

CPF Trends & Highlights

Providing Updates on Statistical Matters To You ...

Membership in Brief

From 1975 to 2005, CPF membership increased by 1,945 thousand members reaching 3,049 thousand in 2005. The growth rate between the 1995 - 2005 period was 1.3%, this was slower than the corresponding growth rate during the 1975 - 1985 and 1985 - 1995 periods. (See Table 1)

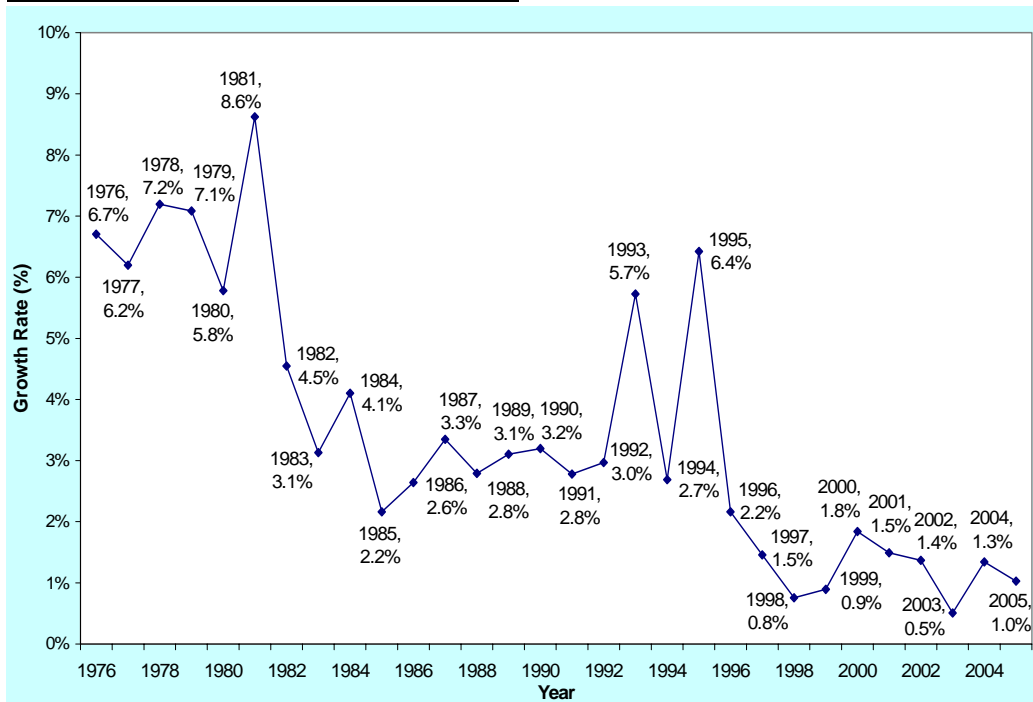
Table 1: Number of CPF Members as at end of the year

Year	Number ('000)	Average Annual Growth Rate (%)
1975	1,104	na
1985	1,892	5.5
1995	2,684	3.6
2005	3,049	1.3

Note: Figures include self-employed. The average annual growth rate is the compounded growth rate over the corresponding 10 year period. CPF member refers to a person with a positive balance in any of his CPF accounts.

The growth rate of CPF members has trended downwards over the years from 1976 to 2005. It is observed that sudden surges in the growth rate of CPF members occurred in the following years of 1981, 1993 and 1995. This can be attributed to the top-up schemes introduced in 1993 and 1995. (See Chart 1)

Chart 1: Growth Rate of CPF Members (1976-2005)



Note: Figures include self-employed. CPF member refers to a person with a positive balance in any of his CPF accounts.

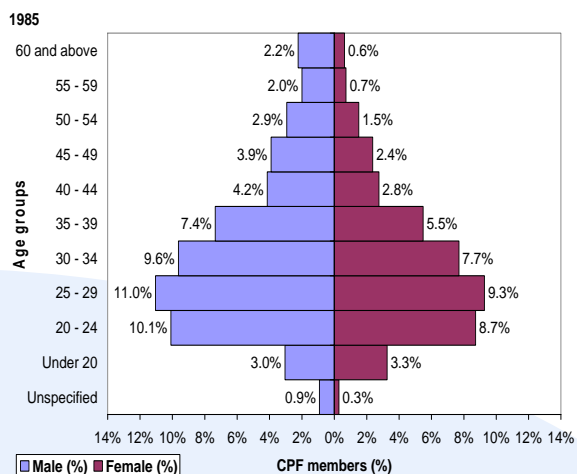
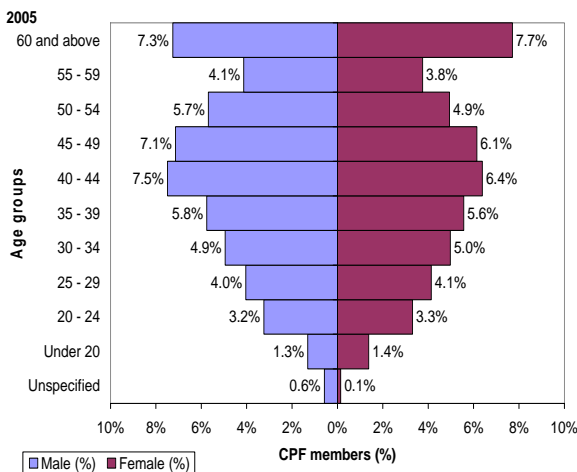


Trends and Insights

Changing Age Structure

The growth in CPF membership over the last 2 decades was accompanied by some rather discernible changes in the age structure (see Chart 2).

Chart 2: Population Pyramid of CPF Members



Note: Exclude those with unspecified gender. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

The age structure of CPF members has become older in the last 2 decades. This can be inferred from Chart 2 where the shape of the population pyramid has evolved to a regressive one. The proportion of members aged 55 years and above displayed a four-fold jump from 5.5% in 1985 to 22.9% in 2005. In sharp contrast, there was a fall in the proportion of those aged below 24 from 25.1% in 1985 to 9.2% in 2005. The proportion of those aged 25 to 54 dropped slightly from 68.2% to 67.1%.

The aging of the CPF membership base is generally consistent with larger demographic changes at work such as the ageing of the overall Singapore population, decline in fertility rates and the increase in life expectancy. An aging population puts greater pressure on a country's health care and social security systems. Thus, there is an increasing need to enhance the adequacy of CPF savings for retirement and to improve the effectiveness of CPF coverage to help members ensure that they are financially secure in their old age.



About Population Pyramids

Population pyramids give a pictorial representation of the age and sex composition of a population at a particular point in time. Population pyramids give a quick graphical summary of changing demographics. The shape of a population pyramid can provide interesting and significant insights to a population's past and future:

- **Stationary pyramid** – A pyramid showing an unchanging pattern of fertility and mortality.
- **Progressive pyramid** – A pyramid with an increasing birth rate and a high death rate.
- **Regressive pyramid** – A pyramid with a declining birth rate and a low mortality rate.

(Source: Dem-Lab, *Teaching Demography Through Computers*, 1992 Prentice Hall and Wikipedia)