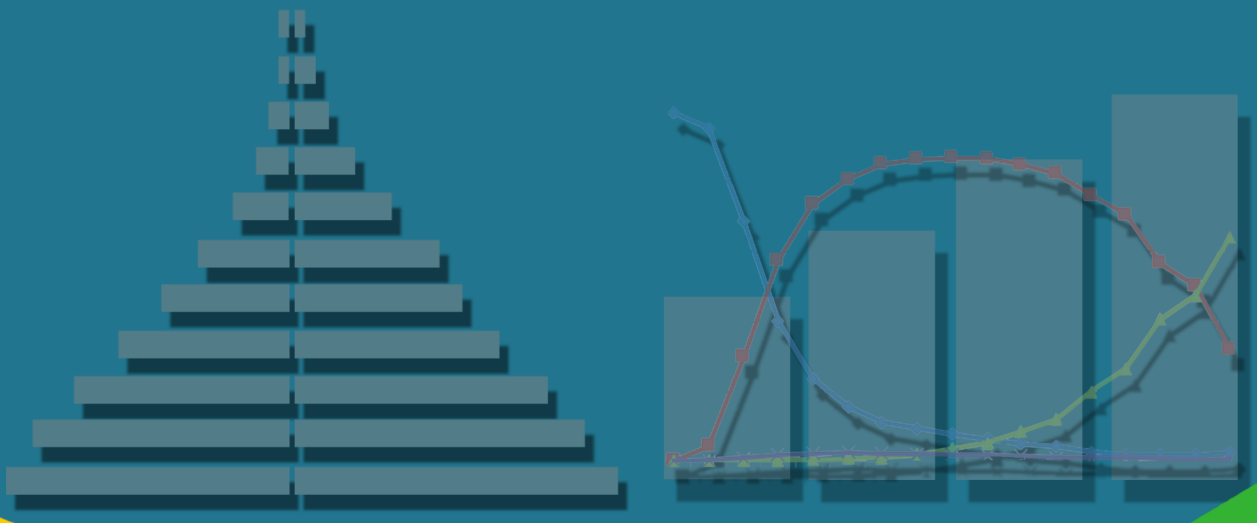
THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR

The 2019 Inter-censal Survey

Key Findings



Department of Population
Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population

December 2020

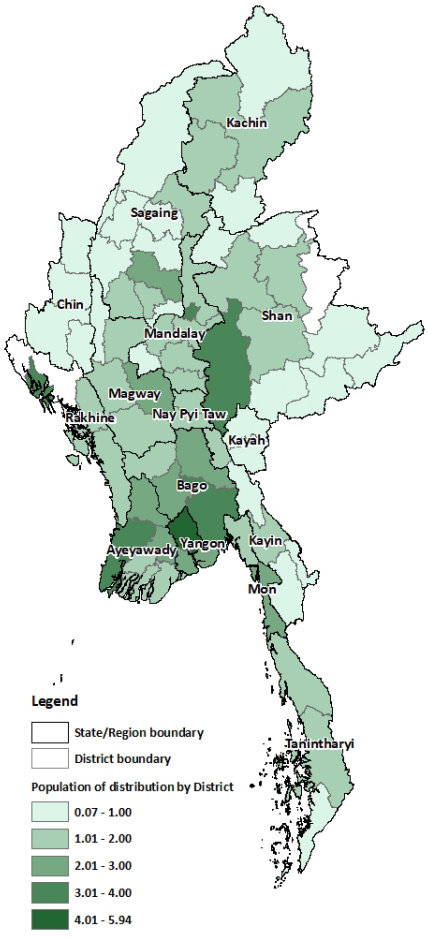
About The 2019 Inter-censal Survey

The 2019 Inter-censal Survey (ICS) is the first Inter-censal Survey undertaken by the government in response to the pressing demand for up-to-date data crucial for capturing several demographic changes happening in the country.

The 2019 ICS aims to capture the transformations happening in Myanmar and incorporate them into the different socio-demographic and economic plans for the country's development. Likewise, it aims to provide baseline data for the National Indicator Framework (NIF) of the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) as well as to assess the country's progress on the targets set for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The survey also served as a means to sustain the capacity built during the 2014 Census in preparation for the next Population and Housing Census in 2024.

The 2019 ICS collected individual information on demographic, migration, education, labour force participation, fertility, mortality, disability, older population, participation in community activities, well-being and support received by older population and people with disability, as well as housing and household information. The 2019 ICS covered only Conventional Households and was designed to produce district level data. Nationally representative samples of 548,553 individuals in 132,092 selected households were interviewed.

Population distribution



Population characteristic

Population size and distribution

Myanmar's total conventional household population was estimated at 51.1 million, males made up 46.8 percent and the females, 53.2 percent. Close to 50 percent of the total population live in Yangon Region (15.3%), Mandalay Region (12.1%), Ayeyawady Region (12.0%) and Shan State (10.5%).

Household size and household head

The mean household size was 4.6 people. Seventy-seven percent of households were headed by a man and only 23.2 percent by a woman. Forty-six percent of households comprised 3 to 4 household members which was an increase of about five percentage points compared with the 2014 Census. The proportion of 1-person household increased from 4.6 percent in 2014 to 5.4 percent in 2019. All this information reflects the fact that people in Myanmar preferred smaller households.

Age-sex structure

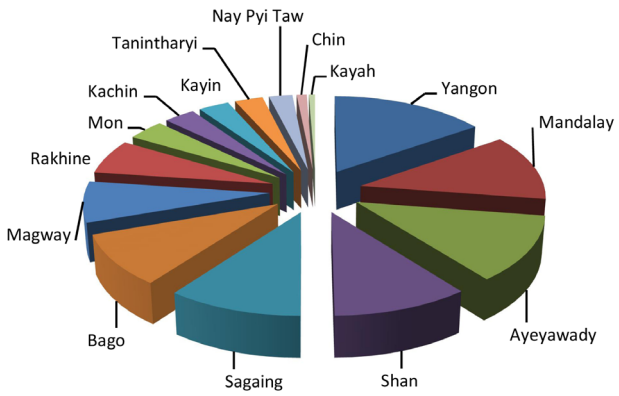
The sex ratio of the population (number of males for every 100 females) at the national level was 87.8 and, 86.1 for urban and 88.5 for rural areas.

The population pyramid of 2019 still retained the pot-shaped feature of 2014. However, due to fertility decline, the population in some age groups of 2019, especially for the age groups 5-9 and 10-14, decreased. On the other hand, the population of older age groups for 2019, i.e., aged 55 and over, increased.

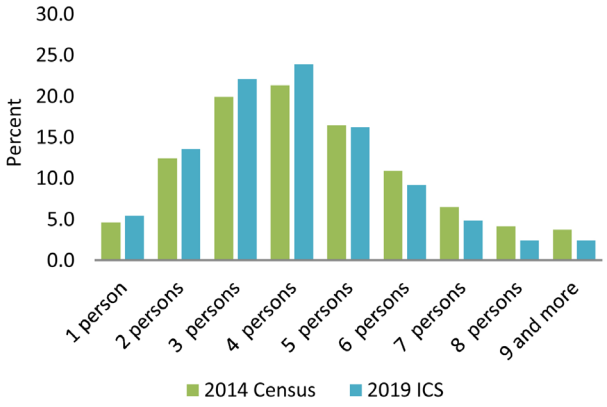
Dependency ratio

Total dependency ratio declined gradually from 73.9 in 1983 to 50.6 in 2019. A similar situation was observed for child dependency ratio. However, older age dependency ratio continued to increase. In 2019, there were 10 individuals aged 65 and over for every 100 persons of working-age population (15-64) in Myanmar. Median age has increased from 24 years in 1983 to 28 years in 2019.

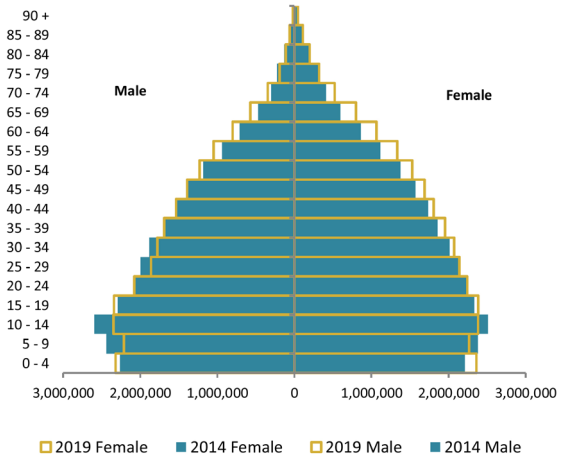
Population distribution



Size of households (2014 Census and 2019 ICS)



Age-sex pyramid (2014 Census and 2019 ICS)



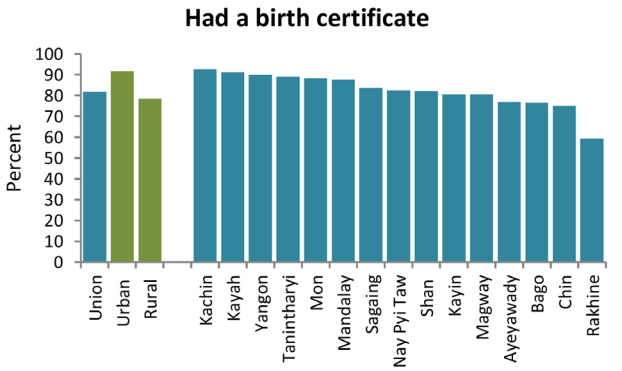
Dependency ratio and median age	1983 Census	2014 Census	2019 ICS
Total dependency ratio	73.9	52.4	50.6
Child dependency ratio	67.1	43.7	40.9
Old dependency ratio	6.8	8.8	9.7
Median Age	24.1	27.1	28.2

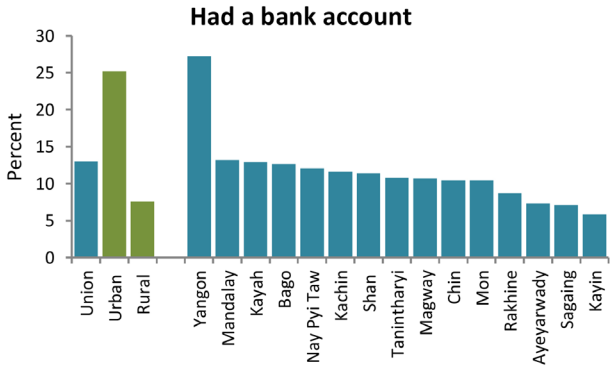
Birth registration

Out of the 14.9 million children covered in the survey, 81.7 percent had a birth certificate. About 91.6 percent and 78.5 percent of children aged 15 years and below in urban and rural areas respectively reported to have a birth certificate. At the regional level, Kachin had the highest proportion (92.5%) of having a birth certificate, followed by Kayah (91.2%) and the least was in Rakhine (59.4%).

Having bank account

The majority of people in Myanmar did not have a bank account. Only 13 percent of total population aged 18 years and over reported having a bank account, about 25 percent in urban and only 8 percent in rural areas. The main reason for not having a bank account was “don’t have enough money to have a bank account” (53.2%). About 46.6 percent reported that they did not need or want a bank account.

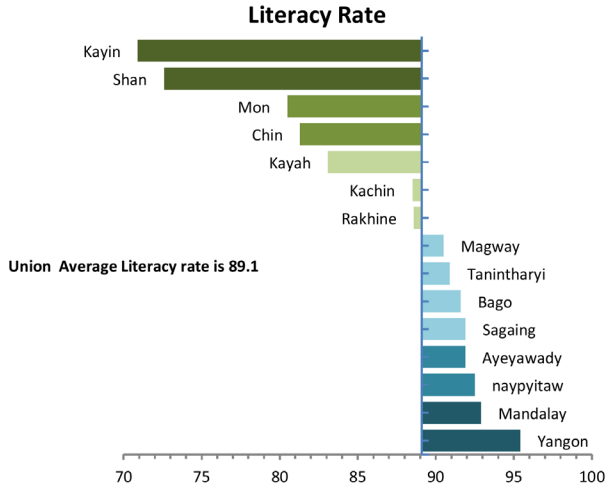


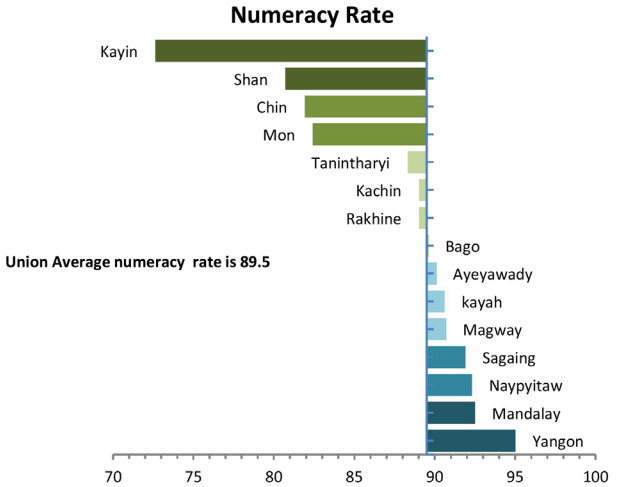


Education

Literacy and Numeracy

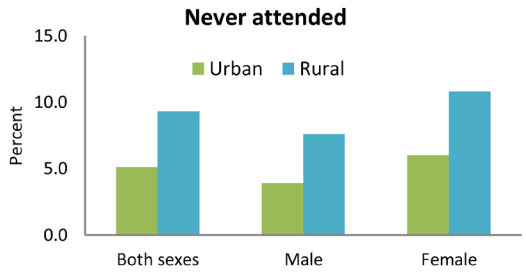
The literacy rate was 89.1 percent while numeracy rate was 89.5 percent. The regions with the highest literacy and numeracy rates were Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw; all reporting more than 92 percent. The lowest rates were found in Kayin (70.9%) and Shan (72.6%). The numeracy rate followed a similar pattern with the lowest rates observed in Kayin (72.6%) and Shan (80.7%).





Never attended

The gap between urban and rural areas in terms of school attendance is quite large. Only about 5 out of 100 people aged 5 years and over in urban areas reported that they had never attended school while it was about 9 out of 100 people in rural areas.



Currently attending

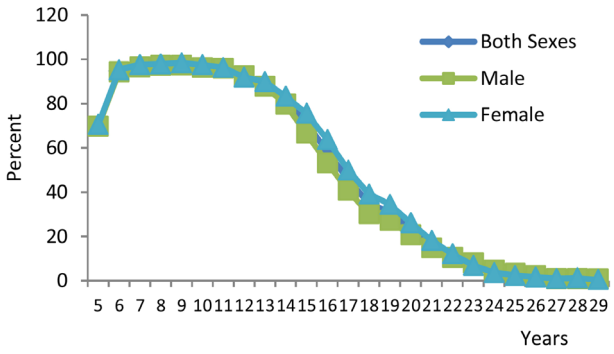
Out of 5.5 million children aged 3 to 8 years, about 65 percent were currently attending school or pre-school.

Sex difference for this indicator was minimal; 64 percent for boys and 66 percent for girls. The proportions of school attendance for both boys and girls were high between ages 6 and 13 years (more than 93%).

However, many children dropped out of school after they have attained the primary education. Starting from the age of 12, the proportions of currently attending started to decline slowly; with a sharp decline starting from age 14. As a result, by the age of 18, only 3 out of 10 were attending school. Generally, there was a small gender difference in all ages.

Special age group	Currently attending (%)		
	Both sexes	Male	Female
3-8	64.8	64.1	65.5
6-9	96.9	96.4	97.3
10-13	93.4	93.0	93.9
14-15	76.0	72.8	79.2
15-24	31.6	29.2	33.9
25+	0.3	0.4	0.3

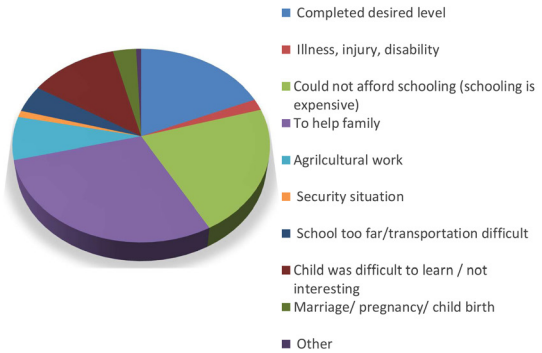
Proportion of population aged 5 years and over by current school attendance



Main reasons for stop schooling

Three out of ten people reported that they dropped out of school to help the family while two out of ten people responded that they could not afford schooling. About 12 percent reported that child was difficult to learn or not interested.

Main reasons for stop schooling



Labour force

Labour force participation rate

About 63 percent of the population aged 15 years and over were in the labour force.

Gender difference in labour force participation was quite large, about 76 percent of the male population aged 15 years and over were economically active compared to only 53 percent of their counterparts.

The proportions of males in the labour force were much higher than that of females for all age groups.

The rates for both men and women were almost linear/flat from ages 25 to 49 years and started to decline after age 49. The rates fell rapidly after the age of 60 years for both men and women.

Unemployment rate

The unemployment rate among persons aged 15 years and over was 2.7 percent at the national level.

Employment to population ratio

The employment to population ratio was 61.5 percent. This means among persons who were in the working-age group (15+), 61.5 percent were gainfully employed.

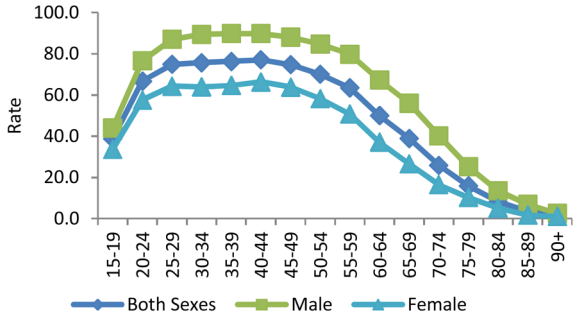
The remaining 38.5 percent were either unemployed or were out of the labour force.

Employment status

Among employed persons aged 15 years and over, almost half (45%) were own-account workers, and 27.7 percent were employees who worked in the private sector.

About 4 percent reported they were employees of the Government. It is worth noting that about 13 percent were working without any pay in a household or family business.

Labour force participation rate of the population aged 15 and over



Area	Both sexes	Male	Female
Labour force participation rate (15+)			
Union	63.2	75.7	52.7
Urban	58.9	70.8	49.1
Rural	65.1	77.8	54.2
Unemployment rate (15+)			
Union	2.7	2.1	3.4
Urban	2.6	2.4	2.8
Rural	2.7	1.9	3.6
Employment to population ratio (15+)			
Union	61.5	74.1	50.9
Urban	57.3	69.0	47.7
Rural	63.3	76.3	52.3

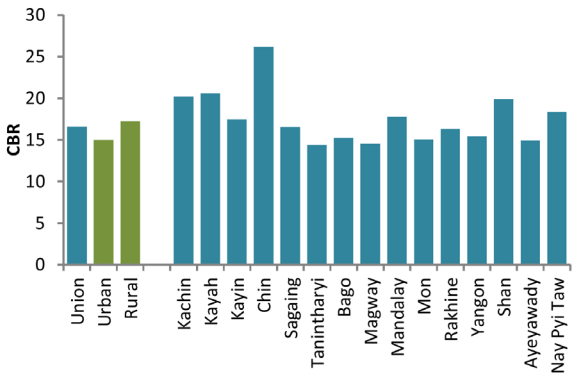
Employment status	%
Total	**100.0**
Employee (Government)	4.3
Employee (Private)	27.7
Paid apprentice/ intern	4.2
Worked as an employer	5.6
Own account worker	45.1
Helping without pay in a household/ family business	13.1
Others	0.1

Fertility and Mortality

Crude birth rate (CBR)

The CBR for Myanmar was 16.6 births per 1,000 population. Regional variation exists with relatively highest CBR observed in Chin (26.2), Kayah (20.6) and Kachin (20.2), and lowest in Tanintharyi (14.4) and Magway (14.6).

Crude birth rate (CBR)



Total fertility rate (TFR)

The TFR at the Union level was 2.0. The rates in urban and rural areas were, respectively, 1.7 and 2.2 children per woman. Chin had the highest TFR of 3.9 while the lowest (1.6) was for Yangon.

Total marital fertility rate (TMFR)

The TMFR at the national level was 3.9. The rates in urban and rural areas were, respectively, 3.7 and 4.0 children per woman. The highest TMFR (6.4 children per woman) was observed in Chin while the lowest rates (3.3 children per woman) were in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady.

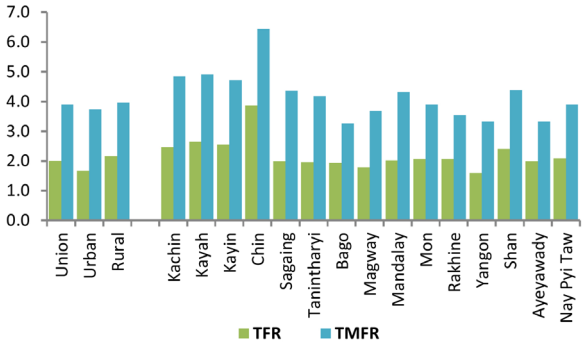
Age at first marriage and first live birth

The median age at first marriage of Myanmar women was 21.2 years at the national level; it was higher in urban areas (22.3 years) than in rural areas (20.9 years).

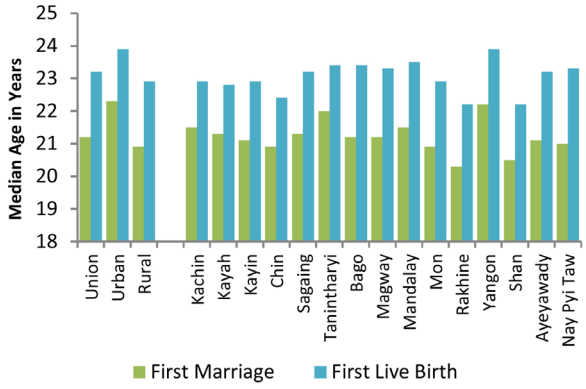
The median age at first live birth was 23.2 years among women aged 10-49 indicating that childbearing in Myanmar is relatively occurring at a later age.

The comparison of median age at first marriage and age at first live birth indicated that, on average, women in Myanmar have their first child about two years after they get married.

Comparison of TFR and TMFR



Comparison of Age at first marriage and first live birth



State/Region and Area	Age at first marriage	
	Under 18	18-24
Union	**16.4**	**83.6**
Urban	14.7	85.3
Rural	17.0	83.0
Kachin	12.3	87.7
Kayah	9.1	90.9
Kayin	16.4	83.6
Chin	16.0	84.0
Sagaing	14.3	85.7
Tanintharyi	13.3	86.7
Bago	18.1	81.9
Magway	16.1	83.9

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