

# The Youth Population in China (2018): the Current Situation and Development Trends





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Youth is considered a transitional period of development. The youth population refers to a special group of people whose age spans from puberty to early adulthood. As their physiological and psychological development mature, their cognitive and social adaptation abilities also experience rapid development. Consequently, they gradually start to cope with various physiological, psychological and social changes independently. After experiencing this developmental stage, most of the youth population are able to successfully proceed to the middle and late stages of adulthood. However, a small number of youths may find themselves in a disadvantaged position when faced with various risks and find it difficult to obtain further development opportunities.

The health and development of Chinese youths are closely related to the future of the nation, and the notion that “investing in the youth population is investing in the future” has become the general consensus. This report will present descriptive analysis on the situation of the youth population in China, mainly based on data from the 2015 1% National Population Sample Survey and previous population censuses and surveys, and focusing on the current characteristics of the Chinese youth population as well as the relevant changing trends.

## Definition

**Youth:** There are three commonly used terms describing the development of adolescents and youths: adolescents, youths and young people. According to WHO<sup>1</sup>, adolescents refer to persons aged 10-19, youths refer to those aged 15-24, and young people refer to those aged 10-24. This report focuses on youths, namely those aged 15-24.

**The educational development stages of youths by age:** The educational development process of youths is categorized into three stages by age: secondary education (mainly senior secondary education, ages

15-17), undergraduate education (ages 18-21) and graduate education (ages 22-24).

**Migrant youth:** Migrant youths are those aged 15-24 in the migrant population. Migrants are defined as those whose current residence is not in the village or township of their registered household residence, and who have been away from their registered household residence for more than half a year. It excludes those who reside in a different district of the same city as their registered household residence.

## Data Sources

Unless otherwise stated, the main data source of this report is the 1% National Population Sample Survey conducted by the National Bureau of Statistics in 2015, supplemented by historical data of previous population censuses. China has conducted six national population censuses in 1953, 1964, 1982, 1990, 2000 and 2010,

and the current frequency is every ten years. The 1% National Population Sample Survey is conducted in between two population censuses, and it is known as the “mini-census”. The two most recent mini censuses were conducted in 2005 and 2015.

1. WHO. Adolescent health and development. ([http://www.searo.who.int/entity/child\\_adolescent/topics/adolescent\\_health/en/](http://www.searo.who.int/entity/child_adolescent/topics/adolescent_health/en/)).

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## 1. An Overview of the Youth Population

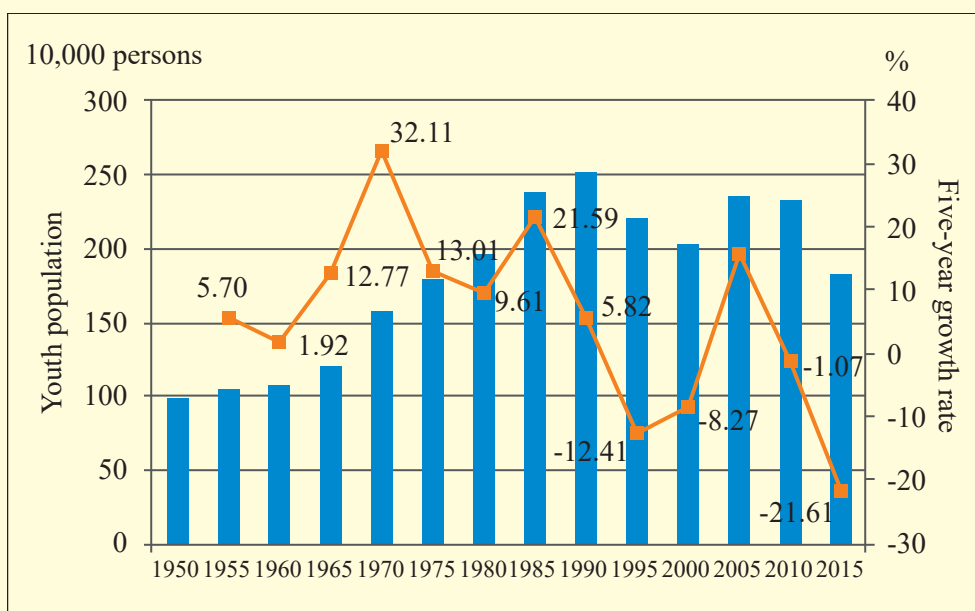
### 1.1 Size of the youth population and its development trajectory (1982-2015)

Since 1950, the total youth population in China has presented a trend of fluctuated development. Specifically, it experienced a period of growth from 1950 to 1990, then a period of decline from 1990 to 2000, followed by another period of growth from 2000 to 2005, and most recently another period of decline from 2005 to 2015 (Figure 1-1).

Correspondingly, the proportion of China's youth population to the total youth population in the world and in Asia have experienced a gradual decline since 1990, and it has demonstrated a greater decline if compared with the proportion of China's total

population to the total population of the world and Asia. In 2015, the world's total population was 7.383 billion, in which China accounted for 18.92%, down by 0.8 and 1.96 percentage points compared with the figures in 2010 and 2000, respectively. In the same year, China accounted for 31.61% of the total population in Asia, down by 1 and 2.79 percentage points from the figures in 2010 and 2000, respectively. The proportion of China's youth population to the total youth population in the world and in Asia has dropped by 5-7 percentage points since 1990. Since 2000, the size of the youth population in the world demonstrated a trend of increase at the beginning (2000-2010) followed by a trend of decrease (2010-2015). In 2010, the world's total youth population was 1.222 billion, an increase of some 133 million from 2000. By 2015, the world's

Figure 1-1 Size of the youth population in China (1950-2015)



Source: World Population Prospects, 2016.

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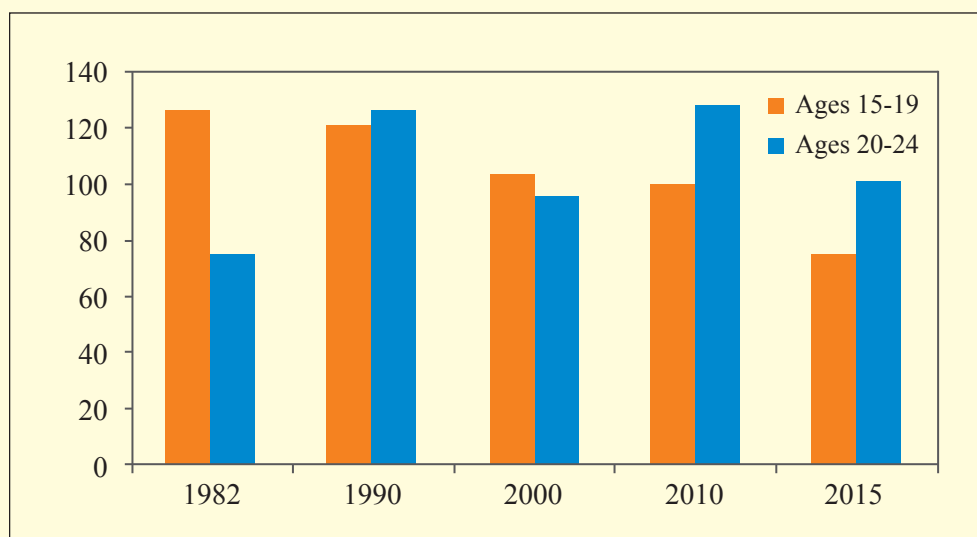
total youth population was 1.195 billion, a decrease of approximately 27 million from 2010. The same trend of increase at the beginning (2000-2005) followed by a trend of decrease (2005-2015) also applied to the proportion of China's youth population in the world and in Asia. In 2015, the proportion of Chinese youths in the world was 15.25%, a decrease of 2.3, 4.51 and 3.35 percentage points from 2010, 2005 and 2000, respectively. Similarly, in 2015, the proportion of Chinese youths in Asia was 25.39%, a decrease of 5.27, 6.25 and 4.70<sup>2</sup> percentage points compared with that in 2010, 2005 and 2000, respectively.

According to the 2015 1% National Population Sample Survey, there were 175 million youths aged 15-24 in China at the end of 2015, accounting for 12.76% of the total population. Examining historical data on the

changes to the youth subgroups, the absolute number of the youths aged 15-19 gradually decreased from 130 million in 1982 to 75.11 million in 2015. In the same period, the youth population aged 20-24 recorded a fluctuated development: it rose from around 70 million in 1982 to 130 million in 1990, declined to 100 million in 2000, increased to 130 million in 2010, and fell again to around 100 million in 2015 (Figure 1-2).

At the same time, the proportion of youths in the total population presented a similar trend to the change in population size. From 1982 to 2015, the proportion of youths aged 15-19 decreased from 12.5% to 5.5% in the total population. The proportion of youths aged 20-24 reached its peak value of 11.1% in 1990, and stood around 7.5% in 1982, 2000 and 2015. Excluding influencing factors such as death, this reflects the birth

**Figure 1-2 Size of the youth population (1982-2015, Million)**



Data Source: Calculated according to the historical national population censuses and 1% national population sample survey data.

2. United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). *World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, DVD Edition*.



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levels of three key cohorts in China: the early 1960s (during the Three Years of Great Famine), the period from 1980 to 1985, and the period between 1995 and 2000 (Figure 1-2).

## 1.2 Sex ratio of the youth population rose rapidly in the recent five years

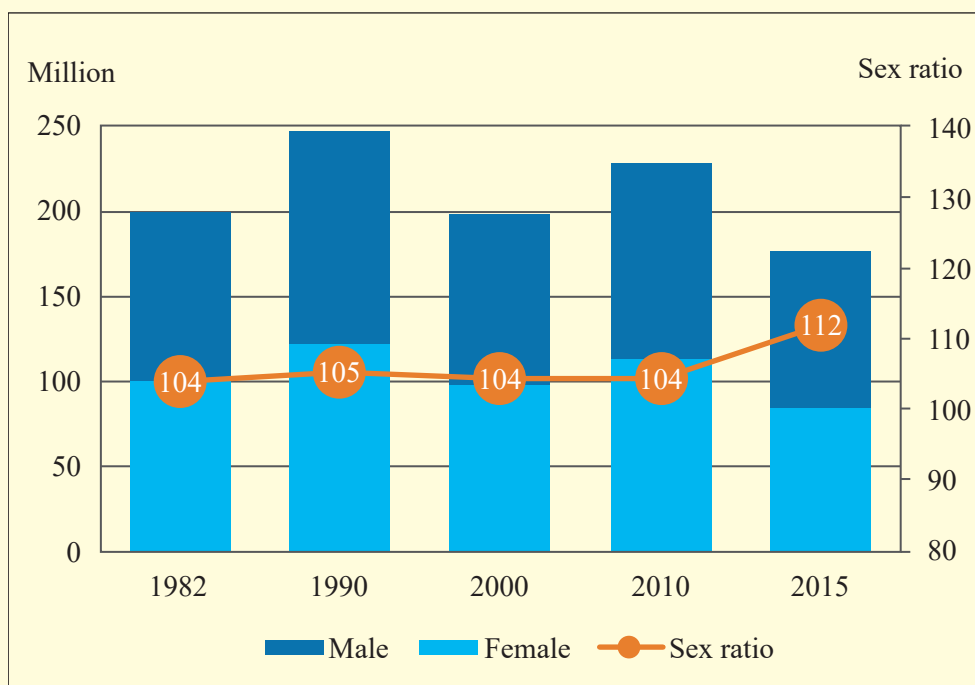
From 1982 to 2010, sex ratio of the youth population maintained at around 104-105, but by 2015, it rose rapidly to 112 (Figure 1-3).

The rapid increase in the sex ratio of the youth population between 2010 and 2015 was the delayed effect of the increase in sex ratio at birth of those born during the 1990s. According to relevant population censuses and the 1% population sample surveys, sex ratio at birth in China was 108.5 in 1981, it rose to 110.3 in 1990, and reached as high as 115.6 and 118.6 in 1995 and 2000,

respectively. The Sixth National Population Census in 2010 showed a sex ratio at birth of 118.1, which was still very high despite the decline compared with the 2000 census figure. Estimates based on this trend indicate that the sex ratio of the youth population will remain at a relatively high level between 2025 and 2030.

In 2015, there were 175 million youths in China, including 92.61 million males and 82.90 million females, with a sex ratio of 112. Specifically, the youths aged 15-19 accounted for 43%, including 40.40 million males and 34.79 million females, with a sex ratio of 116; and the youths aged 20-24 accounted for the other 57%, including 52.20 million males and 48.11 million females, with a sex ratio of 109 (this figure excludes active military personnel of the People's Liberation Army). It is evident that the sex ratio of the youth population was high overall, and youths aged 15-19 had a higher sex ratio than those aged 20-24 (Figure 1-4).

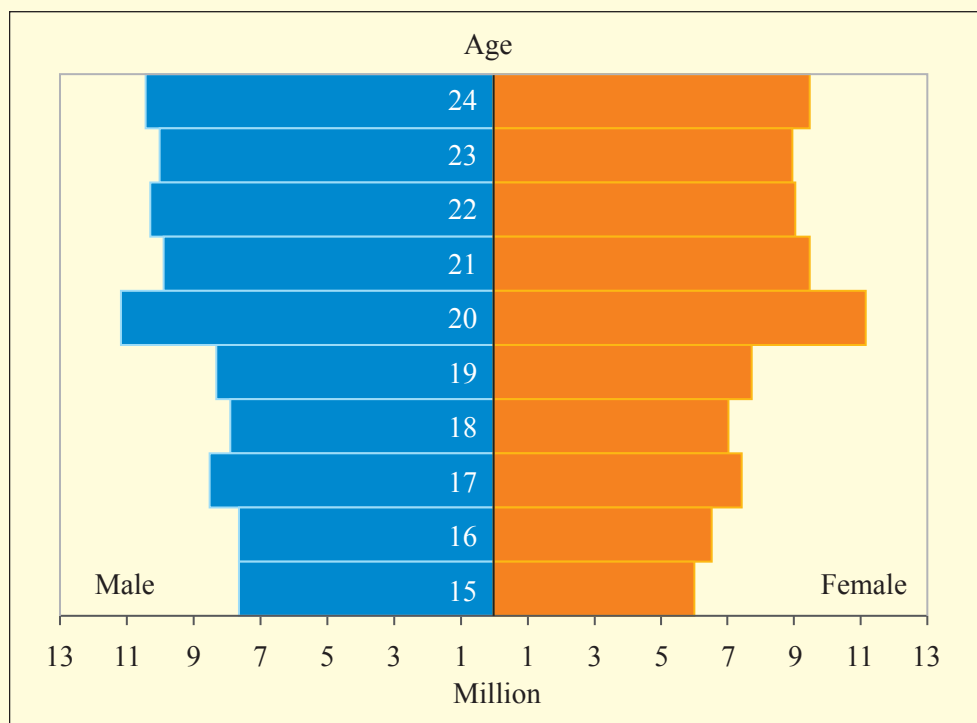
Figure 1-3 Sex ratio of the youth population in China (1982-2015)





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Figure 1-4 Pyramid of youth population of 2015



## 1.3 Size of the youth population was larger in the eastern region than the central and western regions, and higher in urban areas<sup>3</sup> than in rural areas

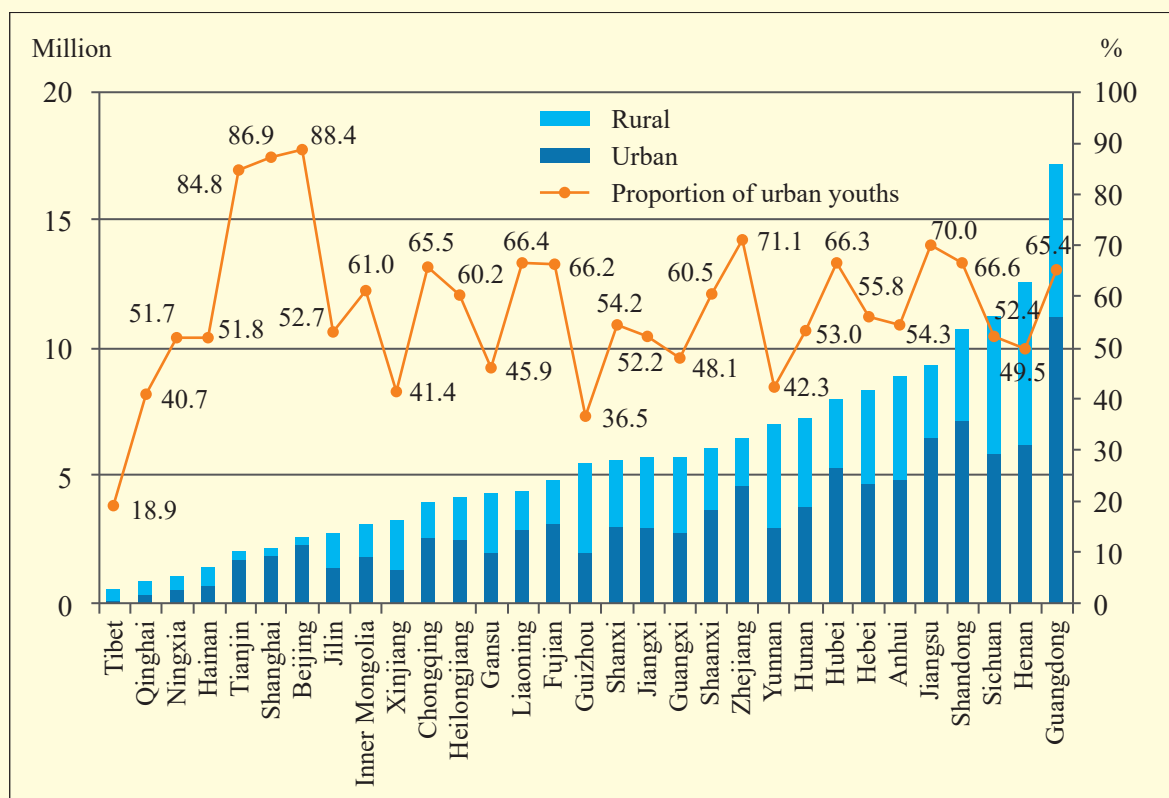
Among the 31 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions in mainland China, Guangdong province had the largest resident youth population,

at approximately 17.02 million. Other provinces with more than 10 million youth residents were Henan (12.48 million), Sichuan (10.88 million) and Shandong (10.87 million). At the provincial level, Beijing (88.4%) boasted the highest proportion of urban youth residents, followed by Shanghai and Tianjin at 86.9% and 84.8%, respectively. The lowest proportion of urban youth residents was in Tibet at 18.9%, only one-fifth of that in Beijing (Figure 1-5).

3. The definition of urban and rural areas in the research report is consistent with the Regulations on Statistically Dividing Urban and Rural Areas (Trial) issued by the National Bureau of Statistics. The youth population in urban and rural areas in this report refer to the resident youth population. According to the administrative divisions, urban and rural areas are divided into residents' committees and village committees endorsed by the civil affairs department. Based on actual construction, the geographical areas of China are divided into towns and villages. Towns include urban areas and townships; urban areas refer to residents' committees and surrounding areas connected to the actual construction of districts and municipal government offices in municipal districts and municipalities without districts; townships refer to county government offices outside urban areas and towns, where the actual construction of government offices are connected to the residents' committees and surrounding areas. While not connected with the actual construction of government offices, the residents of industrial and mining areas, development zones, scientific research units, colleges and universities and other special areas with permanent populations of more than 3,000 people, as well as residents of farms and forest areas are also regarded as towns. Villages refer to the areas outside of towns.

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**Figure 1-5 The size of urban and rural youth population and the proportion of urban youth population by province (2015)**



In terms of the size of the youth population, the eastern region<sup>4</sup>, with a youth population of about 68.82 million that accounted for 39.3% of the total youth population, outnumbered the central and western regions. The central region had a youth population of 54.44 million (accounted for 31.1%) and the western region had a youth population of 52.06 million (accounted for 29.7%). In terms of the proportion of the youth population, the western region had the

highest proportion of youths in the total population at 13.4%, followed by the central region at 12.7%, and the eastern region had the lowest at 12.1% in 2015.

The size of the urban youth population was greater than that of the rural youth population. In 2015, 42% of the 175 million youths resided in rural areas, while 58% resided in urban areas.

4. In 2011, the National Bureau of Statistics of China divided the economic zone of the Chinese mainland into four regions: the eastern, central, western and northeastern regions. For the sake of comparison, the three provinces of Northeast China are still classified according to the regional classification in 2003, namely, the east includes: Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei, Liaoning, Shanghai, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Fujian, Shandong, Guangdong and Hainan. The central part includes: Jilin, Heilongjiang, Shanxi, Anhui, Jiangxi, Henan, Hubei and Hunan. The west includes: Inner Mongolia, Guangxi, Chongqing, Sichuan, Guizhou, Yunnan, Tibet, Shaanxi, Gansu, Qinghai, Ningxia and Xinjiang.

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## 2. Marriage and Fertility Status of the Youth Population

### 2.1 Marriage rate of the youth population rose rapidly after age 20, with marriage rate among females significantly higher than males at all ages

In 2015, the marriage rate (the proportion of population currently with a spouse) among the population aged 15 and above in China was 73.1%. The number of married youths aged 15-24 was approximately 20.18 million, representing a marriage rate of 11.5%. Specifically, married youths aged 15-19 stood at 1.2 million, with a marriage rate of 1.6%; and married youths aged 20-24 totaled 18.99 million, with a marriage rate of 19%.

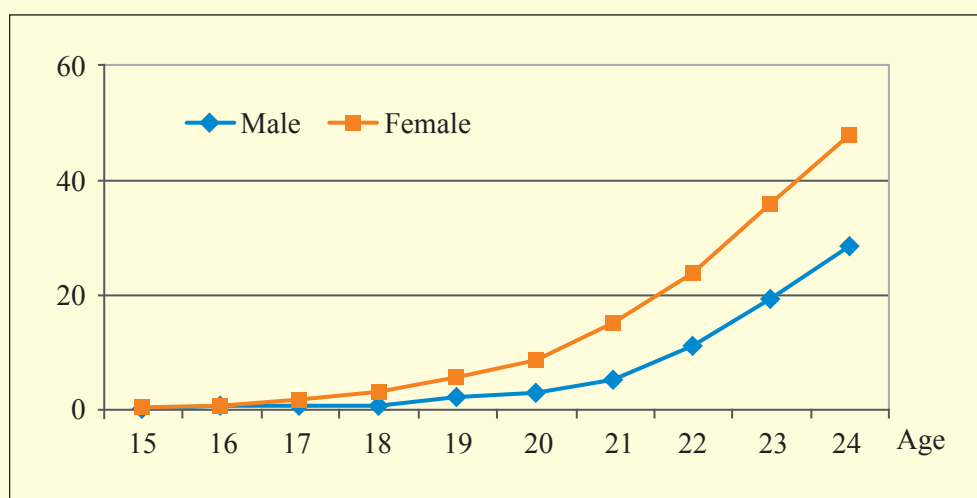
The marriage rate among males aged 15-17 and females aged 15-16 maintained at below 1%. After age 18, the marriage rate of the youth population demonstrated a noticeable increase. For males, the significant increase was seen at the legal marriage age for men (age 22), when the marriage rate exceeded 11%. For females, the marriage rate reached 8.4% at the

legal marriage age for women (age 20), rising rapidly after that and exceeding the marriage rate of males at all ages. For example, among females aged 24, the marriage rate was 46.1%, 1.6 times that of the males (Figure 2-1).

### 2.2 Number and rate of marriage among rural youths were significantly higher than urban youths; youths in the eastern region had the highest number of marriages and youths in the western region had the highest marriage rate

The number of married youths in rural areas was significantly higher than in urban areas. The number of the married youths living in urban and rural areas was 9.15 million and 11.03 million, respectively. The marriage rate among the youth population was 15% for rural areas and 9% for urban areas, thus rural areas was 6 percentage points higher than urban areas.

Figure 2-1 Marriage rate by age and sex (2015, %)



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Comparing with the eastern, central and western regions, the western region saw the highest marriage rate among youths at 12.7%, which was nearly 2 percentage points higher than the eastern region (the lowest marriage rate at 10.9%) and more than 1 percentage point higher than the central region (11.5%).

## 2.3 General fertility rates by age group and birth order rose rapidly with age among the female youth population

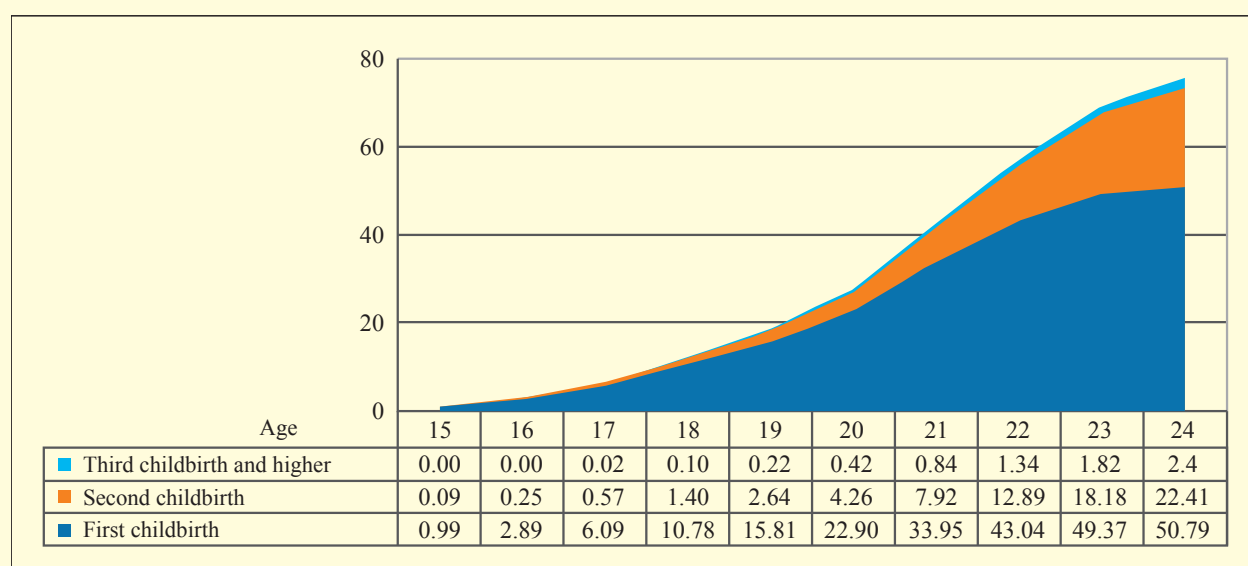
In 2015, the general fertility rate of female youths aged 15-24 was 35.3‰, that of the first childbirth was 26.4‰, that of the second childbirth was 8.1‰, and that of the third childbirth and higher was 0.8‰. These figures all rose with the increase in age (Figure 2-2).

The fertility rate of female youths aged 20-24 was 54.96‰, 6 times that of female youths aged 15-19 (9.19‰). The fertility rate at first childbirth was the highest in both age groups.

## 2.4 General fertility rate and fertility rate by birth order among female youths of reproductive age were higher in rural areas than in urban areas

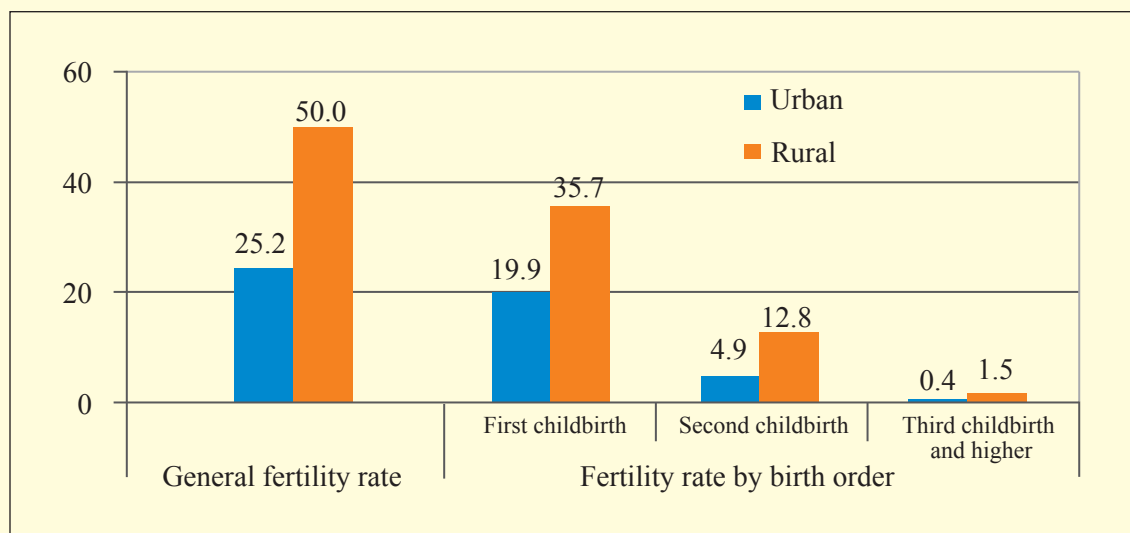
The general fertility rate of rural female youths was 50.0‰, about twice that of their urban counterparts; the fertility rates of rural female youths at first childbirth, second childbirth and third childbirth or higher were respectively 15.8, 7.9 and 1.1 millesimal points higher than those of their urban counterparts (Figure 2-3).

Figure 2-2 Fertility rates of female youths by age and birth order (2015, ‰)



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**Figure 2-3 General fertility rates and fertility rates by birth order of female youths in urban and rural areas (2015, ‰)**

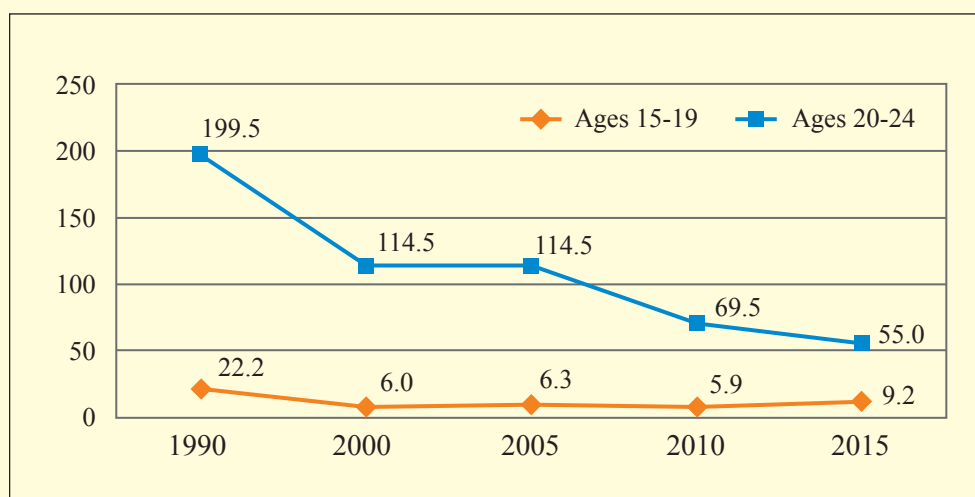


## 2.5 General fertility rate of female youths aged 20-24 experienced a significant decline between 1990 and 2015

Historically, the fertility rate of female youths aged 15-19 dropped rapidly by 16 millesimal points

between 1990 and 2000. By 2010, the fertility rate remained stable at around 6‰, and rose to 9.2‰ in 2015. The fertility rate of female youths aged 20-24 declined more significantly from 199.5‰ in 1990 to 55.0‰ in 2015, though the figure remained stable at 114.5‰ between 2000 and 2005 (Figure 2-4).

**Figure 2-4 General fertility rate of female youths by age group (1990-2015, ‰)**



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## 3. Educational Status of the Youth Population

### 3.1 Youth illiteracy rate showed a downward trend, with persisting disparities between rural and urban areas

From 2000 to 2015, the youth illiteracy rate showed a downward trend in China. It first experienced a significant decline between 2000 to 2010, and then remained between 0.3% and 0.4% from 2010 to 2015 for all the age groups (15-19, 20-24 and 15-24). It was estimated that there were still about 639,000 illiterate youths in China in 2015, including 222,000 aged 15-19 and 417,000 aged 20-24 (Figure 3-1).

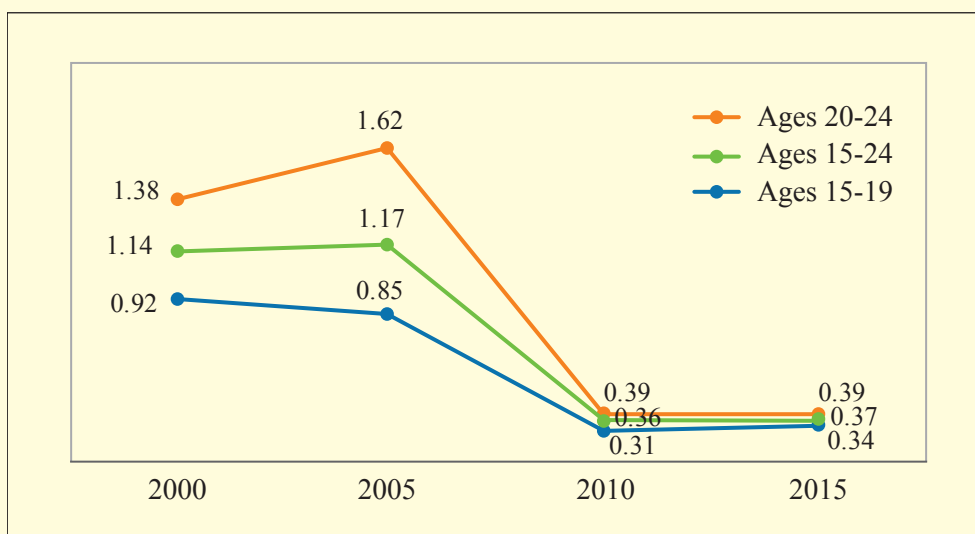
In 2015, the illiteracy rate of rural youths was 0.67%, which was higher than the illiteracy rate of urban youths (0.14%). In rural areas, the illiteracy rate of female youths was 0.77%, which was higher than male youths (0.59%). In urban areas, the illiteracy rate of male youths was 0.17%, slightly higher than their

female counterparts (0.12%). From the perspective of age groups, the illiteracy rate of youths aged 20-24 was significantly higher than those aged 15-19 (Figure 3-2).

### 3.2 Youths who received compulsory education made up the largest share, with more than 60% living in rural areas; youths who received higher education made up the second-largest share, with more than 80% living in urban areas

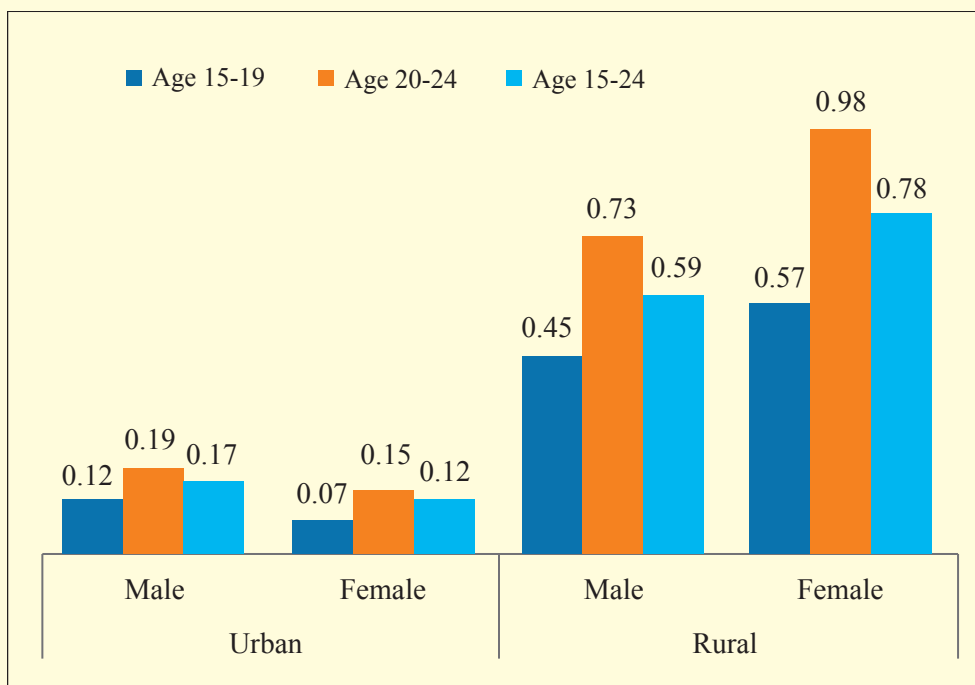
In 2015, there were about 756,000 youths who had never attended school in China, of whom around 560,000 youths resided in rural areas. There were 59.33 million youths who received primary and junior secondary education. Among the youth population who received primary education, 71.0% of males and 75.3% of females resided in rural areas. Among the youth population who received junior secondary

Figure 3-1 Youth illiteracy rate by age group (2000-2015, %)



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Figure 3-2 The illiteracy rate of youths by urban/rural and sex (2015, %)



education, 60.8% of males and 63.2% of females resided in rural areas. There are 44.86 million youths who received regular senior secondary education, of which 56.5% of males and 55.0% of females resided in urban areas. More than 80% of the 55.51 million youths who received higher education resided in urban areas (Table 3-1).

### 3.3 Urban youths who received higher education made up the largest proportion, with the proportion of rural youths who received higher education about one-third that of urban youths

Urban youths who received higher education accounted for the largest proportion of all levels of educational attainment in urban areas at 44.1%, with the proportion of female youths 7.2 percentage points higher than male youths. The proportion of rural youths

who received higher education was only one-third (14.3%) of that in urban areas, with the proportion of female youths one percentage point higher than male youths. Urban-rural differences were also obvious at the junior secondary education level, where the proportion of rural youths with junior secondary education was higher than urban youths, and the proportion of male youths with junior secondary education was higher than female youths in rural areas (Figure 3-3).

### 3.4 Composition and changes in educational attainment of the youth population

Examining the educational attainment of the youth population, it is evident that the proportion of youths who have never attended school and those who have only attended primary school have continued to decline, while the proportion of youths with higher education has risen rapidly (Table 3-2).

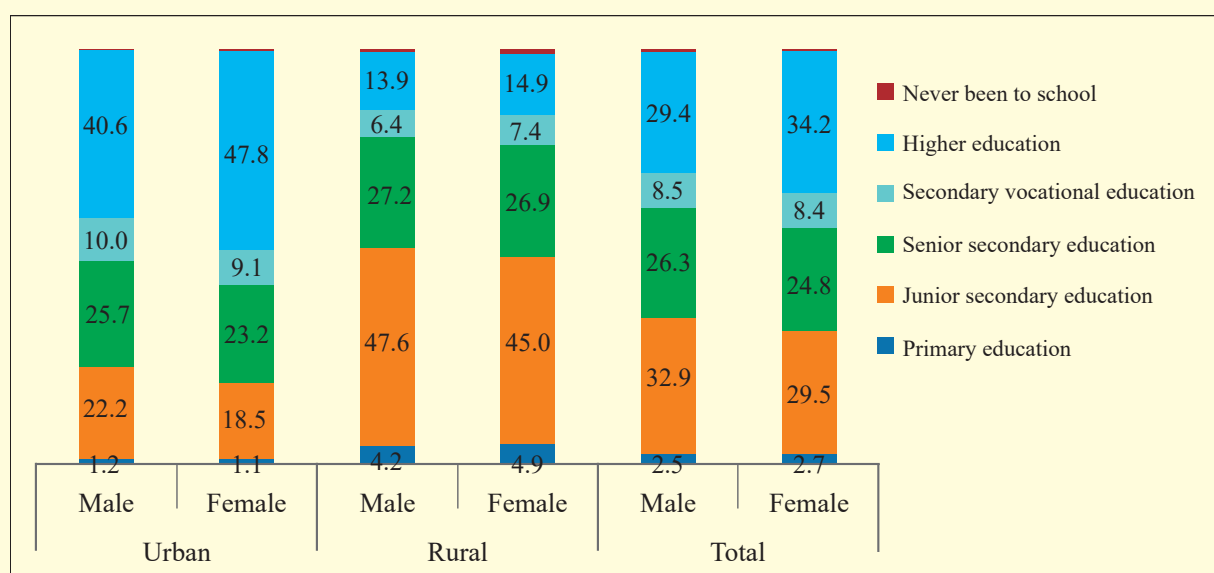


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Table 3-1 Youth population by educational attainment, urban/rural, and sex  
(2015, 10,000 persons)

Educational attainment	Urban		Rural		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Never been to school	12.0	7.6	25.8	30.2	37.8	37.8
Primary education	66.6	55.1	162.9	168.1	229.5	223.1
Junior secondary education	1,189.5	899.3	1,846.8	1,545.2	3036.3	2,444.5
Senior secondary education	1,373.6	1,130.8	1,057.1	923.9	2430.7	2,054.7
Secondary vocational education	537.3	444.5	250.0	254.6	787.3	699.1
Higher education	2,174.1	2,327.2	537.6	511.9	2711.7	2,839.1
-College	910.4	968.6	343.1	322.1	1253.5	1,290.7
-Undergraduate	1,196.5	1,292.1	190.2	186.7	1386.6	1,478.8
-Graduate	67.2	66.5	4.3	3.1	71.5	69.6
Total	5,353.2	4,864.6	3,880.1	3,433.8	9,233.3	8,298.4

Figure3-3 Educational attainments of the youth population in China by urban/rural and sex (2015, %)



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**Table 3-2 Composition and changes in educational attainment among the youth population (2000-2015, %)**

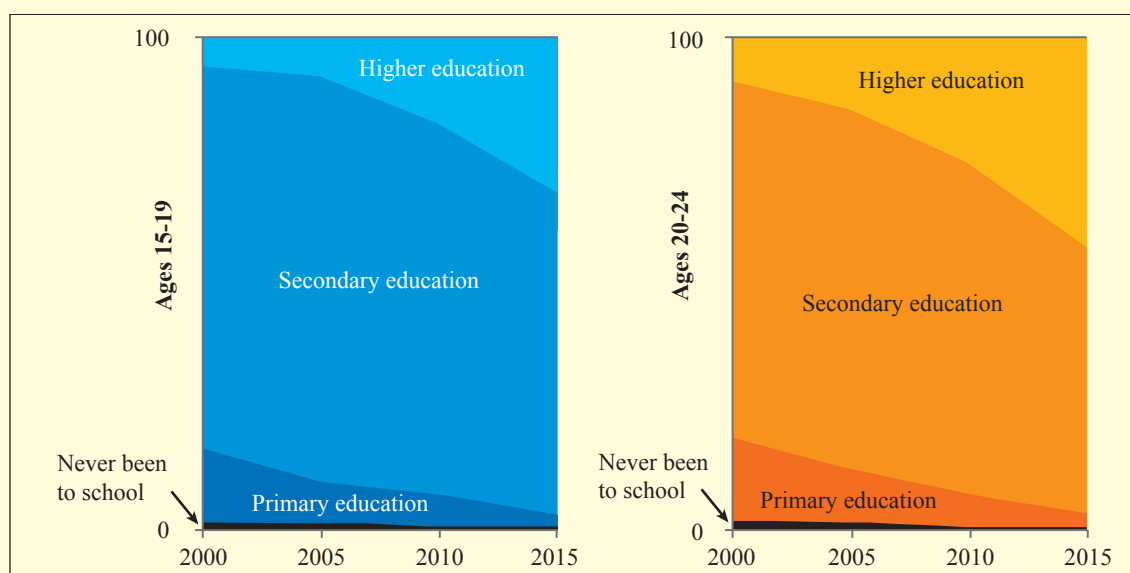
Year	Never been to school	Primary education	Secondary education			College/ University and above
			Junior	Senior	Secondary vocational education	
2000	1.4	15.4	54.6	8.1	14.7	5.9
2005	1.2	8.6	56.0	26.1	-	8.0
2010	0.5	6.7	46.0	29.0	-	17.8
2015	0.4	2.6	31.2	25.7	8.6	31.5

*\*Note: In the 2000 census data, the “secondary education” category included junior secondary school, senior secondary school and secondary vocational school. In the 1% sample survey in 2005 and the 2010 census, the “secondary education” category included only junior secondary school and senior secondary education. In the 2015 census data, the “secondary education” category included junior secondary school, senior secondary school and secondary vocational school.*

From the perspective of age groups, the proportion of educational attainment of youths aged 15-19 and those aged 20-24 were consistent with the development of the youth population as a whole between 2000 and 2015. The proportion of youths aged 15-19 with

secondary education peaked at 88.6% in 2005, and remained at above 80% for the other census/survey years. The proportion of youths aged 20-24 with secondary education reached the peak value of 73.1% in 2005, and then dropped to 54.1% in 2015 (Figure 3-4).

**Figure 3-4 Composition of educational attainment among the youth population by age group (2000-2015, %)**



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## 4. Employment Status of the Youth Population

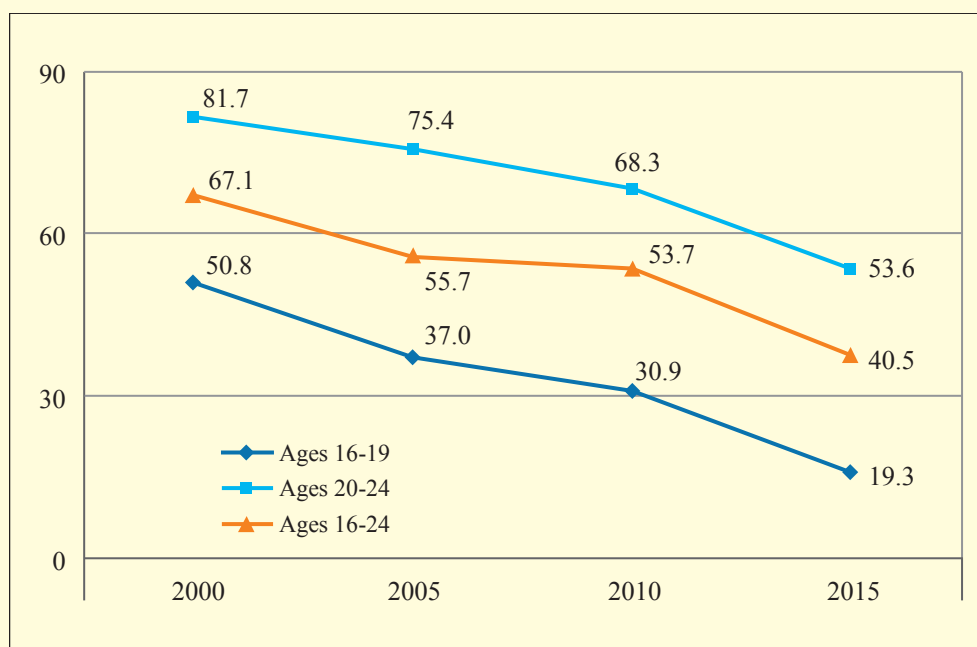
### 4.1 Employment rate of the youth population is decreasing

In 2015, the population size of employed youths aged 16-24 stood at 65.64 million with an employment rate of 40.5%, accounting for 9.2% of the total employed population<sup>5</sup> in China, and 5.1 percentage points lower than the figure in 2010. Specifically, the population of employed male youths accounted for 9.2% of the total employed male population, and the population of employed female youths accounted for 9.3% of the total employed female population. The population size of employed youths continued to increase with age: 1.27 million youths were employed at age 16, and this increased to 14.53 million youths employed at age 24.

The employment rate continued to rise as well with the increase in age, from 8.82% for those aged 16 to 73.39% for those aged 24.

The employment rate of the youth population aged 16-24 fell by 26.6 percentage points during the 15 years from 2000 to 2015, with a decline of 28.1 percentage points for the 20-24 age group, and an even higher decline for the 16-19 age group at 31.5 percentage points (Figure 4-1). This also reflects the increase in educational participation rate of this age group. With the increase in educational opportunities and the extension of years of education, especially for women, the employment rate in this age group is expected to further decline.

Figure 4-1 Trend of youth employment rates by age group (2000-2015, %)



5. Employed population refers to those aged 16 and over who are engaged in social labor for not less than one hour with remunerations, or on on-the-job leave, training, and seasonal leave within the week of the survey.

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The population size of male youths who were employed was higher than female youths at all ages. The gender differences in the number of employed youths gradually decreased with the increase in age. The employed population of male youths aged 17 and below, aged 18-19 and aged 20-24 was about 1.5, 1.4 and 1.3 times higher than female youths of the same age group, respectively. The employment rate of male youths was also higher than their female counterparts for all ages. Specifically, the gender differences in terms of employment rate of the youth population was the most significant at age 24, with the employment rate of male youths 13.5 percentage points higher than female youths (Figure 4-2).

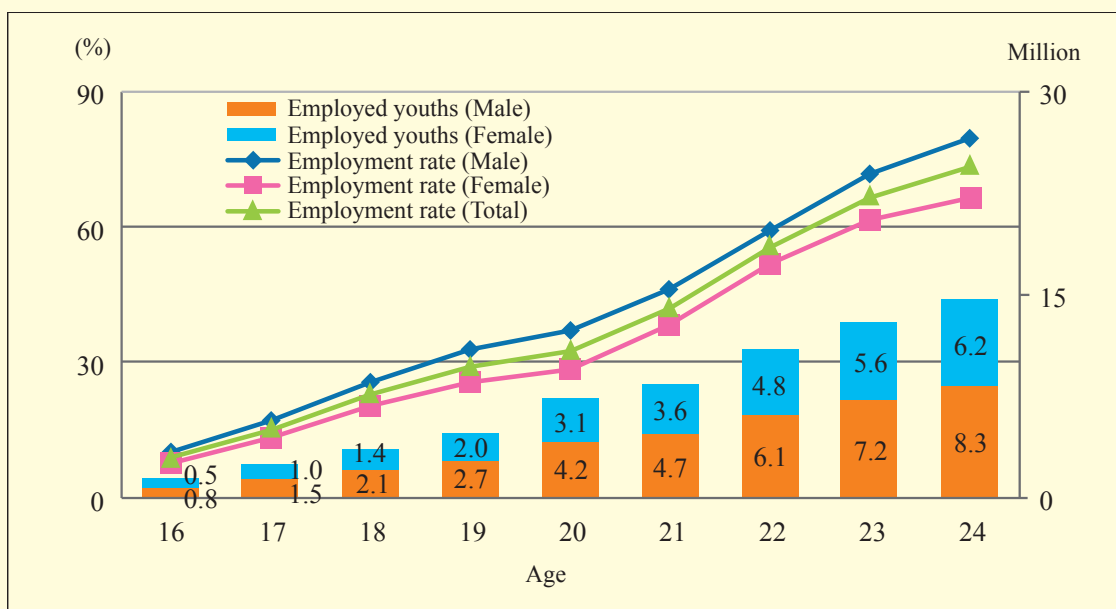
In 2015, there were 34.53 million youths employed in urban areas and 31.11 million employed in rural areas, a reduction of 24.5% and 44.2% from the figures in 2010, respectively. In 2015, there were 3.43 million more

youths employed in urban areas than in rural areas, as compared to the 9.9 million more youths employed in rural areas than in urban areas in 2010, indicating a reversed trend in the number of employed youths in urban and rural areas.

## 4.2 Older youths tend to engage in intellectual labor-oriented occupations; gender disparities were more apparent in occupations in the manufacturing and service industries

There are age differences in the occupational composition of the employed youth population. In 2015, the proportion of youths engaged in occupations in the primary industry decreased gradually with the increase in age. Specifically, 39.8% of youths aged 16 worked in the primary industry, compared

**Figure 4-2 Population size and rate of employment among youths by age and sex (2015)**

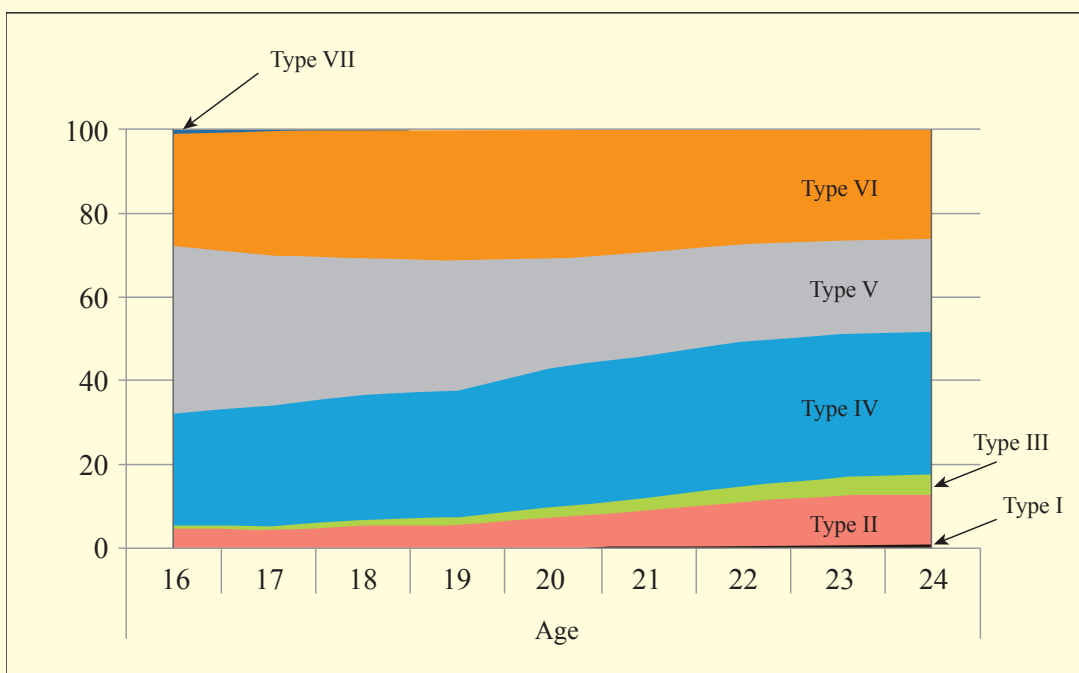


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to 22.1% of youths aged 24 working in the same industry. The proportion of youths in occupations that require intellectual labor gradually increased with age. For example, the proportion of youths in charge of government organs, Communist Party and mass organizations, enterprises and public institutions, as well as those serving as professionals and technical personnel, clerks and other related personnel reached the highest value at age 24, indicating a closer correlation with the accumulation of expertise, skills and working experience (Figure 4-3).

More male youths than female youths were engaged in production and manufacturing-related occupations, with male youths accounting for higher proportions than their female counterparts at all ages in these occupations. More female youths were found in occupations related to social production and life services, and they were more likely to serve as professional and technical personnel. In addition to reflecting the gender dimensions in the division of labor, this also highlights the overall improvements in the education attainment of women in China (Table 4-1).

**Figure 4-3 Occupational composition of the youth population by age (2015, %)**



*Note: Type I refers to persons in charge of Communist Party, government organs, mass and social organizations, and enterprises and public institutions; Type II refers to professional and technical personnel; Type III refers to clerks and related personnel; Type IV refers to personnel engaged in social production and life services; Type V refers to personnel engaged in agricultural, forestry, animal husbandry and fishery production and supporting personnel; Type VI refers to production and manufacturing-related personnel; and Type VII refers to other personnel that are difficult to categorize.*

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**Table 4-1 Estimated numbers of employed youths and composition of youth employment by age and sex (2015)**

Occupation classification	Total			Male			Female		
Age group (years)	16-19	20-24	16-24	16-19	20-24	16-24	16-19	20-24	16-24
Estimated youth employment (10 thousand persons)	1189	5375	6564	703	3044	3747	486	2331	2818
Persons in charge of Communist Party, government organs, mass and social organizations, and enterprises and public institutions (Type I, %)	0.19	0.64	0.56	0.22	0.72	0.63	0.14	0.52	0.46
Professional and technical personnel (Type II, %)	4.89	10.18	9.22	2.94	6.53	5.86	7.70	14.94	13.69
Clerks and related personnel (Type III, %)	1.55	4.08	3.62	1.67	3.75	3.36	1.37	4.51	3.97
Personnel engaged in social production and life services (Type IV, %)	29.26	33.93	33.08	28.29	32.72	31.89	30.66	35.50	34.67
Personnel engaged in agricultural, forestry, animal husbandry and fishery production and supporting personnel (Type V, %)	33.42	23.25	25.10	32.60	22.08	24.06	34.61	24.78	26.48
Production and manufacturing-related personnel (Type VI, %)	30.06	27.73	28.15	33.60	33.97	33.90	24.94	19.59	20.51
Other personnel difficult to be categorized (Type VII, %)	0.64	0.19	0.27	0.68	0.22	0.30	0.57	0.15	0.22

In 2015, 16.47 million youths were employed in the primary industry, a decrease of 24.13 million from 2010; 18.68 million youths were employed in the secondary industry, a decrease of 13.14 million from 2010; and 30.69 million youths were employed in the tertiary industry, an increase of 1.31 million from 2010. In the same year, the proportions of employed youths in the primary, secondary and tertiary industries were 25.1%, 28.2% and 46.7%, respectively. Compared with the figures in 2010, the proportion of employed youths in the primary and secondary industries decreased

significantly, while the proportion of employed youths in the tertiary industry increased by 17.2 percentage points.

Remarkable differences were found between urban and rural areas both in terms of the composition of the industries and occupations of employed youths aged 16-24. In 2015, the proportion of employed male youths aged 16-24 in the primary, secondary and tertiary industries was 24.1%, 33.9% and 42.1%, respectively, while the proportion of employed

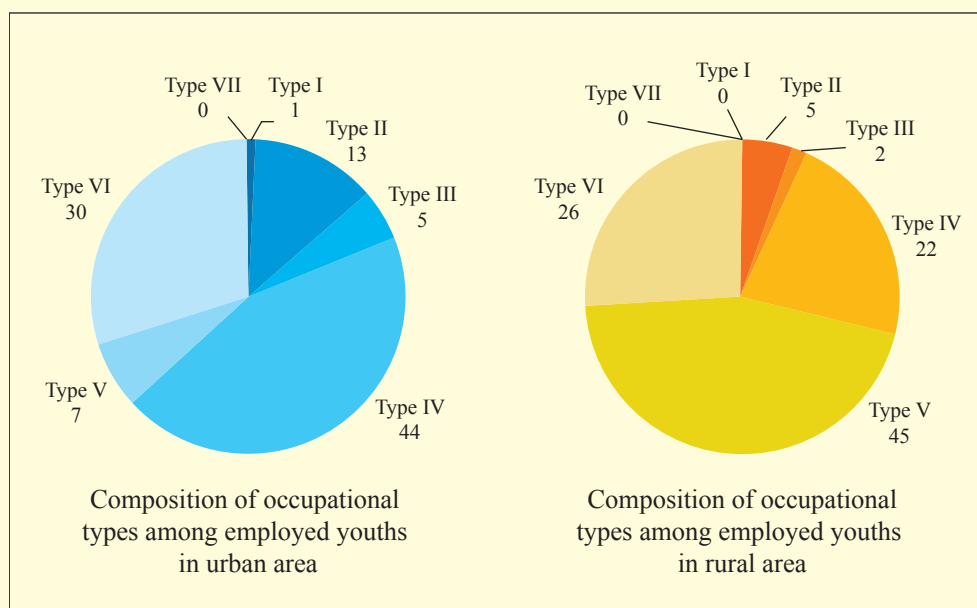
# The Youth Population in China (2018): the Current Situation and Development Trends

female youths aged 16-24 was 26.5%, 20.5% and 53.10%, respectively. Looking at the composition of occupations, most youths in urban areas were engaged in occupations related to “social production and life services” (Class IV), accounting for 44%; while most youths in rural areas were engaged in occupations associated with “agricultural, forestry, animal husbandry and fishery production and supporting services”, accounting for 45% (Figure 4-4). Compared with 2010, the total number of youths employed in the tertiary industry (including Class I, Class II, Class III, Class IV and Class VII occupations) increased by 1.37 million in 2015, which was mainly due to the increase in employment in the tertiary industry in rural areas. The proportion of youths employed in the tertiary industry was also expanding, with its proportion to the total number of youths employed increasing by 14.9 percentage points and 15.4 percentage points in urban and rural areas, respectively.

## 4.3 Studying in school was the main reason for unemployment among the youth population, and its share rose rapidly

The data in Table 4-2 shows that studying in school was the key reason for unemployment among the youth population aged 16-24 since 2000, presenting a rapid upward trend between 2000 and 2010, with an increase of 17.8 percentage points in the 10-year period. The rapid rise of the in-school rate during this period was closely related to the implementation of the national enrollment expansion plan for colleges and universities as well as adult higher education in China from 1999 to 2006, which stimulated the development of regular senior secondary schools with an average annual growth of 23.7%<sup>6</sup> for the number of students enrolled nationwide.

**Figure 4-4 Composition of occupational types among employed youths in urban and rural areas (2015, %)**



6. Yang Chonglong, *Proposal and Termination of China's College Enrollment Expansion Policy*, *Journal of Yunnan University for Nationalities (Philosophy and Social Sciences Edition)*, 2007, 24(2): 151-153.



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The proportion of unemployed youths after graduation was 6.3% in 2015, an increase of 2.5 percentage points from 2010. Moreover, the proportion of youths who lost their jobs due to personal reasons in 2015 was more than three times that of 2010. This demonstrates the difficulties faced by youths when seeking employment after graduation. Compared with 2010, students who received secondary vocational education only recorded an average annual growth rate of 3.7%, and the ratio of students in regular senior secondary schools to those in secondary vocational schools dropped from 1:1.22 to 1:0.6. This caused an imbalance in the talent structure, where junior and intermediate level talents were in short supply, and college and university graduates had a harder time finding employment.

The main reasons for youth unemployment include: (1) as China's manufacturing industry transitions to the service industry, it demands a high-level, middle-aged labor force with more expertise, experience and maturity, especially in the production supportive functions of the tertiary industry. Thus, youths lose their previous competitive advantage in the manufacturing industry and at the same time they are unable to compete for emerging positions offered by the new service industry<sup>7</sup>; (2) the lack of accumulation of work experience and occupational skills among the youth population; (3) significant gap between the employment expectations of the youth population and the reality; and (4) the enrollment expansion of colleges and universities and other relevant national policies have contributed to the increasing youth unemployment among those with higher education credentials.

**Table 4-2 Reasons for youth unemployment aged 16-24 (2000-2015, %)**

Reason for unemployment	2000	2005	2010	2015
Studying in school	66.7	72.1	84.5	79.9
Taking care of family	7.8	6.3	6.2	5.0
Loss of working ability	1.0	1.2	0.7	0.5
Looking for a job	19.1	8.8	-	-
Never employed after graduation	-	-	3.8	6.3
Loss of job due to personal reasons	-	-	0.7	2.2
Other reasons	5.5	11.6	4.1	6.1
Total	100	100	100	100

7. Cao Xing, Yue Changjun, *Review of the Gender Differences in the Labor Market of College Graduates in China*, *Journal of Education and Academic Monthly*, 2010, 2:10-14.

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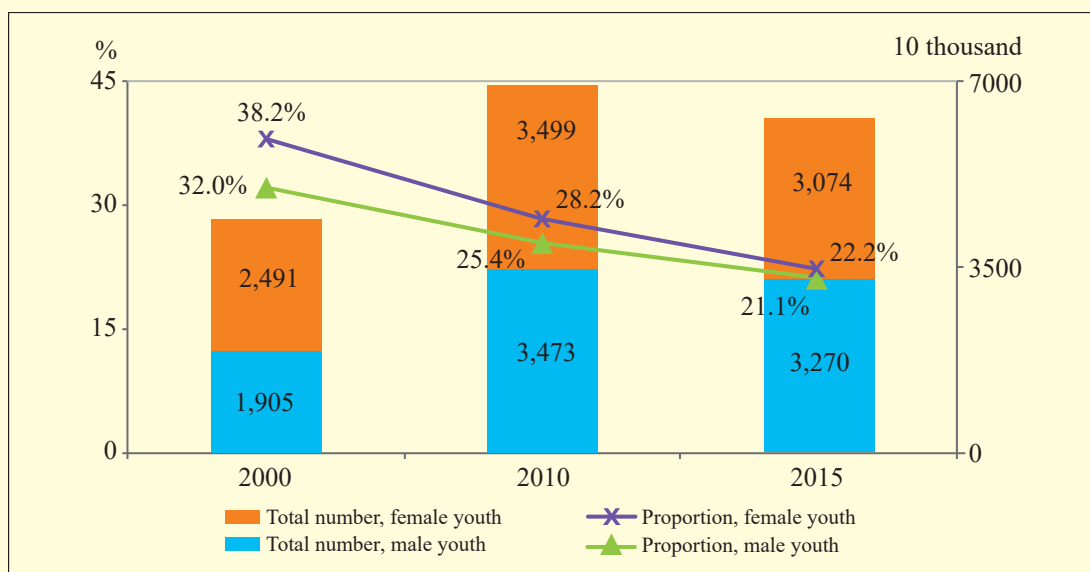
## 5. The Current Situation of Migrant Youths

### 5.1 Population size, sex and age composition of migrant youth<sup>8</sup>

Since 2000, the population size of migrant youths in China, including those who reside in a different district of the same city as their registered household residence, first demonstrated a growth trend and was followed by a notable decline. The population size was around 43.96 million in 2000, it rose to 69.72 million in 2010, and then decreased to 63.44 million in 2015. A downward trend

was spotted regarding the proportion of the migrant youths in the total migrant population from 35.26% in 2000 down to 21.63% in 2015, with a decrease of 10.9 and 16 percentage points for the male and female youths, respectively. This trend was mainly caused by the continuous decline in the size and proportion of the total youth population. In 2015, the youth population accounted for 12.8% of the national total population, whereas it was 15.9%<sup>9</sup> in 2000 (Figure 5-1).

**Figure 5-1 Number of migrant youths and their proportion in the total migrant population (2000-2015)**



Note: The data from 2000 and 2010 are from the Fifth and Sixth National Population Censuses; and the 2015 data are from the 1% national population sample survey in 2015.

8. In this section, unless otherwise specified and in line with the definition provided in the first part of the report, migrant youth refers to those aged 15-24 whose current residence is not in the village or township of their registered household residence, and who have been away from their registered household residence for more than half a year. It excludes those who reside in a different district of the same city as their registered household residence. In order to achieve historical comparability of data, those who reside in a different district of the same city as their registered household residence are also considered migrant youths when comparing with migrant youth surveyed before 2015.

9. Department of Population and Social Science and Technology Statistics, National Bureau of Statistics. China 2000 Population Census (CD-ROM). China Statistics Press. 2002.

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Excluding those who reside in a different district of the same city as their registered household residence, there were 57.13 million migrant youths in 2015, accounting for 32.5% of the total youth population. Specifically, there were 20.4 million migrant youths aged 15-19 (35.7%), and 36.73 million aged 20-24 (64.3%). Moreover, 89.1% of migrant youths resided in urban areas, and migrant youths living in the eastern region accounted for 49.5%, about half of the national total for migrant youths (Figure 5-2).

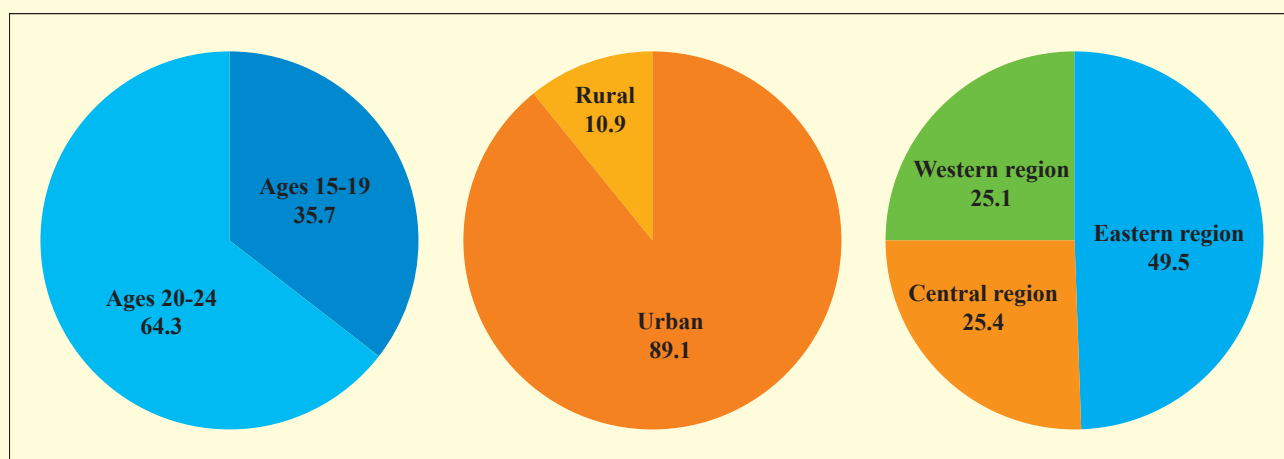
The proportion of migrant youths was 27.0% and 36.6% for age group 15-19 and 20-24, respectively; the proportion of migrant youths in total youth population was 53.1% in urban areas and 9.1% in rural areas. The eastern region had the highest proportion of migrant youths among the youth population at 41.9%, followed by the western region at 28.1%, and the central region had the lowest proportion at 27.2%.

The age distribution of migrant youths can be characterized as “high in the middle and low at both ends”. Considering age 20 as the turning point, the proportion of migrant youths aged 15-19 accounted for less than 10% of the total migrant youth population,

with migrant youths aged 15 accounting for the lowest proportion at 3.8%, or about 2.19 million migrant youths. After age 20, the proportion of migrant youths aged 20-24 ranged between 10.74% and 16.63% of the total migrant youth population, with age 20 having the highest proportion at 16.63%, equivalent to 9.5 million migrant youths. In terms of gender, a similar pattern was evident for both male and female youths, characterized by “high in the middle and low at both ends” like that of the age distribution of migrant youths.

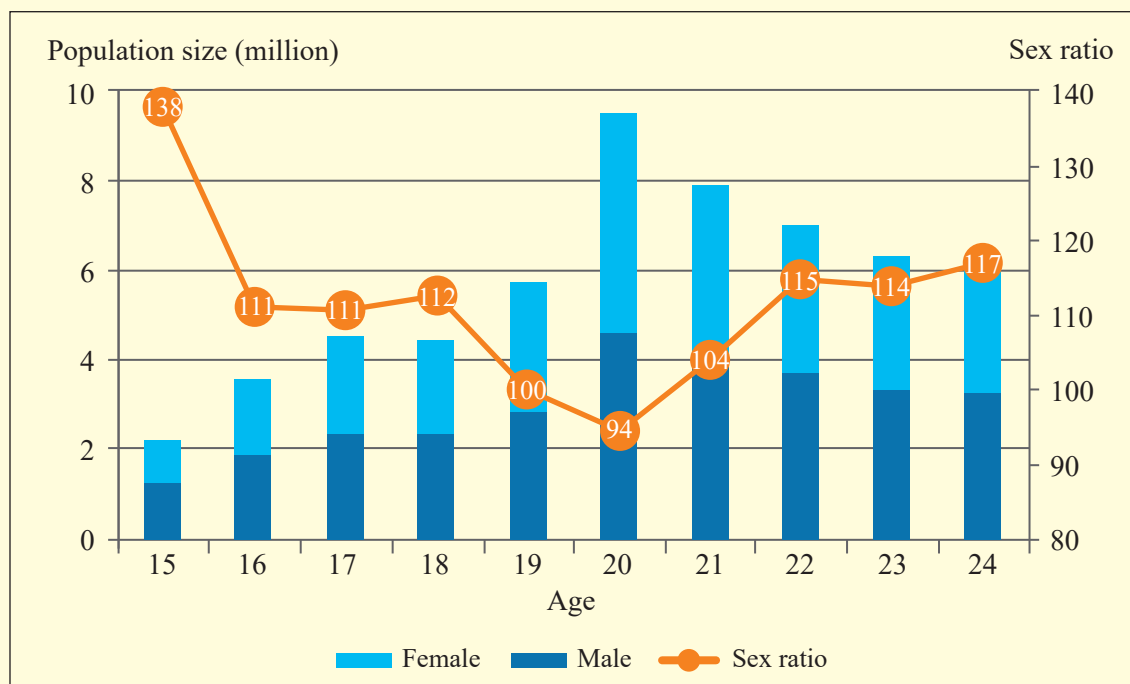
Looking at the sex ratio by age, the sex ratio of migrant youths was above 200 for all ages in 2000, and the highest ratio reached 262 at age 24. By 2015, the sex ratio of migrant youths dropped to 106, including those who resided in a different district of the same city as their registered household residence. The sex ratio at all age groups fell within the range of 90-120, with the highest sex ratio being 118 at age 15, and the lowest sex ratio being 91 at age 20. Excluding those who resided in a different district of the same city as their registered household residence, migrant youths had a sex ratio of 108, with the highest sex ratio being 138 at age 15, and the lowest sex ratio being 94 at age 20 (Figure 5-3).

**Figure 5-2 Percentage of migrant youths by age, urban/rural and region (2015, %)**



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Figure 5-3 Population size and sex ratio of migrant youths by age (2015)



## 5.2 Proportion of migrant youths by province

In 2015, Shanghai had the highest proportion of migrant youths in its youth population (63.8%) among the 31 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions in mainland China, followed by Zhejiang and Beijing, with the proportions being 53.8% and 50.2%, respectively. Among the provinces in the southeastern coastal areas, the proportion of migrant youths in Fujian, Tianjin, Jiangsu and Guangdong provinces exceeded 40%. The provinces with relatively low proportions were Tibet (9.5%), Qinghai (17.6%) and Guizhou (18.6%).

## 5.3 Reasons for migration

In 2015, studying and training, employment and accompanying migration were the three major reasons for migration among youths aged 15-19, while

employment, marriage and studying and training were the three major reasons for youths aged 20-24. Compared with 2000, among migrant youths aged 15-19, the proportion that migrated for employment fell by more than half in 2015, while the proportion that migrated for studying and training increased by 18.5 percentage points. The proportion of accompanying migration also rose among migrant youths. For migrant youths aged 20-24, the most notable change was among those who migrated for marriage, with the proportion dropping from 20.3% in 2000 to 3.4% in 2015. The proportion of migrant youths at this age group that migrated for employment rose first then fell, and the proportion that migrated for studying and training in 2015 was 2.6 times that of 2000 (Table 5-1). The tremendous thrust created by the huge gaps between urban and rural areas and across regions, and the strong motivation generated by the pursuit for personal development among youths were the root causes of youth migration.

# The Youth Population in China (2018): the Current Situation and Development Trends

**Table 5-1 Main reasons of youth migration (2000-2015, %)**

Reason for migration	Ages 15-19			Ages 20-24		
	2000	2010	2015	2000	2010	2015
Employment	31.7	25.7	15.3	50.1	55.6	43.2
Studying/training	50.1	54.0	68.6	16.3	25.3	41.6
Moving with family members	6.8	11.6	11.8	3.8	6.1	7.4
Marriage	0.8	0.7	0.5	20.3	5.2	3.4
Demolition and relocation	4.9	2.9	0.3	3.6	2.9	0.4
Other reasons	5.7	5.1	3.5	5.9	4.9	4.0
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Note:

1. The category of "Employment" included working for others or engaging in business, job transfer, and job assignment in 2000; In 2010, this category included working for others or engaging in business and job transfer.

2. The data from 2000 and 2010 are from the Fifth and Sixth National Population Censuses cited from the official website of the National Bureau of Statistics; the 2015 data is cited from the 1% national population sample survey in 2015.

Related to the reasons for migration, the sex ratio of migrant youths was imbalanced across regions. The provinces with a sex ratio below 103 were mainly located in the northeastern region (e.g. Liaoning, Jilin and Heilongjiang), the western region (e.g. Shaanxi, Inner Mongolia, Guizhou, Xinjiang, Sichuan, Tibet, and Guangxi), and a few in the central region (e.g. Hunan and Hebei). The only province with a sex ratio between the normal range of 103 and 107 was Henan Province. The sex ratios of migrant youths in Shanghai (151), Hubei (147), Shanxi (145), Beijing (145), Tianjin (141), Zhejiang (130) and Shandong (130) were all 130 or above. Male migrant youths are more driven by economic factors and more often undertook inter-provincial migration. Since 2000, the trend that more male migrants than female migrants migrate to developed regions has not changed<sup>10</sup>. Female migrant

youths account for a higher proportion of the intra-provincial migration, hence the provinces with lower sex ratios are all located inland regions.

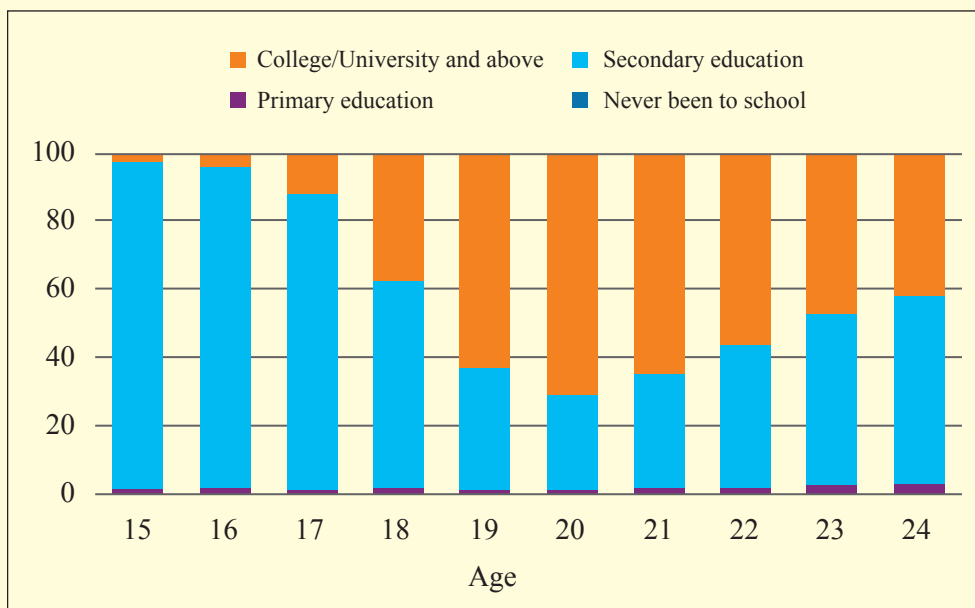
## 5.4 Educational attainment of migrant youths

The illiteracy rate of migrant youths was 0.1% in 2015, with most migrant youths with senior secondary and college/university education. The proportion of migrant youths aged 20-24 who received higher education was significantly higher than those aged 15-19. In addition, 46.1% of migrant youths aged 15-24 received higher education, which was 14.6 percentage points higher than that of the total youth population in China (31.5%, Figure 5-4).

10. Hou Yafei, Ma Xiaohong. Regional Distribution and Structural Characteristics of Migrant Population in Beijing [J]. Journal of Beijing Administrative College, 2005(2):36-40.

# The Youth Population in China (2018): the Current Situation and Development Trends

**Figure 5-4 Composition of educational attainment of migrant youths by age (2015, %)**



Most migrant youths with higher education were mainly concentrated in urban areas<sup>11</sup>. The proportion of migrant youths with higher education was 48.4% in urban areas, 21.5 percentage points higher than that in rural areas (26.9%). Nearly 70% of migrant youths in rural areas received secondary education (including junior and senior secondary education, and secondary vocational education), whereas only about half of the migrant youths in urban areas received secondary education. The proportion of migrant youths who received primary education in rural areas was approximately 4 times that in urban areas. The proportion of migrant youths who have never been to school was less than 0.5% in both urban or rural areas (Figure 5-5).

Affected by the rural-urban migration, the proportion of migrant youths who have never been to school and

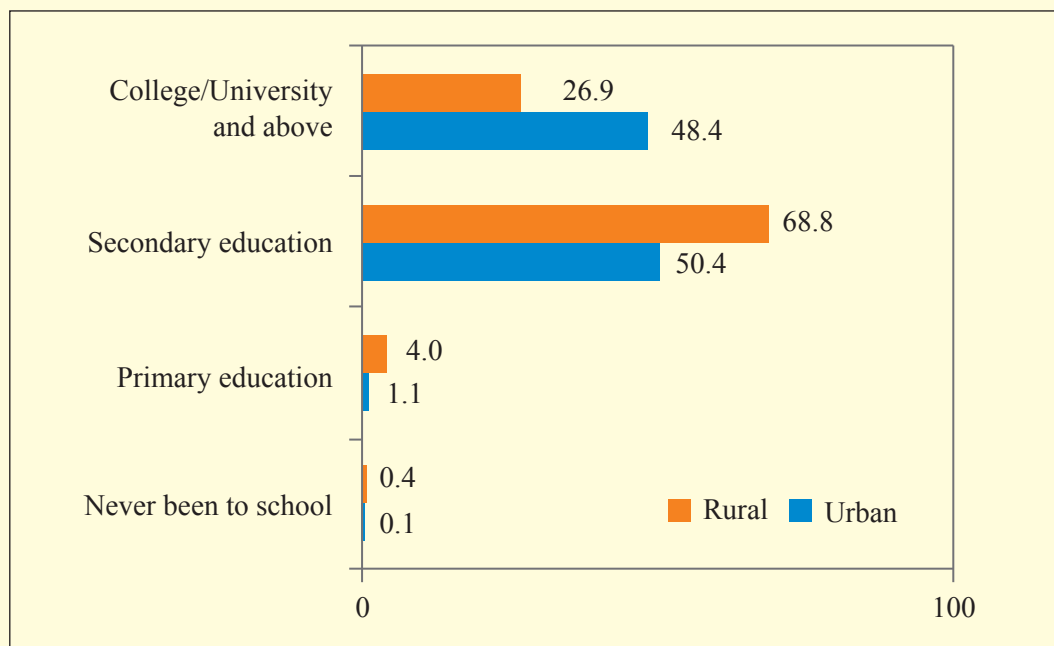
those who have received compulsory education was higher in rural areas, while the proportion of migrant youths who received secondary vocational education and higher education was higher in urban areas. For both statistics, there was no gender differences between male and female migrant youths.

In urban areas, migrant youths who received higher education accounted for the largest proportion for both sexes in 2015, with the proportion of female migrant youths 7 percentage points higher than male migrant youths. The next largest proportion was migrant youths who received regular senior secondary education, with male migrant youths accounting for a slightly higher proportion than female migrant youths. This was followed by migrant youths who received compulsory education, where male migrant youths accounted for 22.3%, 5.1 percentage points higher than

11. It should be noted that this at least in part can be attributed to the fact that many senior secondary schools and universities/colleges are concentrated in urban areas. It is common for young people to pursue senior secondary school and higher education in urban areas without converting their rural Hukou registration. According to the definition of migrant population used in this publication, these young people are defined as migrant youths.

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**Figure 5-5 Educational attainment of migrant youths in urban and rural areas (2015, %)**



female migrant youths. In rural areas, migrant youths who received compulsory education accounted for the highest proportion, with 44.3% male migrant youths and 44.9% female migrant youths. The next largest proportion was migrant youths who received higher education, where male migrant youths accounted for 31.1%, 8.7 percentage points higher than female

migrant youths. The proportion of migrant youths who received secondary vocational education was relatively low in both urban or rural areas, with male migrant youths 0.8 percentage points higher than female migrant youths in urban areas, and female migrant youths 3.2 percentage points higher than male migrant youths in rural areas (Table 5-2).

**Table 5-2 Educational attainment of migrant youths by urban/rural and sex (2015, %)**

Educational attainment (%)	Urban		Rural	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Never been to school	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.7
Compulsory education	22.3	17.2	44.3	44.9



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Regular senior secondary education	21.1	19.9	18.5	22.9
Secondary vocational education	11.6	10.8	6.0	9.2
Higher education	45.0	52.0	31.1	22.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Data source: Calculated based on the Tabulated Data of 2015 National 1% Population Sample Survey

Compulsory education includes various status of primary and junior secondary school: in school, graduated, did not graduate, drop-out and others.

Comparing the educational attainment of the total youth population with the migrant youth population, the proportions of migrant youths who received secondary vocational education (10.8%) and higher education (46.1%) were higher than the total youth population (8.5% and 31.7%, respectively). However,

the proportions of migrant youths who received other types of educational attainment were lower than the total youth population. The findings on the youth migrant population and the total youth population were consistent with the above when the sex dimension was taken into account (Table 5-3).

**Table 5-3 Educational attainment of the total youth population and the migrant youth population by sex (2015, %)**

Educational attainment	Youth population			Migrant youth		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Never been to school	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.1
Compulsory education	35.4	32.2	33.8	24.7	20.2	22.5
Regular senior secondary education	26.3	24.8	25.6	20.9	20.2	20.6
Secondary vocational education	8.5	8.4	8.5	11.0	10.6	10.8
Higher education	29.4	34.2	31.7	43.4	48.8	46.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

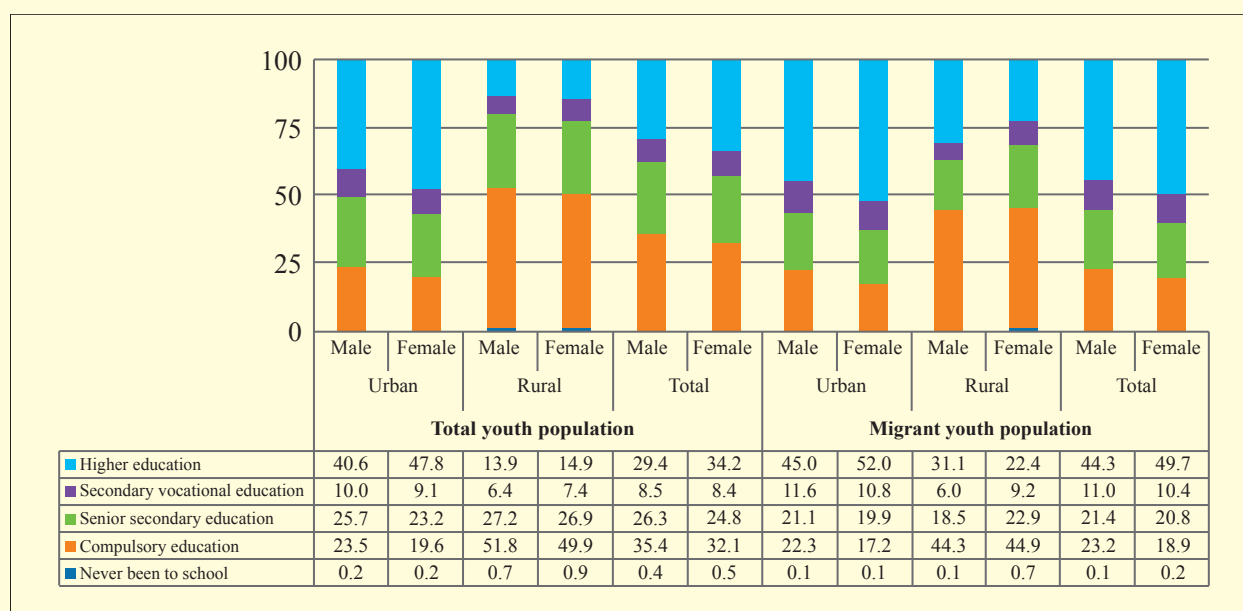
# The Youth Population in China (2018): the Current Situation and Development Trends

To further compare the educational attainment of the total youth population and the migrant youth population, in urban areas, the proportion of male and female youths who received higher education was 4.4 and 4.2 percentage points lower than that of male and female migrant youths, respectively. However, the proportion of the total youth population who received regular senior secondary education and compulsory education was higher than that of the migrant youth population. In rural areas, the proportion of male and female migrant youths who received higher education was 17.2 and 7.5 percentage points higher than that of male and female youths in the total population, respectively. Lastly, in urban areas, the proportion of the total youth population with regular senior secondary education and compulsory education was higher than that of the migrant youth population (Figure 5-6).

## 5.5 Marriage and fertility status of migrant youths

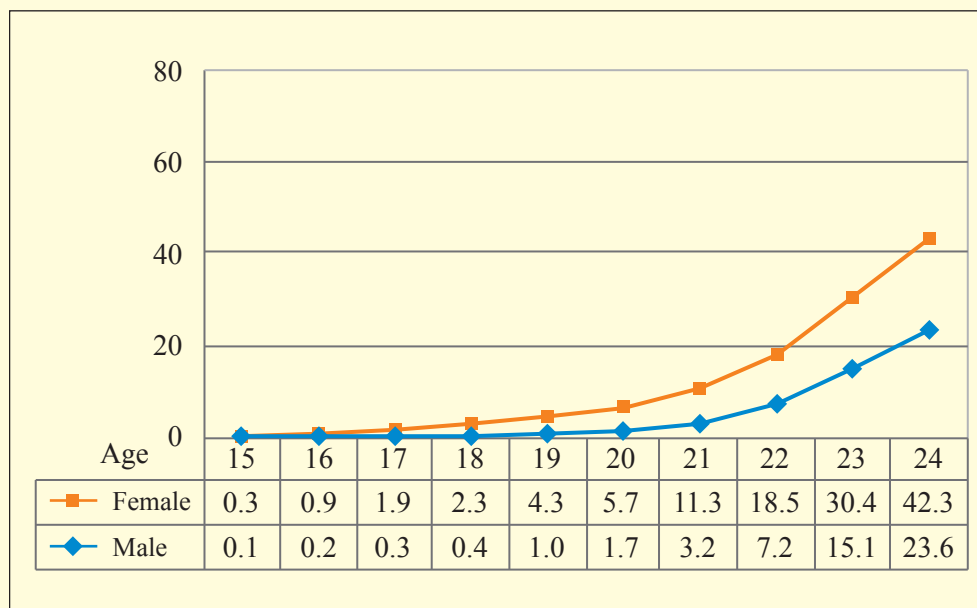
The migrant youth population had a lower marriage rate than the total youth population, and the marriage rate of female migrant youths was higher than that of male migrant youths. In 2015, 9.5% of migrant youths were married, and the marriage rate of female migrant youths was higher than that of male migrant youths at all ages. The legal marriage age for females in China is age 20, and the marriage rate of females was significantly higher than that of males after age 20. Migrant youths who were married were mainly concentrated in the 20-24 age group, which accounted for 95% of all married youths (see Figure 5-7). Comparing the migrant youth population with the total youth population, the marriage rate of the total youth population aged 15-24 was 2.1 percentage points higher than that of the migrant youth population.

**Figure 5-6 Composition of education attainment of the total youth population and the migrant youth population (2015, %)**



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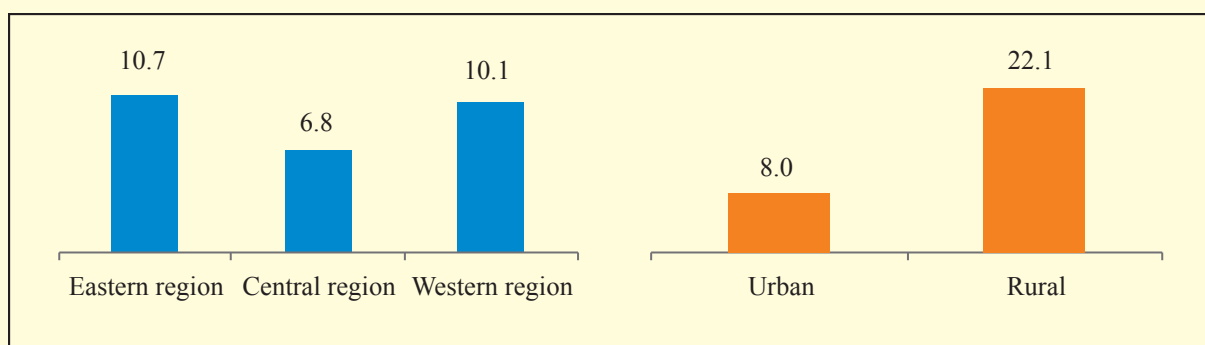
**Figure 5-7 Marriage rate of migrant youths by age and sex (2015, %)**



From a regional perspective, the marriage rate of migrant youths in the eastern region was the highest, followed by the western region, and the lowest marriage

rate was seen in the central region. The marriage rate of migrant youths in rural areas was 14.1 percentage points higher than in urban areas (Figure 5-8).

**Figure 5-8 Marriage rate of migrant youth by region and urban/rural (2015, %)**

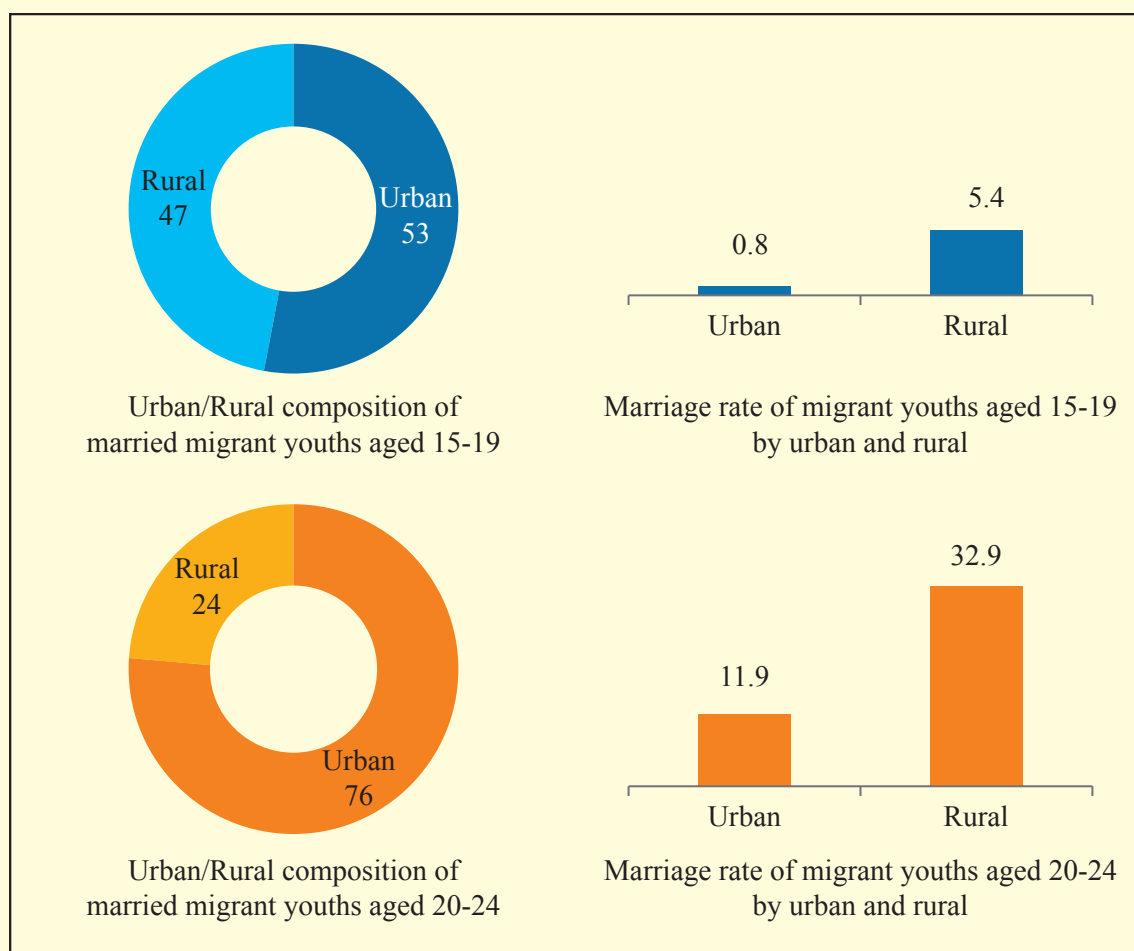


# The Youth Population in China (2018): the Current Situation and Development Trends

For the 15-19 age group, the proportion of migrant youths who were married and residing in urban areas exceeded those in rural areas by 6 percentage points in 2015, but the marriage rate of migrant youths residing in rural areas was 5.4%, while the marriage rate was only 0.8% in urban areas. For the 20-24 age group, the proportion of married migrant youths who were residing in urban areas was 76%, accounting for more than three-quarters; and the marriage rate of migrant youths in rural areas was as high as three times that of urban areas (Figure 5-9).

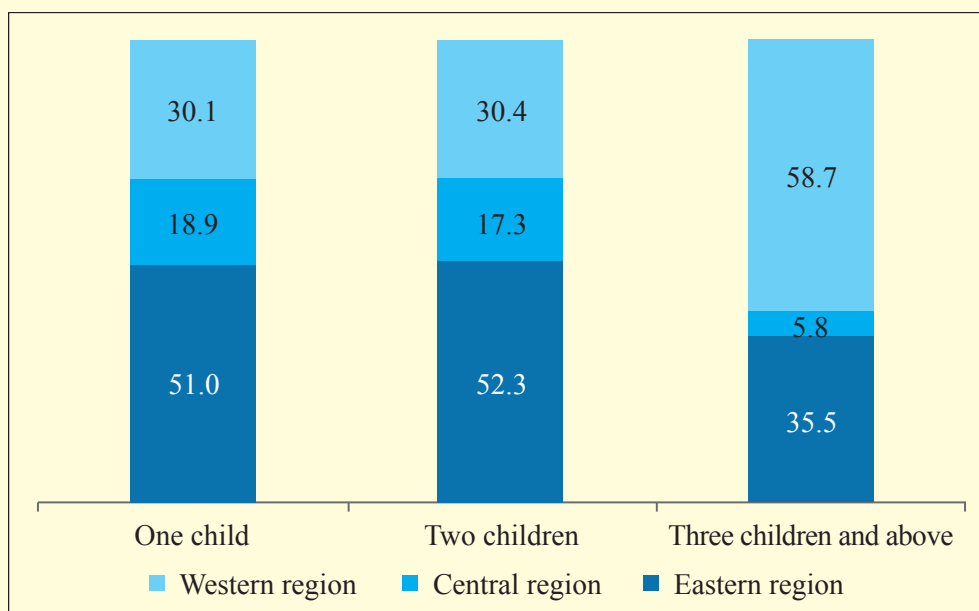
In 2015, the general fertility rate of female migrant youths was 37.0‰. The fertility rate of female migrant youths at first childbirth was 29.2‰, at second childbirth was 7.2‰, and at third childbirth and above was 0.6‰. From a regional perspective, the eastern region had the highest proportions of female migrant youths who delivered one or two babies, with both proportions higher than 50%. In comparison, the western region had the highest proportion of female migrant youths who delivered three or more babies at 58.7% (Figure 5-10).

**Figure 5-9 Urban/rural composition of married migrant youths and the marriage rate of migrant youths by urban/rural and age group (2015, %)**



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**Figure 5-10 Composition of female migrant youths by number of births and region (2015, %)**



## 5.6 Employment status of migrant youths

In 2015, including those residing in another district of the same city, there were 23.83 million migrant youths aged 16-24 who were employed, accounting for 36.0% of the total number of youths employed in the country. Specifically, 13.52 million male migrant youths were employed, accounting for 56.7%, and 10.31 million female migrant youths were employed, accounting for 43.3%.

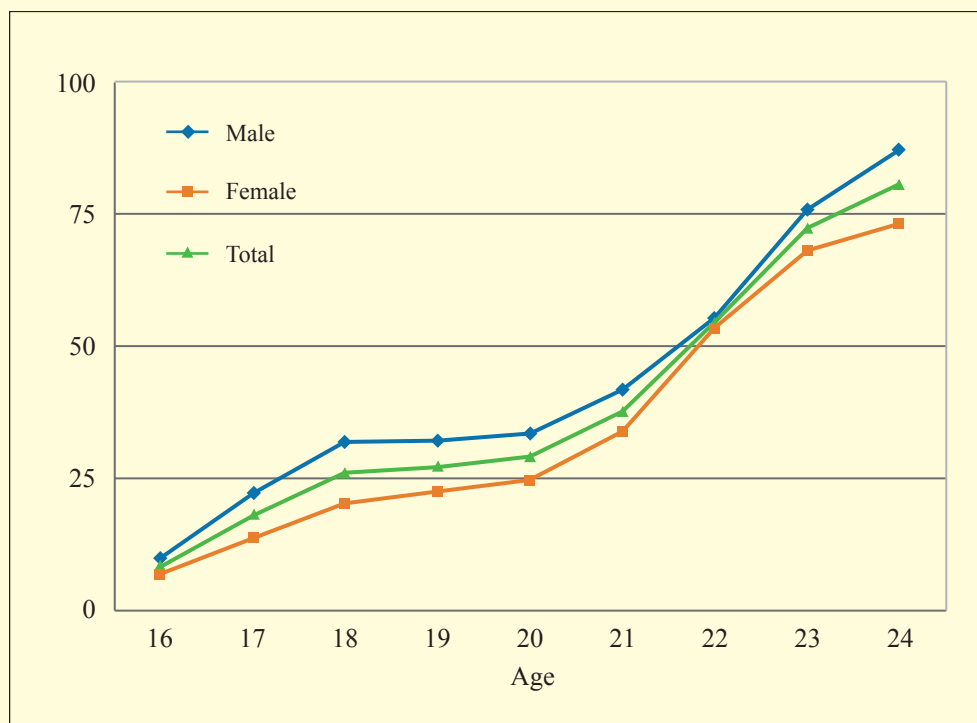
If those residing in another district of the same city were excluded, the total number of migrant youths aged 16-24 who were employed was 21.42 million, accounting for 32.63% of the total number of youths employed in the country. Specifically, 12.17 million male migrant youths were employed, accounting for 56.81%, and 9.25 million female migrant youths were employed, accounting for 43.19%. The number of migrant youths who were employed increased rapidly

with the increase in age, with migrant youths aged 20-24 who were employed accounting for 83.0% of the total number of migrant youths employed. Migrant youths employed in urban areas accounted for 86.0% of the total number of migrant youths employed, while those employed in rural area accounted for 14.0%. The employment rate of male youths was higher than female youths in all ages between 16-24. The employment rate of migrant youths rose rapidly during ages 16-18, rose slower between ages 18-20, and rose rapidly again between ages 20-24 (Figure 5-11). Among the unemployed migrant youths aged 16-24, those studying in school accounted for 90.2%.

After excluding migrant youths residing in another district of the same city, migrant youths aged 16-24 predominantly held occupations related to the secondary industry such as manufacturing, and the tertiary industry related to social production and life services. In terms of occupational composition, among

# The Youth Population in China (2018): the Current Situation and Development Trends

Figure 5-11 Employment rate of migrant youths by age and sex (2015, %)



migrant youths aged 16-19 who were employed, the highest proportion was production and related personnel at 49.4%, with the proportion of male youths higher than female youths. This was followed by social production and life service personnel at 40.8%, with the proportion of female youths higher than male youths. Among migrant youths aged 20-24 who were employed, the highest proportion were social production and life services personnel at 43.5%, with the proportion of female youths higher than male youths. This was followed by manufacturing and related personnel at 35.4%, with the proportion of male youths higher than female youths by 17.4 percentage points. The proportion of professionals and technicians in the 20-24 age group also increased significantly compared with the 16-19 age group, with

the proportion of female youths significantly higher than male youths. In terms of gender differences in the occupational composition of migrant youths, it was evident that male youths were more likely to work in the manufacturing industry, while female youths were more likely to work in the service industry (Table 5-4). The occupations requiring intellectual labor gradually increased with the increase in age, and the highest proportion of migrant youths working in government organs, Communist Party and mass organizations, enterprises and public institutions, as well as those serving as professional and technical personnel, clerks and other related personnel was at age 24. This reflected the higher requirement of these occupations for the accumulation of knowledge, skills, and work experience.

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**Table 5-4 Occupational composition of employed migrant youth by age and sex (2015,%)**

Occupation	Ages 16-19			Ages 20-24		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, fishery production and support personnel	1.9	1.1	2.9	2.1	1.0	3.5
Manufacturing and related personnel	49.7	53.4	44.0	34.5	42.2	24.8
Social production and life services personnel	40.1	39.0	41.9	43.7	42.9	44.8
Persons in-charge of government organs, mass and social organizations, enterprises and public institutions	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.9	1.1	0.6
Professional and technical personnel	6.3	4.2	9.4	13.9	9.1	19.9
Clerks and related personnel	1.7	1.9	1.5	4.9	3.7	6.3
Other practitioners difficult to classify	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100



# The Youth Population in China (2018): the Current Situation and Development Trends

## About the NBS/UNFPA/UNICEF Joint Data Project

Data is the foundation for good policymaking. In China, UNFPA and UNICEF have been working with the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and other partners to increase availability, analysis and use of data disaggregated by sex, age and region, from both regular population censuses/surveys and administrative reporting systems. The aim is to enhance monitoring and reporting by the national statistical systems on national development plans such as the National Programme of Action for Women and Children, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## Acknowledgments

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## Annexes

**Table 1 Number and proportion of youths by age and sex (estimates based on sample)**

Age	Number (million)			Proportion in the total population (%)		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
<b>15-19</b>	<b>75.20</b>	<b>40.40</b>	<b>34.79</b>	<b>5.47</b>	<b>2.94</b>	<b>2.53</b>
15	13.57	7.56	6.01	0.99	0.55	0.44
16	14.39	7.79	6.59	1.05	0.57	0.48
17	15.96	8.57	7.39	1.16	0.62	0.54
18	15.08	8.06	7.03	1.10	0.59	0.51
19	16.19	8.42	7.77	1.18	0.61	0.57
<b>20-24</b>	<b>100.31</b>	<b>52.20</b>	<b>48.11</b>	<b>7.30</b>	<b>3.80</b>	<b>3.50</b>
20	22.18	11.29	10.90	1.61	0.82	0.79
21	19.67	10.20	9.47	1.43	0.74	0.69
22	19.49	10.27	9.22	1.42	0.75	0.67
23	19.16	10.04	9.12	1.39	0.73	0.66
24	19.80	10.40	9.40	1.44	0.76	0.68

**Table 2 Number of youths employed by age and sex (estimates based on sample)**

Unit: 10,000 persons

Age	Youths employed		
	Total	Male	Female
<b>16-19</b>	<b>1,189</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>486</b>
16	127	77	50
17	243	146	97
18	348	205	142
19	472	275	197
<b>20-24</b>	<b>5,375</b>	<b>3,044</b>	<b>2,331</b>
20	726	415	310
21	830	470	360
22	1,085	609	476
23	1,281	720	561
24	1,453	830	623



