness in Viet Nam. For example, an overwhelming 94% of the women surveyed knew about at least one contraception method, with 91.8% knowing about the intrauterine device(IUD). The single exception is illiterate women (comprising only 6.4% of the total sample though), among whom only 74% were aware of the IUD and 81% were aware of any other method. Thus, knowledge about contraception appeared to be very widely diffused among the Vietnamese population.

4.3 Civil Registration

Civil registration of births and deaths, which has its legal origins in a government directive CP-04 issued in 1961, is executed at a commune level.

And the information recorded at the time of civil registration, and the types of forms and registration books currently used, have their origins in legislation of 1968.

In 1987, the Ministry of Justice took place of the Ministry of Home Affairs in controlling and implementing birth and death (and marriage) registration. It plans to issue new regulations to govern the management of civil registration which will be put into effect in early 1993. Responsibility for collection and compilation of civil registration data will also be transferred from the GSO to

the Ministry of Justice, which also plans to redesign registration forms and books, employ registrars in a full-time basis, train them to be more active in carrying out their duties, and promote educational campaigns to encourage registration.

In many rural communes, however, registrars are not certain about their registration duties and, often unrewarded, hampered by lack of training, and lack of materials. Thus, in spite of its legal basis, it is widely recognized that there is very severe under-registration of births and deaths, particularly in rural areas, as well as frequent delayed registration.

The present situation of Vietnamese civil registration can be described as follows:

- Because there is no widely perceived advantages for having birth or death certificates demand for registration by Vietnamese people is weak;
- The registration system also faces chronic financial resource constraints;
- Registrars are frequently ill equipped and untrained;
- District or Provincial Justice Offices do not have centralized policy on document distribution and training.

4.4 The Survey of Population Change

Since January 1981 the GSO has carried out an annual 10% Survey of Population Change (2% sample since 1991). The survey is conducted in the first two weeks of the year and its sole objective is to obtain information on births, deaths and movements of the population that occurred in the previous year prior to the survey.

Firstly, 50% of every commune in every district is chosen. Secondly, a sample of 20% of all enumeration areas (EAs) in each selected commune is taken. Thus, those EAs end up containing an average of about 60 households in urban areas and 100-150 households in rural areas.

The number of survey questionnaire is very small and it only asks for some basic questions such as the head of selected households, the number of persons in the household, and whether there were any births, deaths, in-migrants or out-migrants in the household during the previous calendar year.

If there is anything applicable to the above questions, the household head is asked for further information about the event in a separate questionnaire.

Shortly after completion of the field work, the DSOs will initiate an independent post-interview check on the count of numbers of births and deaths in the survey. The DSOs are instructed to randomly select one commune and reinterview all the households in the EAs included in the survey.

4.5 Evaluation Survey

The evaluation survey was held in April 1991. Its approach followed was to reinterview a sub-sample of households that had been covered in the Survey of Population Change in ten provinces.

A sub-sample of EAs in ten provinces, covering total of 100 EAs, chosen to be representative of the whole country, was randomly selected. All of the households in the selected EAs were reinterviewed. The resultant sample size comprised some 12,600 households, equivalent to 0.4% of the total population of the ten provinces.

There is an urgent need for the Ministry of Justice to introduce a new legal directive, as is planned for early 1993, on the management of civil registration.

However, again, registrars must be trained, adequately equipped and not frequently replaced in order to get the effective results. Training of registrars is of particular importance, and should involve officials at the different administrative levels in registration and statistical tasks.

Therefore, the substantive contents of training should concentrate on;

- a) the procedures to be followed in registering births and deaths;
- b) how to improve coverage of registrations at the commune level (by making regular visits to commune clinics for example) and the particular need to register certain categories of events that are currently almost always omitted (babies who die in infancy);
- c) how to communicate with people about the role and legal importance of civil registration so as to increase public awareness, and
- d) on how to compile statistical information on births and deaths.

5. Population and Family Planning

Viet Nam has had a longstanding policy commitment to reduce population growth through a national population policy and family planning program.

The most important official statement recently made is the October 1988 Council of Ministers Decree on Population and Family Planning Policies, in which norms were set for parental age at first birth (22 years of age or older for women and 24 years of age or older for men in urban areas and in government service or in industry, 19 years or older for men in urban areas and in government service or in industry, 19 years or older for women and 21 or older for men in other areas), the number (maximum of two children for most groups in society with the exception of ethnic minorities and a few other categories who may have three children), and spacing of children (generally, the second child must be spaced 3 to 5 years apart from the first).

The 30 June 1989 Health Law also strongly stressed the fact that individuals must be free to choose the family planning method as they wish. In addition, further reiterating the voluntary nature of the Vietnamese family planning program, the law states that "All acts of preventing or forcing the implementation of family planning are prohibited."

Under this current situation of population and family planning, the Council of Ministers created the NCPFP in April 1984 as an advisory body to improve the Government's capacity to manage and implement the population programs.

5.1 The NCPFP (The National Committee for Population and Family Planning)

In July 1991 The Council of Ministers issued a decree on the functions, obligations, rights, mechanism and working

regulations to strengthen NCPFP, successfully implementing the population and family planning program within the framework of the strategy for socio-economic development.

(1) Organization

The NCPFP comes under direct jurisdiction of the Council of Ministers which coordinates activities of all branches and mass organizations concerned at various levels in order to materialize the State's objectives, regulations and policies on population and family planning.

A vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers, who also acts as Chairman of the NCPFP, is assisted by a standing vice-chairman and the coordinating vice-chairmen. Every one of the State Planning Committee, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Finance appoints either a vice-minister or an equivalent official to act as coordinating vice-chairman.

Also, each lower levels of government (province, city, district and commune) established its own committee which comes under the people's committee.

(2) Role and function

The NCPFP is responsible for giving advices to the Government concerning policy formulation, program development and intersectoral coordination in its implementation of family planning programs formulated at various Ministries, agencies, levels of government, mass organizations. It also covers undertaking field surveys, and preparation of policy studies, and briefing to carry out these functions.

Moreover, the NCPFP has its own budget, 270 million dong in 1992, 800 million dong in 1993.

5.2 Population and Family Planning Policy

(1) 1991-1995 Plan

The Principle orientation of the population and family planning program is to concentrate its efforts on the delta, the coast, the middle, and the mountainous regions and to activate the mass-media communications.

Thus, all activities are aimed at creating a new concept, voluntariness and consciousness of the population to solve various matters related to population and family planning.

1) Targets

The targets of the program are; (a) to reduce the total fertility rate from 3.7 in 1990 to 2.8 by the year 2000; i.e., to reduce the crude birth rate by 0.6 per thousand a year from 30.3 per thousand in 1990 to 27.3 per thousand in 1995; and (b) to increase the contraceptive prevalence rate from 42.5% in 1990 to 50.5% in 1995.

2) Measures

- to introduce population education program to various schools and mass organizations
- to transmit the information on population and family planning to the population, particularly in the rural areas, and to direct people to take part in the program, through promoting IEC activities
- to develop and improve the quality of technical service to create safe and favorable conditions for the use of the family planning
- to increase the capacity of program management on population and family planning

3) Budget

The distribution of fund resources is classified as 40% from State funds, 20% from Regional funds, 10% from Contribution from the population and 30% from International aid.

Then, the funds are distributed to IEC and education (35%), Technical services (45%), and to Management, monitoring and evaluation (20%).

5.3 Assistance by UNFPA

UNFPA has been the main agency as an external donor assisting the family planning program in Viet Nam. From 1978 to 1991, its three country programs (1978-83, 1984-87, and 1988-91) as an aid have amounted to a total of more than US\$50 million.

(1) The Fourth Country Program (1992-1995)

1) Outline

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) proposed a financial support which amounts to \$36 million for a comprehensive population program. This program is aimed at achieving Vietnamese population and development objectives by assisting the Government of Viet Nam over a four-year period starting January 1992.

The programme is the fourth cycle of UNFPA assistance to Viet Nam and its primary importance is based on :

- (a) government policies and strategies, particularly those concerning maternal and child health and family planning (MCH/FP);
- (b) the findings and recommendations of the Programme Review and Strategy Development (PRSD) mission undertaken in late 1990;
- (c) the experience of the UNFPA's third country programme; and
- (d)

discussions with senior officials of the NCPFP, and other government agencies, the United Nations, and other agencies associated with population-related activities in Viet Nam.

2) Objectives

The objective of the UNFPA programme is to assist the Government to reduce the population growth rate by lowering the fertility rate. However, its ultimate objectives is to improve the quality of people's life and to improve the role, status and well-being of women. It also plans to increase access to and availability of various choices of contraceptives, so that it gives couples more choices voluntarily on the number and spacing of their children, and to raise awareness of population related issues.

3) Finance

The breakdown by program area is as follows:

	<u>UNFPA regular resources</u>	<u>other resources</u>	<u>Total</u>
1) Maternal and child health and family planning	13,000,000	9,000,000	22,000,000
2) Information, education and communication	7,000,000	1,000,000	8,000,000
3) Data collection and analysis	2,500,000	500,000	3,000,000
4) Population policy formulation	500,000	250,000	750,000
5) Population dynamics	750,000	250,000	1,000,000
6) Women, population and development	250,000	--	250,000
7) Programme reserve	1,000,000	--	1,000,000
TOTAL (US\$)	25,000,000	11,000,000	36,000,000

(2) Sectoral Programs

1) Maternal and Child health and family planning

Since maternal and child health and family planning are the fundamental basis of the population program, the support, which was initiated in the third cycle, for the supply and distribution network of contraceptives, essential family planning drugs, and medical equipment would continue to be strengthened.

Support will also be provided to the development of other distribution channels apart from the clinical network to increase the social marketing and non-clinical distribution of condoms and, possibly, of pills. It would be useful to utilize the "private sector"--street vendors, mass organizations, private practitioners, etc. for this objective.

Training of MCH/FP health personnel (including some in the private sector) at the grass-roots level will be consolidated in the selected provinces and developed in the six new provinces. Curricula will be improved and include training on counselling techniques and information on AIDS.

Family planning service statistics will also be strengthened through support for the implementation of the Home-Based Women's Record Card (HBWR) system.

2) Information, education and communication

The objective of the assistance to the IEC sector is to create more people's awareness of population issues throughout the all strata of the society.

In the area of population education, further support will be given to the Ministry of Education to expand

the population education program, piloted in 17 provinces, to cover the whole country including family life and sex education in the program.

Support to the family planning motivation work by the Women's Union, the Youth Union, etc. will also be given.

3) Data collection and analysis

The objective in this area is to establish an integrated statistical system in the field of population based on the successful 1989 census.

Support will be provided to an inter-censal demographic survey in 1994, focusing on maternal histories of respondents, some health issues, contraceptive knowledge and behaviour, and the economic situation of each household.

Also, support to the establishment of a computerized database of the 1989 census at GSO in order to enable access to and full dissemination and the effective utilization of the results by national and international users will be given.

Training of census users and population personnel at the central and, particularly, at the provincial and selected district levels will be conducted by utilizing the results of the 1989 census in planning and in sectoral target-setting. In addition, training mechanisms at regional levels, making use of regional training facilities, will be established.

6. The Problems of Statistical System to be Solved

6.1 The Problems of Statistical System to be Solved in Viet Nam

(1) Scale of GSO

There are only 280 staff members employed at the GSO. This number is too small when compared to the number of employees at the Statistics Bureau in Japan, which is roughly 2,000 (even though its population is only about twice as large as that of Viet Nam). Thus, it will be absolutely imperative to increase both the GSO staff members and the GSO budget.

(2) Quality of GSO staff members

The fact that a large number of current GSO staff members, including the GSO director, were educated in the former Soviet Union indicates a general lack of knowledge of the economic and statistical methods prevailing in the Western countries.

(3) Relations between regional organizations and central organization

The present role of the GSO is only limited to issuing instructions and not responsible for budget allocation. Furthermore, it is said that regional statistical organizations will come under the direct jurisdiction of the GSO in the near future. Thus, uncertain relations between the central and regional organizations pose a domestic problem.

(4) Allocation of computers

Computers are not allocated at every ministerial level. Indeed, only 20 places currently possess computers.

(5) Sampling survey

Villages are primarily selected as a sampling unit at administrative convenience. Although such a sampling method would seriously damage sampling accuracy, no calculation on sampling error is done except for simply totaling data. Thus, it is evident that the current knowledge with respect to the sampling survey is far from sufficient.

(6) Lack of principal statistical indices

A labor productivity index is also not yet being computed in Viet Nam. The fact that this index is not still computed in Viet Nam, regardless it had been deemed important even in the former Soviet Union, indicates the very lower degree of statistical quality in Viet Nam.

(7) Degree of computer utilization

Because of the low frequency of computer utilization in statistical practices, computers in Ho Chi Minh City are subcontracted for private sector work.

(8) Gap between central organization and Ho Chi Minh City

Ho Chi Minh City, not satisfied with the statistics gathered with instructions issued by the central organization, conducts nine surveys on its own. This fact clearly indicates that the statistics gathered and calculated by the State do not meet the actual requirements.

6.2 Statistics Required for Viet Nam's Society and Economy

Under the existing economic and social status of Viet Nam, the following points are prerequisite when considering what economic policies or statistical practices ought to be adopted.

(1) Population increase and population statistics

Viet Nam's population is expected to double its current size by the year 2030 as long as its current growth rate keeps its pace. Propagation of family planning is by far the most urgent priority, and UNFPA is actively assisting Viet Nam from a global point of view. Thanks to the assistance offered by UNFPA, the quality of population statistics gathered in Viet Nam has marked a phenomenal improvement.

Even so, however, the value of high quality population statistics in Viet Nam would be impaired seriously if the quality of other remainings, including sanitation and economic statistics, are unimproved. Moreover, it should be noted that the installation of computers under UNFPA aid covers not all, but a only part of the ministries concerned.

(2) Statistics on unemployment and labor force

Migration is basically prohibited by the Vietnamese government in order to avoid social instability. As a result, about 2/3 of the labor force faces potential unemployment because the acreage of cultivated land remains unchanged.

Therefore, without the implementation of a survey of potential unemployment and regional development programs, economic development will result in regional imbalance. Thus, it is necessary to survey the labor force following the methods of the agriculture and forestry statistics system conducted in Japan, rather than the methods used in the former Soviet Union.

(3) Infant mortality and health statistics

Infant mortality in Viet Nam, according by the UNFPA survey, is 50/1000 live births. It was carried out through sampling (5%) and no regional totalization was made under the condition that no data was provided concerning infant mortality by province. It is suspected that infant mortality would be as high as 60/1,000 live births in some regions. Regional health statistics are virtually non-existent.

(4) Prices and price indices

There is no price multiplication weight available because any adequate household surveys are not conducted. In addition, only 170 items, subjected to price survey, are not consumer goods selected on the basis of household survey data.

The fact that accurate prices are not officially published has adverse impact on various segments of the national economy. Accordingly, scientific surveys on household and price ought to be implemented.

(5) Volume of foreign trade and trade statistics

The precise volume of foreign trade is not available in Viet Nam because it is enumerated separately upon types of business enterprises. So foreign trade statistics systemized, based on customs clearance, needs to be established.

For example, according to officials in charge, 2,000 second hand automobiles (Japanese make) per month are being exported to the People's Republic of China from a certain region of northern Viet Nam. Nevertheless, this fact is not covered at all by the current foreign trade statistics.

(6) Absence of data on housing construction and investment

No statistics are available regarding investment and housing construction, a driving force of Viet Nam's national economy. Only statistics with respect to government owned enterprises are available.

(7) Absence of labor productivity statistics

It has to be pointed out that various statistics, including labor productivity, needed are lacked in Viet Nam. As mentioned earlier, although labor productivity statistics had been deemed extremely important even in the former Soviet Union, they are not calculated in Viet Nam. The general level of statistics in Viet Nam is, thus, ranked low even for a socialist state.

(8) Impossibility of national economic calculation

It is almost impossible, to quantify the national economy of Viet Nam, putting an emphasis on national income, with an adequate degree of accuracy in terms of the quality of the current Vietnamese statistics yearbook. A statistical survey system needs to be established.

(9) Uncertainty of income

Even public officials in Viet Nam cannot afford a reasonable living standard on their own salaries and are obliged to have second jobs. For instance, the monthly salary of the GSO Director is 15,000 dons, while the minimum monthly cost of living per capita is 11,000 dons). Accordingly, while the majority of Vietnamese depend on income from their second jobs, it is hard to establish statistics concerning such ingrasped additional incomes. Although it is said that the annual per capita income of citizens in Ho Chi Minh City is US\$ 600, the income of citizens in adjacent Longan Province, located in the Mekong

delta, is only US\$ 200, while the actual gap between the two regions appears to be much greater.

6.3 Cooperation for Population and Family Planning

(1) Population statistics

Various projects are in progress under the auspices of UNFPA with respect to population statistics in Viet Nam, and actually, various statistics surveys including a Population Census and a Demographic and Health survey are being established. Population statistics are classified into static statistics which is under the jurisdiction of the GSO and dynamic statistics which is under the Ministry of Health. Because of UNFPA's cooperation, oriented much more toward static statistics rather than dynamic statistics, the quality of dynamic population statistics in Viet Nam is extremely poor. For example, infant mortality is calculated only once every ten years, without separate regional data.

As a result, UNFPA is obliged to conduct some of the regional surveys in order to supplement such insufficient statistical data. Considering population statistics in relation with family planning, promotion of family planning needs to be proceeded hand in hand with maternal and child health care. Yet, data on maternal and child health (for example, causes of infant mortality and nutritional conditions) and dynamic statistics (infant mortality) are unavailable, thus making it impossible to properly plan family planning promotion policies and measure the results thereof.

The principal reasons underlying the absence of reliable dynamic population statistics are caused by the extremely inadequate budget and shortage of staff members assigned to the task, although the responsible organization appears to have been reasonably well established. Considering that no budget exists to support the activities

at a health statistics information center, and that the number of medical doctors working in small, local medical institutions is insufficient, it is clear that both system and financial problems need to be rectified.

(2) Japanese Aid requested for family planning

1) Viet Nam's request to Japan

Since 1977, the Vietnamese government has been receiving UN aid for family planning, divided into seven phases, of which phases 1 - 3 have been already completed so far. Phase 4 covers the years 1992 - 1995. The Vietnamese government, was granted US\$ 51 million in aid during phases 1 - 3, has been sanctioned US\$ 36 million in UN aid has been sanctioned for the phase 4 program (of which US\$ 25 million to be provided by UNFPA and the remaining US\$ 11 million to be provided by various nations).

Requests are being filed, by the Vietnamese government, to various nations with respect to this remaining balance, including an aid for US\$ 4 million from Japan.

The requested aid includes such as contraceptives and medical equipment to four selected provinces in Viet Nam.

2) Particularities of Viet Nam on family planning

It is significant that policies to promote family planning must be evaluated according to the particular conditions lie in each country.

Particularities of Viet Nam seem to include: (a) an insufficient supply of regional personnel required, (b) a low standard of public sanitation, (c) a low

educational standard of mothers, and (d) the solid family system.

When compared with the People's Republic of China, (a) China has managed to secure the minimum number of required regional personnel and (b) its sanitation level is relatively higher; although (c) the educational standard of mothers is higher in Viet Nam, while, (d) the family system is still stronger in the People's Republic of China.

Therefore, Japanese aid to Viet Nam must focus much more on (a) the insufficient supply of required regional personnel and (b) the low standard of sanitation.

Officials in charge of NCPFP, indeed, share the same recognition; the urgent need to reinforce regional organizations.

APPENDIX

I. REFERENCE DATA

(CENTRAL CENSUS STEERING COMMITTEE)

1	VIETNAM POPULATION CENSUS -1989	COMPLETED CENSUS RESULTS VOLUME	1991
2	VIETNAM POPULATION CENSUS -1989	COMPLETED CENSUS RESULTS VOLUME	1991
3	VIETNAM POPULATION CENSUS -1989	COMPLETED CENSUS RESULTS VOLUME	1991
4	VIETNAM POPULATION CENSUS -1989	COMPLETED CENSUS RESULTS VOLUME	1991
5	VIETNAM POPULATION CENSUS -1989	COMPLETED CENSUS RESULTS VOLUME	1991
6	VIETNAM POPULATION CENSUS -1989	COMPLETED CENSUS RESULTS VOLUME	1991
7	VIETNAM POPULATION CENSUS -1989	SAMPLE RESULTS	1990
8	VIETNAM POPULATION CENSUS -1989	SAMPLE RESULTS OF HOUSING SURVEY	1990
9	POPULATION CENSUS 1 APRIL 1989	ATLAS VIETNAM POPULATION	1991

(GENERAL STATISTICAL OFFICE, STATISTICAL PUBLISHING HOUSE)

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11	VIETNAM POPULATION CENSUS -1989	THE POPULATION OF VIETNAM	1992
12	VIETNAM POPULATION CENSUS -1989	ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT VOLUME 1 (VIE/88/P01 PROJECT)	1991
13	STATUS OF CIVIL REGISTRATION AND POPULATION STATISTICS VIET NAM 1992		1992
14	VIETNAM ECONOMY 1986-1991 BASED ON THE SYSTEM OF NATIONAL ACCOUNTS		1992
15	STATISTICAL DATA OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM 1986-1991		1992
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17	VITAL REGISTRATION AND POPULATION STATISTICS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (VIE/84/P03)		1989
18	HO CHI MINH CITY-REALITY AND PERSPECTIVE (HO CHI MINH STATISTICAL OFFICE)		1991
19	LONG AN A BRIEF INTRODUCTION (LONG AN PROVINCE PSO)		
20	INTERCENSAL DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEY (QUESTIONNAIRE FORM)		
21	GSO ORGANIZATION CHART		

(THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH)

- 22 FINAL REPORT ON HEALTH SURVEY IN SEVEN AREAS 1991
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To respond to World Bank request
- 24 REPORT ON RE-ENTRY AND ANALYZE of the general nutrition survey data 1991
MADE IN 1987-1989 To respond to World Bank requests
- 25 HEALTH STATISTICS OF VIETNAM 1986-1990 1991
- 26 REGISTER BOOK OF BIRTH
- 27 REGISTER BOOK OF DEATH
- 28 REPORT FORMAT OF HEALTH STATISTICS IN COMMUNE
- 29 REPORT FORMAT OF HEALTH STATISTICS IN DISTRICT
- 30 REPORT FORMAT OF HEALTH STATISTICS IN PROVINCE
- 31 SCHEME OF HEALTH STATISTICS AND INFORMATICS NETWORK (COPY)

(THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE)

- 32 REGISTER BOOK OF BIRTH
- 33 REGISTER BOOK OF DEATH
- 34 REGISTER BOOK OF MARRIAGE

(UNFPA)

- 35 THE STATE OF WORLD POPULATION 1992
- 36 1991 REPORT
- 37 UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND PROPOSED PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS (COPY)
- 38 UNFPA PRESENTATION TO THE FORUM ON VIET NAM POPULATION
PROGRAMME 1991 (COPY)

(NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR POPULATION AND FAMILY PLANNING: NCPFP)

- 39 DEMOGRAPHIC AND HEALTH SURVEY 1988 1990
- 40 COUNCIL OF MINISTERS DECISION 162 [OCTOBER 1988] CONCERNING A NUMBER
OF POPULATION AND FAMILY PLANNING POLICIES (COPY)
- 41 ORIENTATION AND AIMS OF THE 1991-1995 PLAN ON POPULATION AND
FAMILY PLANNING (COPY)

- 42 SOME CONCERNED ISSUES IN SETTING TARGETS, POLICY-STRATEGY
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- 43 DECREE OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ON THE FUNCTIONS, OBLIGATIONS,
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- 44 STRATEGY FOR INFORMATION-EDUCATION-COMMUNICATION OF
POPULATION AND FAMILY PLANNING (COPY)
- 45 ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF NCPFP (COPY)

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