

Press release

LCQ19: The elderly and child dependency ratios
Wednesday, July 11, 2012

Following is a question by the Hon Alan Leong Kah-kit and a written reply by the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Professor K C Chan, in the Legislative Council today (July 11):

Question:

Regarding the elderly and child dependency ratios, will the Government inform this Council whether it knows:

(a) the number of adults who need to maintain elderly people aged 65 and above, with a breakdown according to the table below;

Number of elderly people aged 65 and above being concurrently maintained	Number of adults who need to maintain elderly people
5 or more	
4	
3	
2	
1	
0	

(b) the monthly income of the adults who need to maintain elderly people aged 65 and above, with a breakdown according to the table below; and

Number of elderly people aged 65 and above being	Monthly income of adults who need to maintain elderly people			
	Below \$10,000	\$10,000 to	\$25,000 to	Above \$50,000

concurrently	\$25,000	\$50,000
maintained		
5 or more		
4		
3		
2		
1		
0		

(c) the number of adults who need to maintain concurrently elderly people aged 65 and above as well as children aged below 18, with a breakdown according to the table below?

Number of elderly people aged 65 and above being concurrently maintained	Number of children			
	being concurrently maintained			
5 or more	1	2	3	4 or more
4				
3				
2				
1				
0				

Reply:

President,

"Dependency ratios" are statistical indicators which reflect the overall burden of a society. According to common international statistical practice, "dependency ratios" refer to the number of persons aged under 15 and/or those aged 65 and above per 1 000 persons aged between 15 and 64. Based on population census/by-census and other statistical data, the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) regularly compiles "dependency ratios". In 2011, the child dependency ratio, elderly dependency ratio and overall dependency ratio of Hong Kong are as follows:

Child dependency ratio (The number of persons aged under 15 per 1 000 persons aged between 15 and 64)	155
Elderly dependency ratio (The number of persons aged 65 and above per 1 000 persons aged between 15 and 64)	177
Overall dependency ratio (The number of persons aged under 15 and those aged 65 and above per 1 000 persons aged between 15 and 64)	333

C&SD does not collect or compile data on the dependent elderly persons and/or children maintained by individual adults. Therefore, we cannot provide the breakdown figures as requested in parts (a), (b) and (c) of the Question raised by Hon Alan Leong Kah-kit.

Ends