Solomon Islands Government

2019 POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS

NATIONAL REPORT
(Volume 1)

Solomon Islands Population & Housing Census
ENSUS 2019

ANALYSIS

September 2023

Solomon Islands National Statistics Office
Ministry of Finance and Treasury
Honiara, Solomon Islands

FOREWORD

On behalf of the Democratic Coalition Government for Advancement (DCGA), and as the Minister responsible for the 2019 National Population and Housing Census Project ('2019 Census'), I wish to acknowledge the findings of this analysis report, "*2019 National Population and Housing Census National Report (Volume 1)*" and thus formally commend the report to the people of Solomon Islands.

This report will inform the DCGA's policy framework in supporting socio-economic development and structural reforms in the country. The key findings will further inform the government's national development plan (NDP), the medium term development strategy (MTDS), and our fiscal (budgetary) and monetary policies. The key indicators in this report will also meet our international reporting obligations such as the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

This analysis is also a part of the dissemination program of the Solomon Islands National Statistics Development Strategy (NSDS) 2015-2035 to collect data, analyse data and publish new and updated official statistics to enable community participation in the development process through evidence-based decision-making at various levels.

With an average annual population growth rate of 2.6%, and with the population projected to reach 1 million people by 2039, its therefore paramount that we all have to work extra hard to get our economy on a sustainable path again, noting the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and the recent 2022 Honiara riots on our economy. More importantly, we need to ensure that the population growth does not outpace economic growth given its broader implications on per capita income in our society.

The DCGA government will continue to support efforts towards a fully functioning and vibrant national statistical system that is able to provide timely, relevant and vital socio-economic statistics and indicators to strengthen evidence-based decision making, policy development and planning in the country.

I want to convey my appreciation for the leadership of the Census Commissioner and Government Statistician, Mr. Douglas Kimi and the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Finance and Treasury (MOFT), Mr. McKinnie Dentana, for the successful completion of the 2019 Census enumeration and for finally releasing the results. I also want to thank the staff of the Solomon Islands National Statistics Office, MOFT and the Technical Adviser, Dr, Willie Lahari, for his overall technical support to the 2019 Census project.

Lastly but not the least, let me take this opportunity to call upon all stakeholders, development partners and the people of Solomon Islands to not only draw from the findings of this report, but also support the government's efforts towards achieving our development goals with our people (population) first in our minds, now and into the future.

Honorable Harry D Kuma, MP
Minister for Finance and Treasury

PREFACE

In this report, "*2019 National Population and Housing Census National Report (Volume 1)"*, analysis about the Solomon Islands population and its demographic, socio-economic and housing characteristics is provided based on the 2019 Census data, and data from past censuses. The 2019 Census data used in this analysis is referenced to the midnight of 24th of November 2019, the census date. This report focusses on the national level analysis with less in-depth analysis at the provincial level.

This report is supplemented by the *"Report of the 2009 Population and Housing Census - Basic Tables and Census Description (Volume 2)"* that provides extended statistical tables including a discussion about the operations and challenges faced in the 2019 Census and basic history of the country's censuses.

There are seventeen (17) chapters focusing on various topics with Chapter 1 providing the introduction and country profile, and Chapter 2 discussing the population profile, population change, population size and distribution. In Chapter 3, the analyses focusses on the population dynamics and structure, with urbanisation and urban-rural distribution analysed in Chapter 4. In addition, the three main demographic components - fertility, mortality and migration are analysed in Chapters 5, 6 and 7, respectively. Chapter 8 contains social characteristics, and Chapter 9 covers education, language and literacy. Moreover, Chapter 10 discusses disability while Chapter 11 looks at the use of mobile phones and internet. In Chapter 12, the labour force and economic activity is deliberated, followed with informal and formal sector employment (Chapter 13). The discussion moves to households and housing in Chapter 14 and in Chapter 15 the perceptions of households about the constituency development fund (CDF) is analysed. The last two chapters look at population projections (Chapter 16) and policy implications (Chapter 17).

The report is a timely initiative for the Solomon Island National Statistical Office (SINSO) within the Ministry of Finance and Treasury (MOFT) even after being faced with the adverse effects of the covid-19 pandemic and negative effects of the 2022 riots in Honiara. SINSO continued to meet its mandate as the official government agency responsible for implementing key national statistical projects (e.g., 2019 Census) as guided by the National Statistics Development Strategy (NSDS) 2015-2035, and the Statistics and Census Acts.

The information and indicators from this analysis also responds to the growing demand for data and statistics. The information herein is highly relevant for the monitoring and evaluation of the country's national development strategy (NDS) 2016-2035, the sustainable development goals (SDGs), and fiscal and monetary policies as well as in assessing the current and future socio-economic conditions of the country.

It is advisable that whilst the main analysis is based on the 2019 Census data, there are some comparisons with indicators from past censuses and therefore caution should be considered in any explicit comparisons given certain data quality issues, census under-enumerations and changes in definitions and operations.

The contributions of many people and agencies towards the successful accomplishment of the 2019 Census and publication of this report ought to be acknowledged. These includes:

The government of Solomon Islands through the Minister of Finance and Treasury (MOFT), Honorable Harry Kuma for his leadership, and in soliciting government resources in funding the 2019 Census operation; Mr McKinnie Dentana, Permanent Secretary for MOFT for his oversight on the census operations at the ministry level; Mr Bebeno Mulesae and Mr Kairamo Anisi for financial and accounting support at the ministry level (MOFT). In addition, the 2019 Census User Committee members comprising representatives of all key government ministries are acknowledged for technical inputs and advice provided during the design of the questionnaire and questions proposed in the census.

SINSO further commends the Central Bank for funding support and advice on the financial inclusion questions in the census. The Republic of China (ROC- Taiwan) is commended for funding support as well as support from UNICEF is much appreciated. The Ministry of Health and Medical Services, especially the R-WASH team is applauded for providing funding support. The Ministry of National Planning and Development Coordination is also noted for their annual development budget reviews and support for the 2019 Census project.

The SINSO also acknowledges Dr. Willie Lahari, MOFT-SINSO Technical Adviser for his overall technical assistance and capacity building in the planning and design, and implementation of the 2019 Census project. Other related support provided included selected data processing, and overall guidance in the analysis of this report with specific analytical contributions in the labour force and economic activity, informal-formal sector, mortality, constituency development fund analysis, and population projections.

The SINSO further commends the technical assistance provided by Dr Michael Levin and Mr. Jomer Manongsong in data processing of the 2019 Census data and the production of selected tabulations. Dr Levin is also acknowledged for selected write-ups on fertility and migration. The New Zealand Volunteer Agency is also acknowledged through support provided by Mr Josh Neale, Data Analyst, for assistance in data processing and commentary on the fertility chapter. Moreover, the Solomon Islands Translation Advisory Group is acknowledged for advice and information about first languages and endangered languages in the Solomon Islands.

The Management of SINSO takes this time to also convey its appreciation to all the 2019 Census enumerators and supervisors, provincial coordinators and trainers throughout Solomon Island and the rest of the staff of the SINSO for their valuable contributions and commitment offered to the successful completion of the 2019 Census. Special acknowledgment is conveyed to the following SINSO staff who engaged tirelessly in the analysis and report-writing phase led by Mrs Anterlyn Tuzakana with guidance from Dr Willie Lahari:

- Census and Survey unit staff: Michael Dimola, Desmond Papage, Michael D. Barasi, Alfred Palo, Renagi Umarlee, Patricia Wasiloki, Joy .T Mazini and Clera Sa'ohu.
- Social Unit staff: Steward.T.Sopamana, Gabriel Kopzy, Mary Buke, Grace.T. Matanani, Florence Walekwate and Anterlyn Tuzakana.

- Economics Unit staff: Anna Luvu, Hilda Angota, Esther Paraerae, Fisher Makasi, Maravin Hokotatu, Ian Ghesimate, Graem Risoni, Leni Taisia, Noland. S. Parairua, Reginald Mara, Mary Pauia, and Fredrick Sekamama.
- NSDS staff: Anna Pitaboe, Alision Haomae, Gwen Vola, Sharon Misialo and Laefana Tuni.

Finally, let me thank all the people and residents of the Solomon Islands for participating in the census enumeration and providing your responses to the questions asked. Let me also convey my appreciation to your respective provincial governments in rendering administrative and logistical support to the 2019 Census enumeration. Your contribution is of vital importance in making the 2019 Population and Housing Census for the Solomon Islands a success.

Douglas Kimi
Census Commissioner and Government Statistician

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Total Population	720,956	199,138	521,818	30,775	94,106	31,420	30,318	4,100	154,022	172,740	51,587	22,319	129,569
Males	369,396	102,591	266,805	15,863	48,933	16,627	15,562	2,222	78,972	86,691	26,662	11,055	66,809
Females	351,560	96,547	255,013	14,912	45,173	14,793	14,756	1,878	75,050	86,049	24,925	11,264	62,760
Average annual population growth rate, 2009-2019[1]	2.6	5.9	1.5	1.5	2.0	1.8	1.5	3.0	3.6	0.9	2.4	0.4	5.6
Population density (number of people/Km)	23.7	-	-	8.0	12.5	7.6	49.3	6.1	28.9	40.9	16.2	25.7	5916.4
Urbarnisation													
Urban population	199,138	-	-	1,053	14,608	1,342	1,481	-	40,152	7,020	2,107	1,806	129,569
Percent Urban (%)	27.6	-	-	3.4	15.5	4.3	4.9	-	26.1	4.1	4.1	8.1	100.0
Average annual urban growth rate, 2009-2019[1]	5.9	-	-	2.6	4.0	3.2	1.7	-	9.5	3.2	0.2	0.9	5.6
Population Structure													
Number of children(<15 years)	264,799	58,994	205,805	12,282	34,895	11,374	11,562	1,355	57,734	68,968	21,776	8,275	36,578
Youth Population (15-34 years)[2]	249,831	83,790	166,041	9,238	30,610	9,761	9,698	1,255	55,900	55,269	15,617	6,321	56,162
Population aged (30-59 years)	217,625	66,114	151,511	9,298	29,040	10,166	9,158	1,350	45,018	48,490	14,667	6,913	43,525
Older population (60 years and older)	42,074	8,242	33,832	1,988	6,148	2,322	2,005	416	7,140	11,421	3,000	2,230	5,404
Median age	21.4	23.9	20	20.4	21.7	22.6	20.9	25.3	20.9	19.5	18.6	22.2	24.2
Dependency ratio (0-14 and 60+)	74	51	85	86	77	77	81	76	73	87	92	89	48
Sex ratio	105	106	105	106	108	112	105	118	105	101	107	98	106
Marriage													
Mean age at first marriage (SMAM)	24.7	25.6	24.2	23.9	24.8	24.3	24.3	26.7	23.9	24.4	24	23.5	26.1
Males	26.5	27.2	26.2	26	26.9	26.5	26.3	28.2	25.7	26.3	26.1	25.6	27.6
Females	22.8	24	22.1	21.7	22.7	21.9	22.2	24.6	22.1	22.5	21.9	21.6	24.5
Labour and Economic Activity													
Working Age (12+) population	506,009	150,765	355,244	20,680	65,723	22,254	20,971	3,013	106,917	117,410	33,744	15,661	99,636
Labour Force	280,510	79,105	201,405	11,423	40,433	13,762	11,236	1,886	61,806	62,214	18,475	8,330	50,945
Males	150,975	44,286	106,689	6,354	22,222	7,668	5,992	1,157	32,954	31,698	9,953	4,246	28,731
Females	129,535	34,819	94,716	5,069	18,211	6,094	5,244	729	28,852	30,516	8,522	4,084	22,214
Total Employment	258,383	69,564	188,819	10,674	38,011	13,315	10,838	1,813	56,640	58,324	17,127	7,572	44,069
Males	139,041	39,202	99,839	5,907	20,900	7,438	5,763	1,125	30,197	29,579	9,176	3,861	25,095
Females	119,342	30,362	88,980	4,767	17,111	5,877	5,075	688	26,443	28,745	7,951	3,711	18,974
Employee (Gov.& Private-NGO).	72,918	40,807	32,111	2,711	10,818	3,146	1,622	757	13,333	8,781	2,727	1,336	27,687
Males	49,253	25,985	23,268	1,989	7,286	2,538	1,127	614	9,174	6,109	1,967	926	17,523
Females	23,665	14,822	8,843	722	3,532	608	495	143	4,159	2,672	760	410	10,164
Employer	3,458	1,274	2,184	155	635	295	165	16	768	471	188	53	712
Males	2,464	840	1,624	115	494	241	96	9	528	345	129	40	467
Females	994	434	560	40	141	54	69	7	240	126	59	13	245
Self employed	38,825	12,183	26,642	1,698	5,501	903	1,807	150	11,024	7,751	1,588	966	7,437
Males	23,776	7,172	16,604	1,118	3,393	642	1,174	87	6,306	4,896	1,052	575	4,533
Females	15,049	5,011	10,038	580	2,108	261	633	63	4,718	2,855	536	391	2,904
Voluntary work	447	76	371	33	85	38	22	1	73	94	43	9	49
Males	307	41	266	29	64	31	12	1	47	64	31	4	24
Females	140	35	105	4	21	7	10	0	26	30	12	5	25

SUMMARY OF MAIN INDICATORS (Cont..)

Indicator	Solomon Islands	Urban	Rural	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell-Bellona	Guadal-canal	Malaita	Makira-Ulawa	Temotu	Honiara
Unpaid family work	34,222	4,756	29,466	1,319	5,348	1,661	1,864	79	7,214	10,236	2,594	1,270	2,637
Males	15,175	1,410	13,765	564	2,459	816	873	19	3,319	4,623	1,278	552	672
Females	19,047	3,346	15,701	755	2,889	845	991	60	3,895	5,613	1,316	718	1,965
Unpaid Work: producing goods-service (sale)	24,645	3,588	21,057	989	3,882	1,181	1,271	73	5,342	7,264	1,835	877	1,931
Males	11,045	1,062	9,983	436	1,802	592	608	26	2,411	3,365	897	386	522
Females	13,600	2,526	11,074	553	2,080	589	663	47	2,931	3,899	938	491	1,409
Unpaid Work: producing (own-use, subsistence)	83,868	6,880	76,988	3,769	11,742	6,091	4,087	737	18,886	23,727	8,152	3,061	3,616
Males	37,021	2,692	34,329	1,656	5,402	2,578	1,873	369	8,412	10,177	3,822	1,378	1,354
Females	46,847	4,188	42,659	2,113	6,340	3,513	2,214	368	10,474	13,550	4,330	1,683	2,262
Youth-Employment (15-34 yrs)	114,505	32,356	82,149	4,511	16,607	5,232	4,580	662	27,637	24,815	7,413	2,791	20,257
Males	59,898	17,619	42,279	2,463	9,028	2,916	2,331	450	14,229	12,112	3,886	1,349	11,134
Females	54,607	14,737	39,870	2,048	7,579	2,316	2,249	212	13,408	12,703	3,527	1,442	9,123
Employment by key industry *(population)*													
All Industries	258,383	69,564	258,383	10,674	38,011	13,315	10,838	1,813	56,640	58,324	17,127	7,572	44,069
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishery	176,613	22,954	176,613	8,445	27,511	10,160	9,386	914	41,014	47,754	14,006	6,279	11,144
Males (%)	49.6	43.6	49.6	54.2	52.7	53.1	51.2	54.8	49.2	48.3	50.8	48.4	39.6
Females (%)	50.4	56.4	50.4	45.8	47.3	46.9	48.8	45.2	50.8	51.7	49.2	51.6	60.4
Industry	16,711	8,965	16,711	448	3,389	873	194	176	3,320	2,027	548	170	5,566
Males (%)	86.3	87.5	86.3	98.0	73.8	93.6	97.4	98.9	84.0	78.9	94.0	97.1	93.9
Females (%)	13.7	12.5	13.7	2.0	26.2	6.4	2.6	1.1	16.0	21.1	6.0	2.9	6.1
Services	65,059	37,645	65,059	1,781	7,111	2,282	1,258	723	12,306	8,543	2,573	1,123	27,359
Males (%)	56.9	56.7	56.9	49.9	55.0	53.7	61.1	62.2	58.6	57.3	59.9	58.3	56.5
Females (%)	43.1	43.3	43.1	50.1	45.0	46.3	38.9	37.8	41.4	42.7	40.1	41.7	43.5
Employment to population ratio (%)	35.8	34.9	36.2	34.7	40.4	42.4	35.7	44.2	36.8	33.8	33.2	33.9	34.0
Total Unemployment	22,127	9,541	12,586	749	2,422	447	398	73	5,166	3,890	1,348	758	6,876
Males	11,934	5,084	6,850	447	1,322	230	229	32	2,757	2,119	777	385	3,636
Females	10,193	4,457	5,736	302	1,100	217	169	41	2,409	1,771	571	373	3,240
Unemployment Rate (official)	7.9	12.1	6.2	6.6	6.0	3.2	3.5	3.9	8.4	6.3	7.3	9.1	13.5
Males	7.90	11.5	6.4	7.0	5.9	3.0	3.8	2.8	8.4	6.7	7.8	9.1	12.7
Females	7.87	23.8	6.5	6.0	6.0	3.6	3.2	5.6	8.3	5.8	6.7	9.1	14.6
Youth-Unemployment Rate (15-34 yrs)	11.1	18.8	7.6	9.5	8.8	5.2	4.6	6.2	10.8	8.2	9.8	12.6	19.5
Males	11.1	16.7	7.8	9.9	8.6	4.5	5.1	4.7	11.0	8.7	10.2	12.9	18.7
Females	11.0	21.3	7.4	8.9	9.0	6.0	4.1	9.4	10.6	7.7	9.3	12.4	20.4
Not In Labour Force	225,499	71,660	153,839	9,257	25,290	8,492	9,735	1,127	45,111	55,196	15,269	7,331	48,691
Males	106,832	33,187	73,645	4,312	11,994	4,143	4,684	523	21,513	26,336	7,364	3,372	22,591
Females	118,667	38,473	80,194	4,945	13,296	4,349	5,051	604	23,598	28,860	7,905	3,959	26,100
Labour force participation rate													
Total	55.4	52.5	56.7	55.2	61.5	61.8	53.6	62.6	57.8	53.0	54.8	53.2	51.1
Male	58.6	57.2	59.2	59.6	64.9	64.9	56.1	68.9	60.5	54.6	57.5	55.7	56.0
Female	52.2	47.5	54.2	50.6	57.8	58.4	50.9	54.7	55.0	51.4	51.9	50.8	46.0
Education													
School enrolment rates, 5-12 years old (%)	76.7	75.8	77.0	89.7	74.8	90.0	85.4	92.0	64.7	82.2	69.5	87.4	76.6
Males	76.0	75.0	76.3	88.6	73.8	89.2	84.7	93.3	64.1	81.6	68.7	86.4	76.0
Females	77.5	76.6	77.8	90.9	75.9	90.9	86.3	90.5	65.5	82.8	70.3	88.5	77.2
School enrolment rates, 5-15 years old (%)	79.1	78.0	79.3	89.8	77.0	90.2	86.4	91.7	69.0	83.6	74.0	87.1	78.9
Males	78.2	77.1	78.5	88.6	76.0	88.9	86.0	92.7	68.1	83.0	73.0	86.2	78.1
Females	80.0	78.9	80.2	91.0	78.2	91.5	86.9	90.6	70.1	84.3	75.0	88.1	79.7

SUMMARY OF MAIN INDICATORS (Cont..)

Indicator	Solomon Islands	Urban	Rural	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell-Bellona	Guadal-canal	Malaita	Makira-Ulawa	Temotu	Honiara
School enrolment rates, 15-19 years old (%)	69.9	70.1	69.8	65.8	60.9	69.3	72.2	70.0	62.9	78.0	70.1	71.1	73.0
Males	69.6	70.5	69.3	65.4	58.2	68.0	72.0	67.2	62.0	79.2	69.6	71.2	73.8
Females	70.2	70.4	69.7	66.2	63.9	70.7	72.4	73.5	63.7	76.9	70.7	71.0	72.2
Percentage of pop aged 12 and older with:													
No school completed	14.4	7.0	17.6	7.8	5.9	13.1	18.0	3.3	16.3	25.7	10.5	19.0	6.5
Primary education	46.2	33.9	51.4	58.1	56.1	45.2	48.5	50.4	46.5	47.4	55.8	51.8	30.9
Secondary education	28.4	40.1	23.4	25.9	28.5	30.5	26.0	30.6	27.7	20.2	24.6	21.8	41.3
Tertiary education	7.9	16.2	4.4	4.9	6.2	6.2	5.1	11.2	6.7	3.6	4.8	4.3	18.5
Vocational /professional qualifications	1.4	1.6	1.3	1.6	1.8	2.5	0.9	3.7	1.3	0.8	2.0	0.6	1.6
Literacy rate,15+(%)[3]	85.5	92.9	82.3	94.0	94.9	88.9	86.3	95.2	82.3	73.8	87.3	76.2	94.0
Males	88.5	94.6	85.7	93.8	94.6	91.8	90.5	96.3	85.1	79.3	89.5	83.9	95.6
Females	82.5	91.1	78.7	94.2	95.1	85.5	82.0	93.9	79.4	68.6	85.0	69.0	92.2
Literacy rate,15-24(%)[4]	90.2	95.1	87.9	94.4	94.6	94.6	91.9	94.7	87.2	83.7	91.3	89.3	96.0
Males	90.0	95.1	87.7	92.6	93.6	94.4	91.9	94.9	86.9	83.7	90.6	89.5	96.1
Females	90.5	95.1	88.2	96.3	95.7	94.8	91.9	94.3	87.4	83.6	92.0	89.1	95.8
Language ability,5+(%)[5]													
English	72.9	85.5	67.9	76.8	80.7	74.6	69.8	80.6	68.9	61.0	72.3	69.1	87.4
Males	75.0	75.0	75.0	76.2	80.4	76.5	74.2	79.5	70.7	64.7	73.8	74.4	88.9
Females	70.7	84.0	65.5	77.6	81.1	72.4	65.3	81.9	67.0	57.2	70.7	64.0	85.7
Pidgin	68.4	79.7	63.9	75.8	77.6	71.0	68.7	70.8	65.4	55.8	67.0	60.2	81.0
Males	70.1	80.8	65.9	74.4	76.9	72.6	72.4	70.9	67.0	59.0	68.2	64.8	82.3
Females	66.5	78.5	61.9	77.2	78.3	69.2	64.9	70.7	63.8	52.6	65.7	55.8	79.6
Local language	64.4	68.3	62.8	79.5	76.3	71.2	70.0	80.4	62.1	55.1	64.1	39.2	68.1
Males	65.8	69.5	64.4	77.4	75.1	71.4	72.6	78.5	63.6	58.0	65.1	42.9	69.4
Females	62.9	67.1	61.3	81.7	77.6	70.9	67.3	82.7	60.6	52.3	63.1	35.6	66.8
Other langauages	6.6	5.2	7.1	13.5	10.3	9.5	6.2	6.9	4.9	5.9	5.2	3.3	5.6
Males	7.3	5.9	7.9	14.2	11.0	11.1	7.0	9.9	5.6	6.6	5.8	3.8	6.3
Females	5.8	4.4	6.3	12.8	9.6	7.8	5.5	3.1	4.2	5.3	4.7	2.7	4.8
Population 5 years and older with severe disability													
Seeing	569	52	517	27	90	26	18	5	150	158	36	30	29
Hearing	783	113	670	43	118	38	36	2	165	222	56	27	76
Walking	1206	159	1047	61	232	63	47	11	248	278	85	88	93
Remembering	790	92	698	54	135	56	27	5	166	188	65	33	61
Self care	1322	187	1135	89	240	110	46	26	299	268	101	42	101
Communicating	1109	141	968	104	164	91	50	2	194	270	115	38	81

SUMMARY OF MAIN INDICATORS (Cont..)

Indicator	Solomon Islands	Urban	Rural	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell-Bellona	Guadal-canal	Malaita	Makira-Ulawa	Temotu	Honiara
Fertility													
Total Fertility Rate (TFR)	3.8	2.6	4.5	4.5	4.2	4.8	4.2	2.3	3.8	4.5	5.6	4.6	2.3
Teenage Fertility Rate (ASFR, 15-19)	49.1	33.8	56.8	73.5	61.9	52.3	36.7	61.5	58.0	46.2	71.1	39.7	28.2
Children ever born, CEB (45-49)[6]	4.1	3.5	4.3	4.2	4.0	4.3	4.2	3.8	4.2	4.5	4.6	3.6	3.4
General Fertility Rate (GFR)	116	81	135	133	129	136	122	68	119	132	162	129	72
Child-Woman Ratio (CWR)	494	361	558	630	553	531	501	558	509	528	649	483	332
Mean age at childbearing of mothers (in years)	29.5	29.8	29.3	28.6	28.9	29.3	29.3	29.1	29.3	29.8	29.6	29.0	29.7
Mean age at childbearing of fathers (in years)	33.2	33.0	33.4	32.9	33.1	33.8	33.4	32.8	33.0	33.6	33.9	33.0	32.9
Annual number of births, 2019	21,101	4,762	16,544	925	2,858	978	889	56	4,712	5,485	1,890	680	2,825
Crude Birth Rate	29.3	23.9	31.7	30.1	30.4	31.1	29.3	13.6	30.6	31.8	36.6	30.5	21.8
Mortality													
Infant mortality rate (IMR) (per 1,000)	24	23	24	26	29	28	32	30	21	23	22	15	22
Males	27	29	26	26	35	31	29	54	24	25	23	8	29
Females	21	16	22	26	24	24	34	5	17	21	20	22	14
Child Mortality (per 1,000)	7	6	7	7	9	9	11	4	5	6	6	4	6
Males	7	8	7	6	11	9	8	9	6	6	5	2	8
Females	6	5	7	8	7	7	14	1	5	6	6	7	4
Under-five mortality (per 1,000)	30	29	31	33	39	36	42	34	26	30	27	19	28
Males	34	37	33	32	46	40	37	63	30	31	28	10	36
Females	27	21	28	34	31	31	48	6	22	28	26	29	18
Life expectancy at age 20 (e20)	55.1	55.2	55.0	53.7	55.6	55.8	57.2	52.9	55.5	54.2	55.8	54.6	55.0
Males	53.4	53.4	53.4	50.9	53.7	54.7	56.1	47.3	53.3	52.9	54.4	52.5	53.3
Females	56.8	57.0	56.6	56.5	57.5	56.8	58.3	58.4	57.6	55.5	57.2	56.6	56.6
Life expectancy at birth	72.1	72.3	72.0	70.2	72.1	72.4	74.1	69.1	72.8	71.2	73.1	72.2	72.2
Males	70.0	69.8	70.1	67.1	69.5	71.0	72.7	60.7	70.2	69.6	71.5	70.5	69.7
Females	74.2	74.8	73.8	73.3	74.6	73.8	74.1	77.4	75.4	72.7	74.6	73.8	74.6
Estimated annual number of deaths, 2019	4,002	921	3,093	216	573	200	169	59	690	1,042	267	190	607
Crude death rate	5.6	4.6	5.9	7.0	6.1	6.4	5.6	14.3	4.5	6.0	5.2	8.5	4.7

SUMMARY OF MAIN INDICATORS (Cont..)

Indicator	Solomon Islands	Urban	Rural	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell-Bellona	Guadal-canal	Malaita	Makira-Ulawa	Temotu	Honiara
Households													
Number of private households	131,566	33,206	98,360	5,520	17,531	320	5,872	720	28,746	32,332	9,057	4,699	20,839
Average household size (number of people per household)	5.4	5.9	5.2	5.4	5.1	4.6	5.1	5.1	5.3	5.3	5.5	4.7	6.1
Number of non private dwellings (institutions)[7]	926	311	615	57	235	121	43	11	130	123	52	16	138
Households characteristics													
Wages/salaries is main household income (%)	28.4	66.2	15.6	22.8	28.8	18.8	14	22.4	27	13.3	14.5	15.8	70.6
Receiving remittances (%)	21.1	4.3	16.8	37.4	32.4	34.7	19.5	61.1	9.7	23.8	19.3	20.3	14.9
With insecticide treated bednets (%)	83.9	67.3	89.6	91.7	88.0	94.3	91.8	58.2	84.6	89.2	88.9	92.3	60.9
With improved drinking water sources (%)	78.3	90.6	74.2	85.3	80.8	90.9	82.0	93.3	64.9	76.5	74.2	75.0	92.9
With improved sanitation facilities (%)	35.4	83.8	19.0	15.0	35.4	24.9	9.4	48.9	32.2	22.1	12.4	8.6	91.8
With hand washing facilities (%)	90.0	46.9	14.3	95.5	97.7	92.1	93.5	98.3	87.8	83.1	85.9	87.9	96.5
Wood/coconut as main energy source for cooking (%)	84.0	48.8	95.9	95.6	88.6	92.7	95.3	88.9	88.0	97.0	96.2	97.2	37.1
Solar as main energy source of lighting	81.1	85.5	14.5	89.7	80.4	92.1	94.4	85.7	87.1	94.2	93.1	93.8	35.5
Connected to electricity grid (%)	15.3	50.3	3.5	6.9	12.9	6.2	3.7	9.6	8.0	3.5	3.2	3.3	62.3
With radio (%)	23.9	34.8	20.2	16.4	16.0	17.9	21.5	14.4	25.9	24.4	17.6	9.0	37.6
With mobile phone (%)	44.6	65.6	37.6	46.7	51.2	51.1	30.1	22.5	37.4	39.1	31.0	37.9	67.5
Climate change and vulnerability													
Households exposure to sea level rise (%)	16.8	5.2	20.7	28.5	20.1	23.7	40.9	10.0	10.2	20.2	14.1	36.6	2.7
Households with No disaster plan (%)	25.9	30.3	24.4	26.3	29.0	27.8	10.3	3.6	22.1	27.7	24.2	17.7	32.8
Constitutional Development Fund (CDF)													
Hholds that were aware of CDF (%)	98.9	98.9	99.0	99.5	99.3	99.7	99.4	99.7	98.2	99.1	99.4	99.2	98.5
Hholds with housing materials, positive CDF assistance (%)	18.8	12.2	21.0	18.3	20.1	28.4	11.4	20.6	21.1	22.1	12.0	16.8	11.8
Hholds with solar supplies, positive CDF assistance (%)	12.2	4.1	14.9	21.5	14.3	13.3	8.4	18.2	11.6	14.2	13.8	20.1	3.5
Hholds with No (positive) impact of CDF assistance (%)	64.2	78.7	59.3	55.4	59.6	54.2	73.0	51.7	63.9	59.3	67.6	57.3	79.4

Notes:

[1] The 2009 figures are adjusted (based on 8.3% undercount in 2009 Census); For urban growth rate, only the total and Honiara are adjusted

[2] Based on the Solomon Islands youth definition

[3] Proportion of population 15 years and older who are able to read and write a simple sentence in any language

[4] Proportion of population aged 15 to 24 years who are able to read and write a simple sentence in any language

[5] Proportion of population 5 years and older who are able to read and write a simple sentence in any one language

[6] Average number of children per woman aged 45-49

[7] Institution include boarding schools,prison,hospitals,hotels/hostels/guest houses, some boats:

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The summary provides an overview of the main findings based on the Solomon Islands 2019 National Population and Housing Census.

The 2019 Census recorded the total enumerated population as of the midnight ('Census Night') of the 24th of November 2019 at **720,956.** This compares with 558,457 people in 2009 Census (adjusted), and represents an increase of about **29% or 162, 499 people.** This population increase represents an average **annual growth rate of 2.6%.** This growth rate accounts for an adjustment (8.3% undercount) in the previous 2009 Census. The unadjusted growth rate would have been 3.4%, which was extremely high.

Although the 2019 Census **absolute population count is within expectations**, there **were some suspected cases of over and under enumeration** within the varying distributions of the **age-sex cohorts,** especially amongst the younger population.

The 2019 Census enumerated **369,396 males** and **351,560 females**, representing a **sex ratio of 105 males per 100 females**. The **majority (72.4%)** of the population **lived in rural areas** compared to those in urban areas (27.6%).

Age dependency ratio in Solomon Island was **74,** which meant that there were **74 economically dependent people** per 100 people of working-age population (15-59 years) - **64** were dependent **children** and the **10** were **elderly persons.**

The median age for the whole country-that age where half the population was older and half-younger-was **21.4 years.** Comparison cross the provinces, Makira had the lowest age at **18.6 years,** whilst Rennell-Bellona reported the highest average age at **25.3 years**

The **average household size was 5.4** based on a total of 131,566 enumerated private households comprising 704,450 household members.

The average **population density for Solomon Islands was 24 people/km²**. This was an increase from 17 people per /km² in 2009 Census. Population density vary across the provinces with Honiara (**5,916 people/km²**) being the most densely populated province – as well as being the capital of Solomon Islands and the center for business and government. Central province was ranked the second most densely populated province with **49 people/Km²**.

The **urban** population was **199,138** people **(28%)** of the total population and includes the entire population of the **Honiara town council (129,569)** as well as the Guadalcanal wards of Tandai **(24,592)** and Malango **(15,560),** and the settlements/towns of Gizo **(4,260),** Noro **(7,204),** Munda

(1,748), Nusa Roviana **(1,396),** Auki **(7,020),** Batava/Taro **(1,053),** Buala **(1,342),**Tulagi **(1,481),** Kirakira/Bauro Central **(2,107),** and Lata/Luava Station **(1,806).**

The average annual **urban growth** between 2009 (adjusted) and 2019 was **5.9%,** that reflected a significant increase in urban population driven mainly by the **high growth rate of Honiara (5.6%)** and the **growth of the Honiara urban surroundings** (including the two wards of Guadalcanal – Tandai and Malang) of **7.5%.** The other high urban growth areas were reported in Western with **4.0%,** Isabel and Malaita with **3.2%** and Choiseul with **2.6%**. While the data showed increasing growth rates from most of the urban centers, Nusa Roviana and Lata or Luava station reported negative growth (**-0.9)** respectively.

The **average age for all birth** was **24.2** years in 2019. Honiara had the highest average age at almost **27 years** whilst the youngest first birth females were from Makira and Temotu at **22.2 years** and Choiseul at **22.3 years**.

The **average number of children ever born for females aged 45-49 years was 4.11** or about 4 children. Makira had the highest total fertility **(4.6 children per female)** by this approach.

The total fertility rate (TFR) - the average number of births per woman in Solomon Island **was 3.8 births,** a decline from 4.7 births in the 2009 Census.

The average age of mothers giving birth in the years before 2019 census was **32.0 years**

Based on census data for the number of children ever born and still alive, the **infant mortality rate (IMR)** was estimated at **24** – with **27 for males and 21 for females**. This is slightly higher than the 2009 levels with IMR of **22**, and with 24 for males and 20 for females. This is discouraging although the rates remain low since 1999.

Life expectancies at birth, based on the census data were estimated to be **70.0** and **74.2** years for males and females**,** respectively, compared to 2009 when it was 66.2 and 73.1 years for males and females. This represents an improvement, especially in male life expectancy.

Based on the derived life tables, a **crude death rate** (**CDR**) of **5.6 per 1,000 population** was estimated, slightly higher than the 2009 rate of 5.5 per 1,000. This represented approximately 4,200 deaths, an increase from 2,800 deaths in 2009.

The estimated mortality indicators show more positive mortality indicators for females than for males, with females expected to live, on average, about **4.2 years longer than males**. However, the gap in has narrowed from 6.9 years in 2009, which is an improvement for male life expectancy.

Net international migration was considered negligible during the intercensal period 2009–2019.

About **55% of the population** who lived in the same ward for birth, residence in 2014 and at the time of census never moved with highest percentage of people resided in **Guadalcanal (80% or about 4 of every 5 people)**

Women marry at a younger age than men. The average **age at marriage was 26.5 and 22.8 years for males and females,** respectively.

The 2019 Census recorded **32% of the population** that regarded themselves as members of the **Church of Melanesia, which** is the **most dominant** in Solomon Islands. The Roman Catholic Church is the second largest with 20% of followers, followed by the South Sea Evangelical Church with 17%. In addition, the Seventh Day Adventists consist of 12% of the population and the United Church members comprise of 9% of the population, with the remaining population belonging to other religions.

The population that have **never attended school** increased over the census years from **67,894** in 2009 Census to **80,109** in 2019 Census - with a higher percent of **females (14.5%)** who have never been to school compared to **males (10.9%)**.

School enrolment data from the census showed that **238,108 people (37.7%)** of the total enumerated population 5 years and older were enrolled in schools - with male enrollment rates slightly higher **(51.6%)** than females **(48.4%**) as the gap amongst sexes continues to narrow over the decades.

Enrollment data also showed that from the total enrolled population, **64% of persons 5-15 years were enrolled in schools.** There has been a revision from the 6-15 year age group category in the past census as a result of changes in policy. School enrollment comprised of pre-school enrolment (12%); primary enrollment (48%); secondary (25%); tertiary (9%) and others-vocational (11%).

Data on educational level completed indicated that **46% of the population 12 years and over completed primary education** in 2019 - with males (50.5%) and females (49.5%) drawing closer to achieving equal levels in primary educational attainment. Within respective gender disaggregation, **46% of males and 47% of females completed primary education; 9% of males and 7% of females completed tertiary education;** and **30% of males** and **27% of females attained secondary education** (Form 1-7). As can be expected, lower educational attainments were higher in the rural areas than to the urban areas.

With regard to educational attainment based on the **population 15 years and over**, **56%** of the population **attained primary level education** in 2019 compared to 42% in 2009.

Literacy was measured by a respondent's ability to read and write a simple sentence in any language. At the national level, **85.5% of the population 15 years and over were reported as literate,** with

male literacy levels higher (88.5%) than the females (82.5%). There were people that are more literate in urban areas (92.5%) than in rural areas (82.3%). The age group with the **highest rate of literacy were the 15-19 year old population with 90.3% literate**. The school population aged 10-14 years recorded 79.7% literate, as one would expect that they should be able to read and write a simple sentence.

Language proficiency in English was reported amongst the **majority (73%)** of the population **–** who could read and write a simple sentence in English. The second important language was **Pidgin (68%)** - which is increasingly becoming the first language (lingua franca) for many people especially in urban areas. This is followed by **Local languages (64%)** and **Other languages (6.6%).**

Data on **disability** revealed that approximately **11%** of the population 5 years and over **reported at least a functional form of disability -** especially prevalent amongst people with some difficulties in Seeing (10.6%), with more females (51%) than males (49%). This was followed by persons who had some difficulties in: Remembering (8.4%), Walking (7.8%), Hearing (5.6%), Self-care (4.7%) and Communicating (3.7%).

There were close to **1%** of the population 5 years and over who reported a **'severe' form of disability** ("Cannot do at all"). This comprised of 1,322 persons with sever difficulties in self-care - the most prevalent. This was followed by 1,206 persons who were suffering from lameness (walking) and 1,109 person who had sever difficulties in communicating. The others included 783 persons who were deaf and 569 persons with blindness.

The 2019 Census recorded a total of **280.5 thousand people aged 12 years and over in the labor force** out of the 505.4 thousand people that were counted of working age (12 years and over). There were more **persons employed (paid and unpaid) (92.1%)** than **unemployed (7.9%)** in the labor force. Of the total persons employed, there were more **unpaid workers (55.4%)** than **paid workers (44.6%)**.

In paid employment, there were **two males for every one female who earn a monetary (paid) compensation for their labor.** In contrast, there were **more females (55.6%) than males (44.4%) in unpaid work** - with the majority (two thirds) of all females residing in rural areas. The disparities among sexes in paid and unpaid work not only exhibit factors such as levels of skills and gender but also the broader structural issues of the labor and job market including underemployment and labor underutilization.

The **majority of persons in the labor force were within the age group of 20-39 years** who reside in rural areas (73.1%). Males dominated in employment and unemployment, comprising over half of the labor force compared to their females counterparts in both urban and rural areas.

Persons **employed in subsistence work (own-account) comprised of a third (32.5%) of all**

employment, and over half (58.6%) of all unpaid-employment. Most of the substance workers were females (55.9%). Malaita had the highest concentration of subsistence workers (9.2%), followed by Guadalcanal (7.3%).

The **share of wages-salary employment** (government, private sector and NGO) to working-age population was **14.4%,** and to **total paid-employment was 58.1%.** The latter driven by paid employment in Honiara.

In terms of **occupations, over two-thirds (71.3%) of all employed persons were in semi-skilled occupations that included skilled agricultural, forestry and fisheries jobs**. Males dominated in semi-skills jobs such as craft, trade and machine operators, and in high-skilled occupations such as professional jobs. In contrast, females outnumber their male counterparts in low-skilled elementary occupations (66.4%) of which, housework (61.3%) was the predominant occupation for females.

In terms of **economic activity (industry),** the combined **agriculture, forestry and fishery industry** comprised the **highest number (177,000) or two-thirds (68.4%) of all employed persons**. About 87.0% of employment in this sector was in rural areas where the majority of the population reside - with close to equal employment amongst sexes.

The unemployment rate is a key economic indicator in assessing the performance of the labor market and the economy. With 22,127 people categorized as unemployed, the national **unemployment rate (official) was recorded at 7.9 percent.** Urban-unemployment rate (12.06%) was twice the rural unemployment rate (6.25%). At the national level, male and female unemployment rates were closely equivalent to the national rate.

Over a third (225,500) of the working-age population were not in the labor force. The **key reasons** why persons outside the labor force were **not actively looking for work** were because they **were 'students' (58%),** being **'full-time home makers' (16.8%)** and a combined **7.2%** of persons reported that they **'did not want to work' and 'believed there was no work available'.**

Total employment **by sector (formal and informal sector)** in Solomon Islands was predominantly **formal (96%)** when adjusted for the exclusion of the agriculture and related activities according to the ILO definition applied.

Data from the 2019 Census reported that **44.7% (225,945)** of the population 12 years and above **owned a mobile phone**. Of this population, a significant majority **(96.6%) or 218,294** had **mobile/cell phones** that were in **good working condition**.

About **40.7% of persons** who had a good working mobile phone **accessed internet**. The main **reasons** for accessing internet (using a mobile phone) was mainly for **social media (66.0%), communications (62.0%)** and **entertainment (51.3%),** respectively.

The **main sources of household income in Solomon Islands** was from the **sale of crops** representing **37%** of all households. Another **28%** of household income came from wages or salaries, followed by **10%** from the sale of fish, and **12%** from other sources. Around **4%** of all households recorded that have no income.

Around three-quarters of all households in Honiara received their income from wages or salaries **(71%).** This percentage was much lower in all the provinces except Honiara.

Around **21% of all households** in Solomon Islands received **remittances** during the 12 months before the census. About **8.0%** of them received **less than SI$ 500**, **5.2%** received **between SI$ 500 and SI$ 999**, and **3.7%** received **between SI$ 1,000and SI$ 1,499** and another **4.2%** received **more than SI$ 1,500.**

About **84%** of all households **grew crops**. Of these households, 57.3% of them grew crops both for own-use (subsistence) and for sale, while 25.2% of them grew crops for subsistence consumption only.

From those households involved in growing crops, the **majority grew cash crops** especially **vegetables/food crops (48%),** followed by **betel-nut (39%), coconut/copra (31%), cocoa (22%),** Kava **(13%),** flowers and gingers **(12%),** tobacco **(7%),** and timber **(6%).** Within both urban and rural areas, vegetables/food crops was the popular cash crop grown – with rural households growing significantly more (88.3%). This was followed by betel-nut which was popular amongst rural households (97.4%) than among urban households (2.6%).

In terms of data on livestock, less than half or **47%** of all households **raised livestock** including poultry**.** Across provinces, **Malaita** households had the **highest percent (34.4%) of livestock** including poultry, followed by Guadalcanal (21.9%).The combined **number of livestock** including poultry recorded was **464,430** with the **majority being poultry (65%).** This was followed by pigs (32%), goats (1.7%) and the others (1% and less) included cows and horses. In comparison to 2009, poultry declined by 13% and pigs increased by 21% dominated especially by livestock and poultry activities in Malaita.

The data showed that **46.5%** of all households were engaged in **fishing and gathering of invertebrates -** of which **over half (51.7%)** of them were engaged for the purpose of own consumption (subsistence); and **46.7%** fished for both own consumption and the sales of their catch. **Less than 2%** of these households fished for the sole purpose of selling their catch.

About **41% of households** that were engaged in both fishing and gathering invertebrates **caught fish for consumption** at least **once a week**; and **34.0%** of them **bought fish for consumption** at least **once a week.** Moreover, of these households that were engaged in both fishing and gathering

invertebrates, **30.0%** of them **collected invertebrates for consumption** and **16.2%** of them **bought invertebrates for consumption**, often did this at least **once a week.**

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Data captured on **tenure** revealed that **80%** of all households **owned their dwelling** outright, while 5% rented out their dwellings, and another 6% resided in their dwelling rent-free. Out of the total number of households, the majority (82%) of those who owned their dwellings outright lived in rural areas

Data from **sources of drinking water** revealed that **78.3%** of all households obtained their drinking water from **improved drinking water sources** such as water piped into the dwelling, protected spring or rainwater. This was an improvement from 69% of households reported in 2009. Improved water sources were predominant within both urban (90.6%) and rural areas (74.2%) respectively, where rainwater collection for drinking was prevalent in the latter. At the national level, rainwater was the primary source of drinking water for the majority (22%) of households, especially those in rural areas.

Regarding **sanitation facilities, 35%** of all households usually used **improved sanitation facilities** such as toilets that comprised of flush-to-septic tank or pit latrine, or a pit latrine with slab. This was a decline from 43% of households that used improved sanitation as recorded in 2009. The use of improved sanitation facilities was more prevalent in urban areas (84% of all households) than rural areas (19% of all households).

Close to half **(49.5%)** of all households had no access to an improved toilet facility – with **open defecation** being the primary facility (unimproved) used by these households.

Over half **(50%)** of all households **disposed of their waste in their backyard**. This is followed by households **(15%)** that burned their waste and those who disposed of their waste into the sea **(11%)**. In Honiara, the waste of about 50% of households were collected by the government's waste collection services.

The **main source of lighting was solar power**, used by about **4 in every 5 households (81%)**, with the majority (86%) of these households residing in rural areas. This was a major shift away from kerosene lamp, the dominant source of lighting for 62% of households in 2009. Honiara was the province with the least number of households that had lighting powered by solar energy. Only 15% of all households were connected to the electricity-main grid as the main source of lighting – dominated by Honiara households (62%).

The **main source of energy for cooking** for the majority **(84%)** of all households was **wood and coconut shells.** While this dropped from 93% as recorded in 2009, it remained the predominant source for cooking for the majority of provinces excluding Honiara, and amongst rural households (85%). The second most preferred source of energy for cooking was gas, comprising 13% of all households - a drop from 37% of households reported in 2009. Of those households that used gas for cooking, Honiara dominated with 66% of households.

Only **0.5%** of all households reported having **a landline phone available**. This was a significant drop from 2% of all households reported in the 2009 Census, indicating a shift in household behavior mainly towards the use of mobile phones – where about **45% of all households** in Solomon Island now use **mobile phones** more commonly than landline phones - an increase from 21% of households recorded in 2009.

An increase of households with an **internet connection** was revealed in the 2019 Census. In total, there were **1,971 (1.5%) households** with internet connection compared to **541 (less than 1%)** of households in 2009 Census.

The use of **radio** amongst households showed a significant decline from **24% (31,388 households)** in 2019 Census compared to 44% of households in 2009. This reflected a shift in household behavior towards other choices and modes of communication including use of mobile phones and internet.

The **majority (84%) of all households** had at **least one insecticide treated bed-net**. Households with no insecticides bed-nets showed a slight decrease of 6.7% since the 2019 Census. The average number of bed-nets per household was 2.3 in 2009 and increased to 3.3 in 2019. Every province saw increases in the average number of bed-nets per households.

Nearly all households (98.9%) in the Solomon Islands were **aware of the Constituency Development Fund (CDF),** comprising 98.9% of households in urban areas and 99.0% of households in rural areas. A third (35.8%) of all households that were aware of the CDF stated that the CDF assistance had a positive impact on their livelihoods. However, the majority (64.2%) of households stated that the CDF had no positive impact on their livelihoods.

The **population projections** based on the medium population scenario revealed that the Solomon Islands would reach a population of **1 million by 2039** and increase to **1.3 million people by 2060**. These results were updated from the previous projections based on the 2009 Census data. The population will age with an increase in the elderly population 60 years and older, and a decrease in the proportion of younger population towards end of the projection period.

According to the medium scenario projections, the **school age population (6–15 years) would increase** from its current level to about **195 thousand pupils in 2050** and progressively decline until it reaches 186 thousand in 2060. The size of the **working age population (12 years over) will be larger** than its current size in 2019 and will **reach 1.1 million in 2060**. Moreover, the **population aged 60 years and older will double in size to 108 thousand in 2040.** By the year 2060 the population would reach 209 thousand, five times its current (2019) size.

The **increase in population will have implications at all levels of society**. The demand for public expenditure (per capita) will increase to counter the growing demand for public-social services such

as basic utilities (water and energy), education and health care. The increase in the working age population will also impact on employment and unemployment challenges especially amongst the youth.

Counter reactionary policy measures need to be considered to mitigate the effects of these challenges as a result of a growing population. Population projections aid in portraying a scenario of the future size and structure of the population and informs policy makers and planners of major trends in social, environmental and economic development, and how best to respond to these trends through relevant policies and strategies.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose and structure

The Solomon Islands 2019 National Population and Housing Census ('2019 Census') volume one (1) report is based on the census enumeration conducted on the census night of 24 November 2019. The report presents the main results and findings at national and provincial level with the following main purposes:

- provide new and updated population and housing information to enable public and community participation in the development process at various levels;
- enhance the process of decision-making, policy formulation and monitoring amongst all stakeholders. In particular, inform the government's national development strategy, the medium term development strategy, fiscal and monetary policies;
- meet the data requirements of our international obligations and development partner strategies such as the sustainable development goals (SDGs);
- generate interest, curiosity and demand for more detailed census information and thus encourage the regular collection of census data in forthcoming years.

This volume discusses and summaries key indicators (*see summary of key indicators*) and related information by chapter based on detailed 2019 Census information reported in Volume two (2) Basic Tables. The reporting provides further insight by assessing trends in key socio-demographic and related indicators, and in generating population projections drawing also from data from previous censuses.

The reporting structure of this report follows the structure of the 2009 Census report covering similar chapters as listed in the table of contents with new inclusions such as the labor force and economic activity (Chapter 12). The updating of definitions, descriptions and classifications was significant for some chapters such as the labor force and economic activity, and the formal and informal sector employment to comply with International labor Organization (ILO) proposed definitions and standards. Consistency of definition and classification compared to previous censuses is maintained for some of the chapters.

Inclusion of new information from emerging policy demands were been reported including communication and internet, climate change related hazard risk and vulnerability, and history and development that included a section of household perceptions about the constitutional development fund (CDF). Some of the topics such as financial inclusion and provincial population projections will be reported separately in special monographs or secondary analysis due to further in-depth data validation work ongoing at the time of this writing.

Further assistance related to specific data needs can be obtained from the Solomon Islands National Statistics Office (SINSO) upon request.

1.2 Country Profile

The Solomon Islands is located in the South-west Pacific, to the east and south of Papua New Guinea (PNG). The Main Group Archipelago (MGA) is orientated northwest to southeast stretching about 1,700 km between Bougainville, at the eastern trip of PNG to the northern - most islands of Vanuatu. The central archipelago of islands lies between latitudes 5° S and 12° S and longitudes 152 ° E and 163° E (see Map 1). It comprises a double chain of six large islands namely (Choiseul, New Georgia, Santa Isabel, Guadalcanal, Malaita and Makira) as well as many smaller ones making 997 islands. The country has a total land area of 30,407 km², with an exclusive economic zone (EEZ) which covers 1,589,477km^2.

The Solomon Islands is the third largest archipelago in the South Pacific. The main islands vary in length from 140 to 200km, in width from 30 to 50km and in types from high Islands to raised atolls and low-lying islands, sand cays and rock outcrops. Guadalcanal is the largest islands (5,336km²), while other islands scale down from that to a size of less than 1 hectare[1].

Solomon Islands has two climate seasons throughout the year. The wet seasons associated with westerly winds from month of November to April and dry season with easterly winds from May to October. Similar to other Pacific region, the phenomena of climate change and sea level rise have had severe impacts on the way of live of Solomon Islanders. Being closer to equator and as the impact of climate changes, an increase of air temperature is often experienced. The mean daily temperatures throughout the year range from minimum 24 degree Celsius to a maximum of 32 degrees Celsius compared to the last ten years (minimum 23 degree Celsius and maximum 30 degree Celsius). Rainfall range between 3000-6000mm per year[2].

The Solomon Islands attained self-government in 1976 and independence on 7 July 1978. With independence, the government adopted a parliamentary democracy system and a constitutional monarchy represented by a Governor-General who is the Head of the State. Legislative power is vested with the National Parliament that is elected every 4 years. Parliament democracy of the country is based on the multi-party system. The Cabinet/Caucus, led by Prime Minister, holds executive authority. Emphasis laid on the devolution of powers to provincial governments, and traditional chiefs and leaders have a special role within this arrangement[3].

In terms of local government, the country is divided into 10 administrative areas, of which nine are provinces administered by elected provincial assemblies, and the 10th is the city of Honiara,

[1] See www.fao.org/countryprofiles
[2] See Solomon Island Meteorological Services (MECDM)
[3] See also Cox and Morison, 2004

administered by the Honiara City Council (HCC). The Provinces are Choiseul, Western, Isabel, Central, Rennell-Bellona, Guadalcanal, Malaita, Makira-Ulawa, Temotu and Honiara.

Economic development, as measured by the growth in gross domestic product (GDP) saw a contraction in real GDP growth of -3.4 percent in 2020 from a positive growth of 1.7 percent in the previous year, reflecting developments during the pre-Covid-19 pandemic period and the pandemic period. It is expected that growth will pick-up after 2022 reducing the impact of the contraction to about negative one percent in 2021, but further retract to negative -4.5 percent in 2022 due to the riots and damages to businesses in Honiara in 2022. However, growth is projected to rebound into positive territory from 2023 onwards. The major industries in the Solomon Islands include agriculture, forestry (including logging) and fisheries, accounting for over a third of GDP in nominal terms. This is followed by Wholesale-Retail and Manufacturing industries[4].

The majority of the population depend mainly on agriculture, fishing, and forestry for their livelihood especially in the rural areas. The economy is highly dependent on foreign imports as well as foreign development aid. Most manufactured goods and petroleum products are imported, such as food (e.g., rice and wheat), mineral fuels and lubricants, and machinery and transport equipment. The main exports include timber (and logs), fish (tuna), and agriculture products (e.g., copra, palm oil, palm kernels, cocoa and coconut oil) and gold. The country's natural resources include agriculture, forestry, fisheries and minerals such as gold, bauxite, and nickel. Tourism is also an emerging and expanding industry.

Solomon Islands is part of the sub-regional grouping of countries that share similar Melanesian cultural heritage, with close ties to countries like Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and Fiji. However, there are other Pacific island ethnicities who reside in the country such as people from Micronesia (mainly Kiribati) and Polynesian heritage. Australians according to the International Visitors arrivals remains the largest group of Visitors to the Solomon Islands. There are also Chinese populations, Europeans, USA, New Zealand, other Asians and other Pacific Islanders who visited Solomon Island in 2019 for various reasons[5].

Land ownership and land use are largely organized along tribal lines, and people maintain strong attachment with their islands of origin. However, in urban areas in the country, the state owns most of the land.

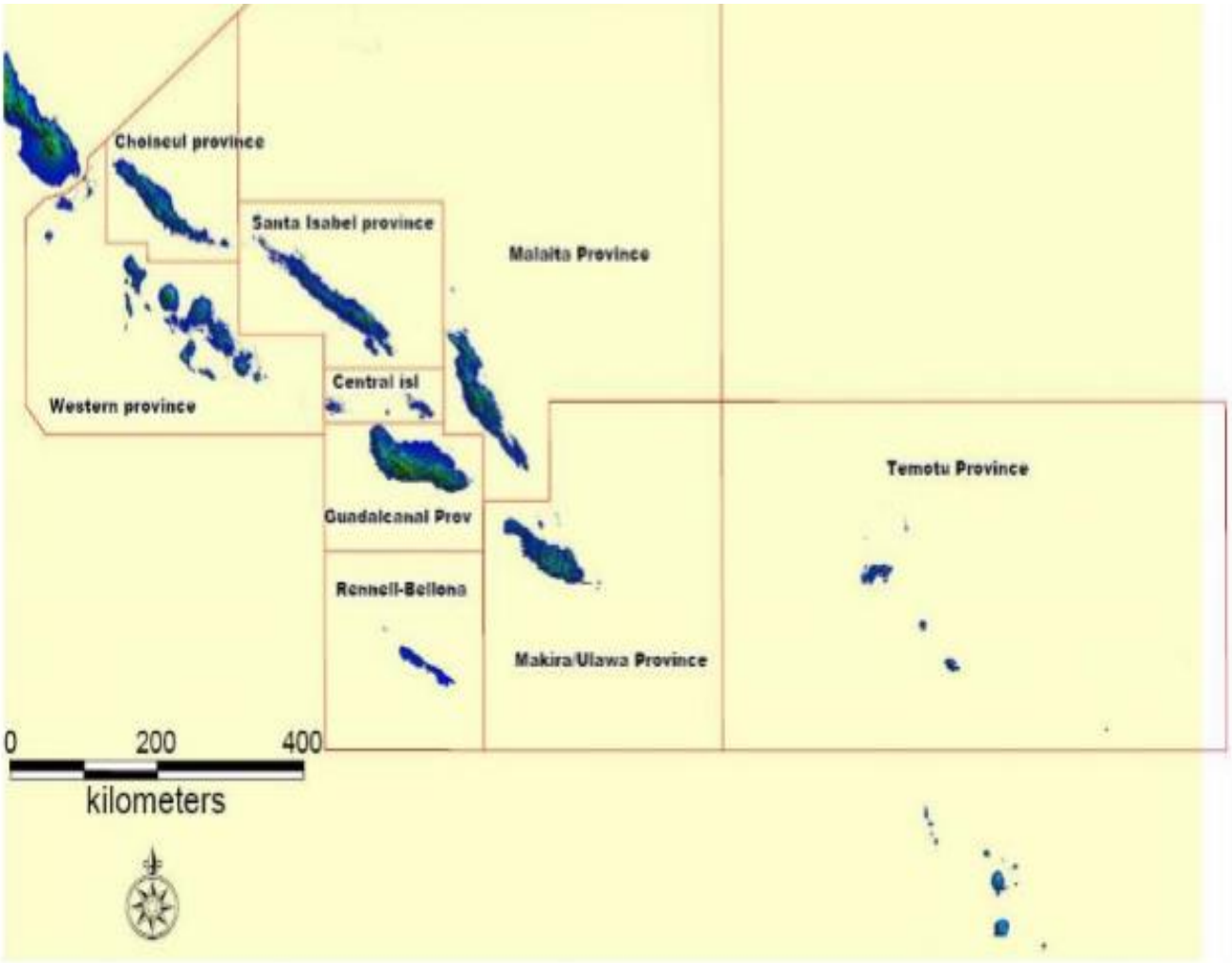
Christianity has a large influence on Solomon Islands society and represented by a large variety of denominations. The country is also characterized by rich linguistics diversity and unique traditional beliefs.

[4] See Statistical bulletin (5/2022), Gross Domestic Product, SINSO
[5] See 2019 Annual Visitors Bulletin, SINSO.

English is the official language of the country, but the Pidgin language is widely used as the *lingua franca*.

The majority of the people settle and live along the coast, but there are substantial population communities in the inland areas of Guadalcanal and Malaita that are increasing as population grow over time.

Map 1: SOLOMON ISLANDS



SINSO: Maps/Census-Survey Unit

2. POPULATION PROFILE AND CHANGE

2.1 Introduction

This chapter discusses the basic demographic characteristics of the Solomon Islands population and addresses its change over time, with particular focus on the situation in November 2019, and changes from the 2009-2019 intercensal period.

The present chapter starts with a brief description of the historical demographic development of the Solomon Islands as a general background to the present situation. In addition, the chapter focuses on internal population dynamics in view of the series of indicators on population size and change over time. It also discusses the national and provincial population distribution and population density by province.

Apart from the absolute number of people and their geographic distribution, information on age and sex is the most important finding of a census. Age and sex relationships indicate varying demographic and social behaviors especially in relation to mortality, fertility and migration. Such information form key indicators for successful development planning, which often targets specific groups as needs vary depending on sex or age. Planning in the areas of education, health services, housing, employment or food supply, all depend on reliable details about the age and sex composition of the population. For fertility and mortality analysis, programme impact assessment and population projections require such information. Hence, an account and scrutiny of the age and sex structure reported in the 2019 Census forms an important basis of understanding different social groups, their past history and future predictions of their behavior.

2.2 Historical Background

2.2.1 General Development

Settlement in the area that now constitutes the independent state of the Solomon Islands can be traced back to as early as 10,000 BC. Initial waves of immigrants came from New Guinea; while around 4000 BC Melanesian settlers arrived, following the development of agriculture in Southeast Asia. Around 1500 AD groups of Polynesian islanders began to arrive in the Solomon Islands, occupying the smaller outer islands that were relatively uninhabited. European exploration of the country started in the late 1560s, but until 1890, European presence was restricted to a few missionaries and traders. In 1893 the area was declared a British protectorate, which it remained until the transition period to independence in 1978. The intervening period was characterized by the capture of most of the country by Japan in World War II and by the arrival of small numbers of Chinese traders and in the 1950s and 1960s a sizeable group of Gilbertese settled in the Solomon Islands.

In the 1990s, Bougainville refugees entered the country, most of whom, however, were repatriated

before the census in 1999. It is likely that the population of the Solomon Islands increased steadily from its earliest history, although this growth may have been reversed temporarily when epidemics introduced by European traders swept the country in the 19th century. In addition, head-hunting practices prevailed into the first half of the next century, suppressing further population growth. Historical estimates and a first census-type operation in 1931 suggest that the population fell from well above 100 thousand at the beginning of the twentieth century to 94 thousand in 1931. Data collection for the 1931 and 1959 censuses differed markedly from the subsequent undertakings and thus caution should be taken when making direct comparison of results. Nevertheless, the various population counts seem to indicate that the population recovered after 1931 at a rate of about 1 percent per year until 1959, probably because of a combination of declining mortality and increasing fertility. From then on, population growth further accelerated and probably peaked during the period from 1976-1986 at around 3.4 percent annually. However, it should be noted that the history of census undertakings also had challenges of itself such as under enumerations and data quality issues. Figure 2.3.1 presents population sizes as reported in the censuses since 1931.

2.2.2 Internal population dynamics

The population of Solomon Island mainly comprise of three ethnic groups - Melanesians, Polynesians and Micronesians. The Melanesians are the most populated group, followed by Polynesians, and the Micronesians. The Polynesian groups in the Solomon Island mainly occupied the outlying islands of Rennell Bellona, Ontong Java (Malaita), Tikopia, Anuta and the Reef and Duff Islands in Temotu Province. The Micronesians (Gilbertese) resettlement were mainly in Southeast Choiseul, Gizo (Western province) and Honiara. Foreign ethnic groups such as Australians, Pacific Islanders, European, Chinese and other Asians have also resided in the country over the years. These foreign expatriates migrated for various reasons connected to economic and social development of Solomon Islands.

Honiara, the main urban city of Solomon Islands catered for most of the basic public services, education and health that attracted the economically active and skillful population from rural communities. Development of other commercial and administrative centers such as Noro and Munda also resulted in internal migration flows to these centers.

Unexpected natural disasters resulted in Tsunamis (2012) in Temotu and flooding (2014) in Honiara. In 2014, an earthquake under the ocean with a magnitude of 7.5 developed into a tsunami and affected many villages and homes along the south coast of Santa Cruz Island right down to Lata Station in Temotu Province. This unpredictable natural hazard forced coastal residents to relocate to higher grounds and inland areas. Also on April 2014, the flash flooding in Honiara claimed lives and greatly damaged homes and valuable properties of those who resided along Mataniko river in Honiara. As part of the government strategy to respond to victims of the flash flooding, April Hill located in the east end of Honiara was identified as a place of temporary refuge for residents who had been affected by the floods. In 2019, in East Makira-Ulawa province, there was a by election that took place around the time of the 2019 Census enumeration and thus there was short-term mobility and cross border

movement of people within some of the wards as people moved to cast their votes on preferred candidates.

2.3 Population size and trend

The total enumerated population of the Solomon Islands as of midnight ('Çensus Night') of 24 November 2019 stood at 720,956. This consisted of the number of people that resided in 131,566 private households and 926 non-private dwellings (institutions). This was an increase of 162, 499 persons (29.1%) from the 2009 Census (adjusted) of 558,457. Figure 2.3.1 shows the population trend from 1931-2019 revealing that the population has continuously increased and is now more than seven times the size it was in 1931.

The average annual growth rate of the intercensal period 2009-2019 was 2.6%. This accounts for an adjustment (8.3% undercount) in the previous 2009 Census. The unadjusted growth rate would have been 3.4%, which was extremely high. Table 2.3.2 and Figure 2.3.2 presents the information on the average annual growth rate by intercensal periods and by province.

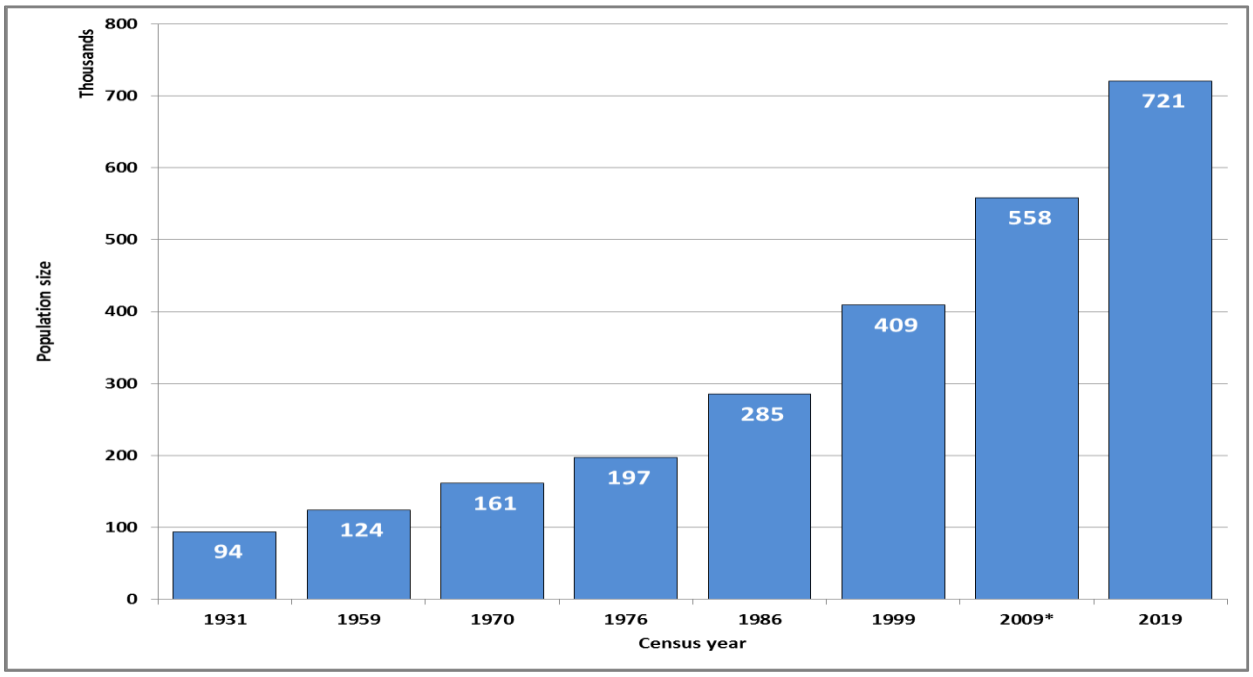
It was observed that the annual change from 1999-2009 and from 2009-2019, based on the enumerated data appeared suspect due to the effect of the 2009 Census undercount [6]. To smooth out any significant upward (or downward) bias to the intercensal growth rates, the past 2009 Census was adjusted for the population count only - at the national and provincial (including urban-rural) levels only[7],[8]. Hence, any direct comparisons of relationships of variables over the intercensal periods should be considered with caution.

It was also reported in chapter 16 (population projections) that the 2019 Census enumeration could have been over-enumerated by a minimal 2% although the absolute population count was within expectation. There were also suspected cases of over and under enumeration within the varying distributions of the age-sex cohorts. These were adjusted for the purpose of population projections.

For the purpose of the 2019 Census analysis, all statistical indicators presented in this report were based on the enumerated population of 720,956 people.

[6] For example, the 2009 Census recorded 76,200 children aged 0 to 4 at the time of the census. Since no children of this age would have been added or subtracted during the intervening 10 years, a certain percentage would have died and so the resulting 10 to 14 year olds in 2019 should have been about 75,000 or so. Instead, the 2019 Census recorded 84,400. Some 8,200 appeared during the decade that could have been missed in the 2009 Census (8.3% undercount) or misreported.
[7] Sub-national level adjustments have been weighted against populations for Guadalcanal, Malaita and Honiara (assumed moderate-high under-enumeration areas in 2009). All other provinces remain the same.
[8] Nonetheless, users and researchers are not limited to making adjustments based on their own specific research interests.

Figure 2.3.1: Total population size, Solomon Islands: 1931–2019



** - 2009 adjusted population; the unadjusted figure was 515,870; also note that the estimate was revised from the prelimiary release which was a mid-year estimate.*

Table 2.3.2: Population size and annual average growth rate (%) by province, Solomon Islands:1986, 1999, 2009 and 2019

Province	Total population size				Population change								
					(number)			(percentage, %)			Annual growth rate		
	1986	1999	2009*	2019	1986-1999	1999-2009*	2009*-2019	1986-1999	1999-2009*	2009*-2019	1986-1999	1999-2009*	2009*-2019
Solomon Is.	**285,176**	**409,042**	**558,457**	**720,956**	**123,866**	**149,415**	**162,499**	**43.4**	**36.5**	**29.1**	**2.8**	**3.1**	**2.6**
Urban	36,919	63,732	110,453	199,138	26,813	46,721	88,685	72.6	73.3	80.3	4.2	5.5	5.9
Rural	248,257	345,310	448,004	521,818	97,053	102,694	73,814	39.1	29.7	16.5	2.5	2.6	1.5
Choiseul	13,569	20,008	26,372	30,775	6,439	6,364	4,403	47.5	31.8	16.7	3.0	2.8	1.5
Western	41,681	62,739	76,649	94,106	21,058	13,910	17,457	50.5	22.2	22.8	3.1	2.0	2.0
Isabel	14,616	20,421	26,158	31,420	5,805	5,737	5,262	39.7	28.1	20.1	2.6	2.5	1.8
Central	16,655	21,577	26,051	30,318	4,922	4,474	4,267	29.6	20.7	16.4	2.0	1.9	1.5
Rennell-Bellona	1,802	2,377	3,041	4,100	575	664	1,059	31.9	27.9	34.8	2.1	2.5	3.0
Guadalcanal*	49,831	60,275	107,090	154,022	10,444	46,815	46,932	21.0	77.7	43.8	1.5	5.7	3.6
Malaita*	80,032	122,620	157,405	172,740	42,588	34,785	15,335	53.2	28.4	9.7	3.3	2.5	0.9
Makira-Ulawa	21,796	31,006	40,419	51,587	9,210	9,413	11,168	42.3	30.4	27.6	2.7	2.6	2.4
Temotu	14,781	18,912	21,362	22,319	4,131	2,450	957	27.9	13.0	4.5	1.9	1.2	0.4
Honiara*	30,413	49,107	73,910	129,569	18,694	24,803	55,659	61.5	50.5	75.3	3.7	4.1	5.6

** - 2009 adjusted population;*

Figure 2.3.2: Average annual population growth rate (%), Solomon Islands: 1931 to 2019

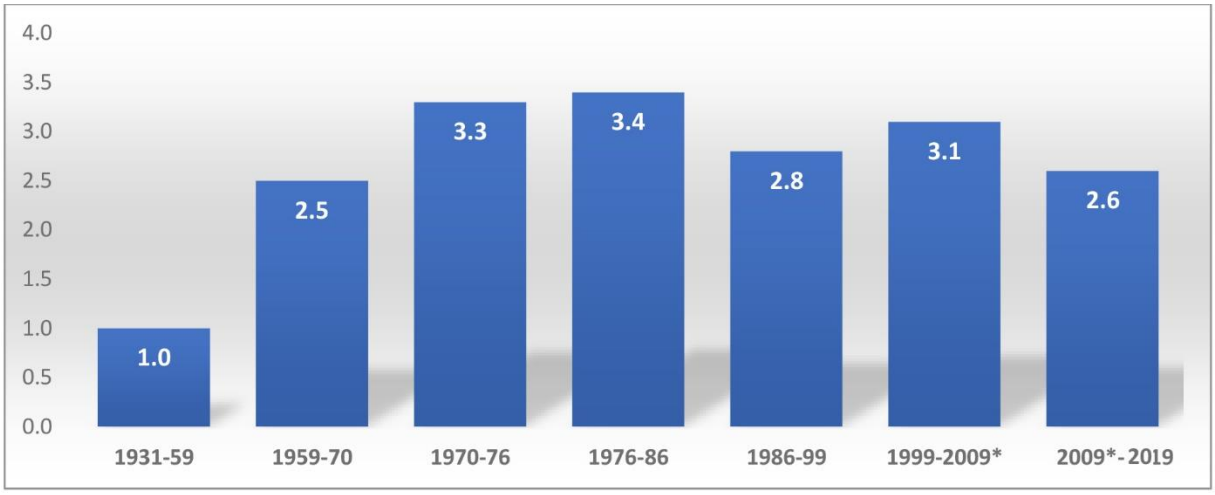
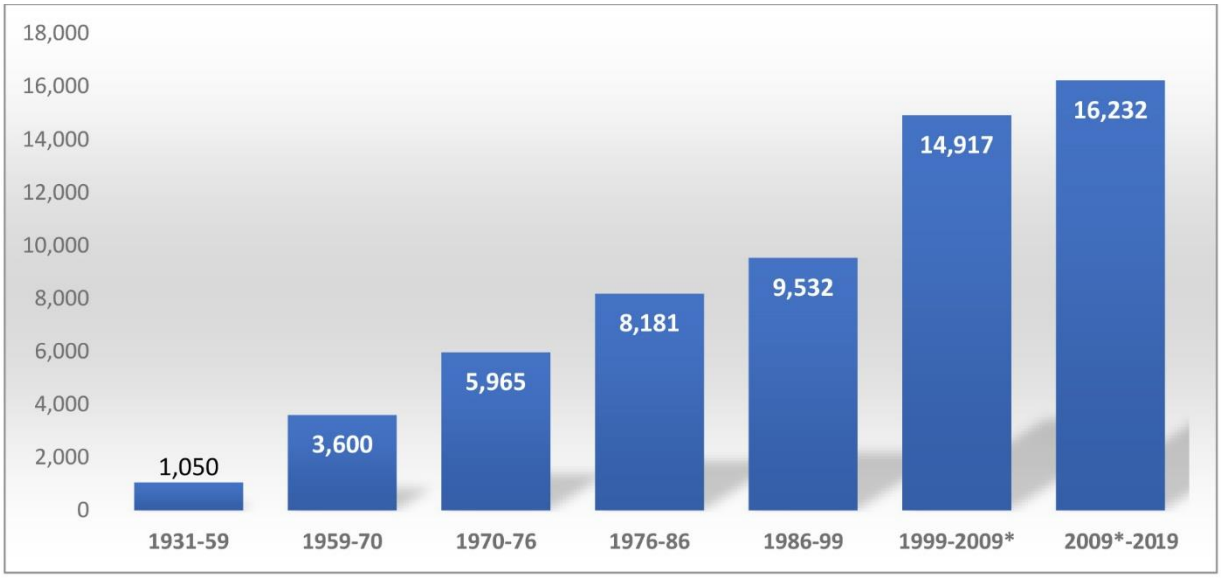


Figure 2.3.3: Average annual population change, Solomon Islands: 1931 to 2019



The total population recorded in the 2019 Census comprised of 369,396 males (51.2%) and 351,560 females (48.8%) (Table 2.3.3). The majority (72.4%) of the population lived in rural areas than in urban areas (27.6%).

Table 2.3.3: Population size by sex, urban-rural area and province, Solomon Islands: 2019

Province	Solomon Islands						Urban				Rural			
	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%	Total	%	Male	Female	Total	%	Male	Female
Total	720,956	*100.0*	369,396	*51.2*	351,560	*48.8*	199,138	*27.6*	102,591	96,547	521,818	*72.4*	266,805	255,013
Choiseul	30,775	*100.0*	15,863	*2.2*	14,912	*2.1*	1,053	*3.4*	516	537	29,722	*96.6*	15,347	14,375
Western	94,106	*100.0*	48,933	*6.8*	45,173	*6.3*	14,608	*15.5*	7,388	7,220	79,498	*84.5*	41,545	37,953
Isabel	31,420	*100.0*	16,627	*2.3*	14,793	*2.1*	1,342	*4.3*	711	631	30,078	*95.7*	15,916	14,162
Central	30,318	*100.0*	15,562	*2.2*	14,756	*2.0*	1,481	*4.9*	799	682	28,837	*95.1*	14,763	14,074
Rennell-Bellona	4,100	*100.0*	2,222	*0.3*	1,878	*0.3*	-	-	-	-	4,100	*100.0*	2,222	1,878
Guadalcanal	154,022	*100.0*	78,972	*11.0*	75,050	*10.4*	40,152	*26.1*	20,792	19,360	113,870	*73.9*	58,180	55,690
Malaita	172,740	*100.0*	86,691	*12.0*	86,049	*11.9*	7,020	*4.1*	3,535	3,485	165,720	*95.9*	83,156	82,564
Makira	51,587	*100.0*	26,662	*3.7*	24,925	*3.5*	2,107	*4.1*	1,099	1,008	49,480	*95.9*	25,563	23,917
Temotu	22,319	*100.0*	11,055	*1.5*	11,264	*1.6*	1,806	*8.1*	942	864	20,513	*91.9*	10,113	10,400
Honiara	129,569	*100.0*	66,809	*9.3*	62,760	*8.7*	129,569	*100.0*	66,809	62,760	-	-	-	-

2.4 Population distribution

The population distribution across the provinces presented Malaita with the largest population size of 172,740 people, followed by Guadalcanal and Honiara with populations of 154,022 and 129,569, respectively. Rennell-Bellona had the smallest population of 4,100 people. The population size of the different provinces ranked by population size is shown in Table 2.4.1 and Figure 2.4.1.

Table 2.4.1: Ranking of population by province, Solomon Islands:2019, 2009, 1999

Province	%, 2019	Ranking		
		2019	2009*	1999
Malaita	24.0	1	1	1
Guadalcanal	21.4	2	2	3
Honiara	18.0	3	4	4
Western	13.1	4	3	2
Makira-Ulawa	7.2	5	5	5
Isabel	4.4	6	7	7
Choiseul	4.3	7	6	8
Central	4.2	8	8	6
Temotu	3.1	9	9	9
Rennell-Bellona	0.6	10	10	10

Although the least two provinces of Rennell-Bellona and Temotu have remained in the same position in terms of population size since 1999, and with Makira-Ulawa in fifth rank since 1999, Malaita has also remained the most populous province since 1999, as in the past. Guadalcanal has risen in rank

from third in 1999 to second in 2009 and 2019. Similarly, Honiara has risen from fourth in rank in the years 1999 and 2009, to third in 2019, while Western has gradually declined from second place in 1999 to third place in 2009 and fourth place in 2019 (Table 2.4.1)

Figure 2.4.1: Population size by province, Solomon Islands: 2019

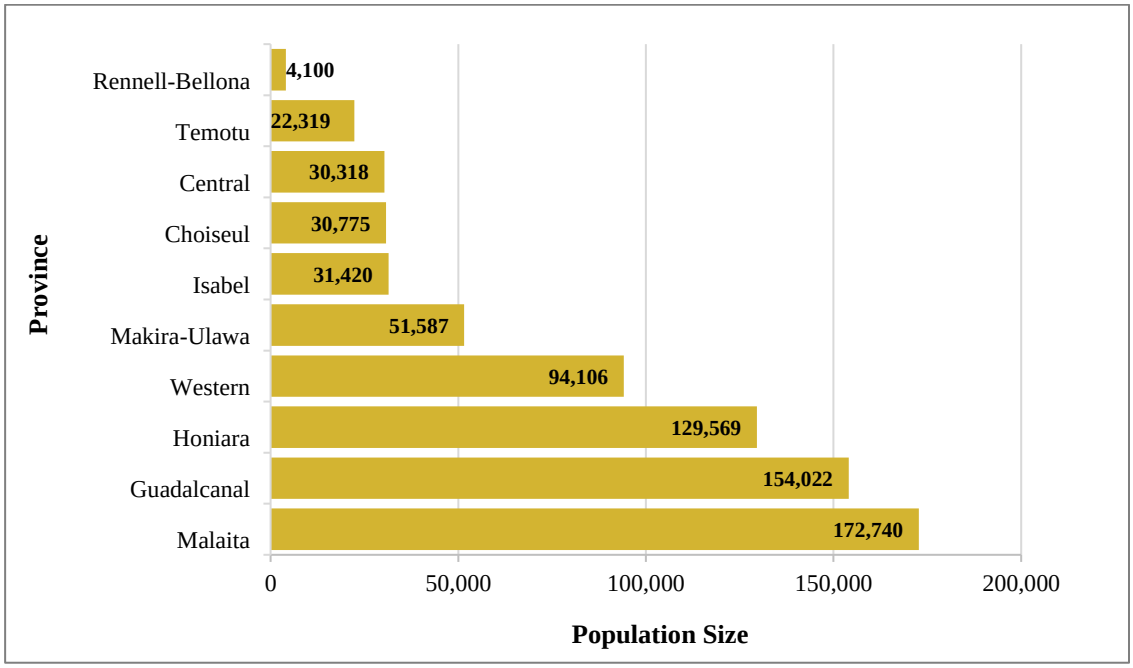
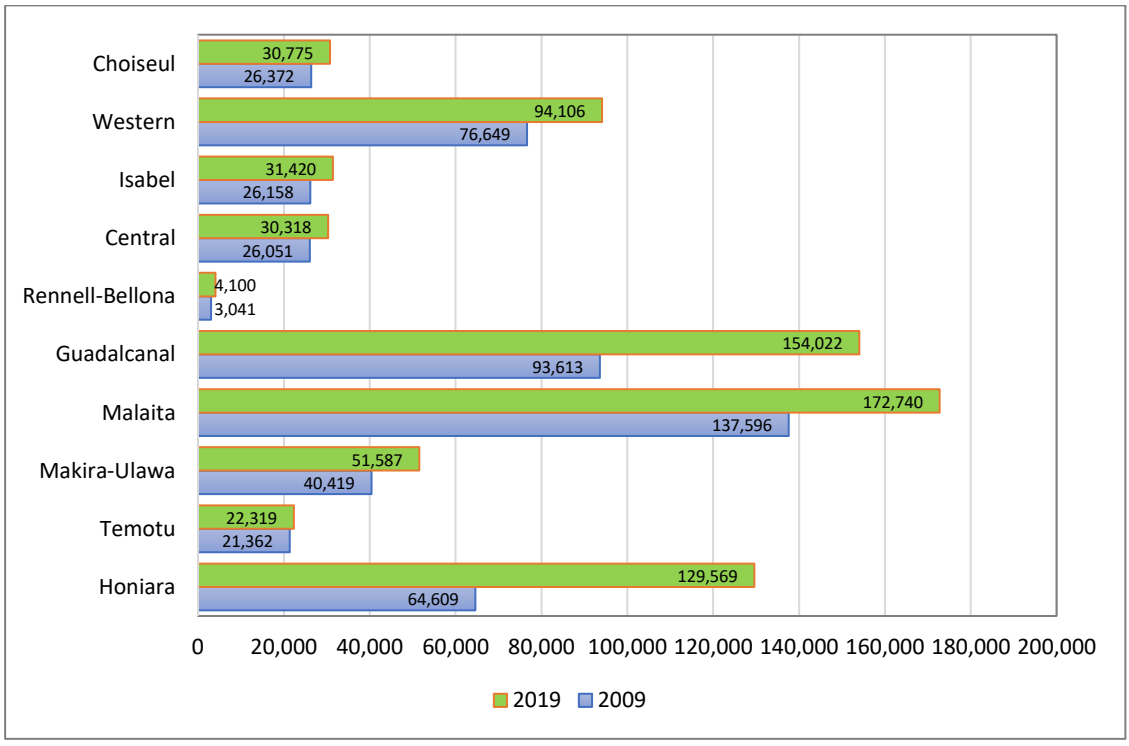


Figure 2.4.2: Population size by province, Solomon Islands: 2009 and 2019



The majority of provinces showed declining growth rates during the intercensal period 2009-2019 compared to the period 1999-2009 except for Honiara (5.6%) and Rennell-Bellona (3.0%) recording increases, while Western (2.0%) experienced stable growth. More specifically, Guadalcanal and Malaita showed rapid declines while Honiara had the fastest growing population compared to all the provinces (Figure 2.4.2; Table 2.3.2). Despite some provinces such as Isabel, Central and Makira-Ulawa experiencing slow growths, the population change showed an increase in population size since 1986 (Table 2.3.2).

During the period 2009-2019, the change in population showed Honiara and Guadalcanal recording the highest number of people added to their respective populations of 56 thousand and 47 thousand, respectively. This represented a growth of 75.3% for Honiara and 43.8% for Guadalcanal over 10-years (Table 2.4.4). This has resulted in an intercensal growth rate of 3.6% and 5.6% respectively, both above the national average of 2.6% (Figure 2.4.3).

Figure 2.4.3: Average annual population growth rate (%) by province, Solomon Islands: 2019

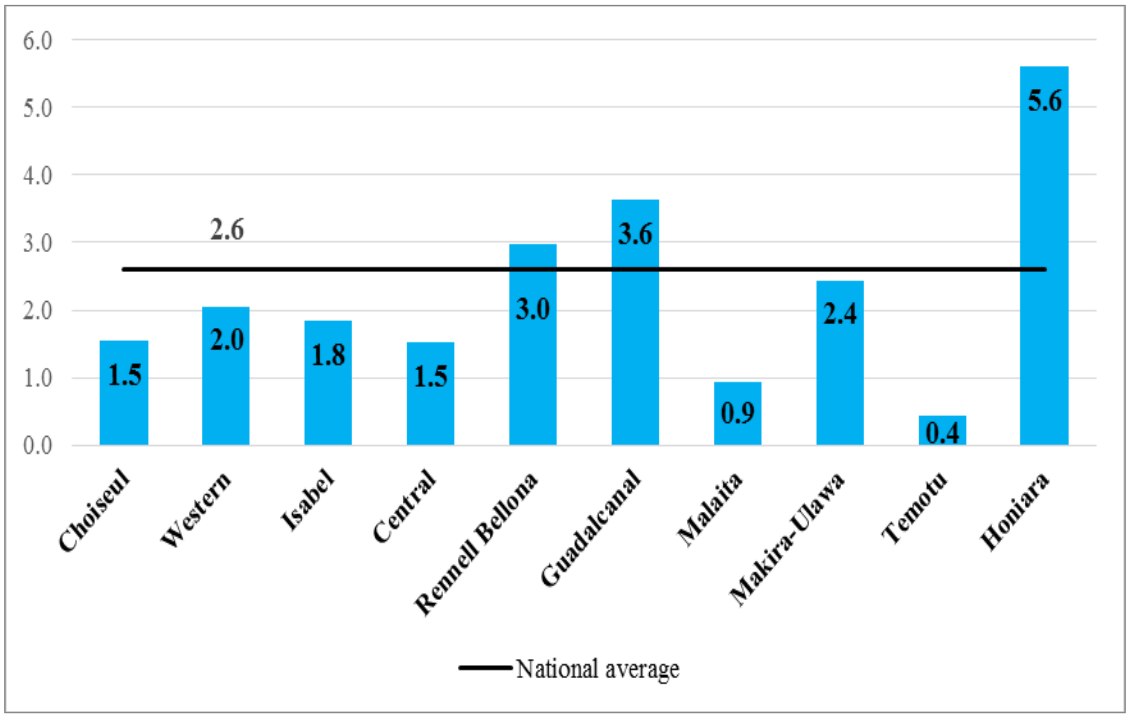
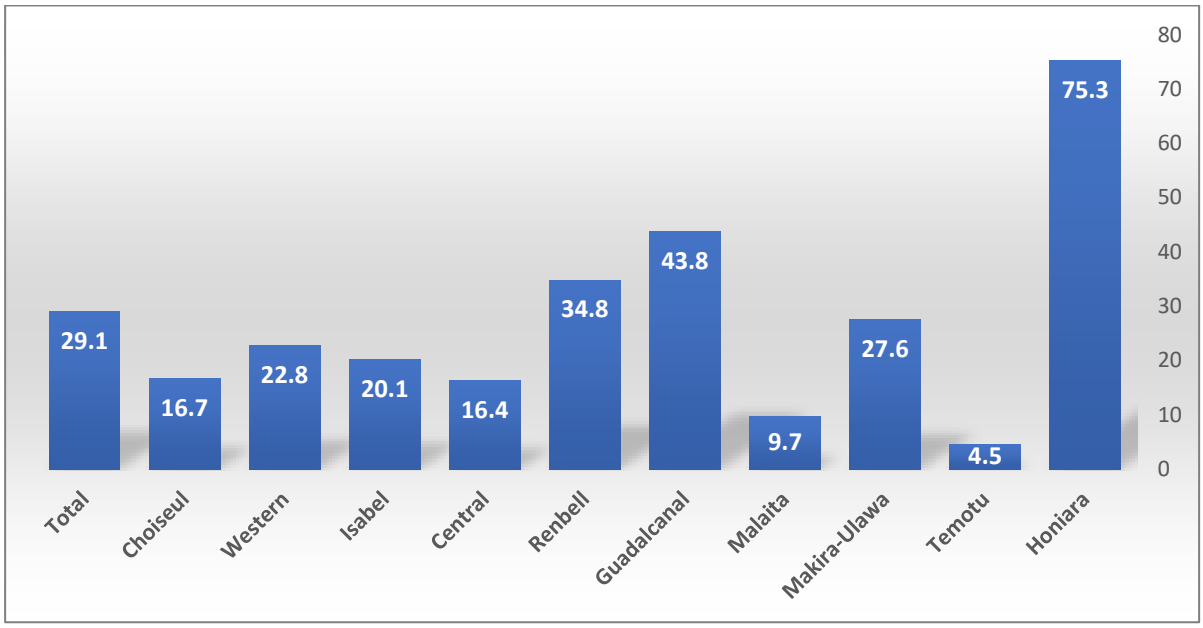


Figure 2.4.4: Percentage change in population by province, Solomon Islands: 2009 to 2019



**Rennbell = Rennell Bellona*

2.5 Population density

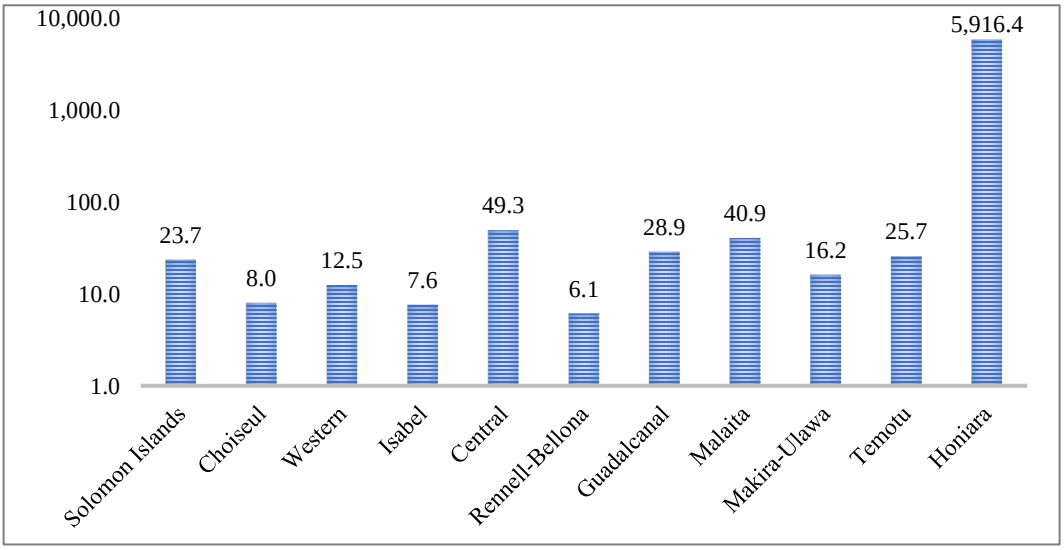
The Solomon Islands has a total land area of 30,407 km^2. According to the 2019 Census, the average population density for the Solomon Islands was 24 people/km^2 - an increase from 17 people/km^2 in 2009 (Table 2.5.1). This was a low population density compared to most other countries in the Pacific region or even worldwide.

Population densities vary greatly within the provinces in the Solomon Islands. Honiara is the most densely populated province due to its urban characteristics. The density of 5,916 people/km^2 has significantly increased presenting twice the density reported in the 2009 Census of 2,950 people/km^2. The second most densely populated province was Central with 49 people/km^2. Choiseul, Isabel and Rennell-Bellona had the least dense with less than 10 people/km^2 (Table 2.5.1; Figure 2.5.1).

Table 2.5.1: Population density (number of people/km^2) by Province, Solomon Islands: 1986 -2019.

Province	Land area (km^2)	Total population				Population density			
		1986	1999	2009*	2019	1986	1999	2009*	2019
Solomon Islands	**30,407**	**285,176**	**409,042**	**558,457**	**720,956**	**9.4**	**13.5**	**18.4**	**23.7**
Choiseul	3,837	13,569	20,008	26,372	30,775	3.5	5.2	6.9	8.0
Western	7,509	41,681	62,739	76,649	94,106	5.6	8.4	10.2	12.5
Isabel	4,136	14,616	20,421	26,158	31,420	3.5	4.9	6.3	7.6
Central	615	16,655	21,577	26,051	30,318	27.1	35.1	42.4	49.3
Rennell-Bellona	671	1,802	2,377	3,041	4,100	2.7	3.5	4.5	6.1
Guadalcanal	5,336	49,831	60,275	107,090	154,022	9.3	11.3	20.1	28.9
Malaita	4,225	80,032	122,620	157,405	172,740	18.9	29	37.3	40.9
Makira-Ulawa	3,188	21,796	31,006	40,419	51,587	6.8	9.7	12.7	16.2
Temotu	868	14,781	18,912	21,362	22,319	17	21.8	24.6	25.7
Honiara	22	30,413	49,107	73,910	129,569	1,388.70	2,242.3	3,374.9	5,916.40

Figure 2.5.1: Population density (km^2) by province, Solomon Islands: 2019.



3. POPULATION DYNAMICS

3.1 Introduction

This chapter discusses the basic population dynamics of Solomon Islands based on the 2019 Census findings. It starts with a brief description of age and sex structure that is important as a basis for analysis and development planning in Solomon Islands. Information on age and sex variables are not only key statistics in their own right but are used in the derivation of key socio-demographic indicators such as the dependency ratio, the median age of the population, sex ratio as well as being key variables used in the productions of population pyramids. During the 2019 Census, enumerators were instructed to obtain information about the day, month and year of birth of a respondent in reference to the census night. However, in cases that involved people who had no accurate knowledge about their date of birth, making references to important historical events and family backgrounds formed the basis, as a guide, that was used in estimating a person's date of birth.

3.2 Population structure

Three related indicators that be quantified from the overall population structure are the dependency ratio, the median age of the population and the sex ratio (Table 3.2.1). A commonly used indicator to measure the socio-economic impact of different age structure is the age-dependency ratio. Age dependency compares the dependent aged population to the economically productive population.

Table 3.2.1: Dependency ratio, median age, and sex ratio by province, Solomon Islands: 1999 to 2019

Province	Dependency ratio			Median Age			Sex Ratio		
	1999	2009	2019	1999	2009	2019	1999	2009	2019
Total	87	85	74	18.8	19.8	21.4	107	105	105
Choiseul	98	92	86	17.9	19.1	20.4	105	105	106
Western	86	84	77	19.2	19.9	21.7	112	109	108
Isabel	94	88	77	18.9	20.6	22.6	104	104	112
Central	88	89	81	18.9	19.9	20.9	108	104	105
Rennell-Bellona	108	100	76	19.8	21.0	25.3	107	104	118
Guadalcanal	88	85	73	18.7	19.2	20.9	109	107	105
Malaita	102	96	87	17.3	18.4	19.5	100	101	101
Makira-Ulawa	92	94	92	18.2	18.9	18.6	106	106	107
Temotu	93	92	89	18.8	20.2	22.2	94	96	98
Honiara	50	53	48	22.0	22.7	24.2	126	112	106

Dependency ratio in the Solomon Island was 74 in 2019, which meant that of every 100 persons (15-59) of working age, 74 persons were categorized as being dependent; and this places burdens on families and the society to take care of them. This figure declined from 87 in 1999 and 85 in 2009. This is also associated with declines in fertility (see chapter 5) and longer adult life expectancies as

we also see the increase in the median age. The decline in dependency was evident across all provinces. The median age for the country, at the national level, was 21.4 years in 2019 – this is the age where half the population was older and the other half, younger. This rose from 18.8 years in 1999 and 19.8 years in 2009. The median age rose in all provinces except for Makira-Ulawa in 2019, declining from 18.9 years from 2009 to 18.6 years. Concerning the sex ratio at the national level, the indicator declined from 1999 from 107 to 105 in 2009 and remained stable up to 2019. The provinces that declined in respective sex ratios were Western and Guadalcanal (Table 3.2.1).

The aforementioned discussions are further discussed in subsequent sections below.

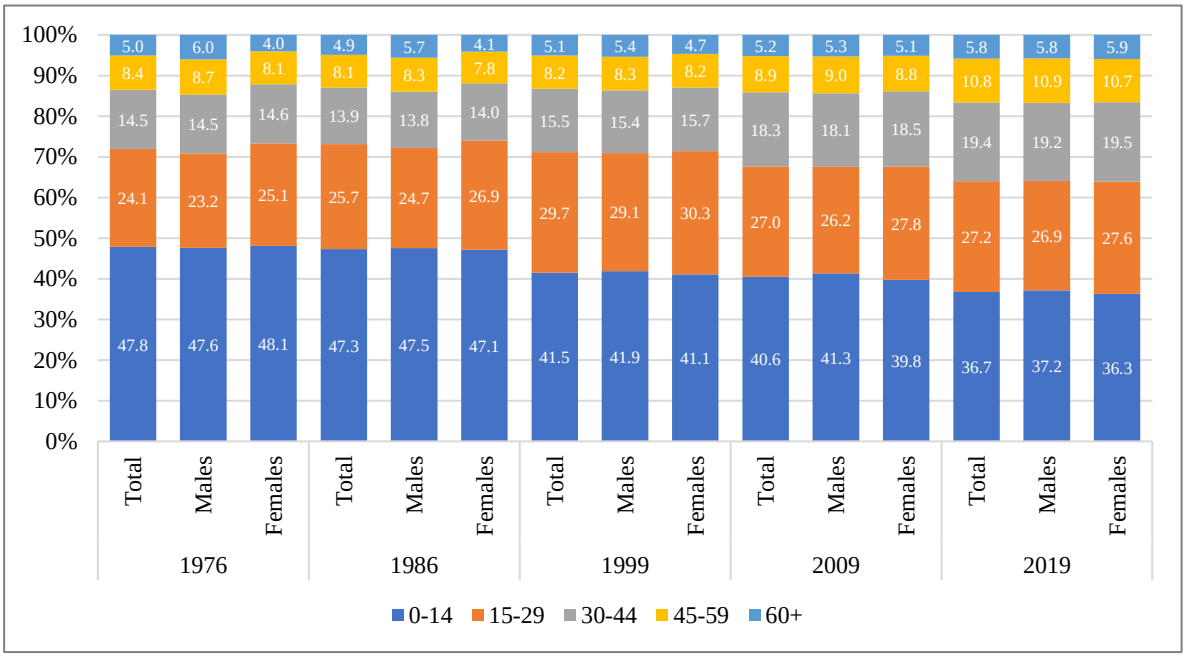
3.2.1 Dependency Ratio

Although the percentage of the young population - those 0 to 14 years – showed children dominating Solomon Island population since 1976, its share has slowly decreased over the years (from close to 48% in 1976 to 37% in 2019) as fertility declined. Table 3.2.2 and Figure 3.2.1 showed the decrease graphically. The percentages for those 15 to 29 years increased only slightly during the same period, but the percentage of 30 to 44 years increased from about 15% in 1976 to about 19% in the recent census. The percent of the elderly did not change very much.

Table 3.2.2: Population (number, %) in broad age groups by sex, Solomon Islands: 1976 to 2019

Broad age group	Census Years				
	1976	1986	1999	2009	2019
Total	**196,823**	**285,176**	**409,042**	**515,870**	**720,956**
Less than 15	94,178	135,002	169,801	209,284	264,799
15 - 29	47,495	73,423	121,304	139,305	196,458
30- 44	28,636	39,746	63,561	94,381	139,785
45 - 59	16,585	22,999	33,707	45,839	77,840
60 - 74	6,992	10,908	16,116	20,635	31,600
75+	2,937	3,098	4,553	6,426	10,474
PERCENT	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Less than 15	47.8	47.3	41.5	40.6	36.7
15 - 29	24.1	25.7	29.7	27.0	27.2
30- 44	14.5	13.9	15.5	18.3	19.4
45 - 59	8.4	8.1	8.2	8.9	10.8
60 - 74	3.6	3.8	3.9	4.0	4.4
75+	1.5	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.5

Figure 3.2.1: Population by broad age groups by sex, Solomon Islands: 1976 to 2019



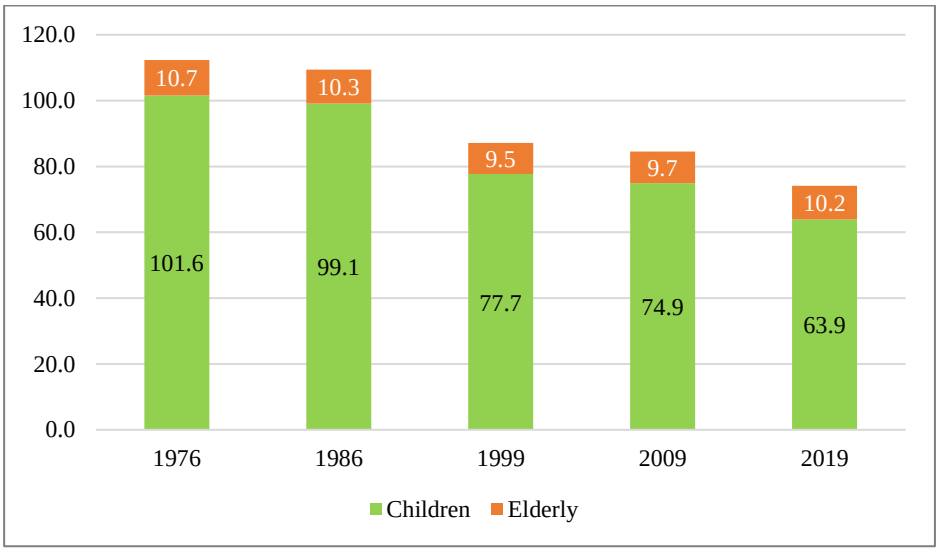
The dependency ratio gives a rough estimate of how many dependents – children under 15 years and elderly at 60 years and over – that are being taken care for by those 15 to 59 years old at the time of the census who compose of the workers (working-age) or economically active population. In 1976, the children dependency ratio was over 100, where about the same number of the workers-economically active population were available for those under 15 years old[9]. Table 3.2.3 and Figure 3.2.2 show the declining trend in the number of children dependents from 1976 to 2019 - from 101.6 in 1976 to 63.9 in 2019. The elderly dependency ratio, however, did not decrease; it remained at about 10 on average throughout the same period. Hence, the total dependency (children and elderly dependencies) decreased as the children dependency decreased.

Table 3.2.3: Dependency ratios, Solomon Islands: 1976 to 2019

Dependency	Census Years				
	1976	1986	1999	2009	2019
Children	94,178	135,002	169,801	209,284	264,799
Workers	92,716	136,168	218,572	279,525	414,083
Elderly	9,929	14,006	20,669	27,061	42,074
PERCENT					
Children	101.6	99.1	77.7	74.9	63.9
Elderly	10.7	10.3	9.5	9.7	10.2

[9] Caution should be considered given that data from past censuses remain unadjusted for any under enumeration, age misreporting etc.

Figure 3.2.2: Dependency ratios, Solomon Islands: 1976 to 2019



3.2.2 Median Age

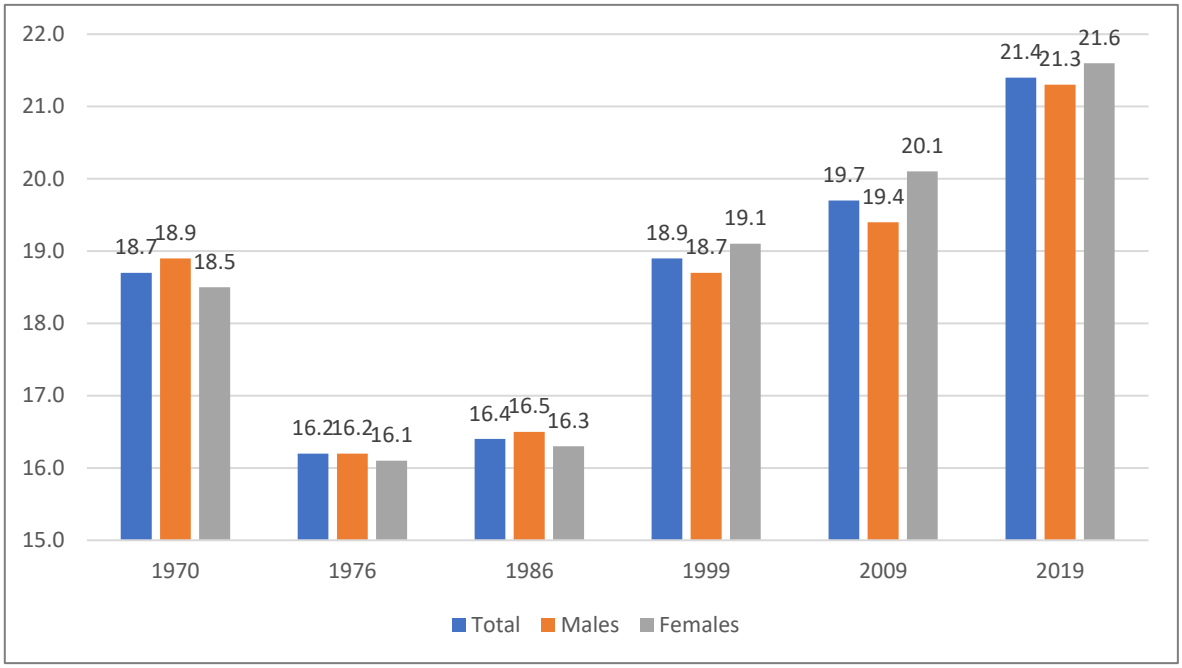
The median age of the population has increased over time, particularly as fertility has decreased. Solomon Islands has not experienced inward international migration and based on its natural population increase, both the absolute number of people and the median ages increased with time. The 19 years old median age in 1970 was probably high because of age misreporting, as many of the older people did not know their actual birth dates.

Table 3.2.4: Median age by sex, Solomon Islands: 2019

	Total	Males	Females
Total	21.4	21.3	21.6
Choiseul	20.4	20.2	20.5
Western	21.7	21.7	21.8
Isabel	22.6	23.0	22.2
Central	20.9	20.5	21.3
Rennell-Bellona	25.3	26.0	24.3
Guadalcanal	20.9	20.8	21.0
Malaita	19.5	18.9	20.1
Makira-Ulawa	18.6	18.4	18.9
Temotu	22.2	20.3	23.9
Honiara	24.2	24.5	23.9

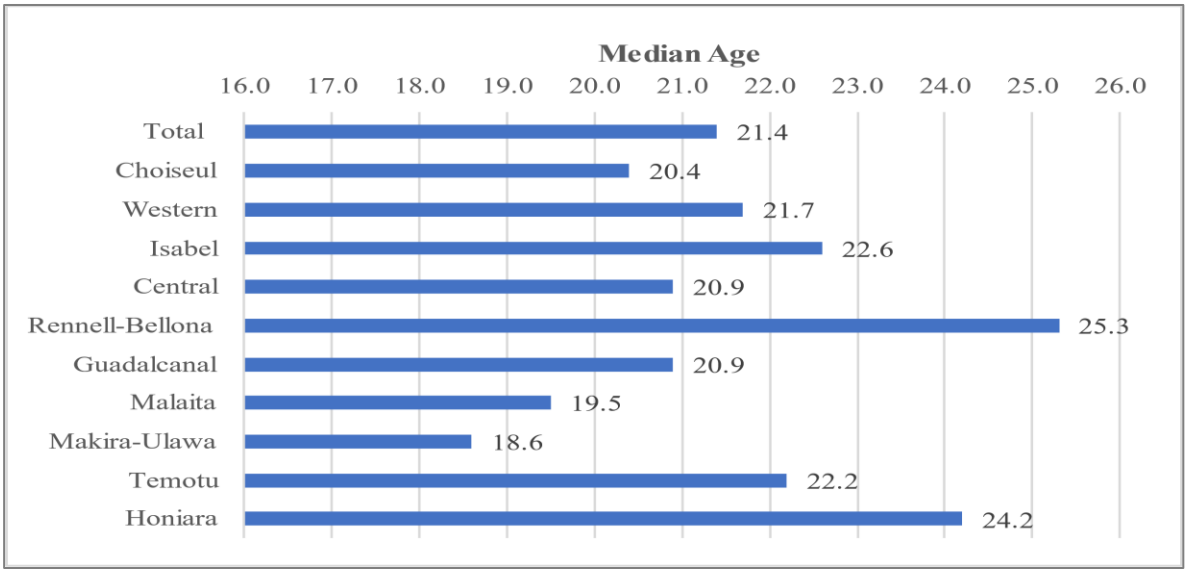
However, from 1976 onward, the median age increased from census to census in a moderate upward trend. The median age increased from 16 years in 1976 and 1986 to 19 years in 1999, 20 years in 2009, and slightly over 21 years in 2019. In the 1970, 1976 and 1986 censuses, males had a higher median age than females and this could likely be because of age misreporting. However, from the 1999 Census onward, females had higher median ages than their male counterparts, mostly because of longer life expectancies (Table 3.2.4 and Figure 3.2.3).

Figure 3.2.3: Median age by sex, Solomon Islands: 2019



The median age differed by province in 2019. Makira province had the lowest median age at 18.6 years, while Rennell-Bellona had the highest average age at 25.3 years. Honiara had the second highest median at 24.2 years. In the 2019 Census, female median ages were higher than males across all provinces except for Isabel, Rennell-Bellona and Honiara (Table 3.2.4, Figure 3.2.4; Figure 3.2.5).

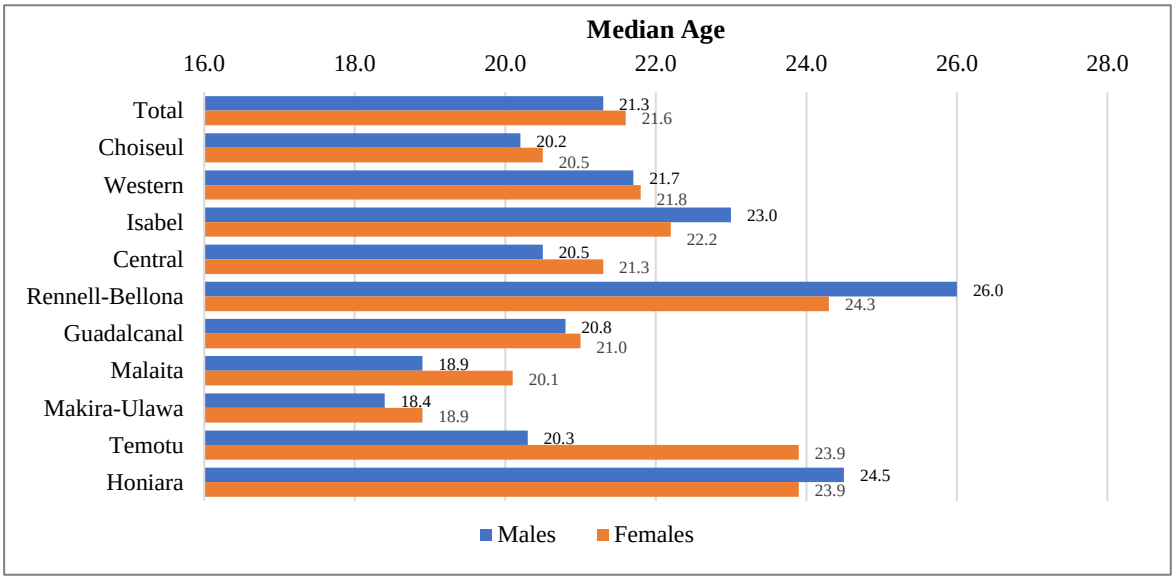
Figure 3.2.4: Median age by province, Solomon Islands: 2019



Rennell-Bellona also had the highest median age for males at 26.0 years and the highest median age for females at 24.3 years. The median age difference for Makira was relatively small with its young

populations - with males at 18.4 years and females at 18.9 years. Malaita also reported young male populations with median age of 18.9 years and 20.1 years, respectively (Figure 3.2.5).

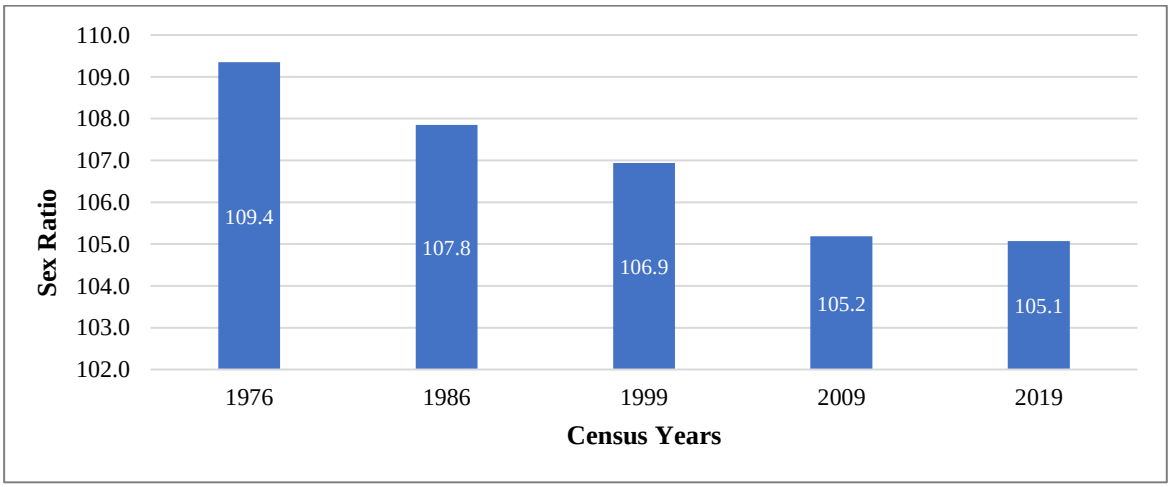
Figure 3.2.5: Median age by sex and province, Solomon Islands: 2019



3.2.3 Sex Ratio

Sex ratio compares the numbers of males to females. The ratio is obtained by multiplying the number of males by 100 and then dividing by the number of females. Figure 3.2.6 showed that the sex ratio since 1976, as seen from the last five censuses, was over 100, which meant that there were more males than females in the population history of the country. The sex ratio was 109 in 1976, and then continued decreasing in each succeeding census to 108 in 1986, 107 in 1999, and 105 in both 2009 and 2019 (Figure 3.2.6).

Figure 3.2.6: Sex ratio, Solomon Islands: 1976 to 2019



Sex ratio has progressively declined over the years implying the rise in the number of females relative to the number of males or suggesting the progressive decline in the number of males over the years. However, a major factor in this down trend is not so much based on the natural rate of increase (decrease) in growth amongst sexes but on under-reporting during census enumerations - especially under-reporting among females which would account for some of the differences - as census undertakings/enumeration continue to improve over the years (Figure 3.2.6).

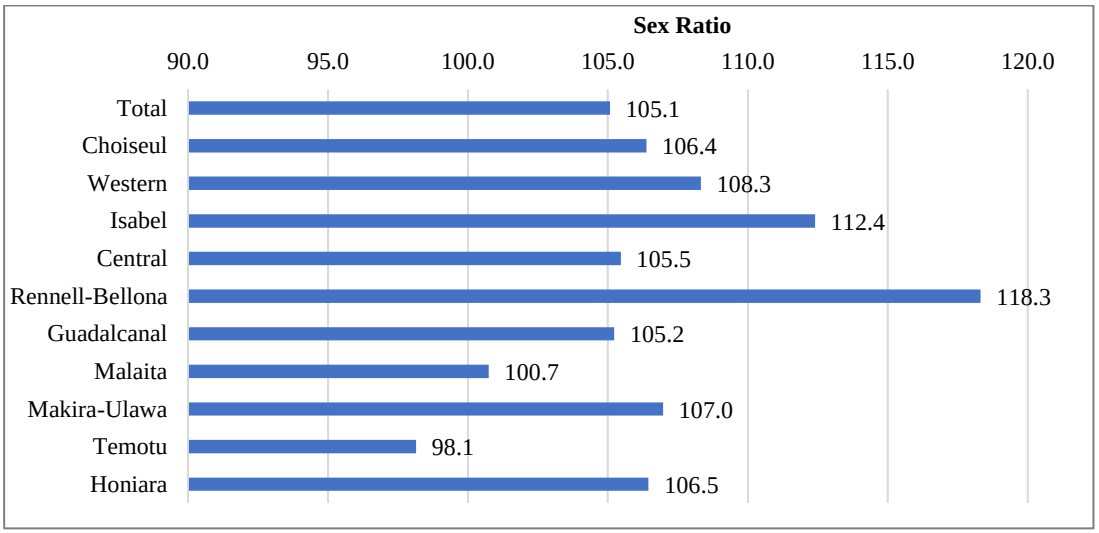
The sex ratio by age shown in Table 3.2.5 also showed the dominance of males except for median ages within 65-74 years. In 1976, 1989 and 2009, there were more females than males within the 20-29 years until 2019 when males outnumbered females. Age misreporting during census enumeration is also a concern noting also suspected cases of over and under enumeration within the varying distributions of the age-sex cohorts.

Table 3.2.5: Sex ratio by age, Solomon Islands: 1976 to 2019

	1976	1986	1999	2009	2019
Total	109.4	107.8	106.9	105.2	105.1
0-4	107.9	107.7	108.8	108.8	107.7
5-9	108.3	109.3	108.9	108.3	107.5
10-14	108.4	109.3	109.1	110.9	107.9
15-19	108.3	101.3	106.1	104.7	104.0
20-24	95.3	96.8	100.4	97.3	100.4
25-29	97.3	98.6	100.8	95.0	102.3
30-34	106.1	103.9	103.5	100.1	100.1
35-39	110.3	103.1	104.7	105.4	103.8
40-44	110.6	113.3	108.7	104.3	107.6
45-49	113.8	110.9	106.6	107.0	109.4
50-54	118.5	117.6	103.4	109.6	105.6
55-59	119.5	115.4	114.5	107.7	108.3
60-64	163.1	136.4	109.7	103.5	107.9
65-69	156.7	141.5	110.9	111.0	98.8
70-74	171.3	175.8	120.6	104.6	97.8
75+	163.9	158.8	164.1	119.2	102.2

Figure 3.2.7 shows the sex ratio by provinces in 2019. As with median age, Rennell-Bellona stood out with the highest sex ratio amongst provinces with 118 males for every 100 females. Isabel was second with 112 males per 100 females. On the other hand, Temotu was the only province with more females than males with 98 males for every 100 females.

Figure 3.2.7 Sex ratio by province, Solomon Islands: 2019



3.3 Population Pyramid

A population's age structure is often considered as a map of its demographic history. Persons of the same age constitute a cohort of people who were born during the same year (or period) and are often exposed to similar historical events and conditions. The age structure of the whole population at a given moment may be viewed as an aggregation of cohorts born in different years. A graphic representation of the age structure of the population such as an "age pyramid" shows the different surviving cohorts of people.

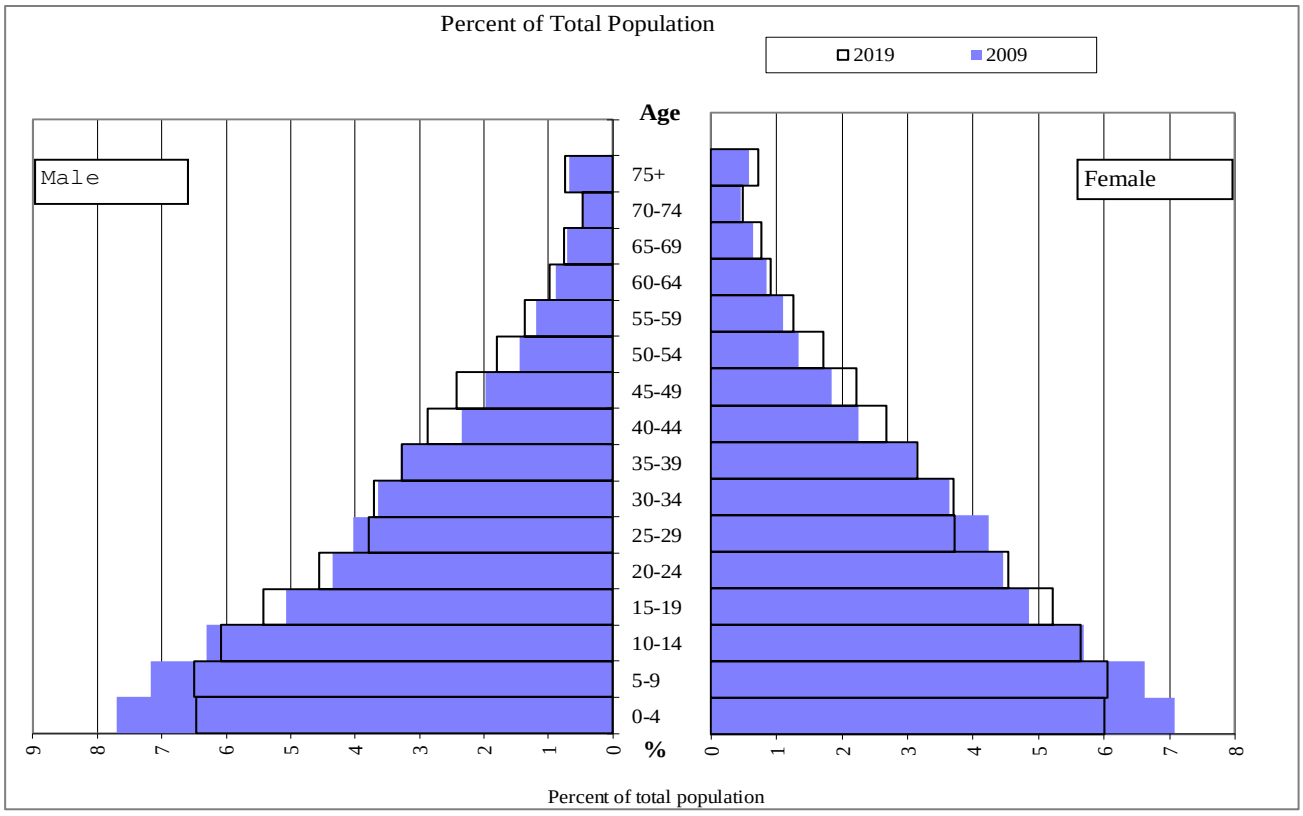
Table 3.3.1: Age and sex distributions, Solomon Islands: 1976 to 2019*

Age	1976			1986			1999			2009			2019		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Total	196,823	102,808	94,015	285,176	147,972	137,204	409,042	211,381	197,661	515,870	264,455	251,415	720,956	369,396	351,560
0-4	40,015	20,772	19,243	50,412	26,143	24,269	63,632	33,150	30,482	76,227	39,728	36,499	89,895	46,608	43,287
5-9	30,553	15,887	14,666	44,325	23,148	21,177	54,476	28,402	26,074	71,126	36,974	34,152	90,472	46,876	43,596
10-14	23,610	12,281	11,329	40,265	21,023	19,242	51,693	26,970	24,723	61,931	32,562	29,369	84,432	43,813	40,619
15-19	19,305	10,039	9,266	29,858	15,027	14,831	45,821	23,592	22,229	51,212	26,189	25,023	76,713	39,111	37,602
20-24	14,658	7,153	7,505	24,209	11,905	12,304	40,310	20,196	20,114	45,419	22,399	23,020	65,649	32,893	32,756
25-29	13,532	6,673	6,859	19,356	9,611	9,745	35,173	17,656	17,517	42,674	20,794	21,880	54,096	27,352	26,744
30-34	11,389	5,863	5,526	15,550	7,923	7,627	26,111	13,282	12,829	37,592	18,807	18,785	53,373	26,701	26,672
35-39	9,620	5,046	4,574	12,746	6,469	6,277	21,509	11,001	10,508	33,151	17,010	16,141	46,329	23,599	22,730
40-44	7,627	4,006	3,621	11,450	6,082	5,368	15,941	8,301	7,640	23,638	12,070	11,568	40,083	20,771	19,312
45-49	6,977	3,714	3,263	8,833	4,644	4,189	13,681	7,059	6,622	19,713	10,189	9,524	33,557	17,529	16,028
50-54	4,885	2,649	2,236	7,451	4,027	3,424	10,860	5,520	5,340	14,339	7,498	6,841	25,374	13,031	12,343
55-59	4,723	2,571	2,152	6,715	3,598	3,117	9,166	4,893	4,273	11,787	6,111	5,676	18,909	9,830	9,079
60-64	3,181	1,972	1,209	4,740	2,735	2,005	6,731	3,521	3,210	8,916	4,535	4,381	13,703	7,112	6,591
65-69	2,308	1,409	899	3,796	2,224	1,572	5,835	3,068	2,767	7,021	3,693	3,328	10,946	5,440	5,506
70-74	1,503	949	554	2,372	1,512	860	3,550	1,941	1,609	4,698	2,402	2,296	6,951	3,436	3,515
75+	2,937	1,824	1,113	3,098	1,901	1,197	4,553	2,829	1,724	6,426	3,494	2,932	10,474	5,294	5,180

** Note the 2019 Census figures by age group are unadjusted for under-enumeration (8.3%)*

While in absolute terms, there were increases in the population by age and sex cohorts over time since 1976, the shape of the age and sex structure shown in the pyramid in Table 3.3.1 appeared expanding in 2019 even though the comparison with the 2009 pyramid showed a lesser percentage among sexes in the younger age population[10].

Figure 3.3.1: Population pyramid by 5-year age groups, Solomon Islands: 2009 and 2019



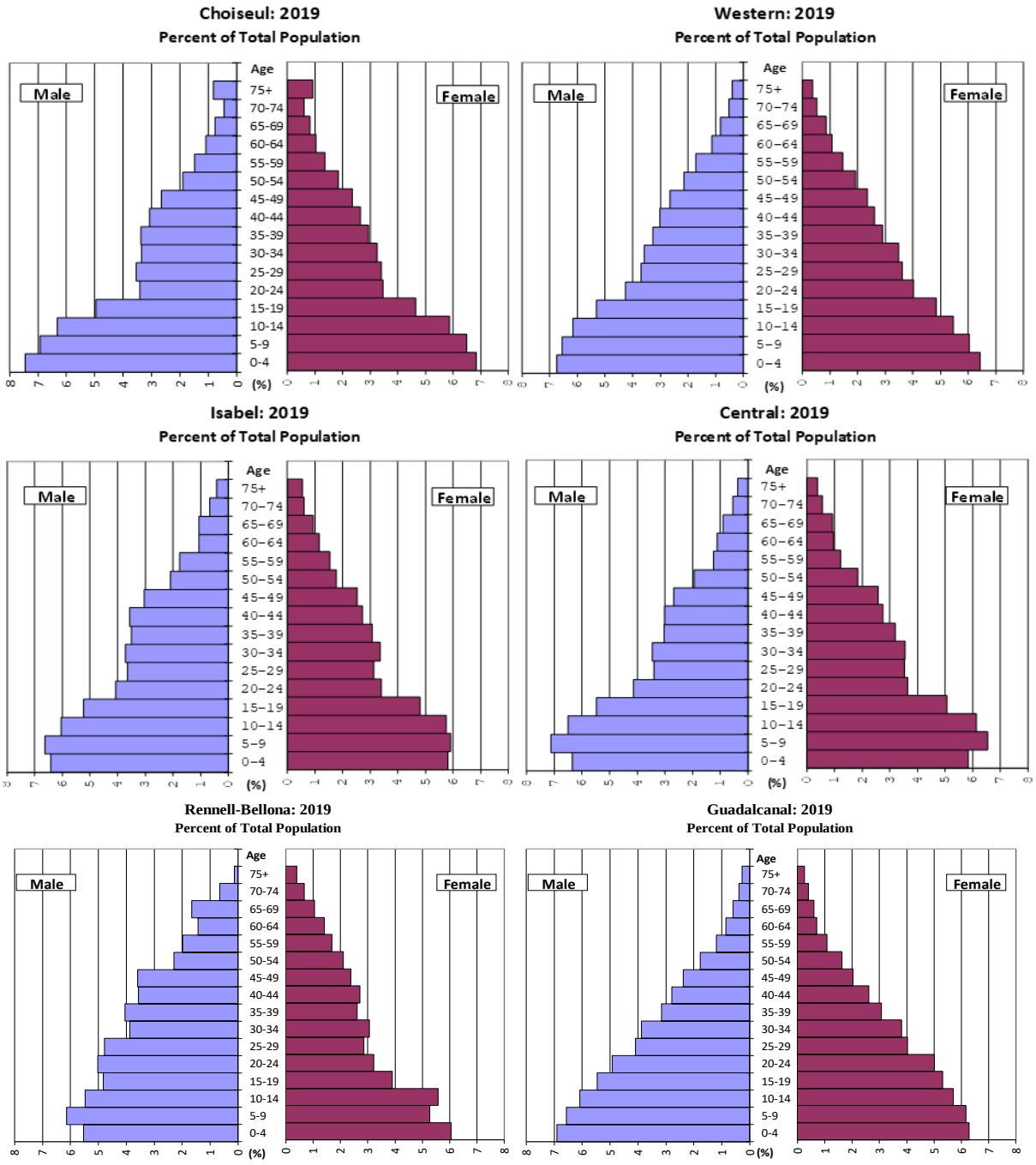
* *Note the 2019 Census figures by age group are unadjusted for under-enumeration (8.3%).*

The population pyramids for the different provinces are shown in Figure 3.3.2 below. The pyramid for Choiseul, Isabel, Central, Malaita, Rennell Bellona and Makira showed similar pyramid pattern, with the narrow bar at roughly ages 20 to 24 years. These provinces were losing persons of this economically active age group as they migrated especially into urban centers in search for opportunities such employment, education or other reasons.

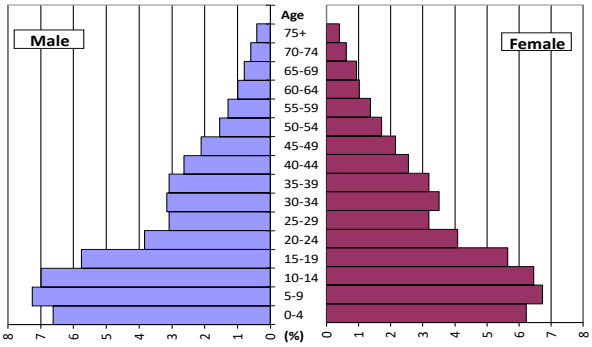
The rural-urban migration for age 20 to 24 years is evident in the Honiara pyramid that shows the wide bar representing a higher number of people in the same age group. Honiara is the only urban province as well as being the center of government and commerce and therefore attracts younger people who seek to find opportunities that are lacking in rural villages.

[10] See also footnote 1 (chapter 2) re-stated: *For example, the 2009 Census recorded 76,200 children aged 0 to 4 at the time of the census. Since no children of this age would have been added or subtracted during the intervening 10 years, a certain percentage would have died and so the resulting 10 to 14 year olds in 2019 should have been about 75,000 or so. Instead, the 2019 Census recorded 84,400. Some 8,200 appeared during the decade that could have been missed in the 2009 Census (8.3% undercount) or misreported.*

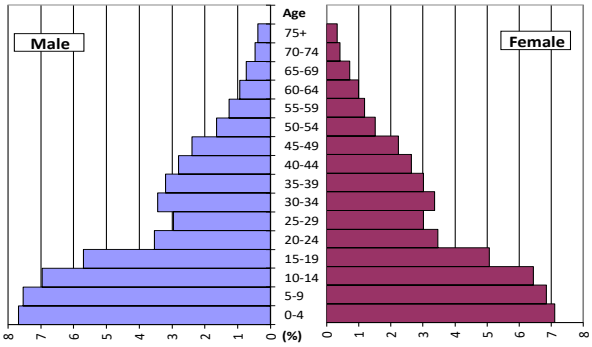
Figure 3.3.2: Population pyramid by 5-year age groups and province, Solomon Islands: 2019



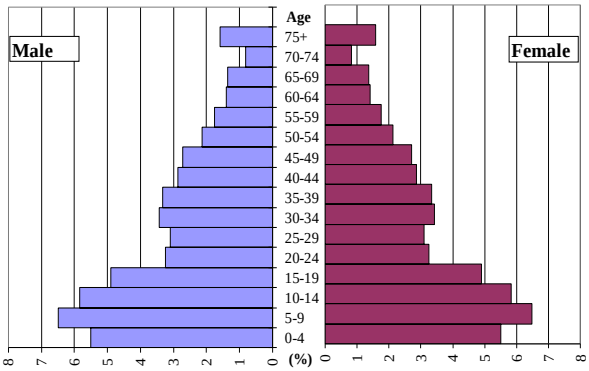
Malaita: 2019
Percent of Total Population



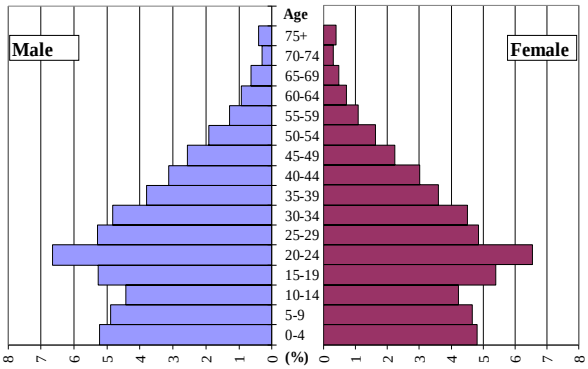
Makira-Ulawa: 2019
Percent of Total Population



Temotu: 2019
Percent of Total Population



Honiara: 2019
Percent of Total Population



4. URBANISATION

4.1 Introduction

Urbanization in Solomon Islands increased rapidly over the past 10 years during 2009 to 2019 intercensal years. Responsible authorities continue to discuss and debate the subject of urbanization including studies undertaken and plans formulated to better understand and address the expansion of rural-urban drift. Opportunities in urban centers often attract the movement of people of all ages and gender. This also raises other concerns in urban areas such as illegal settlements in urban peripherals, housing standards, and health services especially in Honiara.

This section discusses the 2019 Census results in relation to urban-rural distinction and distribution. Understanding the urban-rural boundaries and associated population characteristics in urban areas assists in informing decision-making and formulating of policies towards a more effective delivery of public goods and services, and in being proactive on abided rules such as those stated in the Honiara Local Planning Scheme 2015 (Ministry of Lands, Housing and Surveys, Honiara City Council).

4.2 Population by urban-rural residence and urbanization

The speed and scale of urban population growth generates important challenges for decision makers and planners, and for local governments. This was especially true in countries where urbanization has not been associated with sustained industrialization and development, as increasing urban poverty and the growth of slums were two of the most critical challenges faced in urban areas.

The urban poor in the less developed regions are often far better off than the average rural resident with respect to access to basic services such as drinking water, sanitation, electricity or medical and educational facilities.

Whilst it may be simplistic to view urbanization in developing countries as a phenomenon with mainly negative consequences, the concentration of people in cities is often a general response to the concentration of the most dynamic socio-economic activities in urban centers. Such a concentration often produces economies of scale and leads to social and economic benefits of various kinds, including technological development that is crucial to maintain the development momentum. The health advantages of cities are another example of such benefits, with urban dwellers often enjoying higher quality and more accessible health services than rural dwellers.

Cities are also at the forefront of political and cultural change. Given their concentrated political power, trade and cultural activity, cities are places where new ideas and products emerge and from which they spread. Often, the development of rural areas is inextricably tied to the dynamism of the urban centers to which they are linked. Cities are therefore engines of economic, social, political and cultural change. Urbanization can thus be viewed as an indicator of development, with higher urban growth levels generally associated with more industrialized and technologically advanced economies.

The challenge faced by developing countries today is to take advantage of the rapid urbanization that has resulted from unprecedented levels of natural increase in their urban populations, coupled with the redistribution of population from rural to urban centers and the transformation of rural settlements into cities. This challenge may often be related to issues of governance, especially when cities expand beyond their administrative boundaries and thus lack the financial or jurisdictional capacity to provide the necessary services to all the city's inhabitants. Collaboration among local, regional and national authorities can go a long way in addressing these issues with a focus on improving the lives of city dwellers. Given that the world's future will be urban, development initiatives must address the challenges and make the best of the opportunities that growing urban centers bring.

4.2.1 Urban-Rural Distinction

The population composition of urban and rural areas can be seen from the age and sex distribution presented in Table 4.2.1. Urban population comprised of 27.6% of total population, with the majority (72.4%) of the population residing in rural areas (Table 4.2.1). Compared with the previous 2009 Census, Urban population has increased from 20% while the rural population has declined from 80.2%. The sex ratio (males per 100 females) was about the same for urban and rural areas - 106 and 105 for urban and rural, respectively.

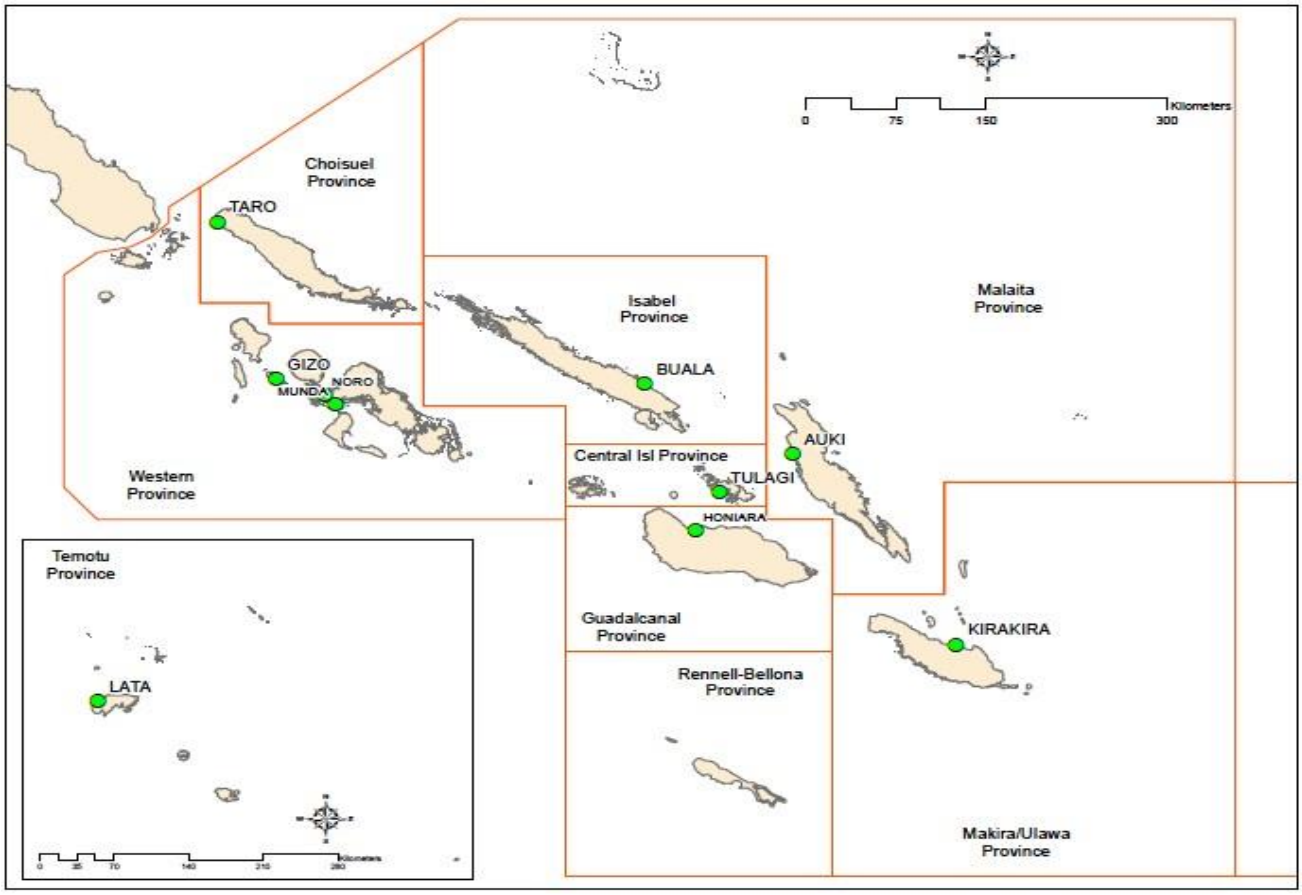
Table 4.2.1: Total population in 5-year age groups by urban and rural area and Sex, Solomon Islands: 2019

Age Group	Solomon Islands				Urban				Rural			
	Total	%	Male	Female	Total	%	Male	Female	Total	%	Male	Female
Solomon Is.	**720,956**	***100.0***	**369,396**	**351,560**	**199,138**	***100.0***	**102,591**	**96,547**	**521,818**	***100.0***	**266,805**	**255,013**
0-4	89,895	*12.5*	46,608	43,287	21,245	*10.7*	11,114	10,131	68,650	*13.2*	35,494	33,156
5-9	90,472	*12.5*	46,876	43,596	19,782	*9.9*	10,206	9,576	70,690	*13.5*	36,670	34,020
10-14	84,432	*11.7*	43,813	40,619	17,967	*9.0*	9,169	8,798	66,465	*12.7*	34,644	31,821
15-19	76,713	*10.6*	39,111	37,602	21,171	*10.6*	10,494	10,677	55,542	*10.6*	28,617	26,925
20-24	65,649	*9.1*	32,893	32,756	25,073	*12.6*	12,602	12,471	40,576	*7.8*	20,291	20,285
25-29	54,096	*7.5*	27,352	26,744	19,544	*9.8*	10,117	9,427	34,552	*6.6*	17,235	17,317
30-34	53,373	*7.4*	26,701	26,672	18,002	*9.0*	9,224	8,778	35,371	*6.8*	17,477	17,894
35-39	46,329	*6.4*	23,599	22,730	14,590	*7.3*	7,453	7,137	31,739	*6.1*	16,146	15,593
40-44	40,083	*5.6*	20,771	19,312	12,117	*6.1*	6,194	5,923	27,966	*5.4*	14,577	13,389
45-49	33,557	*4.7*	17,529	16,028	9,649	*4.8*	5,164	4,485	23,908	*4.6*	12,365	11,543
50-54	25,374	*3.5*	13,031	12,343	7,076	*3.6*	3,778	3,298	18,298	*3.5*	9,253	9,045
55-59	18,909	*2.6*	9,830	9,079	4,680	*2.4*	2,557	2,123	14,229	*2.7*	7,273	6,956
60-64	13,703	*1.9*	7,112	6,591	3,270	*1.6*	1,831	1,439	10,433	*2.0*	5,281	5,152
65-69	10,946	*1.5*	5,440	5,506	2,151	*1.1*	1,211	940	8,795	*1.7*	4,229	4,566
70-74	6,951	*1.0*	3,436	3,515	1,186	*0.6*	617	569	5,765	*1.1*	2,819	2,946
75-79	4,773	*0.7*	2,387	2,386	622	*0.3*	318	304	4,151	*0.8*	2,069	2,082
80-84	2,350	*0.3*	1,147	1,203	312	*0.2*	156	156	2,038	*0.4*	991	1,047
85-89	1,229	*0.2*	658	571	127	*0.1*	69	58	1,102	*0.2*	589	513
90-94	732	*0.1*	385	347	245	*0.1*	154	91	487	*0.1*	231	256
95+	1,390	*0.2*	717	673	329	*0.2*	163	166	1,061	*0.2*	554	507

The median age differed considerably with the urban median age recorded at 23.9 years and rural median age at 20.0 years reflecting more young people between the ages 0-24 years, especially in rural areas.

Due to the very small size of the provinces in Solomon Islands' urban centers/settlements, it is perhaps less precise to describe some of these centers as 'urban'. However, for analytical purposes, a distinction was made between urban and rural settlements. Urban areas included Honiara City Council and all provincial administrative centers except Rennell-Bellona (refer to Map 2 and Table 4.2.1).

Map 2: Urban Centers/Settlements, Solomon Islands: 2019



In addition, a number of enumeration areas in Tandai and Malango were classified as urban based on their proximity and access to Honiara City, high population density, permanency of settlements and variety of economic activities. All other areas in the country were considered as rural.

By international standards, the share of urban population in the Solomon Islands is relatively small but gradually increasing over census years (Figure 4.2.1). Urban population comprised of 27.6 percent of the population who lived in areas that were defined as urban (Figure 4.2.3). This urban area of slightly over 199 thousand people was dominated by Honiara City Council with a population of 129,569 people. The capital accommodates more than half (65%) of all urban residents, and if the

adjoining urban areas of Guadalcanal are included, 'the Honiara urban area' or 'Greater Honiara' would represent more than 80% of all urban population.

The other provincial centers were much smaller and were considered urban on the basis of their administrative function only, rather than in terms of population size, economic differentiation or population density.

Solomon Islands urban population increased from less than 20,000 people in 1976 to more than 199,000 in 2019 (Figure 4.2.1). With an upturn in average annual growth from 4.2% during 1986-1999, annual urban growth further increased from 5.5% in 1999-2009 to 5.9% during 2009-2019 (Figure 4.22). Accordingly, the share of urban population has continuously increased from 9.3% in 1976 to 27.6% in 2019 (Figure 4.2.3).

Figure 4.2.1: Total population size by urban and rural residence, Solomon Islands: 1976 - 2019

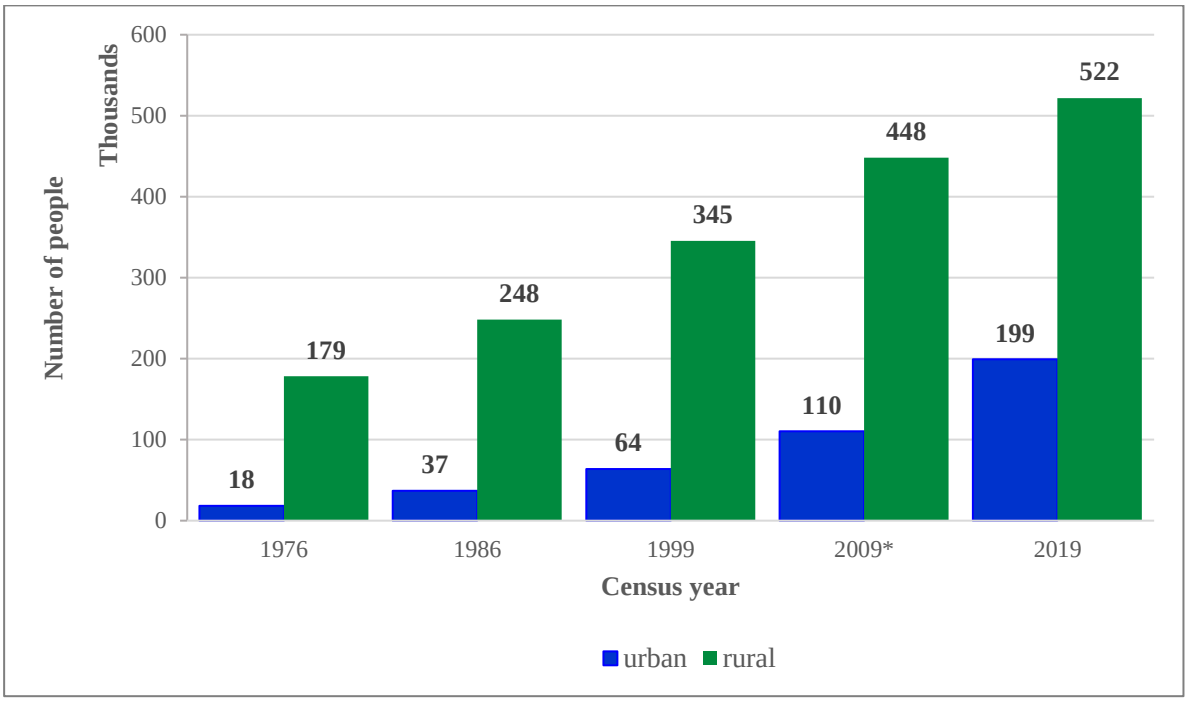


Figure 4.2.2: Average annual urban and rural population growth rate, Solomon Islands: 1976 - 2019

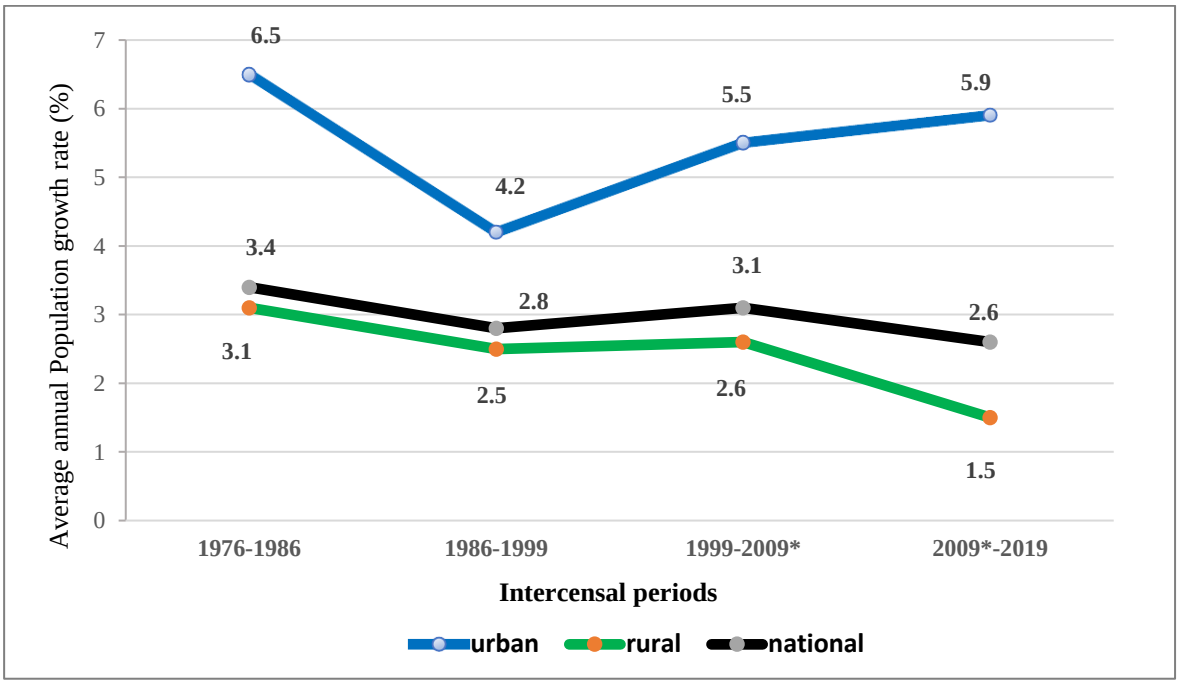
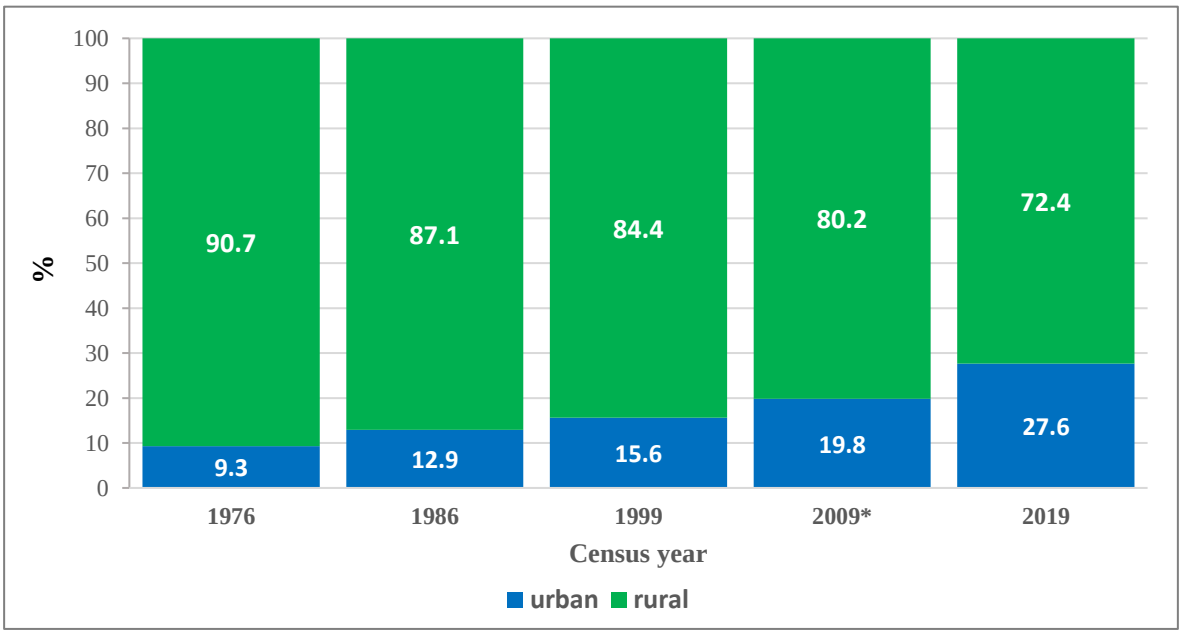


Figure 4.2.3: Population distribution (%) by urban and rural residence, Solomon Islands: 1976 - 2019



The urban localities (wards) that are classified as urban are listed in Table 4.2.1 with corresponding population size and average annual growth rates.[11]

[11] Caution should be taken when assessing annual growth rates that included 2009 ward level figures. The 2009 Census undercount was only adjusted at provincial and urban-rural area levels only.

The urban population was 199,138 people (28% of the total population) and included the largest urban center, 'Honiara Urban Area' (169,721) that comprised of the entire population of the Honiara City Council (129,569) and the Guadalcanal wards of Malango (15,560) and Tandai (24,592) that are bordering the Honiara City Council area to the East, South and West of Honiara. Part of these two wards were classified as peri-urban due to accessibility to services and business activities in Honiara. Tandai ward remains the second biggest urban area after Honiara City council. The other urban areas outside 'Honiara Urban Area' included the other provincial settlements/towns of Gizo (4,260), Noro (7,204), Munda (1,748), Nusa Roviana (1,396), Auki (7,020), Batava/Taro (1,053), Buala (1,342), Tulagi (1,481), Kirakira/Bauro Central (2,107), and Lata/Luava Station (1,806) (Table 4.2.2).

The average annual urban growth between 2009 and 2019 was 5.9% and reflected a significant increase in urban population driven mainly by the high growth rate of Honiara (5.6%) and the growth in the extended Honiara urban area of 7.5% (unadjusted). There has been a growing interest in the high growth rates of both Tandai and Malango with 8.2% and 12.1%, respectively. Some of largest urban wards in Honiara included Panatina (32,712). Nggossi (26,009), Kola'a (20,783, and Vura (18,753)

Table 4.2.2: Population size and average annual growth rate by urban localities and province, Solomon Islands: 1986-2019

Urban localities	Total population				Annual growth rate		
(Province/Ward)	1986	1999	2009	2019	1986-1999	1999-2009	2009-2019
Choiseul		**440**	**810**	**1,053**		**6.1**	**2.6**
Batava/Taro		440	810	1,053			
Western	**2,331**	**6,442**	**9,755**	**14,608**	**7.8**	**4.1**	**4.0**
Gizo	2,331	2,960	3,547	4,260	2.3	1.8	1.8
Noro		3,482	3,365	7,204		-0.3	7.6
Munda			1,315	1,748		2.8	2.8
Nusa Roviana			1,528	1,396		-0.9	-0.9
Isabel	**618**	**451**	**971**	**1,342**	**-2.4**	**7.7**	**3.2**
Buala	618	451	971	1,342			
Central	**1,281**	**1,333**	**1,251**	**1,481**	0.3	**-0.6**	**1.7**
Tulagi	1,281	1,333	1,251	1,481			
Rennell-Bellona	-	-	-	-			
Guadalcanal		**3,013**	**15,473**	**40,152**		**16.4**	**9.5**
Tandai		3,013	10,837	24,592		12.8	8.2
Malango			4,636	15,560			12.1
Malaita	**948**	**1,606**	**5,105**	**7,020**	**4.1**	**11.6**	**3.2**
Auki	948	1,606	5,105	7,020			
Makira-Ulawa	**905**	**979**	**2,074**	**2,107**	**0.6**	**7.5**	**0.2**
Kirakira/Bauro Central	905	979	2,074	2,107			
Temotu	**423**	**361**	**1,982**	**1,806**		**17.0**	**-0.9**
Lata/Luava Station	423	361	1,982	1,806	-1.2		
Honiara City council	**30,413**	**49,107**	**64,609**	**129,569**	**3.7**	**2.7**	**7.0**
Honiara urban area [1]	**30,413**	**52,120**	**80,082**	**169,721**	**4.1**	**4.3**	**7.5**
TOTAL	**36,919**	**63,732**	**102,030**	**199,138**	**4.2**	**4.7**	**6.7**

* [1]Honiara urban area includes Honiara City Council, and the Guadalcanal wards of Tandai and Malango that are also classified as *Honiara urban surroundings;* * Rennell-Bellona was classified as fully Rural; * The 2009 total urban population of 102,030 stated here is unadjusted for an undercount in 2009.

Other high urban growth areas were reported in Western with 4.0%, Isabel and Malaita with 3.2% and Choiseul with 2.6%. While the data showed increasing growth rates experienced by most of urban centers, Nusa Roviana and Lata/Luava station reported negative growths (-0.9), respectively (Table 4.2.2)

Western province's urban population included Gizo (4,260), Noro (7,204), Munda (1,748), and Nusa Roviana (1,396). The latter two wards were not classified as urban in the 1999 Census, and Noro was not defined as urban during the 1986 Census. In the 2019 Census, Noro was ranked the fifth largest urban center in Solomon Islands and comprised the highest population in Western province. Similarly, the growth rate of Noro significantly increased from negative 0.3% on inter-censual year 1999-2009 to 7.6% during 2009-2019. This implied that the rapid growth of these urban centers influenced the process of urbanization related developments.

All other provinces have met the definition of an "urban center" except Rennell-Bellona that was still classified as entirely rural. The other urban areas, also mentioned earlier, were Batava/Taro (1,053) in Choiseul, Buala (1,342) in Isabel, Tulagi (1,481) in the Central province, Auki (7,020 people) in Malaita, Kirakira (2,107) in Makira-Ulawa Province and Lata/Luava (1,806) in Temotu.

Constant and declining growth rates were evident for certain provincial urban centers such as Munda in Western province with a 2.8% growth in 1999-2009 and in 2009-2019, and Lata/ Luava in Temotu province that experienced a significant decline from a positive 17.0% in 1999-2009 to a negative 0.9% annual growth in 2009-2019 (Table 4.2.2).

4.3 Urban and Rural Population structure

The changes in urban population structure since 1999 can be seen in the Figure 4.3.1. While the share of the population of Honiara City Council relative to the total urban population stood at 77% in 1999, this narrowed in 2009 but widened in 2019 at the same time period where the relative share of other urban areas increased - from 25% in 1999, to 37% in 2009 and 36% in 2019. In 2019, the population of Honiara City Council constituted 65% of the total urban population in the Solomon Islands, slightly expanding from a share of 63% in 2009.

The dissimilarities in the shapes of the urban and rural population structures can be observed from the pyramids in Figure 4.3.2. The pyramids clearly illustrated the extent of rural to urban migration of the young Solomon Islands population. People aged 15-30 years caused the 'bulge' of the urban population pyramid, and the 'dent' in the rural population pyramid. In particular, more people in rural areas between the ages 20 to 24 years migrated to urban areas. These pyramids demonstrated that persons in this age group had moved from rural areas to urban centers for various reasons such as seeking employment, education and other opportunities. A move may also be seen as a sign of progress and a means to better one's livelihood in ways that vary from person to person.

Figure 4.3.1: Urban population distribution, Solomon Islands: 1999, 2009, and 2019

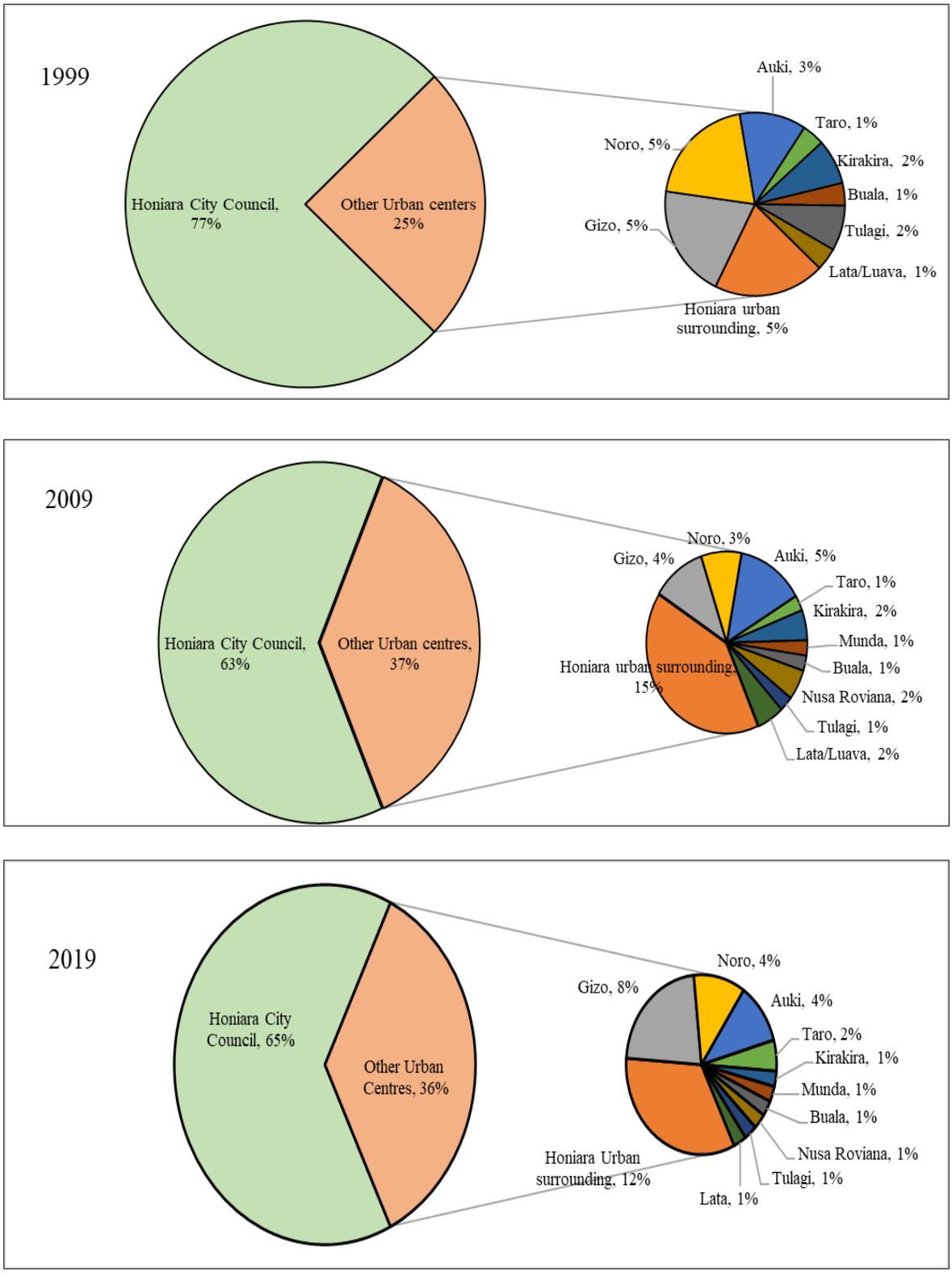


Figure 4.3.2: Urban population pyramid by age group, Solomon Islands: 2009 and 2019

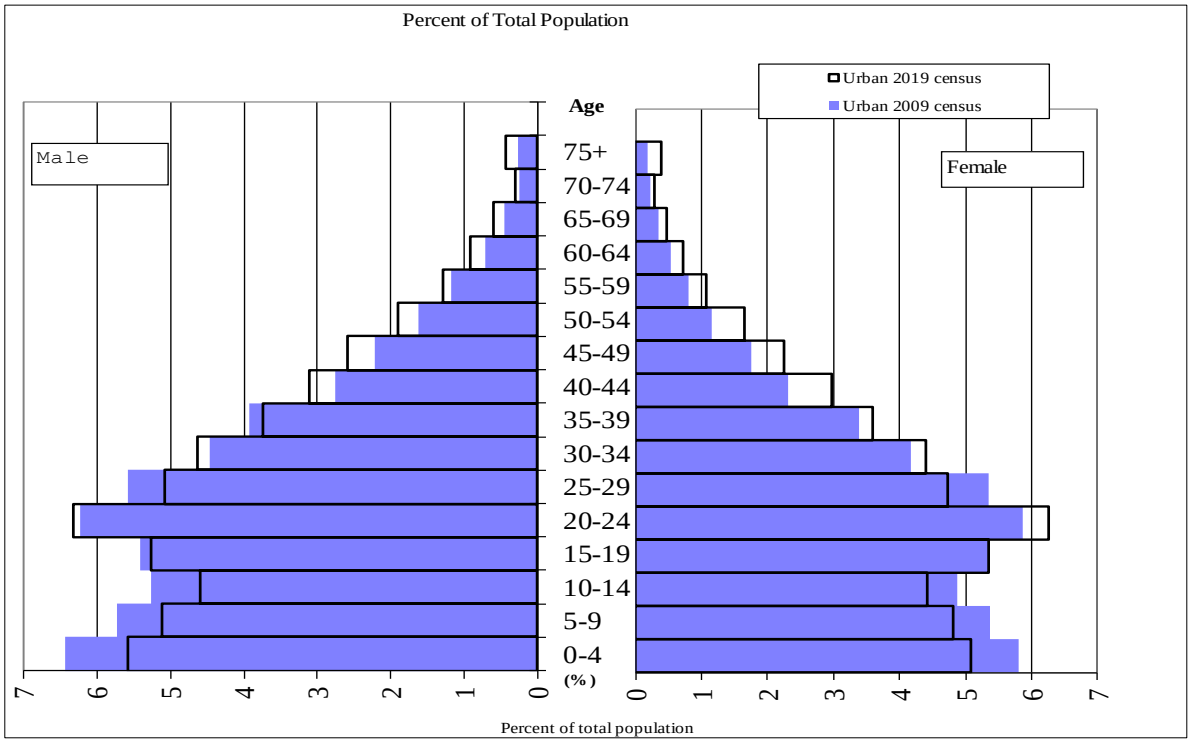
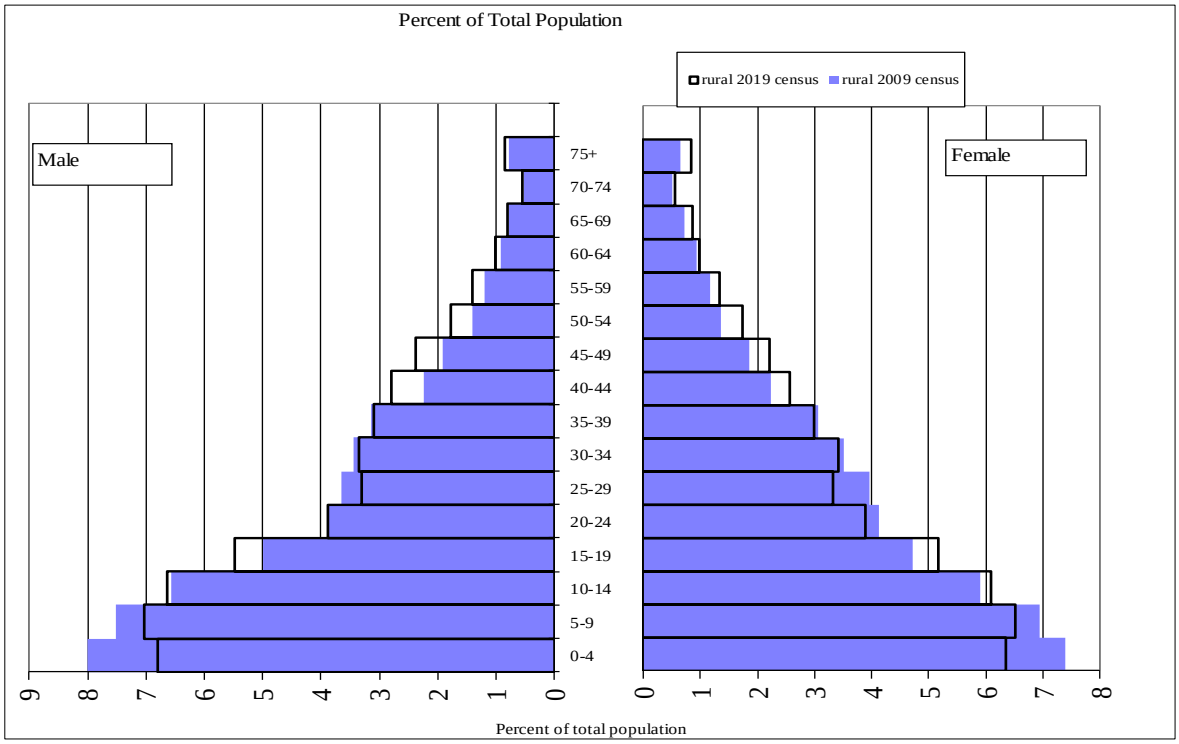


Figure 4.3.3: Rural population pyramid by age group, Solomon Islands: 2009 and 2019



It was evident from the 2019 Census data that revealed the growing urbanization over the years as population increased, especially in Honiara, and the surrounding border areas between Honiara and Guadalcanal provinces, and certain urban wards of Western province. As discussed earlier, people who moved from rural areas and took residence in urban areas often lacked opportunities in rural areas, and were often attracted by various pull factors such as better education, health and employment opportunities.

Some of these common pull factors are reflected through the socio-economic indicators presented in Table 4.2.3 and in the Summary of main indicators. It is evident that these indicators showed more favorable outcomes for urban areas than rural areas.

As presented in Table 4.2.3, urban households have more access to improved water sources (91%), sanitation facilities (84%), electricity (50%), and mobile phones (66%) including a population with a high literacy rate (93%) compared to those in rural areas. These is indicative of better living conditions in urban areas, and that these outcomes are often attractive to rural migrants.

Table 4.2.3: Selected demographic and socio-economic indicators by urban-rural area, Solomon Islands: 2019

Selected Indicators	URBAN	RURAL
Households with improved drinking water sources (%)	91	74
Households with improved sanitation facilities (%)	84	19
Households connected to electricity grid (%)	50	4
Households with mobile phone (%)	66	38
Employment-population ratio (%)	35	36
School enrolment rates of 5-15 year olds (%)	78	79
Proportion of population aged 12 and older with no school completed (%)	7	18
Literacy rate of population aged 15+ (%)	93	82
Total Fertility Rate (TFR)	2.6	4.5
Teenage Fertility Rate (ASFR, 15-19)	34	57
Infant mortality rate (IMR)	23	24
Unemployment rate (official)	12	6
Youth unemployment rate (15-34 yrs)	19	8

Youth unemployment is a key development outcome that is closely associated with rural-urban drift. Youth unemployment is expected to be high in urban areas than in rural areas and this is confirmed in Table 4.2.3 where urban youth unemployment rate was twice (19%) the size of the rural youth unemployment (8%). This reflected the growing rural-urban drift especially amongst the youth (aged 15-34 years) who often traveled to urban areas seeking employment opportunities, as discussed earlier in section 4.3. Unfortunately, many migrants seeking employment end up in being unemployed. Youth

unemployment also drives the national unemployment rate and in this case, urban unemployment is also twice (12%) the size of the rural unemployment (6%).

Having access to medical and health services such as maternal and infant care, especially amongst mothers giving birth can also be an influencing factor amongst rural women to migrate to urban areas given the lack of adequate health facilities and medical professions in rural areas. This is indicative of the lower infant mortality rates in urban areas (23 deaths per 1,000 live births) compared to rural areas (24 deaths per 1,000 live births), although in this case the differences in IMR are less significant.

Moreover, women and men in urban areas have better family planning choices and care than in rural areas. This is also indicative of the higher fertility rate in rural areas (4.5) than those in urban area (2.6).

5. **FERTILITY**

5.1 Introduction

This chapter on fertility and the next two on mortality and migration makeup the demographic components of the population of the Solomon Islands.

Fertility is a key driver of population growth. Information about fertility levels and trends can assist policy planners formulate and evaluate strategies in addressing changes in population size and structure, as well as assisting in predicting the needs for public services such as health services, health facilities and schools.

The ideal source of data for the estimation of fertility and mortality is a fully functioning system of vital and civil registration (CRVS). However, in the Solomon Islands, the CRVS is still in development phase and thus indirect methods of estimating fertility and mortality are often employed through indirect analysis of data from censuses and surveys, as in the 2019 Census.

Most censuses collect information about fertility, both as a check on vital registration but also to obtain information about the characteristics of females (and sometimes of their spouses). Fertility at the time of the census can provide a good predictor of how many children will enter the school system in 5 or 6 years, as well as geographically where population change is likely to occur. The census questions on fertility have been consistent in the Solomon Islands over the census years and so provide a sound starting point for analysis.

In order to determine the level and pattern of fertility in the Solomon Islands, women 15 years of age and older were asked:[12]

- Whether she has ever given birth?
- How many children they had born alive?
- How many children are still alive?
- When was the last child born?

Besides the direct fertility collection, we also applied the indirect Own Children Method to get trends from a single census, in this case the 2019 Solomon Islands Census.

[12] In order to more clearly illustrate the concepts that the collection of fertility information is intending to measure, the questions presented above are simplified versions of the actual questions included on the 2019 Census questionnaire. For example, the question "Whether she has ever given birth?" is included on the 2019 Census questionnaire as "F1. Has this woman ever given birth even if the child later died?"

5.2 Age at First Birth

Table 5.2.1 and Figure 5.2.1 provide information on average age at first birth. This calculation uses the same procedures as for the Singulate Mean Age at Marriage (SMAM) but applied only to females to establish whether a woman had a birth by a specific age. The national average age for all first births was 24.4 years. Honiara had the highest average age at almost 27 years. This is probably much higher because females put off marriage and therefore starting fertility until they finished school or spent some time working. The youngest first births were to females in Makira and Temotu at 22.2 years respectively, and Choiseul at 22.3.

Table 5.2.1: Average age at first birth by province and urban-rural residence, Solomon Islands: 2019

	Total	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell-Bellona	Guadal-canal	Malaita	Makira	Temotu	Honiara
Total	24.4	22.3	23.4	23.1	24.1	24.8	24.0	24.0	22.2	22.2	26.9
Urban	26.0	21.8	24.2	24.5	26.4	n/a	25.3	25.7	23.7	23.4	26.9
Rural	23.2	22.3	23.0	22.9	23.9	24.8	23.1	23.9	21.9	22.0	n/a

Figure 5.2.1: Average age at first birth by province, Solomon Islands: 2019

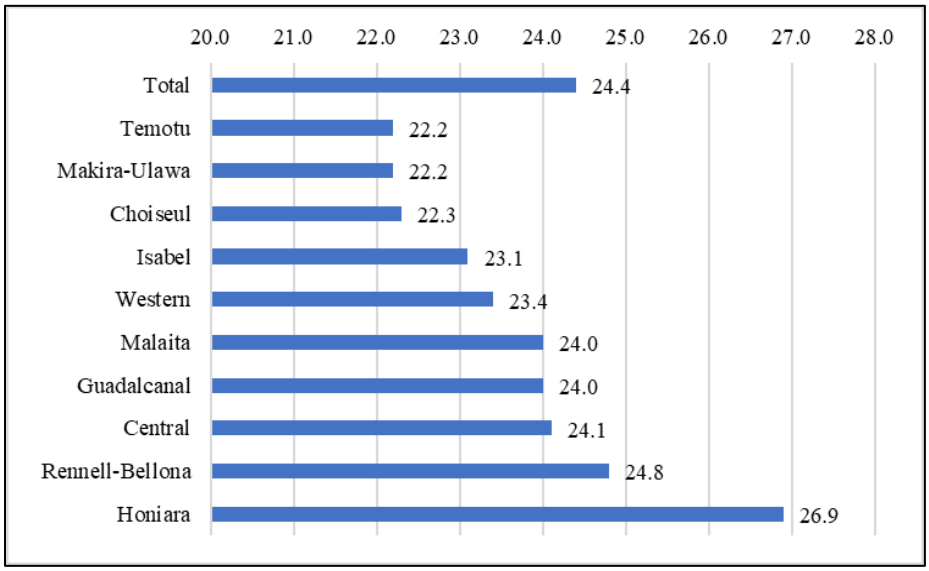


Table 5.2.2 shows the average age at first birth by educational attainment. As noted earlier, the average age for first birth in the Solomon Islands was 24.4 years in 2019, however, the average age was lower for females with only a primary school education, at 23.1 years. Females with higher education waited longer to start their families, so the average at first birth for those females with a secondary school education was 26, about 3 years older than the females with only a primary school education.

Across provinces, Choiseul, Makira, and Temotu had the lowest age at first birth for females with only a primary school education, at 21 years, while Honiara's females with a primary school education had their first birth at about 25 years. Honiara's females with a secondary education conformed to the average for the entire country, but females with tertiary education in Honiara had their first births at an average of 29 years.

Table 5.2.2: Average age at first birth based on whether she had a birth by that age by province and education attainment, Solomon Islands: 2019

Province	Total	Primary Education	Secondary education	Tertiary Education
Total	24.4	23.1	26.0	27.3
Choiseul	22.3	21.4	24.9	25.0
Western	23.4	22.6	25.0	26.3
Isabel	23.1	22.3	22.5	25.7
Central	24.1	23.1	25.5	28.1
Rennell-Bellona	24.8	24.2	n/a	23.3
Guadalcanal	24.0	22.9	25.6	26.0
Malaita	24.0	23.3	27.5	25.4
Makira-Ulawa	22.2	21.5	25.3	24.5
Temotu	22.2	21.6	25.7	25.2
Honiara	26.9	25.3	26.8	28.9

5.3 Children Ever Born and Children Surviving

Table 5.3.1 shows the number of children ever born (CEB) and children still alive (CS) by the age of the mother and gender of the children.[13] The relationship between the children ever born and children still alive provides one estimate of mortality, often used to estimate child mortality.

Table 5.3.1: Children ever born and surviving, Solomon Islands: 2019

	Female	CEB	CS	MCEB	MCS	FCEB	FCS
Total	223,679	547,561	525,522	284,633	272,295	262,928	253,227
15 - 19	37,602	2,908	2,823	1,535	1,489	1,373	1,334
20 - 24	32,756	21,682	21,135	11,348	11,029	10,334	10,106
25 - 29	26,744	42,348	41,242	22,034	21,419	20,314	19,823
30 - 34	26,672	69,792	67,940	36,100	35,093	33,692	32,847
35 - 39	22,730	74,559	72,345	38,836	37,577	35,723	34,768
40 - 44	19,312	74,650	72,276	38,523	37,214	36,127	35,062
45 - 49	16,028	65,894	63,611	34,305	32,987	31,589	30,624
50 - 54	12,343	53,972	51,668	28,110	26,830	25,862	24,838
55 - 59	9,079	42,443	40,377	21,874	20,749	20,569	19,628
60 - 64	6,591	31,576	29,721	16,634	15,566	14,942	14,155
65 - 69	5,506	27,286	25,632	14,353	13,419	12,933	12,213
70 - 74	3,515	17,692	16,350	9,278	8,535	8,414	7,815
75+	4,801	22,759	20,402	11,703	10,388	11,056	10,014

[13] "MCEB", "MCS", "FCEB", and "FCS" represent Male Children Ever Born, Male Children Still Alive, Female Children Ever Born, and Female Children Still Alive, respectively.

The figures in Table 5.3.1 above show increasing numbers of children by age as females marry and start to have children, and then, after about age 49, fewer children are born to the older females who were increasingly in smaller numbers themselves. The children ever born and children surviving by gender show similar patterns to the total children.

Table 5.3.2 provides the average number of children ever born and children surviving for increasing ages of the females and for each gender.[14] The third column in each case provides the percentage of the children of each age group who were still alive in 2019.[15]

The number of children ever born and children surviving each increased from one age group to another but increased little after age 50 as the groups of females diminished. About 5 children were born to females who had passed their reproductive period, and about 4 ½ of those children were still alive at the time of the census. The percentage of children surviving was about 96 percent for all females; but the percentage decreased with time as some children died before the 2019 census, to about 94 percent for the older females.

The numbers of children ever born and children surviving by gender showed totals approximately half of those of the total children, as expected. The females reported slightly more male than female children per woman. Female babies were a little more likely to survive than male children.

Table 5.3.2: Average children ever born and surviving, Solomon Islands: 2019

	CEB/W	CS/W	CS/CEB	MCEB/W	MCS/W	MCS/MCEB	FCEB/W	FCS/W	FCS/FCEB
Total	2.45	2.35	96.0	1.27	1.22	95.7	1.18	1.13	96.3
15 - 19	0.08	0.08	97.1	0.04	0.04	97.0	0.04	0.04	97.2
20 - 24	0.66	0.65	97.5	0.35	0.34	97.2	0.32	0.31	97.8
25 - 29	1.58	1.54	97.4	0.82	0.80	97.2	0.76	0.74	97.6
30 - 34	2.62	2.55	97.3	1.35	1.32	97.2	1.26	1.23	97.5
35 - 39	3.28	3.18	97.0	1.71	1.65	96.8	1.57	1.53	97.3
40 - 44	3.87	3.74	96.8	1.99	1.93	96.6	1.87	1.82	97.1
45 - 49	4.11	3.97	96.5	2.14	2.06	96.2	1.97	1.91	96.9
50 - 54	4.37	4.19	95.7	2.28	2.17	95.4	2.10	2.01	96.0
55 - 59	4.67	4.45	95.1	2.41	2.29	94.9	2.27	2.16	95.4
60 - 64	4.79	4.51	94.1	2.52	2.36	93.6	2.27	2.15	94.7
65 - 69	4.96	4.66	93.9	2.61	2.44	93.5	2.35	2.22	94.4
70 - 74	5.03	4.65	92.4	2.64	2.43	92.0	2.39	2.22	92.9
75+	4.74	4.25	89.6	2.44	2.16	88.8	2.30	2.09	90.6

Most females have completed their reproduction by age 49, and thus females in the 45 to 49-year-old age group are usually considered in assessing an informal estimate of the total fertility rate. As Figure 5.3.1 below shows, the average number of children ever born for females in that group in 2019, for the entire country, was about 4.11 children, or about 4 children. This number was based solely on

[14] "CEB/W" and "CS/W" represent the number of Children Ever Born per woman and the number of Children Still Alive per woman, respectively. "MCEB/W", "MCS/W", "FCEB/W", and "FCS/W" represent the number of Male Children Ever Born per woman, number of Male Children Still Alive per women, number of Female Children Ever Born per women, and number of Female Children Still alive per women, respectively.

[15] "CS/CEB", "MCS/MCEB", and "FCS/FCEB" represent the percentage of children still alive in 2019, the percentage of male children still alive in 2019, and the percentage of female children still alive in 2019, respectively.

women reporting their number of children ever born (not adjusted). Makira had the highest total fertility by this method, at about 4.6 children per female, followed by Malaita at 4.5. As expected, Honiara had the lowest rate at 3.4 children per female, followed by Temotu at 3.6 and Rennell-Bellona at 3.8.

Figure 5.3.1: Average number of children ever born to females 45-49 years by province, Solomon Islands: 2019

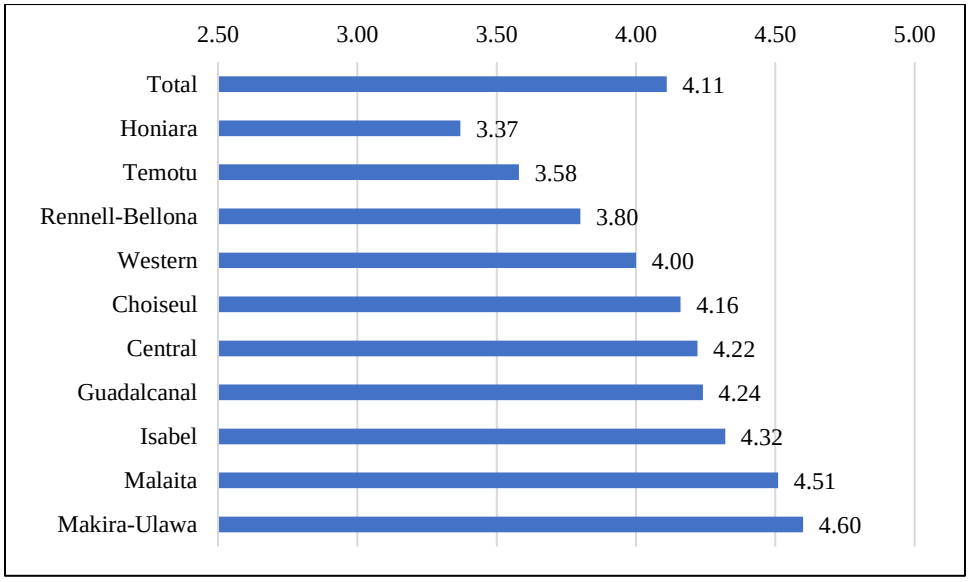
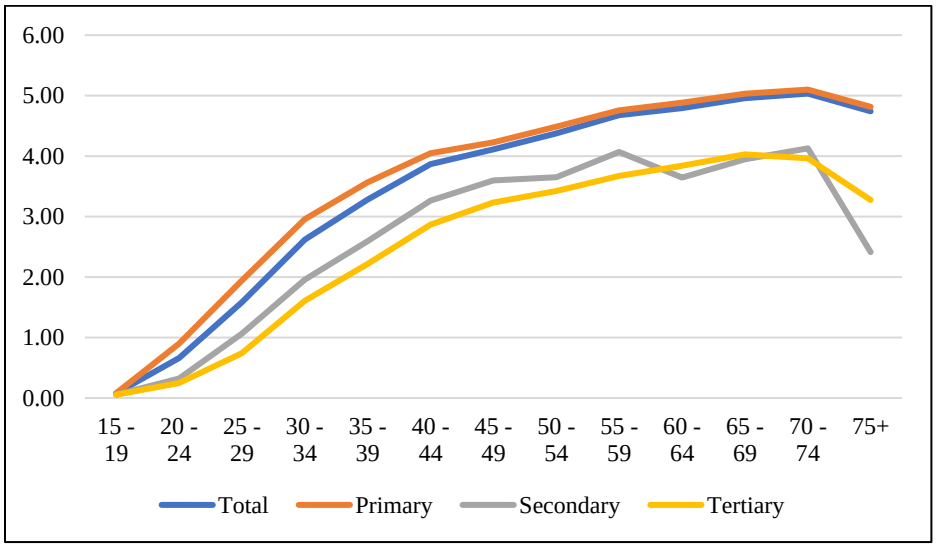


Figure 5.3.2 shows the number of children ever born to females in 5-year age groups up to age 75 and over. Since we collect data on children ever born from all adult females, even the older females get to provide this information. Obviously, their fertility stopped much earlier, and an issue exists for these females in that some of them forget some of their children who had died or who have left the house or area. Hence, the dip in the secondary educated females 75 years and over likely reflects under-reporting of the number of children ever born for this group of females. When looking at the education level of the mother, females who only went to primary school had the highest fertility and were very close to the total since the majority of females were in this category. Females with secondary education had fewer children than average, and the tertiary school educated females had even lower fertility by age.

Figure 5.3.2: Children ever born by age of mother and education level, Solomon Islands: 2019



5.4 Own Children

The demographic indicator most commonly used to describe a country's fertility situation is called the total fertility rate (TFR). This measure is an indication of the average number of children a woman gives birth to during her reproductive life (from ages 15–49 years). This is estimated from the number of live births by the age of women in a year to those females - the age-specific fertility rates (ASFRs).[16]

Fertility estimates derived using the own-children method based on the last six censuses (1970, 1976, 1986, 1999, 2009 and 2019) show that fertility levels have more or less steadily declined since 1975 when the TFR peaked at 7.7 children per woman; the TFR was exactly 6 in 1985, 5 in 1991, and about 4.1 for the 3-year period 2007-2009, and was just under 4 in 2019.

This historical fertility pattern is very similar to many countries in the Pacific with high to very high fertility levels until the 1970s, when levels decreased. Reasons for the decline in fertility include better availability and access to contraceptives, a more educated population, women's increased participation in the labor force, improved (reproductive) health care, and an increased westernization of people's lifestyles when access to Western metropolitan countries became easier after the opening of many international airports in Pacific Island countries in the 1970s.

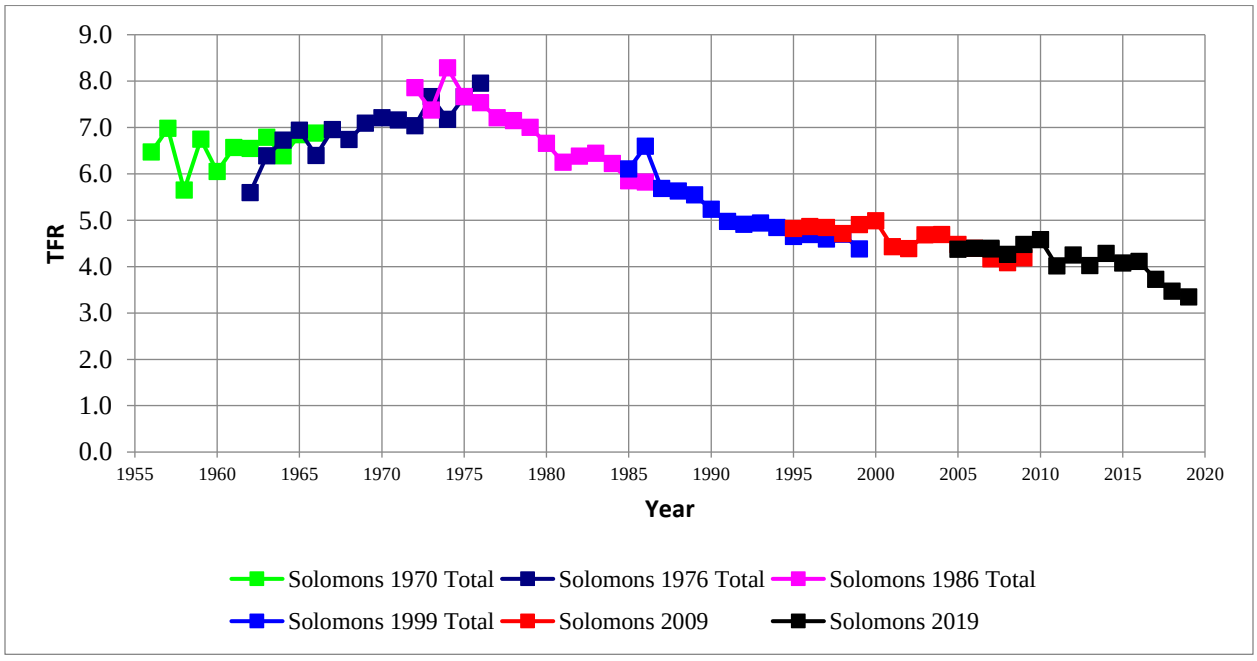
The own-children method has two major weaknesses. First, since the method estimates birth rates by single years, it uses children classified by single years of age. Therefore, the results are very much

[16] Specifically, the ASFR is calculated as the number of births in a given year (or reference period) per women of reproductive age classified in single or five-year age groups. The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is calculated as the number of children who would be born per woman (or per 1,000 women) if she were to pass through the childbearing years bearing children according to a schedule of age-specific fertility rates.

affected by differential completeness of enumeration, age misreporting, and age heaping. Averaging the results that refer to contiguous age groups is a way of reducing the effect of age heaping. However, considering the well-known deficiencies of census enumerations, especially among very young children, a drop in fertility during the two or three years immediately preceding the census is not necessarily an indication of fertility decline, but the result of under-counting of young children. Second, the basis of this method is the tabulation of children by single year of age and single year of age of mother. Hence, we can only do this if we link children to their mothers in their households. In the 2009 and 2019 censuses, this was done by asking whether the biological mother of persons were living in the same households. However, as elsewhere, it is possible to suspect that not always the person reported as the biological mother is such. Sometimes the mother has died or is absent and the grandmother, aunt or older sister *informally adopted* the child. We call this the *adoption* or *grandmother effect* and it affects the age-specific fertility rates.

Figure 5.4.1 shows the total fertility rates based on the own child method starting about 1956 and up to 2019. The total fertility rate started at about 7 in the 1950s, then increased to about 8 children per female in the early 1970s, and then descended after that. This descending trend has been a fairly straight line in the last few decades. However, even though the line shows a dip at the end, we often exclude the last few years before the census because of misreporting and under-reporting of very young children in the census.[17]

Figure 5.4.1: Solomon Islands total fertility rates: 1956 to 2019



[17] For example, if the number of children born in the last 12 months were under-reported during enumeration of the 2019 Census, then the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) estimated for 2019 would be biased downwards as not all births for this year would be included the calculation of the ASFRs and the estimation of the TFR. As discussed above, under-reporting of very young children is a common issue during Census enumeration and therefore it is likely that the downward trend in the TFR for 2017, 2018, and 2019 observed in Figure 5.4.1 is at least partially impacted by this downward bias. Furthermore, it is important to note that Figure 5.4.1 presents unadjusted estimates of the TFR from prior censuses that are also likely biased downwards as a result of under-reporting of young children.

Figure 5.4.2 shows the age-specific fertility rates in the middle 5-year period of each census. All of them peak in the same years – ages 25 to 29, indicating maximum fertility during these years. The 1970 census started out with the earliest fertility, but several other years passed in the older ages. The 1999 and 2009 censuses showed very similar trajectories. The 2019 shows the lowest ASFRs through the age groups.

Figure 5.4.2: Age-specific fertility rates (ASFRs), Solomon Islands: 1970 to 2019

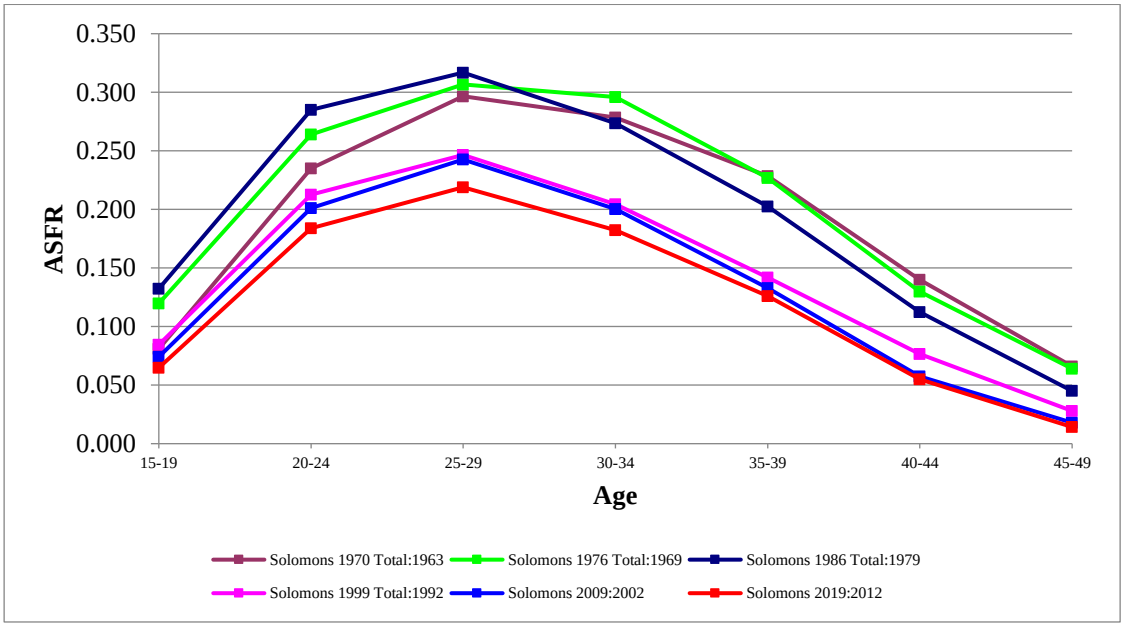
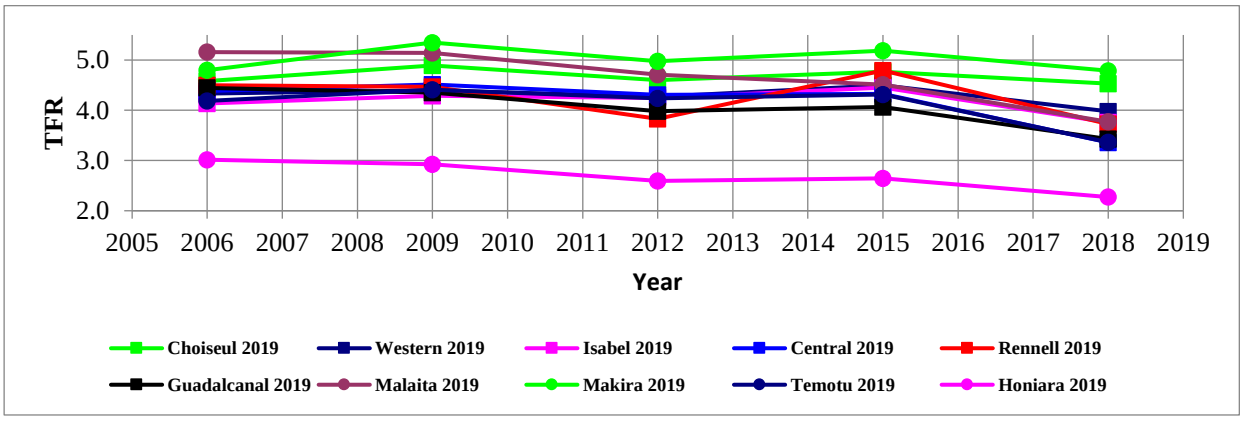


Figure 5.4.3 shows the total fertility rates for all the provinces based on the 2019 Census. As noted, the method gives estimates over a 15-year period. It is easy to see the low level of fertility for Honiara, and its clear downward slope during the period considered. The other provinces are harder to interpret, but there has been a slight downward trend in the rates.[18]

Figure 5.4.3: Total fertility rates by provinces, Solomon Islands: 2019



[18] As discussed above in relation to Figure 5.4.1, under-reporting of very young children is a common issue during Census enumeration and therefore it is likely that the estimate of the Total Fertility Rate for 2018 displayed in Figure 5.4.3 may have been partially impacted by this downward bias.

Total fertility decreased from just over 4 children per females to just under 4 (Figure 5.4.4).[19] However, the rural fertility remained at about half-a-child more than the total for the country and urban fertility was about one child less than the total and about 1 ½ children lower than rural fertility.

Figure 5.4.4:.TFR by urban-rural residence, Solomon Islands: 2005 to 2019

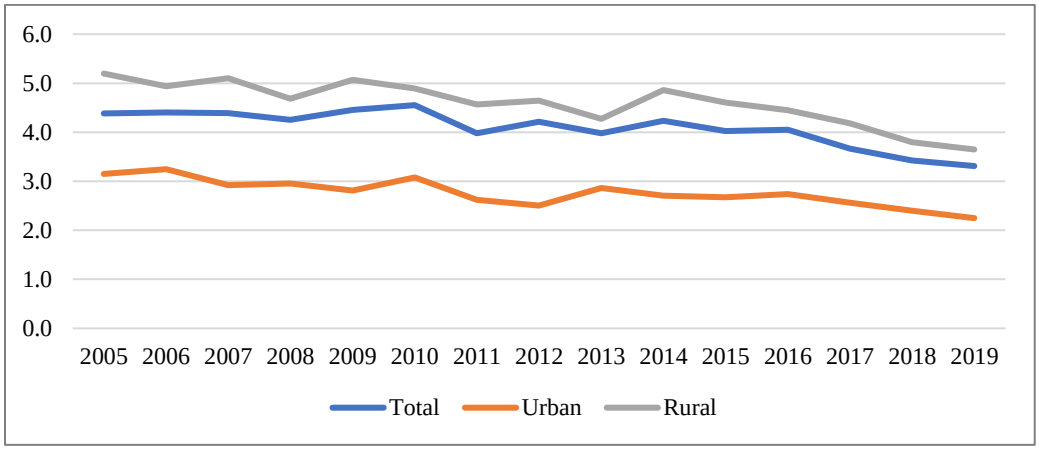
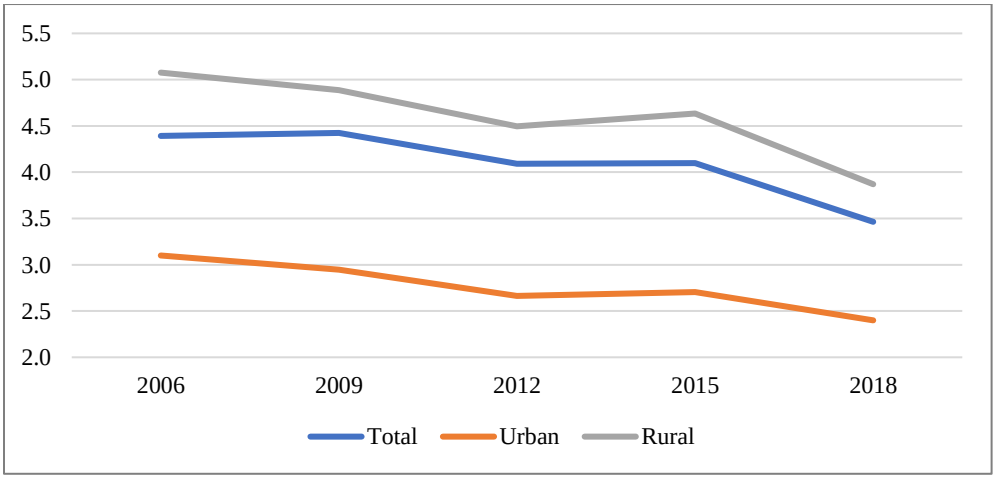


Figure 5.4.5 below shows the decreases better because each three years averages make a smoother line.[20] Both urban and rural fertility decreased during the period, with rural decreasing from about 5 to 4 and urban fertility from 3 to 2½.

Figure 5.4.5: Smoothed TFRs by urban-rural residence, Solomon Islands: 2005 to 2019



[19] As discussed above, under-reporting of very young children is a common issue during Census enumeration and therefore it is likely that the downward trend in the TFR for 2017, 2018, and 2019 observed in Figure 5.4.4 is at least partially impacted by this downward bias.

[20] The "Smoothed TFRs" in Figure 5.4.5 were estimated based on ASFR schedules that were calculated using the number of births over a three-year reference period, including the preceding, current, and following year. For example, the smoothed TFR for 2018 was estimated based on an ASFR schedule that included births from 2017, 2018, and 2019. As discussed above, under-reporting of very young children is a common issue during Census enumeration and therefore it is likely that the downward trend in the smoothed TFR from 2015 to 2018 observed in Figure 5.4.5 is at least partially impacted by downward bias of the smoothed TFR for 2018.

Figure 5.4.6: Age-specific fertility rates by urban-rural residence, Solomon Islands: about 2012

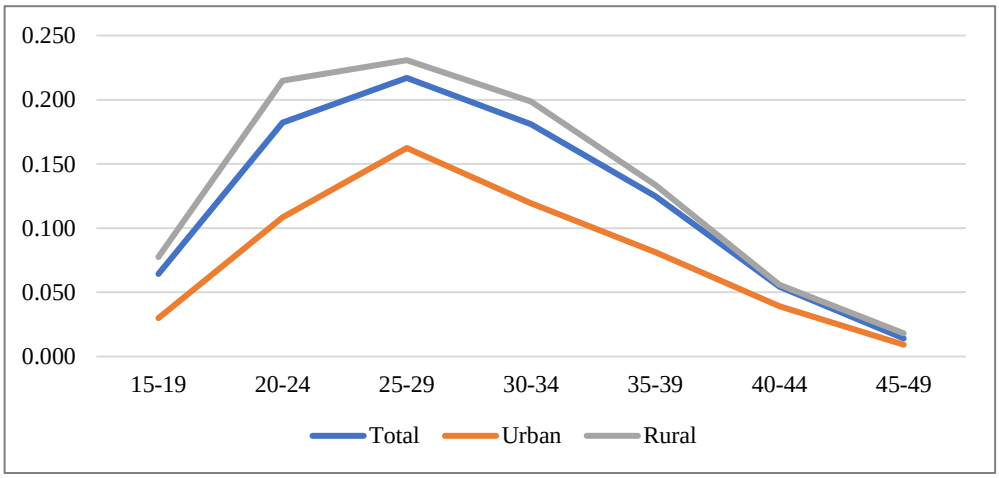
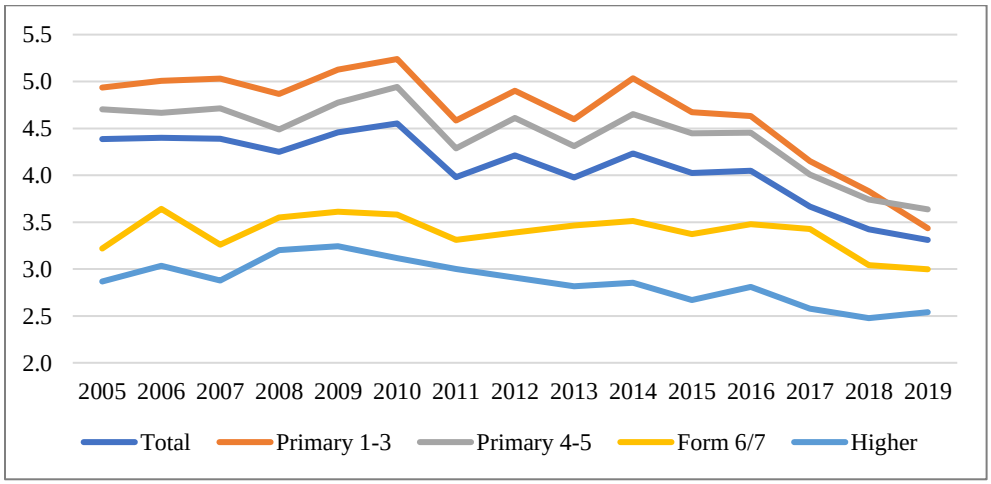


Figure 5.4.6 shows the age-specific fertility rates for the urban and rural areas. As with the total fertility rates, urban ASFRs were lower in the period centered on 2012 than the rural rates.[21] However, as noted earlier, each peaked in the 25 to 29 year age group. In that group, the rural ASFR was about 225 per 1,000 women and the urban rate was about 150 per 1000 women.

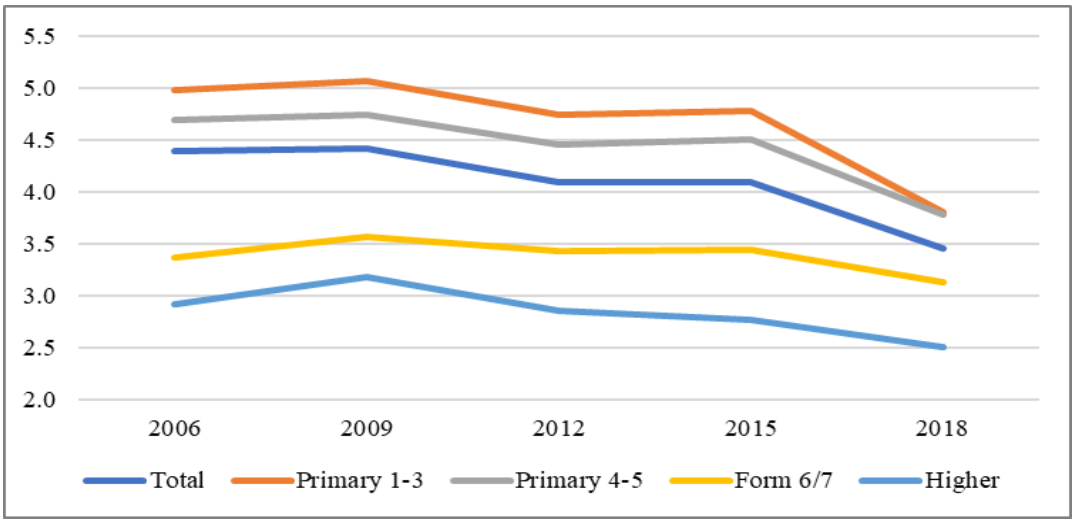
Figure 5.4.7 shows the total fertility rates for the Solomon Islands in the years before the 2019 Census. The total line is, as before, a downward slope toward the lowest fertility closest to the census date. However, one can see a definite relationship between fertility and educational attainment. One explanation for this is that females with less education may have fewer children because of lack of prenatal care and other circumstances in their lives.

Figure 5.4.7: TFRs by educational attainment, Solomon Islands: 2019



[21] The ASFRs presented in Figure 5.4.6 were calculated using the number of births over a five-year reference period, from 2010 to 2014.

Figure 5.4.8: Smoothed TFRs by educational attainment, Solomon Islands: 2019



Females with only Primary 1-3 educational attainment started at about 5 children in 2005 but declined to about 3.5 at the time of the 2019 census[22].

Those with Primary 4-6 education had slightly lower fertility throughout the period but experienced a similar to decrease. Those with more education had TFRs that were below the total throughout the period. The females with Form 6/7 education remained at about 3.5 children through the period, and those with higher education started at about 3 and then decreased to about 2 ½ near the census.

Figure 5.4.8 shows the TFRs for the educational attainment after smoothing by taking the average of the adjacent three years.[23] The downward trends are easier to identify in this figure.

Because the Own Children Method allows for a period 15 years before the census, one can group the years in different ways. Figure 5.4.9 below shows the ASFRs for three periods – the average of the earliest 5 years, the average of the middle five years and the average of the most recent 5 years.[24] The shape of the first two periods was about the same, peaking at about 200 per 1000 women. Moreover, the five years closest to the census showed a shallower curve, peaking at about 175 per 1000 women, but with the same general shape as the other two.

[22] As discussed above, under-reporting of very young children is a common issue during Census enumeration and therefore it is likely that the downward trend in the TFR for 2017, 2018, and 2019 observed in Figure 5.4.7 is at least partially impacted by this downward bias

[23] The "Smoothed TFRs" presented in Figure 5.4.8 are calculated using the same methodology discussed in the footnote for Figure 5.4.5.

[24] The ASFRs presented in Figure 5.4.9 were calculated using the number of births over a five-year reference period. Specifically, the average annual ASFRs for 2007, 2012, and 2017 were calculated using the number of births from 2005 to 2009, 2010 – 2014, and 2015 – 2019, respectively.

Figure 5.4.9: Age-specific fertility rates, Solomon Islands: 2007 to 2017

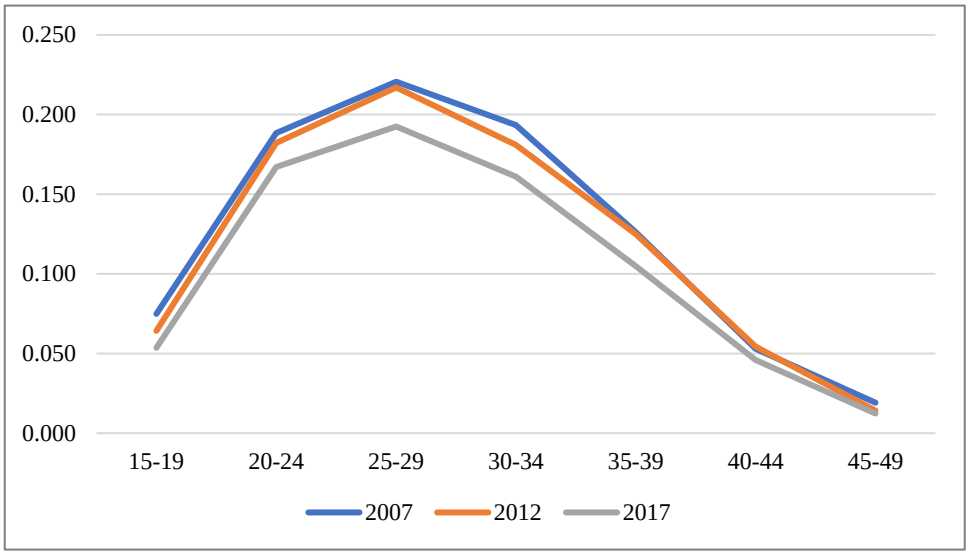


Figure 5.4.10 presents ASFRs by level of educational attainment. This graph shows an interesting pattern, with all four levels of education converging in the older ages. However, those with the least education start out with the highest rate, followed by each of the higher levels of education. All of them peak in age group 25 to 29, but those with the highest education peak in the 0-to-34-year period as well, since many women had prolonged the period before they started having children as they finished schooling and started taking jobs.

Figure 5.4.10: Age-specific fertility rates by educational attainment, Solomon Islands: about 2012

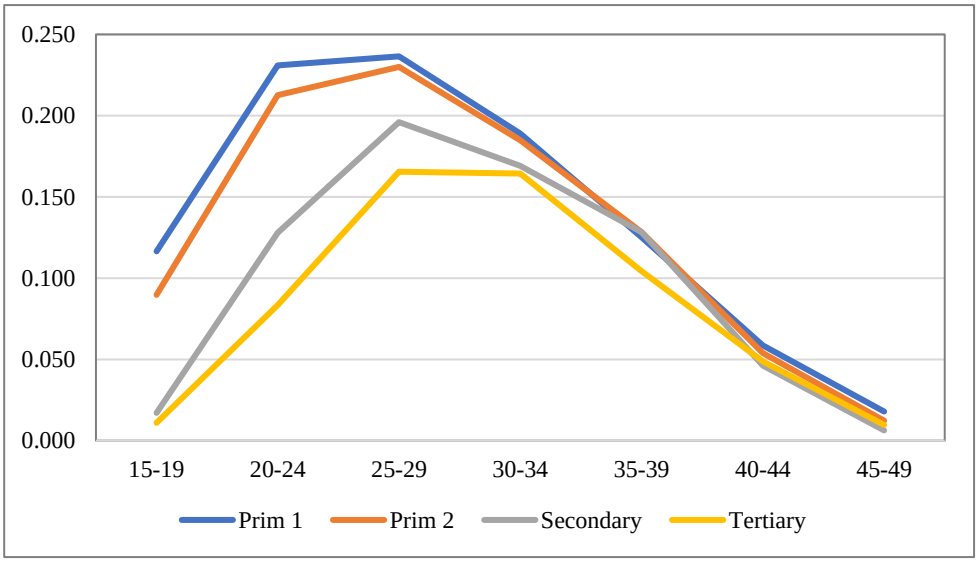


Figure 5.4.11 shows the total fertility rates based on categories of movement. Elsewhere in this report, we analyze the "movers". Moves are based on birthplace, residence in 2014, and current residence. "Never moved" refers to those who were in the same ward at birth, in 2014, and at the time of the

census. The "moved twice" category refers to those who were born in one ward, then were in a different ward in 2014 and yet another different ward in 2019. The "moved once" are those who moved from their birth ward to another in 2014 and stayed there or who stayed in the birth ward and the 2014 ward and then moved before the census, or had the same ward at birth and at enumeration but were in a different ward in 2014.

The table shows the same total line as in the other graphs with those females who "never moved" had the highest fertility throughout the period considered. Those who moved once during the period had lower fertility than those who never moved, but also lower fertility than the total for the country. In addition, those who moved twice had the lowest fertility throughout the period and since the lines did not cross, the more movement, the lower fertility.

Figure 5.4.11: TFRs by number of moves, Solomon Islands: 2019

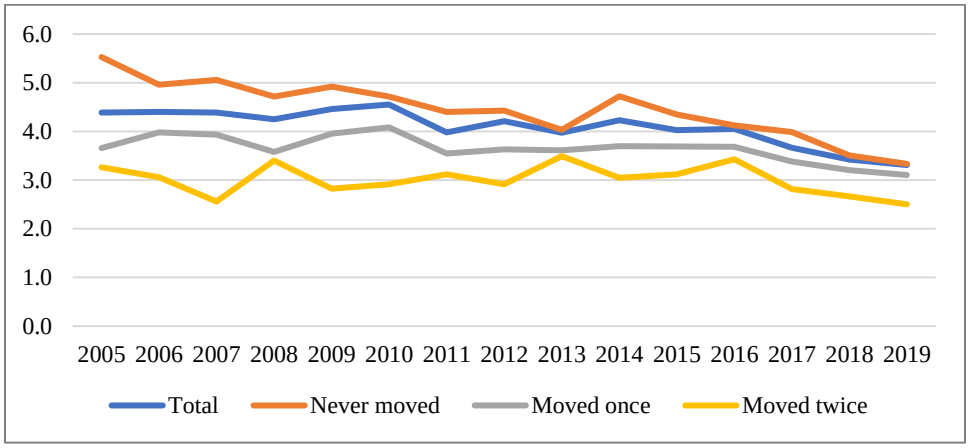
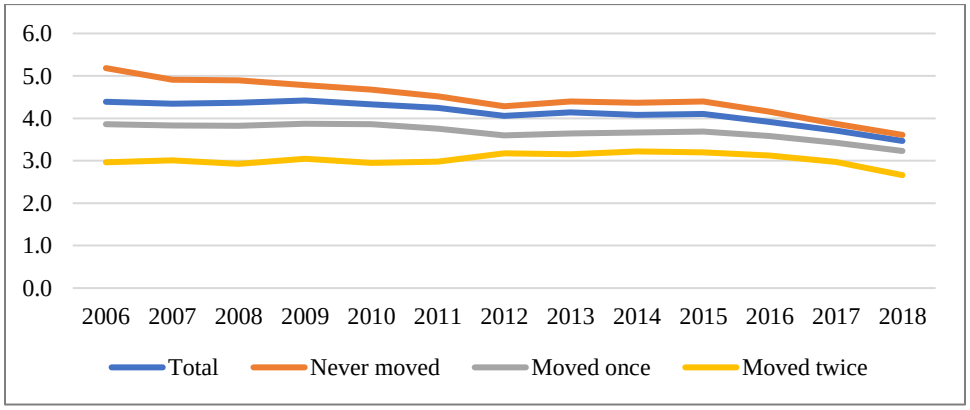


Figure 5.4.12 below shows the smoothed information, getting the average of three adjacent years.[25] The lines all decrease over time, with the "never movers" having the highest fertility, followed by those who moved once, and those who moved twice.

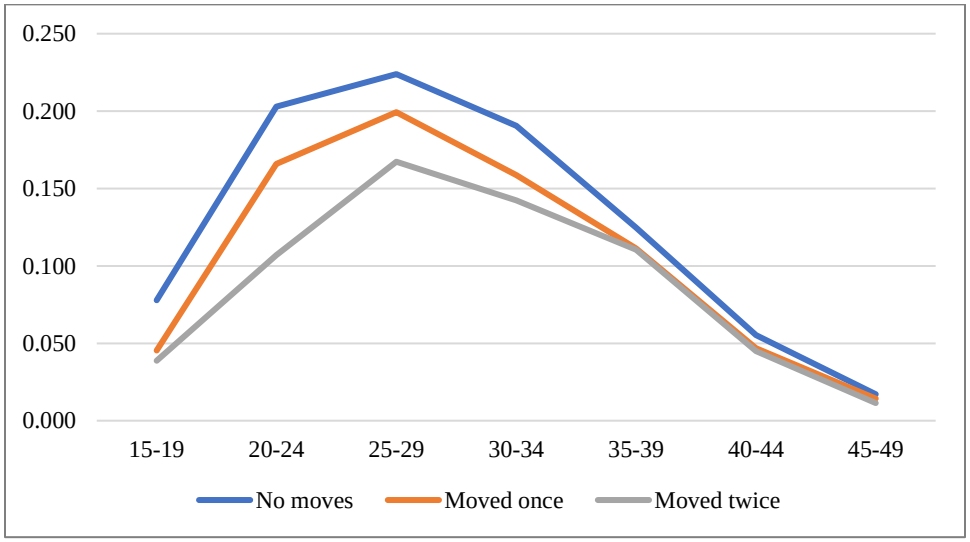
Figure 5.4.12: Smoothed TFRs by number of moves, Solomon Islands: 2019



[25] The "Smoothed TFRs" presented in Figure 5.4.12 are calculated using the same methodology discussed in the footnote for Figure 5.12.

The age-specific rates show a similar pattern in Figure 5.4.13. The graph presents the average annual ASFRs for 2012 based on a 5-year reference.[26] As before, the age-specific rates peak at 25 to 29, as they have in the other cases. The females who never moved had a rate of about 225 per 1000 women at the 25 to 29 age group, the rate for those who moved once was about 200 per 1000 women, and those who moved twice had a rate at just about 150 per 1000 women.

Figure 5.4.13: Age-specific fertility rates for movers, Solomon Islands: about 2012



It also observed that the historical fertility pattern of the Solomon Islands is very similar to many countries in the pacific region with high to very high fertility levels until the 1970s when levels started to decrease. Moreover, according to the United Nations, global fertility is expected to decline over the years, while fertility levels within our region, in Oceania, fell from 4.5 to 3.4 from 1990 to 2019 [27]. Some of the obvious factors behind this include better availability and access to contraceptives, better educated population, women empowerment and improved (reproductive) health care.

5.5 Last Birth

The 2019 Census also asked each female how old her last child was at the time of the census, which is not a usual census question. However, one can get a picture of the age of the female at their last birth by adjusting the ages retrospectively. Figure 5.5.1 shows the raw information, without adjusting for the age of the mother at the time of the birth of her last child. As expected, the years were consistent over time and increasing because of the backward analysis.

[26] The ASFRs presented in Figure 5.5.1 were calculated using the number of births over a five-year reference period, from 2010 to 2014.

[27] See World Fertility and Planning 2020 Report, UN: https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/family/World_Fertility_and_Family_Planning_2020_Highlights.pdf

Figure 5.5.1: Average current age of mother at time of census, Solomon Islands: 2019

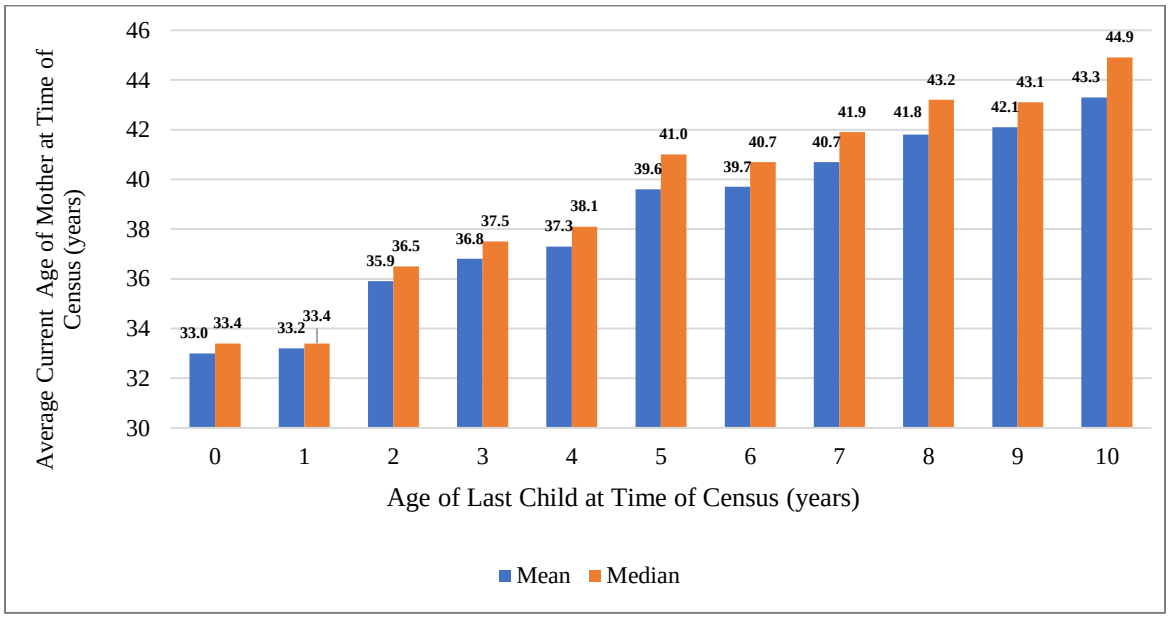
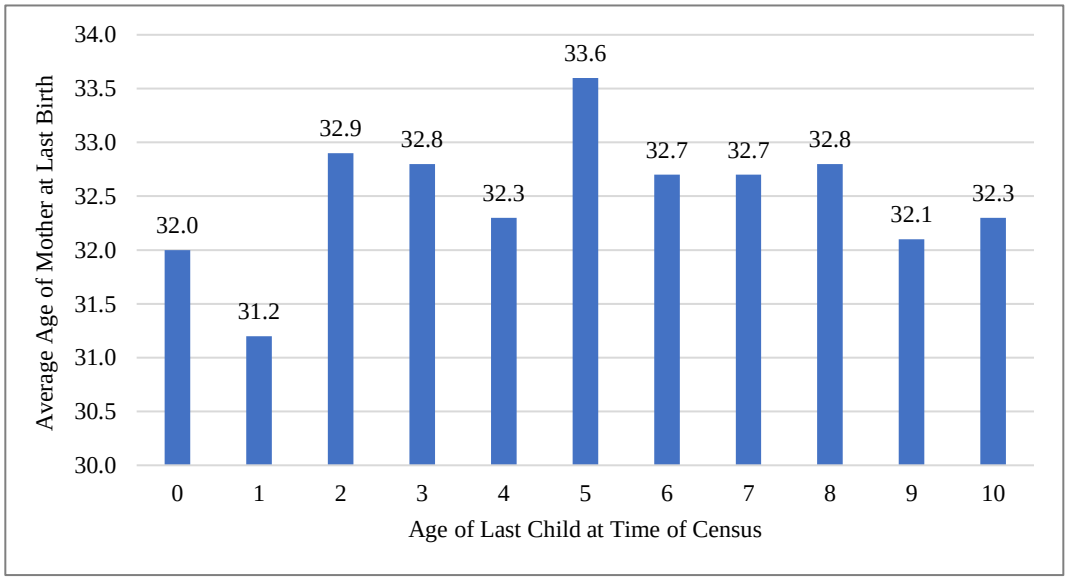


Figure 5.5,2 presents the average age of the mothers at the time of their last birth, grouped by the age of their last child at the time of the census. This can also be interpreted as the average age of mothers giving birth in the years before the census. For example, the average age of the women giving birth in 12 months before the census was 32.0; their children were zero at the time of the census. The children who were 1, and so born in the second 12 months before the census, had mother's with an average age of 31.2, lower than those for the year of the census. The figure shows some variation over time, but the scale shows that most of the ages were between 31 and 33.6.

Figure 5.5.2. Average age of mother at last birth, Solomon Islands: 2019



5.6 Adjustment to Current Fertility Levels

As in the previous 2009 Census, the Trussell technique, expanding from the original Brass Method and the Gompertz Relational Method, was applied in adjusting the current fertility rates due mainly to under reporting of births, as well as deaths. The Trussell approach is considered more reliable and robust especially when applied to fixed time periods of data collections. The own-child method, noting its limitations discussed earlier, is often applied over time series data or intercensal periods as seen above. The calculations for the Trussell application employed the PAS software from the US Bureau of the Census.

Table 5.6.1 shows the adjusted ASFR/TFRs based on the 2019 Census data. The adjusted TFR is 3.8 compared to 4.7 in 2009. The decline also reflects the intercensal declines in fertility trends as discussed earlier.

The estimated number of births was calculated by multiplying the total number of births enumerated during the one-year period prior to 2019 (by age group of women) with the corresponding estimated ASFR (adjusted by the Trussell technique), and summing the number of births (by age group of women).

Table 5.6.1 also shows the estimated total number of births at 21,101, with close to 80% of the births coming from the rural areas. By province, Malaita caters for the majority (26%) of all births. However, that part of the population aged younger than one year appears to be under-enumerated. The 2019 Census enumerated 17,115 under one year children and so the difference of 3,986 children can be explained by age-reporting errors (data quality issues), infant mortality and/or by an under-count of young children.

Table 5.6.1: Estimated age-specific fertility rate, annual number of births, total fertility rate and mean age at child bearing, and crude birth rate: 2019

	Number of Women												
Age group	Solomon Is.	Urban	Rural	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Ren-Bell	Guadalcanal	Malaita	Makira	Temotu	Honiara
15-19	37,602	10,677	26,925	1,429	4,516	1,493	1,523	155	8,128	9,679	2,594	1,094	6,991
20-24	32,756	12,471	20,285	1,066	3,758	1,061	1,093	128	7,670	6,999	1,773	726	8,482
25-29	26,744	9,427	17,317	1,045	3,366	976	1,062	114	6,177	5,469	1,541	691	6,303
30-34	26,672	8,778	17,894	1,001	3,244	1,047	1,066	122	5,842	6,014	1,717	766	5,853
35-39	22,730	7,137	15,593	901	2,708	955	958	104	4,699	5,468	1,542	744	4,651
40-44	19,312	5,923	13,389	813	2,439	845	826	108	4,008	4,374	1,353	639	3,907
45-49	16,028	4,485	11,543	726	2,187	788	776	95	3,124	3,681	1,145	607	2,899
Total	**181,844**	**58,898**	**122,946**	**6,981**	**22,218**	**7,165**	**7,304**	**826**	**39,648**	**41,684**	**11,665**	**5,267**	**39,086**

	Estimated ASFR [1]												
Age group	Solomon Is.	Urban	Rural	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Ren-Bell	Guadalcanal	Malaita	Makira	Temotu	Honiara
15-19	0.0491	0.0338	0.0568	0.0735	0.0619	0.0523	0.0367	0.0615	0.0580	0.0462	0.0711	0.0397	0.0282
20-24	0.1777	0.1082	0.2228	0.2371	0.2131	0.2416	0.2300	0.0761	0.1822	0.2069	0.2623	0.2349	0.0951
25-29	0.2009	0.1363	0.2380	0.2348	0.2272	0.2585	0.2081	0.1059	0.1885	0.2360	0.2988	0.3019	0.1237
30-34	0.1667	0.1104	0.1969	0.1750	0.1817	0.1951	0.1820	0.0979	0.1626	0.2115	0.2223	0.1742	0.1008
35-39	0.1110	0.0788	0.1274	0.1142	0.1077	0.1389	0.1304	0.1077	0.1068	0.1274	0.1782	0.1198	0.0710
40-44	0.0449	0.0310	0.0518	0.0395	0.0429	0.0489	0.0440	0.0123	0.0448	0.0599	0.0784	0.0428	0.0242
45-49	0.0139	0.0116	0.0149	0.0162	0.0123	0.0165	0.0074	0.0000	0.0152	0.0187	0.0151	0.0128	0.0096
TFR	**3.8**	**2.6**	**4.5**	**4.5**	**4.2**	**4.8**	**4.2**	**2.3**	**3.8**	**4.5**	**5.6**	**4.6**	**2.3**

[1] *Adjusted using Trunsell P/F Ratio, PAS*

	Estimated Number of Births [2]												
Age group	Solomon Is.	Urban	Rural	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Ren-Bell	Guadalcanal	Malaita	Makira	Temotu	Honiara
15-19	1,846	361	1,529	105	280	78	56	10	471	447	185	43	197
20-24	5,820	1,349	4,519	253	801	256	251	10	1,398	1,448	465	171	806
25-29	5,374	1,285	4,121	245	765	252	221	12	1,164	1,291	460	209	779
30-34	4,447	969	3,523	175	589	204	194	12	950	1,272	382	133	590
35-39	2,524	562	1,986	103	292	133	125	11	502	697	275	89	330
40-44	868	184	694	32	105	41	36	1	179	262	106	27	95
45-49	223	52	172	12	27	13	6	0	48	69	17	8	28
Total	**21,101**	**4,762**	**16,544**	**925**	**2,858**	**978**	**889**	**56**	**4,712**	**5,485**	**1,890**	**680**	**2,825**
MAC - Females	**29.5**	**29.8**	**29.3**	**28.6**	**28.9**	**29.3**	**29.3**	**29.1**	**29.3**	**29.8**	**29.6**	**29.0**	**29.7**
MAC - Males [3]	**33.2**	**33.0**	**33.4**	**32.9**	**33.1**	**33.8**	**33.4**	**32.8**	**33.0**	**33.6**	**33.9**	**33.0**	**32.9**
CBR	**29.3**	**23.9**	**31.7**	**30.1**	**30.4**	**31.1**	**29.3**	**13.6**	**30.6**	**31.8**	**36.6**	**30.5**	**21.8**

[2] *Estimated ASFR x number of women*

3 Indirectly esimated using difference of computed SSMAS for males & females

MAC = Mean age at child bearing; CBR = Crude birth rate

Although the decline in fertility is evident at the national and urban-rural areas, and across majority of provinces, Makria and Temotu provinces showed increases in fertility compared to 2009 levels while Isabel province records no change in fertility levels since 2009. Again, these trends show changes in social and lifestyle choices, economic development, education and access to better health and family planning decisions, especially among woman.

Crude Birth Rate

Also presented in Table 5.6.1 is the crude birth rate (CBR) that can be calculated by dividing the estimated number of births by the total census population (720,956) by province. At the national level, the result is 29 births per 1,000 population.

CBR = 21,101/720,956 x 1,000 = 29.3 (there were 29 births/1,000 population)

There is a decline in the crude birth rate at the national level from 36 recorded in the previous 2009 Census to 29 persons per 1,000 population in the 2019 Census. Similar declines were observed in urban-rural areas and across provinces. This implies the impact of better access to public health services, family planning and educational awareness among women, including general changes to lifestyle choices etc.

6. MORTALITY

6.1 Introduction

Mortality, apart from fertility and migration, is also a key determinant of population change. Improvements in mortality leads to longevity of life and impacts on socio-economic development. Assessing the changes and trends in key mortality measures such as infant mortality and life expectancy assists decision makers in evaluating and formulating strategies towards improving the quality of health services - especially targeting mothers and children – and in countering diseases such as malaria and non-commutable diseases.

As mentioned earlier, in the absence of a fully functioning system of vital and civil registration (CRVS) in the country, indirect methods of estimating mortality are employed through data captured from the 2019 Census.

The questions relating to mortality in the 2019 census were:

- How many live births a woman has ever had, and how many of those born were still alive and/or had died;
- Whether a respondent's mother and father were still alive (orphanhood);
- Whether a respondent's marital status was "widowed" (widowhood);
- Whether any residents of the household died during the last 12 months prior to the census.

6.2 Household deaths

Based on the reported number of deaths by age and sex derived from the household question, the number of deaths of household residents who died during the last 12 months before the census was 2,762 comprising 1,533 males and 1,229 females (Table 6.2.1). As observed in the past census, the enumerated number of infant deaths below 1 year appeared significantly overstated due mainly to age-misreporting.

Table 6.2.1: Number of deaths of household members during the last 12 months preceding the census by age and sex, Solomon Island 2019

Age Group	Total	Male	Female
0	401	196	205
1-4	198	114	84
5-9	97	46	51
10-14	71	32	39
15 - 19	80	34	46
20 - 24	80	44	36
25 - 29	91	39	52
30 - 34	95	43	52
35 - 39	93	54	39
40 - 44	131	79	52
45 - 49	143	80	63
50 - 54	175	97	78
55 - 59	192	119	73
60 - 64	210	125	85
65 - 69	165	116	49
70 - 74	190	120	70
75 - 79	139	96	43
80 - 84	93	44	49
85+	118	55	63
Total	**2,762**	**1,533**	**1,229**

Adjustment to number of deaths

The enumerated data on the number of deaths appeared under reported whilst noting plausible cases of misreporting within certain age-sex cohorts.[28] Hence, any direct application to compute a life table life expectancy at birth for males and females using, for example, the PAS procedure LTPOPDTH) would likely overstate life expectancies.

Hence, the enumerated number of deaths of household members were adjusted for under reporting based on the life tables computed in section 6.6. This life table estimation was based on a composite of estimated child and adult mortality rates. The results presented in Table 6.6.4, suggests that there were 2,305 males and 1,697 female deaths in 2019.

6.3 Model life table

In determining the appropriate empirical mortality pattern for the country, data on the reported household deaths by age and sex was employed in the application of the different Coale-Demeny and United Nations model life tables using MORTPAK's procedure COMPAR. The assumption was made

[28] This can also be tested by applying the *Brass Growth Balance Equation Method*[3]and the *Preston-Coale Method*[4] on the collected data.

that possible under-registration of deaths is not age specific and thus has no significant impact on the overall pattern of mortality. As in the previous census, it was found that the *North* pattern of the Coale-Demeny model life tables resembles most closely the empirical mortality pattern of the Solomon Islands population.

6.4 Child mortality

Infant and child survivorship can be estimated indirectly by examining responses of women aged between 15 and 50 years regarding numbers of children ever born and numbers of deceased children. When classified by the women's age, these numbers facilitate the computation of mean numbers of children ever born, mean numbers of children surviving and mean proportions of dead children.[29]

Of all the children that were ever born to women aged 15 years and older (547,561), 96% (525,522) were still alive and 22,039 children had died (Table 6.4.1).

Table 6.4.1: Female population aged 15 and older by number of children ever born, number of children dead, and number of children still alive, Solomon Islands: 2019

Age of women	Total number of women	Total number of children ever born alive			Total number of children dead			Total number of children still alive		
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	**223,679**	**547,561**	**284,633**	**262,928**	**22,039**	**12,338**	**9,701**	**525,522**	**272,295**	**253,227**
15 - 19	37,602	2,908	1,535	1,373	85	46	39	2,823	1,489	1,334
20 - 24	32,756	21,682	11,348	10,334	547	319	228	21,135	11,029	10,106
25 - 29	26,744	42,348	22,034	20,314	1,106	615	491	41,242	21,419	19,823
30 - 34	26,672	69,792	36,100	33,692	1,852	1,007	845	67,940	35,093	32,847
35 - 39	22,730	74,559	38,836	35,723	2,214	1,259	955	72,345	37,577	34,768
40 - 44	19,312	74,650	38,523	36,127	2,374	1,309	1,065	72,276	37,214	35,062
45 - 49	16,028	65,894	34,305	31,589	2,283	1,318	965	63,611	32,987	30,624
50 - 54	12,343	53,972	28,110	25,862	2,304	1,280	1,024	51,668	26,830	24,838
55 - 59	9,079	42,443	21,874	20,569	2,066	1,125	941	40,377	20,749	19,628
60 - 64	6,591	31,576	16,634	14,942	1,855	1,068	787	29,721	15,566	14,155
65 - 69	5,506	27,286	14,353	12,933	1,654	934	720	25,632	13,419	12,213
70 - 74	3,515	17,692	9,278	8,414	1,342	743	599	16,350	8,535	7,815
75 - 79	4,801	22,759	11,703	11,056	2,357	1,315	1,042	20,402	10,388	10,014

[29] Estimating child mortality from information on children ever born and children surviving (Brass (1964, United Nations 1983). This was based on a procedure to convert proportions of dead children experienced by women in age groups 15-19, 20-24 etc into estimates of the probability of a child dying (xq0) before attaining certain exact age (i.e. before ages 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 15 and 20). The finding showed that the reported proportions of dead children were primarily a function of the age pattern of fertility of women, and more specifically of the mean age at childbearing. Depending on the mean age at childbearing, a set of multipliers were derived to facilitate conversion of observed proportions of dead children in each age group of women into life table probabilities of dying. Later, Coale and Trussell (1974) derived new sets of multipliers using a wider range of empirical evidence to underpin the values of which multipliers were being applied. The assumption of the Brass method of constant fertility and mortality can be relaxed if the rate of mortality decline is known and more or less constant over time. If so, the different probabilities of dying that are estimated can be exactly located in historical time so that a series of estimates of the IMR and, by extrapolation, e(0) can be deduced. It had been found that the probabilities of dying 2q0, 3q0 and 5q0 were most reliable, and that these values were taken to estimate the mortality in early childhood, notably the IMR.

The proportion of surviving females was higher than that of males (Table 6.4.2). While 96.3% of all female children ever born were still alive, only 95.6% of all male children had survived.

Table 6.4.2: Female population aged 15 and older by proportion of children ever born and still alive, and proportion now dead, Solomon Islands: 2019

Age of women	Total number of women	Proportion of children ever born still alive (%)			Proportion of children ever born now dead (%)		
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	**223,679**	**96.0**	**95.7**	**96.3**	**4.0**	**4.3**	**3.7**
15 - 19	37,602	97.1	97.0	97.2	2.9	3.0	2.8
20 - 24	32,756	97.5	97.2	97.8	2.5	2.8	2.2
25 - 29	26,744	97.4	97.2	97.6	2.6	2.8	2.4
30 - 34	26,672	97.3	97.2	97.5	2.7	2.8	2.5
35 - 39	22,730	97.0	96.8	97.3	3.0	3.2	2.7
40 - 44	19,312	96.8	96.6	97.1	3.2	3.4	2.9
45 - 49	16,028	96.5	96.2	96.9	3.5	3.8	3.1
50 - 54	12,343	95.7	95.4	96.0	4.3	4.6	4.0
55 - 59	9,079	95.1	94.9	95.4	4.9	5.1	4.6
60 - 64	6,591	94.1	93.6	94.7	5.9	6.4	5.3
65 - 69	5,506	93.9	93.5	94.4	6.1	6.5	5.6
70 - 74	3,515	92.4	92.0	92.9	7.6	8.0	7.1
75+	4,801	91.2	88.8	90.6	10.4	11.2	9.4

The proportion of surviving children decreases with the age of mothers (Table 6.4.2 and Fig.6.4.1). While 97.5% of all children that were ever born to women now aged 20–24 were still alive, only 96.5% of children born to women now aged 45–49 were still alive, and 91.2% of children born to women now aged 75 years and older remained alive.

This general trend is explained by the fact that as the age of mothers increases, so does the age of her children; the proportion of birth cohorts that have died rises with an increase in the age of mothers.

Figure 6.4.1: Proportion of children ever born and still alive by sex and by age of mother, Solomon Islands: 2019

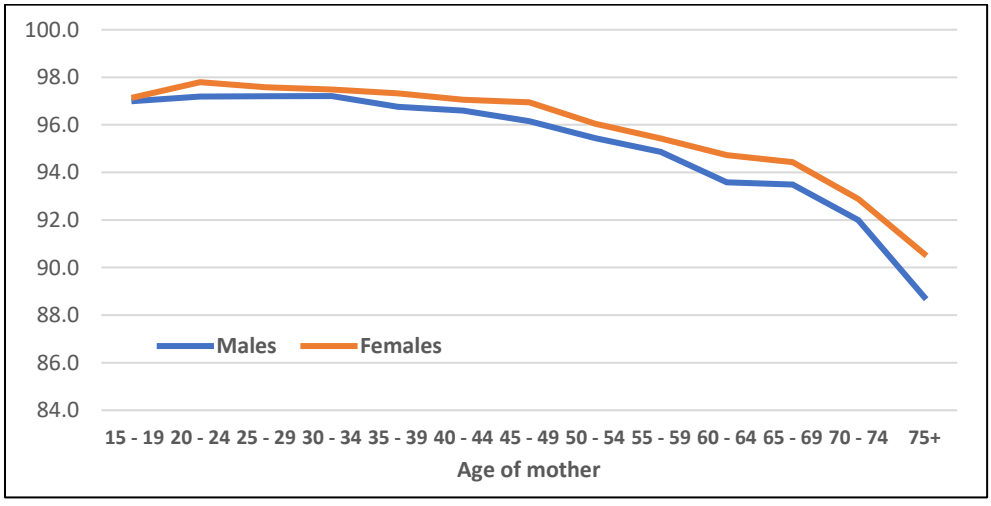


Table 6.4.3: Child mortality indicators, Solomon Islands: 2019

Indicator	1999			2009			2019		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Infant mortality rate (IMR) [1]	28	29	26	22	24	20	24	27	21
Child mortality rate (4q1) [2]	7	7	6	6	7	4	7	7	6
Under-5 mortality rate (q5) [3]	34	36	32	28	31	25	30	34	27

[1] = the number of deaths of children under one year of age per 1,000 live births
[2] = the probability of dying between age 1 and age 5 (per 1,000)
[3] = the probability of dying between birth and age 5(per 1,000)

Using the above census data on children ever born and children still living (by age group of mother), mortality indices were derived using the United Nations software package MORTPAK4.1, procedure QFIVE, and the assumption that the Coale-Demeny North model life tables resembles most closely the empirical mortality pattern of the Solomon Islands population[30]. See also Appendix 4.

The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) in 2019 was estimated at 27 and 21 for males and females, respectively. The moderate increase from 2009 rates suggests that more work is required to reverse this trend. However, both the 2009 and 2019 IMRs have improved compared to 1999 when the IMR was estimated at 29 and 26 for males and females (Table 6.4.3).[31]

In general, the Solomon Islands have come a long way in improving child mortality rates when considering that the IMR in the 1960s was estimated at over 120 infant deaths per 1,000 live births (See Appendix 5 on IMR trend from 1961 to 2029)[32]

Child mortality, the probability of dying between age 1 and age 5, was estimated at 7 male deaths and 6 female deaths per 1,000 people of that age in 2019, showing no significant change since 1999 although an increase in child mortality is observed compared to 2009. Under 5 mortality, the probability of dying between birth and age 5, was estimated at 34 for males and 27 for females per 1,000 in 2019.

[30] A more accurate estimate of mortality depends on maternal age. The estimates for women aged between the 5-year age groups from 20-34 years were more reliable than women aged 15-19 years. The latter group often underreport their children who were not born alive. Hence, the estimated mortality rates for age group 20-24 was applied in the majority of provinces. In Rennell-Bellona, the age group 30-34 years was applied.
[31] These 1999 estimates were derived when applying the same indirect method to the 1999 data as presented above. Note that the final estimates of the IMR for 1999 were 67 and 65 for males and females, based on an alternative method (further described in the 1999 census report). In retrospect, these estimates seem out of line compared to results of censuses taken before 1999 and 2009. The 2009 estimates are furthermore consistent with estimates derived from the 2007 Solomon Islands Demographic and Health Survey (DHS). The 2015 DHS IMR was 19 deaths per 1,000 live births
[32] Appendix 5 was sourced from the 2009 national population analysis (vol 2) report.

Figure 6.4.2: Infant mortality, child mortality and under-5 mortality rates by province, Solomon Islands: 2019

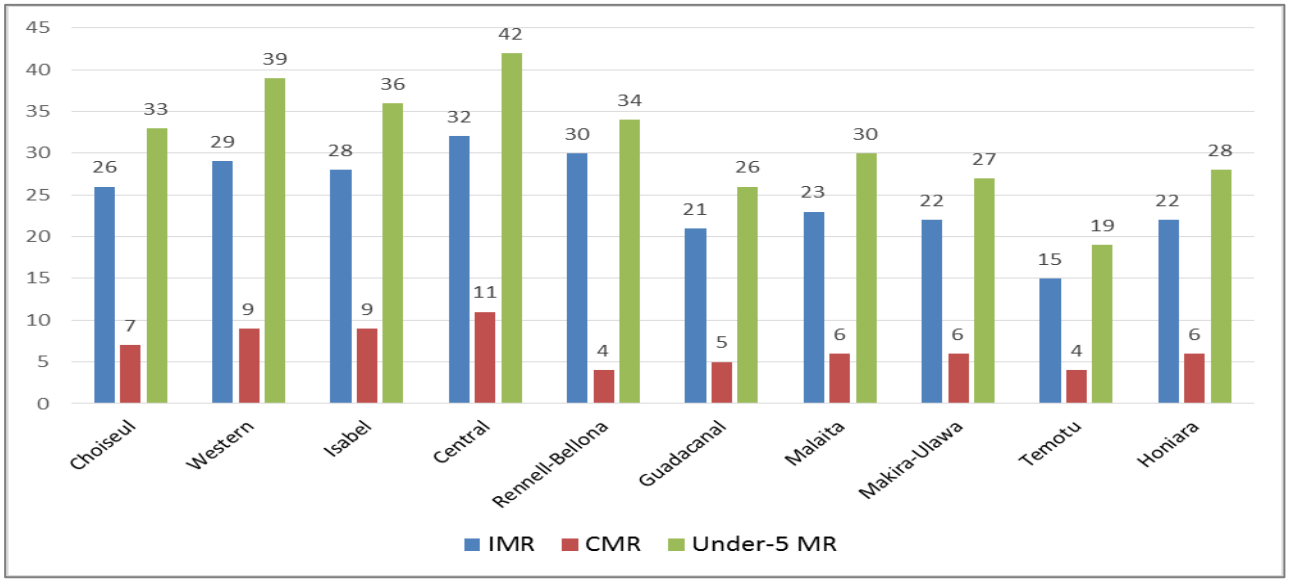


Figure 6.4.2 show the variations in IMR, CMR, and under-5 MR per 1,000 across provinces. Central province has the highest IMR (42), CMR (11) and under-5 MR (42). There were provinces that reached similar CMRs: Western and Isabel with CMR estimated at 9; Malaita, Makira-Ulawa, and Honiara with CMRs estimated at 6; and Rennell-Bellona and Temotu had similar CMRs estimated at 4.

6.5 Adult mortality

- Adult mortality levels can be estimated from responses to the question
- whether a respondent's mother or father was still alive (orphanhood), and
- Whether a respondent's marital status was "widowed" (widowhood).

6.5.1 Orphanhood

As the previous census, the 2019 Census questionnaire included questions on whether respondents' mothers and fathers were still alive. The answers of persons in the age range 15-54 years to these questions can yield indirect estimates of adult mortality[33].

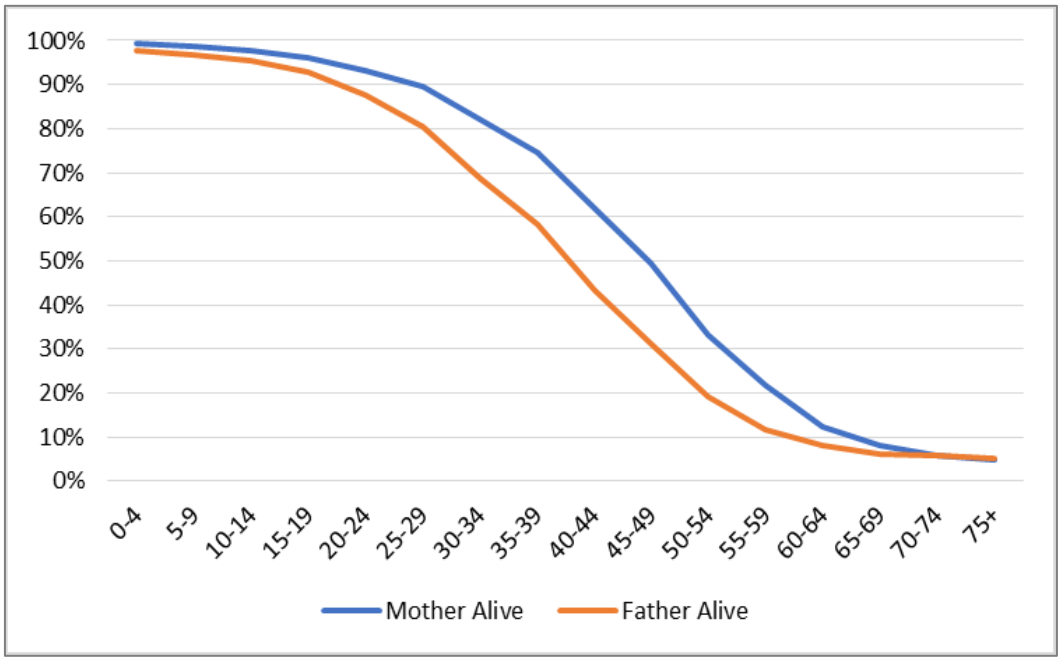
From the total population of 720,956, 73.4% persons responded that their father was still alive (529,063 people). This compares to 579,627 (80.4%) persons who responded that their mother was still alive.

[33] Estimating adult mortality from orphanhood data.

Table 6.5.1: Population by 5-year age group and whether biological father or mother is still alive, Solomon Islands: 2019

Age Group	Number of respondents	Father still alive		Mother still alive	
		Yes	No	Yes	No
Total	**720,956**	**529,063**	**191,893**	**579,627**	**141,329**
0-4	89,895	87,981	1,914	89,205	690
5-9	90,472	87,621	2,851	89,209	1,263
10-14	84,432	80,490	3,942	82,418	2,014
15 – 19	76,713	71,123	5,590	73,709	3,004
20 – 24	65,649	57,414	8,235	61,237	4,412
25 – 29	54,096	43,508	10,588	48,412	5,684
30 – 34	53,373	36,663	16,710	43,727	9,646
35 – 39	46,329	26,927	19,402	34,500	11,829
40 – 44	40,083	17,345	22,738	24,855	15,228
45 – 49	33,557	10,534	23,023	16,628	16,929
50 – 54	25,374	4,853	20,521	8,429	16,945
55 – 59	18,909	2,181	16,728	4,124	14,785
60 – 64	13,703	1,114	12,589	1,670	12,033
65 – 69	10,946	656	10,290	883	10,063
70+	17,425	653	16,772	621	16,804

Figure 6.5.1: Proportion of respondent's father or mother still alive, Solomon Islands: 2019



From Table 6.5.1 and Figure 6.5.1, it can be seen that the number and proportion of respondent's mother still alive is higher than that of the fathers at any age of respondent except for 70 years and over. There are two possible explanations:

- Females (mothers) usually live longer lives than males (fathers); and
- Fathers are usually older than mothers, because of their age difference at marriage. In chapter 8 (Table 8.2.1), it was estimated that the average age at marriage (SMAM) is about 26.5 and 22.8 years for males and females respectively; an age difference of almost 3.7 years between spouses.

Table 6.5.1.1 and Figure 6.5.1.1 below show the life expectancy at age 20 at the national and provincial levels estimated using the data on orphanhood. This measure is then used in deriving adult mortality rates using the software MORTPAK, procedure ORPHAN[34].

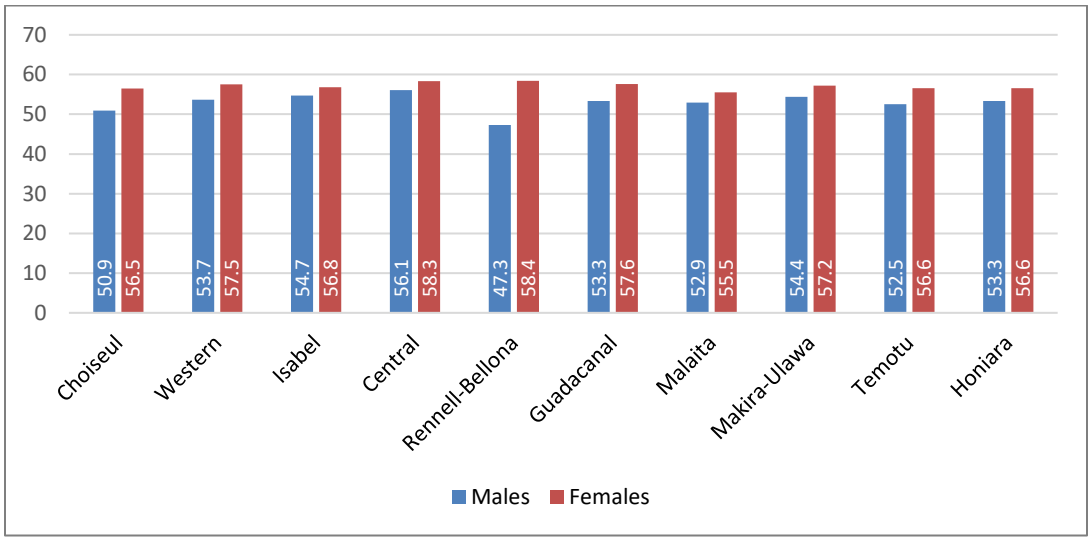
Life expectancy at age 20 - the number of years a 20-year old person can on average expect to live – was 53.4 years for males and 56.8 years for females. The higher female life expectancy corresponds to the higher proportion of respondents mothers (females) still alive than their fathers (males).

Table 6.5.1.1: Life expectancy at age 20 (in years) Solomon Island: 1999, 2009 and 2019

Census year	Life Expectancy at age 20 (e20) *		
	Males	Females	Total
2019	53.4	56.8	55.1
2009	50.2	55.5	52.9
1999	50.7	53.2	52.0

**Based on the orphanhood method, MORTPAK's procedure ORPHAN*

Figure 6.5.1.1: Life expectancy at age 20 (e(20)) by province and sex, Solomon Islands: 2019



[34] Note that the mean age at child bearing (MAC), a data input for this model was estimated from the adjusted ASFR generated from the Trussell indirect technique for fertility estimation (PAS software). The MAC-value for males was adjusted by the age difference of the calculated SMANs.

6.5.2 Widowhood

From Table 6.5.2 and Figure 6.5.2 it can be seen that the number and proportion of females widowed is higher than that of males. There are two possible explanations:

- Females usually live longer lives than males (her spouse), and
- Males are usually older than females, because of their age difference at marriage, as described above (orphanhood).

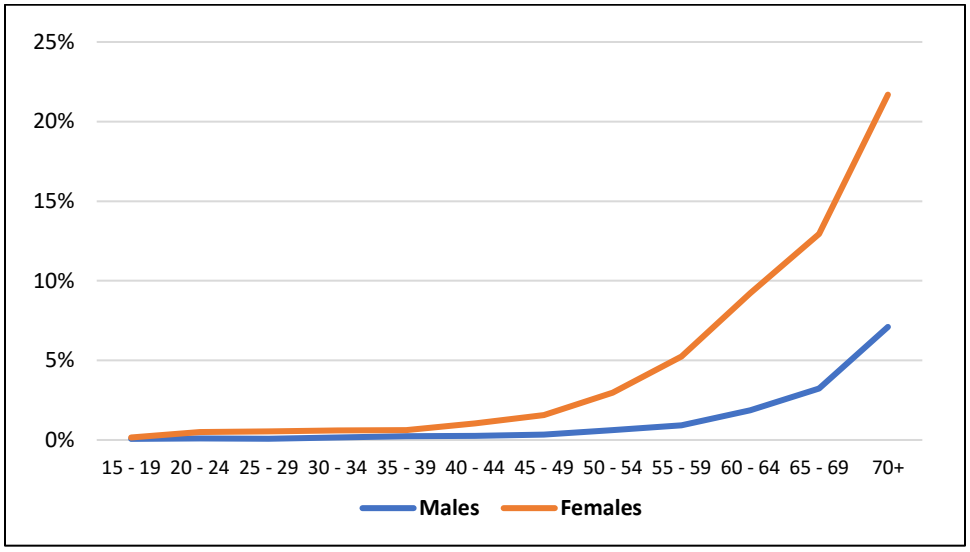
Information about marital status (widowhood) provides insights into mortality differentials between males and females, as the large difference in widowed males and females reflect lower mortality rates (higher life expectancies) for females than males.

Given that the widowhood method cannot be applied to both males and females, it was decided that the orphanhood method be applied using the same method for both sexes.

Table 6.5.2: Population 15 years and older by sex and widowed, Solomon Islands: 2019

Age Group	Total			Widowed		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	456,157	232,099	224,058	6,555	1,386	5,169
15-19	76,713	39,111	37,602	86	27	59
20-24	65,649	32,893	32,756	194	29	165
25-29	54,096	27,352	26,744	164	21	143
30-34	53,373	26,701	26,672	200	42	158
35-39	46,329	23,599	22,730	195	54	141
40-44	40,083	20,771	19,312	256	53	203
45-49	33,557	17,529	16,028	310	59	251
50-54	25,374	13,031	12,343	447	81	366
55-59	18,909	9,830	9,079	567	91	476
60-64	13,703	7,112	6,591	741	133	608
65-69	10,946	5,440	5,506	889	176	713
70+	17,425	8,730	8,695	2,506	620	1,886

Figure 6.5.2: Proportion of population 15 years and older by sex and widowed, Solomon Islands 2019



6.6 Complete life table

Although estimates of childhood and adult mortality are valuable in their own right, they are also necessary inputs for constructing life tables for the Solomon Islands population. Life tables are essential to make population projections based on the cohort component methodology. Once again, the UN software package MORTPAK, procedure COMBIN, was used to calculate a complete life table for males and females. The following inputs shown in Table 6.6.1 were applied.

Table 6.6.1: Child and adult mortality indicators used to calculate the complete life table, Solomon Islands: 2019

Province by Sex		IMR (qo)	CMR (1q4)	I(1)	I(5)	E(20)
Solomon Islands	Males	27	7	97,300	96,619	53.4
	Females	21	6	97,900	97,313	56.8
Urban	Males	29	8	97,100	96,323	53.4
	Females	16	5	98,400	97,908	57.0
Rural	Males	26	7	97,400	96,718	53.4
	Females	22	7	97,800	97,115	56.6
Choisuel	Males	26	6	97,400	96,816	50.9
	Females	26	8	97,400	96,621	56.5
West	Males	35	11	96,500	95,439	53.7
	Females	24	7	97,600	96,917	57.5
Isabel	Males	31	9	96,900	96,028	54.7
	Females	24	7	97,600	96,917	56.8
Central	Males	29	8	97,100	96,323	56.1
	Females	34	14	96,600	95,248	58.3
Rennell Bellona	Males	54	9	94,600	93,749	47.3
	Females	5	1	99,500	99,401	58.4
Guadalcanal	Males	24	6	97,600	97,014	53.3
	Females	17	5	98,300	97,809	57.6
Malaita	Males	25	6	97,500	96,915	52.9
	Females	21	6	97,900	97,313	55.5
Makira-Ulawa	Males	23	5	97,700	97,212	54.4
	Females	20	6	98,000	97,412	57.2
Temotu	Males	8	2	99,200	99,002	52.5
	Females	22	7	97,800	97,115	56.6
Honiara	Males	29	8	97,100	96,323	53.3
	Females	14	4	98,600	98,206	56.6

l(1) = The probability of surviving to age 1 (times 100,000) in the population under study = 100000 * [1 – q(0)]

l(5) = The probability of surviving to age 5 (times 100,000) in the population under study = 100000 * [1 – q(0)] * [1 – 1q4)]

Table 6.6.2: Abridged life table for males Solomon Islands: 2019

Age	m(x,n)	q(x,n)	l(x)	d(x,n)	L(x,n)	S(x,n)	T(x)	e(x)
0	0.0277	0.0270	100,000	2,700	97,624	0.9703	6,999,497	70.0
1	0.0018	0.0070	97,300	681	387,546	0.9932	6,901,873	70.9
5	0.0010	0.0050	96,619	485	481,883	0.9956	6,514,326	67.4
10	0.0007	0.0037	96,134	355	479,784	0.9947	6,032,444	62.8
15	0.0015	0.0077	95,779	734	477,226	0.9906	5,552,660	58.0
20	0.0022	0.0108	95,046	1,028	472,734	0.9889	5,075,434	53.4
25	0.0022	0.0111	94,018	1,045	467,496	0.9884	4,602,700	49.0
30	0.0024	0.0121	92,973	1,127	462,087	0.9873	4,135,204	44.5
35	0.0027	0.0135	91,846	1,243	456,205	0.9849	3,673,117	40.0
40	0.0034	0.0171	90,603	1,550	449,300	0.9804	3,216,911	35.5
45	0.0046	0.0228	89,053	2,032	440,489	0.9710	2,767,611	31.1
50	0.0074	0.0361	87,022	3,144	427,708	0.9579	2,327,122	26.7
55	0.0100	0.0489	83,877	4,104	409,713	0.9382	1,899,414	22.6
60	0.0161	0.0777	79,774	6,195	384,396	0.9021	1,489,701	18.7
65	0.0259	0.1218	73,578	8,964	346,762	0.8479	1,105,305	15.0
70	0.0415	0.1886	64,614	12,188	294,027	0.7638	758,543	11.7
75	0.0687	0.2942	52,426	15,426	224,570	0.6410	464,516	8.9
80	0.1127	0.4385	37,000	16,224	143,943	0.4834	239,946	6.5
85	0.1832	0.6135	20,776	12,745	69,589	0.3161	96,002	4.6
90	0.2822	0.7732	8,030	6,209	22,000	0.1815	26,413	3.3
95	0.4033	0.8841	1,821	1,610	3,993	0.0952	4,413	2.4
100	0.5022	…	211	211	420	…	420	2.0

Table 6.6.3: Abridged life table for females Solomon Islands: 2019

Age	m(x,n)	q(x,n)	l(x)	d(x,n)	L(x,n)	S(x,n)	T(x)	e(x)
0	0.021	0.021	100000.000	2100.000	98,116	0.977	7,419,580	74.2
1	0.002	0.006	97900.000	587.000	390,185	0.995	7,321,464	74.8
5	0.001	0.003	97313.000	256.640	485,923	0.998	6,931,279	71.2
10	0.000	0.002	97056.360	198.964	484,784	0.997	6,445,356	66.4
15	0.001	0.004	96857.397	427.284	483,325	0.994	5,960,571	61.5
20	0.001	0.007	96430.113	654.687	480,573	0.993	5,477,246	56.8
25	0.001	0.007	95775.426	661.127	477,239	0.993	4,996,673	52.2
30	0.002	0.008	95114.299	728.853	473,782	0.992	4,519,434	47.5
35	0.002	0.009	94385.446	818.198	469,943	0.990	4,045,652	42.9
40	0.002	0.011	93567.248	1042.466	465,351	0.987	3,575,709	38.2
45	0.003	0.015	92524.782	1424.271	459,305	0.980	3,110,359	33.6
50	0.005	0.026	91100.511	2349.625	450,015	0.970	2,651,054	29.1
55	0.007	0.035	88750.886	3137.332	436,406	0.954	2,201,039	24.8
60	0.012	0.058	85613.554	4981.533	416,538	0.925	1,764,633	20.6
65	0.020	0.094	80632.021	7603.403	385,400	0.881	1,348,096	16.7
70	0.032	0.149	73028.618	10877.794	339,520	0.810	962,696	13.2
75	0.054	0.241	62150.824	14948.173	274,952	0.700	623,176	10.0
80	0.091	0.372	47202.651	17578.484	192,507	0.550	348,224	7.4
85	0.153	0.546	29624.167	16171.605	105,843	0.377	155,717	5.3
90	0.243	0.720	13452.562	9688.262	39,855	0.225	49,874	3.7
95	0.358	0.853	3764.299	3211.490	8,966	0.105	10,018	2.7
100	0.525	…	552.809	552.809	1,052	…	1,052	1.9

Brief explanation of a life table (Tables 6.6.2 and Table 6.6.3)

A life table is used to simulate the lifetime mortality experience of a population. It does so by taking that population's age-specific death rates and applying them to a hypothetical population of 100,000 people born at the same time. For each year on the life table, death inevitably thins the hypothetical population's ranks until, in the bottom row of statistics, even the oldest people die.

Column "m(x,n)" shows the proportion of each age group dying in each age interval. These data are based on the observed mortality experience of a population. Column "l(x)" shows the number of people alive at the beginning of each age interval, starting with 100,000 at birth. Column "d(x,n)" shows the number who would die within each age interval. Column "L(x,n)" shows the total number of person-years that would be lived within each age interval. Column "T(x)" shows the total number of years of life to be shared by the population in the age interval and in all subsequent intervals. This measure takes into account the frequency of deaths that will occur in this and all subsequent intervals. As age increases and the population shrinks, the total person- years that the survivors have to live necessarily diminish.

Life expectancy is shown in Column "e(x)" - the average number of years remaining for a person at a given age interval.

The first value in column "e(x)" represents life expectancy at birth.
The first value in column "q(x,n)" is an approximation of the infant mortality rate (IMR). The second value in column "q(x,n)" is an approximation of the child mortality rate.

m(x,n) = age-specific death rate
q(x,n) = the probability of dying between two exact ages l(x) = the number of survivors at exact age x
d(x,n) = the number of deaths between two exact ages, x and x+n
L(x,n) = the number of person-years that would be lived within the indicated age interval (x and x+n) by the cohort of 100,000 births assumed.
S(x,n) = probability of surviving between two exact ages, x and x+n
T(x) = total number of person-years that would be lived after the beginning of the indicated age interval by the cohort of 100,000 births assumed.
e(x) = expectation of life from age x

From the above life tables, the annual number of deaths by age and sex can be estimated by multiplying the age-specific-death rates – the m(x) values in column 2 of Tables 6.6.2 and 6.6.3 corresponding to males and females by the male and female population size of each respective age group. The results are displayed in Table 6.6.4 below.

Table 6.6.4: Estimated number of deaths, and crude death rates (CDR) based on life table's age-specific death rates [m(x)] and enumerated population size, Solomon Islands: 2019

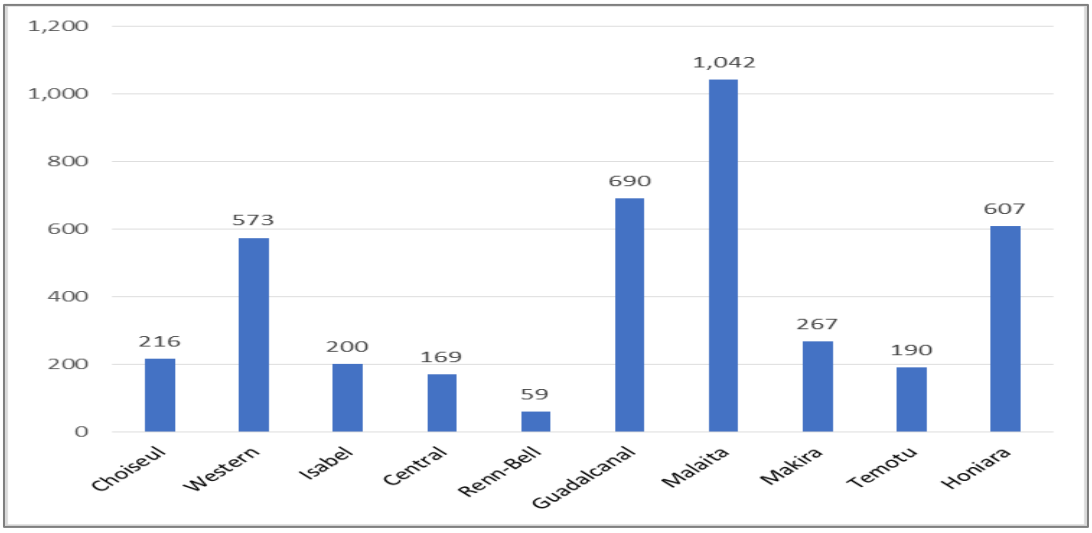
Age group	Enumerated population			m(n,x)		Adjusted Number of Deaths		
	Total	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Total
0	17,115	8,827	8,288	0.0277	0.0214	244	177	422
1-4	72,780	37,781	34,999	0.0018	0.0015	66	53	119
5-9	90,472	46,876	43,596	0.0010	0.0005	47	23	70
10-14	84,432	43,813	40,619	0.0007	0.0004	32	17	49
15 - 19	76,713	39,111	37,602	0.0015	0.0009	60	33	93
20 - 24	65,649	32,893	32,756	0.0022	0.0014	72	45	116
25 - 29	54,096	27,352	26,744	0.0022	0.0014	61	37	98
30 - 34	53,373	26,701	26,672	0.0024	0.0015	65	41	106
35 - 39	46,329	23,599	22,730	0.0027	0.0017	64	40	104
40 - 44	40,083	20,771	19,312	0.0034	0.0022	72	43	115
45 - 49	33,557	17,529	16,028	0.0046	0.0031	81	50	131
50 - 54	25,374	13,031	12,343	0.0074	0.0052	96	64	160
55 - 59	18,909	9,830	9,079	0.0100	0.0072	98	65	164
60 - 64	13,703	7,112	6,591	0.0161	0.0120	115	79	193
65 - 69	10,946	5,440	5,506	0.0259	0.0197	141	109	249
70 - 74	6,951	3,436	3,515	0.0415	0.0320	142	113	255
75 - 79	4,773	2,387	2,386	0.0687	0.0544	164	130	294
80 - 84	2,350	1,147	1,203	0.1127	0.0913	129	110	239
85 - 89	1,229	658	571	0.1832	0.1528	121	87	208
90 - 94	732	385	347	0.2822	0.2431	109	84	193
95 - 99	681	347	334	0.4033	0.3582	140	120	260
100+	709	370	339	0.5022	0.5255	186	178	364
Total	**720,956**	**369,396**	**351,560**			**2,305**	**1,697**	**4,002**
CDR*						**6.2**	**4.8**	**5.6**

** CDR = Crude Death Rate*

The adjusted number of deaths is 4,002 at the national level, reflecting an annual increase of 3.5% since 2009. Males outnumber their female counterparts with annual deaths of 2,305 and 1,697 respectively.

Similar estimation was done at the provincial level with Malaita (1, 042) recording the highest number of deaths followed by Guadalcanal (690) and Honiara (607) with the least deaths reported in Rennell-Bellona (59) (Figure 6.6.1)

Figure 6.6.1: Adjusted number of deaths by province, Solomon Islands 2019



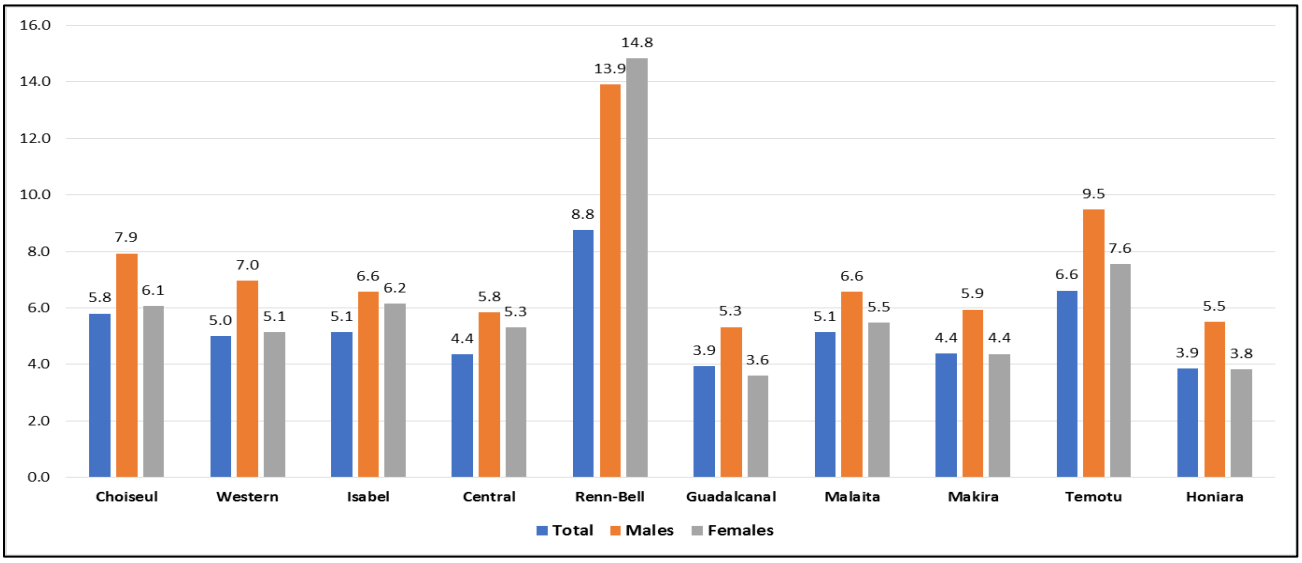
**Renn-Bell = Rennell Bellona; Makira = Makira Ulawa*

The crude death rate (CDR) for the Solomon Islands is calculated as follows:

CDR = 4,002 / 720,956 x 1,000 = **5.6** (5.6 deaths per 1,000 population in 2019)

At the national level, the CDR has been stable from 5.5 in 2009 to 5.6 deaths (per 1,000 population) in 2019. The CDR for males is 6.2, higher than the females with 4.8. Figure 6.6.2 below show the provincial CDR by sex with Rennell-Bellona recording the highest CDR - although the province has the least number of deaths and the least number of people (population) compared to other provinces hence the latter (denominator) driving up the CDR. In all provinces, the CDR for males was higher than the females.

Figure 6.6.2: Crude death rates (CDR) by sex and province, Solomon Islands: 2019



**Renn-Bell = Rennell Bellona; Makira = Makira Ulawa*

It should be noted that the findings especially those based on life table functions be interpreted with caution as they are based on small populations and on assumptions that may be invalid in some cases.

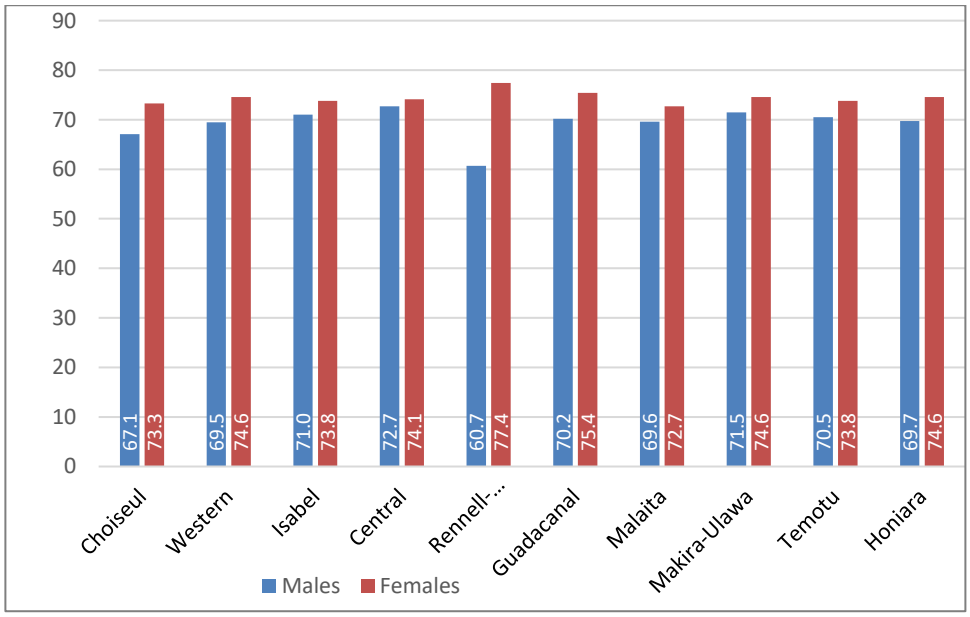
Table 6.6.5: Life expectancy at birth in years (e0), Solomon Islands: 1999, 2009 and 2019

Census year	Life Expectancy at birth (e0)		
	Males	Females	Total
2019	70.0	74.2	72.1
2009	66.2	73.1	69.3
1999	67.0	70.2	68.6

The above Table 6.6.5 clearly show more positive mortality indicators for females than for males, with females living longer, on average about four years longer, than males in 2019. Life expectancy at birth has progressively improved since 1999.

At the provincial level (Figure 6.6.3), while the majority of provinces show females outliving their male counterparts by 3 to 6 years, Rennell-Bellona show females living longer by about 17 years on average, and Central province show the difference of life span of 1 year apart among sexes.

Figure 6.6.3: Life expectancy at birth (e(0) by Sex and Province, Solomon Islands 2019



The findings are supported by the following data:

- the proportion of surviving female children was higher than males (Fig.6.4.1; Table 6.4.2)
- more mothers than fathers survive to older ages (Table 6.5.1; Fig 6.5.1)
- the proportion of widowed females was considerably higher than that of widowed males (Table 6.5.2; Fig 6.5.2), indicating earlier death of male spouses.

It is also important to point out that the findings especially those based on life table functions, should be interpreted with caution given some relatively small populations and on assumptions that may be invalid in some cases.

Similar to the intercensal period 1999-2009, the overall level of mortality (life expectancy at birth) increased for both males and females during the intercensal period 2009-2019. Life expectancy at birth increased from 69.3 years to 72.1 years. Despite an improvement on life expectancy, females tend to live longer than men. The possible reasons for men relate to increases in life style diseases such as unhealthy eating habits, smoking and excessive alcohol consumption, and/or a lack of regular physical exercise etc.

7. MIGRATION

7.1 Migration

Migration is also a measure of population change similar to fertility and mortality discussed in the earlier chapters. It is a measure of the natural growth rate that takes the starting population, usually a previous census, and adding the births in the period between the two censuses and subtracting the deaths to get an estimate of the rate of numeric growth. This growth rate is than determined by dividing the number of years between the two events.

There are two types of migration that are often studied. International migration, which is usually expressed as emigration for those leaving a country and immigration for the receiving country. Internal migration refers to migration within a country and might be rural to urban migration or might be between rural or urban areas. We usually express internal migration as out-migration for the sending province or urban area and in-migration for the receiving area or province.

International migration refers to people who cross national boundaries to move to another country. Besides this spatial consideration, time also plays a major role in the analysis of international migration. We usually regard people as migrants only after spending a minimum period in their country of destination. Usually, the minimum time required to qualify, as a migrant is half a year in country, and sometimes even a full year. We do not consider people coming for a brief visit to be migrants - we consider them as visitors or tourists.

Intent is also of crucial importance as migration usually involves a change of a person's permanent residential address in pursuit of employment or educational opportunities.

The need to consider time and intent highlights one of the key problems concerning migration. We can only establish whether a particular person qualifies as a migrant only after a certain period, usually at least six months, in order to determine whether the arriving and departing person qualifies as a visitor or a migrant.

This chapter will firstly cover internal migration and then discuss international migration. It should be noted that Solomon Islands did not have an active colonization and colonial influence on international migration compared with other pacific island countries such as Samoa, Fiji, and Niue for the British, and Palau, FSM, and Marshall Islands for the Americans. Hence, international immigration is almost non-existent. Moreover, Solomon Islands is not considered a migrating country for those seeking to migrate to, nor a country with a record of people migrating out permanently.

The 2019 census included three questions that provide a sign of the level of migration. Questions were asked about a respondent's:

- usual place of residence,
- residence five years prior to the census, and
- place of birth.

7.2 Birth Place

Table 7.2.1 and Figure 7.2.1 show the movements between province of birth and province at the time of the 2019 Census. The total of 717,000 excludes the people born outside the Solomon Islands because of the inside observations for point-to-point migration. The first column provides the number of people born in each province, with some of those born in a Honiara providing the province where the mother was living before she came to Honiara to give birth. The other columns cover current residence. Thus, the 27,000 in the cell for Choiseul birthplace and Choiseul residence shows the number of people who were born in Choiseul and were living there at the time of the census, even if they went some place else after birth but returned before the census.

The diagonal line, starting with Choiseul-Choiseul and ending with Honiara-Honiara provides the numbers of people born in that province and also living there at the time of the census. The last column and bottom row provide the percentage of the population of the province who never moved.

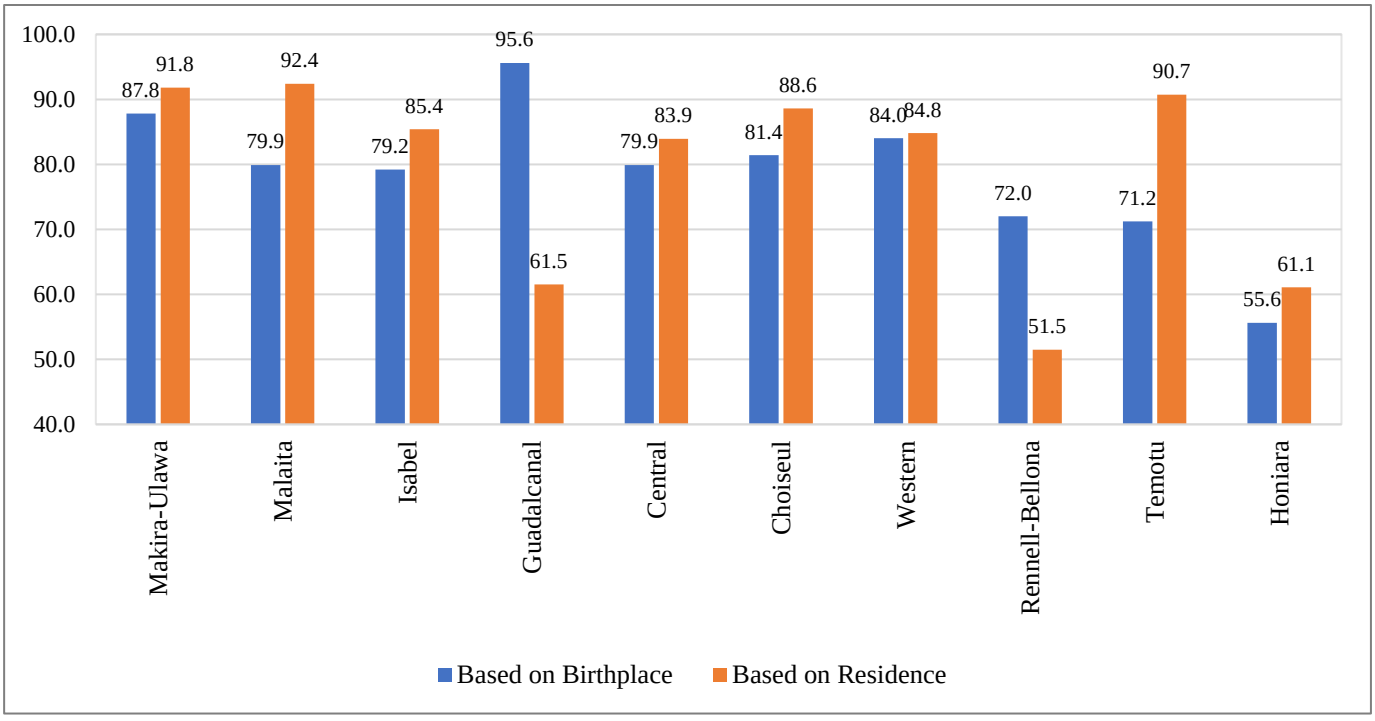
The numbers above the diagonal line show those who were born in one province but had moved to another province before the census. Thus, in the third column for Choiseul births, we find about 2,400 people who were born in Choiseul province but were living in Western province at the time of the census. We can also see movement in the other direction. In the column for Choiseul residence, we see 2,000 people who were born in Western province but had moved to Choiseul by the time of the census. If we subtract, we find that Western province gained about 400 more people from Choiseul than it gave to Choiseul. This is internal migration.

Honiara had the highest outmigration into Guadalcanal (34,700) and Malaita had the highest outmigration into Honiara (24,000) and Guadalcanal (11,700) at the time of the census. Guadalcanal accounted for the highest percent of people who never moved but remained in the province at the time of the census.

Table 7.2.1: Distribution of Person's birthplaces and current residence, Solomon Islands: 2019

Provinces	Total	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell-Bellona	Guadal-canal	Malaita	Makira Ulawa	Temotu	Honiara	% same
Solomon Islands	717,041	30,647	93,471	31,235	30,269	4,099	153,386	172,081	51,540	22,269	128,044	(xx)
Choiseul	33,363	27,149	2,390	141	72	9	1,044	268	65	43	2,182	81.4
Western	94,410	2,028	79,279	536	235	46	3,119	725	310	124	8,008	84
Isabel	33,694	110	546	26,678	258	13	1,485	236	194	37	4,137	79.2
Central	31,790	57	449	326	25,385	48	2,255	375	194	132	2,569	79.9
Rennell -Bellonna	2,932	11	43	11	24	2,110	88	24	13	3	605	72
Guadalcanal	98,725	112	448	250	289	13	94,356	754	192	114	2,197	95.6
Malaita	199,059	241	1,932	400	1,048	66	11,663	159,025	593	136	23,955	79.9
Makira-U	53,869	76	755	205	181	13	1,820	381	47,289	101	3,048	87.8
Temotu	28,353	64	812	232	342	42	2,825	183	577	20,191	3,085	71.2
Honiara	140,846	799	6,817	2,456	2,435	1,739	34,731	10,110	2,113	1,388	78,258	55.6
Percent Same Prov	(xx)	88.6	84.8	85.4	83.9	51.5	61.5	92.4	91.8	90.7	61.1	(xx)

Figure 7.2.1: Percent of persons living in same province as birth, Solomon Islands: 2019



The 2019 Census also asked whether the respondents were born in the ward where they were living. Figure 7.2.2 shows the numbers for each province. About 3 in every 5 people were living in the ward where they were born. Malaita and Choiseul had the highest proportions, at about 3 in every 4 people, and Rennell-Bellona and Temotu had the lowest proportions at about 2 in every 5. About half of those in Western province were born in the ward where they were living.

Figure 7.2.2: Percent of persons living in same ward as birth, Solomon Islands: 2019

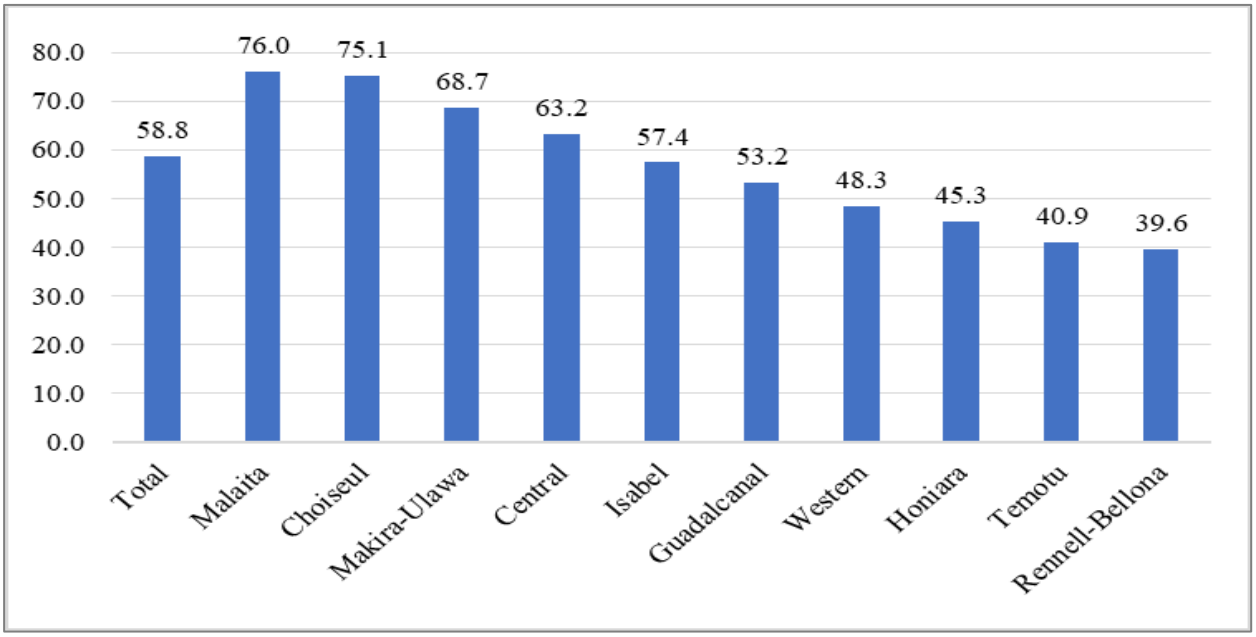
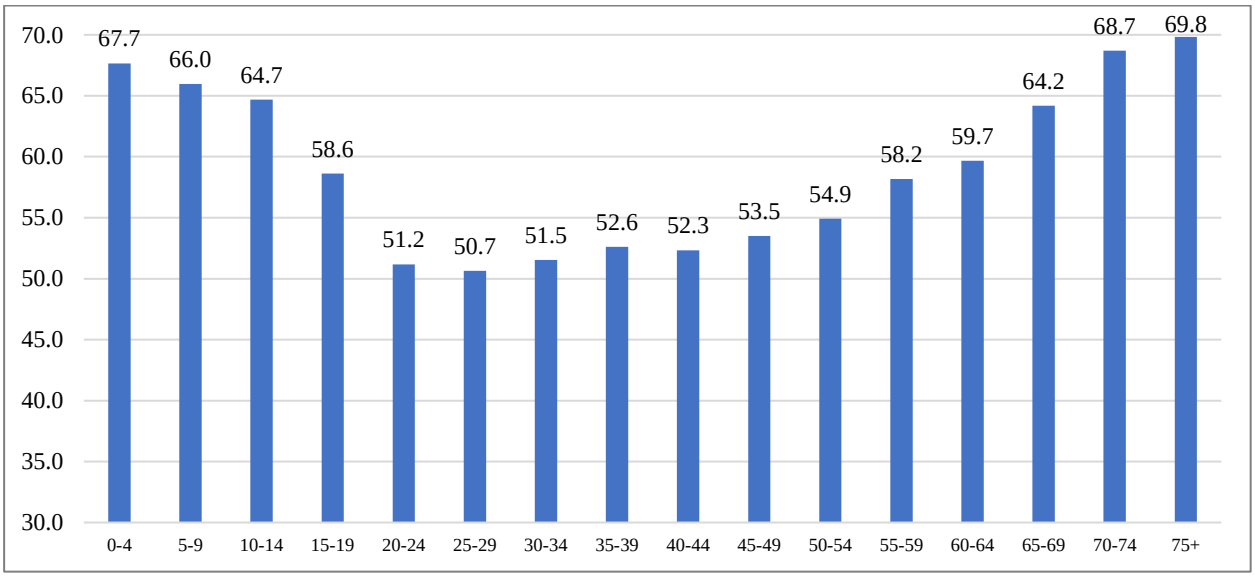


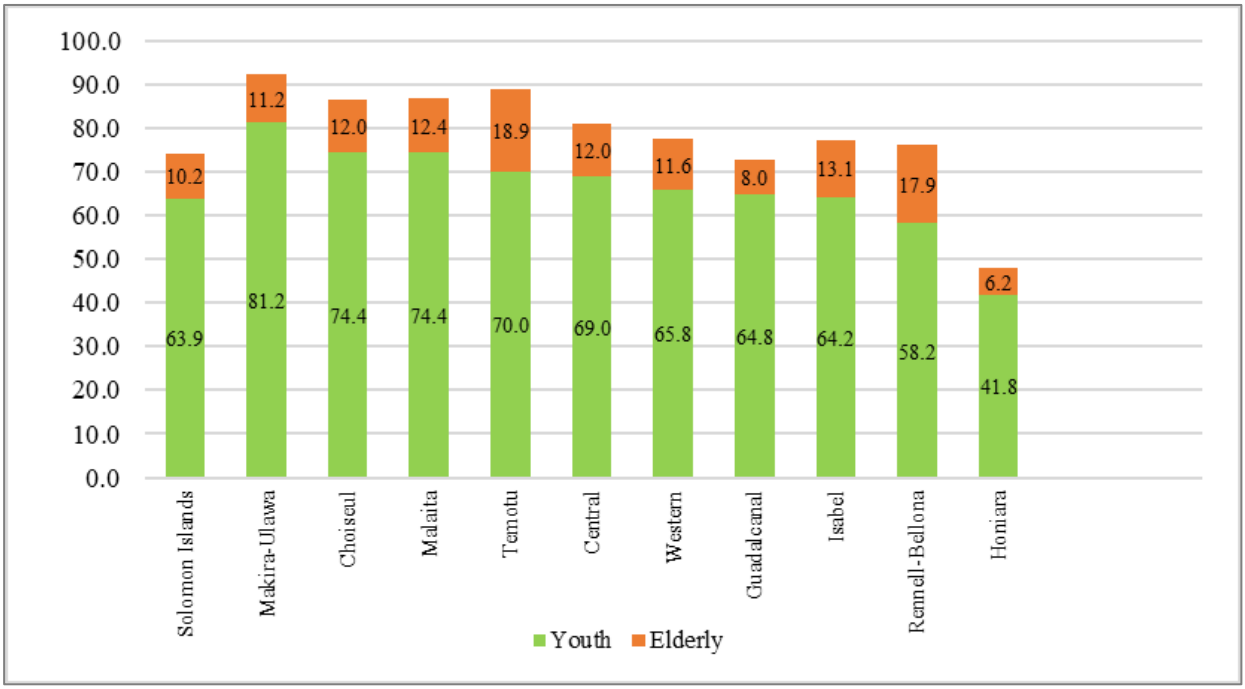
Figure 7.2.3 shows the percentage of people in the 5-year age groups who were living in their ward of birth at the time of the census. As expected, about 2 out of every 3 children under 5 years were living in the same ward as their birth. Subsequent age groups showed a decrease until, for those 20 to 29, where only about half were living in their ward of birth. After that, the rate increased again, as some people returned to their wards or wandering, and stayed there at the time of the census. About the same percentage lived in their wards of birth in the youngest group and in the oldest group.

Figure 7.2.3: Percent of persons living in birth ward by age, Solomon Islands: 2019



All the provinces had dependency ratios for the birthplaces that were less than 100, so in all cases the numbers of likely providers were greater than the youth and aged dependents.[35] Honiara had the lowest ratios because of the migration there for work etc (Figure 7.2.4).

Figure 7.2.4: Dependency ratios by birthplace for provinces, Solomon Islands: 2019



7.3 Usual Residence

For most people, their usual residence is their current residence, but some people were not in their usual residence on the day of enumeration. Again, the diagonal shows those who were in their usual place of residence on census day, and the cells to either side show those who were not in their usual residence, and where their usual residence was located. Again, those whose usual residence was outside the country were excluded, thus the total was less than the total for all persons.

The columns are the current residence and the rows are the usual residence (Table 7.3.1). For Choiseul, 30,150 people had their usual residence in the same province as their current residence. To use the same illustration as above, about 700 people had a usual residence in Choiseul, but were living in Western province at the time of the census. In addition, about 300 people had their usual residence in Western province but were living in Choiseul at the time of the census, a difference of about 400 people.

[35] The dependency ratio for youth includes those under 15 ("youth dependents") in the numerator and the working age population (aged 15 to 64 years of age) in the denominator. The dependency ratio for the elderly includes those over 64 in the numerator and the working age population in the denominator. The main limitation of the dependency ratio is that it only considers age when determining whether a person is economically active, and other factors may determine if a person is economically active aside from age, such as status as a student or disability.

The percentages of those whose usual residence was the same as their current residence at the census are in the last column and last row. The percentages are naturally much higher than for birthplace.

Table 7.3.1: Distribution of person's usual residence and current residence, Solomon Islands: 2019

	Total	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell-Bellona	Guadalcanal	Malaita	Makira-Ulawa	Temotu	Honiara	% same
Solomon Islands	720,755	30,737	94,009	31,406	30,318	4,099	153,996	172,739	51,586	22,319	129,546	(xx)
Choiseul	31,619	30,150	700	45	11	0	243	28	18	6	418	95.4
Western	93,985	282	91,331	143	25	5	749	144	52	10	1,244	97.2
Isabel	32,133	32	104	30,550	74	6	514	59	58	13	723	95.1
Central	30,897	4	98	67	29,710	4	500	73	54	6	381	96.2
Rennell-Bellona	3,968	0	1	4	3	3,809	33	6	6	1	105	96
Guadalcanal	148,334	36	129	111	85	26	146,945	198	72	24	708	99.1
Malaita	176,708	69	424	59	174	6	1,919	171,057	117	18	2,865	96.8
Makira-Ulawa	52,376	22	205	94	21	1	455	71	50,819	10	678	97
Temotu	23,607	8	151	42	28	4	690	32	97	22,137	418	93.8
Honiara	127,128	134	866	291	187	238	1,948	1,071	293	94	122,006	96
Percent Same Prov	(xx)	98.1	97.2	97.3	98	92.9	95.4	99	98.5	99.2	94.2	(xx)

7.4 Residence in 2014

Residence in 2014 provides a measure of short-term migration. Again, we did not include those who were not in the country in 2014 because we are looking at province to province migration. About 631,000 people lived in the Solomon Islands in both 2014 and 2019 (Table 7.4.1). As expected, some Solomon Islands' citizens and foreigners were not present in both 2014 and 2019. However, there was less change from 2014 to 2019 than from birthplace to 2019 residence.

Once again, the diagonal shows the people who were living in a particular province in both 2014 and 2019. The last column and last row show the percentages being in the same place. Moreover, as before, the cells away from the diagonals show the movements from one province to another. As before, about 942 people were in Choiseul province in 2014 but in Western province in 2019, and 523 people were in Western province in 2014 to Choiseul in 2019, a difference of about 500 people.

Table 7.4.1: Distribution of person's residence in 2014 and current residence, Solomon Islands: 2019

	Total	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell-Bellona	Guadalcanal	Malaita	Makira-Ulawa	Temotu	Honiara	% same
Solomon Islands	630,686	26,336	81,718	27,546	26,655	3,639	133,793	150,744	44,019	19,770	116,466	(xx)
Choiseul	27,506	25,173	942	88	27	2	341	80	22	16	815	91.5
Western	81,572	523	76,638	245	83	22	1106	229	160	28	2,538	94
Isabel	28,307	66	260	25,577	97	8	634	127	83	15	1440	90.4
Central	27,651	7	151	127	25,532	16	670	133	78	22	915	92.3
Rennell-Bellona	3,144	2	8	40	6	2,800	38	14	9	1	226	89.1
Guadalcanal	125,021	73	293	223	140	28	122,071	344	144	121	1584	97.6
Malaita	156,088	61	517	117	193	26	2,851	146,723	187	29	5,384	94
Makira-Ulawa	44,769	50	285	96	46	18	588	145	42,355	40	1146	94.6
Temotu	21,031	12	137	90	41	10	727	43	100	19,037	834	90.5
Honiara	115,597	369	2487	943	490	709	4,767	2,906	881	461	101,584	87.9
Percent Same Prov	(xx)	95.6	93.8	92.9	95.8	76.9	91.2	97.3	96.2	96.3	87.2	(xx)

Note: Residence outside Solomon Islands in 2014 excluded

Internal Migration

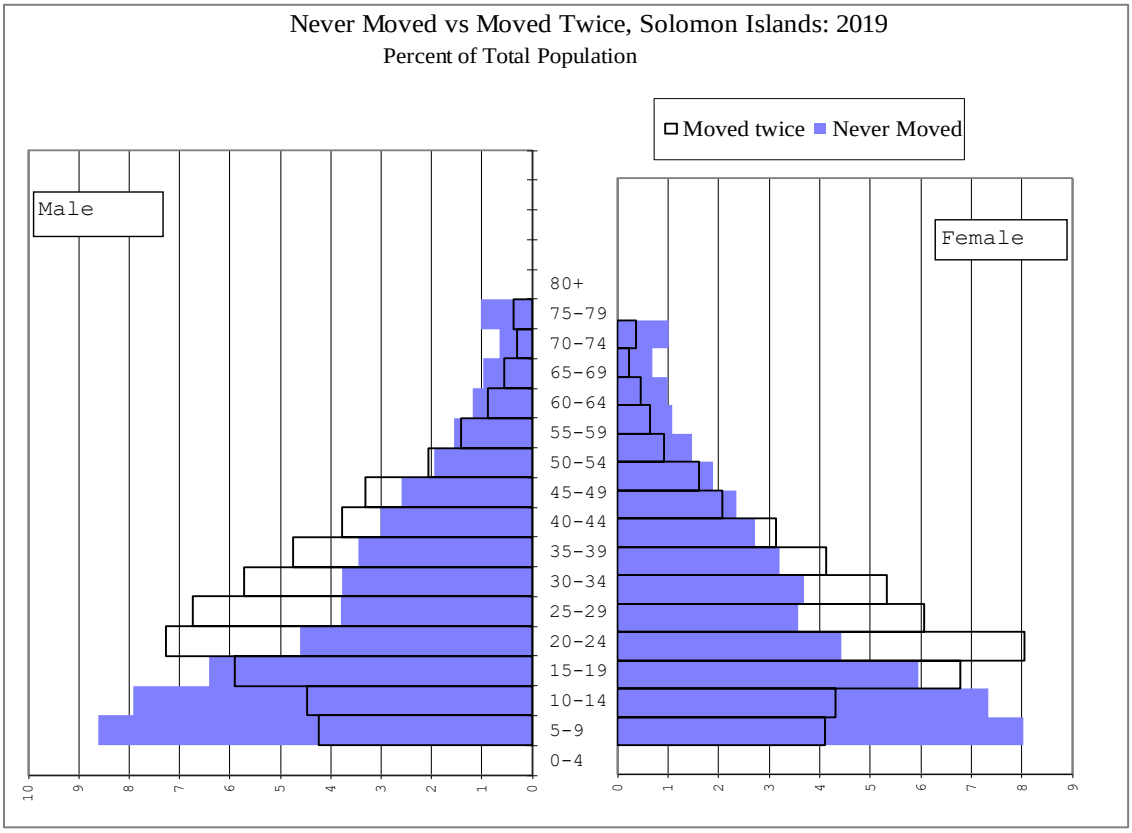
7.5 Multiple Moves

In this section of the report, we analyze movers. Individual respondents' move based on birthplace, residence in 2014, and current residence at the time of the census. Hence, the category "never moved" was reserved for those who were in the same ward at birth, in 2014, and at the time of the census. The "moved" twice category is for those who were born in one ward, then were in a different ward in 2014 and yet another different ward in 2019.

The "moved once" are those who moved from their birth ward to another in 2014 and stayed there or who stayed in the birth ward and the 2014 ward and then moved before the census or had the same ward at birth and at enumeration but were in a different ward in 2014.

Figure 7.5.1 shows a pyramid that compares the age structure of those who never moved with those who moved twice. Those who never moved show the traditional pattern of decreasing numbers with increasing age. Those who moved twice have a large bulge for younger workers, and then a tapering off at the top.

Figure 7.5.1: Persons who never moved and persons having moved twice, Solomon Islands: 2019



Never moved. Figure 7.5.2 shows the percentage of people in each province who were in the same ward in 2014 and at the time of the census as their birth. About 55 percent of the population "never" moved by this definition. Guadalcanal had the highest percentage of people who "never moved" at 80 percent, so about 4 of every 5 people living there were in the same ward for birth, residence in 2014, and at the time of the census. More than half of the people living in the province, except for Temotu and Honiara, had never moved. Temotu had the most movers – only 3 in every 10 people were never movers. The rate for Honiara was 38 percent.

Those moving twice. Obviously, with those numbers, the percentages for those who moved twice were low. About 6 percent of the people in the Solomon Islands had moved twice, so their birth ward differed from their ward at the time of the census and both differed from the residence 5 years before the census (Figure 7.5.3). Only 2 percent of Guadalcanal's population had moved twice. Of 100 people, only 2 had moved twice over their lifetimes. Isabel, Western, and Honiara, however, saw about over 8 percent of their population in this category; for them, almost 1 in every 10 people had moved twice. The rate for Temotu was not far behind, at 7.5 percent.

Figure 7.5.2: Percent of persons who never moved since birth by province, Solomon Islands: 2019

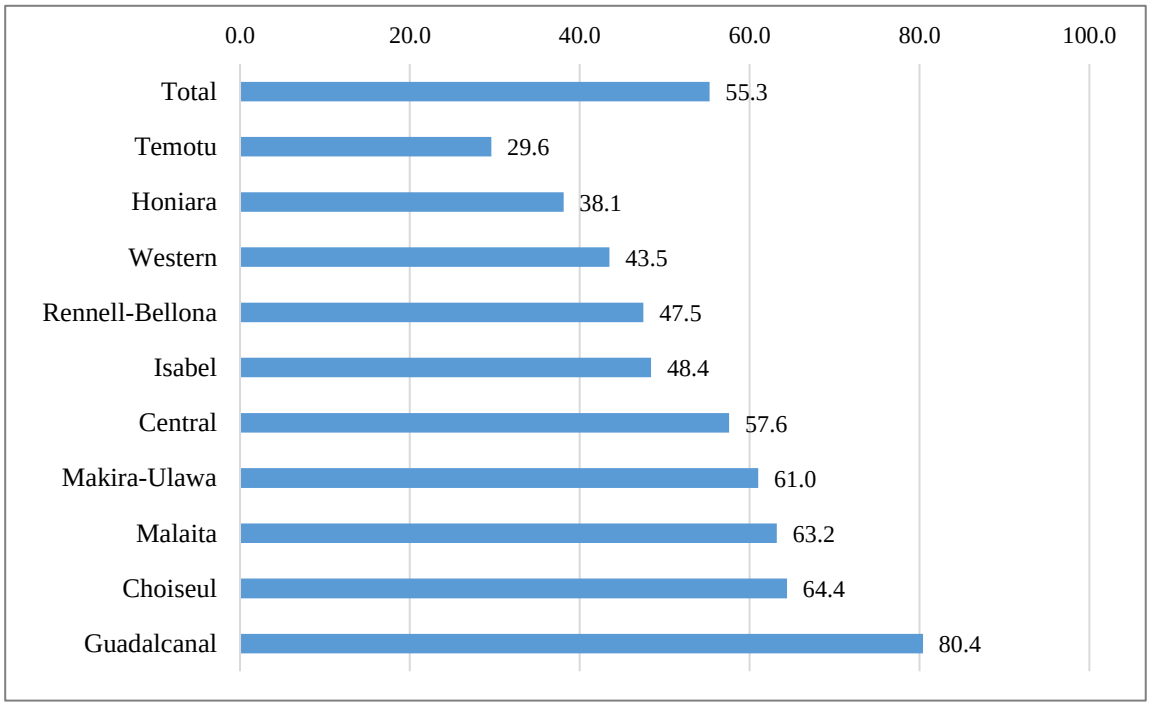
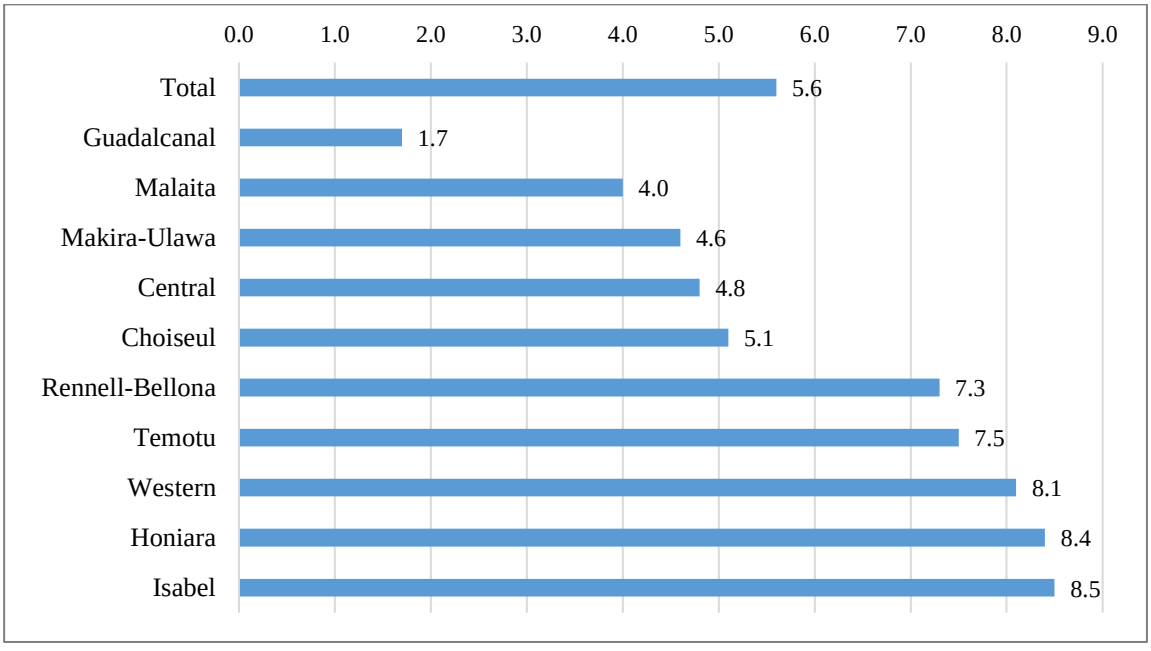


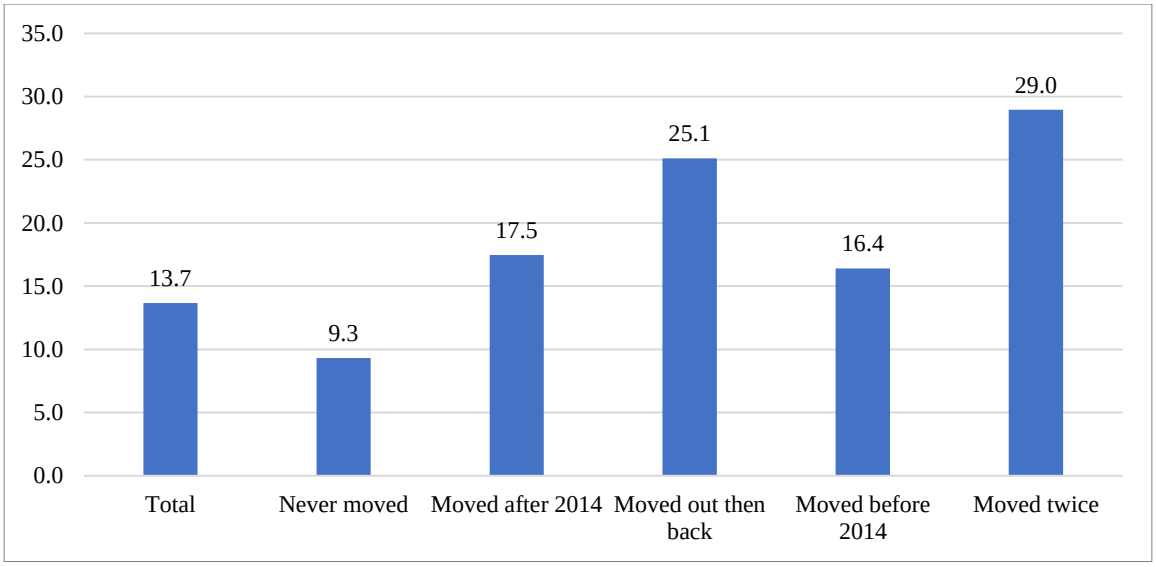
Figure 7.5.3: Percent of persons who moved twice since birth by province, Solomon Islands: 2019



About 14 percent of the adults in the Solomon Islands in 2019 had attained at least Form 6/7 or more for their education (Figure 7.5.4). Those who never moved had the lowest percentage of those reaching Form 6/7 at 9 percent, followed by those who moved before 2014 at 16 percent.

About 1 in 4 of those who moved out then returned achieved that level of education, possibly indicating that many went away for education then came back home. However, the highest percentage was those who moved twice – about 3 in 10 of these categories had at least reached Form 6/7.

Figure 7.5.4: Percent of persons who attained form 6/7 or higher education by moves, Solomon Islands: 2019



Only two percent of the Solomon Islands adults had attained a bachelor's degree at the time of the census. However, about 5 percent of those who moved twice had a degree, as did over 4 percent of those who moved out and then back. Only about 1 ½ percent of those who never moved had achieved at least a bachelor's degree (Figure 7.5.5).

About half of the people in the country were doing agriculture, forestry or fishing activities at the time of the census. About 3 in every 5 of those who never moved were doing these activities. None of the movers had more than half their number engaged in agriculture, forestry or fishing. In fact, only about 1 in 4 of those who made two moves did agriculture, forestry or fishing (Figure 7.5.6).

Figure 7.5.5: Percent of persons who attained BA/BS or higher education by moves, Solomon Islands: 2019

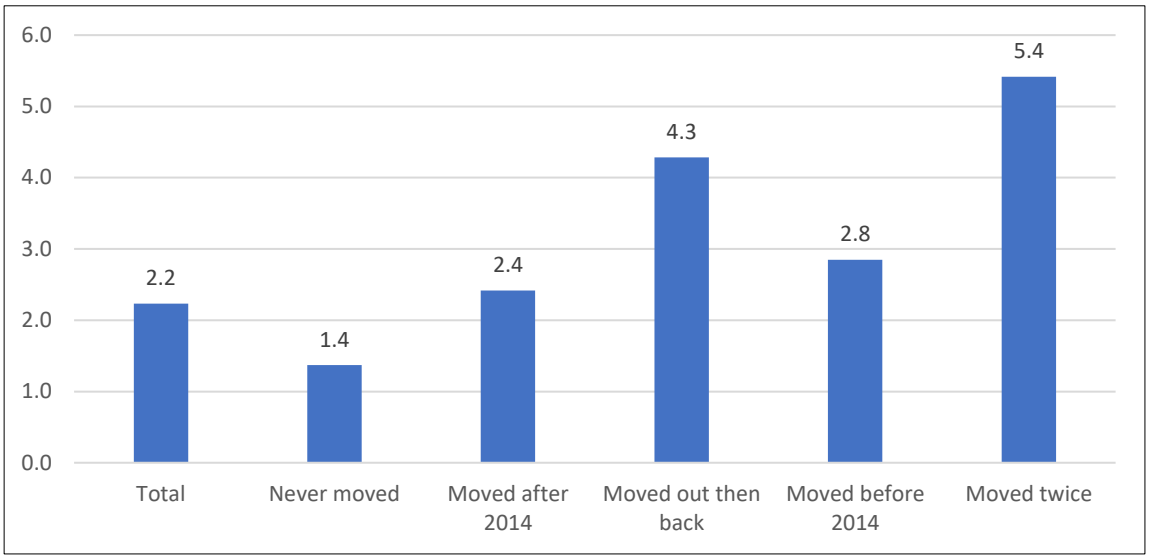
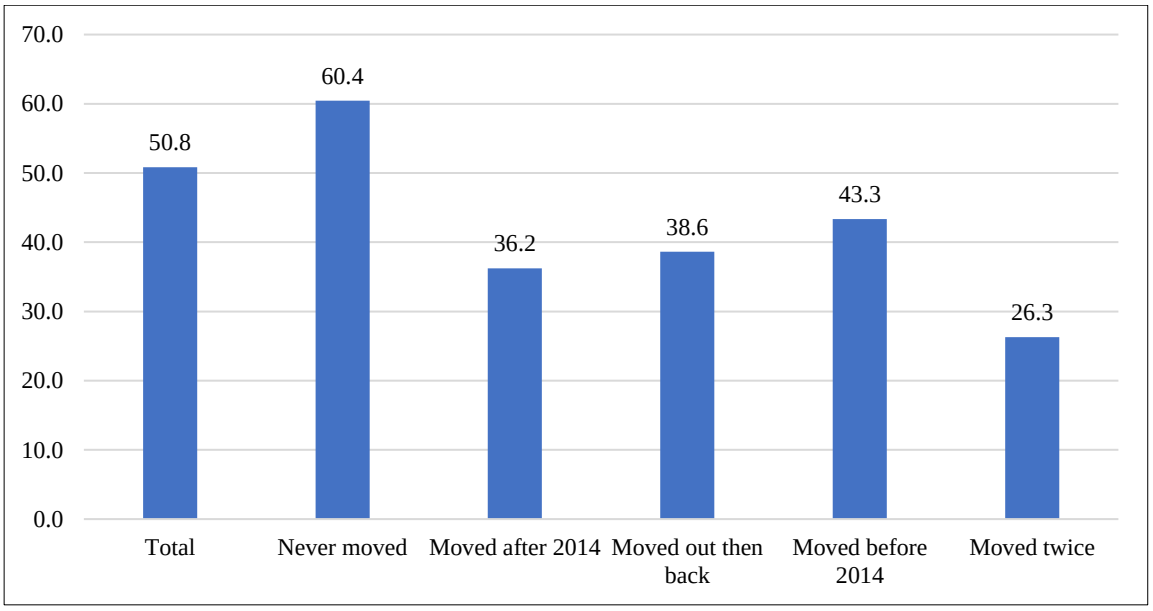
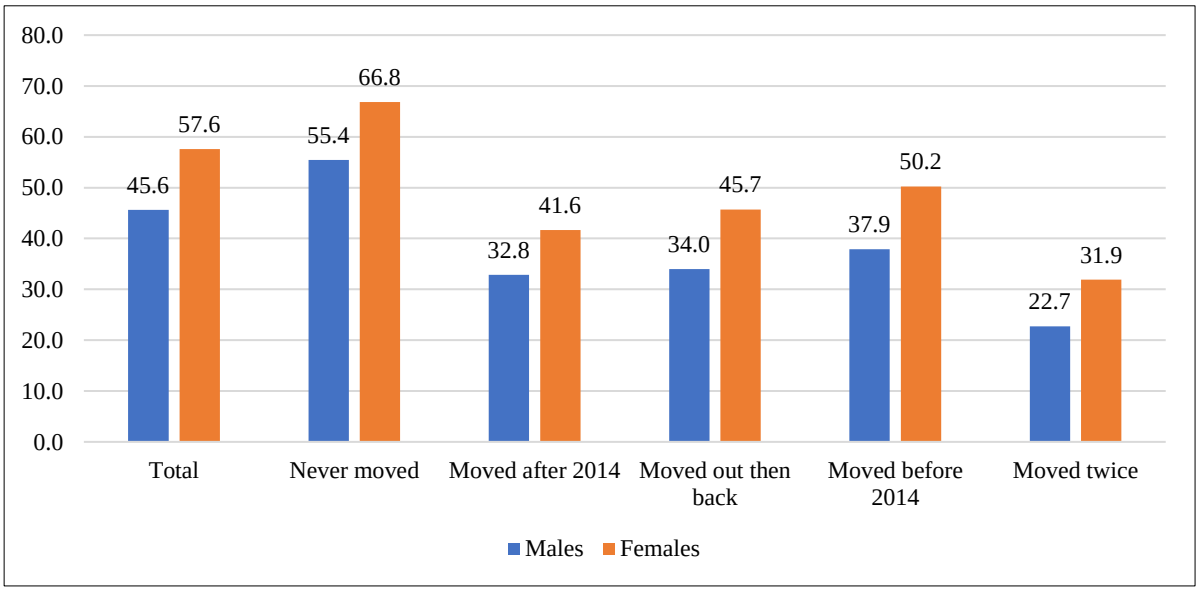


Figure 7.5.6: Percent in persons in agriculture, forestry or fishing occupations by moves, Solomon Islands: 2019



For all types of moves, females were more likely to do agriculture, forestry or fishing than males. About 46 percent of the males compared to 58 percent of the females were doing agriculture, forestry or fishing (Figure 7.5.7). About 55 percent of the males who never moved did agriculture, forestry or fishing compared to 67 percent of the females – 2 of every 3 females. For those with two moves, only 23 percent of the males but 32 percent of the females did agriculture, forestry or fishing.

Figure 7.5.7: Percent of persons in agriculture, forestry or fishing occupations by sex and moves, Solomon Islands: 2019



7.5 International Migration

In the Solomon Islands, data on arrivals and departures remain incomplete for detailed migration analysis including issues of data quality regarding deaths and births. As such, the net migration level can only be crudely estimated by comparing intercensal population growth with estimated rates of natural increase for the same time period. Although this approach provides a reasonably robust indication of net migration, policy-makers require more detailed and timelier information on the demographic makeup and trends in migration flows in order to empirically determine the level and extent of international migration in the country.

Net migration is measured as the difference between the number of arrivals (immigrants) and departures (emigrants) in a given period of time. Hence, if net migration is positive, it means that the number of arrivals (immigrants) is higher than the number of departures (emigrants). The reverse outcome holds when net migration is negative, meaning that the number of departures (emigrants) is higher than the number of arrivals.

In the Solomon Islands, the only indirect method for deriving net migration would be to apply the balancing equation to the intercensal 2009-2019 population growth rate, as follows:

Balancing equation

Population growth = Births minus Deaths plus Net migration
Net migration rate can be estimated as:
Net migration = Population growth minus Births plus Deaths

The intercensal population growth rate was 2.6%, and the estimated CBR and CDR were 29.3 per 1000 and 5.6 per 1000, respectively.

The derived net migration rate would than equate to:

2.6 – 2.93 + 0.56 = 0.23%

Adjusting for an assumed over-estimation of 2% (see Chapter 16) in the 2019 Census, this would result in a net migration of:

2.4 – 2.93 + 0.56 = 0.03%

Hence, this implies that the population growth rate for the Solomon Islands is determined by its natural growth rate - births and deaths. Noting also that in view of the undercount in the 2009 Census that could have been slightly higher, and that the 2019 Census assumed overestimation of a minimal 2% could have been relatively low, and considering data quality issues regarding deaths and births - all these have implications on the precision of the estimate. Hence, there is insufficient evidence to fully support a positive (or negative) net migration for Solomon Islands.

8. SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

8.1 Introduction

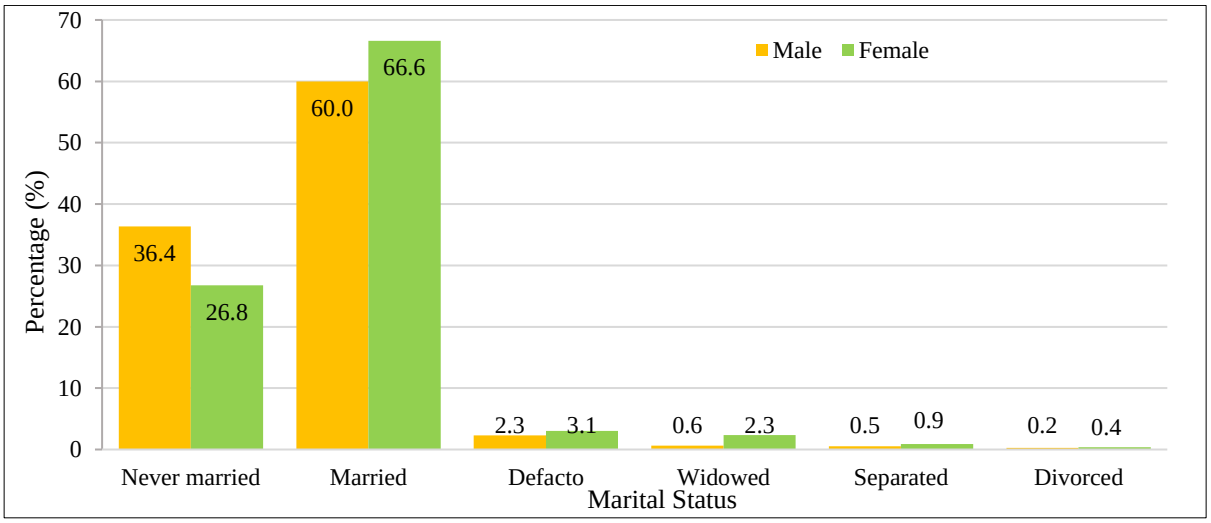
This chapter presents several findings on social characteristics of the Solomon Islands population that were captured in the 2019 Census. The following sub-sections covered include marital status, religion and ethnic origin. Although the other related subjects regarding language, education and literacy were covered under the chapter on social characteristics in previous censuses, they will be discussed separately in the subsequent chapter.

8.2 Marital status

The 2019 Census captured information on marital status for population aged 15 years and older. Marital status is an important indicator in measuring different status of marital relationships that has demographic implications such as fertility. The census distinguished persons who had never married, who were married at the time of the census through civil marriage, church marriage or custom marriage, those who had de-facto marriage relationships, widowed, and those divorced or separated.

Marriage[36] in Solomon Island is recognized through municipal/government civil marriages, religious/church recognized marriages and traditional/customary marriages. Figure 8.2.1 showed that within respective genders, 60% of males (139,160) and about 67% of females (149,230) aged 15 and older were married. A higher proportion of males (36%) were never married compared to females (27%).

Figure 8.2.1: Percentage of population aged 15 and older by marital status, Solomon Islands: 2019



[36] Married refers to persons 15 years and older who were either married in church, civil or customary recognition.

The age at marriage is an important proximate determinant of fertility. Women who marry at an early age often have more children than those marrying later. The higher proportion of young married women compared with men of the same age indicates that women generally marry at younger ages than men. (Table 8.2.1).

The percentage of males married at ages of 15-19 showed a significant increase of 7.3% recorded in 2019 compared to 1.8% reported in 2009 Census. Percentage of ever married for female at ages 15-19 was about 15% compared to 7.3% of males. At ages 20-24 more than half (52.5%) of all women were already married compared with 27% of males.

Table 8.2.1: Singulate mean age at marriage (SMAM) and percentage married at young ages by sex, Solomon Islands: 1986, 1999, 2009 and 2019

Year	Average age at first marriage			Percentage ever married by age group (%)			
	SMAM*		Difference	15-19		20-24	
	Males	Females	(Men - Women)	Males	Females	Males	Females
1986	25.0	21.2	3.8	3.1	19.1	31.3	65.1
1999	26.1	22.6	3.4	2.6	13.0	24.0	55.1
2009	27.1	23.3	3.8	1.8	10.2	21.1	50.1
2019	26.5	22.8	3.7	7.3	15.3	27.3	52.5

8.2.1 Average Age at First Marriage (SMAM)

The average age at first marriage in 2019 for all of the Solomon Islanders was 24.7 years old. Rennell-Bellona had the highest average age at first marriage at 26.7 years, followed by Honiara, at 26.1 years. Temotu had the lowest age at first marriage, at 23.5, more than 3 years younger than Rennell-Bellona's age. Average age at first marriage showed that women got married at a relatively younger age in rural areas (22.1%) than in urban areas (24%) (Table 8.2.2 and Figure 8.2.2).

Table 8.2.2: Singulate mean age by province and urban-rural residence, Solomon Islands: 2019

Province	Total			Urban			Rural		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Solomon Islands	**24.7**	**26.5**	**22.8**	**25.6**	**27.2**	**24**	**24.2**	**26.2**	**22.1**
Choiseul	23.9	26	21.7	26.4	27.7	25	23.8	25.9	21.5
Western	24.8	26.9	22.7	24.5	26.1	23	24.9	27.1	22.6
Isabel	24.3	26.5	21.9	26	28.5	23.3	24.2	26.4	21.9
Central	24.3	26.3	22.2	26.4	28.5	23.7	24.2	26.2	22.2
Rennell-Bellona	26.7	28.2	24.6	-	-	-	26.7	28.2	24.6
Guadalcanal	23.9	25.7	22.1	24.4	26	22.7	23.7	25.6	21.8
Malaita	24.4	26.3	22.5	24.9	26.5	23.4	24.4	26.3	22.5
Makira-Ulawa	24	26.1	21.9	25	26.7	23.4	24	26.1	21.8
Temotu	23.5	25.6	21.6	24.5	26.5	22.4	23.4	25.5	21.6
Honiara	26.1	27.6	24.5	26.1	27.6	24.5	-	-	-

(-) refers to Rennell-Bellona has no urban and Honiara has no rural.

Figure 8.2.2: Average age at first marriage by province, Solomon Islands: 2019

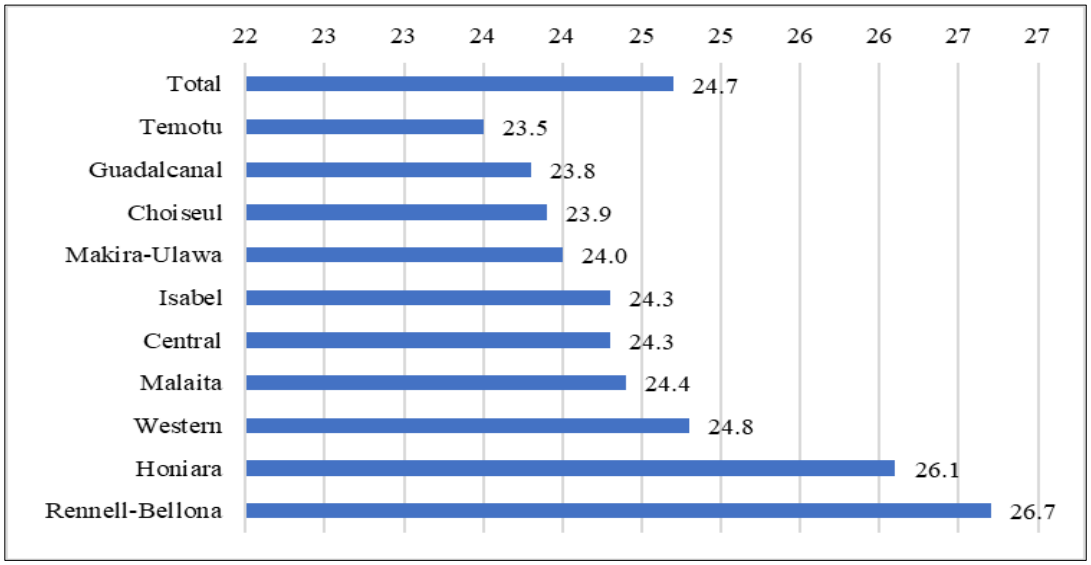


Figure 8.2.3 shows the average age at first marriage using Haynal's algorithm for the provinces divided into urban and rural residence. Rennell-Bellona had no urban areas, but its rural average age at first marriage was the highest at 26.7. Honiara had no rural areas, but its average age at first marriage was about 26. Choiseul and Central provinces had higher urban medians at more than 26 years.

Figure 8.2.3: Average age at first marriage by urban-rural and province, Solomon Islands: 2019

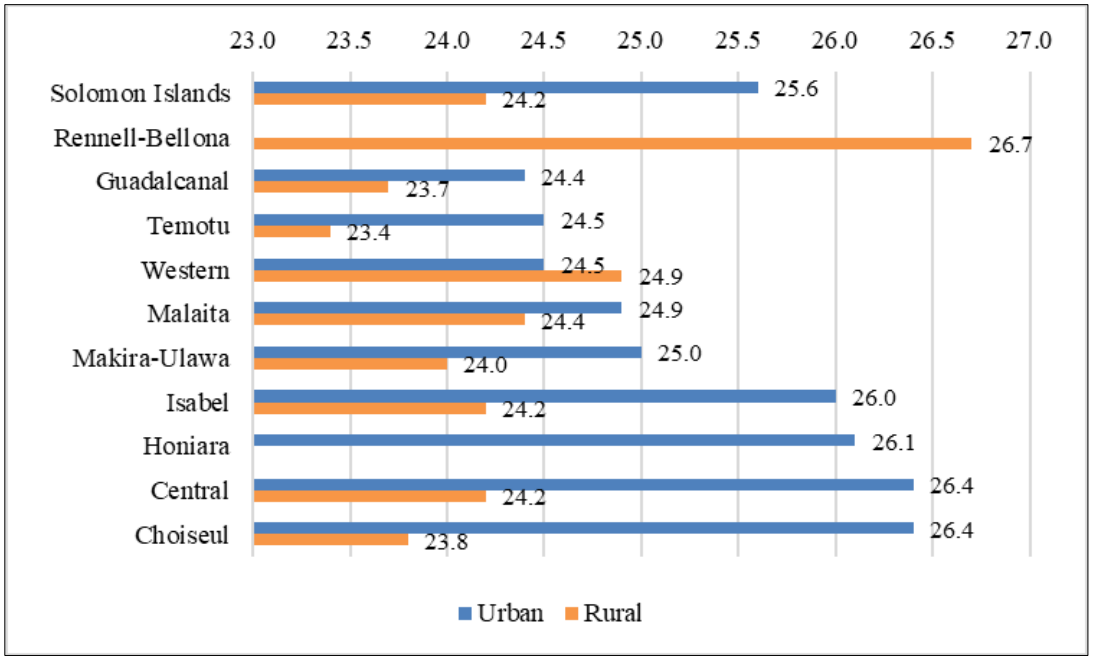


Table 8.2.4 clearly showed females marrying at early age than males in all the provinces. Average age at first marriage for females in Solomon Islands was 22.8 years with males marrying at 26.5 years.

Rennell-Bellona and Honiara reported the highest average age at first marriage for both sexes aged 15 years and above in the country.

Figure 8.2.4: Average age at first marriage by sex and province, Solomon Islands: 2019

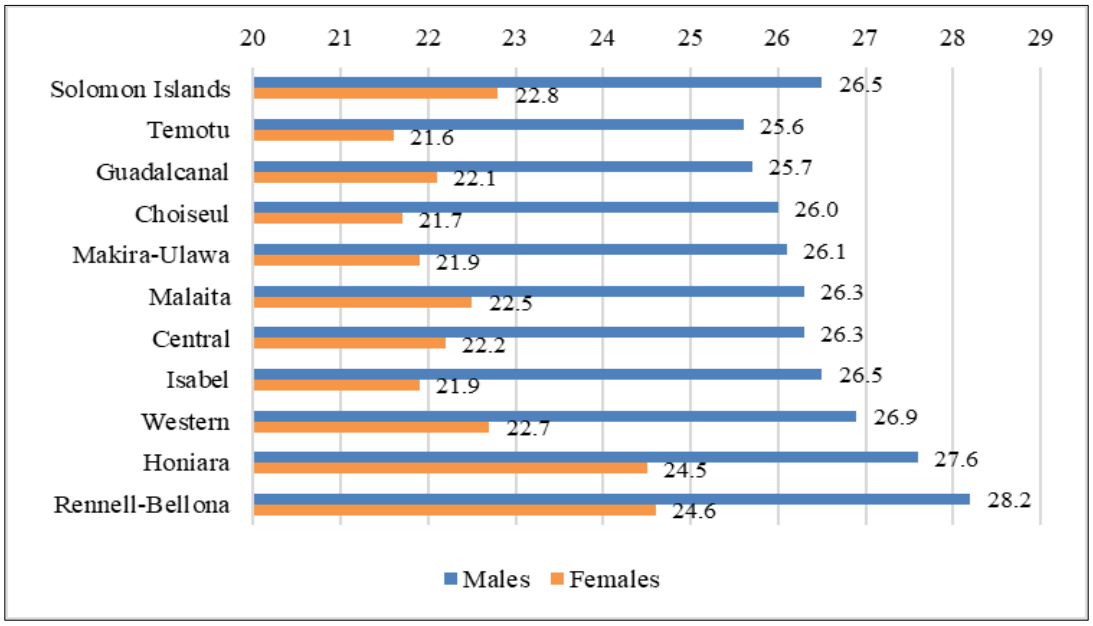


Figure 8.2.5 shows the average difference in age between the husband and wife when they first marry for the respective provinces. The average male in 2019 was about 3.7 years older than his wife when they married. The difference was smallest in Honiara, at 3.1 years between spouses at marriage, and highest in Isabel at about 4.5 years between the spouses. Several other provinces saw difference of more than 4 years.

Figure 8.2.5: Average age difference between husband and wife at first marriage, Solomon Islands: 2019

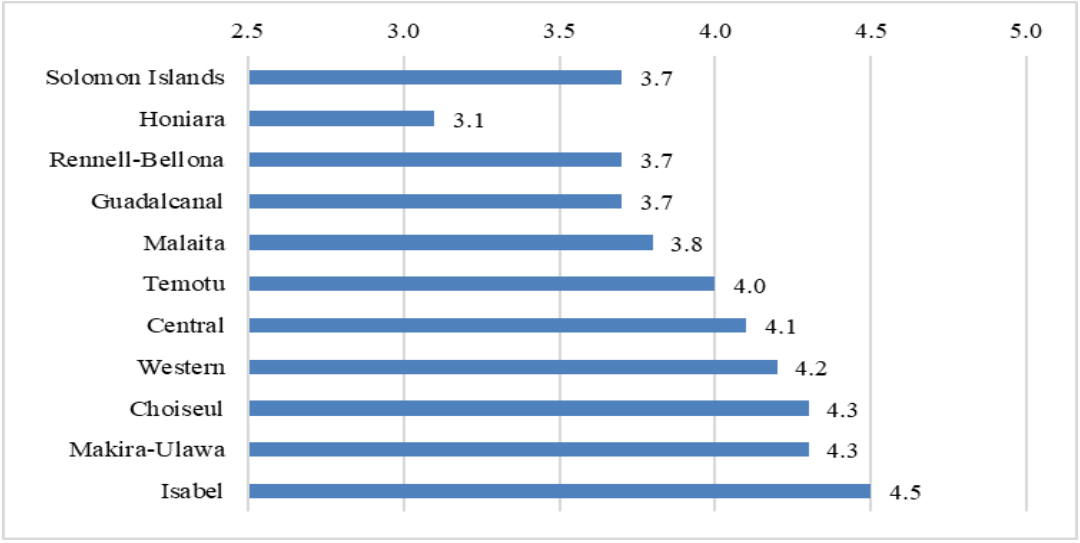


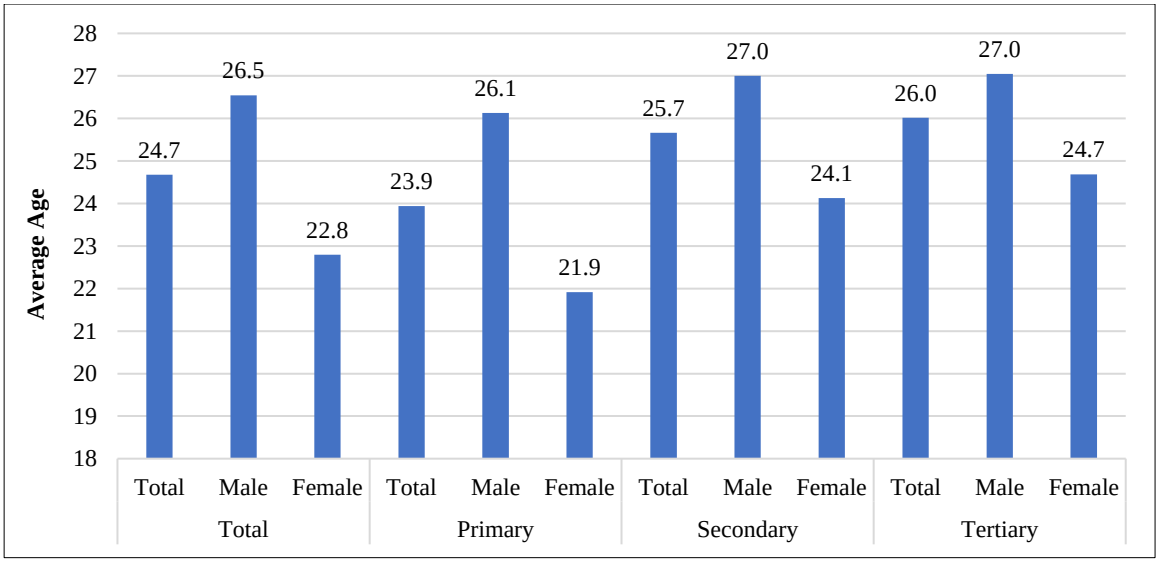
Table 8.2.3 and Figure 8.2.6 show the average age at first marriage by gender and educational attainment. As would be expected, the more educated a person was, the more likely they would be to delay their marriage. Part of the delay is the education itself, which often goes in the 20s. In addition, part of the reason relates to people starting their careers and deliberately putting off marriage. Thus, while the average age at first marriage for all adults was 24.7 years, it was 23.9 years for those with a primary school attainment, 25.7 for those with a secondary school attainment, and 26 years for those with a tertiary education.

At each level of educational attainment, males were slightly older than females. The difference in age for those with a primary school education was 4.2 years, with the males at 26.1 and the females at 21.9. The average age at first marriage was similar by sex for the secondary and tertiary education.

Table 8.2.3: Average age at first marriage by educational attainment, sex and province, Solomon Islands: 2019

	Total			Primary			Secondary			Tertiary		
	Total	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**	**Male**	**Female**
Total	24.7	26.5	22.8	23.9	26.1	21.9	25.7	27.0	24.1	26.0	27.0	24.7
Choiseul	23.9	26.0	21.7	23.5	25.8	21.2	25.3	26.9	24.1	25.1	26.0	23.7
Western	24.8	26.9	22.7	24.6	27.0	22.2	25.2	27.0	23.2	25.4	26.5	24.0
Isabel	24.3	26.5	21.9	24.0	26.8	21.3	23.7	25.1	23.3	25.0	26.1	23.0
Central	24.3	26.3	22.2	23.7	26.1	21.5	25.3	26.4	24.1	26.5	27.2	25.7
Rennell-Bellona	26.7	28.2	24.6	26.4	28.5	24.1	29.1	30.2		23.3		23.2
Guadalcanal	23.9	25.7	22.1	23.2	25.3	21.3	24.7	26.2	22.9	25.6	26.7	23.8
Malaita	24.4	26.3	22.5	23.9	26.1	22.0	25.9	26.9	24.7	26.1	27.0	25.0
Makira-Ulawa	24.0	26.1	21.9	23.6	25.8	21.4	24.1	25.5	23.7	24.7	26.2	22.2
Temotu	23.5	25.6	21.6	23.4	25.8	21.3	24.6	26.9	22.0	22.4	20.3	24.8
Honiara	26.1	27.6	24.5	25.0	26.9	23.2	26.7	28.0	25.2	26.5	27.7	25.3

Figure 8.2.6: Average age at first marriage by education and sex, Solomon Islands: 2019



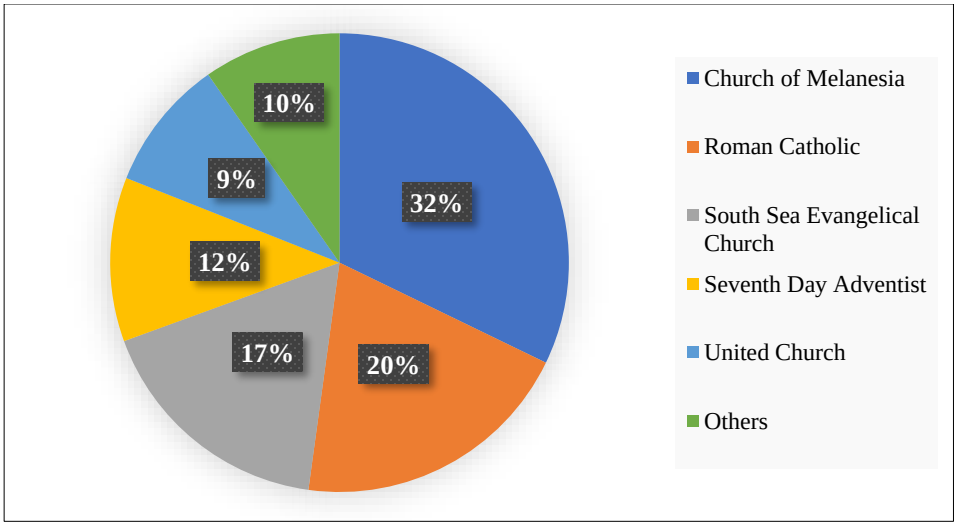
8.3 Religion

The Church of Melanesia continues to be the dominant religious denomination in the Solomon Islands with the majority (32.2%) of the population who reported being affiliated to the Church. This was an increase of 40.9% of people since the 2009 Census. From 1999 to 2009, the number of people who affiliated to the Church also increased by 22.6% (Table 8.3.1, Figure 8.3.1).

Table 8.3.1: Population by religious denomination, Solomon Islands: 1999, 2009, 2019

Religious Denomination	Census Years			% Change 1999-2009	% Change 2009-2019
	1999	2009	2019		
Church of Melanesia	134,288	164,639	232,041	22.6	40.9
Roman Catholic	77,728	100,999	144,078	29.9	42.7
South Sea Evangelical Church	69,651	88,395	124,506	26.9	40.9
Seventh Day Adventist	45,846	60,506	83,452	32.0	37.9
United Church	42,236	51,919	66,915	22.9	28.9
Christian Fellowship Church	9,693	13,153	16,179	35.7	23.0
Christian OutReach Church	3,841	5,303	5,582	38.1	5.3
Pentecostal	-	-	3,019	-	-
Jehovah's Witness	7,485	9,444	14,624	26.2	54.8
Bahai Faith	2,300	2,427	3,104	5.5	27.9
Assembly Of God		-	3,756	-	-
Baptist Church		-	2,172	-	-
Muslim		-	1,100	-	-
Other religion	11,138	14,076	14,953	26.4	6.2
Custom Beliefs or Animism	2,633	4,191	4,115	59.2	-1.8
No Religion or Faith/Atheism	790	681	1,227	-13.8	80.2
Refuse to Answer		137	133	-	-2.9
NS	1,413	-	-	-	-
Total	**409,042**	**515,870**	**720,956**	**26.1**	**39.8**

Figure 8.3.1: Percent of religious denomination, Solomon Islands: 2019



As shown in Figure 8.3.1, apart from the Church of Melanesia, the Catholic Church was the second largest church that consisted of 20 percent of the population. Both the Church of Melanesia and the Catholic Church were the two largest denominations that comprised about half of the total population.

Table 8.3.2 shows the largest religious denominations by sex. The Church of Melanesia comprised of about the same percent for males (32.2%) and females (32.1%) who affiliated to the Church. Similarly, 1 in every 5 males and females in the Solomon Islands affiliated to the Roman Catholic Church. The same was observed with close to equal sex representations of people who attended the South Sea Evangelical (males = 17.2%; females = 17.3%) and Seventh Day Adventist (males = 11.3%; females = 11.9%) denominations.

Table 8.3.2: Population by larger religious denomination and sex, Solomon Islands: 2019

Religious Denomination	Numbers			Percent			Sex
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Ratio
Total	**720,956**	**369,396**	**351,560**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**105.1**
Church of Melanesia	232,041	119,115	112,926	32.2	32.2	32.1	105.5
Roman Catholic	144,078	73,846	70,232	20.0	20.0	20.0	105.1
South Sea Evangelical Church	124,506	63,543	60,963	17.3	17.2	17.3	104.2
Seventh Day Adventist	83,452	41,701	41,751	11.6	11.3	11.9	99.9
United Church	66,915	34,424	32,491	9.3	9.3	9.2	105.9
Christian Fellowship Church	16,179	8,425	7,754	2.2	2.3	2.2	108.7
Jehovah's Witness	14,624	7,243	7,381	2.0	2.0	2.1	98.1
Other Religions	39,161	21,099	18,062	5.4	5.7	5.1	116.8

Table 8.3.3: Smaller religious denominations and religions by sex, Solomon Islands: 2019

Religion	Total	Males	Females	Religion	Total	Males	Females
Christian Outreach Church	5,582	2,812	2,770	Christian Revival	706	372	334
Other religions	5,368	2,870	2,498	Church Of The Living Word	703	359	344
Custom Beliefs or Animism	4,115	2,163	1,952	Episcopal Si	525	264	261
Assembly Of God	3,756	1,926	1,830	Buddhism	493	394	99
Baha'i Faith	3,104	1,647	1,457	Apostolic Church	476	260	216
Pentecostal	3,019	1,556	1,463	Nazarene Church	329	171	158
Baptist Church	2,172	1,147	1,025	Christ Mission Centre	313	154	159
Methodist	1,539	805	734	Bible Way Centre	240	109	131
Platform (Solomon)	1,310	721	589	Church Of Christ	233	112	121
No Religion or Faith/Atheism	1,227	776	451	Church Of The Living God	184	92	92
Rhema	1,190	615	575	Latter Day Saints (Mormon)	160	78	82
Muslim	1,100	991	109	Salvation Army	148	75	73
Kingdom Harvest	930	457	473	Refuse to Answer	133	87	46
				Hindu	106	86	20

Table 8.3.3 shows other religious denominations and religious faiths identified in the 2019 Census. Although most people stated their religious affiliations, a small proportion of people (1,227) claimed that they had no religion, and 133 people refused to provide any information.

8.4 Ethnic origin

Table 8.4.1 and Figure 8.4.1 shows the number of people by ethnic origin during the 2019 Census and past trends since 1959. The Solomon Islands has historically been a Melanesian island nation with a very homogenous population composition, with the 2019 Census revealing 95.5% or 688,369 persons being Melanesians, 2.8% or 20,547 persons being Polynesians and 1.2% or 8,647 persons with Micronesian ethnicity. In addition, there were 1,351 Chinese, 325 Europeans and 1717 other ethnicities.

The three broad Pacific Islands ethnic groups were Melanesians, Polynesians, and Micronesians. Historically, some Polynesians arrived and settled in the Solomon Islands, particularly from the other Polynesian islands. Between 1955 and 1971 Gilbertese also known as the people of Kiribati (Micronesians) settled in the Solomon Islands under the official resettlement schemes commissioned by the British Protectorate Government.

Table: 8.4.1: Population (number, %) by main ethnic origin, Solomon Islands: 1959 to 2019

Ethnic Origin	1959	1970	1976	1986	1999	2009	2019
Total	**124,120**	**160,998**	**196,823**	**285,176**	**409,042**	**515,870**	**720,956**
Melanesian	117,620	149,667	183,665	267,649	386,745	491,466	688,369
Polynesian	4,625	6,399	7,821	10,328	12,257	15,911	20,547
Micronesian	459	2,400	2,753	3,782	4,906	6,446	8,647
Chinese	366	577	452	342	464	654	1,351
European	781	1,280	1,359	1,021	669	721	325
Others	269	675	773	2,054	4,001	672	1,717
			Percents				
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Melanesian	94.8	93.0	93.3	93.9	94.5	95.3	95.5
Polynesian	3.7	4.0	4.0	3.6	3.0	3.1	2.8
Micronesian	0.4	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2
Chinese	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
European	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.0
Others	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.7	1.0	0.1	0.2

While Table 8.4.1 showed that all ethnicities had increased since 1959, only the European population had declined by over half its size in 1959. Noticeably, the Melanesian population has increased by close to 6 times its size in 1959. Within respective ethnic compositions, the percentage of the population being Melanesian has remained fairly steady over the years from 1959 to 2019 at about 94.8 to 95.5 %; Polynesians composed of 4.0 % in 1970 and 1976, but decreased to 3.0 % in 1999 and

remained steady within 3.1% and 2.8 % in the last two censuses, while the Micronesians stabilized at 1.2% since 1999.

Figure: 8.4.1: Percentage of Melanesian by census years, Solomon Islands: 1959 to 2019

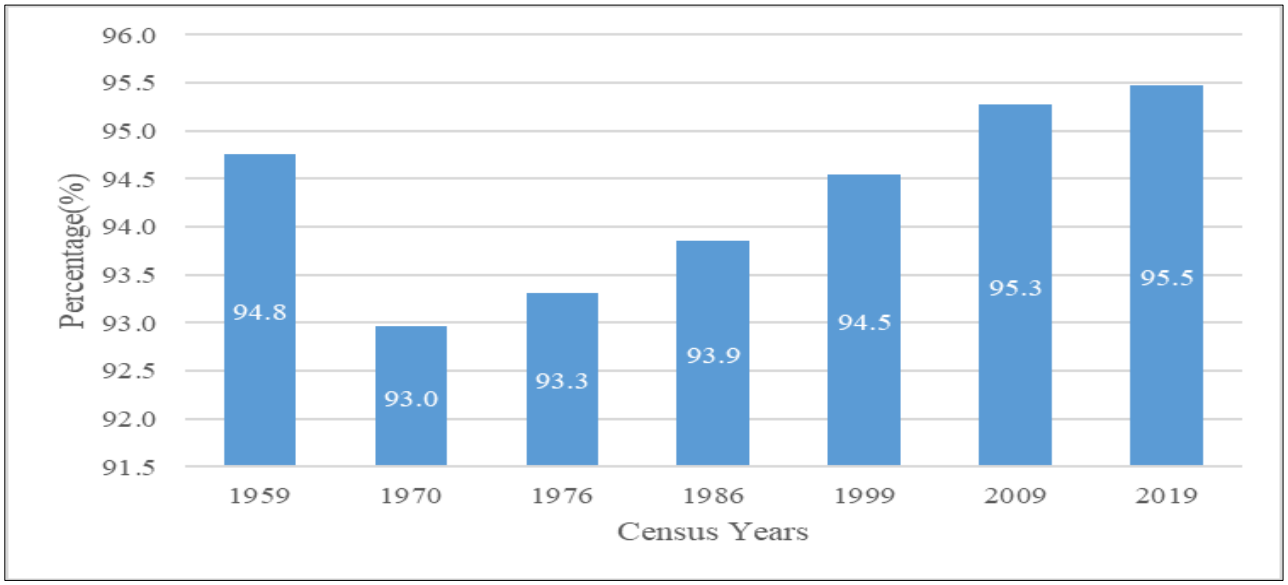


Table: 8.4.2: Population (number, %) by ethnic origin (expanded) by sex, Solomon Islands: 2019

Ethnic Origin	Numbers			Percent		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Total	**720,956**	**369,396**	**351,560**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Melanesian	688,369	352,502	335,867	95.5	95.4	95.5
Polynesian	20,547	10,261	10,286	2.8	2.8	2.9
Micronesian	8,647	4,420	4,227	1.2	1.2	1.2
Chinese	1,351	955	396	0.2	0.3	0.1
European	325	198	127	0.0	0.1	0.0
Micronesian-Melanesian	217	108	109	0.0	0.0	0.0
Melanesian-Polynesian	190	101	89	0.0	0.0	0.0
Australian	385	226	159	0.1	0.1	0.0
New Zealander/Maori	201	104	97	0.0	0.0	0.0
Malaysian	114	80	34	0.0	0.0	0.0
Indonesian	189	165	24	0.0	0.0	0.0
Others	421	276	145	0.1	0.1	0.0

Table 8.4.2 above shows an expanded list of ethnicities by sex. It was evident that apart from the Europeans, the Australians (385) and New Zealanders (201) comprise of the majority of foreign ethnicity/citizens in 2019[37].

Although Solomon Islands is a majority Melanesian nation, the distribution of ethnicities within provinces showed some differences. The respective populations of Isabel, Guadalcanal, Malaita, and Makira provinces composed of 98% Melanesian while other provinces such as Honiara comprised of 92% Melanesian; and Temotu showed some mixed ethnicities, with 84% Melanesian and close to 16% Polynesian. Rennell-Bellona was the only province with predominantly Polynesian ethnicity – with 82% of its population, and only 17 % being Melanesians (Table 8.4.3).

Table 8.4.3: Population by ethnic origin (expanded) by province, Solomon Islands: 2019

Ethnicity	Total	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell-Bellona	Guadal-canal	Malaita	Makira-Ulawa	Temotu	Honiara
Total	**720,956**	**30,775**	**94,106**	**31,420**	**30,318**	**4,100**	**154,022**	**172,740**	**51,587**	**22,319**	**129,569**
Melanesian	688,369	28,777	89,883	30,852	29,014	707	151,240	169,189	50,419	18,775	119,513
Polynesian	20,547	87	354	209	1,208	3,373	1,568	3,359	1,072	3,489	5,828
Micronesian	8,647	1,582	3,320	114	69	11	946	58	29	14	2,504
Chinese	1,351	103	121	98	2	0	83	76	30	3	835
European	325	3	54	29	6	0	19	10	2	1	201
Micronesian -Melanesian	217	152	22	6	3	0	3	0	0	0	31
Melanesian-Polynesian	190	1	10	5	3	6	11	7	11	0	136
Australian	385	13	75	7	4	2	68	20	9	8	179
New Zealander/ Maori	201	5	81	5	0	1	39	5	7	2	56
Malaysian	114	38	26	3	3	0	5	6	0	0	33
Indonesian	189	2	39	78	0	0	3	2	2	24	39
Others	421	12	121	14	6	0	37	8	6	3	214
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Melanesian	95.5	93.5	95.5	98.2	95.7	17.2	98.2	97.9	97.7	84.1	92.2
Polynesian	2.8	0.3	0.4	0.7	4.0	82.3	1.0	1.9	2.1	15.6	4.5
Micronesian	1.2	5.1	3.5	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.0	0.1	0.1	1.9
Chinese	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.6
Others	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.7

The median age for all ethnic groups was 21.4 years, attributed to the majority of the Melanesian population with a median age of 21.3 years. Europeans were the oldest at 47.8 years, and Micronesian-Melanesians had a median age of about 9.3 years, mostly because these were the offspring of Micronesian-Melanesian marriages/partnerships. Similarly, Melanesian-Polynesians had a median of 11.7 years (Figure 8.4.2).

[37] A reasonable number of persons/families were excluded due to diplomatic/foreign and UN status and exemptions.

Figure 8.4.2: Median age by ethnicity, Solomon Islands: 2019

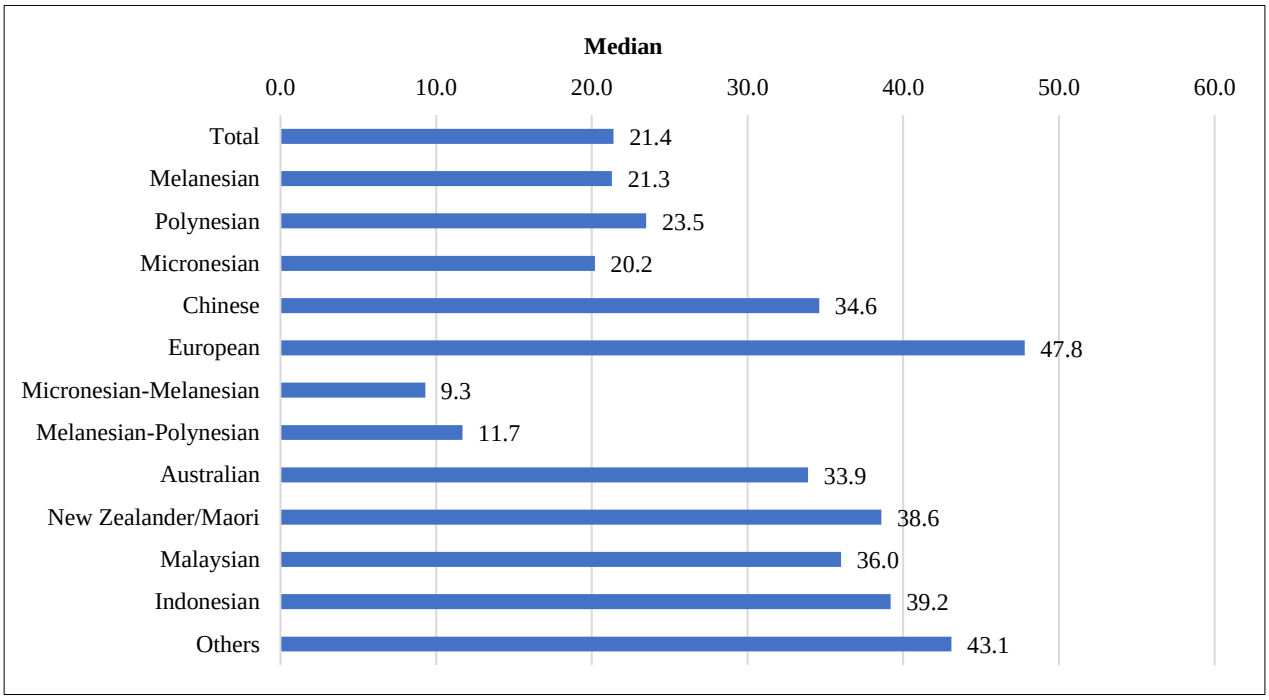
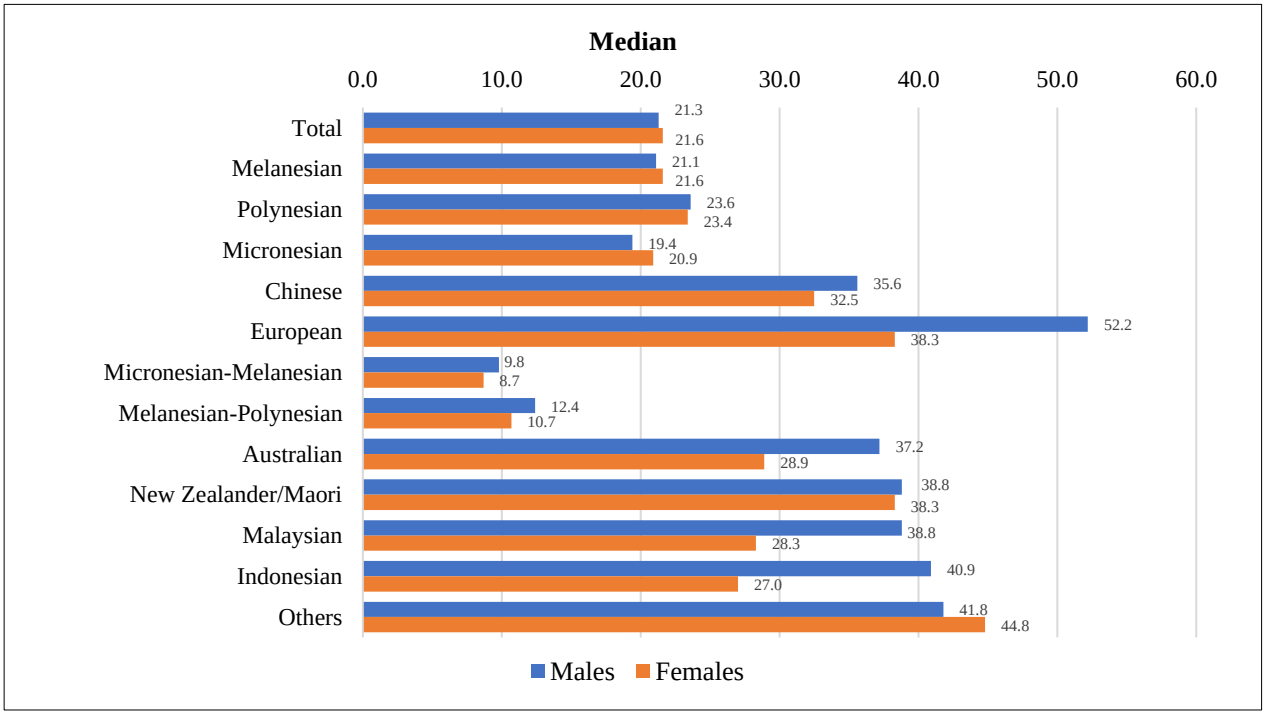


Figure 8.4.3: Median age by sex and ethnicity, Solomon Islands: 2019

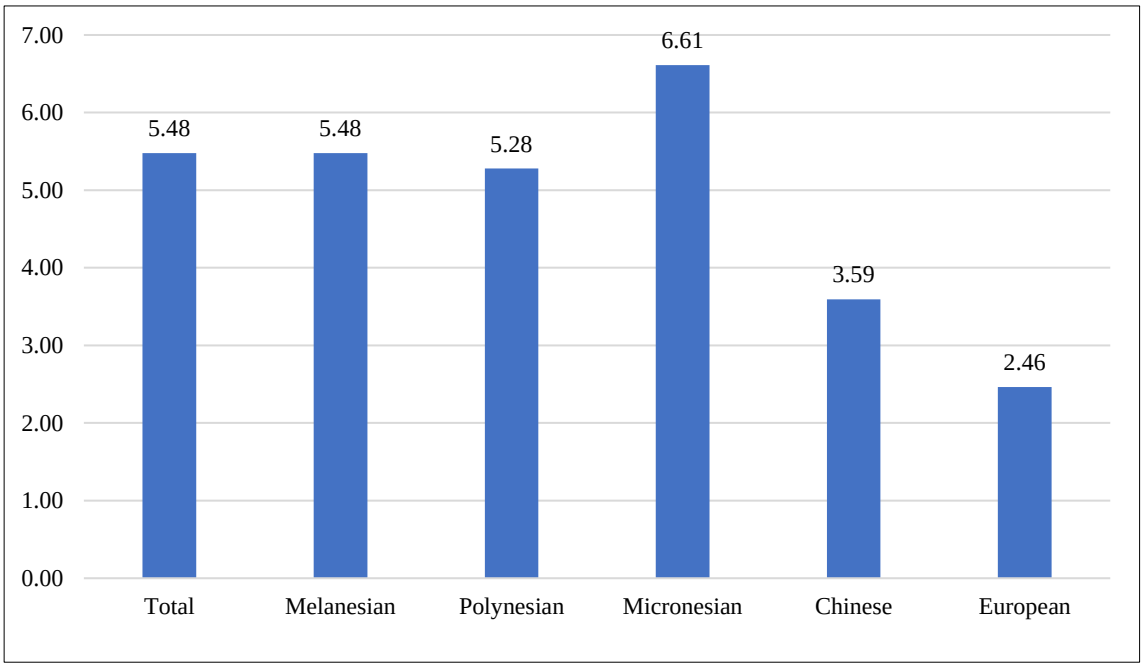


The median ages by sex were generally similar to the median ages combined. For the three major groups – Melanesians, Polynesians and Micronesians – the two sexes had approximately the same median ages. However, the median age for European males was more than 50 years, more than 10

years older than the females (Figure 8.4.3). Moreover, the median ages were higher for Australian, Malaysian, and Indonesian males than their respective females.

Figure 8.4.4 shows the average household size by the ethnicity of the head of the household. In this case, the head's ethnicity was considered in determining the average household size by ethnicity. Some of the household members could have been of another ethnicity, hence, the information presented are estimates. It was observed that Micronesians had the most crowded housing at about 6.6 people per household, and Europeans had the smallest households at about 2.5 persons per household. Melanesians had an average of 5.5 household size and Polynesian households were at 5.3 persons per household.

Figure 8.4.4: Average household size by ethnicity of head, Solomon Islands: 2019



9. EDUCATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

9.1 Introduction

This chapter covers topics on Education, Language and Literacy based on the population aged 5 years and above in the Solomon Islands.

The 2019 Census asked several education questions such as whether a person attended formal education including questions on the current level of formal education attended and the highest qualification completed, especially for population aged 12 years and above.

The Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development (MEHRD) main policy objective is to achieve full completion to quality and relevant basic education for primary, junior and secondary student for all children in Solomon Islands. Furthermore, the policy aims to achieve full enrollment for all 5 years old in the country (Education Strategy Framework (ESF, 2016-2030). The education system consists of early childhood education (aged 3 and 4 years), pre-primary (5 years), primary (age 6 to 11), junior secondary school (age 12 to 14), senior secondary (age 15 to 18) and year 13 or form 7 - a foundation year for senior secondary level.

The ESF policy framework further attempts to archive improvements in literacy and numeracy amongst males and females, and also focuses on youth and adult literacy. Moreover, the ESF attempts to explore avenues for mainstreaming the use of vernacular languages in education, especially those who reside in rural and remote areas.

Data was also collected during the 2019 Census to ascertain a general indication of literacy that was related to reading and writing a simple sentence in one or more common languages such as English, Pidgin, local language or other language

9.2 School attendance

Table 9.2.1 showed that the population 5 years and above who attended (full-time) a formal education institution increased by 61.6% since 2009[38]. However, in terms of the composition of school attendance, slightly over a third of the population 5 years and over attended formal education in 2009 (32.5%) and in 2019 (36.6%). While both sexes reported an increase in full-time attendance respectively since 2009, the proportion of female attendance improved slightly more (36.3%) compared to male attendance (31.3%) during the 2019 Census,
However, since 2009 the number of pupils leaving school increased by close to 40%[39]. By gender, the percentage increase was high for females who dropped out of school (42.4%) compared to males (37.4%).

[38] Caution be considered in the percentage change (upward bias) due to the undercount in 2009 Census.
[39] Caution be considered in the percentage change (upward bias) due to the undercount in 2009 Census.

Table 9.2.1: Population 5 years+ and school attendance status by sex, Solomon Islands : 2009 and 2019

School Attendance Status	Numbers						Percent					
	2009			2019			2009			2019		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	**439,370**	**224,574**	**214,796**	**631,061**	**322,788**	**308,273**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Full time	142,779	75,492	67,287	230,757	119,005	111,752	32.5	33.6	31.3	36.6	36.9	36.3
Part time	4,819	2,459	2,360	7,351	3,970	3,381	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.1
Left school	223,878	119,705	104,173	312,844	164,521	148,323	51.0	53.3	48.5	49.6	51.0	48.1
Never been	67,894	26,918	40,976	80,109	35,292	44,817	15.5	12.0	19.1	12.7	10.9	14.5

Table 9.2.2: Population 5 years+ and school attendance status by province, Solomon Islands: 2019

Province	School Attendance					Percentage (%)		
	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Left school	Never been	Full time +	Left school	Never been
Total	**631,061**	**230,757**	**7,351**	**312,844**	**80,109**	**37.8**	**49.6**	**12.7**
Choiseul	26,375	9,255	277	15,689	1,154	36.2	59.5	4.4
Western	81,822	23,679	1,118	50,718	6,307	30.3	62.0	7.7
Isabel	27,618	9,343	211	15,088	2,976	34.6	54.6	10.8
Central	26,656	9,823	253	13,135	3,445	37.8	49.3	12.9
Rennell-Bellona	3,639	1,162	51	2,254	172	33.3	61.9	4.7
Guadalcanal	133,831	40,086	1,264	69,359	23,122	30.9	51.8	17.3
Malaita	150,750	78,211	1,557	45,778	25,204	52.9	30.4	16.7
Makira-Ulawa	44,022	14,796	479	23,199	5,548	34.7	52.7	12.6
Temotu	19,773	6,776	234	9,637	3,126	35.5	48.7	15.8
Honiara	116,575	37,626	1,907	67,987	9,055	33.9	58.3	7.8

Source: 2019 Solomon Islands Census

At the national level, the 2019 Census revealed that half (49.6%) the population 5 years and over left school, while 37.8% attended school (full-time & part-time). This was also reflected across the majority of provinces with the exception of Malaita (Table 9.22, Figure 9.2.1).

Malaita province reported that over half (52.9%) of its population 5 years and older attended full-time formal education, comprising the majority (33.9%) of all school attendees across all provinces. At the same time, Malaita recorded the highest majority (31.5%) of all persons that had never been to school (Table 9.2.2).

Out of the 313 thousand people who left school, the majority (22.2%) were found in Guadalcanal. Within Guadalcanal, this comprised of over half (51.8%) of its population 5 years and over. (Table 9.2.2 and Figure 9.2.1).

Within respective genders, there were slightly more males (36.9%) than females (36.3%) who attended full-time school while there were more females (14.5%) than males (10.9%) who did not attend school (Table 9.2.3 and Table 9.2.4). While this was evident in the majority of provinces, Choiseul and Western provinces showed more males (4.4%; 8.0%, respectively) than females (4.3%; 7.4%, respectively) who did not attend full-time school.

Figure 9.2.1: Percentage of population 5 years+ and school attendance status by province, Solomon Islands: 2019 (%)

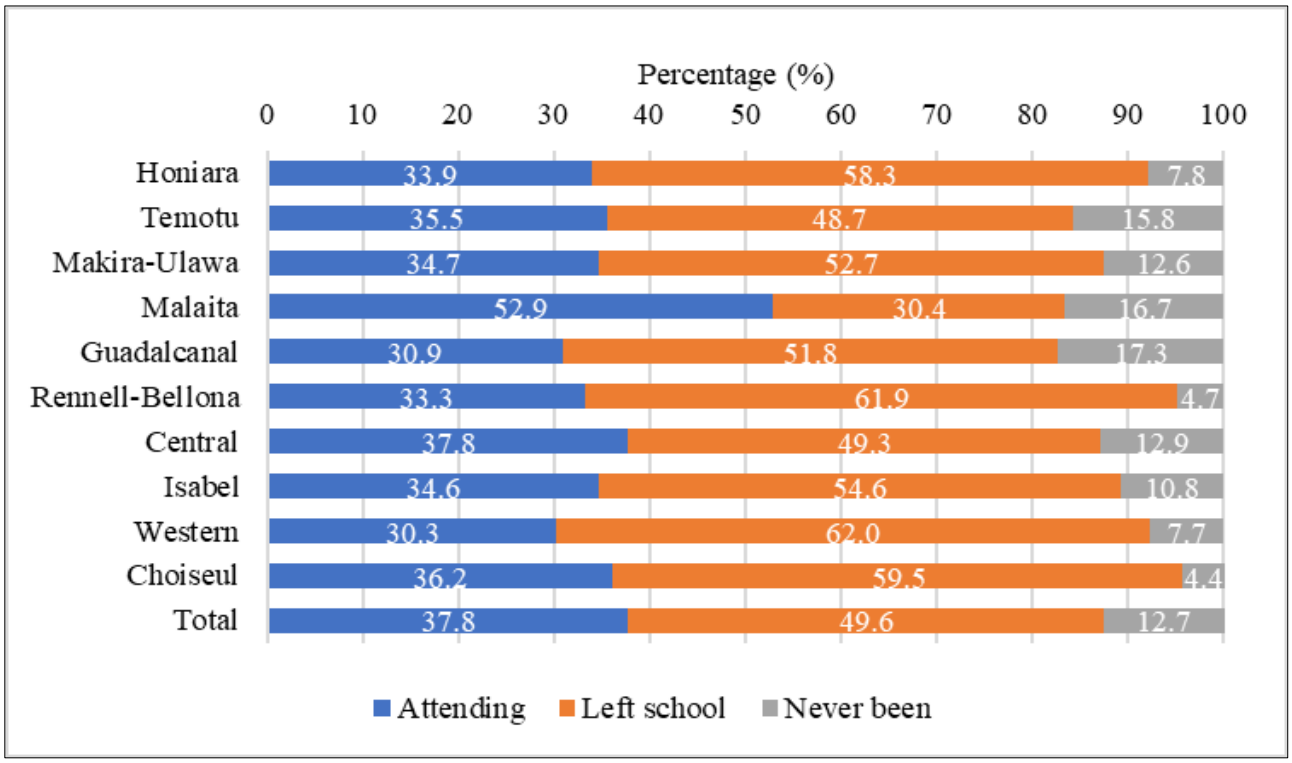


Table 9.2.3: Population 5 years+ and school attendance status by province for males, Solomon Islands: 2019

Province	Numbers					Percent				
	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Left school	Never been	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Left school	Never been
Total	322,788	119,005	3,970	164,521	35,292	100.0	36.9	1.2	51.0	10.9
Choiseul	13,570	4,721	155	8,092	602	100.0	34.8	1.1	59.6	4.4
Western	42,651	12,221	616	26,393	3,421	100.0	28.7	1.4	61.9	8.0
Isabel	14,634	4,879	94	8,417	1,244	100.0	33.3	0.6	57.5	8.5
Central	13,654	5,167	132	7,004	1,351	100.0	37.8	1.0	51.3	9.9
Rennell-Bellona	2,002	625	30	1,269	78	100.0	31.2	1.5	63.4	3.9
Guadalcanal	68,412	20,604	668	36,432	10,708	100.0	30.1	1.0	53.3	15.7
Malaita	75,353	40,074	844	24,244	10,191	100.0	53.2	1.1	32.2	13.5
Makira-Ulawa	22,733	7,726	265	12,120	2,622	100.0	34.0	1.2	53.3	11.5
Temotu	9,738	3,514	121	5,052	1,051	100.0	36.1	1.2	51.9	10.8
Honiara	60,041	19,474	1,045	35,498	4,024	100.0	32.4	1.7	59.1	6.7

Table 9.2.4: Population 5 years+ and school attendance status by province for females, Solomon Islands: 2019

Province	Numbers					Percent				
	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Left school	Never been	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Left school	Never been
Total	308,273	111,752	3,381	148,323	44,817	100.0	36.3	1.1	48.1	14.5
Choiseul	12,805	4,534	122	7,597	552	100.0	35.4	1.0	59.3	4.3
Western	39,171	11,458	502	24,325	2,886	100.0	29.3	1.3	62.1	7.4
Isabel	12,984	4,464	117	6,671	1,732	100.0	34.4	0.9	51.4	13.3
Central	13,002	4,656	121	6,131	2,094	100.0	35.8	0.9	47.2	16.1
Rennell-Bellona	1,637	537	21	985	94	100.0	32.8	1.3	60.2	5.7
Guadalcanal	65,419	19,482	596	32,927	12,414	100.0	29.8	0.9	50.3	19.0
Malaita	75,397	38,137	713	21,534	15,013	100.0	50.6	0.9	28.6	19.9
Makira-Ulawa	21,289	7,070	214	11,079	2,926	100.0	33.2	1.0	52.0	13.7
Temotu	10,035	3,262	113	4,585	2,075	100.0	32.5	1.1	45.7	20.7
Honiara	56,534	18,152	862	32,489	5,031	100.0	32.1	1.5	57.5	8.9

9.3 School enrollment

At the time of the 2019 Census, 238,108 people (37.7%) out of the population 5 years and older were enrolled in schools. This comprised of 122,975 males (51.6%) and 115,133 females (48.4%). Of the

total enrolled pupils, 230,757 people (96.9%) were enrolled full-time and 7,351 (3.1%) were enrolled part-time in an educational institution. The distribution of those attending a school by school level enrollment is shown in Table 9.3.1

For purposes of categorizing school enrolment by selected age groups, the previous 2009 Census age group range of 6-15 years enrollment was revised to age group 5-15 years enrollment due to the revised policy goals (Education Strategy Framework, 2016-2030). The data showed that from the total enrolled population, 64% of children 5-15 years were enrolled in schools with the majority (79%) residing in rural areas than in urban areas (21%).

Table 9.3.1: Population 5 years and older by sex and enrolled in school by school level enrollment, Solomon Islands: 2009 to 2019

School Level	Numbers						Percentage(%)					
	2009			2019			2009			2019		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Total	**147,717**	**78,013**	**69,704**	**238,108**	**122,975**	**115,133**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Preschool	**29,746**	**15,295**	**14,451**	**28,869**	**14,711**	**14,158**	**20.1**	**19.6**	**20.7**	**12.1**	**12.0**	**12.3**
Primary	**79,598**	**42,166**	**37,432**	**113,150**	**58,854**	**54,296**	**53.9**	**54.0**	**53.7**	**47.5**	**47.9**	**47.2**
Standard 1	16,685	8,855	7,830	24,254	12,634	11,620	11.3	11.4	11.2	10.2	10.3	10.1
Standard 2	15,453	8,229	7,224	20,534	10,813	9,721	10.5	10.5	10.4	8.6	8.8	8.4
Standard 3	14,673	7,763	6,910	19,938	10,574	9,364	9.9	10.0	9.9	8.4	8.6	8.1
Standard 4	12,594	6,773	5,821	17,671	9,322	8,349	8.5	8.7	8.4	7.4	7.6	7.3
Standard 5	11,003	5,771	5,232	16,176	8,157	8,019	7.4	7.4	7.5	6.8	6.6	7.0
Standard 6	9,190	4,775	4,415	14,577	7,354	7,223	6.2	6.1	6.3	6.1	6.0	6.3
Secondary	**24,466**	**12,852**	**11,614**	**59,681**	**29,941**	**29,740**	**16.6**	**16.5**	**16.7**	**25.1**	**24.3**	**25.8**
Form 1	7,194	3,639	3,555	12,833	6,318	6,515	4.9	4.7	5.1	5.4	5.1	5.7
Form 2	6,293	3,282	3,011	12,184	6,038	6,146	4.3	4.2	4.3	5.1	4.9	5.3
Form 3	4,290	2,247	2,043	11,338	5,769	5,569	2.9	2.9	2.9	4.8	4.7	4.8
Form 4	3,013	1,601	1,412	9,112	4,589	4,523	2.0	2.1	2.0	3.8	3.7	3.9
Form 5	1,732	873	859	8,598	4,340	4,258	1.2	1.1	1.2	3.6	3.5	3.7
Form 6/7	1,944	1,210	734	5,616	2,887	2,729	1.3	1.6	1.1	2.4	2.3	2.4
Tertiary	**1,881**	**1,146**	**735**	**11,466**	**6,276**	**5,190**	**1.3**	**1.5**	**1.1**	**4.8**	**5.1**	**4.5**
Vocational	**1,533**	**950**	**583**	**4,081**	**2,524**	**1,557**	**1.0**	**1.2**	**0.8**	**1.7**	**2.1**	**1.4**
Other	**10,493**	**5,604**	**4,889**	**20,861**	**10,669**	**10,192**	**7.1**	**7.2**	**7.0**	**8.8**	**8.7**	**8.9**

Almost half of all student (113,150) were enrolled in primary schools, 25.1% (59,681) in secondary schools and 12.1% (28,869) in preschool. About 4.8% (11,466) of all pupils attended a tertiary institution, and another 4,081 students (1.7%) attended a vocational institution. 'Other' institutions (8.8%) included enrolments in apprenticeships, specialized trades schools, etc.

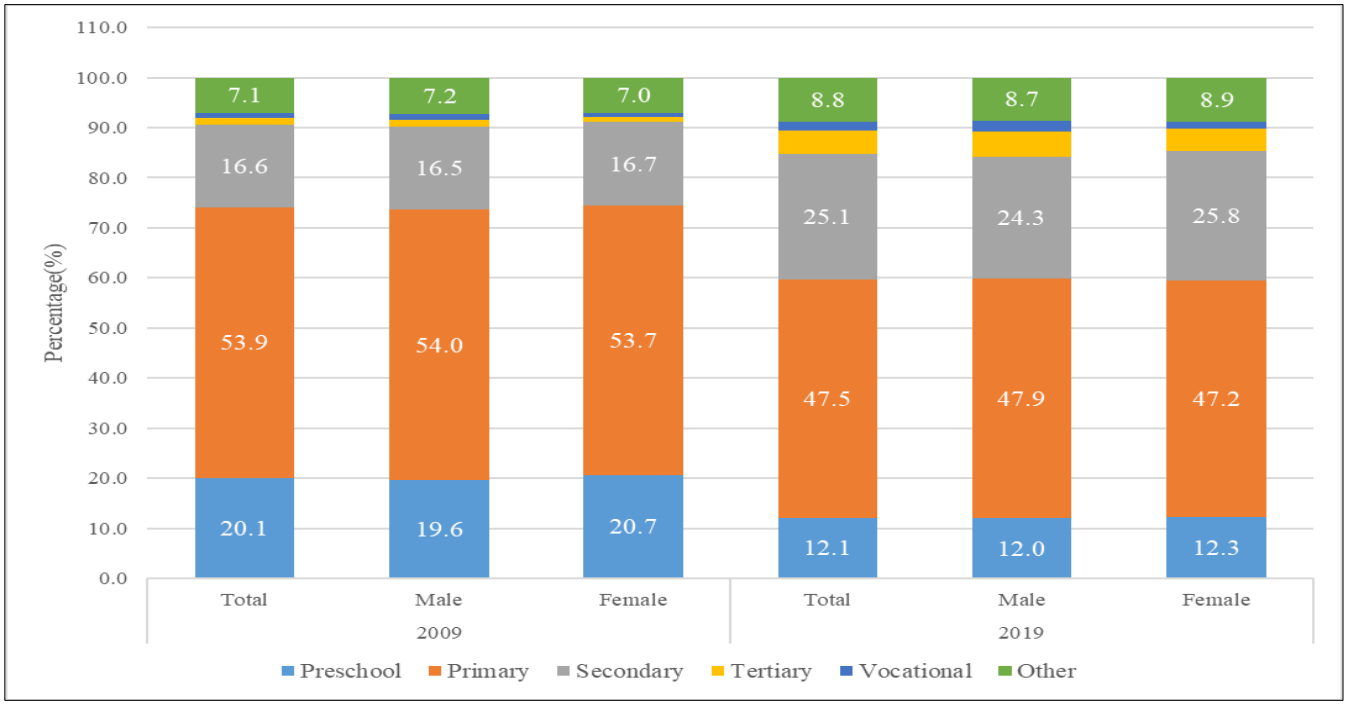
There were certain differences between male and female enrolment rates. With enrolment rates increasing by 61.2% since 2009, this was driven by female enrollments (increased by 65.2%) than male enrollments (increased by 57.6%)[40]. In 2019, the gap between sexes in enrollment rates

[40] Caution be considered in the percentage change (upward bias) due to the undercount in 2009 Census

narrowed with female enrollment rates arriving at slightly lower (48.4%) than the male enrollment rates (51.6%). While Female enrolments in secondary school level - Form 1 and Form 2 were higher than males compared to 2009, this reversed from Form 3 to higher levels as males dominated.

Figure 9.3.1 shows the composition of those enrolled in school in 2009 and 2019 respectively. The percent of preschool enrolment decreased during the decade as in primary school enrollments. However, the share of secondary school enrollment increased from about 1 in 6 to about 1 in 4 pupils.

Figure 9.3.1: School enrolment by level and sex, Solomon Islands: 2009 and 2019



9.4 Educational attainment

Persons 12 years and over who had attained a level of education based on the highest level of education completed were as follows: 24.8% completed primary level education - this would have increased to 46.2% with the inclusion of those person that attained some primary educational attainment; 28.4% completed secondary education (Form 3-7), and about 10% completed some tertiary and other educational levels. The rest of the persons did not attend school or were below the primary level (Table 9.4.1; Table 9.4.2).

While males (50.5%) and females (49.5%) were closer to achieving equal levels in primary educational attainment at the national level, within respective genders, the proportion of females that completed primary education was higher (46.5) than males (45.8%). The rise in female primary education attainments were driven by females (51.6%) in urban areas. However, at the secondary

level, males (53.4%) dominated overall attainment than females (46.6%) and within respective genders, more males (29.7%) completed secondary education than females (26.9%). A similar finding was observed at the tertiary level were males dominated in attaining tertiary level education than females. For instance, in the bachelor degree (BS/BA), there were close to 2 males for every 1 female that attained BS/BA levels and for vocational training, 3 males to 1 female attained vocational level.

Table 9.4.1: Population 12 years+ and highest level of education completed by sex and urban/rural residence, Solomon Islands: 2019

Highest level of Education	Total			Urban			Rural		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	506,009	257,807	248,202	150,765	77,473	73,292	355,244	180,334	174,910
None/Pre-primary	80,814	33,539	47,275	12,103	4,784	7,319	68,711	28,755	39,956
Part-Primary	108,375	54,635	53,740	21,394	10,359	11,035	86,981	44,276	42,705
Primary	125,351	63,475	61,876	29,734	14,602	15,132	95,617	48,873	46,744
Form 3	73,285	38,008	35,277	25,023	12,584	12,439	48,262	25,424	22,838
Form 5	42,076	22,713	19,363	18,639	9,880	8,759	23,437	12,833	10,604
Form 6-7	28,126	15,965	12,161	16,744	9,351	7,393	11,382	6,614	4,768
Some College/No degree	28,758	16,502	12,256	16,171	8,793	7,378	12,587	7,709	4,878
BS/BA +	11,116	7,075	4,041	8,209	5,097	3,112	2,907	1,978	929
Vocational certificate	6,941	5,280	1,661	2,386	1,830	556	4,555	3,450	1,105
Other	1,167	615	552	362	193	169	805	422	383

Table 9.4.2: Percentage of Population 12 years+ and highest level of education completed by sex and urban/rural residence, Solomon Islands: 2019

Highest level of Education	Total			Urban			Rural		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
None/Pre-primary	16.0	13.0	19.0	8.0	6.2	10.0	19.3	15.9	22.8
Part-Primary	21.4	21.2	21.7	14.2	13.4	15.1	24.5	24.6	24.4
Primary	24.8	24.6	24.9	19.7	18.8	20.6	26.9	27.1	26.7
Form 3	14.5	14.7	14.2	16.6	16.2	17.0	13.6	14.1	13.1
Form 5	8.3	8.8	7.8	12.4	12.8	12.0	6.6	7.1	6.1
Form 6-7	5.6	6.2	4.9	11.1	12.1	10.1	3.2	3.7	2.7
Some College/No degree	5.7	6.4	4.9	10.7	11.3	10.1	3.5	4.3	2.8
BS/BA +	2.2	2.7	1.6	5.4	6.6	4.2	0.8	1.1	0.5
Vocational certificate	1.4	2.0	0.7	1.6	2.4	0.8	1.3	1.9	0.6
Other	0.23	0.24	0.22	0.24	0.25	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.22

As education level increases, females are less likely to reach higher educational attainments due to various social-economic and cultural constraints. For example, even in urban areas when both sexes have equal opportunities for education advancement, there were more males in urban areas (6.6%) that attained a BS/BA level than females (4.2%). Similar behaviour amongst sexes were observed from Form 5-7 up to other tertiary educational levels in both urban and rural areas (Figure 9.4.1, Figure 9.4.2).

Figure 9.4.1: Percentage of Population 12 years+ in urban areas by highest level of education completed and sex, Solomon Islands: 2019

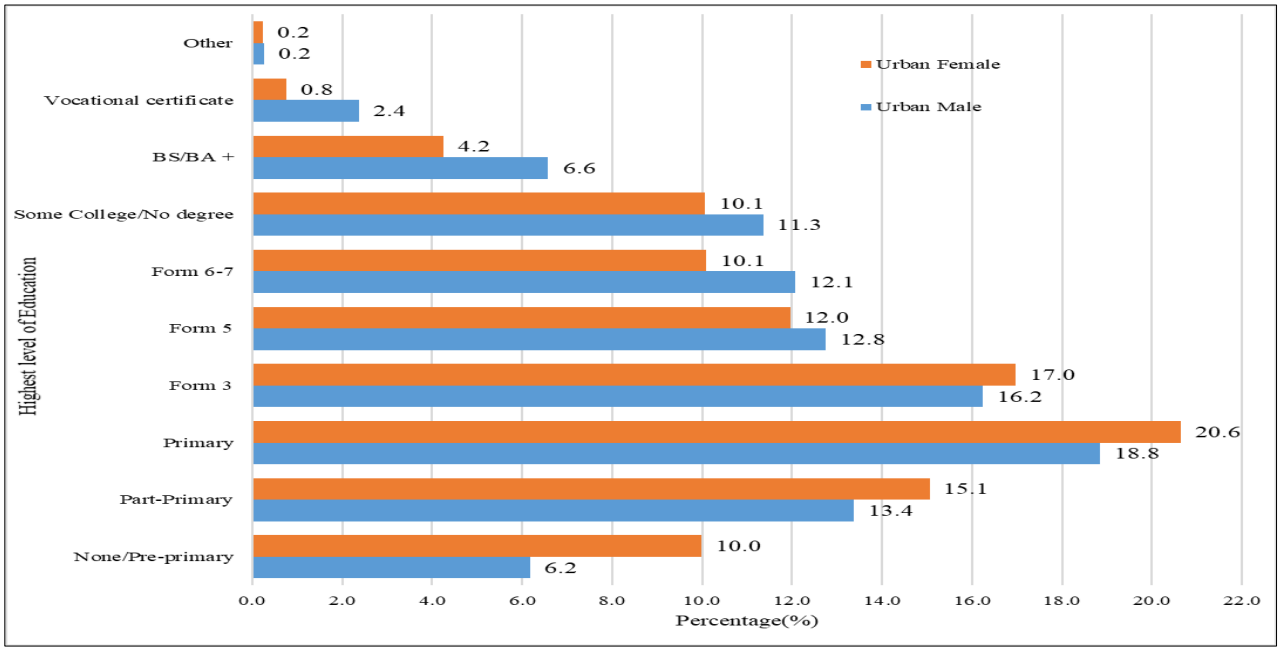
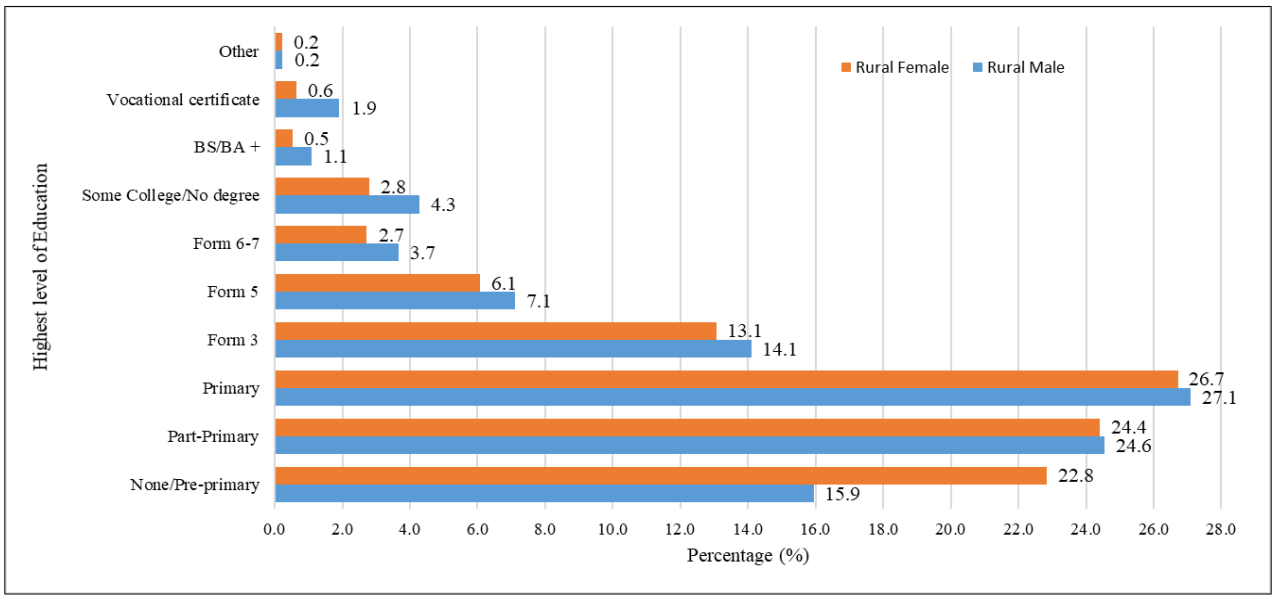


Figure 9.4.2: Percentage of population 12 years+ in rural areas by highest level of education completed and sex, Solomon Islands: 2019

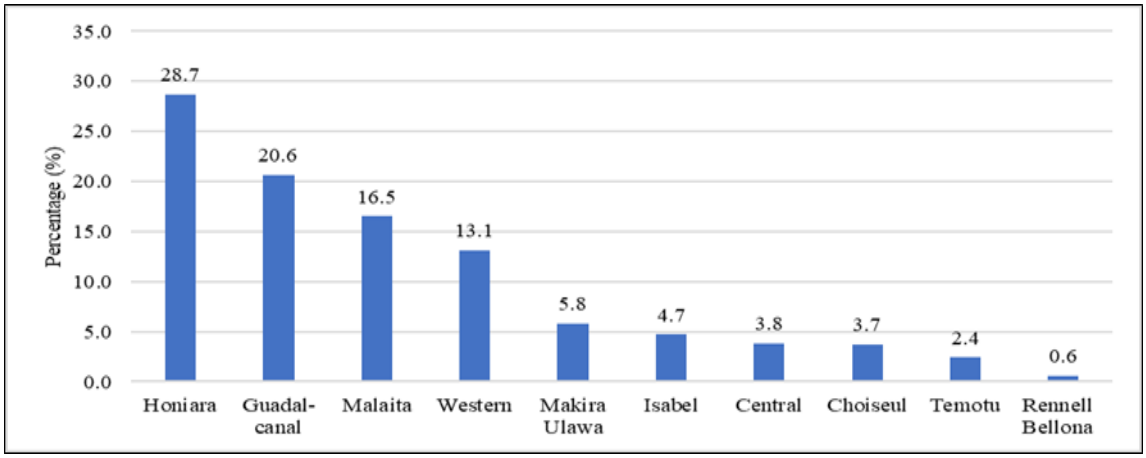


Across provinces, primary level education was the main level of educational attainment achieved by the majority of the population 12 years and over. In provinces such as Choiseul, Western, and Makira-Ulawa, over a third of their respective populations have attained primary education level. Within respective provinces, Honiara had the highest proportion of the population with secondary education (41.4% %), followed by Guadalcanal (27.7%). Honiara also dominates in tertiary education up to BS/BA levels of attainment. (Table 9.4.3; Figure 9.4.5).

Table 9.4.3: Population 12 years+ and highest level of education completed by province, Solomon Islands: 2019

Educational attainment	Total	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell-Bellona	Guadal-canal	Malaita	Makira	Temotu	Honiara
Total	506,009	20,680	65,723	22,254	20,971	3,013	106,917	117,410	33,744	15,661	99,636
None/Pre	80,814	1,929	4,705	3,399	4,043	120	18,983	32,642	4,196	3,361	7,436
Primary	233,726	12,010	36,874	10,054	10,176	1,520	49,716	55,627	18,817	8,111	30,821
Form 3	73,285	3,249	10,619	3,990	3,148	445	15,028	13,575	5,146	2,014	16,071
Form 5	42,076	1,480	5,637	2,050	1,521	271	8,660	6,687	2,209	945	12,616
Form 6-7	28,126	624	2,487	757	788	206	5,911	3,458	960	454	12,481
Some College No degree	28,758	820	3,306	1,159	872	277	5,296	3,342	1,337	552	11,797
BS/BA +	11,116	195	769	222	192	61	1,830	847	281	117	6,602
Vocational certificate	6,941	333	1,156	550	189	111	1,340	920	690	98	1,554
Other	1,167	40	170	73	42	2	153	312	108	9	258
Percent (%)											
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
None/Pre	16.0	9.3	7.2	15.3	19.3	4.0	17.8	27.8	12.4	21.5	7.5
Primary	46.2	58.1	56.1	45.2	48.5	50.4	46.5	47.4	55.8	51.8	30.9
Form 3	14.5	15.7	16.2	17.9	15.0	14.8	14.1	11.6	15.3	12.9	16.1
Form 5	8.3	7.2	8.6	9.2	7.3	9.0	8.1	5.7	6.5	6.0	12.7
Form 6-7	5.6	3.0	3.8	3.4	3.8	6.8	5.5	2.9	2.8	2.9	12.5
Some College No degree	5.7	4.0	5.0	5.2	4.2	9.2	5.0	2.8	4.0	3.5	11.8
BS/BA +	2.2	0.9	1.2	1.0	0.9	2.0	1.7	0.7	0.8	0.7	6.6
Vocational certificate	1.4	1.6	1.8	2.5	0.9	3.7	1.3	0.8	2.0	0.6	1.6
Other	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.3

Figure 9.4.5: Percentage of Population 12 years+ with secondary level education completed by province, Solomon Islands: 2019



At the provincial level, educational attainment varied considerably amongst genders, as presented in Table 9.4.4 and Table 9.4.5. Females who contributed towards closely narrowing the gap with males in primary educational attainment at the national level resided mainly in Choiseul (0.97), Rennell-Bellonna (0.84) and Honiara (0.97). In observing their respective sex ratios in primary educational attainment, there were 97 male attainments for every 100 female attainments in Choiseul and Honiara, and in Rennell-Bellona, there were 84 male attainments for every 100 female attainments.

At the secondary level attainment, males in all provinces outnumbered their female counterparts in secondary attainment with the exception of Form 3 level attainments in Choiseul (0.98) and Western (0.96) - where for every 100 female attainments in secondary (Form 3) education, there were 98 male attainments in Choiseul and 96 male attainments in Western.

Moreover, males outnumbered females in tertiary educational attainments, especially in BS/BA and vocational college attainments. Isabel province recorded the highest ratio of close to 4 males to every 1 female attainment in BS/BA; and in vocational attainment, the highest attainment ratio was reported in Rennell-Bellona with 6 male attainments for every 1 female attainment.

Table: 9.4.4: Population 12 years+ and highest level of education completed by province - males, Solomon Islands: 2019

Educational Attainment	Total	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell-Bellona	Guadal-canal	Malaita	Makira-Ulawa	Temotu	Honiara
Total	257,807	10,666	34,216	11,811	10,676	1,680	54,467	58,034	17,317	7,618	51,322
None/Pre	33,539	1,000	2,559	1,434	1,536	44	8,209	12,949	1,793	1,102	2,913
Part-Primary	54,635	2,474	7,120	2,083	2,693	355	12,335	14,972	4,252	2,230	6,121
Primary	63,475	3,632	11,600	3,081	2,504	356	12,757	13,594	5,191	1,941	8,819
Form 3	38,008	1,606	5,204	2,192	1,777	247	7,874	7,203	2,725	1,104	8,076
Form 5	22,713	754	2,963	1,114	855	182	4,699	3,800	1,207	494	6,645
Form 6-7	15,965	339	1,345	490	482	146	3,362	2,016	531	247	7,007
Some College/No degree	16,502	438	1,998	733	534	209	3,007	2,077	828	343	6,335
BS/BA +	7,075	141	500	173	127	43	1,151	578	212	85	4,065
Vocational certificate	5,280	258	827	462	142	96	997	702	524	67	1,205
Other	615	24	100	49	26	2	76	143	54	5	136

Table 9.4.5: Population 12 years+ and highest level of education completed by province - females, Solomon Islands: 2019

Educational Attainment	Total	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell-Bellona	Guadal-canal	Malaita	Makira-Ulawa	Temotu	Honiara
Total	248,202	10,014	31,507	10,443	10,295	1,333	52,450	59,376	16,427	8,043	48,314
None/Pre	47,275	929	2,146	1,965	2,507	76	10,774	19,693	2,403	2,259	4,523
Part-Primary	53,740	2,175	6,586	1,960	2,787	384	12,069	14,563	4,238	2,181	6,797
Primary	61,876	3,729	11,568	2,930	2,192	425	12,555	12,498	5,136	1,759	9,084
Form 3	35,277	1,643	5,415	1,798	1,371	198	7,154	6,372	2,421	910	7,995
Form 5	19,363	726	2,674	936	666	89	3,961	2,887	1,002	451	5,971
Form 6-7	12,161	285	1,142	267	306	60	2,549	1,442	429	207	5,474
Some College/No degree	12,256	382	1,308	426	338	68	2,289	1,265	509	209	5,462
BS/BA +	4,041	54	269	49	65	18	679	269	69	32	2,537
Vocational certificate	1,661	75	329	88	47	15	343	218	166	31	349
Other	552	16	70	24	16	0	77	169	54	4	122

9.5 Literacy and language ability

9.5.1 Literacy

The literacy rate of any given population is one of the most important indicators of development. Literacy enables people to communicate, and access knowledge and ideas and contributes to a better understanding of one's environment and interrelationships with other people. It is a key determinant of human capital development in today's society as it leads to improved health, employment, efficiency, and productivity. Literacy, in this context, and as defined in previous censuses is simply the ability to read and write, and is measured through a basic question asked during the census.

Levels of literacy can be distinguished in terms of the degree to which people are able to read or write, or whether people can read but not write. These distinctions require elaborate testing and probing that cannot be undertaken in a census given its limitations but can be undertaken though a more focused literacy study or survey.

The 2019 Census included a question in order to get a general indication of the literacy situation in the country. The question reads: "*Can you read and write a simple sentence in one or more of the following languages: English, Pidgin, Local language, or Other language?*". The way the question was phrased captures a basic skill of reading and writing, and not necessarily a more fluent level of literacy. A disadvantage of a question like this is that the obtained measure refers to self-reported

literacy, which is likely to be biased, as many illiterate people may be embarrassed to admit that they cannot read and write.

Based on the responses to the above question captured in the 2019 Census, the literacy rate based on the population 5 years and over was 79.0% at the national level. This comprised of 80.7% literacy amongst males and 77.2% literacy amongst females (Table 9.5.1, Figure 9.5.2). Literacy based on the population 15 years and over was 85.5% at the national level, with male literacy levels higher (88.5%) than the females (82.5%).

By urban-rural distribution, people in urban areas were more literate (92.5%) than those in rural areas (82.3%). The age group with the highest rate of literacy were the 15-19-year-old population with 90.3% literate. The school population aged 10-14 years recorded 79.7% literate, as one would expect that they should be able to read and write a simple sentence.

Table 9.5.1: Population 5 years and older by literacy rate, Solomon Islands: 2019

	Literate Population			Percentage Literate		
Age group	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	498,422	260,439	237,983	79.0	80.7	77.2
5-9	40,976	20,761	20,215	45.3	44.3	46.4
10-14	67,258	34,303	32,955	79.7	78.3	81.1
15-19	69,285	35,111	34,174	90.3	89.8	90.9
20-24	59,186	29,718	29,468	90.2	90.3	90.0
25-29	47,993	24,568	23,425	88.7	89.8	87.6
30-34	46,394	23,802	22,592	86.9	89.1	84.7
35-39	39,741	20,961	18,780	85.8	88.8	82.6
40-44	34,239	18,477	15,762	85.4	89.0	81.6
45-49	28,240	15,653	12,587	84.2	89.3	78.5
50-54	20,378	11,408	8,970	80.3	87.5	72.7
55-59	14,957	8,579	6,378	79.1	87.3	70.3
60-64	10,467	6,080	4,387	76.4	85.5	66.6
65-69	7,917	4,442	3,475	72.3	81.7	63.1
70-74	4,740	2,735	2,005	68.2	79.6	57.0
75-79	3,052	1,752	1,300	63.9	73.4	54.5
80-84	1,425	833	592	60.6	72.6	49.2
85+	2,174	1,256	918	64.9	71.4	57.7

According to Figure 9.5.1, literacy by type of language showed that males were more literate in English (75%), Pidgin (70%), local (65.8%) and others (7.3%) compared to females. Moreover, according to the pyramid in Figure 9.5.2, literacy rates gradually declined amongst both sexes as age increased. Males (80.7%) aged 5 years and older were more literate than female (77.2%). However, literacy rates were significantly higher for females than males for the three early age categories (5-9; 10-14 and 15-19 years). For example, at age 10-14, 81.1% of females were literate compared to 78.3% of males.

Figure 9.5.1: Percentage of population 5 years and over and literate by language and sex, Solomon Islands: 2019

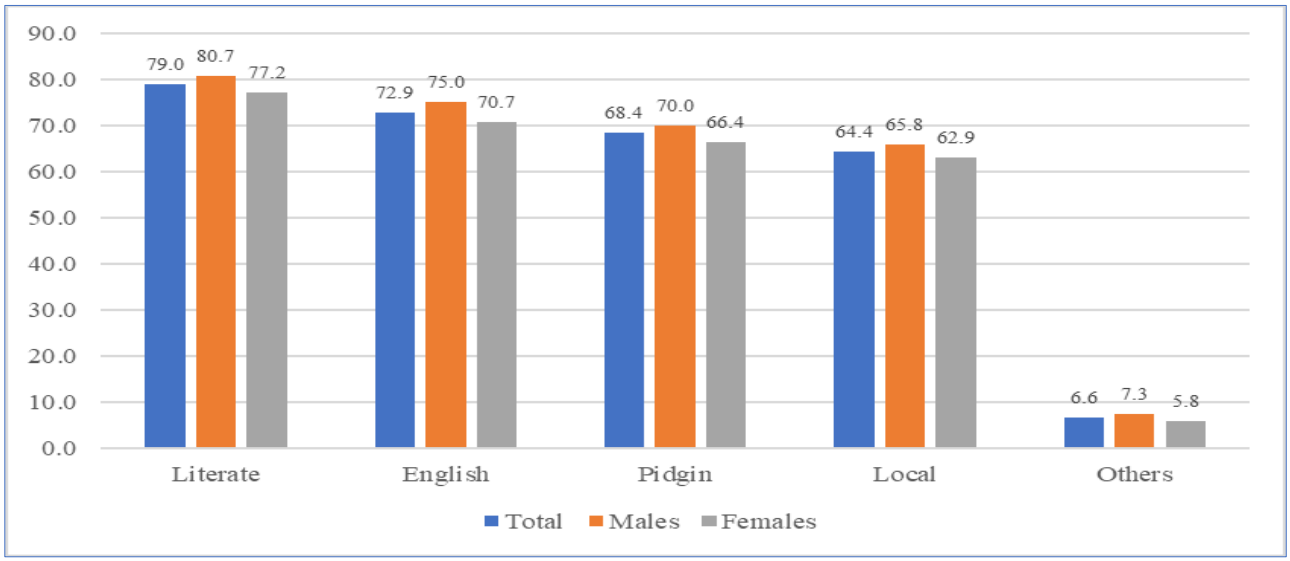
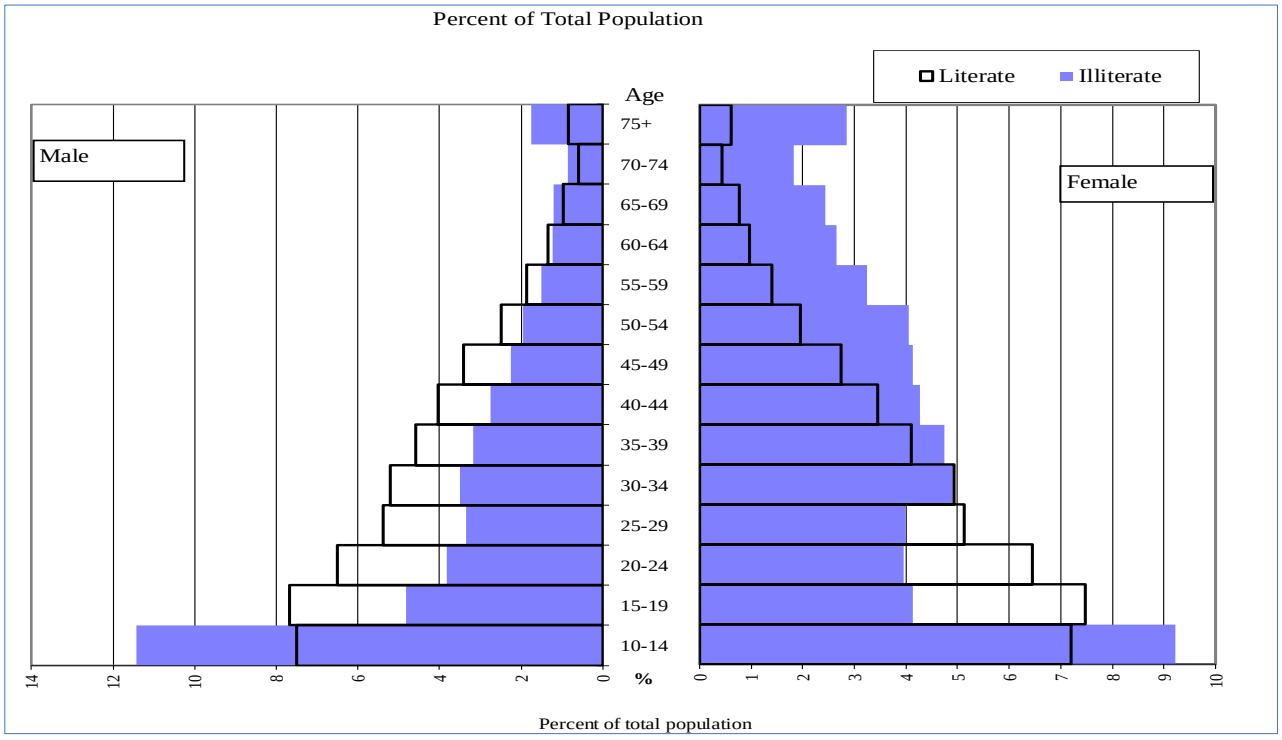


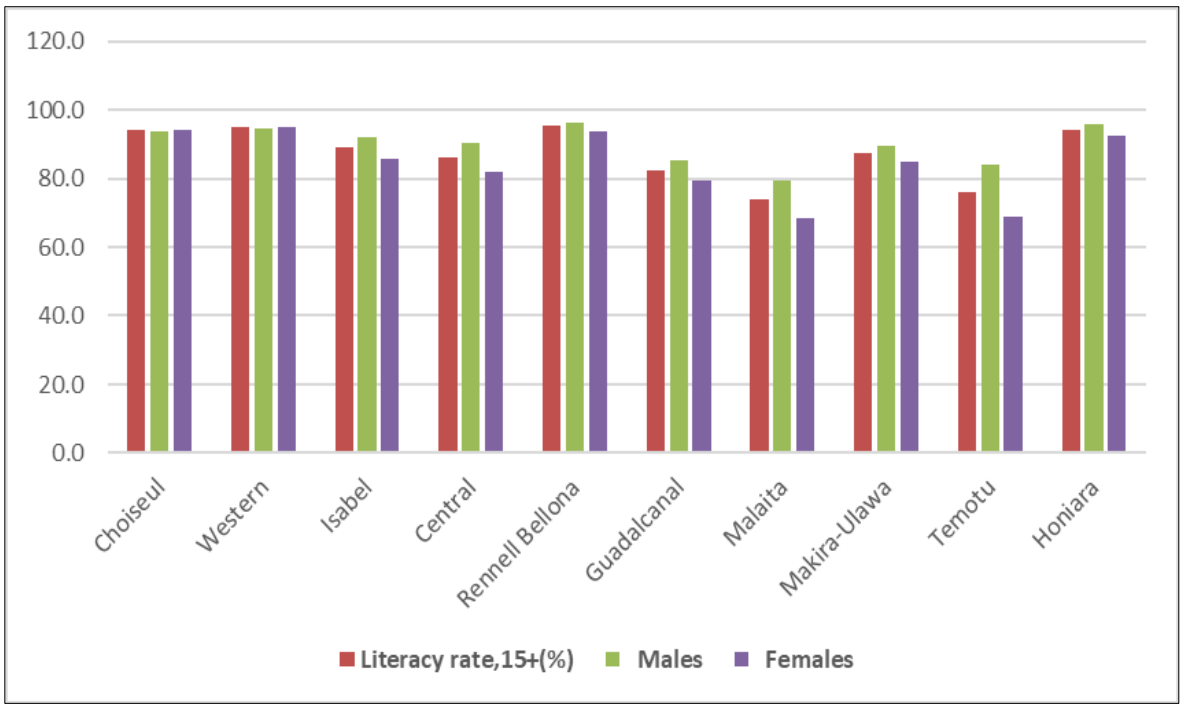
Figure 9.5.2: Literacy pyramid (percent of total population), Solomon Islands: 2019



Across provinces, and amongst the population 15 years and over, literacy was lowest in Malaita (73.8%) trailing behind Temotu (76.2%) – this was mainly attributed to the relatively lower literacy amongst Malaita women (68.6%), especially those in rural areas. This could also be due to various factors such as migration (especially by younger men), rural-urban drift, and cultural

constraints faced by young girls. In this age category, Western Province had the highest literacy rate amongst all provinces (Figure 9.5.3).

Figure 9.5.3: Population 15 years+ and literacy rates by sex and province, Solomon Islands: 2019



9.5.2 Language ability

The 2019 Census findings reported that among the four languages (English, Pidgin, Local Language and Other Language) that had been tested for literacy, the English language came out to be the most predominant language used in communication. English language is the official language widely taught in school syllabus and is a key language requirement for formal communication in government and in private sector organizations. The 2019 Census reported that 72.9% of the population 5 years and over was able to communicate (literate) in the English language. Amongst sexes, a relatively larger percentage of males (75%) than females (70.7%) were literate in the English language (Table 9.5.2, Figure 9.5.4).

The second important language was Pidgin with 68.4% of people 5 years and over who claimed that were able to read and write a simple sentence in the Pidgin language. This was followed by local language (64.4%) and only 6.6% of the population communicated in 'other' languages. In most cases, this 'other' category referred mostly to other foreign languages.

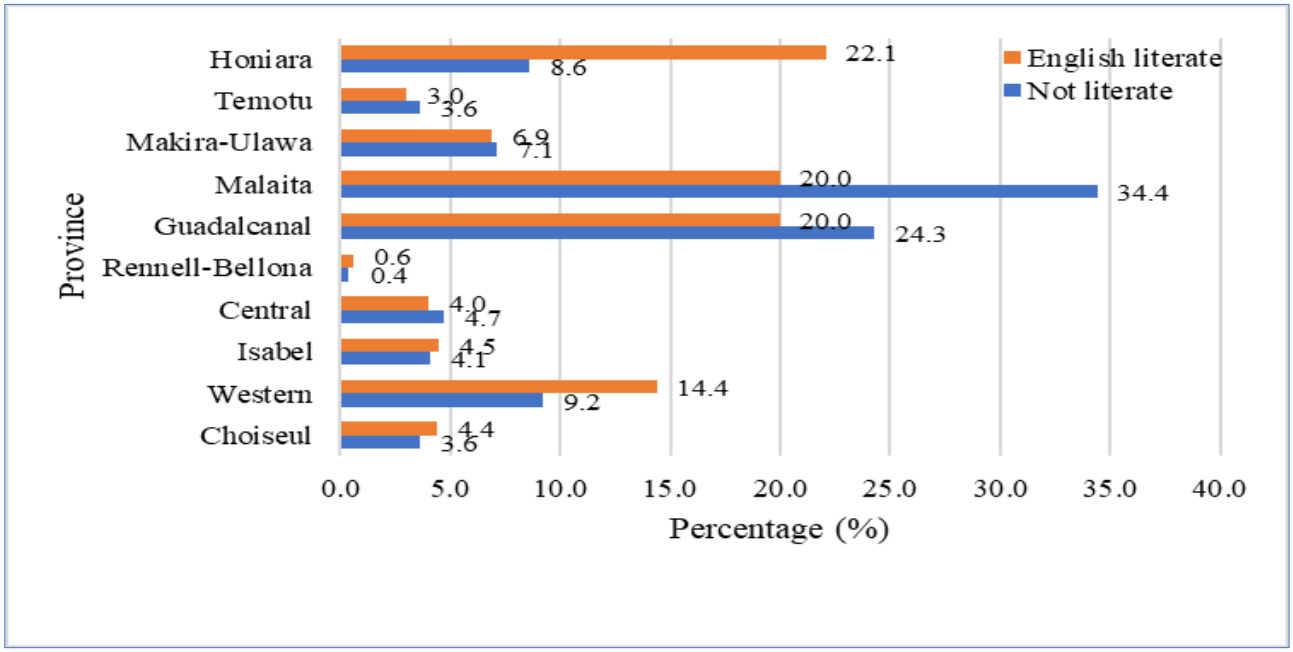
Language abilities varied across provinces. Communications in the English (87.4%) and Pidgin (81.0%) languages was predominant in Honiara compared with other provinces. This was followed by Western in both languages, respectively (80.7% and 77.6%). Malaita was the least province that communicated in the English

and Pidgin languages. The provinces were other languages were widely utilized were Rennell Bellona (80.4%) and Choiseul (79.5%) provinces.

Table 9.5.2: Percentage of Population 5 years and over and language ability by sex and province, Solomon Islands: 2019

Language Ability	Total	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell-Bellona	Guadal canal	Malaita	Makira-Ulawa	Temotu	Honiara
English	72.9	76.8	80.7	74.6	69.8	80.6	68.9	61.0	72.3	69.1	87.4
Males	75.0	76.2	80.4	76.5	74.2	79.5	70.7	64.7	73.8	74.4	88.9
Females	70.7	77.6	81.1	72.4	65.3	81.9	67.0	57.2	70.7	64.0	85.7
Pidgin	68.4	75.8	77.6	71.0	68.7	70.8	65.4	55.8	67.0	60.2	81.0
Males	70.1	74.4	76.9	72.6	72.4	70.9	67.0	59.0	68.2	64.8	82.3
Females	66.5	77.2	78.3	69.2	64.9	70.7	63.8	52.6	65.7	55.8	79.6
Local language	64.4	79.5	76.3	71.2	70.0	80.4	62.1	55.1	64.1	39.2	68.1
Males	65.8	77.4	75.1	71.4	72.6	78.5	63.6	58.0	65.1	42.9	69.4
Females	62.9	81.7	77.6	70.9	67.3	82.7	60.6	52.3	63.1	35.6	66.8
Other langauages	6.6	13.5	10.3	9.5	6.2	6.9	4.9	5.9	5.2	3.3	5.6
Males	7.3	14.2	11.0	11.1	7.0	9.9	5.6	6.6	5.8	3.8	6.3
Females	5.8	12.8	9.6	7.8	5.5	3.1	4.2	5.3	4.7	2.7	4.8

Figure 9.5.4: Percent of persons with English literacy by province, Solomon Islands: 2019



9.6 First language

Solomon Island has numerous diverse languages and many local dialects. The official language is English, and the *lingua franca* for majority of people is Pidgin. The 2019 Census obtained data on first language by asking the question *"What is the first language this person learnt as a child?* This question was asked to persons who were 5 years and over[41].

Data about first-learned languages can provide reliable information on how many people speak a particular language. First learnt language is different from language of habitual use. For example, many people residing in Honiara would have Pidgin language as their language of habitual use, while their first language would refer to at least one of the many local language in the Solomon Islands.

According to Table 9.6.1, the first-leant language spoken by the majority (101,588 or 16.1%) of the population 5 years and older in the Solomon Islands was Pidgin. The table revealed a large increase in the number of people who spoke Pidgin as their first-learnt language with 1,527 people in 1976 to 101,588 people in 2019 Census[42]. Since 1999, this represented a massive increase of 407%. Pidgin could effectively be considered a lingua franca in urban areas, especially in Honiara, where the majority (47.2%) of people spoke Pidgin as their first-learnt language (Figure 9.6.1).

Table 9.6.1: Larger local languages by province, Solomon Islands: 1976, 1999, 2019

Language	1976 5 years +	1999 5 years +	2019 5 years +	Percent (%) increase,1999-2019
Pidgin	1,527	20,038	101,588	407.0
Local Language				
Choiseul				
Babatana	2,355	5,255	12,700	141.7
Varisi	1,702	4,681	8,254	76.3
Western				
Bilua	3,543	8,062	12,421	54.1
Marovo	3,680	7,566	11,266	48.9
Roviana	4,284	9,079	15,135	66.7
Isabel				
Cheke Holo	5,049	10,120	15,131	49.5
Central				
Gela	5,323	10,981	17,637	60.6
Rennell-Bellona	1,950	2,998	4,438	48.0
Guadalcanal				
Birao	3,486	5,390	11,134	106.6
Ghari	2,714	6,499	16,295	150.7
Lengo	4,942	12,443	21,509	72.9
Tolo/Talise	2,080	5,473	19,254	251.8

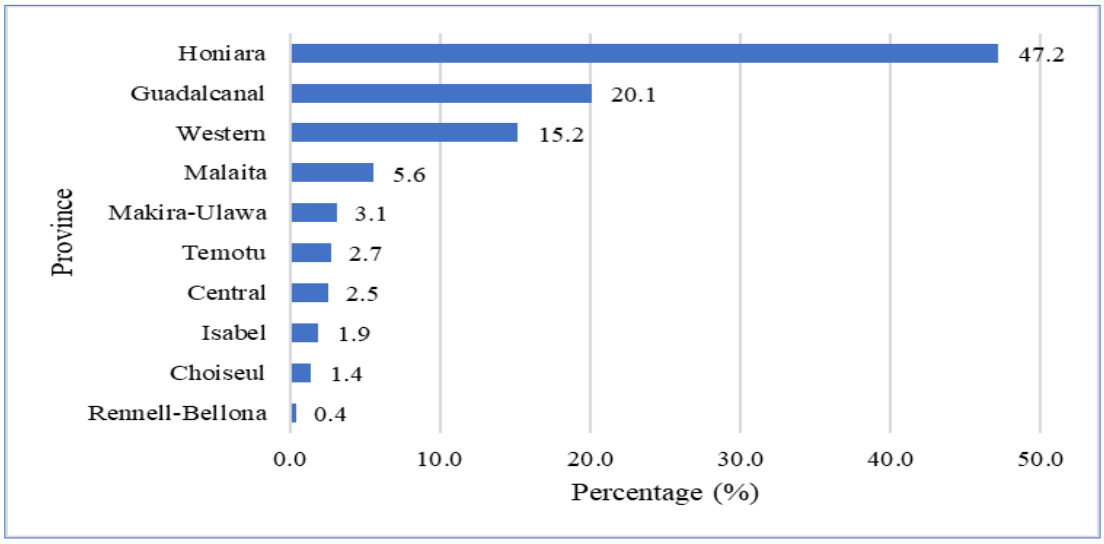
[41] Note that this question was not captured in the previous 2009 Census but related questions were included in other past censuses (e.g., 1999 census). Note also that the census is not a focused study or survey of languages nor endangered languages and thus is limited in scope.

[42] Caution should be considered as figures in past censuses are unadjusted for any undercount in enumeration.

Table 9.6.1 (Cont...): Larger local language by province, Solomon Islands: 1976, 1999, 2019

Language	1976 5 years +	1999 5 years +	2019 5 years +	Percent (%) increase, 1999-2019
Malaita				
Kwara'ae	13,216	29,733	50,506	69.9
Are'are	7,227	16,453	26,175	59.1
Lau	7,393	15,747	22,806	44.8
Kwaio	6,776	12,171	22,448	84.4
To'abaita	5,228	11,668	19,518	67.3
Baenggu	2,277	5,476	11,546	110.8
Baelelea	4,252	8,095	13,241	63.6
Sa'a	4,446	6,876	11,669	69.7
Makira-Ulawa				
Arosi	2,727	6,224	11,577	86.0
Tairaha			8,795	
Kahua	1,570	4,745	8,123	71.2
Temotu				
Aiwoo	2,355	5,255	9,632	83.3

Figure 9.6.1: Pidgin as first-learnt language by province, Solomon Islands: 2019



Concerning the first-learnt local language spoken, the majority of people spoke the Kwara'ae language (50,506) of Malaita province. This remained the most popular spoken language since the 1976 and 1999 censuses. Speakers of Kwara'ae increased by 69.9% since 1999. The Areáre language was the second most spoken language recording an increase of 59.1% or an additional 9,700 people since 1999. Interestingly, people who spoke the Tolo/Talise language of Guadalcanal more than doubled in 2019, with an increase of 251.8% since 1999.

The likelihood of a first-learnt local language becoming endangered can be associated with a decline in a particular language speaking population over a period of time. This often happens

when speakers of such languages pass away over time or other languages become more preferred over previously spoken first-learnt languages. Defining an endangered language may vary conceptually from one census to another. For instance, in the 1999 Census, an endangered language was referred to as a language with very few speakers (less than 200) or whose speaker population has diminished since 1976 or whose speaker population grew by significantly less than the average 123 percent.

Table 9.6.2 lists a number of larger local languages since 1999 but with expanded growth trends since 1976. Languages such as Vangunu, Owa, and Amba have sharply increased from 1976 to 1999 but have declined from over 15% to less than 23% in 2019. These languages appeared to be in danger of being extinct in the future should the trend continues.

Table 9.6.2: Larger local languages, Solomon Islands: 1976, 1999, 2019

Language	1976 Census	1999 Census	2019 Census	Rate of Growth 1999 to 2019
Vangunu	254	907	705	-22.27%
Owa	2,470	8,406	6,905	-17.86%
Amba	179	593	501	-15.51%
Gula'alaa	0	1,568	1,522	-2.93%
Nalögo	0	1,623	1,591	-1.97%
Kiribati	2,302	4,869	4,873	0.08%
RenBell	1,950	4,394	4,438	1.00%
Anuta	159	267	272	1.87%
Sikaiana	483	731	760	3.97%
Ulawa	2,065	5,423	5,692	4.96%
Ughele	0	1,202	1,274	5.99%
Dori'o	571	2,406	2,595	7.86%
Lungga	1,046	2,767	3,101	12.07%
Simbo	1,326	2,701	3,133	15.99%
Vaghua	874	1,960	2,377	21.28%
Duke	916	2,312	2,933	26.86%
Lau	7,393	17,079	22,806	33.53%
Mono	1,470	3,337	4,488	34.49%
Touo	739	1,879	2,547	35.55%
Marovo	3,680	8,094	11,266	39.19%
Wala	3,066	6,978	9,748	39.70%

Surprisingly about seven endangered local language identified in the 1999 Census seemingly reappeared showing an increase in their respective language speaking populations in 2019 (Table 9.6.3). For example, the Ririo language of Choiseul province was considered endangered with

only 78 speakers in the 1999 Census but rebounded with a massive increase of 214% (245 speakers) in the 2019 Census. While such an increase could have been overstated (as further discussed below), the other endangered languages such as Tanibili revealed that such an increase was plausible.

Although there were some ten so called newly founded languages captured in the 2019 Census as recorded in Table 9.6.3, further research is required to ascertain the degree of accuracy of these languages. For instance, the Dororo language of Western province that appeared to be a new language was considered an extinct language, a variant of the extinct Kazukuru language that was connected to the modern Roviana language. Hence, the number of speakers that identify with this language could be generally identified as speaking the Roviana language.

Table 9.6.3. Endangered and new listed languages, Solomon Islands: 1976, 1999, 2019

Endangered languages & New Languages	Census Years		
	1976	1999	2019
Choisuel			
Ririo	11	78	245
Western			
Dororo*			14
Guliguli*			29
Kazukuru*			14
Isabel			
Ghoighoi*			318
Laghu	2	14	72
Mae*			250
Zazao	14	10	302
Central			
Laube*			36
Temotu			
Anuta	159	249	272
Asumnoa		10	212
Engdewu*			471
Lovono*			18
Noipa*			33
Tanema		3	15
Tanibili	43	15	323
Tauma*			35

** New language name recorded in 2019 census*

Commentary on new and endangered languages

The following general assessments were based on discussions with certain language and translation agencies such as the Solomon Islands Translation Advisory Group (SITAG) regarding some of the aforementioned new and endangered languages, and the need to conduct more specific studies in this area:

- The language of Ririo in the Choiseul province could have been overstated as it was found by Linguists to be a nearly extinct language. It has been considered that the 245 people who claimed to speak Ririo could be identifying Ririo as a lineage or tribe connection but actually speak Babatana language[43].
- Regarding Western local languages, Kazukuru as a language was extinct and may be linked as a tribal designator for a lineage group. The languages of Guliguli and Dororo were extinct variants of the extinct Kazukuru language. It is likely that Guliguli and Dororo are names of places or tribal names. The numbers of speakers that identify with these names could be generally identified as speaking the Roviana language.[44]
- Regarding Isabel languages, Ghoighoi is the Susubona dialect of Blablanga language and thus persons could be identified as part of the Blablanga language[45]. Regarding Laghu, this language was formerly spoken to the west of Kokota, known as Laghu, and became extinct in 1984, having been supplanted by intermarriage and population increases. The numbers of speakers that identify as Laghu may identify that way for lineage purposes, but they could identify as speaking the Zabana language.[46] In terms of Mae, this is a dialect of Cheke Holo and thus persons stated here should be part of the Cheke Holo language speakers.[47] In connection to Zazao, the language is known as Kilokaka, but it has been argued that Zazao could be a place name from the headhunting days, and that the "Zazao language" was just a dialect of Blablanga.[48]
- In Central provinces, Laube was just another name for the Lavukaleve language[49].
- Regarding Temotu province, the Anuta language was considered endangered from linguistic pressure from Pidgin and Tikopian languages. The Asumboa language is also referred to by the people as “Asumbuo”. Moreover, the Engdewu language appeared to be overstated in 2019 when it was first counted in 2013 and added to the Ethnologue[50]. The Lovono language numbers appeared overstated as a Linguist working on Vanikoro in 2005 could only find five elderly speakers of this language[51]. The Noipa language appeared to be undercounted as it was indeed a newly recorded language name and in 2016 a Linguist estimated the population to be

[43] See also (Palmer. 2014. pg 164); Don Laycock (1978)
[44] See Dunn and Ross (2007)
[45] See Palmer (1999), Kokota Grammar, pg 10
[46] See Palmer (1999). Kokota Grammar, pg 2.
[47] See Radu Voica (2017), Doctoral dissertation. pg 38-41
[48] See Palmer (1999), Kokota Grammar, pg 9; and Voice (2017) dissertation on Blanga.
[49] See Terrill (1999), Lavukaleve Grammar, pg 9
[50] See: https://www.ethnologue.com/language/ngr
[51] See François (2009), pg 4

about 250[52]. Furthermore, the Tanema language figures also appeared overstated as the same Linguist working on Vanikoro in 2005 could only find four elderly speakers of this language[53]. With the Tanibili language, the number of speakers counted in 2019 appeared plausible while the name of the Tauma language cannot be fully verified at this stage.

[52] See: https://www.ethnologue.com/language/ngr
[53] See François (2009), pg 4

10. DISABILITY

10 .1 Introduction

Solomon Island Government has a commitment to uphold the needs and rights of people with disabilities. As a signatory to a United Nations convention on the rights of a person with disabilities, the Government has being committed to *"Promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities and to promote respect for their inherent dignity."*

The 2019 Census asked a module of six questions on disability adopted from the Washington Group. This set of the Washington Group questions were initially included in the Solomon Islands Demographic and Health Survey 2015. It was based on capturing self-reported difficulties related to performing basic activities associated with health problems. The questions were focussed on the population 5 years and above. The 2019 Census asked two (2) additional questions on the type of difficulties a person had on self-care and communication which were not captured in the previous 2009 Census. The six questions and domains were:

1. Do you have difficulty seeing, even if wearing glasses?
2. Do you have difficulty hearing, even if using a hearing aid?
3. Do you have difficulty walking or climbing steps?
4. Do you have difficulty remembering or concentrating?
5. Do you have difficulty (with self-care such as) washing all over or dressing?
6. Using your usual (customary) language, do you have difficulty communicating, (for example understanding or being understood by others)

.

Each question had four response categories: (1) No - no difficulty; (2) Yes - some difficulty; (3) Yes - a lot of difficulty; and (4) cannot do at all. These four levels of difficulty were used to capture the full range of functioning in measuring disability.

10.2 Disability by Functional Domain

Table 10.2.1 showed the prevalence of disability for all functional domains for persons 5 years and older despite of the severity of disability. Information presented included more than one difficulty amongst the people irrespective of functional domain. About 11% of the population 5 years and over reported at least a functional form of disability. This was especially prevalent amongst people with some difficulties in Seeing (10.6%), comprising of more females (51%) than males (49%). This was followed by persons with some difficulty in other functional domains such as: Remembering (8.4%), Walking (7.8%), Hearing (5.6%), Self-care (4.7%) and Communicating (3.7%). The prevalence of these forms of disability were higher amongst the rural population than in urban areas.

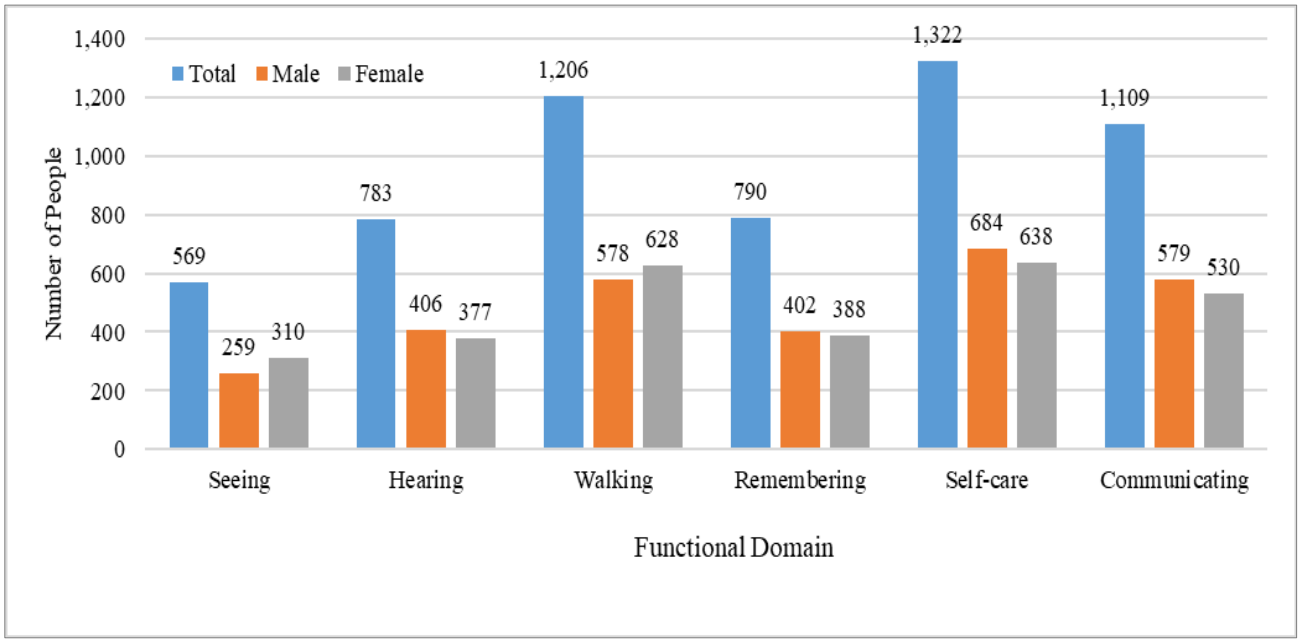
Table 10.2.1: Percentage distribution of the population aged 5 years and older with disabilities by functional domain and degree of difficulty, Solomon Islands: 2019

Functional Domain	Sex			Residence			Age Group			
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	5-17	18-59	60+
Seeing										
Total	**10.6**	**10.1**	**11.1**	**10.6**	**7.2**	**11.9**	**10.6**	**0.8**	**11.2**	**56.9**
Some Difficulty	9.6	9.2	9.9	9.6	6.7	10.7	9.6	0.7	10.7	47.2
A lot of difficulty	0.9	0.8	1.0	0.9	0.4	1.1	0.9	0.1	0.5	8.9
Cannot do at all	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.8
Hearing										
Total	**5.6**	**5.2**	**5.9**	**5.6**	**3.2**	**6.5**	**5.6**	**1.6**	**4.6**	**34.9**
Some Difficulty	4.8	4.5	5.1	4.8	2.9	5.5	4.8	1.5	4.2	27.5
A lot of difficulty	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.8	0.7	0.1	0.3	6.7
Cannot do at all	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.7
Walking										
Total	**7.8**	**6.9**	**8.8**	**7.8**	**4.3**	**9.2**	**7.8**	**1.0**	**7.0**	**50.2**
Some Difficulty	6.5	5.8	7.4	6.5	3.7	7.6	6.5	0.9	6.4	37.9
A lot of difficulty	1.1	0.9	1.2	1.1	0.5	1.3	1.1	0.1	0.5	10.6
Cannot do at all	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	1.8
Remembering										
Total	**8.4**	**7.7**	**9.2**	**8.4**	**4.0**	**10.2**	**8.4**	**3.5**	**7.8**	**40.1**
Some Difficulty	7.5	6.9	8.2	7.5	3.6	9.1	7.5	3.3	7.3	32.4
A lot of difficulty	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.3	1.0	0.8	0.2	0.4	6.8
Cannot do at all	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.9
Self-care										
Total	**4.7**	**4.6**	**4.8**	**4.7**	**2.3**	**5.7**	**4.7**	**5.0**	**2.4**	**23.3**
Some Difficulty	3.9	3.9	4.0	3.9	1.9	4.7	3.9	4.4	2.1	17.5
A lot of difficulty	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.2	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.2	4.5
Cannot do at all	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	1.4
Communicating										
Total	**3.7**	**3.5**	**3.9**	**3.7**	**1.8**	**4.5**	**3.7**	**2.8**	**2.3**	**20.2**
Some Difficulty	3.1	2.9	3.3	3.1	1.5	3.7	3.1	2.4	2.0	15.7
A lot of difficulty	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.2	3.7
Cannot do at all	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.8

About 1% of the population 5 years and over reported a ‘severe’ form of disability (“Cannot do at all”). This comprised of 1,322 persons with severe difficulties in self-care - the most prevalent. This was followed by 1,206 persons who were suffering from lameness (walking) and 1,109 person who had sever difficulties in communicating. The others included 783 persons who were deaf and 569 persons with blindness. (Figure 10.2.1)

Comparison by gender showed that severe disability was higher among females in Seeing (310) and Walking (628) while the males dominated in Hearing (406), Remembering (402) Self-care (684) and Communicating (579) (Figure 10.2.1).

Figure 10.2.1: Population reporting a severe disability by functional domain and sex, Solomon Islands: 2019



Results of having disabilities by province as presented in Table 10.2.2 reported the domain of Seeing with the highest prevalence of disabilities for Western (12.6), Central (11.4), Rennell-Bellona (10.4), Guadalcanal (9.8), Malaita (10.5), Temotu (15.4) and Honiara (6.8). Health problems related to remembering were higher in Choiseul (13.9), Isabel (15.9) and Makira (14.0).

Table 10.2.2: Percentage of persons having disabilities by functional domain and province, Solomon Islands: 2019

Province	Percentage of population aged 5 years and older with Difficulty in:					
	Seeing	Hearing	Walking	Remembering	Self-care	Communicating
Total	**10.6**	**5.6**	**7.8**	**8.4**	**4.7**	**3.7**
Male	10.1	5.2	6.9	7.7	4.6	3.5
Female	11.1	5.9	8.8	9.2	4.8	3.9
Choiseul	**12.2**	**6.3**	**7.2**	**13.9**	**7.3**	**7.6**
Male	11.3	5.5	5.9	12.7	7.0	7.2
Female	13.2	7.2	8.5	15.2	7.5	7.9
Western	**12.6**	**6.5**	**8.5**	**10.8**	**4.9**	**4.0**
Male	11.9	6.2	7.1	10.1	4.8	3.9
Female	13.3	7.0	10.0	11.6	5.0	4.1
Isabel	**15.1**	**7.3**	**10.4**	**15.9**	**6.7**	**7.2**
Male	14.6	7.0	8.9	14.7	6.8	6.5
Female	15.6	7.7	12.0	17.2	6.5	7.9
Central	**11.4**	**6.2**	**9.2**	**8.8**	**4.4**	**3.2**
Male	11.1	5.8	7.9	7.6	3.9	2.6
Female	11.8	6.5	10.6	10.0	5.0	3.8
Rennell-Bellona	**10.4**	**5.5**	**8.5**	**6.0**	**8.8**	**5.3**
Male	8.7	5.1	7.1	5.9	8.5	5.3
Female	12.5	6.0	10.1	6.0	9.2	5.3
Guadalcanal	**9.8**	**5.3**	**7.8**	**7.9**	**4.6**	**3.1**
Male	9.4	5.0	7.1	7.3	4.7	2.9
Female	10.1	5.5	8.5	8.6	4.5	3.3
Malaita	**10.5**	**5.9**	**8.1**	**7.3**	**5.0**	**3.9**
Male	9.9	5.4	7.1	6.5	4.7	3.7
Female	11.2	6.4	9.0	8.0	5.2	4.2
Makira-Ulawa	**13.1**	**7.0**	**11.0**	**14.0**	**6.9**	**4.8**
Male	12.8	6.4	9.9	12.9	7.0	4.6
Female	13.4	7.7	12.2	15.2	6.9	5.0
Temotu	**15.4**	**7.8**	**13.4**	**11.0**	**7.0**	**5.4**
Male	14.2	7.2	11.1	9.3	6.5	4.6
Female	16.6	8.4	15.6	12.5	7.5	6.2
Honiara	**6.8**	**3.1**	**4.0**	**3.4**	**2.0**	**1.6**
Male	6.6	3.0	3.7	3.1	2.0	1.6
Female	6.9	3.2	4.3	3.8	2.0	1.6

11. MOBILE PHONES AND INTERNET

11.1 Introduction.

The proportion of the population owning a mobile phone and having access to internet are two important indicators stipulated in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Solomon Islands National Development Strategy 2016 to 2035. Technological advancements through the acquisition, and usage of mobile phones and internet are likely to lead to improved livelihoods through improved communications, knowledge sharing and education etc.

The 2019 Census asked the following related questions on mobile phones, internet and what the internet was used for:

1. Does this person own a mobile/cell phone?
2. Is this mobile/cell phone in good working condition?
3. Does this person use mobile/cell phones for internet?
4. What does this person use the internet from his/her mobile phone for?

11.2 Mobile/Cell Phones

The 2019 Census reported that although 225,945 people or 44.7% of the population 12 years and above owned a mobile phone, the majority (55.3%) did not own a mobile phone. More than half of the population who owned a mobile phone were males (58.7%) compared to females (41.3%) (Table 11.2.1 and Figure 11.2.1).

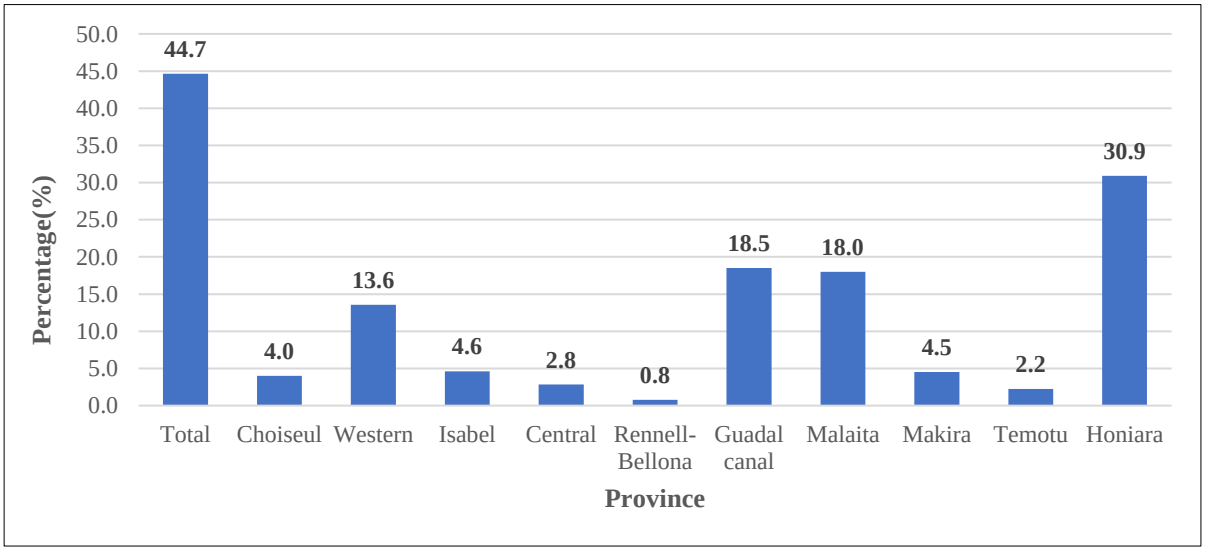
While males outnumber their female counterparts in owning a mobile phone (ratio of 1.4), the reverse holds for females outnumbering males who do not own a mobile phone (ratio of 1.2).

Honiara recorded the highest number (69,876; 30.9%) of all persons in the country who owned a mobile phone – also comprising a significant majority (70.1%) of its population. This was followed by Guadalcanal with 41,809 (18.5%) persons with mobile phones. However, within Guadalcanal the majority (60.9%) did not have mobile phones. Rennell-Bellona and Temotu provinces comprised the least populations that owned a mobile phone with 0.8% and 2.2%, respectively (Table 11.2.1 and Figure 11.2.1).

Table 11.2.1: Number and percent of population 12 years+ and status of ownership of a mobile phone by sex and province, Solomon Islands: 2019

Province	Total			Male			Female		
	Total	Owns phone	No phone	Total	Owns phone	No phone	Total	Owns phone	No phone
Solomon Islands	506,009	225,945	280,064	257,807	132,704	125,103	248,202	93,241	154,961
Choiseul	20,680	9,088	11,592	10,666	5,459	5,207	10,014	3,629	6,385
Western	65,723	30,627	35,096	34,216	18,301	15,915	31,507	12,326	19,181
Isabel	22,254	10,436	11,818	11,811	6,428	5,383	10,443	4,008	6,435
Central	20,971	6,412	14,559	10,676	4,194	6,482	10,295	2,218	8,077
Rennell-Bellona	3,013	1,740	1,273	1,680	1,054	626	1,333	686	647
Guadalcanal	106,917	41,809	65,108	54,467	24,924	29,543	52,450	16,885	35,565
Malaita	117,410	40,680	76,730	58,034	25,137	32,897	59,376	15,543	43,833
Makira-Ulawa	33,744	10,249	23,495	17,317	6,387	10,930	16,427	3,862	12,565
Temotu	15,661	5,028	10,633	7,618	3,125	4,493	8,043	1,903	6,140
Honiara	99,636	69,876	29,760	51,322	37,695	13,627	48,314	32,181	16,133
(Percent, 100%)									
Solomon Islands	100.0	44.7	55.3	100.0	51.5	48.5	100.0	37.6	62.4
Choiseul	100.0	43.9	56.1	100.0	51.2	48.8	100.0	36.2	63.8
Western	100.0	46.6	53.4	100.0	53.5	46.5	100.0	39.1	60.9
Isabel	100.0	46.9	53.1	100.0	54.4	45.6	100.0	38.4	61.6
Central	100.0	30.6	69.4	100.0	39.3	60.7	100.0	21.5	78.5
Rennell-Bellona	100.0	57.7	42.3	100.0	62.7	37.3	100.0	51.5	48.5
Guadalcanal	100.0	39.1	60.9	100.0	45.8	54.2	100.0	32.2	67.8
Malaita	100.0	34.6	65.4	100.0	43.3	56.7	100.0	26.2	73.8
Makira-Ulawa	100.0	30.4	69.6	100.0	36.9	63.1	100.0	23.5	76.5
Temotu	100.0	32.1	67.9	100.0	41.0	59.0	100.0	23.7	76.3
Honiara	100.0	70.1	29.9	100.0	73.4	26.6	100.0	66.6	33.4

Figure 11.2.1: Percentage of persons 12 years+ (out of total population 12 years+ who owned a mobile phone by province, Solomon Islands: 2019



According to Table 11.2.2, a significant majority (96.6%) of mobile phone owners aged 12 years and over had mobile phones that were in good working condition. This comprised of more males (58.7%) than females (41.3%), although within respective sex distributions, the proportions - 96.6% (good working condition) and 3.4% (not good working condition) were similar - as with similar proportions to those owning a mobile phone.

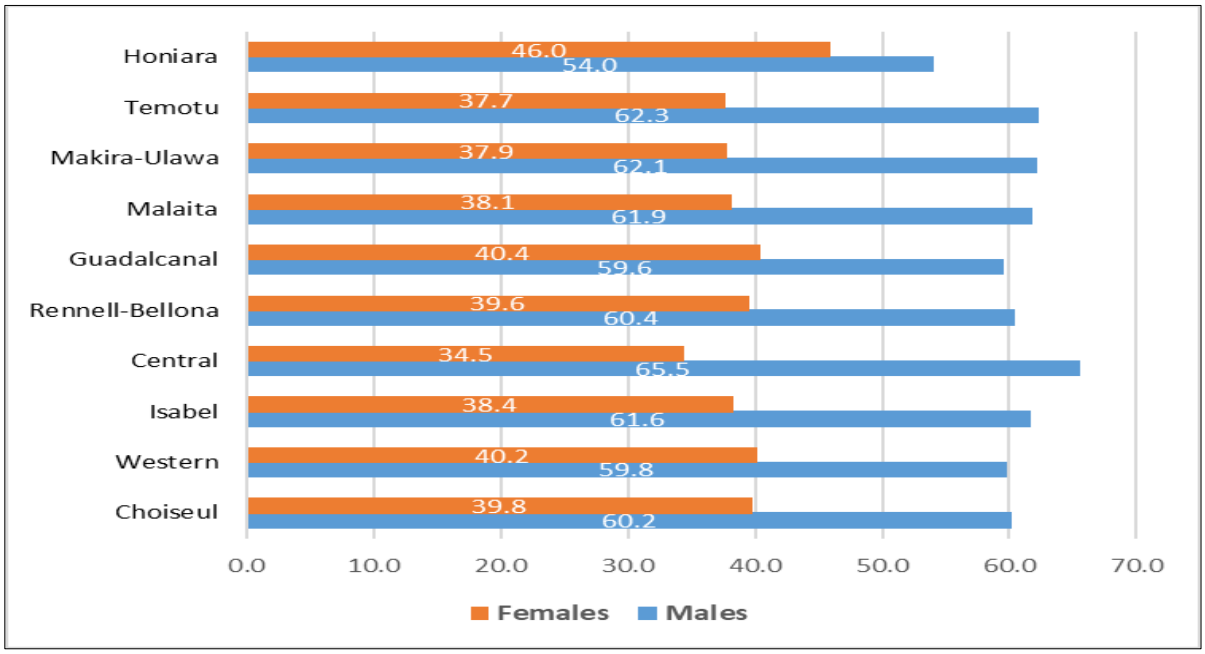
Across provinces, the province with a significant majority (31.5%) of all persons 12 years and older who had a good working mobile phone was Honiara. On the other hand, a higher share of populations that did not have good working mobile phones were mainly found in Temotu (6.4%), Western (6.0%) and Honiara (5.8%). However, in absolute terms, Malaita (1,690) followed by Guadalcanal (1,541) had more persons who had a mobile phone that was not in good working condition. Rennell-Bellona has the least number (19) of persons who did not have a good working mobile phone, with more males (14) than females (5).

While males outnumber females in owning a good working mobile phone (ratio of 1.4), similarly they also outnumber females in not owning a mobile phone in good condition (ratio of 1.4).

Table 11.2.2: Population 12 years+ within province who own a mobile phone by status of working condition and sex, Solomon Islands: 2019

Province	Total			Male			Female		
	Total	working condition	Not working	Total	working condition	Not working	Total	working condition	Not working
Total	**225,945**	**218,294**	**7,651**	**132,704**	**128,234**	**4,470**	**93,241**	**90,060**	**3,181**
Choiseul	9,088	8,546	542	5,459	5,148	311	3,629	3,398	231
Western	30,627	29,536	1,091	18,301	17,674	627	12,326	11,862	464
Isabel	10,436	10,001	435	6,428	6,165	263	4,008	3,836	172
Central	6,412	6,139	273	4,194	4,022	172	2,218	2,117	101
Rennell-Bellona	1,740	1,721	19	1,054	1,040	14	686	681	5
Guadalcanal	41,809	40,268	1,541	24,924	24,005	919	16,885	16,263	622
Malaita	40,680	38,990	1,690	25,137	24,118	1,019	15,543	14,872	671
Makira-Ulawa	10,249	9,597	652	6,387	5,963	424	3,862	3,634	228
Temotu	5,028	4,734	294	3,125	2,950	175	1,903	1,784	119
Honiara	69,876	68,762	1,114	37,695	37,149	546	32,181	31,613	568
Percent (%)									
Total	100.0	96.6	3.4	100.0	96.6	3.4	100.0	96.6	3.4
Choiseul	100.0	96.6	3.4	100.0	96.6	3.4	100.0	96.6	3.4
Western	100.0	94.0	6.0	100.0	94.3	5.7	100.0	93.6	6.4
Isabel	100.0	96.4	3.6	100.0	96.6	3.4	100.0	96.2	3.8
Central	100.0	95.8	4.2	100.0	95.9	4.1	100.0	95.7	4.3
Rennell-Bellona	100.0	95.7	4.3	100.0	95.9	4.1	100.0	95.4	4.6
Guadalcanal	100.0	98.9	1.1	100.0	98.7	1.3	100.0	99.3	0.7
Malaita	100.0	96.3	3.7	100.0	96.3	3.7	100.0	96.3	3.7
Makira-Ulawa	100.0	95.8	4.2	100.0	95.9	4.1	100.0	95.7	4.3
Temotu	100.0	93.6	6.4	100.0	93.4	6.6	100.0	94.1	5.9
Honiara	100.0	94.2	5.8	100.0	94.4	5.6	100.0	93.7	6.3

Figure 11.2.2: Percentage of population 12 years+ within province who own a mobile phone in good working condition, Solomon Islands: 2019



11.3 Internet

Access to the internet and the appropriate use of the internet are likely to have a positive impact on people's livelihoods through improvements in socio-economic benefits such as improvements in education, health, networking, and communications.

Table 11.3.1 indicated that of the total population 12 years and above that had a mobile phone in working condition, a significant majority (59.3%) did not access internet using their mobile phones compared to 40.7% of persons that accessed internet. This comprised of more males (58.4%) than females (41.6%) that did not access the internet, although within respective distributions, the proportions for males (41.1%) and females (40.1%) are similar.

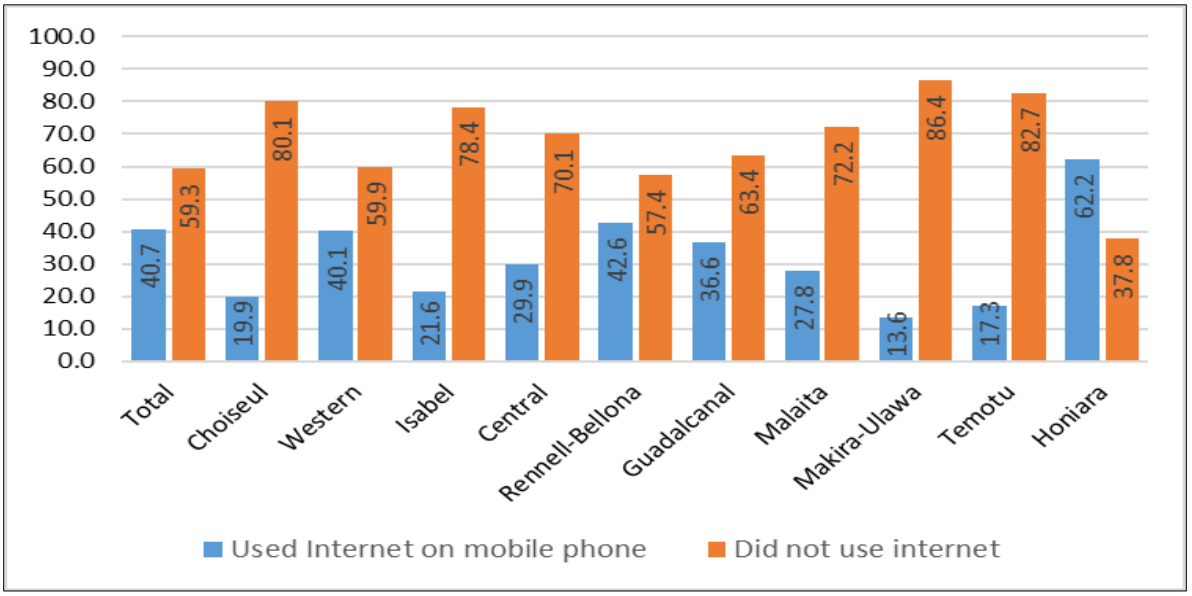
Across the provinces and as expected, accessing internet via mobile phone was higher in Honiara (48.2%), followed by Guadalcanal (16.6%) and Western province (13.3%). The provinces with the least access to internet were Rennell-Bellona (0.8%), Temotu (0.9%) and Makira-Ulawa (1.5%) (Table 11.3.1).

When comparing those persons who accessed internet and those who did not within respective provinces, Honiara showed a significant majority (62.2%) of persons that accessed internet using mobile phones (Figure 11.3.1).

Table 11.3.1: Population 12 years+ within province who accessed internet using mobile phone (in good working condition) by sex, Solomon Islands: 2019

Province	All Persons			Male			Female		
	Used Internet			Used Internet			Used Internet		
	Total	On mobile phone	Did not use	Total	On mobile phone	Did not use	Total	On mobile phone	Did not use
All Persons	218,294	88,805	129,489	128,234	52,647	75,587	90,060	36,158	53,902
%	*100.0*	*40.7*	*59.3*	*100.0*	*41.1*	*58.9*	*100.0*	*40.1*	*59.9*
Choiseul	8,546	1,704	6,842	5,148	1,143	4,005	3,398	561	2,837
Western	29,536	11,844	17,692	17,674	7,297	10,377	11,862	4,547	7,315
Isabel	10,001	2,165	7,836	6,165	1,576	4,589	3,836	589	3,247
Central	6,139	1,837	4,302	4,022	1,190	2,832	2,117	647	1,470
Rennell-Bellona	1,721	734	987	1,040	536	504	681	198	483
Guadalcanal	40,268	14,744	25,524	24,005	8,771	15,234	16,263	5,973	10,290
Malaita	38,990	10,854	28,136	24,118	7,000	17,118	14,872	3,854	11,018
Makira	9,597	1,305	8,292	5,963	865	5,098	3,634	440	3,194
Temotu	4,734	818	3,916	2,950	535	2,415	1,784	283	1,501
Honiara	68,762	42,800	25,962	37,149	23,734	13,415	31,613	19,066	12,547
(Percent, %)									
All Persons	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Choiseul	3.9	1.9	5.3	4.0	2.2	5.3	3.8	1.6	5.3
Western	13.5	13.3	13.7	13.8	13.9	13.7	13.2	12.6	13.6
Isabel	4.6	2.4	6.1	4.8	3.0	6.1	4.3	1.6	6.0
Central	2.8	2.1	3.3	3.1	2.3	3.7	2.4	1.8	2.7
Rennell-Bellona	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.0	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.9
Guadalcanal	18.4	16.6	19.7	18.7	16.7	20.2	18.1	16.5	19.1
Malaita	17.9	12.2	21.7	18.8	13.3	22.6	16.5	10.7	20.4
Makira	4.4	1.5	6.4	4.7	1.6	6.7	4.0	1.2	5.9
Temotu	2.2	0.9	3.0	2.3	1.0	3.2	2.0	0.8	2.8
Honiara	31.5	48.2	20.0	29.0	45.1	17.7	35.1	52.7	23.3

Figure 11.3.1: Percentage of population 12 years+ and status of accessing internet using mobile phone (in good working condition) by province, Solomon Islands: 2019



Males represented the highest proportion of population who had both access to internet in all provinces as well as did not have access to internet (Figure 11.3.2, Figure 11.3.3).

Figure 11.3.2: Percentage of population 12 years+ who accessed internet using mobile phone (in good working condition) by sex and province, Solomon Islands: 2019

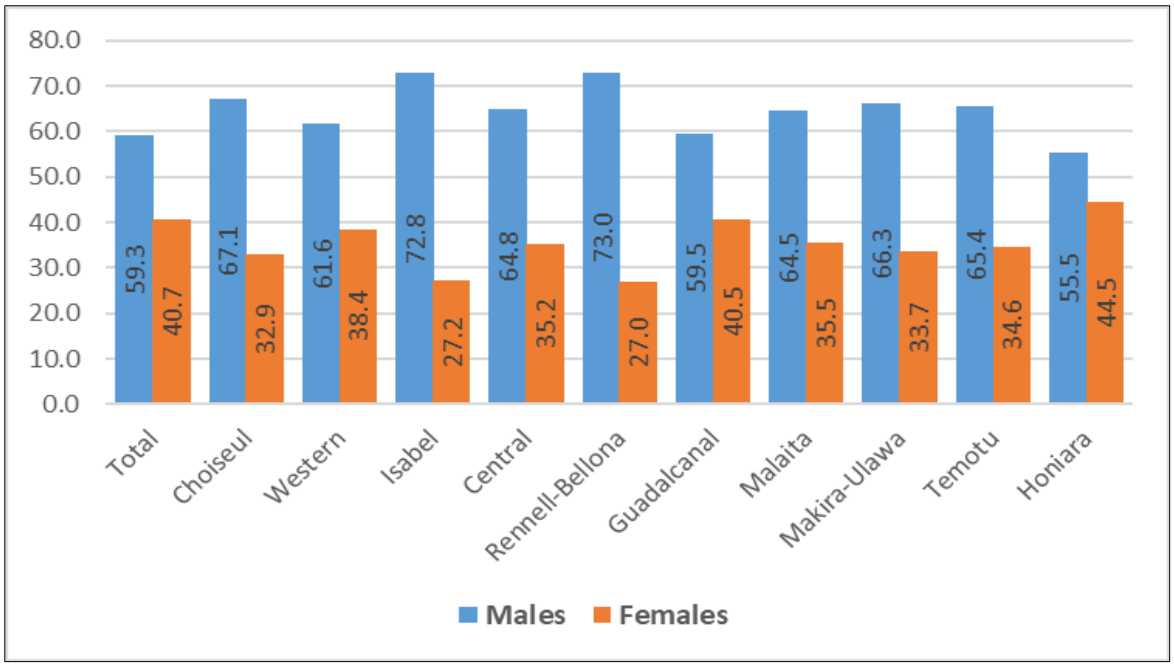


Figure 11.3.3: Percentage of population 12 years+ who did not access internet using mobile phone (in good working condition) by sex and province, Solomon Islands: 2019

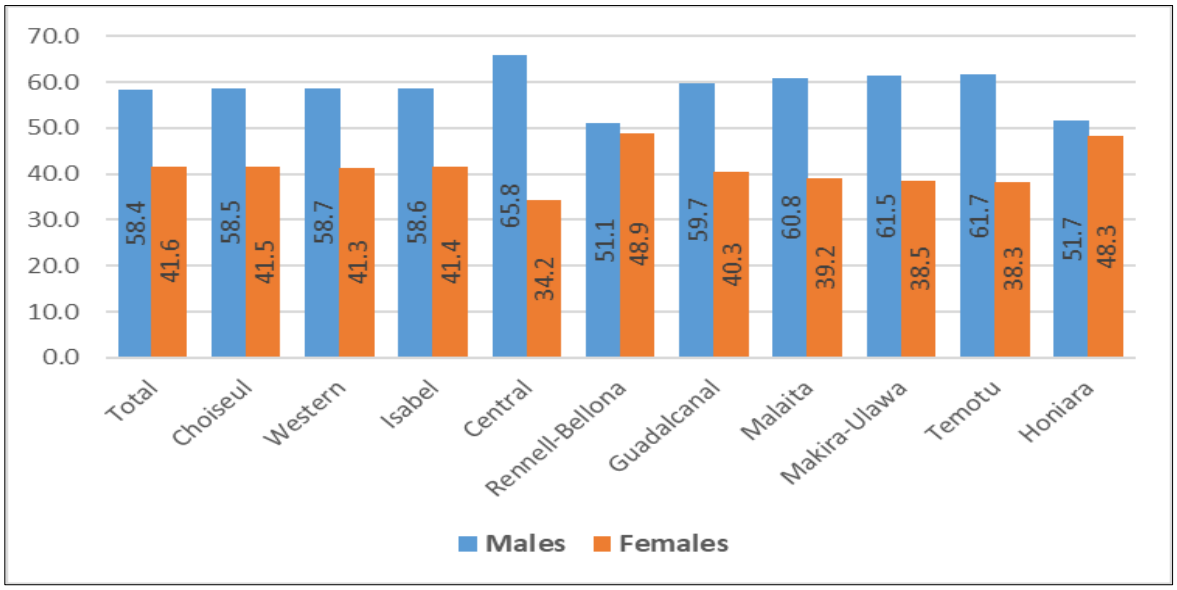


Table 11.3.2 presented information on the population 12 years and over by age group who owned a mobile phone in good working condition and used it to access internet. It was evident that persons within the age group 20-24 years had the highest (21.5%) access to internet. This comprised of a higher proportion of both males (19.3%) and females (24.7%) respectively.

Table 11.3.2: Number and percent of population 12 years+ within 5 year age group who accessed internet using mobile phone (in good working condition) by sex, Solomon Islands: 2019

Age Group	Total	%	Males	%	Females	%
Total	88,805	*100.0*	52,647	*100.0*	36,158	*100.0*
12-14	1,549	*1.7*	822	*1.6*	727	*2.0*
15-19	11,184	*12.6*	6,124	*11.6*	5,060	*14.0*
20-24	19,101	*21.5*	10,176	*19.3*	8,925	*24.7*
25-29	14,385	*16.2*	8,281	*15.7*	6,104	*16.9*
30-34	12,501	*14.1*	7,340	*13.9*	5,161	*14.3*
35-39	9,980	*11.2*	6,167	*11.7*	3,813	*10.5*
40-44	7,304	*8.2*	4,800	*9.1*	2,504	*6.9*
45-49	5,365	*6.0*	3,613	*6.9*	1,752	*4.8*
50-54	3,345	*3.8*	2,353	*4.5*	992	*2.7*
55-59	1,948	*2.2*	1,400	*2.7*	548	*1.5*
60-64	1,069	*1.2*	803	*1.5*	266	*0.7*
65-69	592	*0.7*	442	*0.8*	150	*0.4*
70-74	223	*0.3*	169	*0.3*	54	*0.1*
75+	259	*0.3*	157	*0.3*	102	*0.3*

Moreover, the age group (20-24 years) is part of the youth population (15-34 years) in the Solomon Islands that comprised of a significant proportion (64.4%) of the population that accessed internet.

11.3.1 Reason for using internet

In relation to the stated reasons for accessing internet, Table 11.3.3 and Figure 11.3.4 showed that most people 12 years and older accessed internet mainly for the following specific reasons: social media (66.0% or 58,613 people), communication (62.0% or 55,095 people) and entertainment (51.3% or 45,562 people). The least reason for accessing internet from a mobile phone was online banking (1.8% or 933 people).

Across the provinces, the use of the internet mainly for social media, communications and entertainment was mainly dominated by users in three provinces namely Honiara, Guadalcanal and Western provinces with Honiara being the highest user. In social media, Honiara population comprised of a significant majority (55.8%), followed by Guadalcanal (16.3%) and Western (13.1%).

Table 11.3.3: Number and percent of population 12 years+ and reasons for using internet from mobile phone (in good working condition) by province, Solomon Islands: 2019

Reason for Use of Internet	Total	%	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell-Bellona	Guadal-canal	Malaita	Makira - Ulawa	Temotu	Honiara
Education												
Total	88,805	*100.0*	1,704	11,844	2,165	1,837	734	14,744	10,854	1,305	818	42,800
Internet for education	24,868	*28.0*	298	2,078	285	348	100	4,252	2,666	376	176	14,289
%	*100.0*	-	*1.2*	*8.4*	*1.1*	*1.4*	*0.4*	*17.1*	*10.7*	*1.5*	*0.7*	*57.5*
No internet for edcuation	63,937	*72.0*	1,406	9,766	1,880	1,489	634	10,492	8,188	929	642	28,511
Social media												
Total	88,805	*100.0*	1,704	11,844	2,165	1,837	734	14,744	10,854	1,305	818	42,800
Internet for social media	58,613	*66.0*	770	7,684	1,012	771	442	9,564	4,734	509	446	32,681
%	*100.0*	-	*1.3*	*13.1*	*1.7*	*1.3*	*0.8*	*16.3*	*8.1*	*0.9*	*0.8*	*55.8*
No internet for social media	30,192	*34.0*	934	4,160	1,153	1,066	292	5,180	6,120	796	372	10,119
Entertainment												
Total	88,805	*100.0*	1,704	11,844	2,165	1,837	734	14,744	10,854	1,305	818	42,800
Internet for entertainment	45,562	*51.3*	539	5,672	664	556	594	7,195	4,761	527	402	24,652
%	*100.0*	-	*1.2*	*12.4*	*1.5*	*1.2*	*1.3*	*15.8*	*10.4*	*1.2*	*0.9*	*54.1*
No interenet for entertainment	43,243	*48.7*	1,165	6,172	1,501	1,281	140	7,549	6,093	778	416	18,148
Work-Business												
Total	88,805	*100.0*	1,704	11,844	2,165	1,837	734	14,744	10,854	1,305	818	42,800
Internet for work or business	18,273	*20.6*	136	1,502	177	151	121	2,281	963	146	121	12,675
%	*100.0*	-	*0.7*	*8.2*	*1.0*	*0.8*	*0.7*	*12.5*	*5.3*	*0.8*	*0.7*	*69.4*
No internet for work/business	70,532	*79.4*	1,568	10,342	1,988	1,686	613	12,463	9,891	1,159	697	30,125
Communication												
Total	88,805	*100.0*	1,704	11,844	2,165	1,837	734	14,744	10,854	1,305	818	42,800
Internet for communication	55,095	*62.0*	813	5,979	765	905	603	8,243	5,839	490	353	31,105
%	*100.0*	-	*1.5*	*10.9*	*1.4*	*1.6*	*1.1*	*15.0*	*10.6*	*0.9*	*0.6*	*56.5*
No internet for communication	33,710	*38.0*	891	5,865	1,400	932	131	6,501	5,015	815	465	11,695
Information												
Total	88,805	*100.0*	1,704	11,844	2,165	1,837	734	14,744	10,854	1,305	818	42,800
Internet for information	21,919	*24.7*	257	1,945	322	452	236	3,468	1,964	308	267	12,700
%	*100.0*	-	*1.2*	*8.9*	*1.5*	*2.1*	*1.1*	*15.8*	*9.0*	*1.4*	*1.2*	*57.9*
No internet for information	66,886	*75.3*	1,447	9,899	1,843	1,385	498	11,276	8,890	997	551	30,100
Shopping												
Total	88,805	*100.0*	1,704	11,844	2,165	1,837	734	14,744	10,854	1,305	818	42,800
Internet for shopping	4,603	*5.2*	48	391	46	77	8	461	206	33	33	3,300
%	*100.0*	-	*1.0*	*8.5*	*1.0*	*1.7*	*0.2*	*10.0*	*4.5*	*0.7*	*0.7*	*71.7*
No internet for shoping	84,202	*94.8*	1,656	11,453	2,119	1,760	726	14,283	10,648	1,272	785	39,500
Health												
Total	88,805	*100.0*	1,704	11,844	2,165	1,837	734	14,744	10,854	1,305	818	42,800
Internet for health	4,225	*4.8*	29	348	39	75	18	365	209	29	22	3,091
%	*100.0*	-	*0.7*	*8.2*	*0.9*	*1.8*	*0.4*	*8.6*	*4.9*	*0.7*	*0.5*	*73.2*
No internet for health	84,580	*95.2*	1,675	11,496	2,126	1,762	716	14,379	10,645	1,276	796	39,709
Online Banking												
Total	51,943	*100.0*	1,446	4,083	1,809	1,558	648	12,509	8,979	993	677	19,241
Online banking	933	*1.8*	9	110	19	13	5	89	59	15	5	609
%	*100.0*	-	*1.0*	*11.8*	*2.0*	*1.4*	*0.5*	*9.5*	*6.3*	*1.6*	*0.5*	*65.3*
No online banking	51,010	*98.2*	1,437	3,973	1,790	1,545	643	12,420	8,920	978	672	18,632

**Based on Commercial Bank requirements, population 18 years and above can only access online banking services.*

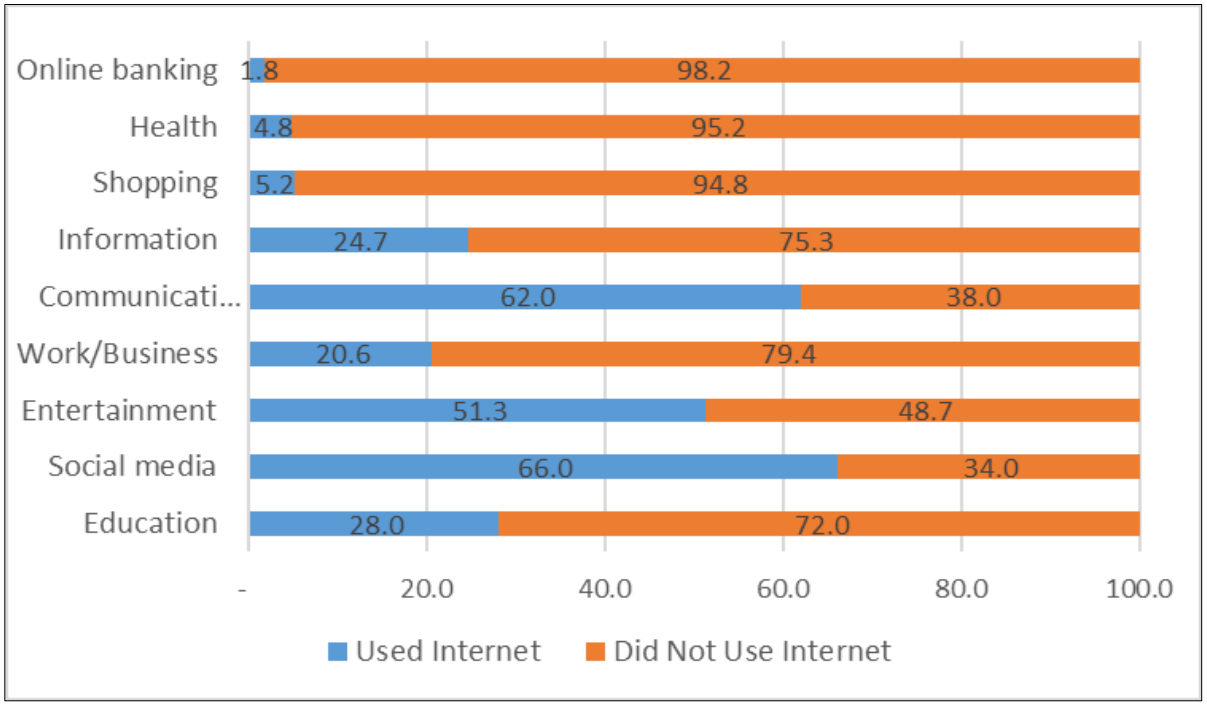
Similarly, in communications, Honiara users dominated with 56.5%, followed by Guadalcanal (15.0%) and Western (10.9%) as well as in entertainment where Honiara residents led with the majority of users (54.1%), followed by Guadalcanal (15.8%) and Western (12.4%).

Across all the various reasons for using internet, Honiara residents were the highest users, even comprising of over half the total population using internet for each of the specific reasons.

Other interesting observations from the 2019 Census findings revealed a smaller proportion of the population using the internet for reasons such as education (28.0%) and health (4.8%). Within provinces, and apart from Honiara, a significant proportion of the population in Makira-Ulawa (28.8%), Guadalcanal (28.8%) and Malaita (24.6%) used the internet for educational reasons. while for health reasons, apart from Honiara (7.2%) and Central (4.1%), all other provinces recorded less than 4% of users.

However, it was evident from the findings that not everyone who had internet access stated their reasons for using the internet – either there were other reasons that was not captured in the census and/or that people did not respond positively to the questions that were asked during enumeration (Figure 11.3.4)

Figure 11.3.4: Percent of population 12 years + and reasons for using and not using internet, Solomon Islands: 2019



12. LABOUR FORCE AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

The extent of the casual relationship between the labour force and economic activity impacts on sustainable economic development and livelihoods. Human capital investment and labour participation in economic activity affects the production of goods and services in the economy and ultimately impacts on the standard of living and growth of the economy.

The basic definitions applied in this analysis include: [54,55]

Working Age: The working age population comprises all persons aged 12 and over. This age threshold is applied statistically in the Solomon Islands context, as in previous censuses and surveys[56].

Reference period: the last week or 7 days prior to the census night.

Labour Force: includes all persons aged 12 years and over who were employed and unemployed during the reference period.

Not in the Labour Force: refers to persons of working age who were neither employed nor unemployed during the reference period.

Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR): persons of working age in the labour force as a percentage of the working age population.

Employed: refers to persons of working age, who during the reference period, were engaged in any work, whether it was 'work for pay' or 'unpaid work', or work for income/profit (business), even if it was only for one hour. This includes persons not at work during the reference period due to temporary absence or work arrangement (e.g., on medical leave or on shift work).

Unemployed (standard, official definition): persons of working age who, during the reference period, did not work but were actively looking for work and were available for work.

Unemployment (expanded definition): persons of working age who, during the reference period, did not work and were available for work.

[54] Due to differences in labour force definitions over the years, caution is required in any direct comparisons with past censuses.

[55] There were slight variations in the concepts applied in questions about work and employment status in the current and past censuses. For example, in the 2009 Census, the first of the questions was 'During the last week, did this person do any work?" and in the 1999 Census, the question asked 'whether a person had worked for money or payment in kind in the week before the census?'. In the recent 2019 Census, the question was asked in line with ILO (17th ICLS resolution) definition, "During the last week, did this person do any work, even if for only one hour?"

[56] The ILO defines the working age as 15 years and over but that depends on country context; many countries apply the 15-64 years age range.

Unemployment Rate: refers to the unemployed persons as a percentage of the labour force.

Limitations:

- The census considers an employed person as a unit measure of employment and not the number of job holdings. As in previous censuses, this census focusses on persons identified as employed as having one main occupation or job.

- The likelihood of the census understating or overstating persons classified in the labour force or outside the labour force is plausible. Hence, follow-up surveys such as the labour force survey would assist in making these visible and in reconciling the data.

12.1 Labour Force Status

The 2019 Census recorded a total of 280.5 thousand people aged 12 years and over in the labour force (LF) out of the 506 thousand people that were counted of working age (WA) as presented in Table 12.1. There were more persons employed (258.4 thousand, 92.1%) than unemployed (22.1 thousand, 7.9%) in the labour force.

Table 12.1: Population aged 12 years and over by labour force status, urban-rural area and sex, Solomon Islands: 2019

Labour force status	Population 12 years & over						
	Total	%	%	Males	%	Females	%
Working Age	**506,009**	***100.0%***	***100%***	**257,807**	***50.9%***	**248,202**	***49.1%***
In the labour force	**280,510**		***100%***	**150,975**	***53.8%***	**129,535**	***46.2%***
% of WA		*55.4%*					
12-19 years	17,663		*100%*	9,222	*52.2%*	8,441	*47.8%*
20-39	151,413		*100%*	79,899	*52.8%*	71,514	*47.2%*
40-64	100,595		*100%*	55,829	*55.5%*	44,766	*44.5%*
65+	10,839		*100%*	6,025	*55.6%*	4,814	*44.4%*
Employed	**258,383**		***100%***	**139,041**	***53.8%***	**119,342**	***46.2%***
% of LF		*92.1%*					
Urban	69,564	*26.9%*	*100%*	39,202	*56.4%*	30,362	*43.6%*
Rural	188,819	*73.1%*	*100%*	99,839	*52.9%*	88,980	*47.1%*
Unemployed	**22,127**		***100%***	**11,934**	***53.9%***	**10,193**	***46.1%***
% of LF		*7.9%*					
Urban	9,541	*43.1%*	*100%*	5,084	*53.3%*	4,457	*46.7%*
Rural	12,586	*56.9%*	*100%*	6,850	*54.4%*	5,736	*45.6%*
Not in the labour force	**225,499**		***100%***	**106,832**	***47.4%***	**118,667**	***52.6%***
% of WA		*44.6%*					
Urban	71,660	*31.8%*	*100%*	33,187	*46.3%*	38,473	*53.7%*
Rural	153,839	*68.2%*	*100%*	73,645	*47.9%*	80,194	*52.1%*
Not stated	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

The dominance of males in the labour force (117 males to 100 females) contrasts with lesser males than females that were not in the labour force (NLF, 90 males to 100 females). The majority of persons in the labour force were within the age-group of 20-39 years and residing in the rural areas (73.1%). Males dominated in employment and unemployment, comprising of over half of the labour force compared to females, in both urban and rural areas.

Outside the labour force, females dominated in both urban and rural areas. This is further discussed in section 12.4 below.

Table 12.2: Population aged 12 years and over in private households by province, labour force status and sex, Solomon Islands: 2019

Province	In the labour force						Not in the labour force			Not stated
	Employed			Unemployed						
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	
Solomon Islands	**258,383**	**139,041**	**119,342**	**22,127**	**11,934**	**10,193**	**225,499**	**106,832**	**118,667**	**-**
%	*100.0*	*53.8*	*46.2*	*100.0*	*53.9*	*46.1*	*100.0*	*47.4*	*52.6*	
Choisuel	**10,674**	**5,907**	**4,767**	**749**	**447**	**302**	**9,257**	**4,312**	**4,945**	**-**
%	*100.0*	*55.3*	*44.7*	*100.0*	*59.7*	*40.3*	*100.0*	*46.6*	*53.4*	-
Western	**38,011**	**20,900**	**17,111**	**2,422**	**1,322**	**1,100**	**25,290**	**11,994**	**13,296**	**-**
%	*100.0*	*55.0*	*45.0*	*100.0*	*54.6*	*45.4*	*100.0*	*47.4*	*52.6*	-
Isabel	**13,315**	**7,438**	**5,877**	**447**	**230**	**217**	**8,492**	**4,143**	**4,349**	**-**
%	*100.0*	*55.9*	*44.1*	*100.0*	*51.5*	*48.5*	*100.0*	*48.8*	*51.2*	-
Central	**10,838**	**5,763**	**5,075**	**398**	**229**	**169**	**9,735**	**4,684**	**5,051**	**-**
%	*100.0*	*53.2*	*46.8*	*100.0*	*57.5*	*42.5*	*100.0*	*48.1*	*51.9*	-
Ren-Bell	**1,813**	**1,125**	**688**	**73**	**32**	**41**	**1,127**	**523**	**604**	**-**
%	*100.0*	*62.1*	*37.9*	*100.0*	*43.8*	*56.2*	*100.0*	*46.4*	*53.6*	-
Guadalcanal	**56,640**	**30,197**	**26,443**	**5,166**	**2,757**	**2,409**	**45,111**	**21,513**	**23,598**	**-**
%	*100.0*	*53.3*	*46.7*	*100.0*	*53.4*	*46.6*	*100.0*	*47.7*	*52.3*	-
Malaita	**58,324**	**29,579**	**28,745**	**3,890**	**2,119**	**1,771**	**55,196**	**26,336**	**28,860**	**-**
%	*100.0*	*50.7*	*49.3*	*100.0*	*54.5*	*45.5*	*100.0*	*47.7*	*52.3*	-
Makira-Ulawa	**17,127**	**9,176**	**7,951**	**1,348**	**777**	**571**	**15,269**	**7,364**	**7,905**	**-**
%	*100.0*	*53.6*	*46.4*	*100.0*	*57.6*	*42.4*	*100.0*	*48.2*	*51.8*	-
Temotu	**7,572**	**3,861**	**3,711**	**758**	**385**	**373**	**7,331**	**3,372**	**3,959**	**-**
%	*100.0*	*51.0*	*49.0*	*100.0*	*50.8*	*49.2*	*100.0*	*46.0*	*54.0*	-
Honiara	**44,069**	**25,095**	**18,974**	**6,876**	**3,636**	**3,240**	**48,691**	**22,591**	**26,100**	**-**
%	*100.0*	*56.9*	*43.1*	*100.0*	*52.9*	*47.1*	*100.0*	*46.4*	*53.6*	
Percent, %										
Solomon Islands	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	-
Choisuel	4.1	2.3	1.8	0.3	0.2	0.1	3.6	1.7	1.9	-
Western	14.7	8.1	6.6	0.9	0.5	0.4	9.8	4.6	5.1	-
Isabel	5.2	2.9	2.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	3.3	1.6	1.7	-
Central	4.2	2.2	2.0	0.2	0.1	0.1	3.8	1.8	2.0	-
Ren-Bell	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.2	-
Guadalcanal	21.9	11.7	10.2	2.0	1.1	0.9	17.5	8.3	9.1	-
Malaita	22.6	11.4	11.1	1.5	0.8	0.7	21.4	10.2	11.2	-
Makira-Ulawa	6.6	3.6	3.1	0.5	0.3	0.2	5.9	2.9	3.1	-
Temotu	2.9	1.5	1.4	0.3	0.1	0.1	2.8	1.3	1.5	-
Honiara	17.1	9.7	7.3	2.7	1.4	1.3	18.8	8.7	10.1	-

At the provincial level, Malaita (23%) and Guadalcanal (22%) provinces absorbed the majority of the employment population while Honiara (the main commercial and administrative center of the country) was the hub for the majority of the unemployed population (2.7%) (see Table 12.2). These three

provinces accounted for more than half of the population that were not in the labour force or were not economically active.

12.2 Labour Force Participation

Labour force participation in the labour market is important in assessing the supply and the availability of labour resources in the production of goods and services in the economy. Basically, a person is participating in the labour force if that person is employed or actively looking for employment. At the national level, the participation rate for males was 58.6%, slightly outperforming female participation of 52.2% with males being more economically active than females. However, in rural areas, the participation of both males (59.2%) and females (54.2%) outperformed their counterparts in urban areas.

Table 12.3: Labour force participation rates by province, urban-rural area and sex, Solomon Islands: 2019

Province	Total	Males	Females
Solomon Islands	55.4	58.6	52.2
Urban	52.5	57.2	47.5
Rural	56.7	59.2	54.2
Choisuel	55.2	59.6	50.6
Western	61.5	64.9	57.8
Isabel	61.8	64.9	58.4
Central	53.6	56.1	50.9
Ren-Bell	62.6	68.9	54.7
Guadalcanal	57.8	60.5	55.0
Malaita	53.0	54.6	51.4
Makira-Ulawa	54.8	57.5	51.9
Temotu	53.2	55.7	50.8
Honiara	51.1	56.0	46.0

At the provincial level, the higher participation rates were mainly driven by males in Rennell-Bellona, Isabel and Western provinces with rates of 62% to 63%. Although females participated slightly lower than males, a notable difference was observed in Honiara with the lowest female participation at 46% across all provinces.

As observed from Figure 12.1 below, the trend in male and female participation by age at the national level follow similar behavior but with males dominating overall. Participation among sexes were consistent in the younger age group 12-14 years which peaked after 15-19 years towards 20-24 years when males started widening their lead. This behavior is often associated with trends in school dropouts where the likelihood of females at younger ages leaving school and ending up assisting in family housework or in own-account (subsistence) work while the majority of males enter into

employment. Participation began trending downward and plateauing from 35-39 years and 45-49 years, and then subsequently declining and narrowing towards 75+ years.

Figure 12.1: Total labour force participation rate by age and sex, Solomon Islands: 2019

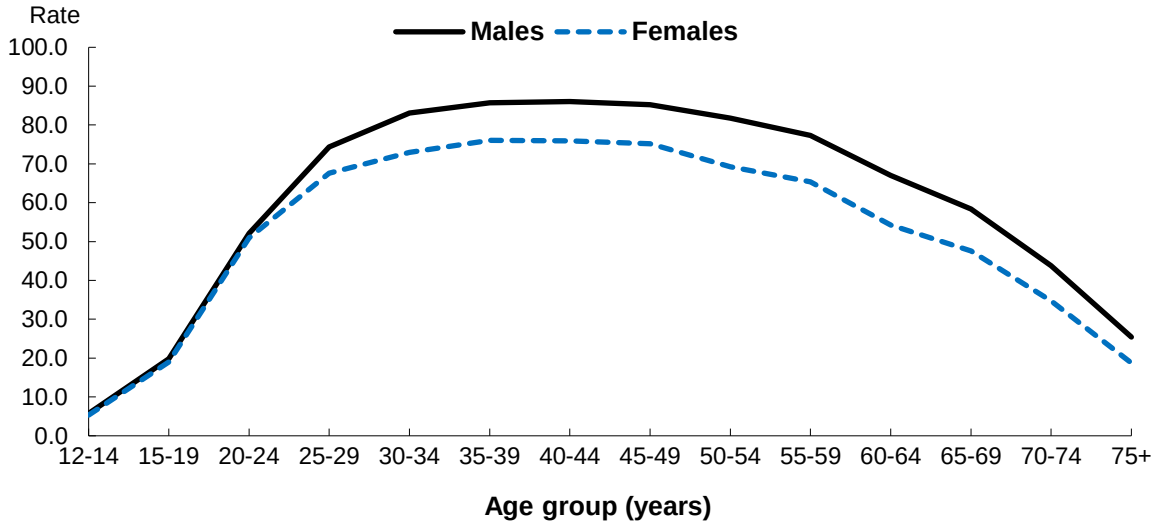


Figure 12.2: Urban labour force participation rate by age and sex

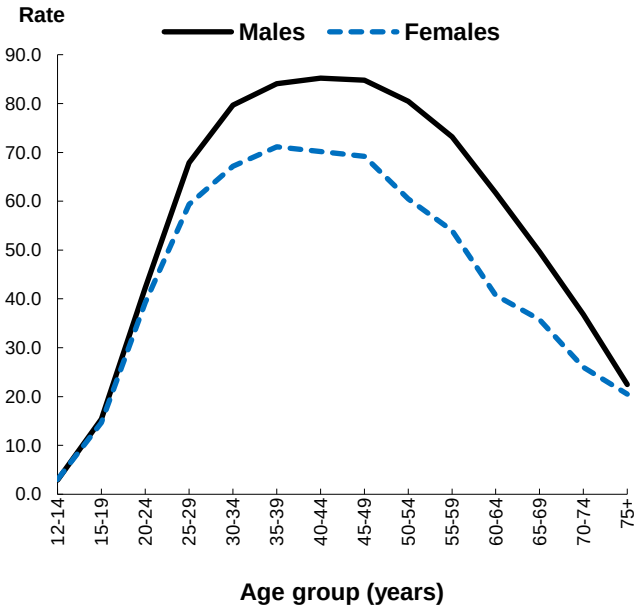
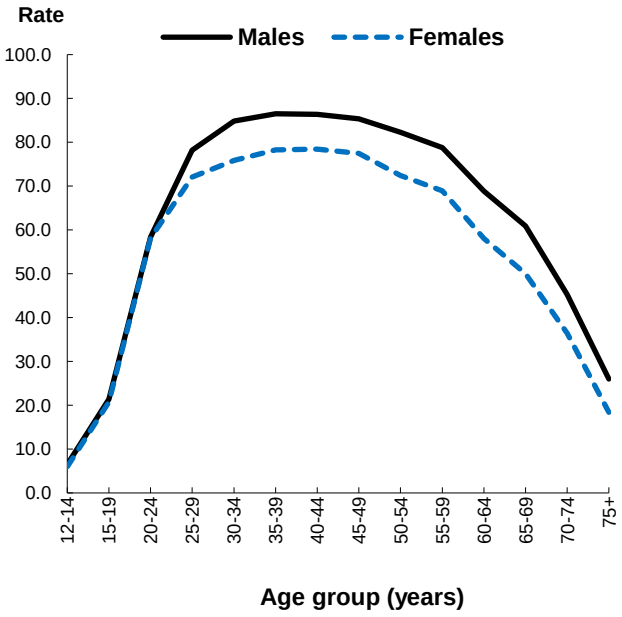


Figure 12.3: Rural labour force participation rate by age and sex



At the national level, males were about 10% more likely than females to be economically active between 30-34 and 65-69 years. This was driven mainly by participation of both sexes in the rural

areas than in urban areas - where males were at least 20% more likely than females to be economically active between 30-34 and 70-74 years (see Figure 12.2, Figure 12.3).

12.3 Employment

The 2019 Census enumerated a total of 258.4 thousand persons as employed (paid and unpaid work), with more males (53.8%) than females (46.2%). The majority (73.1%) of the employed, consisting mainly of the unpaid work force reside in rural areas.

Table 12.4: Distribution of employed persons (number, %) in age group and sex by urban-rural and province, Solomon Islands: 2019

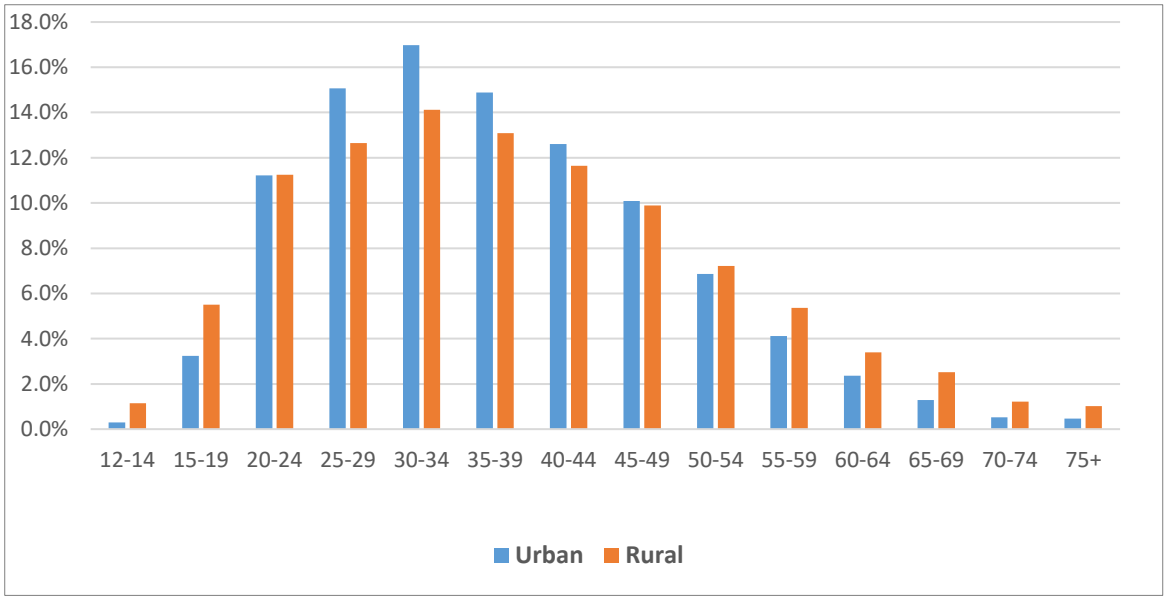
Age Group	Solomon Islands			Province									
	Total	Male	Female	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Renn - Bell	Guadal-canal	Malaita	Makira - Ulawa	Temotu	Honiara
All Ages	258,383	139,041	119,342	10,674	38,011	13,315	10,838	1,813	56,640	58,324	17,127	7,572	44,069
%	*100.0%*	*53.8%*	*46.2%*	*4.1%*	*14.7%*	*5.2%*	*4.2%*	*0.7%*	*21.9%*	*22.6%*	*6.6%*	*2.9%*	*17.1%*
12-14	2,381	1,269	1,112	46	487	62	73	5	598	770	176	44	120
15-19	12,639	6,530	6,109	505	2,192	534	485	63	3,305	3,144	918	328	1,165
20-24	29,039	14,667	14,372	1,114	4,477	1,272	1,113	173	7,442	6,274	1,866	658	4,650
25-29	34,359	18,174	16,185	1,460	4,832	1,592	1,419	218	8,196	7,031	2,048	819	6,744
30-34	38,468	20,527	17,941	1,432	5,106	1,834	1,563	208	8,694	8,366	2,581	986	7,698
35-39	35,060	18,871	16,189	1,444	4,628	1,778	1,437	227	7,330	8,111	2,386	1,039	6,680
40-44	30,747	16,931	13,816	1,301	4,321	1,709	1,332	213	6,417	6,742	2,135	905	5,672
45-49	25,682	14,194	11,488	1,178	3,809	1,489	1,188	216	5,196	5,568	1,789	814	4,435
50-54	18,387	10,185	8,202	795	2,946	1,004	830	154	3,788	4,058	1,150	610	3,052
55-59	12,992	7,237	5,755	578	2,239	817	508	115	2,427	3,125	855	512	1,816
60-64	8,064	4,589	3,475	359	1,346	484	372	98	1,402	2,065	559	345	1,034
65-69	5,653	3,088	2,565	256	869	394	275	81	966	1,569	387	272	584
70-74	2,665	1,470	1,195	112	418	187	118	32	463	835	151	127	222
75+	2,247	1,309	938	94	341	159	125	10	416	666	126	113	197
Percent, %													
All Ages	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
12-14	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%	0.4%	1.3%	0.5%	0.7%	0.3%	1.1%	1.3%	1.0%	0.6%	0.3%
15-19	4.9%	4.7%	5.1%	4.7%	5.8%	4.0%	4.5%	3.5%	5.8%	5.4%	5.4%	4.3%	2.6%
20-24	11.2%	10.5%	12.0%	10.4%	11.8%	9.6%	10.3%	9.5%	13.1%	10.8%	10.9%	8.7%	10.6%
25-29	13.3%	13.1%	13.6%	13.7%	12.7%	12.0%	13.1%	12.0%	14.5%	12.1%	12.0%	10.8%	15.3%
30-34	14.9%	14.8%	15.0%	13.4%	13.4%	13.8%	14.4%	11.5%	15.3%	14.3%	15.1%	13.0%	17.5%
35-39	13.6%	13.6%	13.6%	13.5%	12.2%	13.4%	13.3%	12.5%	12.9%	13.9%	13.9%	13.7%	15.2%
40-44	11.9%	12.2%	11.6%	12.2%	11.4%	12.8%	12.3%	11.7%	11.3%	11.6%	12.5%	12.0%	12.9%
45-49	9.9%	10.2%	9.6%	11.0%	10.0%	11.2%	11.0%	11.9%	9.2%	9.5%	10.4%	10.8%	10.1%
50-54	7.1%	7.3%	6.9%	7.4%	7.8%	7.5%	7.7%	8.5%	6.7%	7.0%	6.7%	8.1%	6.9%
55-59	5.0%	5.2%	4.8%	5.4%	5.9%	6.1%	4.7%	6.3%	4.3%	5.4%	5.0%	6.8%	4.1%
60-64	3.1%	3.3%	2.9%	3.4%	3.5%	3.6%	3.4%	5.4%	2.5%	3.5%	3.3%	4.6%	2.3%
65-69	2.2%	2.2%	2.1%	2.4%	2.3%	3.0%	2.5%	4.5%	1.7%	2.7%	2.3%	3.6%	1.3%
70-74	1.0%	1.1%	1.0%	1.0%	1.1%	1.4%	1.1%	1.8%	0.8%	1.4%	0.9%	1.7%	0.5%
75+	0.9%	0.9%	0.8%	0.9%	0.9%	1.2%	1.2%	0.6%	0.7%	1.1%	0.7%	1.5%	0.4%

At the provincial level, Malaita province accounted for the highest share (23%) of all persons employed, followed closely by Guadalcanal (22%) and Honiara (17%). These three provinces contributed over half the supply of all employed persons in the labour market.

Employment was predominant in the age-groups of 20-24 years to 40-44 years within provinces and among sexes - with the highest (15%) age group being 30-34 years. It was noted that Honiara also absorbed for the highest (18%) employment in similar age group 30-34 years.

Figure 12.4 showed that as age increased, especially between ages 12-19 years, and 50-74 years and over, rural employment outpaced urban employment. This was driven by female employment in rural areas while males dominated in urban areas from ages 25-44 years and peaked in ages 30-34 years.

Figure 12.4: Percentage of employed persons in age-group by urban and rural area, Solomon Islands: 2019



Employment - Paid and Unpaid

Employment is broadly categorized as paid work (monetary) and unpaid work (non-monetary). Paid-work refers to persons employed in occupations who receive monetary cash compensation in the form of a wage, salary (e.g. a government or private business/NGO employee) or profit/income for their labour (e.g., as employer or self-employed business). On the other hand, unpaid work refers to work where monetary cash payment is not necessarily obligated, in practice or by legislation, among those involved in the exchange of goods and services. These includes persons employed voluntarily who assist other households, or as unpaid family worker, or as an own-account (subsistence) worker etc.[57]

[57] The census recorded the main type of payment (paid or unpaid) during the reference period irrespective of whether persons in paid work have received some payments in kind, or that unpaid workers may have received some payment in cash or kind, or both. Unpaid workers often engaged in housework, caring for sick or elderly, caring for children, assisting in family gardens or fishing for subsistence use, sale or barter, or volunteering in community work etc.

According to Table 12.5, there were more unpaid workers (55.4%) than paid workers (44.6%). In paid employment, there were two males for every one female who earned a monetary (paid) compensation for their labour at the national level, and in urban-rural areas. In contrast, there were more females (55.6%) than males (44.4%) in unpaid work - with the majority (two thirds) of all females residing in rural areas. These disparities among sexes in paid and unpaid work not only exhibit factors such as levels of skills, educational attainment and gender but also the relationship with the broader issues of the labour market (supply and demand) including issues of underemployment, labour underutilization and customary expectations.

Table 12.5: Employed persons in urban-rural area and sex by payment status, Solomon Islands: 2019

Type of Work, Area and Sex	Solomon Is.	%	Paid Work	%	UnPaid Work	%
All Employed	**258,383**	***100.0%***	**115,201**	***100.0%***	**143,182**	***100.0%***
%	*100.0%*		*44.6%*		*55.4%*	
Males	**139,041**	*53.8%*	**75,493**	*65.5%*	**63,548**	*44.4%*
%	*100.0%*		*54.3%*		*45.7%*	
Females	**119,342**	*46.2%*	**39,708**	*34.5%*	**79,634**	*55.6%*
%	*100.0%*		*33.3%*		*66.7%*	
URBAN	**69,564**	***100.0%***	**54,264**	***100.0%***	**15,300**	***100.0%***
%	*100.0%*		*78.0%*		*22.0%*	
Males	39,202	*56.4%*	33,997	*62.7%*	5,205	*34.0%*
%	*100.0%*		*86.7%*		*13.3%*	
Females	30,362	*43.6%*	20,267	*37.3%*	10,095	*66.0%*
%	*100.0%*		*66.8%*		*33.2%*	
RURAL	**188,819**	***100.0%***	**60,937**	***100.0%***	**127,882**	***100.0%***
%	*100.0%*		*32.3%*		*67.7%*	
Males	99,839	*52.9%*	41,496	*68.1%*	58,343	*45.6%*
%	*100.0%*		*41.6%*		*58.4%*	
Females	88,980	*47.1%*	19,441	*31.9%*	69,539	*54.4%*
%	*100.0%*		*21.8%*		*78.2%*	

Employment by Type of Employment Status

Disaggregation by type of employment status showed the uneven distribution among sexes (see Figures 12.5 and Figure 12.6). With both sexes appearing to narrow the gap in the category of government employee (paid work) in both urban-rural areas, the distribution appeared relatively uneven when it came to unpaid work (e.g., family work, assisting households engaged in goods-services for sale, and own-account (subsistence) work) where females dominated in both urban-rural areas.

Figure 12.5: Urban employment (%, number) in type of employment status by sex, Solomon Islands: 2019

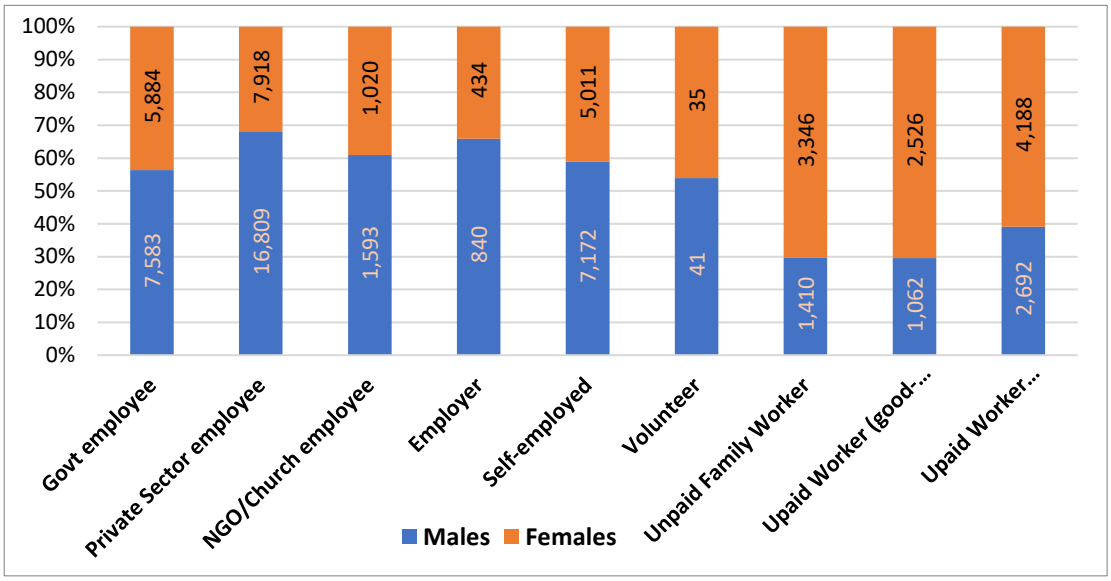
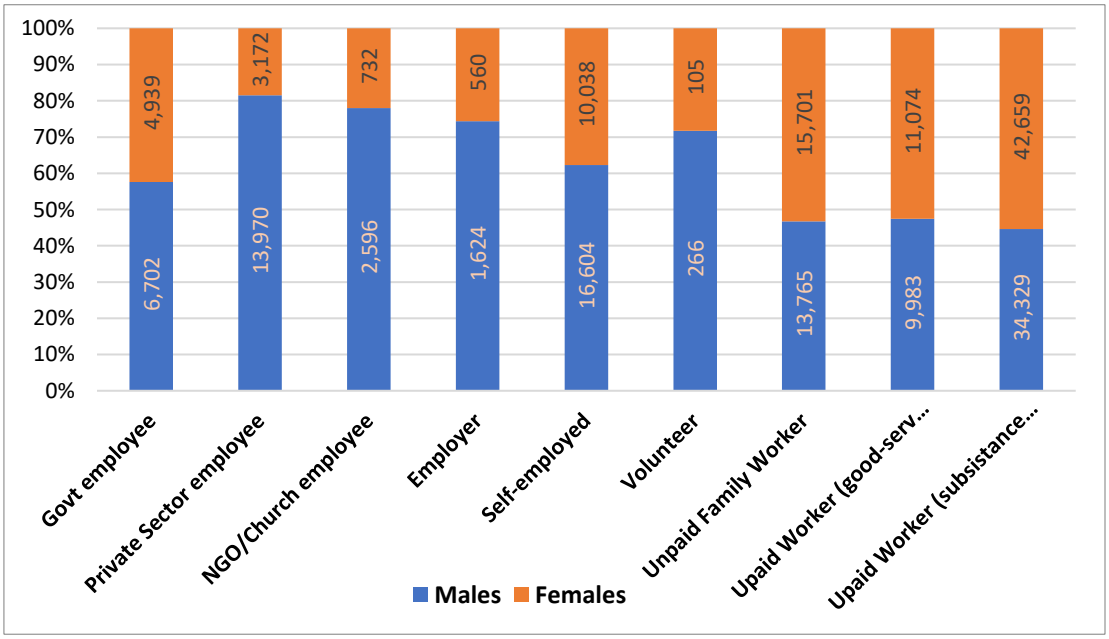


Figure 12.6: Rural employment (%, number) in type of employment status by sex, Solomon Islands: 2019



With males outnumbering their female counterparts in all categories of paid-employment, the most predominant category among males was private sector employee, in both urban (68.0%) and rural areas (81.5%).

Employment by Province

Honiara absorbed the highest number of paid-workers comprising a third of all paid-employment. These workers comprised mainly of private sector employees (39.4%), government workers (38.2%) and NGO employees (26.9%). On the other hand, Malaita province catered for a third of all unpaid-workers, especially unpaid family workers (29.9%), unpaid workers assisting households in the sale of goods-services (29.5%), and subsistence workers (28.3%) (Table 12.6).

Table 12.6: Employed persons in type of employment and payment status by province, Solomon Islands: 2019

Type of Employment & Pay Status	Solomon Is.	%	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell-Bellona	Guadalcanal	Malaita	Makira	Temotu	Honiara
All Employment	258,383	*100.0%*	10,674	38,011	13,315	10,838	1,813	56,640	58,324	17,127	7,572	44,069
%	*100.0%*		*4.1%*	*14.7%*	*5.2%*	*4.2%*	*0.7%*	*21.9%*	*22.6%*	*6.6%*	*2.9%*	*17.1%*
Paid Work	*115,201*	*44.6%*	*4,564*	*16,954*	*4,344*	*3,594*	*923*	*25,125*	*17,003*	*4,503*	*2,355*	*35,836*
%	*100.0%*		*4.0%*	*14.7%*	*3.8%*	*3.1%*	*0.8%*	*21.8%*	*14.8%*	*3.9%*	*2.0%*	*31.1%*
Govt employee	25,108	*9.7%*	883	2,484	891	855	175	3,909	4,265	1,313	738	9,595
Private Sector employee	41,869	*16.2%*	1,589	7,141	1,930	594	547	8,321	3,583	1,219	454	16,491
NGO/Church employee	5,941	*2.3%*	239	1,193	325	173	35	1,103	933	195	144	1,601
Employer	3,458	*1.3%*	155	635	295	165	16	768	471	188	53	712
Self-employed	38,825	*15.0%*	1,698	5,501	903	1,807	150	11,024	7,751	1,588	966	7,437
Unpaid Work	*143,182*	*55.4%*	*6,110*	*21,057*	*8,971*	*7,244*	*890*	*31,515*	*41,321*	*12,624*	*5,217*	*8,233*
%	*100.0%*		*4.3%*	*14.7%*	*6.3%*	*5.1%*	*0.6%*	*22.0%*	*28.9%*	*8.8%*	*3.6%*	*5.8%*
Volunteer	447	*0.2%*	33	85	38	22	1	73	94	43	9	49
Unpaid Family Worker	34,222	*13.2%*	1,319	5,348	1,661	1,864	79	7,214	10,236	2,594	1,270	2,637
Upaid Worker (goods-serv. for sale)	24,645	*9.5%*	989	3,882	1,181	1,271	73	5,342	7,264	1,835	877	1,931
Upaid Worker (subsistance use)	83,868	*32.5%*	3,769	11,742	6,091	4,087	737	18,886	23,727	8,152	3,061	3,616

Employed persons made up slightly over half (51.1%) of the working-age population comprising of more males (53.9%) than females (48.1%). This share was below the labour force participation rates at national and provincial levels except for Honiara which recorded slightly similar rates. A high participation rate and a high employment rate (or lower unemployment) implies a stronger jobs and labour market. At the provincial level, Malaita, followed by Guadalcanal recorded the highest employment-to-working-age population of 11.5% and 11.2%, respectively.

The share of paid-employment to working-age population was 22.8% at the national level. Honiara, being the metropolitan center of commerce and government catered for the largest public service and private business sector, and held a relatively highest share of 17.1% compared to other provinces. In addition, the share of wages-salary employment (government, private sector and NGO) to working-age population was 14.4%, and to total paid-employment was 58.1%. The latter driven by paid-employment in Honiara.

Persons employed in subsistence work (own-account) comprised a third (32.5%) of all employed persons. Most of the substance workers were females. Malaita had the highest concentration of subsistence workers (9.2%), followed by Guadalcanal (7.3%). In regards to the share of subsistence-employment to unpaid-employment, again, Malaita leads with 16.6%, followed by Guadalcanal with 13.2%. It was also observed that about 4,000 subsistence workers resided in Honiara, reflecting the growing rural-urban drift as discussed in Chapter 4.

Employment by Occupation

Solomon Islands can be regarded as a semi-skilled employment based economy based on the classification of occupations and in respect to the treatment of subsistence agriculture and fishery occupations within this category.[58] Over two-thirds (71.3%) of all employed persons were in semi-skilled occupations (see Table 12.7) [59,60]. This was followed by the low-skilled elementary occupations comprising of one-fifth (21.3%) of all employed persons. By province, Malaita (15.5%), Guadalcanal (15.0%) and Western (10.2%) absorbed the majority of occupations.

Skilled agricultural, forestry and fisheries occupations made up the majority (71.8%) of all semi-skilled occupations, inclusive of subsistence agriculture and fishery jobs that contributed 41.8% separately to the semi-skilled job market.

Disaggregation of the semi-skilled occupations (see Table 12.8) by paid employment showed the predominance of the agriculture and fishery occupations (25.5%), even with the exclusion of subsistence jobs. Persons in self-employed jobs within the agriculture and fishery category were the main contributors in this job market.

Males dominated in semi-skills jobs especially in craft, trade, machine operators and assemblers at the national level, and in urban and rural areas. In addition, males occupied the majority of high-skilled occupations such as the professional jobs (e.g., business professionals, medical professions etc) that made up two-thirds (71.7%) of the high-skilled job market. By province, and as expected, Honiara was the place with the majority (4.2%) of high-skilled occupations.

[58] The international standard classification of occupations (ISCO) was applied with adjustments to Solomon Islands context. Direct comparisons with past censuses should note changes in classifications over the decades.
[59] Classification of occupations was constrained to the main occupations only during the reference period rather than the lower level category occupations or jobs holdings.
[60] The ISCO application was based on respondent responses irrespective of level of skill/educational attainment nor work experience.

On the other hand, females outnumbered their male counterparts in the low-skilled elementary occupations with twice the number (66.4%) of job holders. Out of the total elementary occupation, housework (61.3%) was the predominant occupation held by females at the national level (26.6%) and in both urban and rural areas. Low-skilled workers (as a share of all occupations) were the highest in Malaita (5.3%) followed closely by Guadalcanal (5.1%).

Table 12.7: Employed persons in major occupations by sex and urban-rural area, Solomon Islands : 2019

Major Occupation	Solomon Islands							Urban		Rural	
	Total	% *	% **	Males	%	Females	%	Males	Females	Males	Females
All Occupations	**258,383**	***100.0%***	***100.0%***	**139,041**	***100.0%***	**119,342**	***100.0%***	**39,202**	**30,362**	**99,839**	**88,980**
%	*100.0%*			*53.8%*		*46.2%*		*15.2%*	*11.8%*	*38.6%*	*34.4%*
Highly Skilled	***28,747***	***11.1%***	***100.0%***	***17,462***	***12.6%***	***11,285***	***9.5%***	***8,885***	***6,098***	***8,577***	***5,187***
%	*100.0%*			*60.7%*		*39.3%*		*30.9%*	*21.2%*	*29.8%*	*18.0%*
Legislators, senior officials, & managers	4,143	*1.6%*	*14.4%*	3,007	*2.2%*	1,136	*1.0%*	2,119	1,002	888	134
Professionals	20,608	*8.0%*	*71.7%*	11,376	*8.2%*	9,232	*7.7%*	4,643	4,386	6,733	4,846
Technicians and Associates Professionals	3,996	*1.5%*	*13.9%*	3,079	*2.2%*	917	*0.8%*	2,123	710	956	207
Medium (Semi- Skilled)	***184,186***	***71.3%***	***100.0%***	***106,149***	***76.3%***	***78,037***	***65.4%***	***26,702***	***13,641***	***79,447***	***64,396***
%	*100.0%*			*57.6%*		*42.4%*		*14.5%*	*7.4%*	*43.1%*	*35.0%*
Clerks	6,518	*2.5%*	*3.5%*	3,373	*2.4%*	3,145	*2.6%*	2,385	2,630	988	515
Service workers, shop & market sales workers	15,811	*6.1%*	*8.6%*	9,179	*6.6%*	6,632	*5.6%*	6,287	4,955	2,892	1,677
Skilled Agricultural, Forestry and Fishery Workers ***	132,268	*51.2%*	*71.8%*	66,998	*48.2%*	65,270	*54.7%*	5,763	4,712	61,235	60,558
Subsistance agri-fishery workers***	77,040	*29.8%*	*41.8%*	34,994	*25.2%*	42,046	*35.2%*	2,157	2,462	32,837	39,584
Craft & related trade workers	19,083	*7.4%*	*10.4%*	16,441	*11.8%*	2,642	*2.2%*	8,016	1,096	8,425	1,546
Plant & machine operators & assemblers	10,506	*4.1%*	*5.7%*	10,158	*7.3%*	348	*0.3%*	4,251	248	5,907	100
Low - Skilled	***44,865***	***17.4%***	***100.0%***	***15,080***	***10.8%***	***29,785***	***25.0%***	***3,414***	***10,469***	***11,666***	***19,316***
%	*100.0%*			*33.6%*		*66.4%*		*7.6%*	*23.3%*	*26.0%*	*43.1%*
Elementary occupations	44,865	*17.4%*	*100.0%*	15,080	*10.8%*	29,785	*25.0%*	3,414	10,469	11,666	19,316
Housework	27,487	*10.6%*	*61.3%*	12,349	*8.9%*	15,138	*12.7%*	2,549	5,103	9,800	10,035
Other elementary	17,378	*6.7%*	*38.7%*	2,731	*2.0%*	14,647	*12.3%*	865	5,366	1,866	9,281
NS	585	*0.2%*		350	*0.3%*	235	*0.2%*	201	154	149	81

* *Percentage relative to total; ** Percentage relative to total of sub-grouping; *** Includes hunters and gatherers, forestry workers*

As mentioned in earlier discussions, the above analysis revealed obvious mismatches amongst sexes in the levels of occupation, nature of employment and educational attainment (discussed below) in the job market. Again, these reflects the underlying structure of the labour and jobs market also faced by many least developing economies. Political leadership, policy direction and structural reform would be required in addressing many of these challenges.

Table 12.8: Employed persons in major occupations by paid-employment and sex, Solomon Islands: 2019

Major Occupations	Total Employment						Paid Work					
	Total	%	Males	%	Females	%	Total	%	Males	%	Females	%
All Major Occupations	**258,383**	***100.0%***	**139,041**	***100.0%***	**119,342**	***100.0%***	**115,201**	***100.0%***	**75,493**	***100.0%***	**39,708**	***100.0%***
Highly Skilled	***28,747***	***11.1%***	***17,462***	***12.6%***	***11,285***	***9.5%***	***28,140***	***24.4%***	***17,096***	***22.6%***	***11,044***	***27.8%***
Legislators, senior officials, & managers	4,143	*1.6%*	3,007	*2.2%*	1,136	*1.0%*	4,049	*3.5%*	2,929	*3.9%*	1,120	*2.8%*
Professionals	20,608	*8.0%*	11,376	*8.2%*	9,232	*7.7%*	20,181	*17.5%*	11,133	*14.7%*	9,048	*22.8%*
Technicians and Associates Professionals	3,996	*1.5%*	3,079	*2.2%*	917	*0.8%*	3,910	*3.4%*	3,034	*4.0%*	876	*2.2%*
Medium (Semi-Skilled)	***184,186***	***71.3%***	***106,149***	***76.3%***	***78,037***	***65.4%***	***76,055***	***66.0%***	***54,643***	***72.4%***	***21,412***	***53.9%***
Clerks	6,518	*2.5%*	3,373	*2.4%*	3,145	*2.6%*	6,440	*5.6%*	3,343	*4.4%*	3,097	*7.8%*
Service workers, shop & market sales workers	15,811	*6.1%*	9,179	*6.6%*	6,632	*5.6%*	14,972	*13.0%*	8,899	*11.8%*	6,073	*15.3%*
Skilled Agricultural, Forestry and Fishery Workers	132,268	*51.2%*	66,998	*48.2%*	65,270	*54.7%*	29,399	*25.5%*	18,935	*25.1%*	10,464	*26.4%*
Craft & related trade workers	19,083	*7.4%*	16,441	*11.8%*	2,642	*2.2%*	15,115	*13.1%*	13,674	*18.1%*	1,441	*3.6%*
Plant & machine operators & assemblers	10,506	*4.1%*	10,158	*7.3%*	348	*0.3%*	10,129	*8.8%*	9,792	*13.0%*	337	*0.8%*
Low Skilled	***44,865***	***17.4%***	***15,080***	***10.8%***	***29,785***	***25.0%***	***10,561***	***9.2%***	***3,470***	***4.6%***	***7,091***	***17.9%***
Elementary occupations	44,865	*17.4%*	15,080	*10.8%*	29,785	*25.0%*	10,561	*9.2%*	3,470	*4.6%*	7,091	*17.9%*
Housework	17,378	*6.7%*	2,731	*2.0%*	14,647	*12.3%*	3,402	*3.0%*	606	*0.8%*	2,796	*7.0%*
Other elementary workers	27,487	*10.6%*	12,349	*8.9%*	15,138	*12.7%*	7,159	*6.2%*	2,864	*3.8%*	4,295	*10.8%*
NS	585	*0.2%*	350	*0.3%*	235	*0.2%*	445	*0.4%*	284	*0.4%*	161	*0.4%*

Employment by Education Qualifications Attained

Education is a key component of human capital investment through the provision of skills and knowledge in undertaking certain occupations and in impacting on productivity. In the Solomon Islands, the majority of persons employed had educational qualifications attained at primary school level (24.9%), followed by those who had completed some primary education (17.5%) (see Table 12.9). These educational attainment categories comprised of slightly more males than females with similar representation in urban and rural areas. By province, persons employed with primary educational qualifications were predominant in Western (21.8%), followed by Guadalcanal (20.2%) and Malaita (20.1%)[61].

[61] Although the relationship between the level of educational attainment and occupation may not appear to meet competency expectations, the likelihood of supplementary skills/abilities (acquired by practice or tradition) or improved

Table 12.9: Employed persons in educational attainment by urban-rural area and sex, Solomon Islands: 2019

Educational attainment	Solomon Is.				Male				Female			
	Total	%	Urban	Rural	Total	%	Urban	Rural	Total	%	Urban	Rural
All Educational attainment	258,383	100.0%	69,564	188,819	139,041	53.8%	39,202	99,839	119,342	46.2%	30,362	88,980
%	100.0%		26.9%	73.1%	53.8%		28.2%	71.8%	46.2%		25.4%	74.6%
No School completed	39,729	15.4%	4,214	35,515	16,593	6.4%	1,725	14,868	23,136	9.0%	2,489	20,647
Preschool/Nursery school	2,465	1.0%	389	2,076	1,144	0.4%	175	969	1,321	0.5%	214	1,107
Some primary	45,207	17.5%	7,940	37,267	23,102	8.9%	4,053	19,049	22,105	8.6%	3,887	18,218
Complted primary	64,273	24.9%	12,205	52,068	34,514	13.4%	6,593	27,921	29,759	11.5%	5,612	24,147
Completed form 3	37,899	14.7%	11,089	26,810	21,306	8.2%	6,269	15,037	16,593	6.4%	4,820	11,773
Completed form 5	23,095	8.9%	9,084	14,011	13,565	5.2%	5,345	8,220	9,530	3.7%	3,739	5,791
Completed form 6	10,669	4.1%	5,420	5,249	6,387	2.5%	3,205	3,182	4,282	1.7%	2,215	2,067
Completed form 7	2,116	0.8%	1,304	812	1,466	0.6%	866	600	650	0.3%	438	212
Some College/No degree	19,752	7.6%	10,258	9,494	11,771	4.6%	5,850	5,921	7,981	3.1%	4,408	3,573
Bachelors degree	5,749	2.2%	4,450	1,299	3,681	1.4%	2,719	962	2,068	0.8%	1,731	337
Masters degree	1,501	0.6%	1,181	320	1,085	0.4%	857	228	416	0.2%	324	92
Doctoral degree	373	0.1%	280	93	269	0.1%	201	68	104	0.0%	79	25
Vocational certificate	4,685	1.8%	1,471	3,214	3,690	1.4%	1,192	2,498	995	0.4%	279	716
Post graduate certificate	388	0.2%	110	278	212	0.1%	65	147	176	0.1%	45	131
Other	482	0.2%	169	313	256	0.1%	87	169	226	0.1%	82	144

A notable pattern was observed where males outnumbered their female counterparts in all educational categories except for no school completed and preschool categories.

12.4 Economic Activity

Employment by type of economic activity (industry) was classified according to the United Nations International Standard Industry Classification (ISIC) in the Solomon Islands context[62,63]. The combined agriculture, forestry and fishery industry accounted for the highest number (177,000) or two-thirds (68.4%) of all employed persons (see Table 12.10). About 87.0% of employment in this sector was concentrated in the rural areas where the majority of the population reside - with close to equal employment amongst sexes. This sector was the predominant sector in the economy accounting for a third of gross domestic product (GDP).[64] This was followed by the wholesale and retail trade industry.

literacy levels, perhaps support these linkages, especially between primary attained qualifications and higher paid occupations in the job market.

[62] Caution should be considered in direct comparisons with past censuses noting changes in ISIC classifications over the decades.

[63] Classification of activities was limited to the main activity only during the reference period rather than the number of activities engaged.

[64] See SINSO 2020 GDP publication: https://www.statistics.gov.sb/images/SolomonFiles/Economic-Statistics/Gross_Domestic_Product/GDP-Publication-2003-2020_615KB.pdf

Table 12.10: Employed persons in major industries by urban-rural area and sex, Solomon Islands: 2019

Major Industries	Solomon Islands						Urban		Rural	
	Total	%	Males	%	Females	%	Males	Females	Males	Females
All Industries	258,383	100.0%	139,041	100.0%	119,342	100.0%	39,202	30,362	99,839	88,980
Agriculture, forestry, fishery	176,613	68.4%	87,624	63.0%	88,989	74.6%	10,006	12,948	77,618	76,041
Mining and quarrying	1,047	0.4%	663	0.5%	384	0.3%	35	4	628	380
Manufacturing	5,864	2.3%	4,206	3.0%	1,658	1.4%	2,118	936	2,088	722
Electricity and water	703	0.3%	650	0.5%	53	0.0%	540	44	110	9
Construction	9,097	3.5%	8,900	6.4%	197	0.2%	5,151	137	3,749	60
Wholesale & retail trade	11,769	4.6%	5,677	4.1%	6,092	5.1%	3,743	4,401	1,934	1,691
Transportation & storage	6,371	2.5%	6,018	4.3%	353	0.3%	4,229	226	1,789	127
Accommodation & food services	1,628	0.6%	385	0.3%	1,243	1.0%	284	957	101	286
Information & Communication	1,089	0.4%	764	0.5%	325	0.3%	526	203	238	122
Financial & insurance	808	0.3%	396	0.3%	412	0.3%	352	381	44	31
Real estate	51	0.0%	45	0.0%	6	0.0%	37	6	8	-
Professional, scientific & technical	2,370	0.9%	1,451	1.0%	919	0.8%	1,275	855	176	64
Administrative and support	6,872	2.7%	4,990	3.6%	1,882	1.6%	3,694	1,593	1,296	289
Local and public administration	6,436	2.5%	4,133	3.0%	2,303	1.9%	3,083	1,897	1,050	406
Education	11,223	4.3%	5,416	3.9%	5,807	4.9%	1,372	2,023	4,044	3,784
Health and social work	3,346	1.3%	1,266	0.9%	2,080	1.7%	884	1,419	382	661
Arts and entertainment	347	0.1%	208	0.1%	139	0.1%	157	128	51	11
Other services	2,863	1.1%	2,227	1.6%	636	0.5%	573	306	1,654	330
Activities of Households	9,869	3.8%	4,013	2.9%	5,856	4.9%	1,140	1,896	2,873	3,960
Extraterritorial activities	17	0.01%	9	0.01%	8	0.01%	3	2	6	6

Within provinces (see Table 12.11), the combined agriculture, forestry and fishery industry accounted for over 50% to 90% of all employment except for Honiara (25.3%). Apart from this industry, Honiara had a higher concentration of employed persons especially in wholesale and retail trade (13.0%), public administration (9.2%) and administrative support (8.6%).

Table 12.11: Percentage distribution of employed persons in major industries by province, Solomon Islands: 2019

Major Industries	Solomon Is.	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell - Bellona	Guadalcanal	Malaita	Makira	Temotu	Honiara
All Industries	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Agriculture, forestry, fishery	68.4%	79.1%	72.4%	76.3%	86.6%	50.4%	72.4%	81.9%	81.8%	82.9%	25.3%
Mining and quarrying	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%	0.0%	4.1%	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
Manufacturing	2.3%	1.5%	5.3%	1.7%	0.6%	3.1%	1.3%	1.7%	1.2%	0.5%	3.1%
Electricity and water	0.3%	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	1.0%
Construction	3.5%	2.6%	3.4%	4.1%	1.1%	2.4%	2.9%	1.7%	2.0%	1.6%	8.5%
Wholesale & retail trade	4.6%	2.3%	4.1%	2.2%	1.0%	4.5%	3.9%	1.8%	2.1%	1.5%	13.0%
Transportation & storage	2.5%	0.9%	1.6%	0.6%	1.2%	4.0%	2.8%	0.8%	0.5%	0.6%	7.3%
Accommodation & food services	0.6%	0.1%	0.8%	0.2%	0.2%	0.6%	0.4%	0.1%	0.2%	0.3%	2.1%
Information & Communication	0.4%	0.1%	0.3%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.4%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	1.3%
Financial & insurance	0.3%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	1.4%
Real estate	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
Professional, scientific & technical	0.9%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%	0.6%	0.1%	0.2%	0.3%	4.1%
Administrative and support	2.7%	1.0%	1.4%	0.6%	0.6%	6.2%	2.8%	0.6%	0.7%	1.0%	8.6%
Local and public administration	2.5%	1.0%	1.3%	0.6%	0.8%	1.0%	1.7%	0.6%	1.0%	1.2%	9.2%
Education	4.3%	5.0%	3.8%	3.8%	3.8%	5.8%	3.4%	4.7%	4.8%	5.6%	5.2%
Health and social work	1.3%	0.8%	1.0%	0.9%	0.9%	1.0%	0.8%	0.7%	0.8%	1.0%	3.5%
Arts and entertainment	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%
Other services	1.1%	1.2%	1.1%	1.5%	1.0%	1.1%	1.0%	1.0%	1.1%	1.2%	1.2%
Activities of Households	3.8%	4.1%	2.8%	6.2%	1.9%	15.0%	3.6%	3.9%	3.3%	2.1%	4.5%
Extraterritorial activities	0.01%	0.00%	0.01%	0.02%	0.00%	0.00%	0.02%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

According to Table 12.12), again, the combined agriculture, forestry and fisheries industry catered for the highest concentration of persons in paid-employment (41.9%). This was followed distantly by the education industry (9.5%), wholesale and retail trade (7.8%), and local and public administration (5.5%).

Table 12.12: Employed persons in monetary (paid) work in major industries by sex and urban-rural area, Solomon Islands: 2019

Major Industries	Monetary (Paid Work only)									
	Solomon Islands						Urban		Rural	
	Total	%	Males	%	Females	%	Males	Females	Males	Females
All Industries	115,201	*100.0%*	75,493	*100.0%*	39,708	*100.0%*	33,997	20,267	41,496	19,441
%	*100.0%*		*65.5%*		*34.5%*		*29.5%*	*17.6%*	*36.0%*	*16.9%*
Agriculture, forestry, fishery	48,248	*41.9%*	31,349	*41.5%*	16,899	*42.6%*	6,690	4,857	24,659	12,042
Mining and quarrying	826	*0.7%*	537	*0.7%*	289	*0.7%*	31	-	506	289
Manufacturing	4,679	*4.1%*	3,530	*4.7%*	1,149	*2.9%*	1,988	879	1,542	270
Electricity and water	673	*0.6%*	625	*0.8%*	48	*0.1%*	527	42	98	6
Construction	7,796	*6.8%*	7,633	*10.1%*	163	*0.4%*	4,714	123	2,919	40
Wholesale & retail trade	8,967	*7.8%*	4,683	*6.2%*	4,284	*10.8%*	3,281	3,367	1,402	917
Transportation & storage	5,893	*5.1%*	5,602	*7.4%*	291	*0.7%*	4,022	206	1,580	85
Accommodation & food services	1,440	*1.2%*	352	*0.5%*	1,088	*2.7%*	266	889	86	199
Information & Communication	949	*0.8%*	690	*0.9%*	259	*0.7%*	512	194	178	65
Financial & insurance	789	*0.7%*	385	*0.5%*	404	*1.0%*	344	373	41	31
Real estate	47	*0.0%*	41	*0.1%*	6	*0.0%*	37	6	4	-
Professional, scientific & technical	2,326	*2.0%*	1,431	*1.9%*	895	*2.3%*	1,264	839	167	56
Administrative and support	6,278	*5.4%*	4,591	*6.1%*	1,687	*4.2%*	3,433	1,466	1,158	221
Local and public administration	6,348	*5.5%*	4,088	*5.4%*	2,260	*5.7%*	3,061	1,863	1,027	397
Education	10,968	*9.5%*	5,305	*7.0%*	5,663	*14.3%*	1,360	1,987	3,945	3,676
Health and social work	3,026	*2.6%*	1,201	*1.6%*	1,825	*4.6%*	859	1,310	342	515
Arts and entertainment	320	*0.3%*	194	*0.3%*	126	*0.3%*	152	121	42	5
Other services	2,604	*2.3%*	2,060	*2.7%*	544	*1.4%*	563	265	1,497	279
Activities of Households	3,012	*2.6%*	1,189	*1.6%*	1,823	*4.6%*	890	1,478	299	345
Extraterritorial activities	12	*0.01%*	7	*0.01%*	5	*0.01%*	3	2	4	3

12.5 Unemployment

According to the 2019 Census, 22,127 persons of age 12 years and over were unemployed. The unemployed comprised of about 12,000 males (53.9%) and about 10,200 females (46.1%) as presented in Table 12.13. There were more unemployed persons in rural areas (57.9%) than in urban areas (43.1%) with slightly more males than females. By age distribution, the majority of the unemployed were in the age groups 20-24 years (21.7%) and 25-29 years (18.3%).

Table 12.13: Unemployed persons in age-group by urban-rural area and sex, Solomon Islands: 2019

Age Group	Solomon Is.						Urban				Rural			
	Total	%	Males	%	Females	%	Total	%	Males	Females	Total	%	Males	Females
All Ages	**22,127**	***100.0%***	**11,934**	***100.0%***	**10,193**	***100.0%***	**9,541**	***100.0%***	**5,084**	**4,457**	**12,586**	***100.0%***	**6,850**	**5,736**
%	*100.0%*		*53.9%*		*46.1%*		*100.0%*		*53.3%*	*46.7%*	*100.0%*		*54.4%*	*45.6%*
12-14	387	*1.7%*	210	*1.8%*	177	*1.7%*	109	*1.1%*	54	55	278	*2.2%*	156	122
15-19	2,256	*10.2%*	1,213	*10.2%*	1,043	*10.2%*	924	*9.7%*	471	453	1,332	*10.6%*	742	590
20-24	4,806	*21.7%*	2,488	*20.8%*	2,318	*22.7%*	2,419	*25.4%*	1,270	1,149	2,387	*19.0%*	1,218	1,169
25-29	4,053	*18.3%*	2,161	*18.1%*	1,892	*18.6%*	1,976	*20.7%*	1,058	918	2,077	*16.5%*	1,103	974
30-34	3,168	*14.3%*	1,649	*13.8%*	1,519	*14.9%*	1,425	*14.9%*	730	695	1,743	*13.8%*	919	824
35-39	2,460	*11.1%*	1,362	*11.4%*	1,098	*10.8%*	991	*10.4%*	541	450	1,469	*11.7%*	821	648
40-44	1,782	*8.1%*	940	*7.9%*	842	*8.3%*	661	*6.9%*	344	317	1,121	*8.9%*	596	525
45-49	1,300	*5.9%*	742	*6.2%*	558	*5.5%*	463	*4.9%*	254	209	837	*6.7%*	488	349
50-54	815	*3.7%*	470	*3.9%*	345	*3.4%*	259	*2.7%*	158	101	556	*4.4%*	312	244
55-59	547	*2.5%*	363	*3.0%*	184	*1.8%*	157	*1.6%*	111	46	390	*3.1%*	252	138
60-64	279	*1.3%*	178	*1.5%*	101	*1.0%*	72	*0.8%*	45	27	207	*1.6%*	133	74
65-69	143	*0.6%*	87	*0.7%*	56	*0.5%*	46	*0.5%*	28	18	97	*0.8%*	59	38
70-74	61	*0.3%*	34	*0.3%*	27	*0.3%*	13	*0.1%*	8	5	48	*0.4%*	26	22
75+	70	*0.3%*	37	*0.3%*	33	*0.3%*	26	*0.3%*	12	14	44	*0.3%*	25	19

Table 12.14: Unemployed persons in age-group by province, Solomon Islands: 2019

Age Group	Solomon Is.	%	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell-Bellona	Guadal-canal	Malaita	Makira-Ulawa	Temotu	Honiara
All Ages	22,127	*100.0%*	749	2,422	447	398	73	5,166	3,890	1,348	758	6,876
%	*100.0%*		*3.4%*	*10.9%*	*2.0%*	*1.8%*	*0.3%*	*23.3%*	*17.6%*	*6.1%*	*3.4%*	*31.1%*
12-14	387	*1.7%*	7	52	7	8	1	138	78	16	18	62
15-19	2,256	*10.2%*	91	288	59	26	8	542	393	127	76	646
20-24	4,806	*21.7%*	151	563	75	61	12	1,163	676	251	126	1,728
25-29	4,053	*18.3%*	115	452	95	65	10	957	596	225	95	1,443
30-34	3,168	*14.3%*	114	298	56	69	14	689	544	201	107	1,076
35-39	2,460	*11.1%*	78	218	48	45	7	566	523	174	91	710
40-44	1,782	*8.1%*	57	182	38	50	5	390	377	137	76	470
45-49	1,300	*5.9%*	41	124	28	32	4	297	284	101	48	341
50-54	815	*3.7%*	33	102	12	18	6	188	171	44	57	184
55-59	547	*2.5%*	24	77	15	9	4	121	112	39	34	112
60-64	279	*1.3%*	20	39	7	5	0	58	73	19	15	43
65-69	143	*0.6%*	9	10	3	5	1	34	31	9	9	32
70-74	61	*0.3%*	4	5	1	3	1	15	14	3	5	10
75+	70	0.3%	5	12	3	2	0	8	18	2	1	19

According to Table 12.14 above, the majority (31.1%) of the unemployed resided in Honiara. This was followed by Guadalcanal (23.3%) and Malaita (17.6%). This was expected, especially for Honiara, where rural-urban migration among persons seeking employment opportunities, health and education were some of the common causes for population increase in Honiara (as discussed in the Chapters 4 and 7 regarding migration & urbanization).

Unemployment and Education

Statistics about unemployment and educational attainment informs decision-making, stimulates discussion, and encourages certain policy actions to be undertaken especially when education is expected to increase the likelihood of reducing unemployment in the medium-long term.

Table 12.15 showed that, similar to those employed, the majority of the unemployed had completed primary education (22.0%) followed by those that completed form 3 (17.4%) - with the majority them residing in rural areas. Educational attainment by sex showed that even though males outnumbered their female counterparts, females followed closely behind.

Table 12.15: Unemployed persons in educational attainment by urban-rural areas and sex, Solomon Islands: 2019

Educational attainment	Solomon Is.		Urban				Rural			
	Total	%	Total	% (of total)	Males	Females	Total	% (of total)	Males	Females
Total	22,127	100.0%	9,541	43.1%	5,084	4,457	12,586	56.9%	6,850	5,736
No School completed	2,890	13.1%	665	3.0%	342	323	2,225	10.1%	1,101	1,124
Preschool/Nursery school	254	1.1%	62	0.3%	31	31	192	0.9%	110	82
Some primary	3,588	16.2%	1,231	5.6%	653	578	2,357	10.7%	1,307	1,050
Completed primary	4,879	22.0%	1,709	7.7%	883	826	3,170	14.3%	1,661	1,509
Completed form 3	3,846	17.4%	1,749	7.9%	886	863	2,097	9.5%	1,163	934
Completed form 5	2,678	12.1%	1,482	6.7%	751	731	1,196	5.4%	672	524
Completed form 6	1,596	7.2%	1,022	4.6%	587	435	574	2.6%	318	256
Completed form 7	310	1.4%	234	1.1%	146	88	76	0.3%	50	26
Some College/No degree	1,309	5.9%	896	4.0%	464	432	413	1.9%	254	159
Bachelors degree	264	1.2%	218	1.0%	142	76	46	0.2%	36	10
Masters degree	74	0.3%	56	0.3%	37	19	18	0.1%	11	7
Doctoral degree	13	0.1%	12	0.1%	10	2	1	0.0%	1	0
Vocational certificate	384	1.7%	191	0.9%	143	48	193	0.9%	153	40
Post graduate certificate	10	0.0%	2	0.0%	1	1	8	0.0%	2	6
Other	32	0.1%	12	0.1%	8	4	20	0.1%	11	9

Unemployment Rate

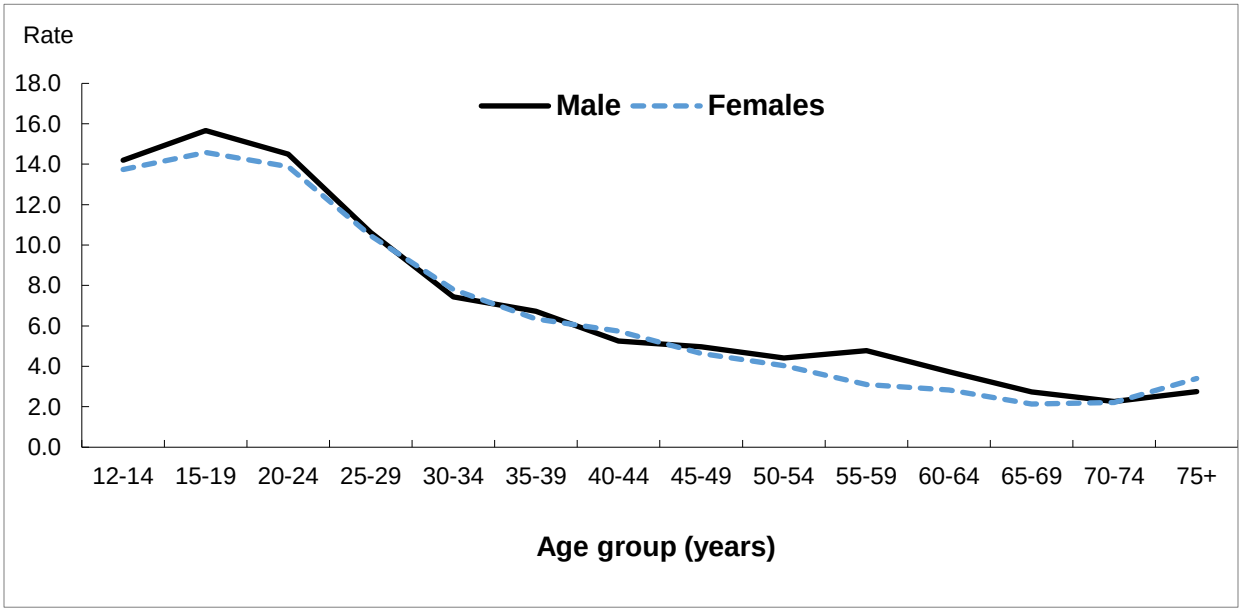
The unemployment rate is a key economic indicator when assessing the performance of the labour market and the growth of the economy. As presented in Table 12.16, the national unemployment rate

(official definition) was recorded at 7.9 percent. Urban-unemployment (12.06%) was higher than rural-unemployment with twice the rate (6.25%). This reflected similar unemployment rates amongst males and females within the respective urban-rural areas. However, at the national level, male and female unemployment rates were closely equivalent.

Table 12.16: Unemployed rates (official) in provinces by urban-rural areas and sex, Solomon Islands: 2019

Province	Unemployment Rate (official)								
	Solomon Is.			Urban			Rural		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Solomon Islands	7.89	7.90	7.87	12.06	11.48	12.80	6.25	6.42	6.06
Choisuel	6.56	7.03	5.96	18.67	23.81	11.89	6.19	6.52	5.79
Western	5.99	5.95	6.04	9.01	8.82	9.22	5.40	5.41	5.39
Isabel	3.25	3.00	3.56	1.57	0.69	2.71	3.31	3.09	3.59
Central	3.54	3.82	3.22	2.66	3.60	0.99	3.59	3.84	3.31
Ren-Bell	3.87	2.77	5.62	-	-	-	3.87	2.77	5.62
Guadalcanal	8.36	8.37	8.35	10.71	10.20	11.36	7.53	7.67	7.37
Malaita	6.25	6.68	5.80	6.88	7.94	5.63	6.23	6.63	5.81
Makira-Ulawa	7.30	7.81	6.70	5.82	5.86	5.77	7.36	7.90	6.74
Temotu	9.10	9.07	9.13	5.25	6.20	4.15	9.47	9.35	9.58
Honiara	13.50	12.66	14.59	13.50	12.66	14.59	-	-	-

Figure 12.7: Unemployment rates by age-group and sex, Solomon Islands: 2019



By province, Honiara, had the highest unemployment rate of 13.5%, followed by Temotu with 9.1%. The latter accounted for the highest rural-unemployment rate (9.5%). By provincial urban disaggregation, Choiseul had the highest urban-unemployment rate (18.7%) followed by Honiara, however by absolute numbers this was relatively low compared to Honiara.

By age distribution (see Figure 12.7), unemployment rates were relatively high during earlier ages, especially between age groups 12-14 to 20-24 years with male rates above their female counterparts. The highest rate of 15.2% in all age groups was recorded for the age group 15-19 years. As age increased, unemployment rates began declining with both sexes exhibiting similar rates until ages 50-54 years when male rates rose again but declined towards 70-74 years as female rates overtook their male counterparts.

Unemployment (expanded definition)

To further draw insights about the magnitude of the unemployed population, an expanded definition of unemployment rate was considered. As observed from Figure 12.8 and Table 12.17 below, the unemployment rates significantly increased with the expanded definition. This implied that persons who were previously not actively looking for work but were available for work, and classified as being outside the labour force, now enter the labour force as part of the unemployed. Hence, unemployment rates had doubled (or more than doubled) in all provinces compared to the official rates, with the highest unemployment rate of 21.6% recorded in Honiara.

Figure 12.8: Unemployment rates (official vs expanded) by province, Solomon Islands: 2019

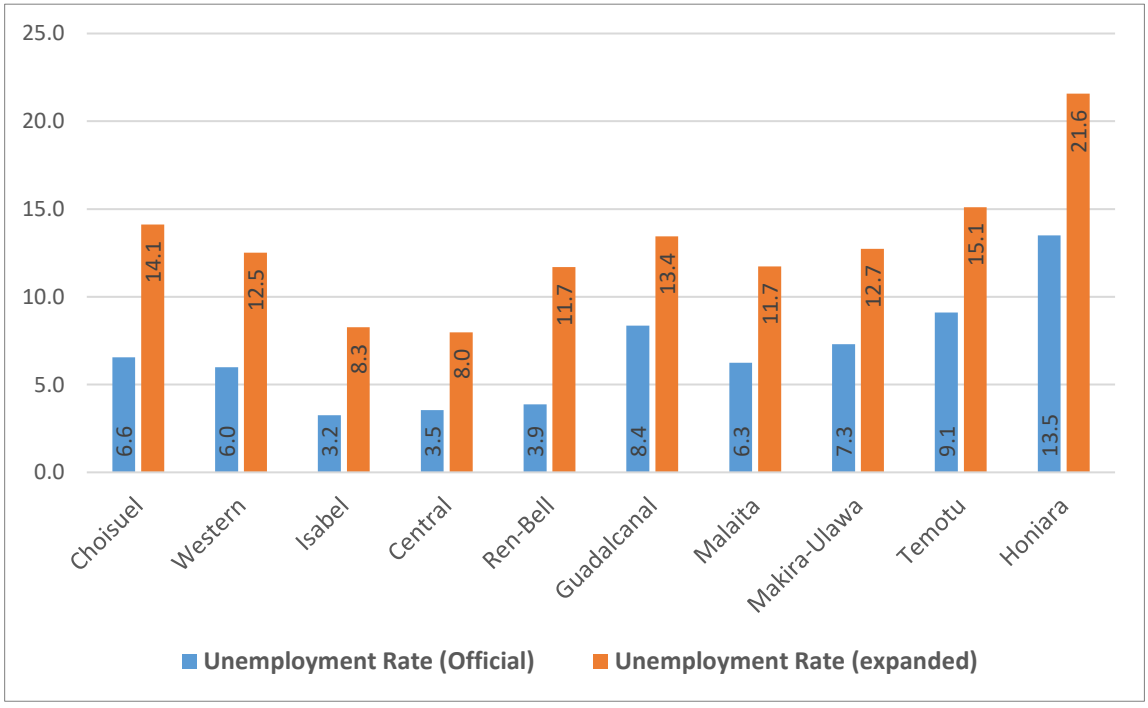


Table 12.17: Unemployed rates (expanded) in provinces by urban-rural areas and Sex, Solomon Islands: 2019

Province	Unemployment Rate (expanded)								
	Solomon Is.			Urban			Rural		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Solomon Islands	14.01	13.10	15.04	20.11	17.88	22.82	11.52	11.06	12.02
Choisuel	14.11	13.70	14.62	31.65	33.33	29.61	13.54	13.06	14.12
Western	12.52	11.29	13.97	17.27	15.24	19.46	11.56	10.53	12.79
Isabel	8.27	7.72	8.95	8.73	3.69	14.68	8.25	7.87	8.72
Central	7.97	7.82	8.14	5.52	5.18	6.10	8.10	7.99	8.23
Ren-Bell	11.69	5.70	20.00	-	-	-	11.69	5.70	20.00
Guadalcanal	13.45	12.70	14.28	18.66	16.30	21.51	11.51	11.30	11.74
Malaita	11.73	11.67	11.79	15.38	15.02	15.78	11.57	11.52	11.63
Makira-Ulawa	12.73	12.58	12.89	13.42	15.38	10.91	12.70	12.45	12.98
Temotu	15.11	13.78	16.46	11.60	11.03	12.23	15.45	14.05	16.84
Honiara	21.57	19.14	24.57	21.57	19.14	24.57	-	-	-

12.5.1 Other Regional and International Comparison

According to the ILO, the working-age population is commonly defined as persons aged 15 years and over but this depends on country context. Many countries conceptualize and classify their working-age population differently depending on respective national statistics systems, international labour agreements and policy considerations - such as the Solomon Islands where the working-age is defined as 12 years and over.

To attempt to draw comparisons, the labour force indicators were re-calculated based on the working-age population of 15 years and over, and presented in Table 12.18 below. Although there was the obvious reduction in the working-age given the increase in age threshold (from 12 years+ to 15 years+), there appeared no significant change in the unemployment rates. However, the increase was evident in the participation rates. The national participation rates increased by 5.5 percentage points driven mainly by an increase in rural participation – with an increase in males (6.7 percentage points) and females (5.8 percentage points).

Table 12.18: Population aged 15 years and over by labour force status and sex, Solomon Islands: 2019

Labour force status and rates	Age 15 years +		
	Solomon Is.	Males	Females
Working Age	456,157	232,099	224,058
In the labour force	277,742	149,496	128,246
Employed	256,002	137,772	118,230
Urban	69,359	39,101	30,258
Rural	186,643	98,671	87,972
Unemployed	21,740	11,724	10,016
Urban	9,432	5,030	4,402
Rural	12,308	6,694	5,614
Not in the labour force	178,415	82,603	95,812
Urban	61,353	27,971	33,382
Rural	117,062	54,632	62,430
Not stated	-	-	-
LF participation rate			
Total	60.9	64.4	57.2
Urban	56.2	61.2	50.9
Rural	63.0	65.9	60.0
Unemployment rate			
Total	7.8	7.8	7.8
Urban	12.0	11.4	12.7
Rural	6.2	6.4	6.0

12.5.2 Youth Unemployment and Labour Force Status

Solomon Islands has a young population with a median age of 21.4 years comprising a vibrant youth populace that made up the working age-population and the labour force. In considering international and regional trends in youth labour force, this analysis attempted to provide further information about the status of youth labour and related indicators in the Solomon Islands.

Key labour market indicators were compiled for the following two youth groups. The first was based on the ILO definition of the youth-age working population (15-24 years), and the second was the Solomon Islands version of the youth population (15-34 years).

According to Table 12.19 below, the youth (15-24 years) comprised of half the size of the working-age of youth (15-34 years) and a third of the size of its labour force (15-34 years). Youth employment was also higher amongst the youth (15-34 years). Moreover, as revealed in Figure 12.9, the youth unemployment rate (national level) was higher for youth (15-24 years) at 14.5% compared to 11.1% for youth (15-34 years) - even though in absolute terms, there were twice as many unemployed youth in the youth group (15-34 years) than in youth (15-24 years). A noticeable pattern was observed in the higher urban-unemployment rates (above the national rates) amongst both youth groups.

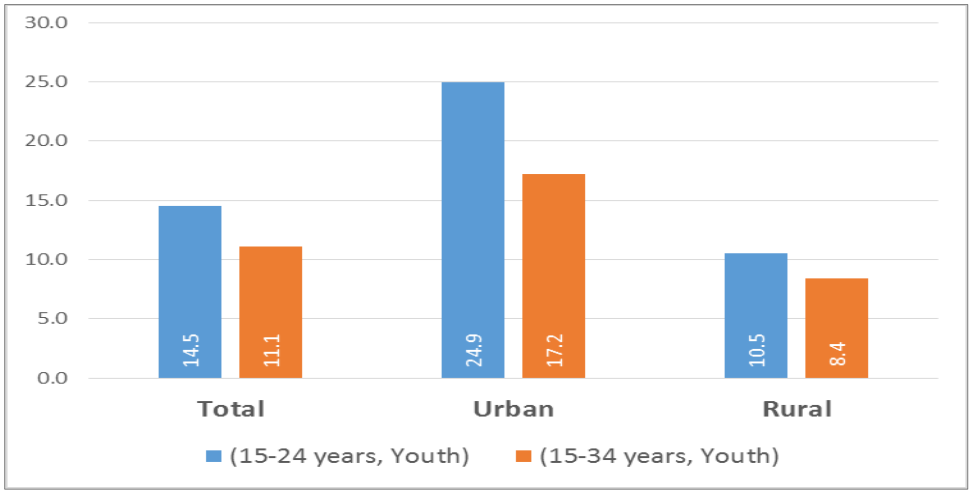
The participation rates revealed that the youth group (15-34 years) were more active (working or actively seeking employment) at all levels, and amongst both sexes - especially males, compared to the youth (15-24 years) group.

Table 12.19: Youth population aged 15-24 years and 15-34 years in labour force status and sex, Solomon Islands 2019

Labour force status and rates	Age 15 - 24 years		
	Solomon Is.	Males	Females
Working Age	142,362	72,004	70,358
In the labour force	48,740	24,898	23,842
Employed	41,678	21,197	20,481
Urban	10,056	5,195	4,861
Rural	31,622	16,002	15,620
Unemployed	7,062	3,701	3,361
Urban	3,343	1,741	1,602
Rural	3,719	1,960	1,759
Not in the labour force	93,622	47,106	46,516
Urban	32,845	16,160	16,685
Rural	60,777	30,946	29,831
Not stated	-	-	-
LF participation rate			
Total	34.2	34.6	33.9
Urban	29.0	30.0	27.9
Rural	36.8	36.7	36.8
Unemployment rate			
Total	14.5	14.9	14.1
Urban	24.9	25.1	24.8
Rural	10.5	10.9	10.1

Labour force status and rates	Age 15 - 34 years		
	Solomon Is.	Males	Females
Working Age	249,831	126,057	123,774
In the labour force	128,788	67,409	61,379
Employed	114,505	59,898	54,607
Urban	32,356	17,619	14,737
Rural	82,149	42,279	39,870
Unemployed	14,283	7,511	6,772
Urban	6,744	3,529	3,215
Rural	7,539	3,982	3,557
Not in the labour force	121,043	58,648	62,395
Urban	44,690	21,289	23,401
Rural	76,353	37,359	38,994
Not stated	-	-	-
LF participation rate			
Total	51.6	53.5	49.6
Urban	46.7	49.8	43.4
Rural	54.0	55.3	52.7
Unemployment rate			
Total	11.1	11.1	11.0
Urban	17.2	16.7	17.9
Rural	8.4	8.6	8.2

Figure 12.9: Unemployment rate of youth (15-24 years vs youth (15-34 years), Solomon Islands: 2019



12.6 Not in the Labour Force

In the 2019 Census, close to 225,500 persons, representing over a third of the working-age population, were neither employed nor unemployed and thus fell outside the labour force (see Table 12.20) [65]. Two-thirds of all persons in this group resided in rural areas and were dominated by females (52.6%) - urban (53.7%) and rural (52.1%).

Many of these people outside the labour force comprised of persons at school, full time home makers, retired persons, elderly or persons of old age, disabled or handicapped persons, and persons with health conditions that were predominantly not economically active in society.

Table 12.20: Population 12 years and over that are not in labour force in age-group by sex and urban-rural area, Solomon Islands: 2019

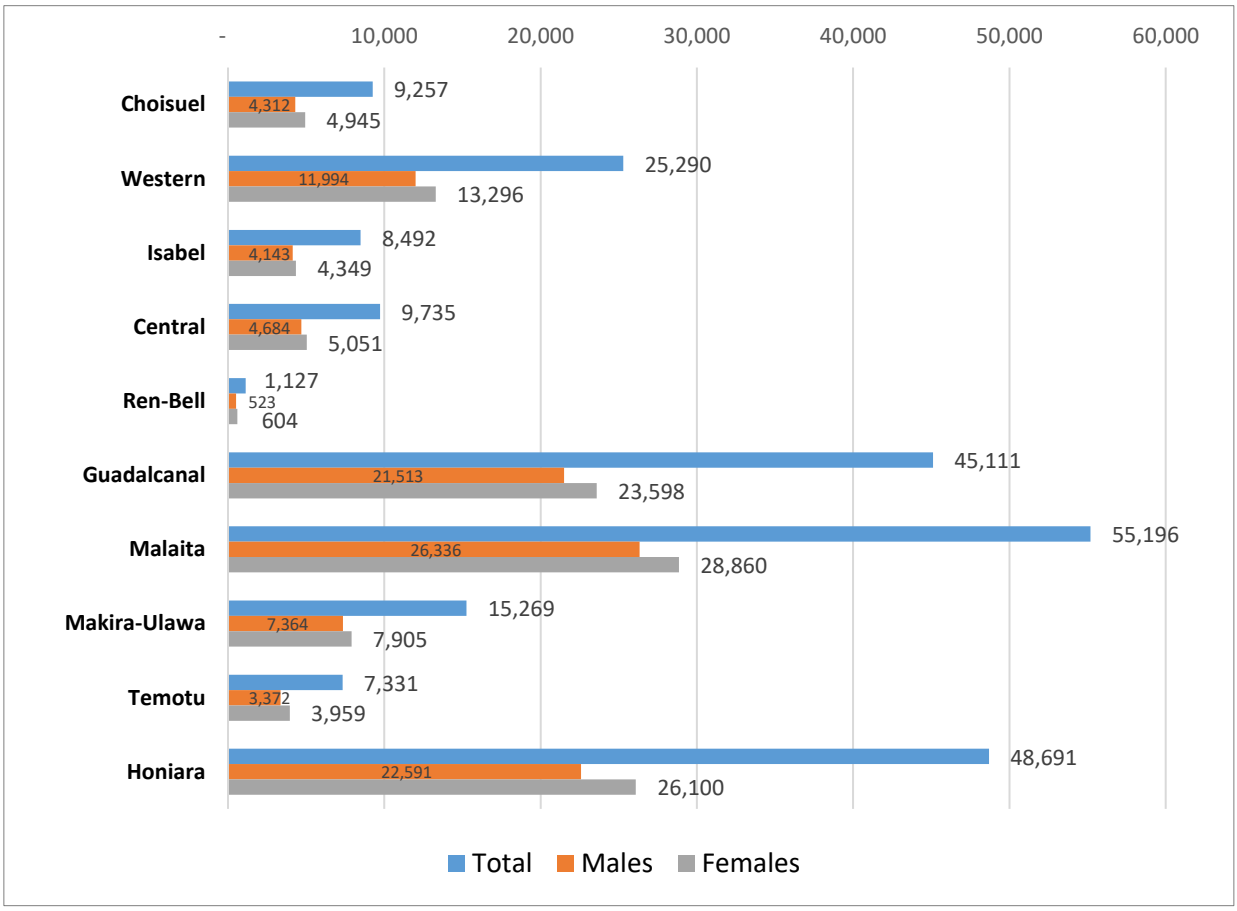
Age Group	Solomon Is.				Urban		Rural	
	Total	%	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
All Ages	225,499	*100.0%*	106,832	118,667	33,187	38,473	73,645	80,194
%	*100.0%*		*47.4%*	*52.6%*	*46.3%*	*53.7%*	*47.9%*	*52.1%*
12-14	47,084	*20.9%*	24,229	22,855	5,216	5,091	19,013	17,764
15 - 19	61,818	*27.4%*	31,368	30,450	8,880	9,111	22,488	21,339
20 - 24	31,804	*14.1%*	15,738	16,066	7,280	7,574	8,458	8,492
25 - 29	15,684	*7.0%*	7,017	8,667	3,253	3,830	3,764	4,837
30 - 34	11,737	*5.2%*	4,525	7,212	1,876	2,886	2,649	4,326
35 - 39	8,809	*3.9%*	3,366	5,443	1,187	2,060	2,179	3,383
40 - 44	7,554	*3.3%*	2,900	4,654	917	1,766	1,983	2,888
45 - 49	6,575	*2.9%*	2,593	3,982	785	1,381	1,808	2,601
50 - 54	6,172	*2.7%*	2,376	3,796	739	1,303	1,637	2,493
55 - 59	5,370	*2.4%*	2,230	3,140	686	977	1,544	2,163
60 - 64	5,360	*2.4%*	2,345	3,015	701	853	1,644	2,162
65 - 69	5,150	*2.3%*	2,265	2,885	610	604	1,655	2,281
70 - 74	4,225	*1.9%*	1,932	2,293	390	421	1,542	1,872
75+	8,157	*3.6%*	3,948	4,209	667	616	3,281	3,593

Persons in the younger age group 15-19 years consisted of the majority (27.4) of all persons outside the labour force. A combined younger age group from 12 to 20-24 years made up over half of all persons in this group. Of this group, two-thirds of them, especially females, resided in rural areas. This age range also represented years of schooling. Hence, a majority of persons within this group would be attending school.

[65] Not in the labour force and outside the labour force are terminologies used interchangeable and does not imply inclusion of persons below the working age.

By provincial disaggregation (see Figure 12.10), Malaita catered for the majority (24.5%) of persons not in the labour force, followed by Honiara (21.6%) and Guadalcanal (20.0%). These three provinces combined absorbed over two-thirds of all persons or about 149,000 people outside of the labour force.

Figure 12.10: Number of persons not in the labour force in province by sex, Solomon Islands: 2019



12.6.1 Reasons for Not Actively Looking for Work

There were a number of reasons why persons outside the labour force were asked why they were not actively looking for work. A small number of persons were excluded – those who were actively looking for work but were not available for work at the time of enumeration. Table 12.21 lists the key reasons.

Over half (58%) of all persons not looking for work were ‘students’. The majority of them were in the age range of 12-29 years. This was followed by ‘full-time homemakers’ (16.8%) - the majority were within 30-59 years, whilst noting about 4,100 of them were in ages 12-19 years (of school age) comprising mainly females, and were part of age group 12-29 years,. Moreover, there were a combined 7.2% of persons who ‘did not want to work’ and ‘believed there was no work available’.

Table 12.21: Population 12 years and over that are not in the labour force by reasons for not actively looking for work and sex by age-group, Solomon Islands: 2019

Reasons (Not Lokking for Work)	Total	%	12-14	15-29	30- 59	60+
Total	223,939	*100.0%*	47,039	108,571	45,530	22,799
Full time homemaker	37,683	*16.8%*	987	14,527	19,571	2,598
Student	129,856	*58.0%*	44,232	78,944	6,525	155
Retired/Old age	13,287	*5.9%*	52	460	3,397	9,378
Disabled	15,766	*7.0%*	354	1,580	5,326	8,506
Didn't want to work	10,186	*4.5%*	662	5,752	3,426	346
Believe no work available	6,136	*2.7%*	278	3,294	2,370	194
Bad weather/No transport	274	*0.1%*	5	96	150	23
Discrouaged by rejection	59	*0.0%*	1	24	27	7
Health reasons	5,327	*2.4%*	138	1,470	2,507	1,212
Other	5,365	*2.4%*	330	2,424	2,231	380
Males						
Total	106,068	*47.4%*	24,197	53,761	17,666	10,444
Full time homemaker	9,027	*4.0%*	415	3,461	4,377	774
Student	67,951	*30.3%*	22,639	41,754	3,476	82
Retired/Old age	6,211	*2.8%*	27	217	1,446	4,521
Disabled	7,503	*3.4%*	203	914	2,519	3,867
Didn't want to work	6,027	*2.7%*	448	3,504	1,861	214
Believe no work available	3,710	*1.7%*	170	1,968	1,456	116
Bad weather/No transport	154	*0.1%*	2	50	88	14
Discrouaged by rejection	36	*0.0%*	1	14	17	4
Health reasons	2,393	*1.1%*	88	566	1,123	616
Other	3,056	*1.4%*	204	1,313	1,303	236
Females						
Total	117,871	*52.6%*	22,842	54,810	27,864	12,355
Full time homemaker	28,656	*12.8%*	572	11,066	15,194	1,824
Student	61,905	*27.6%*	21,593	37,190	3,049	73
Retired/Old age	7,076	*3.2%*	25	243	1,951	4,857
Disabled	8,263	*3.7%*	151	666	2,807	4,639
Didn't want to work	4,159	*1.9%*	214	2,248	1,565	132
Believe no work available	2,426	*1.1%*	108	1,326	914	78
Bad weather/No transport	120	*0.1%*	3	46	62	9
Discrouaged by rejection	23	*0.0%*	-	10	10	3
Health reasons	2,934	*1.3%*	50	904	1,384	596
Other	2,309	*1.0%*	126	1,111	928	144

According to Table 12.22 below, Malaita (25.0%), Honiara (22.0%) and Guadalcanal (20.6%) had similar majority of responses for 'student' as the reason for not looking for work. This was followed by 'full-time homemakers' with 25.1%, 22.8% and 20.1% respectively, for these provinces.[66] Honiara

[66] It are likely cases of bias (responses) depending on circumstances during the enumeration. For instance, persons who were absent from full-time school due to prolonged health reasons, lack of school fees, and/or engaged domestically in housework at that time, may not necessarily respond as being a student.

showed the highest response for those who 'did not want to work' (22.0%) and 'believed there was no work available' (26.6%) compared to the other provinces.

Table 12.22: Population 12 years and over that are not in the labour force by reason for not looking for work by province, Solomon Islands: 2019

Reasons (Not Looking for Work)	Total	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Renn-Bell	Guadalcanal	Malaita	Makira	Temotu	Honiara
Total	**223,939**	**9,231**	**25,091**	**8,442**	**9,666**	**1,123**	**44,814**	**54,828**	**15,184**	**7,283**	**48,277**
%	*100.0%*	*4.1%*	*11.2%*	*3.8%*	*4.3%*	*0.5%*	*20.0%*	*24.5%*	*6.8%*	*3.3%*	*21.6%*
Full time homemaker	**37,683**	**1,921**	**3,682**	**703**	**1,822**	**183**	**7,559**	**9,477**	**2,504**	**1,247**	**8,585**
%	*100.0%*	*5.1%*	*9.8%*	*1.9%*	*4.8%*	*0.5%*	*20.1%*	*25.1%*	*6.6%*	*3.3%*	*22.8%*
Student	**129,856**	**4,603**	**13,478**	**5,215**	**5,440**	**659**	**26,806**	**32,515**	**8,826**	**3,698**	**28,616**
%	*100.0%*	*3.5%*	*10.4%*	*4.0%*	*4.2%*	*0.5%*	*20.6%*	*25.0%*	*6.8%*	*2.8%*	*22.0%*
Retired/Old age	**13,287**	**600**	**1,550**	**502**	**557**	**59**	**2,350**	**3,025**	**812**	**632**	**3,200**
%	*100.0%*	*4.5%*	*11.7%*	*3.8%*	*4.2%*	*0.4%*	*17.7%*	*22.8%*	*6.1%*	*4.8%*	*24.1%*
Disabled	**15,766**	**824**	**2,428**	**979**	**733**	**89**	**3,123**	**3,995**	**1,381**	**906**	**1,308**
%	*100.0%*	*5.2%*	*15.4%*	*6.2%*	*4.6%*	*0.6%*	*19.8%*	*25.3%*	*8.8%*	*5.7%*	*8.3%*
Didn't want to work	**10,186**	**556**	**1,752**	**381**	**472**	**45**	**2,110**	**1,726**	**582**	**317**	**2,245**
%	*100.0%*	*5.5%*	*17.2%*	*3.7%*	*4.6%*	*0.4%*	*20.7%*	*16.9%*	*5.7%*	*3.1%*	*22.0%*
Believe no work available	**6,136**	**228**	**499**	**131**	**243**	**26**	**1,274**	**1,682**	**261**	**158**	**1,634**
%	*100.0%*	*3.7%*	*8.1%*	*2.1%*	*4.0%*	*0.4%*	*20.8%*	*27.4%*	*4.3%*	*2.6%*	*26.6%*
Bad weather/No transport	**274**	**15**	**53**	**25**	**12**	**2**	**67**	**67**	**23**	**5**	**5**
%	*100.0%*	*5.5%*	*19.3%*	*9.1%*	*4.4%*	*0.7%*	*24.5%*	*24.5%*	*8.4%*	*1.8%*	*1.8%*
Discrouaged by rejection	**59**	**1**	**18**	**1**	**-**	**-**	**4**	**23**	**3**	**-**	**9**
%	*100.0%*	*1.7%*	*30.5%*	*1.7%*	*0.0%*	*0.0%*	*6.8%*	*39.0%*	*5.1%*	*0.0%*	*15.3%*
Health reasons	**5,327**	**294**	**918**	**306**	**196**	**28**	**767**	**1,279**	**505**	**176**	**858**
%	*100.0%*	*5.5%*	*17.2%*	*5.7%*	*3.7%*	*0.5%*	*14.4%*	*24.0%*	*9.5%*	*3.3%*	*16.1%*
Other	**5,365**	**189**	**713**	**199**	**191**	**32**	**754**	**1,039**	**287**	**144**	**1,817**
%	*100.0%*	*3.5%*	*13.3%*	*3.7%*	*3.6%*	*0.6%*	*14.1%*	*19.4%*	*5.3%*	*2.7%*	*33.9%*

As discussed in earlier chapters, the age dependency ratio was also a concern with about 64 children dependency (including students) and 10 elderly dependency (including the disabled) who were dependent on the economically productive population.

Note on underemployment and labour underutilization

The 2019 Census was limited in scope to provide specific statistics related to under-employment and labour under-utilization although these important issues are an integral part of the labour and job market. More focused empirical studies or surveys (e.g., labour force survey) may provide in-depth information and insights in this area.

From the above analyses, there is obvious indirect evidence of the likelihood of persons employed who may not necessarily meet set conditions for employment in practice or otherwise. For example, persons who worked less hours than usual, or those that earned less income for a high paid job, or those that did not necessarily use their occupational skills or qualifications competently. These persons can be considered as under-productive or under-utilized. Similarly, this applies to those who were unemployed or outside the labour force. For instance, persons who may had casual, irregular, or unstructured jobs and may sometimes report themselves as not working, or neither employed nor unemployed.

Various factors may be involved including distortions in the labour and job market (supply and demand), lack of policy direction, lack of perfect information or the overall state of economic development. Consequently, mismatches in skills and occupations, gender disparities in income distribution (paid vs unpaid work) and unfair labour practices etc. are some of the symptoms often encountered.

13. FORMAL AND INFORMAL SECTOR

This analysis extends from the employment analysis in the aforementioned chapter. Although this chapter discusses employment in the formal and informal sectors, the focus attempts to draw attention to the latter as an immerging development issue in the country.

The informal sector whose activities are often less tangible and intertwined in the formal and subsistence economies, plays a critical role in employment creation, generation of income and production, and impacts on economic development and livelihoods. In many developing countries, the informal economy accounts for some 75% or more of non-agriculture employment. However, for many least developing and developing economies such as the Solomon Islands, data and statistics on the informal economy remains fragmentary. This analysis also attempts to contribute to providing statistical information in this area of development whilst noting the evolving conceptualization of the informal sector and informal economy.

Specific attention is centered on reporting of employment in the informal sector as opposed to informal sector employment within the informal economy. The basic definitions follow the 17th and 19th International Labour Statisticians Conference Resolutions as documented by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).[67]

Informal Sector: the sector that comprises of production units or informal enterprises such as unincorporated business entities or household-based enterprises that have no formal or lawful operational compliance such as business registration, licensing or taxation. These production units usually aim to generate employment and incomes in market oriented production and are often transient in nature and difficult to monitor and regulate.

Formal Sector: the sector whose production units such as public or private business incorporated enterprises comply with formal or lawful operational requirements such as in registration, licensing or taxation.

Employment in Informal Sector: comprises of all persons who are predominantly employed within a given period by an informal sector enterprise. In this context, an employed person is the unit measure of employment and not job holding.

Informal Employment: consist of employment in the informal sector and all those informally employed in the formal sector whether employed in an informal sector enterprise, formal sector enterprise or households/household-based enterprises. Those engaged in formal sector enterprises comprise of persons whose employment status do not necessarily comply with legal or formal

[67] See 17th ICLS, ILO, Measurement of the Informal Economy link: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@ed_emp/@emp_policy/documents/publication/wcms_210443.pdf

employment regulations (e.g, no work contract, not contributing to national provident fund, no union membership etc.).

Informal Enterprise: refers, in a broader sense, to cover enterprises or production units that employ hired labour (or no labour) and includes those that are operated by households either as self-employed or assisted by family members. For example, self-employed street vendors, household-based workers or betel-nut sellers are considered enterprises. These enterprises are not incorporated as a business entity nor registered for taxation; and are engaged in producing marketable goods and services with the aim for sale or barter. These enterprises are engaged in non-agricultural and related activities.

Informal economy: All activities covered by workers or production units that are not recognized lawfully or in practice to be in compliance with by formal arrangements.

Agriculture and related activities: According to the ILO (17^{th}/19th ICLS), there are certain specific activities of informal sector enterprises that co-exist within and outside the informal sector. These activities fall outside the definition of an informal enterprise (noting also practical and methodological reasons in measurement) and therefore are excluded. These activities include: agriculture and related activities (fishing, livestock, forestry, hunting), own-account (subsistence) households producing goods & services for own use including employment of paid domestic/family workers, and volunteer services. Future considerations for inclusion depends on regulatory and structural reforms in the labour market and amongst production units concerned, to ensure conditions for employment are clearly distinguishable to enable accurate statistical measurement of employment in formal and informal settings.

Limitations:

- The 2019 Census is not a focused informal sector nor labour force survey. Hence, this census did not probe further into capturing related information about persons employed informally in the formal sector, nor those employed under formal conditions in the informal sector.

- The collection of employment data associated with the formal and informal sector was restricted to the place of work, on the basis of the question, *'Is the person's place of work in: formal sector, informal sector, household or don't know?'*). Hence, this subjective approach may pose issues on interpretation and implications on the quality of respondent responses.

- Employment referred to in the informal sector in this analysis refers to employment in the informal sector and not employment in the informal economy.

- The exclusion of the agriculture and related activities understates employment in both the formal and informal sectors - noting the evolving conceptualization of the informal sector and collection of official statistics in the informal sector and informal economy.

- At present, the conceptual application of employment in the formal and informal sector in this analysis may not necessarily align with other definitions applied in other statistical compilations by the SINSO.

13.1 Employment in the Formal and Informal Sector

Total employment by sector in the Solomon Islands is predominantly formal (96%) when adjusted for the exclusion of the agriculture and related activities (see Table 13.1). This was mainly driven by urban-employment accounting for twice the size of rural-employment. The unadjusted findings showed the opposite result with the predominance of employment in the informal sector (57%). This implied that the Solomon Islands economy has a relatively small informal sector based on employment (and not necessarily based on the informal economy).

Table 13.1: Employed Persons by nature (sector) of employment – formal and informal, and urban-rural area (unadjusted and adjusted), Solomon Islands: 2019

	Solomon Is.	%	Urban	%	Rural	%
Unadjusted (includes agriculture & related activities)						
Total	258,383	*100.0%*	69,564	*100.0%*	188,819	*100.0%*
Formal Sector	111,146	*43.0%*	53,468	*76.9%*	57,678	*30.5%*
Informal Sector*	147,237	57.0%	16,096	23.1%	131,141	69.5%
Informal Sector (enterprise units)	4,971	*1.9%*	1,044	*1.5%*	3,927	*2.1%*
Private Household (household units)	142,266	*55.1%*	15,052	*21.6%*	127,214	*67.4%*
Adjusted (excluding agriculture & related activities)						
Total	68,725	*100.0%*	43,324	*100.0%*	25,401	*100.0%*
Formal Sector	65,708	*95.6%*	42,360	*97.8%*	23,348	*91.9%*
Informal Sector*	*3,017*	*4.4%*	*964*	*2.2%*	*2,053*	*8.1%*
Informal Sector (enterprise units)	1,281	*1.9%*	359	*0.8%*	922	*3.6%*
Private Household (household units)	1,736	*2.5%*	605	*1.4%*	1,131	*4.5%*
Others**	189,658	*100.0%*	26,240	*13.8%*	163,418	*86.2%*

** Includes aggregate informal sector (informal enterprise units + informal household based units)*
** * includes those excluded agriculture, fishing, forestry, subsistence & related activities*

A key limitation regarding the exclusion of the agriculture and related activities is the negative impact on overall employment size by sector. Hence, resulting in a drastic reduction (73%) and a significant reversal of the status of employment by sector, from informal to formal. The agriculture and related

activities also comprised of subsistence (own-account) activities that continue to have a significant impact on the economy, especially in rural areas. This was evident with the predominance of household enterprises in the informal sector (unadjusted, 55.1%), and the subsequent drastic reduction (adjusted) to 2.5%.

All subsequent analysis, tables and graphs presented hereafter refer to the adjusted findings.

Table 13.2 showed that persons employed between the age groups 30-39 years accounted for the majority (34%) of all employment (adjusted). When included within the broader age group 20-49 years, persons in this age group dominates the labour market with 82% of all employment. Although there were close to 2 males for every 1 female in formal urban-employment, in informal urban-employment, females slightly outnumbered their male counterparts especially in ages 30-64 years. In rural areas, males dominate in employment both in formal and informal sectors.

Table 13.2: Employed persons in age group by urban-rural area, nature (sector) of employment – formal and informal, and sex (adjusted), Solomon Islands: 2019

Age Group	Total	URBAN						RURAL					
		Formal Sector			Informal Sector			Formal Sector			Informal Sector		
		Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Total	68,725	42,360	27,090	15,270	964	459	505	23,348	16,115	7,233	2,053	1,379	674
12-19	1,576	912	561	351	38	24	14	481	324	157	145	103	42
20-29	16,591	10,819	6,576	4,243	304	157	147	4,879	3,029	1,850	589	384	205
30-39	23,187	14,491	9,045	5,446	244	106	138	7,960	5,182	2,778	492	331	161
40-49	16,572	10,011	6,534	3,477	173	82	91	5,938	4,350	1,588	450	302	148
50-64	9,366	5,431	3,858	1,573	162	67	95	3,488	2,723	765	285	197	88
65+	1,433	696	516	180	43	23	20	602	507	95	92	62	30
(Percent, % of total)													
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
12-19	2.3%	2.2%	2.1%	2.3%	3.9%	5.2%	2.8%	2.1%	2.0%	2.2%	7.1%	7.5%	6.2%
20-29	24.1%	25.5%	24.3%	27.8%	31.5%	34.2%	29.1%	20.9%	18.8%	25.6%	28.7%	27.8%	30.4%
30-39	33.7%	34.2%	33.4%	35.7%	25.3%	23.1%	27.3%	34.1%	32.2%	38.4%	24.0%	24.0%	23.9%
40-49	24.1%	23.6%	24.1%	22.8%	17.9%	17.9%	18.0%	25.4%	27.0%	22.0%	21.9%	21.9%	22.0%
50-64	13.6%	12.8%	14.2%	10.3%	16.8%	14.6%	18.8%	14.9%	16.9%	10.6%	13.9%	14.3%	13.1%
65+	2.1%	1.6%	1.9%	1.2%	4.5%	5.0%	4.0%	2.6%	3.1%	1.3%	4.5%	4.5%	4.5%
(Percent, % across total)													
Total	100.0%	61.6%	64.0%	36.0%	1.4%	47.6%	52.4%	34.0%	69.0%	31.0%	3.0%	67.2%	32.8%
12-19	100.0%	57.9%	61.5%	38.5%	2.4%	63.2%	36.8%	30.5%	67.4%	32.6%	9.2%	71.0%	29.0%
20-29	100.0%	65.2%	60.8%	39.2%	1.8%	51.6%	48.4%	29.4%	62.1%	37.9%	3.6%	65.2%	34.8%
30-39	100.0%	62.5%	62.4%	37.6%	1.1%	43.4%	56.6%	34.3%	65.1%	34.9%	2.1%	67.3%	32.7%
40-49	100.0%	60.4%	65.3%	34.7%	1.0%	47.4%	52.6%	35.8%	73.3%	26.7%	2.7%	67.1%	32.9%
50-64	100.0%	58.0%	71.0%	29.0%	1.7%	41.4%	58.6%	37.2%	78.1%	21.9%	3.0%	69.1%	30.9%
65+	100.0%	48.6%	74.1%	25.9%	3.0%	53.5%	46.5%	42.0%	84.2%	15.8%	6.4%	67.4%	32.6%

At the provincial level, Honiara catered for the majority of persons employed in both formal and informal sectors (adjusted) with 46% and 23%, respectively (Table 13.3). The majority of persons employed in the formal sector fell within the age-group 30-39 years while in the informal sector the majority of persons employed were in the age-groups 20-29 years.

Table 13.3: Percent of employed persons in age group by province and nature of employment – formal and informal (adjusted), Solomon Islands: 2019

Age Group	Solomon Is.	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell-Bellona	Guadalcanal	Malaita	Makira	Temotu	Honiara
Formal Sector											
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
%	100.0%	2.4%	12.4%	2.7%	1.7%	0.9%	19.1%	10.3%	3.2%	1.5%	45.8%
12-19	2.1%	1.5%	2.8%	1.4%	1.4%	1.5%	3.2%	1.4%	1.7%	1.0%	1.8%
20-29	23.9%	21.1%	23.8%	21.5%	19.1%	27.7%	26.5%	19.2%	16.4%	16.8%	25.0%
30-39	34.2%	34.6%	31.2%	33.1%	35.6%	28.9%	33.4%	35.4%	37.6%	37.4%	34.7%
40-49	24.3%	25.4%	24.1%	27.0%	26.0%	23.6%	22.9%	26.9%	28.5%	27.2%	23.6%
50-64	13.6%	14.2%	15.9%	14.5%	15.9%	15.9%	12.2%	14.4%	13.3%	15.1%	13.1%
65+	2.0%	3.2%	2.2%	2.5%	2.1%	2.3%	1.8%	2.7%	2.4%	2.5%	1.7%
Informal Sector											
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
%	100.0%	3.9%	20.1%	8.3%	1.7%	0.7%	16.9%	18.3%	6.1%	1.2%	22.9%
12-19	6.1%	8.4%	6.4%	7.6%	6.0%	0.0%	6.5%	6.4%	9.2%	2.7%	3.8%
20-29	29.6%	26.9%	28.3%	27.6%	24.0%	35.0%	35.8%	26.0%	29.3%	18.9%	31.2%
30-39	24.4%	15.1%	24.7%	22.0%	24.0%	20.0%	24.2%	25.8%	22.8%	35.1%	25.7%
40-49	20.6%	25.2%	20.1%	19.2%	30.0%	30.0%	19.1%	22.1%	24.5%	37.8%	18.0%
50-64	14.8%	16.0%	15.8%	16.0%	16.0%	10.0%	10.6%	15.2%	11.4%	5.4%	17.5%
65+	4.5%	8.4%	4.6%	7.6%	0.0%	5.0%	3.9%	4.5%	2.7%	0.0%	3.9%

Table 13.4: Employment persons in nature (sector) of employment – formal and informal by educational attainment and urban-rural area (adjusted), Solomon Islands: 2019

Educational Attainment	Solomon Islands		Formal Sector				Informal Sector			
	Total	%	Total	%	Urban	Rural	Total	%	Urban	Rural
Total	68,725	*100%*	65,708	*100.0%*	42,360	23,348	3,017	*100.0%*	3,017	2,053
No School completed	2,481	*4%*	2,159	*3.3%*	1,119	1,040	322	*10.7%*	322	217
Preschool/Nursery	323	*0%*	297	*0.5%*	189	108	26	*0.9%*	26	20
Some primary	6,251	*9%*	5,755	*8.8%*	3,690	2,065	496	*16.4%*	496	369
Complted primary	11,387	*17%*	10,593	*16.1%*	6,363	4,230	794	*26.3%*	794	587
Completed form 3	10,420	*15%*	9,874	*15.0%*	6,466	3,408	546	*18.1%*	546	367
Completed form 5	9,332	*14%*	9,032	*13.7%*	5,988	3,044	300	*9.9%*	300	191
Completed form 6	5,209	*8%*	5,064	*7.7%*	3,692	1,372	145	*4.8%*	145	84
Completed form 7	1,249	*2%*	1,220	*1.9%*	928	292	29	*1.0%*	29	13
Some College/No degree	13,912	*20%*	13,727	*20.9%*	7,889	5,838	185	*6.1%*	185	101
Bachelors degree	4,483	*7%*	4,439	*6.8%*	3,603	836	44	*1.5%*	44	9
Masters degree	1,140	*2%*	1,130	*1.7%*	980	150	10	*0.3%*	10	2
Doctoral degree	273	*0%*	266	*0.4%*	217	49	7	*0.2%*	7	3
Vocational certificate	1,978	*3%*	1,876	*2.9%*	1,085	791	102	*3.4%*	102	82
Post graduate certificate	131	*0%*	126	*0.2%*	70	56	5	*0.2%*	5	5
Other	156	*0%*	150	*0.2%*	81	69	6	*0.2%*	6	3

Employment by educational attainment revealed that at the national level, the majority (20%) of persons employed had attained some college education (without a formal degree) - with the urban formal sector absorbing the majority of these persons (see Table 13.4).

On the other hand, the informal sector (urban and rural) was dominated by persons who completed primary education (26%), followed closely by persons completing form 3 (18%), and those who completed some primary education (16%) (See Figure 13.1). It was also observed that a small number of highly qualified (bachelor degree, masters and doctoral degrees) persons were employed in the informal sector. Such highly qualified workers can be fully recognized (e.g., contractually) and fully utilized (including paying taxes) in the formal sector. Such findings further revealed structural impediments in the labour market with obvious manifestations of labour under-utilization.

Table 13.5 below presented information on employment by sector and major occupation. The table showed that the majority of occupations were in the formal sector comprising of professionals (27%), service oriented (19%) and crafts (17%). In contrast, the main informal sector occupations included laborers (36%), followed by crafts (27%) and professionals (14%).

Figure 13.1: Employment (number) in informal sector by educational attainment (adjusted), Solomon Islands: 2019

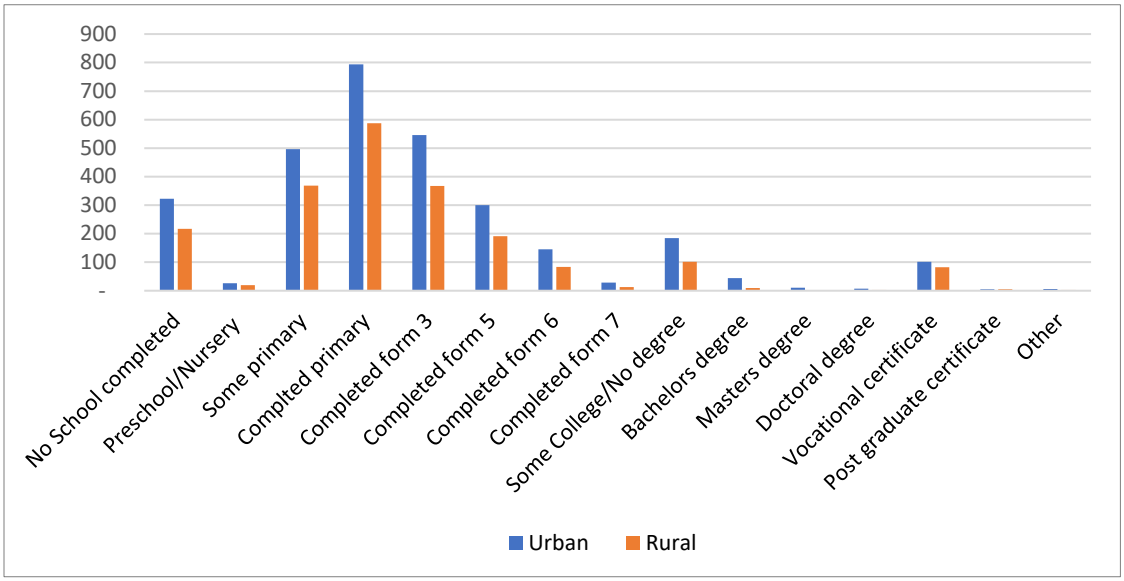


Table 13.5: Employment persons in formal and informal sector by major occupation (adjusted), Solomon Islands: 2019

Major Occupation	Total	Formal Sector	Informal Sector
All Occupations	68,725	65,708	3,017
Officials and managers	2,995	2,950	45
Professionals	18,103	17,684	419
Technicians	3,096	3,066	30
Clerks	5,651	5,617	34
Service related occupations	12,665	12,359	306
Agriculture/fishing occupations*	1,376	1,331	45
Crafts	11,880	11,065	815
Operators	6,279	6,121	158
Labourers	5,560	4,463	1,097
Housework related**	775	737	38
NS	345	315	30
Percentage (%)			
All Occupations	100.0%	95.6%	4.4%
Officials and managers	100.0%	98.5%	1.5%
Professionals	100.0%	97.7%	2.3%
Technicians	100.0%	99.0%	1.0%
Clerks	100.0%	99.4%	0.6%
Service related occupations	100.0%	97.6%	2.4%
Agriculture/fishing occupations*	100.0%	96.7%	3.3%
Crafts	100.0%	93.1%	6.9%
Operators	100.0%	97.5%	2.5%
Labourers	100.0%	80.3%	19.7%
Housework related**	100.0%	95.1%	4.9%
NS	100.0%	91.3%	8.7%

** Jobs that are outside the agriculture and related industries*

*** jobs exclusive of volunteering, unpaid housework, family work etc.*

Table 13.6: Employed persons in major selected industries by nature of employment - informal and informal, urban-rural area and sex, Solomon Islands: 2019

Selected Industries (adjusted)	Solomon Is.			Formal Sector			Informal Sector		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	68,725	45,043	23,682	65,708	43,205	22,503	3,017	1,838	1,179
Mining and quarrying	885	574	311	823	535	288	62	39	23
Manufacturing	4,943	3,671	1,272	4,600	3,460	1,140	343	211	132
Electricty and Water	676	627	49	669	621	48	7	6	1
Construction	8,072	7,900	172	7,385	7,235	150	687	665	22
Wholesale/retail	9,694	4,920	4,774	8,905	4,647	4,258	789	273	516
Transportation & Storage	5,968	5,658	310	5,823	5,536	287	145	122	23
Hotel & food	1,472	360	1,112	1,418	346	1,072	54	14	40
Communication	982	711	271	946	688	258	36	23	13
Finance, insurance, real estate	839	428	411	836	426	410	3	2	1
Professional	2,332	1,434	898	2,302	1,416	886	30	18	12
Public Administration	6,339	4,619	1,720	6,193	4,521	1,672	146	98	48
Public Safety	6,357	4,092	2,265	6,332	4,078	2,254	25	14	11
Education	10,996	5,321	5,675	10,866	5,267	5,599	130	54	76
Health	3,095	1,214	1,881	2,972	1,185	1,787	123	29	94
Entertainment	326	195	131	307	186	121	19	9	10
Other service	2,662	2,100	562	2,314	1,866	448	348	234	114
Activities of Households *	3,076	1,212	1,864	3,006	1,185	1,821	70	27	43
Extraterritorial	11	7	4	11	7	4	-	-	-
Percentage (%)									
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Mining and quarrying	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%	1.2%	1.3%	2.1%	2.1%	2.0%
Manufacturing	7.2%	8.1%	5.4%	7.0%	8.0%	5.1%	11.4%	11.5%	11.2%
Electricty and Water	1.0%	1.4%	0.2%	1.0%	1.4%	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	0.1%
Construction	11.7%	17.5%	0.7%	11.2%	16.7%	0.7%	22.8%	36.2%	1.9%
Wholesale/retail	14.1%	10.9%	20.2%	13.6%	10.8%	18.9%	26.2%	14.9%	43.8%
Transportation & Storage	8.7%	12.6%	1.3%	8.9%	12.8%	1.3%	4.8%	6.6%	2.0%
Hotel & food	2.1%	0.8%	4.7%	2.2%	0.8%	4.8%	1.8%	0.8%	3.4%
Communication	1.4%	1.6%	1.1%	1.4%	1.6%	1.1%	1.2%	1.3%	1.1%
Finance, insurance, real estate	1.2%	1.0%	1.7%	1.3%	1.0%	1.8%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Professional	3.4%	3.2%	3.8%	3.5%	3.3%	3.9%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%
Public Administration	9.2%	10.3%	7.3%	9.4%	10.5%	7.4%	4.8%	5.3%	4.1%
Public Safety	9.2%	9.1%	9.6%	9.6%	9.4%	10.0%	0.8%	0.8%	0.9%
Education	16.0%	11.8%	24.0%	16.5%	12.2%	24.9%	4.3%	2.9%	6.4%
Health	4.5%	2.7%	7.9%	4.5%	2.7%	7.9%	4.1%	1.6%	8.0%
Entertainment	0.5%	0.4%	0.6%	0.5%	0.4%	0.5%	0.6%	0.5%	0.8%
Other service	3.9%	4.7%	2.4%	3.5%	4.3%	2.0%	11.5%	12.7%	9.7%
Activities of Households *	4.5%	2.7%	7.9%	4.6%	2.7%	8.1%	2.3%	1.5%	3.6%
Extraterritorial	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

** Activities engaged outside the agriculture and related industries*

** Excludes activities associated with occupations of volunteering, unpaid housework, family work etc.*

Employment by major industries presented in Table 13.6 above revealed that the education industry was the leading industry (16%), followed closely by wholesale and retail (14%) and construction (12%) industries at the national level (adjusted). In the formal sector, the education industry was the most predominant comprising of mainly female workers (25%). This was followed by the wholesale and retail industry (19%). On the other hand, the wholesale and retail industry was the leading industry in the informal sector and also dominated by females (44%).

The construction industry attracted the majority (18%) of male workers at the national level, and in both formal (17%) and informal (36%) sectors. In the formal sector, following from construction, males dominated in transport and storage (13%), and wholesale and retail (11%) industries. In the informal sector, apart from construction was the wholesale and retail (15%) industry, followed closely by other services (13%).

Figure 13.2: Share (%) of informal employment in major industries by sex (adjusted), Solomon Islands: 2019

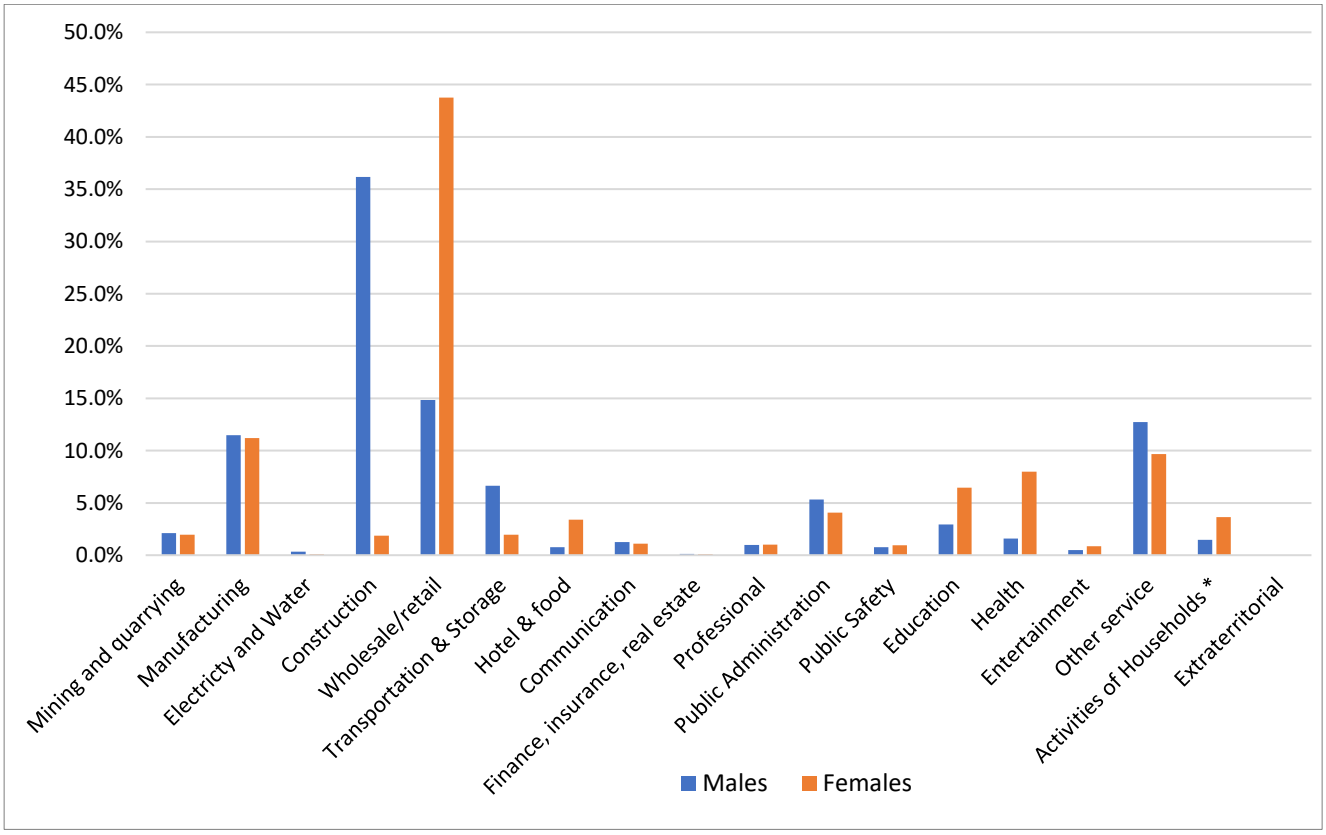


Figure 13.3 illustrates the share of employment by type of industry and sex focusing on the informal sector. While the wholesale and retail industry was the leading industry amongst females, the construction industry was the main economic activity amongst males.

As in earlier discussions, the above findings further exhibit the inequalities in employment by various socio-economic relationships whether by sector, industry, occupation or sex etc. The findings also

revealed the underlying complexities of the labour and job market in both formal and informal sectors. In ensuring inclusive development and equality in participation, it is important that policies be formulated towards expanding the participation of those who lack opportunities or are trapped in the poverty cycle to be involved in the development process, including those in the informal economy.

14. HOUSEHOLDS AND HOUSING

14.1 Introduction

The household is the smallest organizational entity in the census and is the unit of enumeration of individuals. The household has important social significance in terms of production and reproduction, gender relations and group identification within communities. Although there is a large overlap with families, households are conceptually different as they are defined by agreement on collaboration, not necessarily on kinship or consanguinity (blood ties). A distinction in this respect was made between household and non-private dwellings (institutions).

This section addresses the average household size, household structure and dwelling characteristics. In all households, one person is usually designated as head of the household. In principle, the household, as a unit, participates in the census enumeration, and where necessary, the enumerator has to identify the head of the household and obtain information about the members of that household. All other household members are then identified by their relationship to this head. Households can be characterized by the characteristics of the individual household members as discussed in the other chapters.

14.2 Household: definition and types

In the 2019 Census, as in past censuses, a household is defined as a group of people or an individual who share a common eating arrangement – where a member(s) of a household normally prepare or consume food in the same kitchen or they share the cost, collection and preparation of that food. Although the identification of a household is based on a usual common eating arrangement of a group of people or an individual, during the 2019 Census enumeration, coverage rules meant that only those people who spent the night within a household dwelling on census night would be enumerated as part of that household.

The census distinguished between two types of households:

A *private household:* a group of related people (for example a family) with or without additional persons who live together and share a common eating arrangement. A private household can also consist of one person or two to five unrelated persons who have a common eating arrangement.

A *non-private dwellings* (institution): is defined as an organization providing specified services or performing some general public function for a group of residents or inmates who will normally be unrelated to each other. Institutions are often referred to as collective households or non-private dwellings such as hospitals, schools, hotels, or establishments providing a communal type of accommodation or care, such as: short-term apartment motels, hostels, nurse's quarters, boarding houses, private hotels, corrective or detention institutions (prison houses), and colleges.

14.3 Number and size of households

In 2019, 132,492 households were counted: 131,566 private households and 926 non-private dwellings (institutions). The number of private households increased from 91,251 in 2009 to 131,566 in 2019, an overall increase of slightly over 40 thousand households (Tables 14.3.1; Table 14.3.2).

Table 14.3.1: Number of households by household type and location, Solomon Islands: 2019

Province/Urban-Rural area	Total Households	Household Type	
		Private Households	Non-Private Dwelling
Total	**132,492**	**131,566**	**926**
Choiseul	5,577	5,520	57
Western	17,766	17,531	235
Isabel	6,371	6,250	121
Central	5,915	5,872	43
Rennell-Bellona	731	720	11
Guadalcanal	28,876	28,746	130
Malaita	32,455	32,332	123
Makira-Ulawa	9,109	9,057	52
Temotu	4,715	4,699	16
Honiara	20,977	20,839	138
Rural	98,975	98,360	615
Urban	33,517	33,206	311

Table 14.3.2: Population in private households, number of private households and average household size, by place of residence, Solomon Islands: 2009 and 2019

Place of residence	Number of private households		Number of people in private households		Average household size	
	2009	2019	2009	2019	2009	2019
SOLOMON ISLANDS	**91,251**	**131,566**	**504,985**	**704,450**	**5.5**	5.4
Urban	15,382	33,206	99,299	195,544	6.5	5.9
Rural	75,869	98,360	405,686	508,906	5.3	5.2
Choiseul	4,712	5,520	25,916	29,819	5.5	5.4
Western	13,762	17,531	73,333	89,485	5.3	5.1
Isabel	5,143	6,250	25,147	28,657	4.9	4.6
Central	4,905	5,872	25,809	29,733	5.3	5.1
Rennell-Bellona	688	720	3,006	3,675	4.4	5.1
Guadalcanal	17,163	28,746	91,919	152,058	5.4	5.3
Malaita	24,421	32,332	136,384	171,548	5.6	5.3
Makira-Ulawa	7,173	9,057	39,407	50,093	5.5	5.5
Temotu	4,303	4,699	21,104	21,999	4.9	4.7
Honiara City Council	8,981	20,839	62,960	127,383	7.0	6.1

There was a slight decline in the overall average household size from 5.5 to 5.4 people per household between 2009 and 2019 (Table 14.3.2 and Figure 14.3.1). The highest average household size was reported in the Honiara with 6.1 people per household. The lowest household sizes were found in Isabel (4.6), and Temotu (4.7).

In general, urban households (5.9 household size) were significantly more crowded than rural households (5.2 household size). In 2019, the most common household size was 6 people per household (20,642), accounting for 15.7% of all private households and 17.6% of the total population (123,852) (Table 14.3.3; Figure 14.3.2).

There were 5,624 single-person households accounting for 4.3% of all households - an increase from 3,553 single-person households in 2009. Moreover, there were 9,720 households with 10 persons or more (7.4%), an increase from 7,219 households with 10 occupants or more in 2009.

Table 14.3.3: Number and percentage of private households by household size and people per household, Solomon Islands: 2019

	Number of Private Household				Number of People per household size			
Household size	**2009**	**%**	**2019**	**%**	**2009**	**%**	**2019**	**%**
1	3,553	3.9	5,624	4.3	3,553	0.7	5,624	0.8
2	6,978	7.6	11,714	8.9	13,956	2.8	23,428	3.3
3	10,694	11.7	16,676	12.7	32,082	6.4	50,028	7.1
4	13,761	15.1	20,385	15.5	55,044	10.9	81,540	11.6
5	14,420	15.8	20,968	15.9	72,100	14.3	104,840	14.9
6	14,655	16.1	20,642	15.7	87,930	17.4	123,852	17.6
7	9,148	10.0	11,599	8.8	64,036	12.7	81,193	11.5
8	6,544	7.2	8,696	6.6	52,352	10.4	69,568	9.9
9	4,278	4.7	5,541	4.2	38,502	7.6	49,869	7.1
10	2,687	2.9	3,466	2.6	26,870	5.3	34,660	4.9
11	1,643	1.8	2,267	1.7	18,073	3.6	24,937	3.5
12	1,152	1.3	1,723	1.3	13,824	2.7	20,676	2.9
13	558	0.6	809	0.6	7,254	1.4	10,517	1.5
14	373	0.4	441	0.3	5,222	1.0	6,174	0.9
15+	806	0.9	1,014	0.8	14,132	2.8	17,544	2.5
NS	1	0.0	1	0.0	55	0.0	0	0.0
Total	**91,251**		**131,566**	**100.0**	**504,985**	**100.0**	**704,450**	**100.0**

Figure 14.3.1: Average household size (number of people per household) by place of residence, Solomon Islands: 2009 and 2019

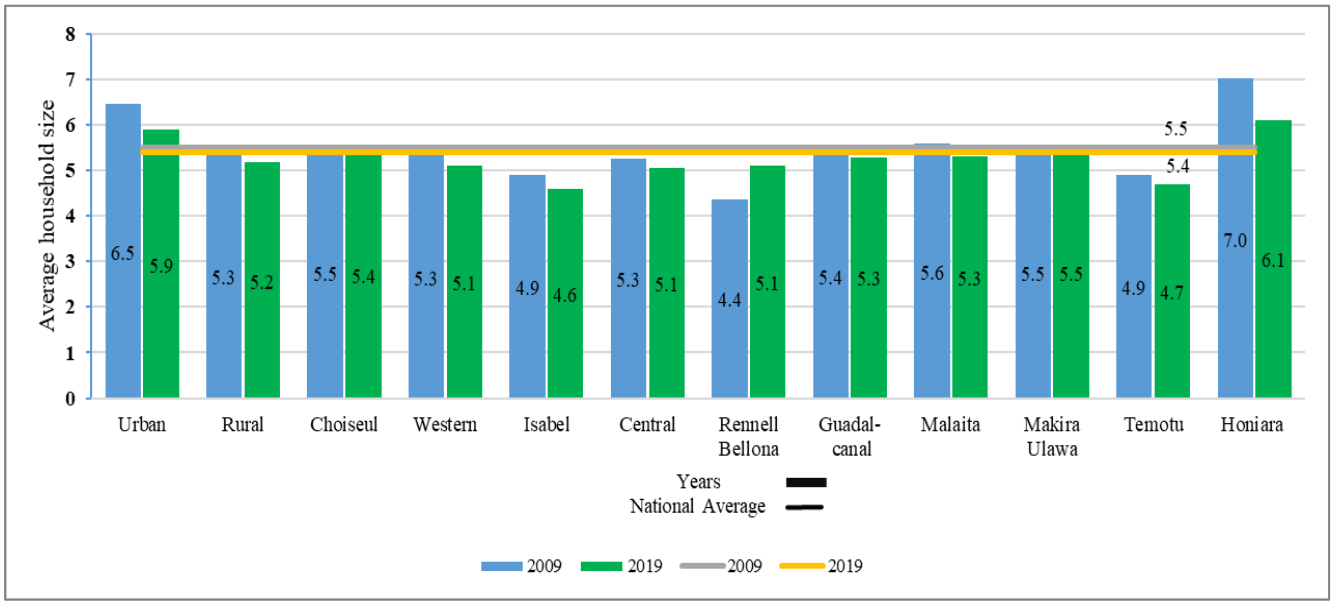
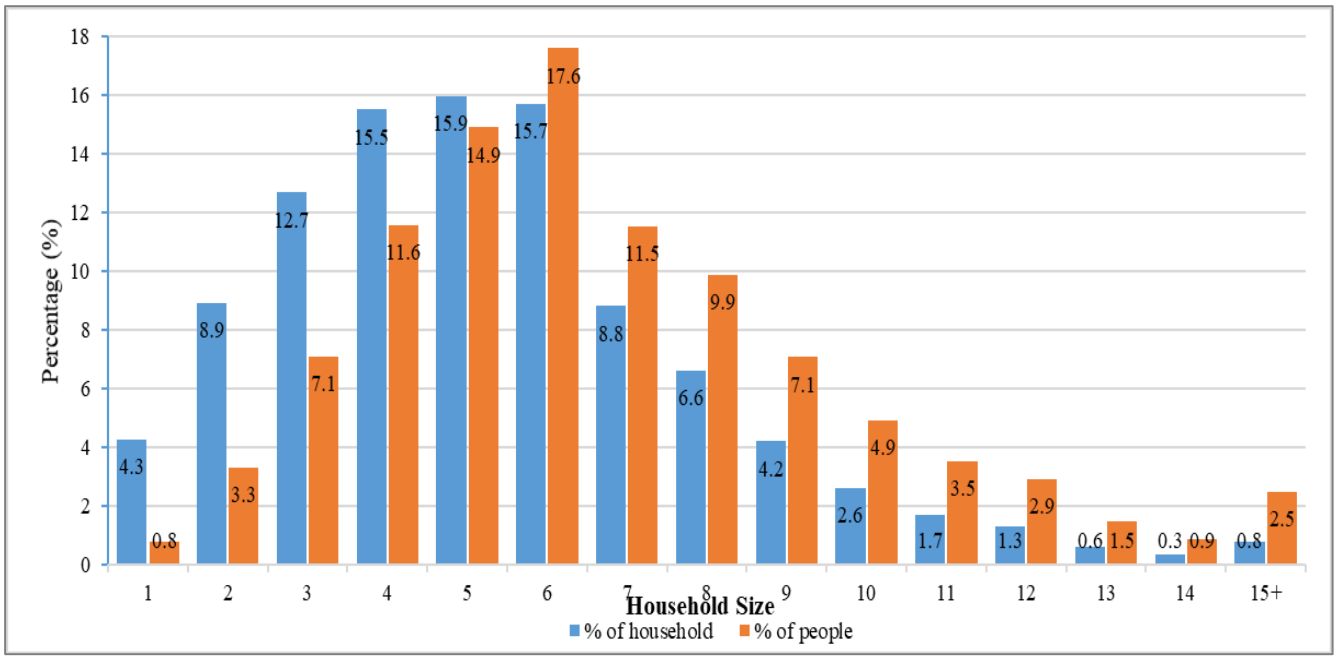


Figure 14.3.2: Percentage distribution of households and people living in private households by household size, Solomon Islands: 2019



14.4 Household Characteristics

14.4.1 Household composition

Data on household composition were established by identifying a head of household who served as a reference person to whom all other people in the household related to. (Table 14.4.1).

Approximately 4 out of 5 heads of household (82.3%) in the Solomon Islands were men (108,238) with 1 out of 6 (23,327 or 17.7%) households headed by women. This distribution has slightly changed since the 2009 Census. In most cases, a woman headed the household when her spouse was not present or when the woman was widowed.

As expected, the majority of household members (52.9%) were children - child of the household head, stepchild, adopted child, child in-law, or grandchild.

About 14.2% of household members were the spouse of the head of household. Interestingly, only 1.0% (3,507) of all spouses (99,854) were males, which supports the view that females only head the household if a spouse is not present. Moreover, almost 11.1% of all household members were other relatives or not related to the head of household.

Table 14.4.1: Population by household composition (relationship to head of household), Solomon Islands: 2019

Relationship	In Numbers			In Percentage		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	**704,450**	**358,950**	**345,500**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Head of household	131,565	108,238	23,327	18.7	30.2	6.8
Spouse	99,854	3,507	96,347	14.2	1.0	27.9
Child	299,134	158,426	140,708	42.5	44.1	40.7
Step Child	945	466	479	0.1	0.1	0.1
Adopted Child	10,582	5,605	4,977	1.5	1.6	1.4
Child In-law	12,104	5,022	7,082	1.7	1.4	2.0
Grandchild	50,211	26,331	23,880	7.1	7.3	6.9
Sibling	14,484	7,980	6,504	2.1	2.2	1.9
Parents	6,779	1,844	4,935	1.0	0.5	1.4
Other relative	70,980	37,304	33,676	10.1	10.4	9.7
Non-relative	7,812	4,227	3,585	1.1	1.2	1.0

14.5 Household income

14.5.1 Main household income

In 2019, 36.5% of the main source of household income in the Solomon Islands except in Honiara was from the sales of crops. Another 28.4% of the main household income was from wages or salary,

10.2% was from the sale of fish and 12.2% was from other sources. Approximately 3.8% of all households in the Solomon Islands reported that they had no source of income (Table 14.5.1, Figure 14.5.1).

The sources of income vary considerably amongst provinces. More than three-quarters (70.6%) of all households in Honiara received their main income from wages or salaries. This was much lower in the other provinces. For example, in Malaita, only 13.3% of households relied on income from wages and salaries and in Western province, 28.8% of households sourced their income from wages and salaries - the second highest wage-salary earner following after Honiara.

Table 14.5.1: Number of private households by main source of household income by province and urban-rural area, Solomon Islands: 2019

Income source	Province											Urban-Rural Area		
	Solomon Islands	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell-Bellona	Guadalcanal	Malaita	Makira-Ulawa	Temotu	Honiara	Total	Rural	Urban
Total	**131,566**	**5,520**	**17,531**	**6,250**	**5,872**	**720**	**28,746**	**32,332**	**9,057**	**4,699**	**20,839**	**131,566**	**98,360**	**33,206**
No income	5,034	203	416	229	200	99	1,065	1,795	361	393	273	5,034	4,532	502
Wages/Salary	37,305	1,257	5,052	1,178	820	161	7,750	4,316	1,314	741	14,716	37,305	15,325	21,980
Own business	5,915	338	708	272	158	39	1,187	1,220	340	167	1,486	5,915	3,670	2,245
Sale of fish	13,476	708	2,760	1,131	1,379	16	1,474	4,238	828	741	201	13,476	12,834	642
Sale of crops	48,040	1,899	5,274	2,393	2,567	25	13,585	14,613	5,004	1,986	694	48,040	45,865	2,175
Sale of handicrafts	1,604	153	508	42	30	71	170	299	85	32	214	1,604	1,308	296
Land lease	51	13	3	5	-	1	17	9	2	-	1	51	42	9
House rent	1,188	18	112	27	18	22	157	119	23	9	683	1,188	301	887
Remittances	2,932	157	596	214	103	99	245	961	244	73	240	2,932	2,450	482
Other source	16,021	774	2,102	759	597	187	3,096	4,762	856	557	2,331	16,021	12,033	3,988
							Percentage (%)							
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
No income	3.8	3.7	2.4	3.7	3.4	13.8	3.7	5.6	4.0	8.4	1.3	3.8	4.6	1.5
Wages/Salary	28.4	22.8	28.8	18.8	14.0	22.4	27.0	13.3	14.5	15.8	70.6	28.4	15.6	66.2
Own business	4.5	6.1	4.0	4.4	2.7	5.4	4.1	3.8	3.8	3.6	7.1	4.5	3.7	6.8
Sale of fish	10.2	12.8	15.7	18.1	23.5	2.2	5.1	13.1	9.1	15.8	1.0	10.2	13.0	1.9
Sale of crops	36.5	34.4	30.1	38.3	43.7	3.5	47.3	45.2	55.3	42.3	3.3	36.5	46.6	6.6
Sale of handicrafts	1.2	2.8	2.9	0.7	0.5	9.9	0.6	0.9	0.9	0.7	1.0	1.2	1.3	0.9
Land lease	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
House rent	0.9	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.3	3.1	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2	3.3	0.9	0.3	2.7
Remittances	2.2	2.8	3.4	3.4	1.8	13.8	0.9	3.0	2.7	1.6	1.2	2.2	2.5	1.5
Other source	12.2	14.0	12.0	12.1	10.2	26.0	10.8	14.7	9.5	11.9	11.2	12.2	12.2	12.0

In comparison between urban and rural households, sales of crops (46.6%) were the main source of income in rural areas, followed by wage and salary at 15.6%. In urban areas, the main source of household income was wages and salary at 66.2%, followed by other sources at 12% (Table 14.5.1).

Figure 14.5.1: Main Source of Household Income, Solomon Islands: 2019

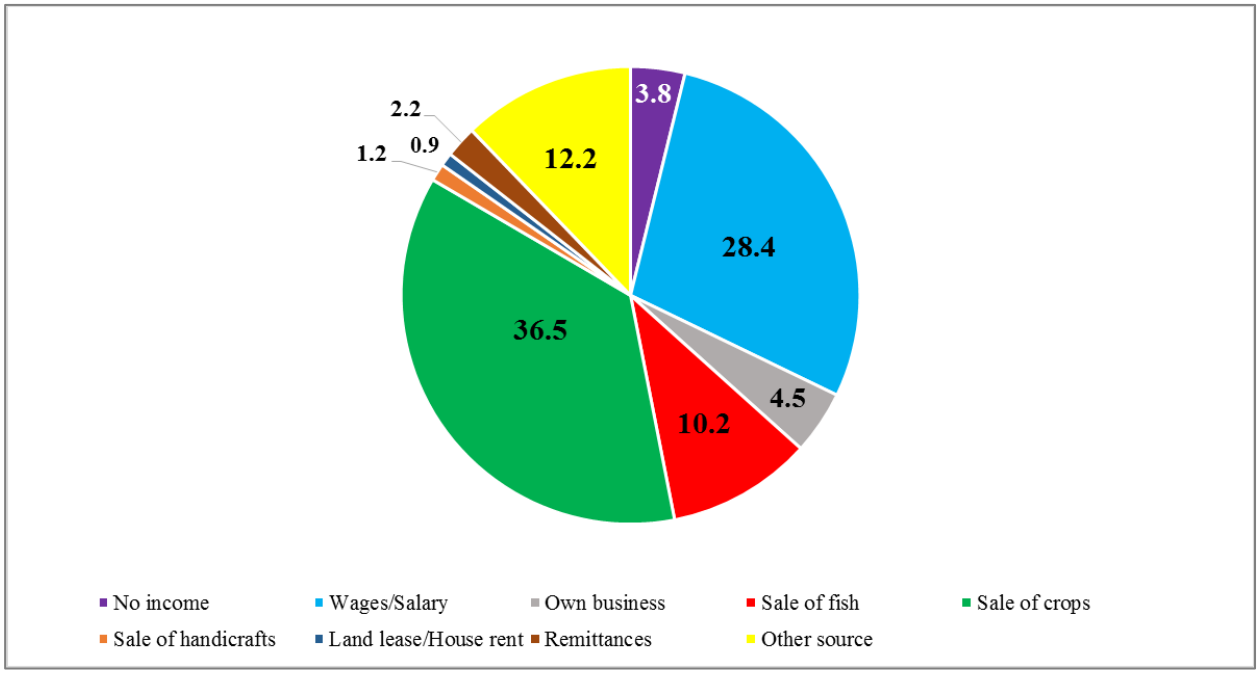
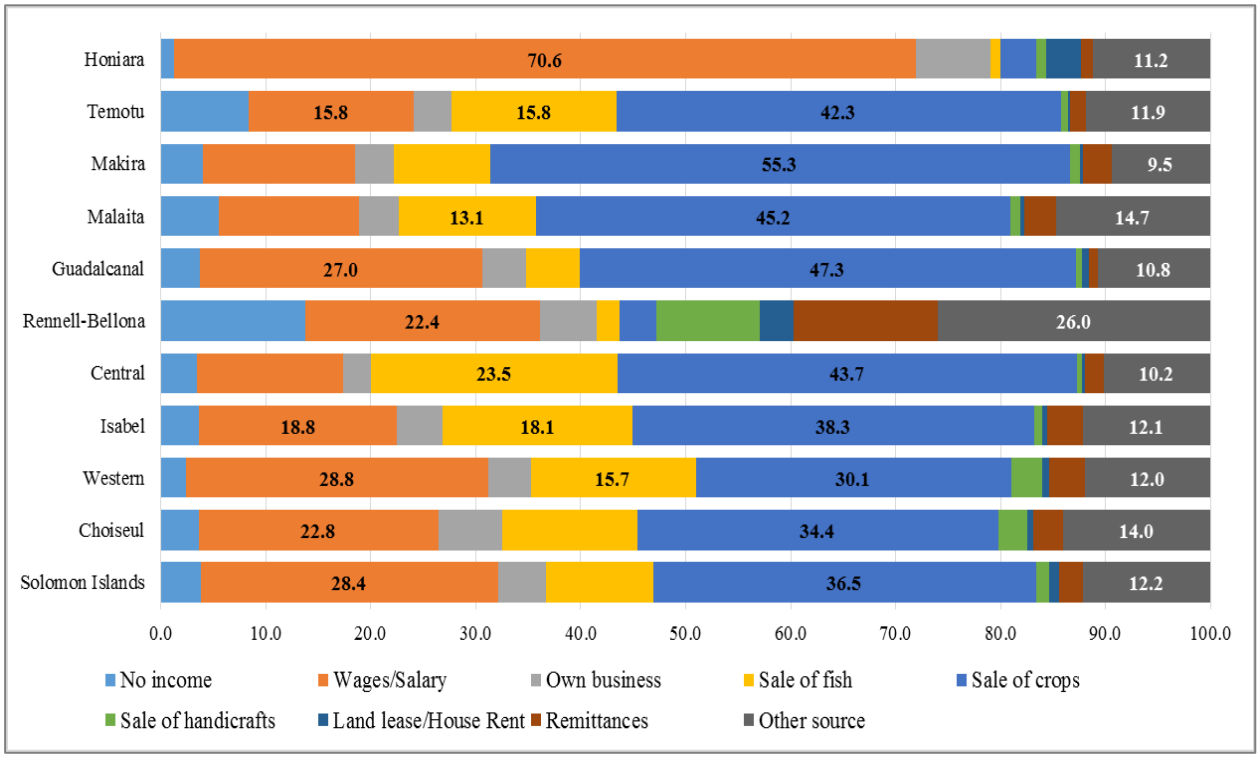


Figure 14.5.2: Proportion of private household by main source of household income and by province, Solomon Islands: 2019



14.6 Remittances

The 2019 Census included two basic questions addressing the issue of remittances. The first question was "*How much money (in SBD$) has this household received from remittances in the last 12 months?"*, and the follow-up question was *"What is the province/country of the sender?"*

Generally, remittances are sums of money sent from someone (sender) who is usually working overseas to another person (receiver) within the country. This also applies to a sender working in a province and sending money to a receiver in another province. The same also applies within provinces.

Remittances are also an important source of income for many households in the Solomon Islands. Around 21.1% of all households in the country received remittances during the 12 months before the census. About 8% of all households (10,476) received less than SBD$500 and 5.2% of households (6,905) received between SBD$500-999. In addition, 3.7% of households (4,911) received between SI$1,000-1,499 and another 4.2% of households (5,513) received more than SBD$1,500 (Table 14.6.1).

The proportion of households who received remittances was particularly high in Rennell-Bellona where more than half (61.1%) of all households received remittances – and with 25.7% of households who received more than SBD$1,500 during the year before the census (Table 14.6.1, Figure 14.6.1).

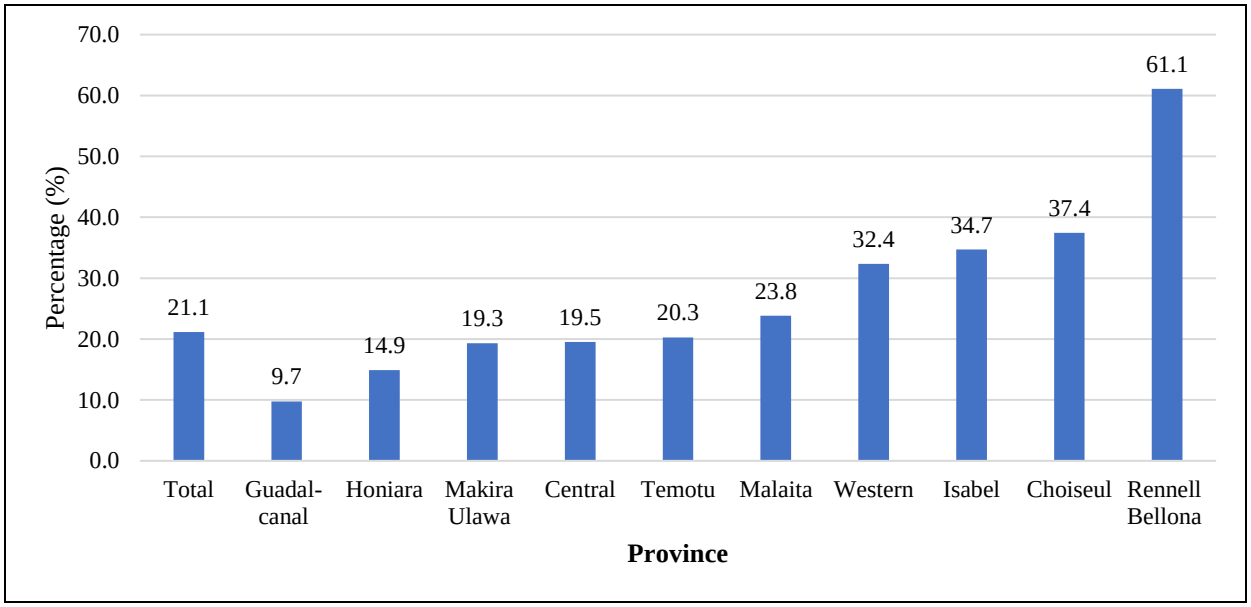
There was a relatively low proportion of households who received remittances especially in Guadalcanal (9.7%), Honiara (14.9%), and Makira (19.3%) (Figure 14.6.1, Table 14.6.1).

Table 14.6.1: Number of private households receiving remittance (SBD$) in the last 12 months by province, Solomon Islands: 2019

Remittances	Total	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell-Bellona	Guadalcanal	Malaita	Makira-Ulawa	Temotu	Honiara
Total	**131,566**	**5,520**	**17,531**	**6,250**	**5,872**	**720**	**28,746**	**32,332**	**9,057**	**4,699**	**20,839**
None	96,624	3,218	11,071	3,853	4,506	263	24,115	22,344	6,963	3,599	16,692
Some annual remittances	27,805	2,067	5,675	2,168	1,145	440	2,800	7,698	1,751	952	3,109
Percent	**21.1**	**37.4**	**32.4**	**34.7**	**19.5**	**61.1**	**9.7**	**23.8**	**19.3**	**20.3**	**14.9**
1 - 499 SI$	10,476	875	1,886	985	547	108	930	3,551	810	374	410
500 - 999 SI$	6,905	519	1,635	606	267	65	626	1,905	376	258	648
1000 - 1499 SI$	4,911	392	1,081	335	172	82	616	1,157	283	169	624
1500 or more SI$	5,513	281	1,073	242	159	185	628	1,085	282	151	1,427
Don't Know	7,137	235	785	229	221	17	1,831	2,290	343	148	1,038

** SI$ = SBD$ = Solomon dollar*

Figure 14.6.1: Percent of households receiving remittance by province, Solomon Islands: 2019



Remittance flows by urban-rural distribution revealed that the majority of remittances were received in rural areas than in urban areas - comprising 79.7% of rural households (22,154) compared with 20.3% of urban households (5,651). Despite the majority of households in rural areas receiving remittances, as the trend in amounts (SBD$) received increased, the number of households decreased in contrast to what was been experienced by urban households. For example, 89.4% of rural households (within SBD$1-499 category) received remittances below SBD$500 and this decreased to 62.5% of households (within SBD$1,500+ category) compared to urban households.

Table 14.6.2: Number and percentage of private household who received remittances by urban-rural area, Solomon Islands: 2019

Remittances	Urban-Rural			Percentage (%)	
	Total	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
	131,566	**98,360**	**33,206**	**74.8**	**25.2**
None	96,624	70,879	25,745	73.4	26.6
Some annual remittance	27,805	22,154	5,651	79.7	20.3
1 - 499 SI$	10,476	9,364	1,112	89.4	10.6
500 - 999 SI$	6,905	5,597	1,308	81.1	18.9
1000 - 1499 SI$	4,911	3,749	1,162	76.3	23.7
1500 or more SI$	5,513	3,444	2,069	62.5	37.5
Don't know	7,137	5,327	1,810	74.6	25.4

** SI$ = SBD$ = Solomon dollar*

Figure 14.6.2: Percentage of private households who received remittances by urban-rural area Solomon Islands: 2019

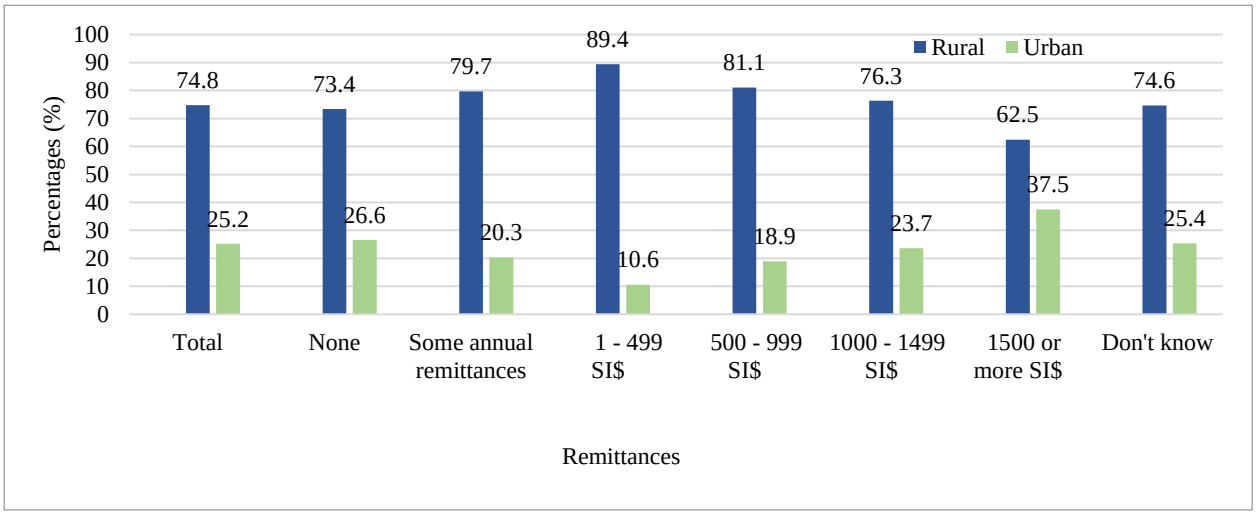


Table 14.6.3: Proportion of household receiving remittances by province and by location of sender of remittance, Solomon Islands: 2019

Remit sender	Number of household	Province									
		Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell-Bellona	Guadalcanal	Malaita	Makira-Ulawa	Temotu	Honiara
Total	**27,805**	**2,067**	**5,675**	**2,168**	**1,145**	**440**	**2,800**	**7,698**	**1,751**	**952**	**3,109**
Choiseul	871	570	121	15	6	1	22	52	5	20	59
Western	1,761	156	1,218	37	31	1	72	65	23	38	120
Isabel	430	5	16	295	6	2	20	26	2	5	53
Central	169	8	10	10	81	0	25	13	6	2	14
Rennell-Bellona	309	9	9	12	6	187	20	19	9	4	34
Guadalcanal	744	15	52	15	38	0	314	227	32	28	23
Malaita	542	13	34	9	7	1	59	289	13	5	112
Makira-Ulawa	554	3	11	4	2	0	17	9	476	4	28
Temotu	164	7	9	7	4	4	18	3	9	56	47
Honiara	9,581	545	1,968	1,207	457	187	397	3,742	514	439	125
Oversea	12,132	719	2,169	542	487	56	1,692	3,077	636	340	2,414
Don't know	548	17	58	15	20	1	144	176	26	11	80
		Percentage(%)									
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Choiseul	3.1	27.6	2.1	0.7	0.5	0.2	0.8	0.7	0.3	2.1	1.9
Western	6.3	7.5	21.5	1.7	2.7	0.2	2.6	0.8	1.3	4.0	3.9
Isabel	1.5	0.2	0.3	13.6	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.1	0.5	1.7
Central	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.5	7.1	0.0	0.9	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.5
Rennell-Bellona	1.1	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.5	42.5	0.7	0.2	0.5	0.4	1.1
Guadalcanal	2.7	0.7	0.9	0.7	3.3	0.0	11.2	2.9	1.8	2.9	0.7
Malaita	1.9	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.2	2.1	3.8	0.7	0.5	3.6
Makira-Ulawa	2.0	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.6	0.1	27.2	0.4	0.9
Temotu	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.9	0.6	0.0	0.5	5.9	1.5
Honiara	34.5	26.4	34.7	55.7	39.9	42.5	14.2	48.6	29.4	46.1	4.0
Oversea	43.6	34.8	38.2	25.0	42.5	12.7	60.4	40.0	36.3	35.7	77.6
Don't know	2.0	0.8	1.0	0.7	1.7	0.2	5.1	2.3	1.5	1.2	2.6

Remittance flows by location of sender showed that the majority of remittance flows originated from within Solomon Islands (56.4%) and the rest from overseas (43.6%). Malaita province was the highest (27.7%) recipient of all remittance inflows (including remittances from overseas), followed by Western (20.4%) and Honiara (11.2%) (Table 14.6.3).

It should be noted that a sizeable share of remittances were received from senders within the same province of a household's residence. This was especially the case for Rennel-Bellona where 42.5% of all remittances were received from within the same province.

Regarding remittance from overseas, Australia was the main source of remittance inflow to Solomon Islands excluding all other countries combined, representing 11.1% of recipient households (1,342). The other important countries that sent remittances were New Zealand (9.0%), Fiji (2.2%) and Malaysia (1.8%) (Table 14.6.4).

Table 14.6.4: Proportion of household receiving remittances from overseas by province and by country of sender, Solomon Islands: 2019

Oversea remit sender	Number of Household	Province									
		Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell-Bellona	Guadalcanal	Malaita	Makira-Ulawa	Temotu	Honiara
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Australia	11.1	7.9	11.0	5.9	6.8	25.0	13.7	6.0	7.1	7.9	19.9
New Zealand	9.0	7.0	10.7	10.3	8.2	5.4	8.6	9.4	7.4	7.9	8.4
PNG	0.8	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.2	1.8	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.6	1.9
Fiji	2.2	0.8	1.8	0.9	0.8	5.4	3.0	1.3	0.3	0.6	4.7
Malaysia	1.8	0.6	1.2	0.7	0.6	0.0	2.2	0.5	0.6	0.3	4.9
Indonesia	0.9	0.6	1.0	0.7	0.2	0.0	1.2	0.2	0.6	0.0	1.7
Myanmar/Burma	0.6	0.0	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.9	0.2	0.0	0.0	1.8
Elsewhere	2.7	1.5	2.9	1.1	1.2	0.0	4.3	0.6	0.6	2.9	5.5
other Country	71.1	81.2	70.6	79.2	81.7	62.5	65.6	81.3	83.0	79.7	51.2

14.7 Agriculture, Fishery and Livestock

The 2019 Census included several questions on whether households were engaged in agricultural, fishery and livestock related activities such as:

- Whether a household was involved in agriculture, and if so was the household involved in growing crops and whether these crops were for sale or subsistence;
- What kinds of cash crops were grown, such as vegetables/food crops, copra, betel nut, cocoa, tobacco, timber, flowers, ginger, kava, coffee, rice, noni or others;
- Whether a household raised livestock such as cows, pigs, goats, horses, or poultry;
- Whether a household was involved in fishing or gathering of invertebrate, and whether the fish or invertebrates were for sale or subsistence;
- The type of fish catches or gatherings by gender;

- The types and frequency of fish a household buys, catches and consumes.

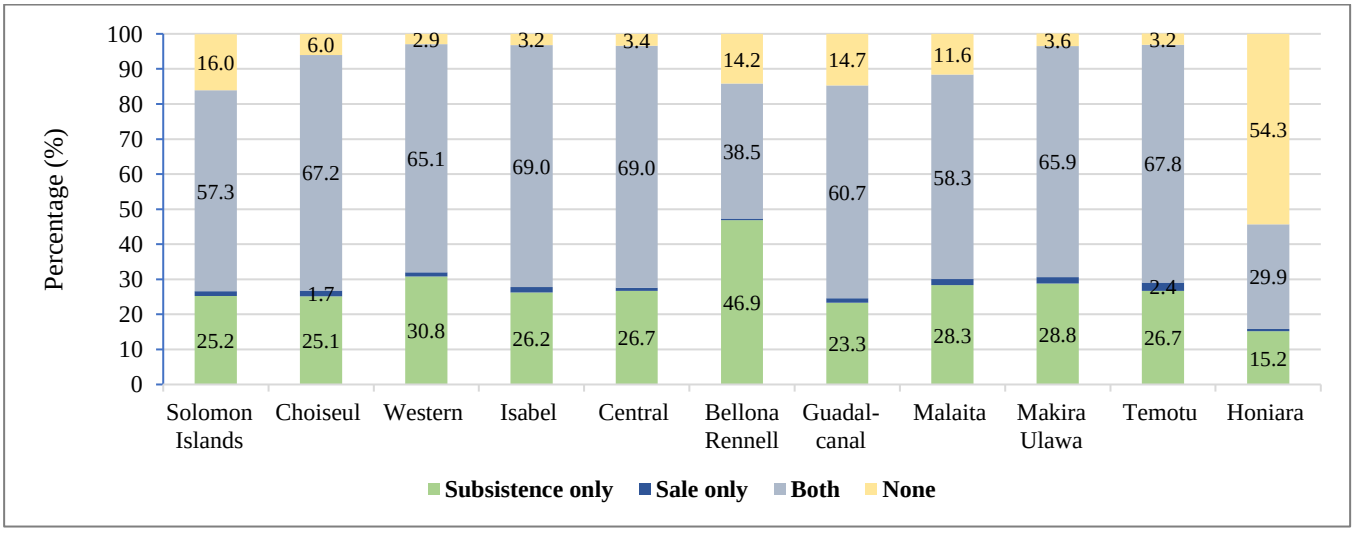
14.7.1 Agricultural Activities

In 2019, about 84% of households were involved in growing crops. Of these households, 57.3% of them grew crops both for subsistence (own-use) and for sale, while 25.2% of them grew crops for subsistence (own use) consumption only. However, of the 16% of households that were not involved in growing crops, Honiara households, as can be expected, comprised of the majority (54%) (Table 14.7.1, Figure 14.7.1)

Table 14.7.1: Number and percentage of private households involved in growing crops by nature of crop growing and province, Solomon Islands: 2019

Nature of Crop Growing	Total	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell-Bellona	Guadal-canal	Malaita	Makira Ulawa	Temotu	Honiara
Total	**131,566**	**5,520**	**17,531**	**6,250**	**5,872**	**720**	**28,746**	**32,332**	**9,057**	**4,699**	**20,839**
Subsistence only	33,195	1,387	5,397	1,636	1,569	338	6,695	9,141	2,605	1,253	3,174
Sale only	1,822	92	212	97	51	3	378	595	160	112	122
Both	75,453	3,711	11,421	4,314	4,051	277	17,456	18,839	5,967	3,185	6,232
None	21,096	330	501	203	201	102	4,217	3,757	325	149	11,311
PERCENTS											
Subsistence only	25.2	25.1	30.8	26.2	26.7	46.9	23.3	28.3	28.8	26.7	15.2
Sale only	1.4	1.7	1.2	1.6	0.9	0.4	1.3	1.8	1.8	2.4	0.6
Both	57.3	67.2	65.1	69.0	69.0	38.5	60.7	58.3	65.9	67.8	29.9
None	16.0	6.0	2.9	3.2	3.4	14.2	14.7	11.6	3.6	3.2	54.3

Figure 14.7.1: Proportion of private households by place of residence and nature of growing crops, Solomon Islands: 2019



Within provinces, the majority of households grew crops for both for subsistence use and for sale except for households in Rennell-Bellona (46.9%), Western (30.8%) and Makira-Ulawa (28.8%) who

grew crops mainly for subsistence consumption. Only 1.4% of households grew crops for the sole purpose of selling them (Table 14.7.1, Figure 14.7.1).

Amongst provinces, Honiara was the province with the majority (53.6%) of households that were not engaged in subsistence agriculture, consisting also of a slightly higher percent (54.3%) within Honiara.

According to Table 14.7.2, of the households (110,470) that grew cash crops (multiple cropping), the majority (63,174) grew vegetables/food crops, followed by betel-nut (51,965) and copra/coconut (40,985). Across provinces, Malaita province dominates in all types of cash crops especially vegetables (26.7%), betel-nut (25.7%), copra (31.4%) and cocoa (37.7%) - except noni which was popular among Guadalcanal households.

Table 14.7.2: Number of private households involved in growing crops (multiple crops) by type of cash crop and province, Solomon Islands: 2019

Types of cash crop	Province											Urban-Rural Area	
	Solomon islands	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell-Bellona	Guadalcanal	Malaita	Makira-Ulawa	Temotu	Honiara	Urban	Rural
Vegetables	63,174	3,073	9,845	3,407	3,415	401	14,766	16,865	5,338	2,810	3,254	7,365	55,809
Copra	40,985	2,178	5,448	1,637	3,011	99	8,235	12,857	4,742	2,572	206	874	40,111
Betel nut	51,965	3,018	6,378	3,874	3,803	5	12,325	13,339	5,871	3,109	243	1,348	50,617
Cocoa	29,241	264	2,145	218	1,005	2	9,084	11,026	4,766	707	24	398	28,843
Tobacco	9,127	137	965	954	538	2	1,760	2,404	1,411	938	18	112	9,015
Timber	7,621	484	1,893	244	182	14	829	1,987	521	1,446	21	184	7,437
Flowers	16,021	898	3,824	802	635	4	2,535	4,654	845	588	1,236	2,226	13,795
Ginger	16,109	571	3,281	2,186	994	2	1,717	4,518	1,869	903	68	263	15,846
Kava	16,624	1,087	3,035	1,384	284	5	879	4,964	2,351	2,597	38	458	16,166
Coffee	372	9	27	24	4	-	96	152	49	11	-	6	366
Rice	139	5	23	9	3	-	30	54	6	7	2	6	133
Noni	2,192	44	470	61	108	1	944	238	37	181	108	214	1,978
Other crops	3,951	197	850	133	105	11	985	1,066	225	89	290	572	3,379
	Percent (%)												
Vegetables	100.0	4.9	15.6	5.4	5.4	0.6	23.4	26.7	8.4	4.4	5.2	11.7	88.3
Copra	100.0	5.3	13.3	4.0	7.3	0.2	20.1	31.4	11.6	6.3	0.5	2.1	97.9
Betel nut	100.0	5.8	12.3	7.5	7.3	0.0	23.7	25.7	11.3	6.0	0.5	2.6	97.4
Cocoa	100.0	0.9	7.3	0.7	3.4	0.0	31.1	37.7	16.3	2.4	0.1	1.4	98.6
Tobacco	100.0	1.5	10.6	10.5	5.9	0.0	19.3	26.3	15.5	10.3	0.2	1.2	98.8
Timber	100.0	6.4	24.8	3.2	2.4	0.2	10.9	26.1	6.8	19.0	0.3	2.4	97.6
Flowers	100.0	5.6	23.9	5.0	4.0	0.0	15.8	29.0	5.3	3.7	7.7	13.9	86.1
Ginger	100.0	3.5	20.4	13.6	6.2	0.0	10.7	28.0	11.6	5.6	0.4	1.6	98.4
Kava	100.0	6.5	18.3	8.3	1.7	0.0	5.3	29.9	14.1	15.6	0.2	2.8	97.2
Coffee	100.0	2.4	7.3	6.5	1.1	0.0	25.8	40.9	13.2	3.0	0.0	1.6	98.4
Rice	100.0	3.6	16.5	6.5	2.2	0.0	21.6	38.8	4.3	5.0	1.4	4.3	95.7
Noni	100.0	2.0	21.4	2.8	4.9	0.0	43.1	10.9	1.7	8.3	4.9	9.8	90.2
Other crops	100.0	5.0	21.5	3.4	2.7	0.3	24.9	27.0	5.7	2.3	7.3	14.5	85.5

Guadalcanal province follows closely behind Malaita in similar types of cash crops grown by households.

Within both urban and rural areas, vegetables/food crops were the popular cash crop grown – with rural households growing significantly more (83.3%) than urban households (11.7%). This was

followed by betel-nut with the majority of households engaged in rural areas (97.4%) than in urban areas (2.6%) (Table 14.7.2).

14.8 Livestock

During the 2019 Census, households were asked the question *"does this household have any livestock?"* and if the response was affirmative, than responses were required for the number of cows, pigs, goats, horses, including poultry.

Table 14.8.1 and Figure 14.8.1 show the number and percent of households that raised livestock including poultry by province in 2019. Less than half (46.7%) of all households raised livestock including poultry at the time of the census. Across provinces, Malaita households had the highest percent (34.4%) of livestock including poultry, followed by Guadalcanal (21.9%).

Table 14.8.1: Number of private households and whether raising livestock by Province, Solomon Islands: 2019

Livestock	Total	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell-Bellona	Guadal-canal	Malaita	Makira Ulawa	Temotu	Honiara
Total	**131,566**	**5,520**	**17,531**	**6,250**	**5,872**	**720**	**28,746**	**32,332**	**9,057**	**4,699**	**20,839**
Raising Livestock	61,413	2,945	5,236	3,589	3,443	445	13,469	21,132	5,786	3,682	1,686
Percent	46.7	53.4	29.9	57.4	58.6	61.8	46.9	65.4	63.9	78.4	8.1
Not Raising	70,153	2,575	12,295	2,661	2,429	275	15,277	11,200	3,271	1,017	19,153

Figure 14.8.1: Percent of households raising livestock by province, Solomon Islands: 2019

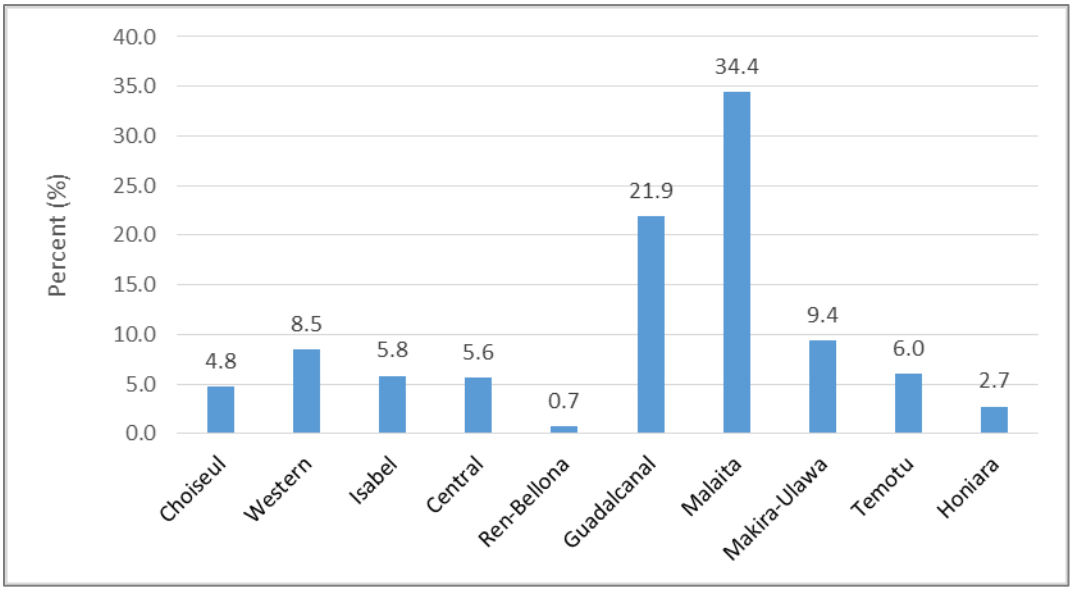


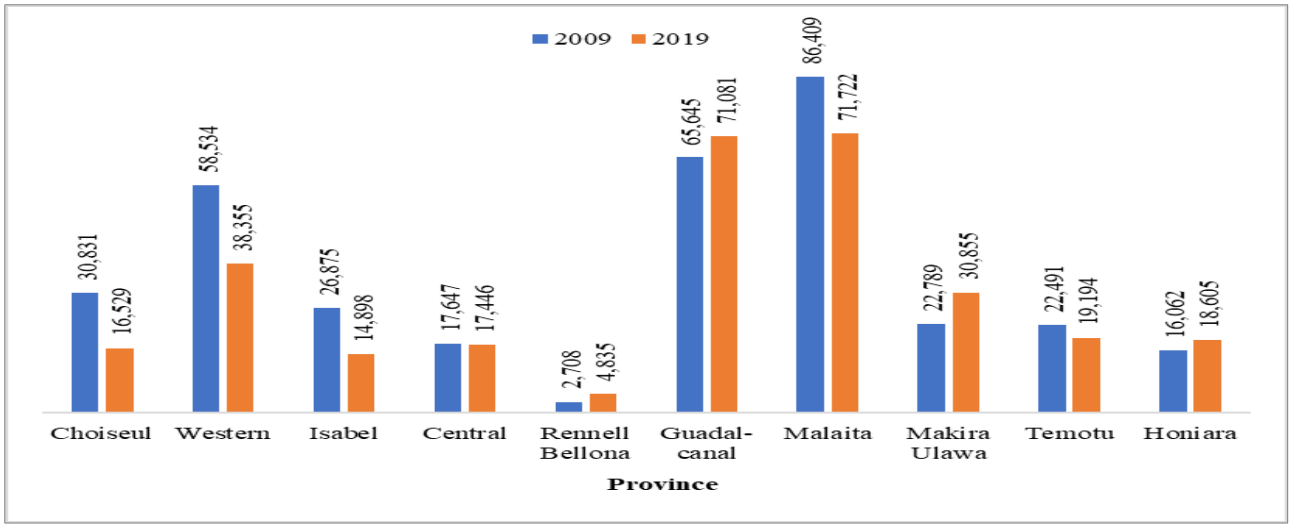
Table 14.8.2 revealed that there were 464,430 livestock including poultry raised by households across the country. This reflected a decline of about 11% since 2009. The majority of livestock comprised of

poultry (65%) with close to 304 thousand, followed by pigs (32%, 147 thousand), goats (2%, close to 8 thousand), cows (1%, 6 thousand), and horses (less than 1%, 150). In comparison to 2009, poultry declined by 13% and pigs increased by 21% dominated especially by livestock and poultry activities in Malaita.

Table 14.8.2: Total number and percentage of livestock, Solomon Islands: 2009 and 2019

Place of Number of livestock residence	2009						2019					
	Total	Cows	Pigs	Goats	Horses	Poultry	Total	Cows	Pigs	Goats	Horses	Poultry
Total	**523,988**	**30,363**	**120,971**	**20,222**	**2,441**	**349,991**	**464,430**	**6,113**	**146,938**	**7,679**	**150**	**303,550**
%	***100.0***	***5.8***	***23.1***	***3.9***	***0.5***	***66.8***	***100.0***	***1.3***	***31.6***	***1.7***	***0.03***	***65.4***
Choiseul	35,526	844	3,701	90	60	30,831	21,665	569	4,342	214	11	16,529
Western	66,688	1,751	5,257	985	161	58,534	44,289	462	5,181	285	6	38,355
Isabel	33,552	53	4,089	2,409	126	26,875	20,300	31	5,232	139	0	14,898
Central	28,518	3,102	6,322	1,104	343	17,647	23,654	8	5,906	281	13	17,446
Rennell-Bellona	2,764	0	56	0	0	2,708	4,909	0	50	24	0	4,835
Guadalcanal	95,394	2,235	23,383	4,110	21	65,645	110,113	1,619	35,668	1,735	10	71,081
Malaita	157,947	11,002	51,454	8,137	945	86,409	144,150	2,883	66,150	3,316	79	71,722
Makira-Ulawa	36,976	2,383	11,351	311	142	22,789	42,835	511	10,982	436	21	30,885
Temotu	35,949	2,924	9,356	1,098	80	22,491	29,787	4	9,500	1,089	0	19,194
Honiara	30,674	6,069	6,002	1,978	563	16,062	22,728	26	3,927	160	10	18,605
	Percent (%)											
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Choiseul	6.8	2.8	3.1	0.4	2.5	8.8	4.7	9.3	3.0	2.8	7.3	5.4
Western	12.7	5.8	4.3	4.9	6.6	16.7	9.5	7.6	3.5	3.7	4.0	12.6
Isabel	6.4	0.2	3.4	11.9	5.2	7.7	4.4	0.5	3.6	1.8	0.0	4.9
Central	5.4	10.2	5.2	5.5	14.1	5.0	5.1	0.1	4.0	3.7	8.7	5.7
Rennell-Bellona	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	1.6
Guadalcanal	18.2	7.4	19.3	20.3	0.9	18.8	23.7	26.5	24.3	22.6	6.7	23.4
Malaita	30.1	36.2	42.5	40.2	38.7	24.7	31.0	47.2	45.0	43.2	52.7	23.6
Makira-Ulawa	7.1	7.8	9.4	1.5	5.8	6.5	9.2	8.4	7.5	5.7	14.0	10.2
Temotu	6.9	9.6	7.7	5.4	3.3	6.4	6.4	0.1	6.5	14.2	0.0	6.3
Honiara	5.9	20.0	5.0	9.8	23.1	4.6	4.9	0.4	2.7	2.1	6.7	6.1

Figure 14.8.2: Number of poultry by province, Solomon Islands: 2009 and 2019



It can be seen from Figure 14.8.2 above that although Malaita province had the largest share (23.6%) of poultry, the difference in number amongst Guadalcanal and Malaita provinces was narrowing with

Guadalcanal poultry numbers closely catching up with those of Malaita. This appeared to be the result of a decline in poultry in Malaita in 2019 against an increase in poultry in Guadalcanal in the same year. Across provinces, poultry has declined except for Guadalcanal, Makira and Honiara provinces.

In terms of raising pigs, Malaita had by far more pigs in 2009, twice that of Guadalcanal, and in 2019 further increased its stock of pigs to over 66,000 with Guadalcanal following with 36,000 pigs (Figure 14.8.3). Across the majority of other provinces, the number of pigs remained significantly lower compared to Malaita and Guadalcanal and at close to 2009 levels on average.

Figure 14.8.3: Number of pigs by province, Solomon Islands: 2009 and 2019

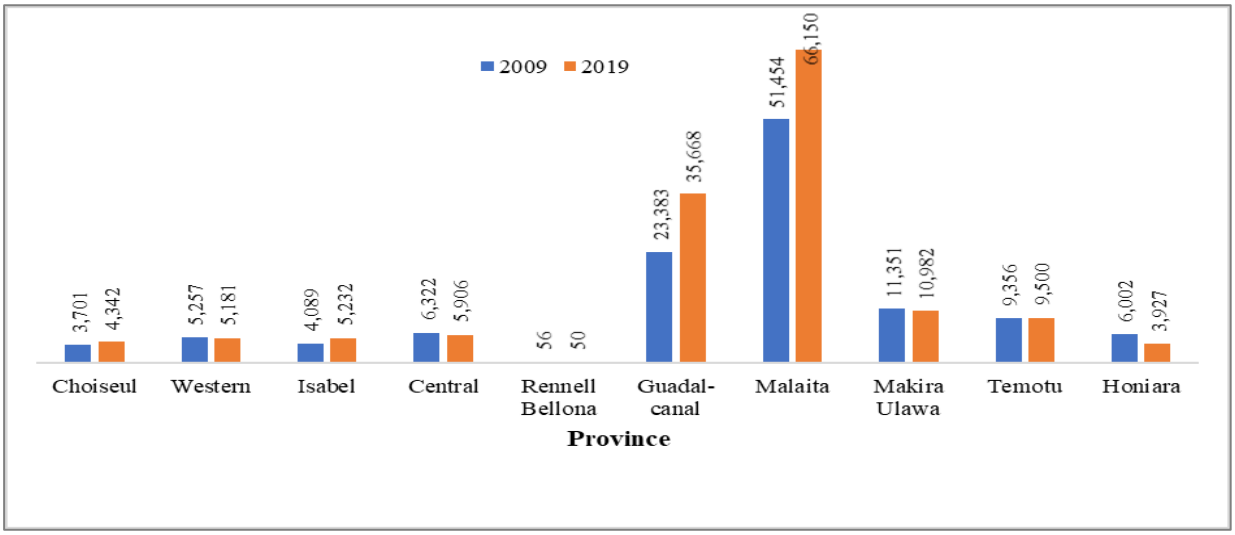


Table 14.8.3: Total number of livestock by urban-rural area, Solomon Islands: 2009 and 2019

Raising Live Stock	2009			2019		
	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
Cows	30,363	24,093	6,270	6,113	5,907	206
Pigs	120,971	110,470	10,501	146,938	135,922	11,016
Goats	20,222	16,743	3,479	7,679	6,319	1,360
Horse	2,441	1,878	563	150	126	24
Poultry	349,991	314,465	35,526	303,550	265,643	37,907

Table 14.8.3 showed a comparison of urban-rural households involved in raising livestock including poultry in 2009 and 2019. The majority of the households that raised livestock including poultry were based in rural areas. During 2009-2019, livestock numbers declined in both urban and rural areas except for an increase in poultry in urban areas and an increase in pigs in both urban-rural areas in 2019.

14.9 Fishing

The following section provides a summary on the number and proportion of households involved in fishing activities and gathering of invertebrate, and whether the nature of activity was mainly for own consumption (subsistence), for sale, or both.

The data showed that 46.5% (61,185) of all households in the Solomon Islands were engaged in fishing activities and gathering of invertebrates – of which slightly over half (51.7%) did this for own consumption (subsistence) only, and 46.7% fished for both own consumption and the sale of their catch. Less than 2% of these households fished for the sole purpose of selling their catch (Table 14.9.1)

Within provinces, a small proportion (3.6%) of households in Honiara were involved in fishing and gathering of invertebrates in contrast to Temotu, where the majority (78.4%) of households were involved. However, in absolute terms, Malaita province comprised of the highest number (13, 146) or 21% of all households engaged in fishing and gathering of invertebrates. Malaita was followed closely by Western province with 12,263 (20%) of households involved in fishing and gathering of invertebrates.

Table 14.9.1: Number of private households involved in fishing and gathering invertebrates by nature of activity and province, Solomon Islands: 2019

Fishing	Total	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell-Bellona	Guadal-canal	Malaita	Makira-Ulawa	Temotu	Honiara
Total	**131,566**	**5,520**	**17,531**	**6,250**	**5,872**	**720**	**28,746**	**32,332**	**9,057**	**4,699**	**20,839**
Involved in Fishing & Invertebrates	*61,185*	*3,968*	*12,263*	*4,721*	*4,250*	*391*	*11,711*	*13,146*	*6,295*	*3,682*	*758*
Subsistence only	31,645	1,746	6,126	2,179	1,645	346	7,513	6,019	3,730	1,873	468
Sale only	958	60	181	63	45	3	191	260	52	45	58
Both	28,582	2,162	5,956	2,479	2,560	42	4,007	6,867	2,513	1,764	232
None	70,381	1,552	5,268	1,529	1,622	329	17,035	19,186	2,762	1,017	20,081
Percent (%)											
Involved in Fishing & Invertebrates (%, hholds)	*46.5*	*71.9*	*70.0*	*75.5*	*72.4*	*54.3*	*40.7*	*40.7*	*69.5*	*78.4*	*3.6*
Involved in Fishing & Invertebrates	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Subsistence only	51.7	44.0	50.0	46.2	38.7	88.5	64.2	45.8	59.3	50.9	61.7
Sale only	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.1	0.8	1.6	2.0	0.8	1.2	7.7
Both	46.7	54.5	48.6	52.5	60.2	10.7	34.2	52.2	39.9	47.9	30.6
All households	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*	*100.0*
Subsistence only	24.1	31.6	34.9	34.9	28	48.1	26.1	18.6	41.2	39.9	2.2
Sale only	0.7	1.1	1	1	0.8	0.4	0.7	0.8	0.6	1	0.3
Both	21.7	39.2	34	39.7	43.6	5.8	13.9	21.2	27.7	37.5	1.1
None	53.5	28.1	30	24.5	27.6	45.7	59.3	59.3	30.5	21.6	96.4

According to Table 14.9.2 below, there were varying differences in participation amongst male and female members of households in catching certain types of fish and gathering invertebrates. Within respective sexes, both the majority of males (57.4%) and females (38.9%) participated in fishing for reef fish - although, in absolute numbers, there were more male members than female members. This was predominant in Western and Malaita provinces. However, female members outperformed their male counterparts in gathering invertebrates with 24.6% of female members involved compared to a

low of 2.6% of male members involved. Malaita province dominated in female member participation while in Honiara, male and female members participated the least in gathering invertebrates.

Table 14.9.2: Number of private households whose male and female members participated in catching selected types of fish and gathering invertebrates by province, Solomon Islands: 2019

Male & Female Participation	Total	%	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell-Bellona	Guadal-canal	Malaita	Makira-Ulawa	Temotu	Honiara
Total households	61,185	*100.0*	3,968	12,263	4,721	4,250	391	11,711	13,146	6,295	3,682	758
Particiaption by Males												
Tuna	4,937	*8.1*	281	632	210	148	13	1,349	1,407	493	258	146
Other deep sea fish	7,876	*12.9*	736	1,602	805	1,056	23	1,139	967	825	667	56
Reef fish	35,150	*57.4*	2,580	8,856	2,820	2,698	247	3,410	8,364	3,751	2,093	331
Invertebrates	1,610	*2.6*	30	76	156	61	3	546	446	243	46	3
Freshwater fish	5,979	*9.8*	41	18	343	9	80	4,319	694	415	48	12
Unknown or no males in HH	5,633	*9.2*	300	1,079	387	278	25	948	1,268	568	570	210
Particiaption by Females												
Tuna	640	*1.0*	19	93	19	16	2	212	153	27	16	83
Other deep sea fish	742	*1.2*	57	161	30	79	-	166	122	71	39	17
Reef fish	23,774	*38.9*	2,187	7,950	1,016	1,442	56	1,975	3,942	2,837	2,142	227
Invertebrates	15,071	*24.6*	588	1,218	2,071	1,439	39	2,410	4,367	1,966	960	13
Freshwater fish	5,281	*8.6*	40	27	283	36	42	3,954	453	374	61	11
Unknown or no females in HH	15,677	*25.6*	1,077	2,814	1,302	1,238	252	2,994	4,109	1,020	464	407

Table 14.9.3: Number of private households involved in fishing and gathering invertebrates by frequency of consuming fish and invertebrates by province, Solomon Islands: 2019

Frequency of consuming fish / invertebrates	Total	%	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell-Bellona	Guadal-canal	Malaita	Makira-Ulawa	Temotu	Honiara
Total households	61,185	*100.0*	3,968	12,263	4,721	4,250	391	11,711	13,146	6,295	3,682	758
Catch fish to consume												
Once a month	12,726	*20.8*	787	2,102	899	544	180	3,360	2,116	1,661	910	167
Once a week	24,994	*40.8*	1,810	5,324	2,111	1,733	99	4,469	5,103	2,666	1,516	163
More than once a week	12,427	*20.3*	756	2,610	931	1,033	71	2,037	2,657	1,348	895	89
Almost every day	7,825	*12.8*	505	1,850	552	813	30	1,093	2,325	380	233	44
Unknown	3,213	*5.3*	110	377	228	127	11	752	945	240	128	295
Buy fish to consume												
Once a week	20,803	*34.0*	1,508	3,900	1,261	1,201	118	4,811	3,920	2,175	1,677	232
More than once a week	11,189	*18.3*	772	2,841	430	856	10	2,153	2,606	718	554	249
Once a month	9,090	*14.9*	641	1,934	519	504	16	1,809	2,036	943	570	118
Almost every day	948	*1.5*	70	278	26	70	1	176	266	16	21	24
Unknown	19,155	*31.3*	977	3,310	2,485	1,619	246	2,762	4,318	2,443	860	135
Collect invertebrates to consume												
Once a week	18,338	*30.0*	1,247	3,006	1,564	1,355	144	3,614	3,769	2,047	1,443	149
More than once a week	14,220	*23.2*	664	2,440	1,328	1,231	46	2,210	3,485	1,781	953	82
Once a month	8,920	*14.6*	543	1,562	711	736	26	1,499	2,013	1,086	683	61
Almost every day	2,055	*3.4*	134	503	155	158	5	253	659	112	68	8
Unknown	17,652	*28.9*	1,380	4,752	963	770	170	4,135	3,220	1,269	535	458
Buy invertebrates to consume												
Once a week	9,938	*16.2*	874	1,753	811	656	35	1,937	2,380	683	652	157
More than once a week	4,751	*7.8*	278	1,033	226	368	4	743	1,439	346	161	153
Once a month	4,237	*6.9*	324	859	281	272	5	739	1,065	354	258	80
Almost every day	415	*0.7*	14	82	9	37	1	91	140	4	6	31
Unknown	41,844	*68.4*	2,478	8,536	3,394	2,917	346	8,201	8,122	4,908	2,605	337

Table 14.9.3 presented the frequency of household consumption of fish and invertebrates, and showed that in the majority of all occurrences (excluding unknown cases), households caught fish (40.8%) for consumption, bought fish (34.0%) for consumption, collected invertebrates (30.0%) for consumption and bought invertebrates (16.2%) for consumption - at least 'once a week'. However, in terms of the frequency for catching fish across provinces, the majority of households in Honiara and Rennell-Bellona caught fish for consumption 'once a month', while Honiara households bought fish for consumption 'more than once a week'.

14.10 Housing

14.10.1 Introduction

As early as the 1970s, the national government's housing policy was to enable every Solomon Islands family to live in an affordable and adequate house, with reasonable comfort, health and safety. One of the government's aims was to ensure that private housing in the rural areas was of reasonable standard and comfort depending on local resources and skills available. According to the Sixth Development Plan, "Employers were required by the Labour Ordinance to provide 'proper and adequate' housing for employees who could not return to their homes at the conclusion of their daily work" (British Solomon Islands Protectorate, 1971). In the 1970s the government itself, was obliged by law to provide reasonable housing for its employees.

Housing primarily provides shelter and security for the family and individuals, and provides a relative measure of social status and an expression of lifestyle choices and comfort. As an important social institution, housing provides owners with a sense of worth and belonging in any community, whether rural or urban.

The challenge for the country and any government is to provide sustainable livelihoods, safe and secure living environments and a better quality of life especially for the poor and other vulnerable groups, while maintaining a reasonable standard of the existing housing stock. This is becoming more urgent in the urban areas because the national government has not put into place a social safety net to formally take care of the needs of the poor and vulnerable.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted in 1948 recognized the right to shelter as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living. While recognizing the importance placed on the above declaration, this chapter will not, however, discuss in detail the issue and meaning of 'adequate shelter' in the context of the Solomon Islands. Nor will it go into housing costs and the availability of credit facilities, and house rents and the affordability of these rent levels in the urban areas.

The housing stock is an important part of the country's economy and a major form of investment, and it provides employment and livelihood for a variety of other trades. "In most regions, housing has the potential of becoming an economic engine of growth because of its high yield on invested resources,

a high multiplier effect, and a host of beneficial forward and backward linkages in the economy. However, while the economic benefits of housing have been widely recognized, housing is rarely used as an element of poverty alleviation" (UNCHS, 2000).

Where population growth is more pronounced, there is more pressure on the available resources such as water and sanitation, land, and services. This competition for and access to the limited resources for house construction and services is more often a problem in urban than in rural areas.

According to the 2019 Census, the majority of private households (74.8%) resided in the rural areas. Thus, the rural sector has by far the largest population with 521,818 people, constituting a major part of the Solomon Islands society and economy. For many years now, the rural sector has been acting as a social safety net for many families, especially the vulnerable families who may well have been on the streets without shelter and food. This safety net mechanism is made possible by the nature of the local traditional land tenure system, which entitles every person born to an indigenous Solomon Islander access to land inheritance through either the mother or the father. If the government were to recognize and support the coping mechanisms that have evolved in the rural environments and among the population over time, it would minimize the risks of economic shocks, the vulnerability of the poor with respect to land tenure, and homelessness.

14.10.2 Housing and land tenure

Housing on land or sea provides shelter which is critical for livelihoods and is also significant in the Solomon Islands culture. Data from the 2019 Census showed that the majority of households (79.9%) resided in owner-occupied dwellings, meaning they owned their dwellings outright. This varied considerably in urban and rural areas - with as many as 82.0% of dwellings in the rural areas being owner-occupied compared with only 18.0% in urban areas (Table 14.10.1).

While slightly over half (57%) of all urban households owned their dwellings outright, about a third of urban households rented their dwellings – whether the rent was arranged with a private landlord (18.2%), rent-free (9.3%) or subsided rent (6.2%). Honiara households comprised the majority (66.7%) of all households renting from a private landlord.

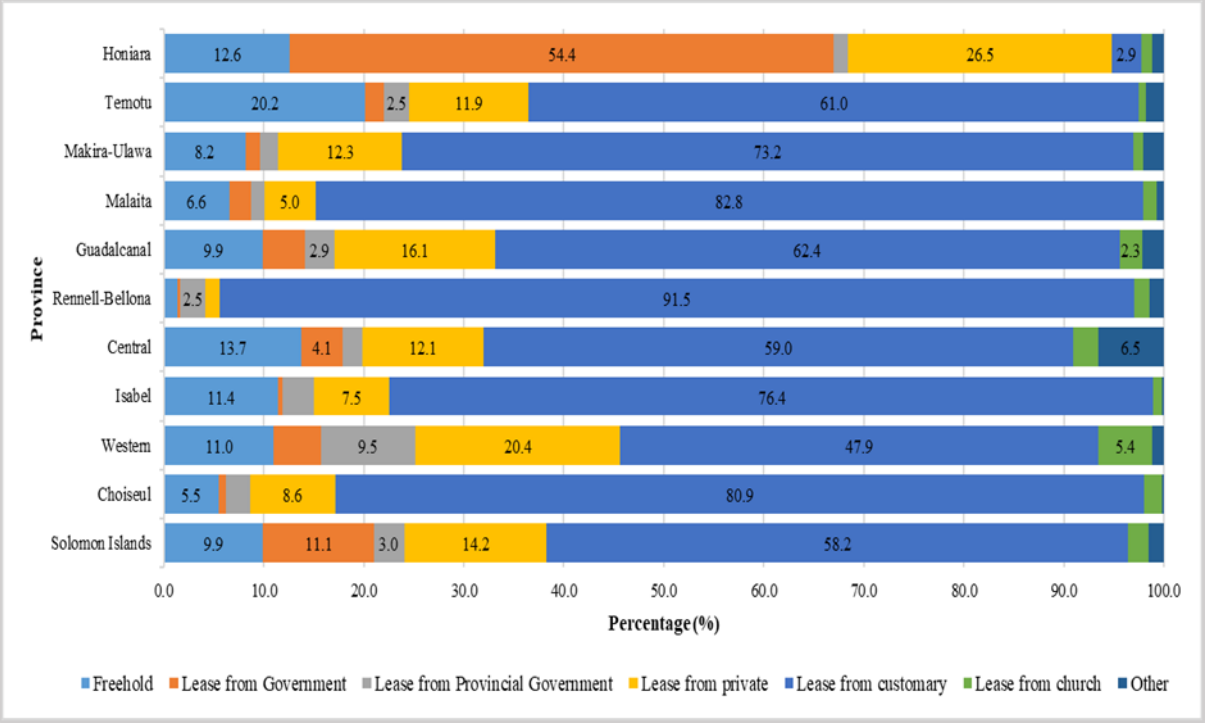
A key reason why the vast majority of household dwellings in rural areas are owner-occupied is because most rural land is customary. Nearly all villages in the rural areas are located on communal lands owned by tribes and almost every rural householder lives on tribal or kinship land. Contrary to urban areas, rural areas provide security of land tenure.

Table 14.10.1: Number and percent of households and housing tenure by urban-rural area, Solomon Islands: 2019

Housing Tenure	Number of Household			Percentage(%)		
	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
Total	**131,566**	**98,360**	**33,206**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Own it outright	105,083	86,157	18,926	79.9	87.6	57.0
Own it with mortgage	1,453	714	739	1.1	0.7	2.2
Rent from private landlord	6,723	694	6,029	5.1	0.7	18.2
Subsidised rent	3,400	1,351	2,049	2.6	1.4	6.2
Rent free	8,025	4,930	3,095	6.1	5.0	9.3
Caretaker	5,359	3,323	2,036	4.1	3.4	6.1
Other	1,523	1,191	332	1.2	1.2	1.0

In contrast to rural areas, urban land is under the jurisdiction of the government through the Ministry of Lands. In order to build a house in urban areas, the Town and Country Planning Board regulations have to be met as land is registered. This might imply that access to urban land by ordinary and low-income families to build owner-occupied houses is limited. Furthermore, many urban residents are in formal employment and receive either rent-free housing provided by their employer, or have employers who pay their rent costs.

Figure 14.10.1: Proportion of private households and land tenure by province, Solomon Islands: 2019



More than half (58.2%) of all households in Solomon Islands resided on land leased from customary land (Figure 14.10.1 and Table 14.10.2). With the exception of Honiara, households resided mostly on land leased from government (54.4%) and land leased from private landowners (26.5%).

Moreover. across provinces, Western province had more households that reside on land leased from Churches (5.4%).

Table 14.10.2: Number and percent of households and land tenure by province
Solomon Islands: 2019

Land Tenure	Total	Choiseu	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell-Bellona	Guadal-canal	Malaita	Makira -Ulawa	Temotu	Honiara
Total	131,566	5,520	17,531	6,250	5,872	720	28,746	32,332	9,057	4,699	20,839
Freehold	13,035	304	1,923	712	807	10	2,841	2,132	740	947	2,619
Lease from Government	14,602	41	831	30	241	2	1,218	680	129	88	11,342
Lease from Provincial Gov	3,988	129	1,660	198	119	18	837	452	167	118	290
Lease from private	18,689	472	3,578	471	709	10	4,628	1,631	1,117	561	5,512
Lease from customary	76,563	4,463	8,396	4,773	3,466	659	17,946	26,762	6,626	2,867	605
Lease from church	2,708	99	944	54	147	11	653	450	94	34	222
Other	1,981	12	199	12	383	10	623	225	184	84	249
					Percent (%)						
Total	100.0	4.2	13.3	4.8	4.5	0.5	21.8	24.6	6.9	3.6	15.8
Freehold	100.0	2.3	14.8	5.5	6.2	0.1	21.8	16.4	5.7	7.3	20.1
Lease from Government	100.0	0.3	5.7	0.2	1.7	0.0	8.3	4.7	0.9	0.6	77.7
Lease from Provincial Gov	100.0	3.2	41.6	5.0	3.0	0.5	21.0	11.3	4.2	3.0	7.3
Lease from private	100.0	2.5	19.1	2.5	3.8	0.1	24.8	8.7	6.0	3.0	29.5
Lease from customary	100.0	5.8	11.0	6.2	4.5	0.9	23.4	35.0	8.7	3.7	0.8
Lease from church	100.0	3.7	34.9	2.0	5.4	0.4	24.1	16.6	3.5	1.3	8.2
Other	100.0	0.6	10.0	0.6	19.3	0.5	31.4	11.4	9.3	4.2	12.6

14.10.3 Type of Living Quarters

The 2019 Census provided information on the types of living quarters or dwellings (house, flat, other building structures) that households resided in. Seven dwelling-building categories were distinguished as:

- one family dwelling detached from any other dwellings,
- one family dwelling attached to one or more dwellings,
- building with 2 or more apartments,
- building with 2 or more households that share a kitchen/toilet,
- lodging house,
- dwelling attached to a shop or other non-residential building,
- Other (any other type of building structure that cannot be classified as one of the above types (e.g., hotels, ships, hospitals, prisons, police barracks etc.

The majority (89.3%) of the Solomon Islands households resided in a one family dwelling detached from any other dwellings. This was followed by households that resided in a one family dwelling attached to one or more dwellings (semi-detached) (5.9%) (Table 14.10.3).

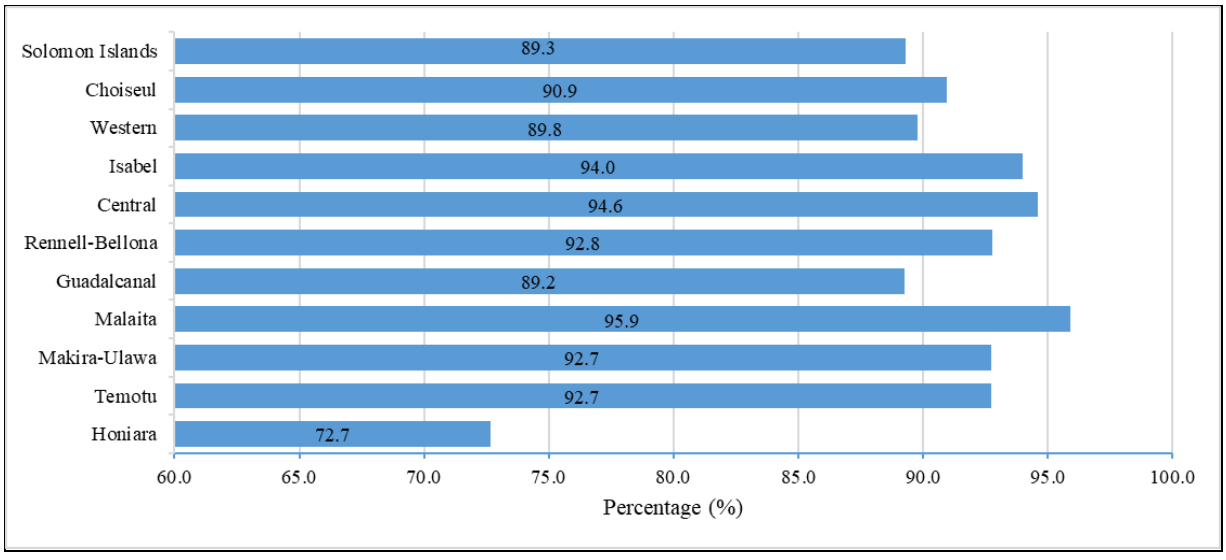
In comparison with other provinces, Malaita households occupied the majority (95.9%) of a one family dwelling detached from any other dwellings with Honiara being the least province (72.7%). In

Honiara, the type of living quarters varied considerably with other provinces – especially with more households residing in semi-detached dwellings (15.6%), apartments and flats (4.9%) and dwellings with two or more households sharing a kitchen/toilet facility (4.4%).

Table 14.10.3: Number and percent of private households by province and type of living quarters, Solomon Islands: 2019

Province	Total	Detached	Semi-Detached	Apartments/ Flats	2+ HHs sharing	Non-residential	Lodging house	Other
Total	**131,566**	**117,495**	**7,709**	**1,718**	**2,683**	**769**	**866**	**326**
Choiseul	5,520	5,020	325	31	38	50	47	9
Western	17,531	15,736	921	197	426	104	78	69
Isabel	6,250	5,875	199	36	60	30	40	10
Central	5,872	5,556	183	22	71	15	18	7
Rennell-Bellona	720	668	30	10	4	4	3	1
Guadalcanal	28,746	25,655	1,578	219	850	107	271	66
Malaita	32,332	31,002	802	83	203	91	105	46
Makira-Ulawa	9,057	8,398	252	86	79	86	106	50
Temotu	4,699	4,442	166	17	36	23	10	5
Honiara	20,839	15,143	3,253	1,017	916	259	188	63
				Percent (%)				
Total	100.0	89.3	5.9	1.3	2.0	0.6	0.7	0.2
Choiseul	100.0	90.9	5.9	0.6	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.2
Western	100.0	89.8	5.3	1.1	2.4	0.6	0.4	0.4
Isabel	100.0	94.0	3.2	0.6	1.0	0.5	0.6	0.2
Central	100.0	94.6	3.1	0.4	1.2	0.3	0.3	0.1
Rennell-Bellona	100.0	92.8	4.2	1.4	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.1
Guadalcanal	100.0	89.2	5.5	0.8	3.0	0.4	0.9	0.2
Malaita	100.0	95.9	2.5	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.1
Makira-Ulawa	100.0	92.7	2.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.2	0.6
Temotu	100.0	94.5	3.5	0.4	0.8	0.5	0.2	0.1
Honiara	100.0	72.7	15.6	4.9	4.4	1.2	0.9	0.3

Figure 14.10.2: Percent of private households living in detached dwellings by province, Solomon Islands: 2019



14.10.4 Construction Materials for Dwellings

Wall Materials

In the Solomon Islands, the majority of households (60.5%) resided in dwellings that had walls constructed from wood. This was attributed by the majority (68.2%) of rural household dwellings that used wood for walls. Traditional materials were the second main material used by 30.8% of all households driven by nearly all rural household (95.9%) dwellings that used this material. In urban areas, more than half (73.6%) of all households used concrete cement bricks for their walls in contrast to rural dwellings (Table 14.10.4, Table 14.10.5).

Table 14.10.4: Number of private households and main wall material used for dwellings by urban-rural area and province, Solomon Islands: 2019

WALL	Total	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell-Bellona	Guadal-canal	Malaita	Makira-Ulawa	Temotu	Honiara
Total	**131,566**	**5,520**	**17,531**	**6,250**	**5,872**	**720**	**28,746**	**32,332**	**9,057**	**4,699**	**20,839**
Wood	79,571	3,823	13,850	3,649	1,941	526	17,070	17,412	3,949	1,301	16,050
Tin Corrugated Iron	3,681	39	346	99	173	82	1,271	651	103	160	757
Concrete cement brick	4,842	39	176	32	350	3	652	453	147	40	2,950
Traditional Material	40,467	1,518	2,745	2,320	3,253	8	9,020	13,365	4,652	3,120	466
Makeshift or improvised material	2,036	97	249	98	76	92	561	359	143	54	307
Other	969	4	165	52	79	9	172	92	63	24	309
Rural											
Total	**98,360**	**5,341**	**14,711**	**5,999**	**5,611**	**720**	**21,840**	**31,057**	**8,733**	**4,348**	**-**
Wood	54,070	3,667	11,550	3,487	1,792	526	11,373	16,675	3,846	1,154	-
Tin Corrugated Iron	2,355	37	279	91	169	82	899	614	88	96	-
Concrete cement brick	1,276	38	68	18	333	3	421	292	86	17	-
Traditional Material	38,813	1,512	2,527	2,279	3,236	8	8,664	13,044	4,528	3,015	-
Makeshift or improvised material	1,442	83	189	95	68	92	384	343	140	48	-
Other	404	4	98	29	13	9	99	89	45	18	-
Urban											
Total	**33,206**	**179**	**2,820**	**251**	**261**	**-**	**6,906**	**1,275**	**324**	**351**	**20,839**
Wood	25,501	156	2,300	162	149	-	5,697	737	103	147	16,050
Tin Corrugated Iron	1,326	2	67	8	4	-	372	37	15	64	757
Concrete cement brick	3,566	1	108	14	17	-	231	161	61	23	2,950
Traditional Material	1,654	6	218	41	17	-	356	321	124	105	466
Makeshift or improvised material	594	14	60	3	8	-	177	16	3	6	307
Other	565	-	67	23	66	-	73	3	18	6	309

Table 14.10.5: Percentage of households and main material used for walls by province, Solomon Islands: 2019

Wall	Total	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell-Bellona	Guadal-canal	Malaita	Makira-Ulawa	Temotu	Honiara
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Wood	60.5	69.3	79.0	58.4	33.1	73.1	59.4	53.9	43.6	27.7	77.0
Tin Corrugated Iron	2.8	0.7	2.0	1.6	2.9	11.4	4.4	2.0	1.1	3.4	3.6
Concrete cement brick	3.7	0.7	1.0	0.5	6.0	0.4	2.3	1.4	1.6	0.9	14.2
Traditional Material	30.8	27.5	15.7	37.1	55.4	1.1	31.4	41.3	51.4	66.4	2.2
Makeshift or improvised material	1.5	1.8	1.4	1.6	1.3	12.8	2.0	1.1	1.6	1.1	1.5
Other	0.7	0.1	0.9	0.8	1.3	1.3	0.6	0.3	0.7	0.5	1.5

Across provinces and by type of wall material, Malaita (21.9%) and Guadalcanal (21.5%) had the majority of household dwellings with wood walls. Malaita households also had more walls built from traditional materials (33.0%) while Guadalcanal households dominated with walls built from tin-corrugated iron (34.5%) and makeshift materials (27.6%). Honiara had more dwellings that used concrete cement bricks (60.9%) for walls. Within provinces, Temotu (66.4%), Makira-Ulawa (51.4%) and Central (55.4%) preferred traditional materials as their main materials used for walls.

Floor Materials

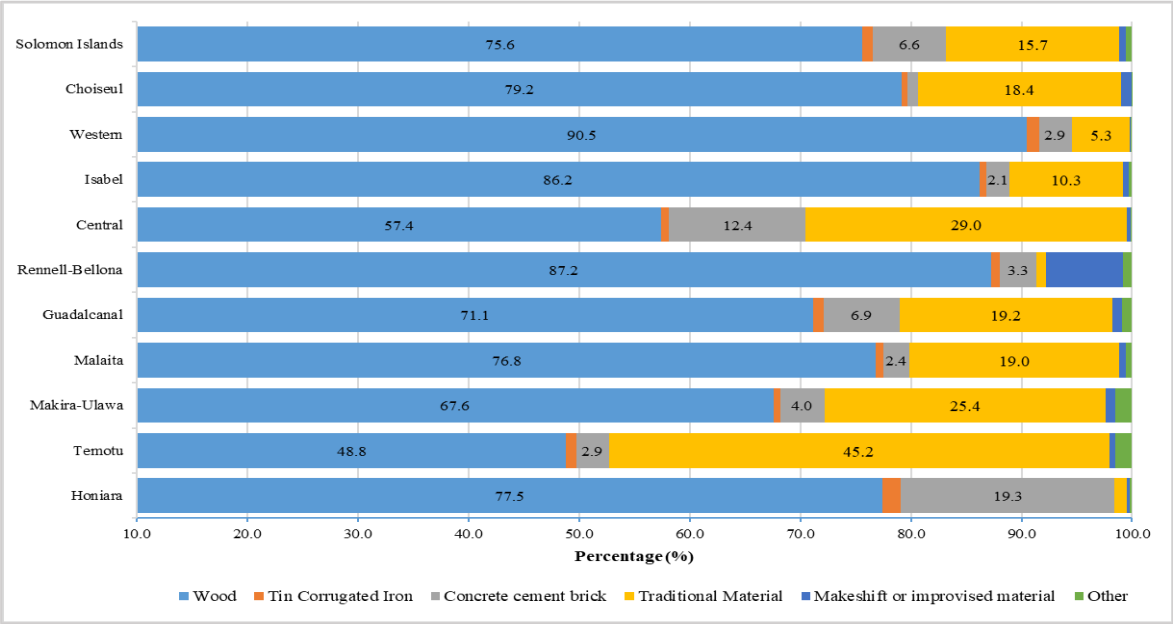
The two main materials used for the construction of floors were wood and traditional materials for dwellings comprising 75.6% and 15.7% of households, respectively. These materials were used predominantly by rural households (Table 14.10.6).

Table 14.10.6: Number of private households and main material used for floors by urban-rural area and province, Solomon Islands: 2019

Floor	Total	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell-Bellona	Guadal-canal	Malaita	Makira-Ulawa	Temotu	Honiara
Total	**131,566**	**5,520**	**17,531**	**6,250**	**5,872**	**720**	**28,746**	**32,332**	**9,057**	**4,699**	**20,839**
Wood	99,463	4,371	15,867	5,386	3,370	628	20,452	24,834	6,120	2,293	16,142
Tin Corrugated Iron	1,234	28	188	39	43	6	272	219	54	45	340
Concrete cement brick	8,723	51	517	133	727	24	1,988	764	365	138	4,016
Traditional Material	20,608	1,013	925	641	1,705	6	5,510	6,143	2,303	2,125	237
Makeshift or improvised material	801	55	17	32	21	50	261	203	78	28	56
Other	737	2	17	19	6	6	263	169	137	70	48
Rural											
Total	**98,360**	**5,341**	**14,711**	**5,999**	**5,611**	**720**	**21,840**	**31,057**	**8,733**	**4,348**	**0**
Wood	72,850	4,201	13,433	5,166	3,156	628	14,376	23,857	5,987	2,046	0
Tin Corrugated Iron	750	27	162	35	42	6	187	209	49	33	0
Concrete cement brick	3,512	44	212	111	685	24	1,524	561	270	81	0
Traditional Material	19,887	1,012	882	636	1,701	6	5,287	6,060	2,212	2,091	0
Makeshift or improvised material	693	55	11	32	21	50	218	201	78	27	0
Other	668	2	11	19	6	6	248	169	137	70	0
Urban											
Total	**33,206**	**179**	**2,820**	**251**	**261**	**0**	**6,906**	**1,275**	**324**	**351**	**20,839**
Wood	26,613	170	2,434	220	214	0	6,076	977	133	247	16,142
Tin Corrugated Iron	484	1	26	4	1	0	85	10	5	12	340
Concrete cement brick	5,211	7	305	22	42	0	464	203	95	57	4,016
Traditional Material	721	1	43	5	4	0	223	83	91	34	237
Makeshift or improvised material	108	0	6	0	0	0	43	2	0	1	56
Other	69	0	6	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	48

Within provinces, urban households, especially from Honiara (19.3%) preferred floors that were made from concrete cement bricks, apart from wood. Central province households (12.4%) also preferred concrete cement bricks, apart from wood and traditional materials (Figure 14.10.3). However, Guadalcanal households had a higher number of dwellings whose floors were made from concrete cement bricks following from Honiara.

Figure 14.10.3: Proportion of private households and main type of material used for floors of dwelling, Solomon Islands: 2019



Roof Materials

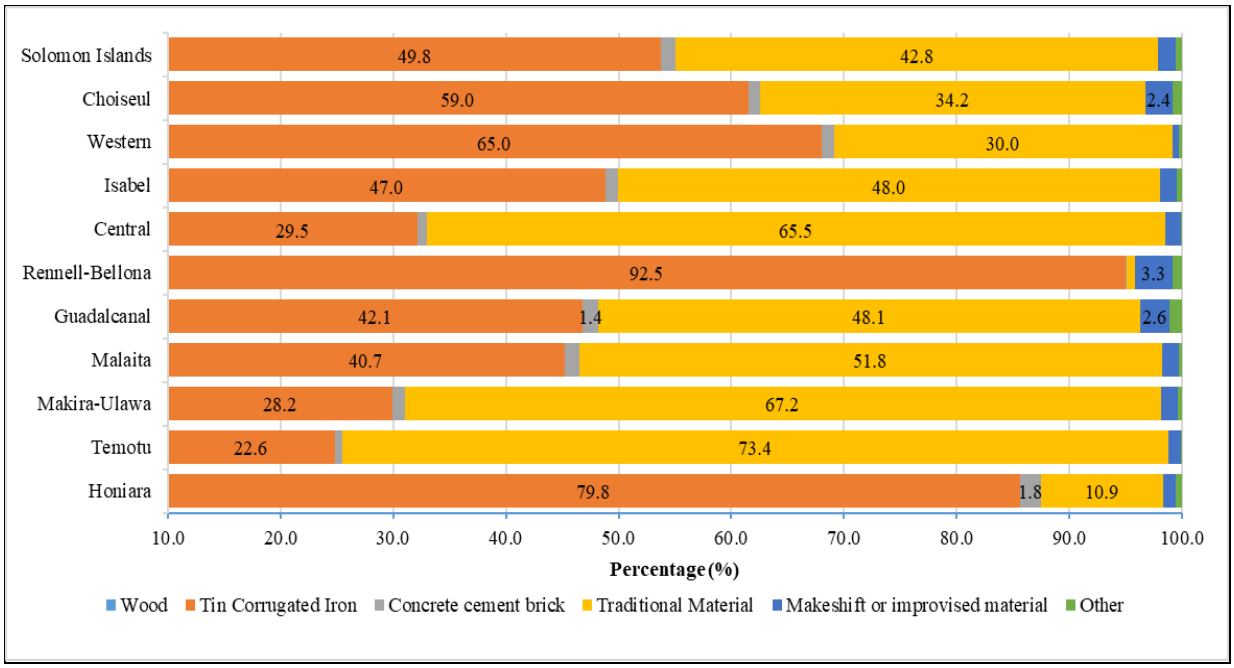
The main materials used in the construction of roofs for household dwellings in the Solomon Islands were tin-corrugated iron and traditional materials – with about half (49.8%) of households with tin-corrugated iron roofs and another 42.8% of households with roofs made of traditional materials.

The majority (62.4%) of households in rural areas used tin-corrugated iron roofs compared to 37.6% of households in urban areas. At the provincial level, the majority of households with tin-corrugated iron roofs included: Choiseul (59.0%), Western (65.0%), Rennell-Bellona (92.5%), Malaita (40.7%) and Honiara (79.8%). The rest of the provinces had the majority of households that used traditional materials for their roofs.

Table 14.10.7: Number of private households and main material used for roofs by urban-rural area and province, Solomon Islands: 2019

ROOF	Total	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell-Bellona	Guadal-canal	Malaita	Makira-Ulawa	Temotu	Honiara
Total	**131,566**	**5,520**	**17,531**	**6,250**	**5,872**	**720**	**28,746**	**32,332**	**9,057**	**4,699**	**20,839**
Wood	5,288	138	538	112	158	18	1,372	1,467	155	106	1,224
Tin Corrugated Iron	65,465	3,258	11,389	2,940	1,731	666	12,092	13,153	2,554	1,060	16,622
Concrete cement brick	1,688	58	193	72	48	1	395	411	98	30	382
Traditional Material	56,372	1,886	5,260	3,002	3,847	5	13,833	16,743	6,086	3,447	2,263
Makeshift or improvised material	2,075	133	104	95	83	24	735	484	134	52	231
Other	678	47	47	29	5	6	319	74	30	4	117
Rural											
Total	**98,360**	**5,341**	**14,711**	**5,999**	**5,611**	**720**	**21,840**	**31,057**	**8,733**	**4,348**	**-**
Wood	3,411	136	434	111	156	18	882	1,424	145	105	-
Tin Corrugated Iron	40,833	3,094	9,452	2,754	1,501	666	7,708	12,438	2,372	848	-
Concrete cement brick	1,132	58	141	70	48	1	300	396	90	28	-
Traditional Material	51,014	1,876	4,586	2,943	3,818	5	12,181	16,325	5,964	3,316	-
Makeshift or improvised material	1,520	130	79	92	83	24	503	428	132	49	-
Other	450	47	19	29	5	6	266	46	30	2	-
Urban											
Total	**33,206**	**179**	**2,820**	**251**	**261**	**-**	**6,906**	**1,275**	**324**	**351**	**20,839**
Wood	1,877	2	104	1	2	-	490	43	10	1	1,224
Tin Corrugated Iron	24,632	164	1,937	186	230	-	4,384	715	182	212	16,622
Concrete cement brick	556	-	52	2	-	-	95	15	8	2	382
Traditional Material	5,358	10	674	59	29	-	1,652	418	122	131	2,263
Makeshift or improvised material	555	3	25	3	-	-	232	56	2	3	231
Other	228	-	28	-	-	-	53	28	-	2	117

Figure 14.10.4: Proportion of private households and main type of material used for the roofs of dwellings by province, Solomon Islands: 2019



Number of Rooms

According to the 2019 Census, the average number of rooms per dwelling in the Solomon Islands was 2.9 rooms (or rounded to 3 rooms) with a distribution of close to 3 to 4 rooms across provinces. Central and Temotu provinces had the lowest average at 2.6 rooms per dwelling while Rennell-Bellona had a relatively higher average of 3.8 rooms per dwelling (Table 14.10.8)

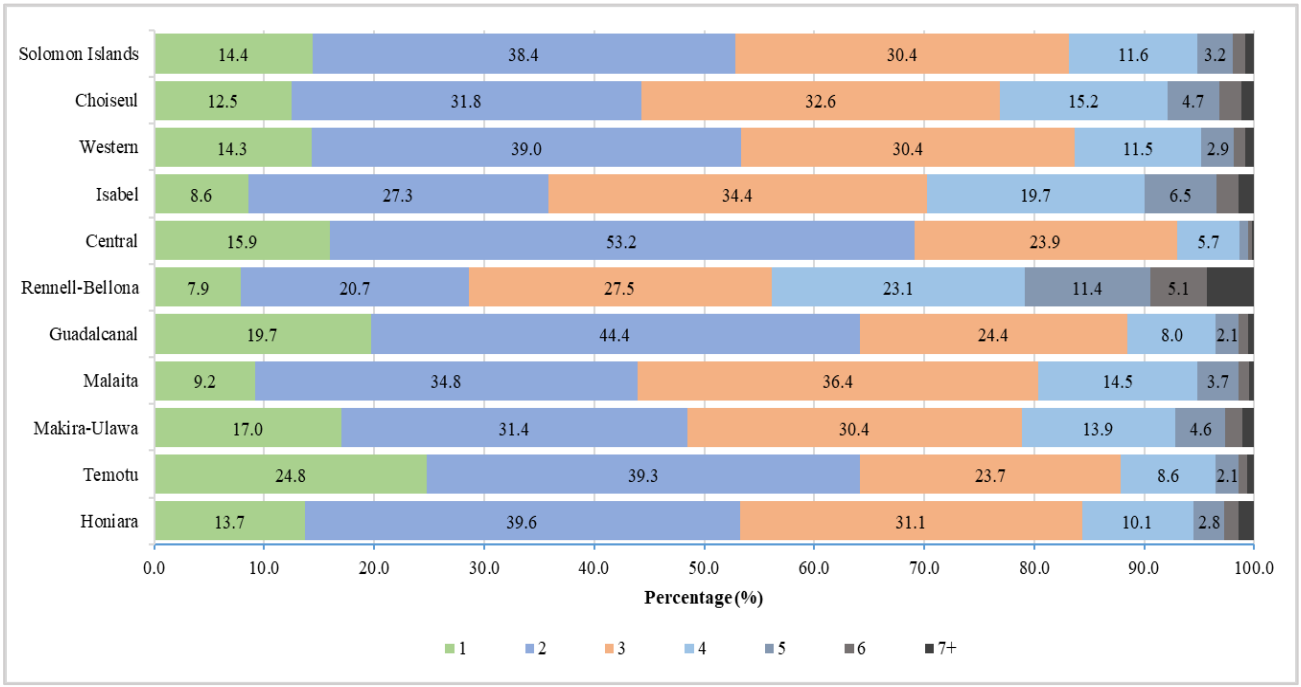
Table 14.10.8: Average number of rooms per dwelling by province, Solomon Islands: 2019

Solomon Islands	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell-Bellona	Guadalcanal	Malaita	Makira-Ulawa	Temotu	Honiara
2.9	3.2	2.9	3.4	2.6	3.8	2.7	3.2	3.1	2.6	2.9

Figure 14.10.5 showed the percentage distribution of households within provinces that resided in dwellings that had one to seven or more rooms. At the national level, the majority of households (38.4%) resided in dwellings that had two bedrooms, followed by dwellings with three bedrooms (30.4%). Only 14.4% of household dwellings had one bed room.

The majority of households within provinces that had two room dwellings included: Honiara, Temotu, Makira-Ulawa, Guadalcanal, Central and Western provinces. Provinces with the majority of households with three bedroom dwellings included: Malaita, Rennell-Bellona, Isabel and Choiseul provinces. Households in Temotu and Guadalcanal also had relatively small but significant proportion of households that had one bed room dwellings.

Figure 14.10.5: Proportion of private households and room size by province, Solomon Islands: 2019



14.11 Water source for drinking and hand washing

14.11.1 Introduction

Access to water, sanitation, electricity and other basic amenities by the population is critical for wellbeing and for the country's development. Improved drinking water sources have the potential to deliver safe water by nature of their design and construction, and include: piped water, boreholes or tube wells, protected dug wells, protected springs, rainwater, and packaged or delivered water.

Table 14.11.1 presented the distribution of households by main sources of drinking water. The data revealed that 103,014 (78.3%) households, representing the majority of all households, obtained their drinking water from improved drinking water sources such as water piped into the dwelling, protected spring or rainwater. This was an improvement from 69% of households reported in 2009. Improved water sources were predominant within both urban (90.6%) and rural areas (74.2%), with rainwater collection for drinking was prevalent in rural areas.

At the national level, rainwater was the primary source of drinking water for the majority (22%) of households, especially those in rural areas. However, across provinces, rainwater was the third prevalent source apart from piped water into the yard or water from public tap, especially for households in Malaita, Guadalcanal and Makira-Ulawa (Figure 14.11.1, Figure 14.11.2).

Metered piped water into the dwelling through SIWA was predominant amongst Honiara households comprising 73.8% of all households across provinces.

Table 14.11.1: Number of private households by main source of drinking water by province, Solomon Islands: 2019

Drinking water sources	Total	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell-Bellona	Guadalcanal	Malaita	Makira-Ulawa	Temotu	Honiara
Total	**131,566**	**5,520**	**17,531**	**6,250**	**5,872**	**720**	**28,746**	**32,332**	**9,057**	**4,699**	**20,839**
Improved water source	***103,014***	***4,707***	***14,163***	***5,684***	***4,813***	***672***	***18,651***	***24,720***	***6,720***	***3,525***	***19,359***
Piped into house	9,227	42	235	177	36	22	1,097	679	80	46	6,813
Piped to yard/plot outside house	26,301	561	1,048	2,643	539	2	4,628	7,479	2,022	428	6,951
Public tap/standpipe	25,393	1,035	2,002	1,260	1,636	11	4,513	9,017	3,082	951	1,886
Borehole	2,799	2	22	7	69	0	2,092	241	54	0	312
Protected dug well	2,135	9	25	18	108	5	1,432	178	28	85	247
Protected spring	6,256	212	521	165	249	12	1,713	2,539	265	49	531
Rainwater collection	29,253	2,835	10,206	1,403	2,172	607	2,818	4,439	1,170	1,964	1,639
Bottled water*	1,650	11	104	11	4	13	358	148	19	2	980
Unimproved water source	***28,552***	***813***	***3,368***	***566***	***1,059***	***48***	***10,095***	***7,612***	***2,337***	***1,174***	***1,480***
Unprotected dug well	2,553	28	138	7	93	0	1,550	199	68	297	173
Unprotected spring	14,292	302	929	254	499	3	5,725	5,206	754	472	148
Surface water	5,637	133	887	73	105	0	1,337	1,616	1,170	284	32
Tanker water	5,646	348	1,371	223	355	39	1,332	518	270	118	1,072
Other	424	2	43	9	7	6	151	73	75	3	55

Figure 14.11.1: Percentage of private households and main sources of drinking water by province, Solomon Islands: 2019

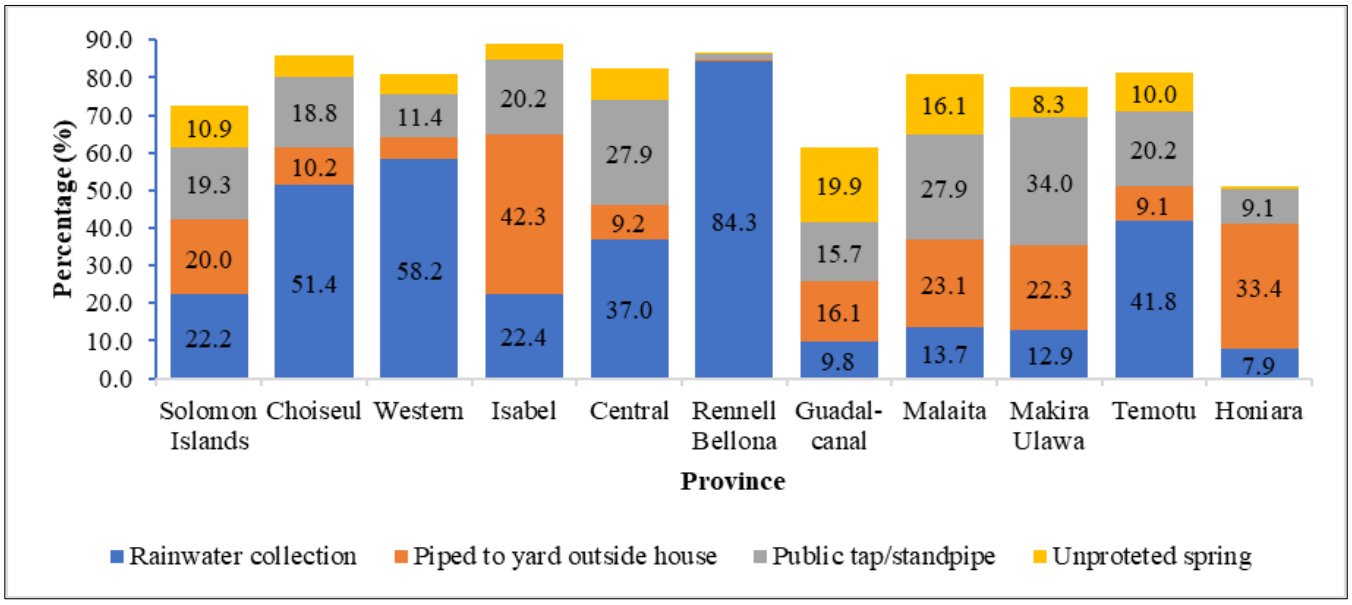


Figure 14.11.2: Percentage of private households and main sources of improved drinking water by urban-rural area, Solomon Islands: 2019

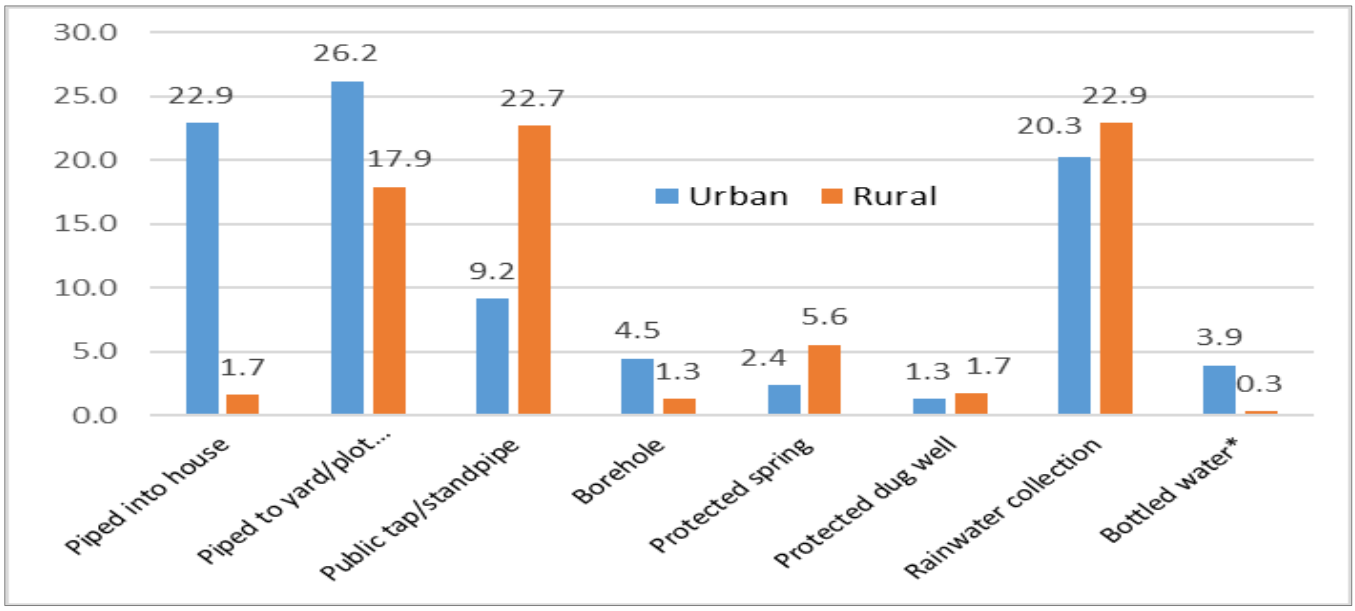


Table 14.11.2 shows the time households took to collect water from varying water sources, especially from outside the dwelling. Of all the households (79,327) that collected water, the majority (63.5%) took less than 10 minutes to fetch water (i.e, to travel to the water source and return). This is the same across all provinces, and in urban (71.2%) and rural (62.1%) areas.

Table 14.11.2: Number and percentage of private households that collected water and time (minutes) taken to collect water by province, Solomon Islands: 2019

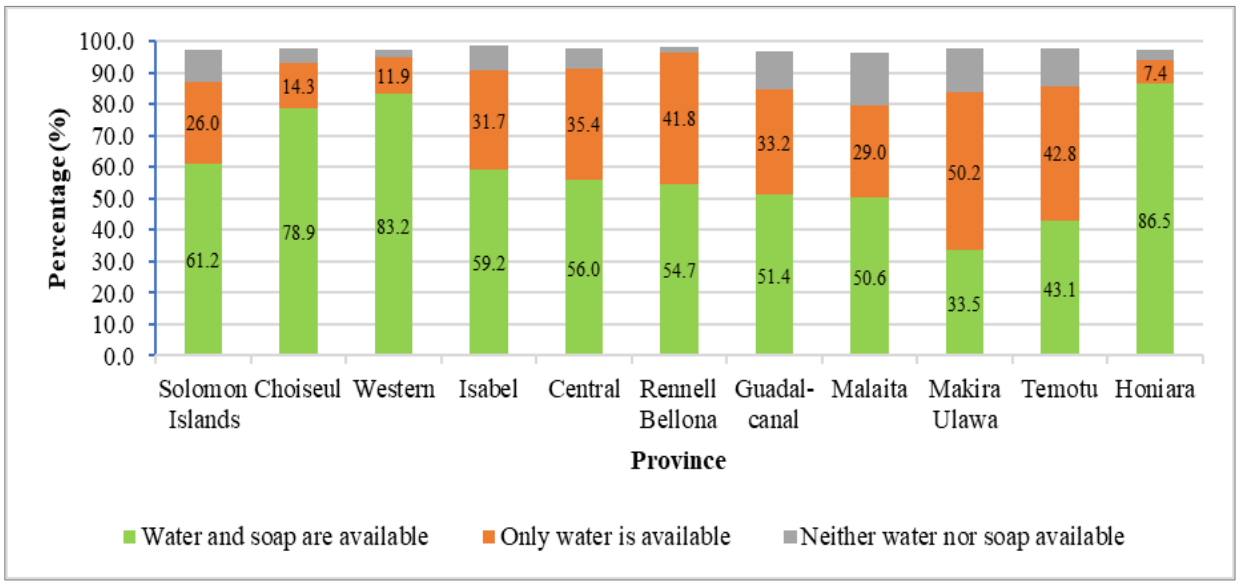
Time (Minutes)	Solomon Is.	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell-Bellona	Guadalcan	Malaita	Makira-Ulawa	Temotu	Honiara	Rural	Urban
Total	79,306	3,690	12,348	3,236	4,774	261	20,007	20,517	6,143	3,602	4,728	67,281	12,025
Less than 10	50,370	3,086	9,445	2,580	3,273	222	10,635	10,945	4,507	2,316	3,361	41,813	8,557
10 to 19	11,965	362	1,348	358	750	27	3,472	3,736	880	459	573	10,450	1,515
20 to 29	4,849	68	356	91	281	7	1,589	1,691	286	241	239	4,201	648
30 to 39	6,220	102	647	105	255	5	2,197	2,041	307	227	334	5,491	729
40 to 49	1,666	18	209	7	141	-	515	517	49	54	156	1,440	226
50 to 74	2,677	20	224	62	62	-	1,099	905	70	170	65	2,438	239
75 or more	1,558	34	119	33	12	-	499	682	44	135	-	1,447	111
Unknown	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Percent (%)													
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Less than 10	63.5	83.6	76.5	79.7	68.6	85.1	53.2	53.3	73.4	64.3	71.1	62.1	71.2
10 to 19	15.1	9.8	10.9	11.1	15.7	10.3	17.4	18.2	14.3	12.7	12.1	15.5	12.6
20 to 29	6.1	1.8	2.9	2.8	5.9	2.7	7.9	8.2	4.7	6.7	5.1	6.2	5.4
30 to 39	7.8	2.8	5.2	3.2	5.3	1.9	11.0	9.9	5.0	6.3	7.1	8.2	6.1
40 to 49	2.1	0.5	1.7	0.2	3.0	-	2.6	2.5	0.8	1.5	3.3	2.1	1.9
50 to 74	3.4	0.5	1.8	1.9	1.3	-	5.5	4.4	1.1	4.7	1.4	3.6	2.0
75 or more	2.0	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.3	-	2.5	3.3	0.7	3.7	-	2.2	0.9
Unknown	0.0	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	-	-	-	-	0.0	-

Table 14.11.2 revealed that it took relatively longer to collect water for a significant proportion of households especially in rural areas, and in Malaita and Guadalcanal – taking 10 to 19 minutes, and less than 40 minutes to fetch water. Malaita households comprised the majority of households that took between 50 to 74 minutes to fetch water.

Table 14.11.3: Number of private households and hand washing facility by province Solomon Islands: 2019

Hand Washing Facility	Solomon Islands	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell - Bellona	Guadal - canal	Malaita	Makira Ulawa	Temotu	Honiara
Total	**131,566**	**5,520**	**17,531**	**6,250**	**5,872**	**720**	**28,746**	**32,332**	**9,057**	**4,699**	**20,839**
Water and soap are available	80,544	4,357	14,589	3,701	3,291	394	14,767	16,363	3,031	2,026	18,025
Only water is available	34,258	787	2,092	1,982	2,078	301	9,550	9,370	4,550	2,010	1,538
Only soap is available	3,673	128	443	74	119	13	922	1,139	198	95	542
Neither water nor soap available	13,091	248	407	493	384	12	3,507	5,460	1,278	568	734

Figure 14.11.3: Percentage of private households and hand washing facility by province Solomon Islands: 2019



14.12 Main toilet facility

Modern toilet facilities refer to installations constructed to dispose of human excreta and therefore excludes naturally used facilities such as bushes, rivers, beaches or sea. In the 2019 Census and in the previous 2009 Census, the following types of (modern) toilets or improved sanitation facilities were distinguished:

- Flush to septic tank (an installation that has its own cleaning-water system, which washes away the waste), either private or shared with other households;
- Water sealed toilet (an installation where the toilet is cleaned after use by pouring water from a bucket), either private or shared with other households;
- Pit latrine either with slab or without slab, either private or shared with other households;
- Other improved facilities (any other type of toilet that does not fit any of the above descriptions).

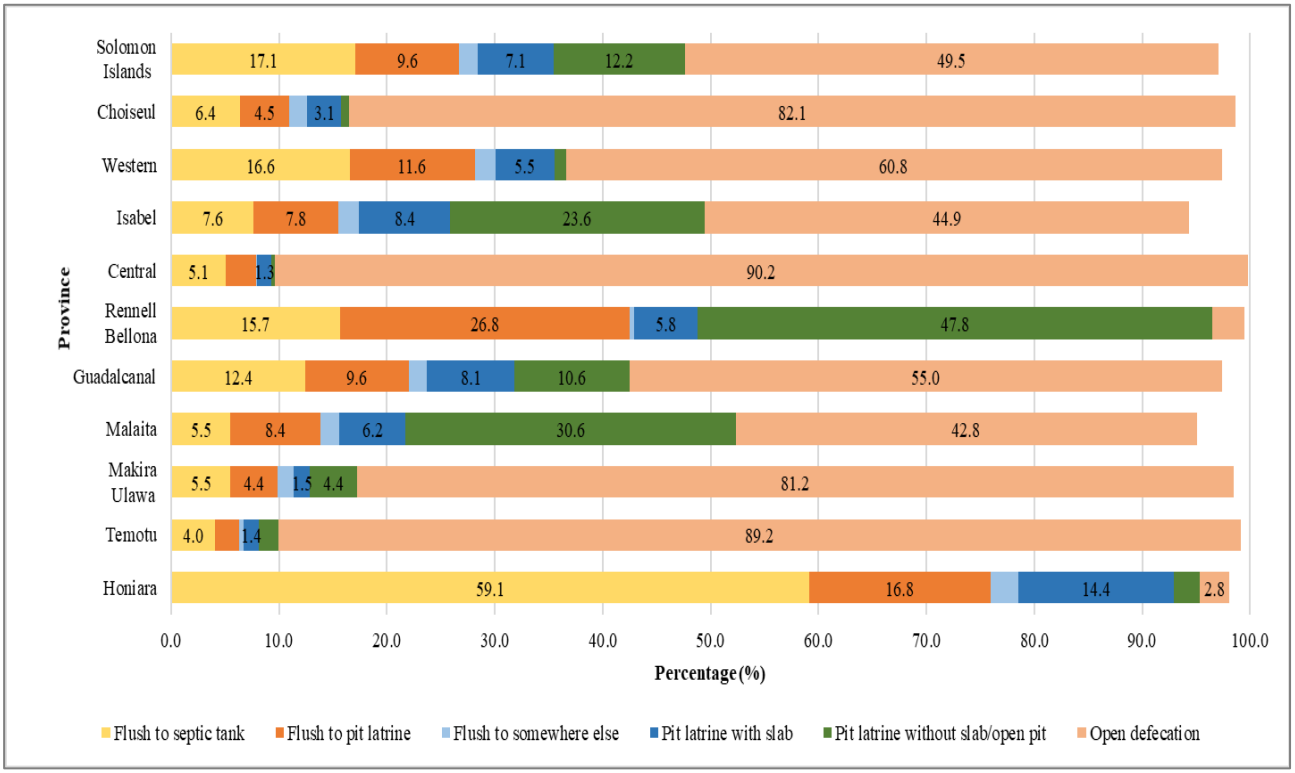
Over a third of all households (35%) usually used improved sanitation facilities such as toilets that comprised of flush-to-septic tank or pit latrine, or a pit latrine with slab (Table 14.12.1, Figure 14.12.1). This was a decline from 43% of households that usually used improved sanitation in 2009. In urban areas, 84% of all households compared to 19% of all households in rural areas usually used improved sanitation facilities. Honiara recorded more than half of all households (59%) that had access to flash toilet.

Close to half (49.5%) of all households had no access to a toilet facility – with open defecation being the primary facility used by these households.

Table 14.12.1: Number of private households by improved and unimproved sanitation facility by province, Solomon Islands: 2019

Toilet facilities	Province										
	Total	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell-Bellona	Guadal-canal	Malaita	Makira	Temotu	Honiara
Total	**131,566**	**5,520**	**17,531**	**6,250**	**5,872**	**720**	**28,746**	**32,332**	**9,057**	**4,699**	**20,839**
Improved Sanitation	***46,545***	***828***	***6,205***	***1,554***	***554***	***352***	***9,252***	***7,145***	***1,124***	***403***	***19,128***
Flush to septic tank	22,496	353	2,904	476	297	113	3,575	1,770	496	190	12,322
Flush to pit latrine	12,599	251	2,028	490	167	193	2,749	2,715	394	106	3,506
Pit latrine with slab	9,321	173	957	526	77	42	2,339	1,998	132	67	3,010
Ventilated improved pit latrine (VIP)	1,205	36	235	43	6	4	240	364	51	35	191
Composting toilet	924	15	81	19	7	0	349	298	51	5	99
Unimproved Sanitation	***85,021***	***4,692***	***11,326***	***4,696***	***5,318***	***368***	***19,494***	***25,187***	***7,933***	***4,296***	***1,711***
Flush to somewhere else	2,270	93	334	122	4	3	481	544	139	19	531
Pit latrine without slab/open pit	15,998	41	194	1,477	20	344	3,059	9,889	399	85	490
Hanging toilet	1,691	24	145	291	0	0	151	930	37	2	111
Open defecation	65,062	4,534	10,653	2,806	5,294	21	15,803	13,824	7,358	4,190	579

Figure 14.12.1: Percentage of households by main toilet facility by province, Solomon Islands: 2019



14.13 Means of waste disposal

During the 2019 Census, information was also collected on how households managed their rubbish disposal, especially in relation to seven different means of waste disposal: rubbish disposed through

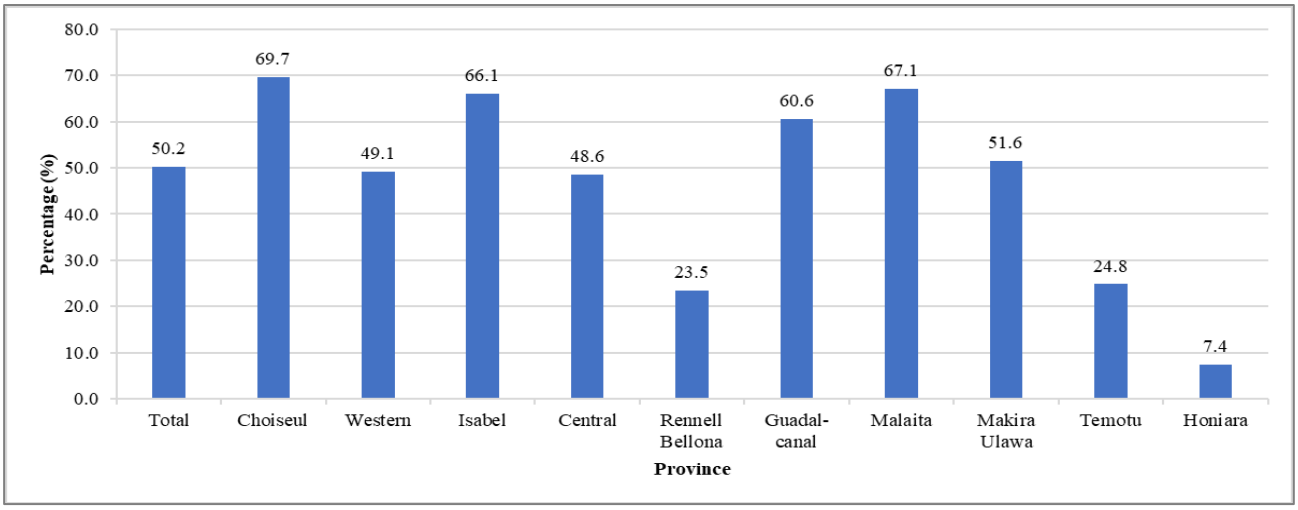
government waste collection services; rubbish taken to a central place for disposal; burying the rubbish; burning the rubbish; disposing rubbish through rivers/streams; disposing rubbish through the sea; disposing rubbish at the backyard; or others means of waste disposal.

In the Solomon Islands, half of all households (66,083) used their backyard as a means of waste disposal. This was followed by burning of waste (14.9%), disposing waste into the sea (11.3%), burying (6.2%), disposing waste in rivers/streams (4.5%), and using the government's waste collection services (9.9%). The government's waste collection service is mainly operational throughout the year in Honiara compared to other provinces - indicative of the majority (49.7%) of Honiara households that have used this means of disposal (Table 14.13.1).

Table 14.13.1: Number of private households and means of household rubbish/waste disposal by province, Solomon Islands: 2019

Rubbish Disposal	Solomon Islands	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell-Bellona	Guadal-canal	Malaita	Makira-Ulawa	Temotu	Honiara
Total	**131,566**	**5,520**	**17,531**	**6,250**	**5,872**	**720**	**28,746**	**32,332**	**9,057**	**4,699**	**20,839**
Government waste collection	13,061	96	1,407	107	116	-	652	62	175	90	10,356
Bury	9,434	324	1,807	526	146	57	2,363	1,813	573	470	1,355
Burn	19,652	190	2,655	352	512	493	5,833	2,624	885	1,585	4,523
River/ Stream	5,955	216	209	171	50	-	1,203	1,155	946	40	1,965
Sea	14,913	797	2,496	922	2,165	1	611	4,841	1,502	1,335	243
Backyard	66,083	3,848	8,605	4,131	2,852	169	17,409	21,699	4,671	1,165	1,534
Other	2,468	49	352	41	31	-	675	138	305	14	863

Figure 14.13.1: Proportion of private households using backyard for waste disposal by province, Solomon Islands: 2019



Similarly, at the provincial level, the majority of households within provinces disposed their waste in their backyards with the exceptions of Honiara, Rennell-Bellona and Temotu (Figure 14.13.1). Only

7.4% of the households in Honiara used this means of waste disposal while the majority of households in Rennell-Bellona (68.5%) and Temotu (33.7%) burnt their waste.

14.14 Lighting and Cooking

The 2019 Census obtained data on nine types of sources of energy for lighting that included the electricity-main grid, own generator, solar, gas, kerosene lamp, coleman lamp, wood/coconut, and other sources. In addition, data on the sources of energy for cooking were collected that included electricity - main grid, kerosene, wood/coconut shells, charcoal, gas, and other sources.

Table 14.14.1: Number of private households by main source of lighting by province, Solomon Islands: 2019

Souce of Lighting	Total	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell-Bellona	Guadal-canal	Malaita	Makira Ulawa	Temotu	Honiara	Rural	Urban
Total	**131,566**	**5,520**	**17,531**	**6,250**	**5,872**	**720**	**28,746**	**32,332**	**9,057**	**4,699**	**20,839**	**98,360**	**33206**
Electricity - main grid	20,175	383	2,265	387	218	69	2,292	1,132	294	154	12,981	3,465	16710
Own Generator	1,119	42	258	46	23	6	517	114	32	11	70	883	236
Solar	106,694	4,950	14,095	5,756	5,546	617	25,033	30,457	8,434	4,409	7,397	91,176	15518
Gas	197	4	23	13	7	-	58	29	7	3	53	108	89
Kerosene Lamp	647	15	159	11	17	-	118	119	18	10	180	393	254
Coleman lamp	225	19	56	5	4	1	45	52	10	6	27	172	53
Wood/coconut	443	2	20	1	7	-	159	162	57	22	13	417	26
Other	1,198	60	481	21	18	11	254	95	118	39	101	943	255
None	868	45	174	10	32	16	270	172	87	45	17	803	65
Percent (%)													
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	74.8	25.2
Electricity - main grid	15.3	6.9	12.9	6.2	3.7	9.6	8.0	3.5	3.2	3.3	62.3	17.2	82.8
Own Generator	0.9	0.8	1.5	0.7	0.4	0.8	1.8	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.3	78.9	21.1
Solar	81.1	89.7	80.4	92.1	94.4	85.7	87.1	94.2	93.1	93.8	35.5	85.5	14.5
Gas	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	54.8	45.2
Kerosene Lamp	0.5	0.3	0.9	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.9	60.7	39.3
Coleman lamp	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	76.4	23.6
Wood/coconut	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.1	94.1	5.9
Other	0.9	1.1	2.7	0.3	0.3	1.5	0.9	0.3	1.3	0.8	0.5	78.7	21.3
None	0.7	0.8	1.0	0.2	0.5	2.2	0.9	0.5	1.0	1.0	0.1	92.5	7.5

At the national level, about 4 in every 5 households (81.1%) in the country got their lighting from solar power, with the majority (86%) of these households residing in rural areas. Solar energy has taken over from main sources of lighting such as kerosene lamps. At the provincial level, more than 9 out of the 10 households in Choiseul, Isabel, Central, Malaita, Makira, and Temotu used solar panels. Honiara was the only province with the least number of households - with 1 in 3 households that had lighting powered by solar against the majority (62.3%) preferring the electricity-main grid (Table 14.14.1, Figure 14.14.1).

Figure 14.14.1: Proportion of private households with solar power as source of lighting by province, Solomon Islands: 2019

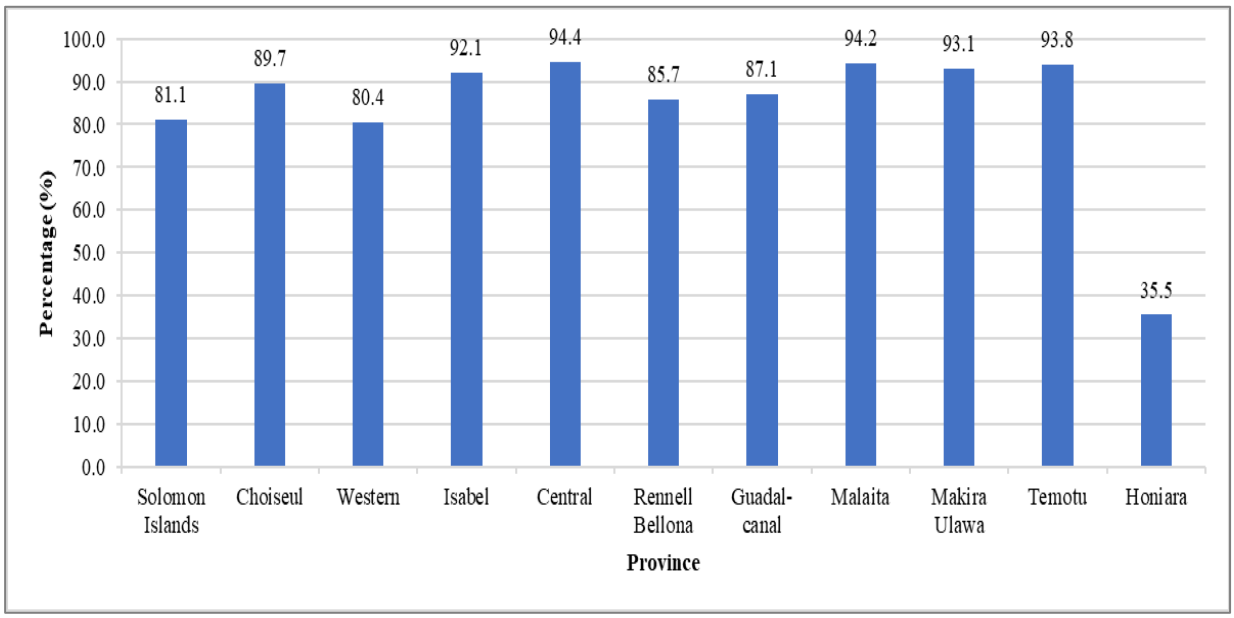
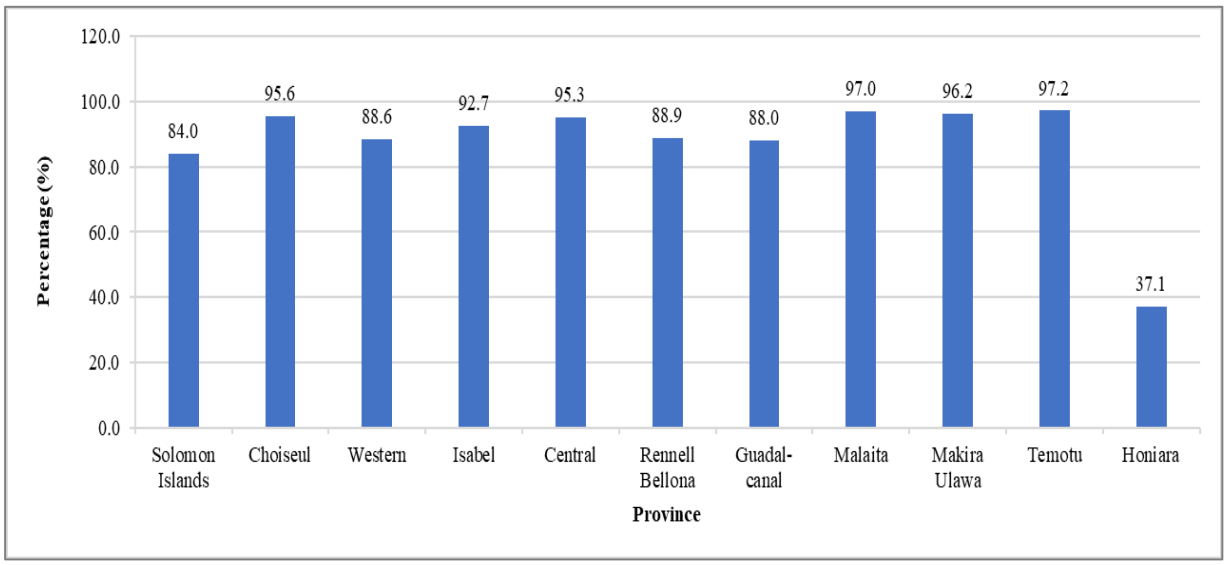


Table 14.14.2: Number of private households by main source of energy for cooking by province, Solomon Islands: 2019

Souce of Cooking	Total	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell-Bellona	Guadal-canal	Malaita	Makira Ulawa	Temotu	Honiara	Rural	Urban
Total	**131,499**	**5,520**	**17,519**	**6,245**	**5,871**	**720**	**28,738**	**32,320**	**9,053**	**4,696**	**20,817**	**98,321**	**33,178**
Electricity -main grid	1,793	17	206	25	16	5	275	93	45	22	1,089	454	1,339
Kerosene	409	22	83	31	3	-	86	49	16	1	118	239	170
Wood Coconut shells	110,504	5,277	15,533	5,794	5,597	640	25,297	31,355	8,710	4,567	7,734	94,315	16,189
Charcoal	795	8	164	94	2	-	218	27	74	15	193	512	283
Gas	17,698	181	1,512	294	250	65	2,807	680	202	86	11,621	2,605	15,093
Other	300	15	21	7	3	10	55	116	6	5	62	196	104
Percent (%)													
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	74.8	25.2
Electricity -main grid	1.4	0.3	1.2	0.4	0.3	0.7	1.0	0.3	0.5	0.5	5.2	25.3	74.7
Kerosene	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.6	58.4	41.6
Wood Coconut shells	84.0	95.6	88.7	92.8	95.3	88.9	88.0	97.0	96.2	97.3	37.2	85.3	14.7
Charcoal	0.6	0.1	0.9	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.1	0.8	0.3	0.9	64.4	35.6
Gas	13.5	3.3	8.6	4.7	4.3	9.0	9.8	2.1	2.2	1.8	55.8	14.7	85.3
Other	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.4	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.3	65.3	34.7

As shown in Table 14.14.2, the main source of energy for cooking for the majority (84%) of households was wood and coconut shells. While this dropped from 93% as recorded in 2009, it remained the predominant source for cooking for all provinces excluding Honiara – and amongst rural households (85%). The second most preferred source of energy for cooking was gas, comprising of 13% of all households - a drop from 37% of households reported in 2009. Of those households that used gas for cooking, Honiara dominated with 66% of households - as well as comprising of over half (55.8%) its households using gas.

Figure 14.14.2: Percent of private households using wood/coconuts for cooking by province, Solomon Islands: 2019



14.15 Amenities and capital goods

This section briefly summarizes the availability of a variety of household items and appliances. The different sections include a summary analysis of the number and types of items by place of residence.

14.15.1 Means of communication

Means of communications include the availability and use of land line telephones, mobile phones, and internet connections. A relatively low number, 618 or 0.5% of all households in the Solomon Islands had a landline phone available (Table 14.15.1). This was mainly found amongst Honiara households who comprised over half (385) of all households that had an available landline phone.

The number of households with available landline phones declined significantly from 2% of households reported in the 2009 Census. This indicated a major shift in household behavior, mainly towards the use of mobile phones – reflecting about 45% of all households in Solomon Islands that now used mobile phones more commonly than landline phones - an increase from 21% of households recorded in 2009.

Table 14.15.1: Number of private households and means of communication durables by province, Solomon Islands: 2019

Means of Communication	Province										
	Total	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell-Bellona	Guadal canal	Malaita	Makira-Ulawa	Temotu	Honiara
Landline phones											
Total	131,566	5,520	17,531	6,250	5,872	720	28,746	32,332	9,057	4,699	20,839
With	618	12	74	14	14	2	64	40	9	4	385
Without	130,948	5,508	17,457	6,236	5,858	718	28,682	32,292	9,048	4,695	20,454
Internet											
Total	131,566	5,520	17,531	6,250	5,872	720	28,746	32,332	9,057	4,699	20,839
With	1,971	21	348	19	21	1	357	300	24	12	868
Without	129,595	5,499	17,183	6,231	5,851	719	28,389	32,032	9,033	4,687	19,971
Cell phones											
Total	131,566	5,520	17,531	6,250	5,872	720	28,746	32,332	9,057	4,699	20,839
With	58,733	2,578	8,980	3,193	1,767	162	10,756	12,636	2,807	1,779	14,075
Without	72,833	2,942	8,551	3,057	4,105	558	17,990	19,696	6,250	2,920	6,764
Radio											
Total	131,566	5,520	17,531	6,250	5,872	720	28,746	32,332	9,057	4,699	20,839
With	31,388	907	2,797	1,120	1,260	104	7,456	7,892	1,592	423	7,837
Without	100,178	4,613	14,734	5,130	4,612	616	21,290	24,440	7,465	4,276	13,002

An increase of households with an internet connection was revealed in the 2019 Census (Table 14.15.1). In total, there were 1,971 (2%) households with internet connection compared to 541 (less than 1%) of households in 2009 Census. Of the households with internet connection, 868 (44%) were located in Honiara, and 357 (18.1%) in the Guadalcanal province. Rennell-Bellona and Temotu province recorded the least number of households with an internet connection.

The use of radios amongst households showed a significant decline from 24% (31,388 households) in 2019 Census compared to 44% of households in 2009. This reflected a shift in household behavior towards other choices and modes of communication including use of mobile phones and internet.

The total count of entertainment/communication appliances available in the Solomon Islands comparing 2009 and 2019 censuses are listed in Table 14.15.2. The entertainment and communication items include TV, computer, Radio, Mobile/Cell phone, and HF Radio.

The majority of appliances amongst households was highest in Honiara that recorded 8,832 (68.6%) of all TV appliances, 15,306 (61.3%) of all computer appliances, 46,175 (35.5%) of all mobile phones and 821 (32.1%) of HF Radios. These figures were much lower in all the other provinces.

Table 14.15.2: Number of entertainment/communications appliances by province, Solomon Islands: 2009 and 2019

Province	2009					2019				
	TV	Computer	Radio	Mobile phone	HF radio	TV	Computer	Radio	Mobile phone	HF radio
Solomon Islands	**11,455**	**4,183**	**43,626**	**33,521**	**1,298**	**12,868**	**24,961**	**32,606**	**129,908**	**2,557**
Choiseul	380	58	2,253	426	85	97	471	921	4,821	74
Western	2,431	461	5,999	4,696	267	1,103	1,956	3,022	18,011	435
Isabel	386	45	3,254	1,269	41	119	529	1,200	5,667	138
Central	341	43	2,211	543	22	87	326	1,290	2,952	61
Rennell-Bellona	29	27	283	204	27	21	106	104	356	8
Guadalcanal	1,285	370	8,159	5,320	100	1,612	3,985	7,725	22,726	326
Malaita	1,313	239	11,852	3,694	172	846	1,406	8,108	21,168	473
Makira-Ulawa	79	62	2,617	815	115	95	648	1,623	4,945	119
Temotu	87	31	858	850	33	56	228	428	3,087	102
Honiara	5,124	2,847	6,140	15,704	436	8,832	15,306	8,185	46,175	821

Table 14.15.3: Number and percent change of entertainment/communications appliances by province, Solomon Islands: 2009 and 2019

Province	2009-2019 Numerical Change					2009-2019 Percent Change				
	TV	Computer	Radio	Mobile phone	HF radio	TV	Computer	Radio	Mobile phone	HF radio
Solomon Islands	1,413	20,778	-11,020	96,387	1,259	12.3	496.7	-25.3	287.5	97
Choiseul	-283	413	-1,332	4,395	-11	-74.5	712.1	-59.1	1,031.70	-12.9
Western	-1,328	1,495	-2,977	13,315	168	-54.6	324.3	-49.6	283.5	62.9
Isabel	-267	484	-2,054	4,398	97	-69.2	1,075.60	-63.1	346.6	236.6
Central	-254	283	-921	2,409	39	-74.5	658.1	-41.7	443.6	177.3
Rennell-Bellona	-8	79	-179	152	-19	-27.6	292.6	-63.3	74.5	-70.4
Guadalcanal	327	3,615	-434	17,406	226	25.4	977	-5.3	327.2	226
Malaita	-467	1,167	-3,744	17,474	301	-35.6	488.3	-31.6	473	175
Makira-Ulawa	16	586	-994	4,130	4	20.3	945.2	-38	506.7	3.5
Temotu	-31	197	-430	2,237	69	-35.6	635.5	-50.1	263.2	209.1
Honiara	3,708	12,459	2,045	30,471	385	72.4	437.6	33.3	194	88.3

Table 14.15.3 showed that during the intercensal period from 2009-2019, TVs and radios declined sharply amongst the majority of provinces while computers and mobile phones increased significantly.

At the provincial level, only a minority of provinces such as Guadalcanal, Makira, and Honiara had more television appliances in 2019 than in 2009. This reflected a shift in household behavior among the majority of provinces towards other entertainment and communication appliances such as computers and mobile/cell phones.

With the increased number of computers (20,778) in 2019, six times the number in 2009, Honiara accounted for the most computers in absolute terms, increasing from 2,800 in 2009 to 15,300 in 2019 - a massive increase of 438%. Similarly, with the rise in mobile phones, Honiara had the biggest increase in absolute numbers, from about 16,000 mobile phones in 2009 to about 46,000 in 2019, followed by Guadalcanal from 5,000 to 23,000 mobile phones and Malaita from 4,000 to 21,000

mobile phones. The number of mobile phones in Rennell-Bellona only increased from 204 to 356 but this was still an increase of over 50 percent.

Except for Honiara, all of the provinces had fewer radios in 2019 compared to 2009. Honiara increased from about 6,000 radios to more than 8,000 radios while Malaita saw the biggest decline, from about 12,000 radios in 2009 to 8,000 in 2019.

14.16 Household utility appliances

The 2019 Census also captured data on household ownership of major utility appliances and assets in working condition, such as fridge/freezer and generators.

An estimate of 11,670 fridges/freezers and 9,891 generators were counted during the census - an increase of 84% and 51% respectively since 2009 (Table 14.16.1). While the vast majority of fridge/freezers were located amongst Honiara households (7,822), generators were more common in Guadalcanal (2,329) - with an increase of generators in Guadalcanal by 68.2% since 2009. Increases in the number of generators were also reported in Malaita and Honiara, and although Rennell-Bellona recorded the least increase in absolute terms, the percentage increase (147%) was relatively high amongst other provinces.

Table 14.16.1: Number of household utility appliances by province, Solomon Islands: 2009 and 2019

Province	2009		2019		Numerical Change		Percent Change	
	Fridge/ Freezer	Generator	Fridge/ Freezer	Generator	Fridge/ Freezer	Generator	Fridge/ Freezer	Generator
Total	**6,346**	**6,541**	**11,670**	**9,891**	**5,324**	**3,350**	**83.9**	**51.2**
Choiseul	45	510	183	633	138	123	306.7	24.1
Western	884	1,979	1,156	1,951	272	-28	30.8	-1.4
Isabel	133	453	306	782	173	329	130.1	72.6
Central	99	397	139	460	40	63	40.4	15.9
Rennell-Bellona	8	45	75	111	67	66	837.5	146.7
Guadalcanal	523	1,385	1,162	2,329	639	944	122.2	68.2
Malaita	347	851	569	1,658	222	807	64.0	94.8
Makira-Ulawa	90	243	181	412	91	169	101.1	69.5
Temotu	70	97	77	186	7	89	10.0	91.8
Honiara	4,147	581	7,822	1,369	3,675	788	88.6	135.6

14.17 Means of transportation

Means of transportation is important in enabling affordable access to services in and around the Solomon Islands. According to Table 14.17.1, the number of transport related assets or items that

enabled various means of transportation vary amongst provinces especially between Guadalcanal and Honiara, and the rest of the provinces due to various socio-economic, geographical factors and varying modes (land, sea, air) of transportation. For instance, car/buses, motorbikes and trucks were major means of transportation for Honiara and Guadalcanal households, with Malaita households also dominating with motorbikes and trucks, compared to the other provinces.

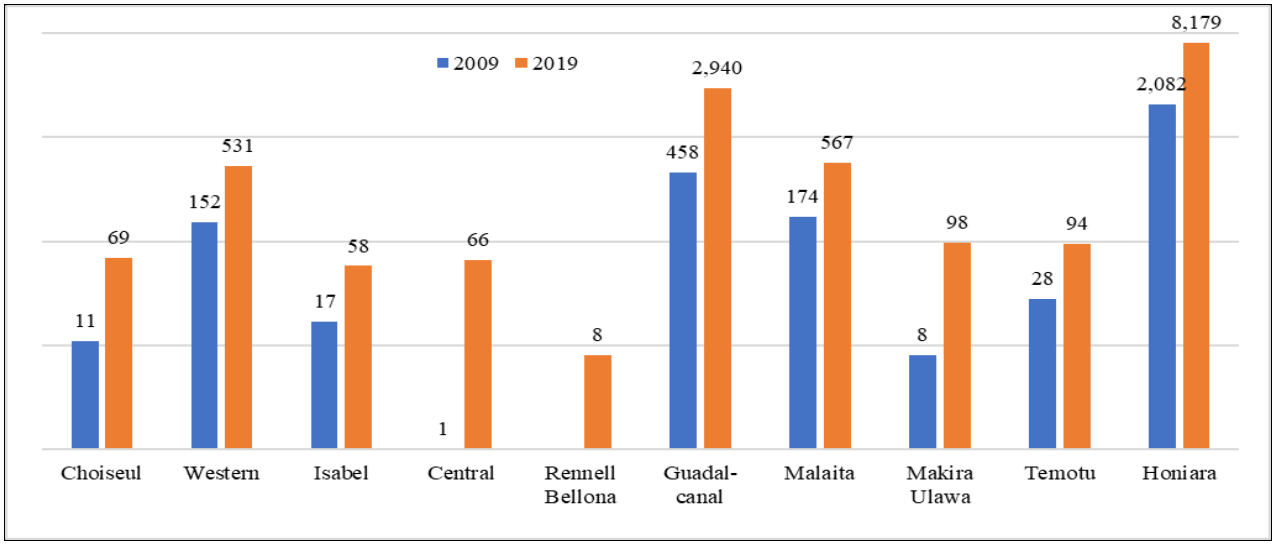
Honiara households accounted for the majority of all car/busses (65%), motorbikes (31%) and trucks (40%), followed by Guadalcanal, especially with car/buss (23%) and trucks (24%). Although all other provinces lacked in cars/busses, motorbikes and trucks, they dominated in other means of transportation - Malaita dominates in canoes (27%) followed by closely Western (26%); with Western province households that comprised of the majority of all other means of transportation such as OBM/Canoe (31%), OBM engine (33%) and boat/ship (27%).

Table 14.17.1: Number of transport assets by place of residence, Solomon Islands: 2019

Province	Items						
	Car or Bus	Motorbikes	Trucks	Canoes	OBM Canoe	OBM engine	Boat or Ship
SOLOMON ISLANDS	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Choiseul	0.5	6.0	1.3	8.0	8.4	8.8	3.3
Western	4.2	12.7	10.1	26.2	31.1	32.8	27.0
Isabel	0.5	3.5	2.2	8.4	10.8	11.5	11.9
Central	0.5	4.6	1.2	9.9	7.6	7.1	4.6
Rennell-Bellona	0.1	3.1	2.1	0.1	0.8	1.0	0.2
Guadalcanal	23.3	13.2	23.9	9.0	7.8	8.8	8.9
Malaita	4.5	20.3	16.2	27.2	21.8	18.2	16.0
Makira-Ulawa	0.8	1.4	2.2	6.7	4.8	3.8	3.1
Temotu	0.7	4.3	1.2	4.1	3.2	3.2	1.0
Honiara	64.9	30.9	39.5	0.5	3.8	4.8	24.0

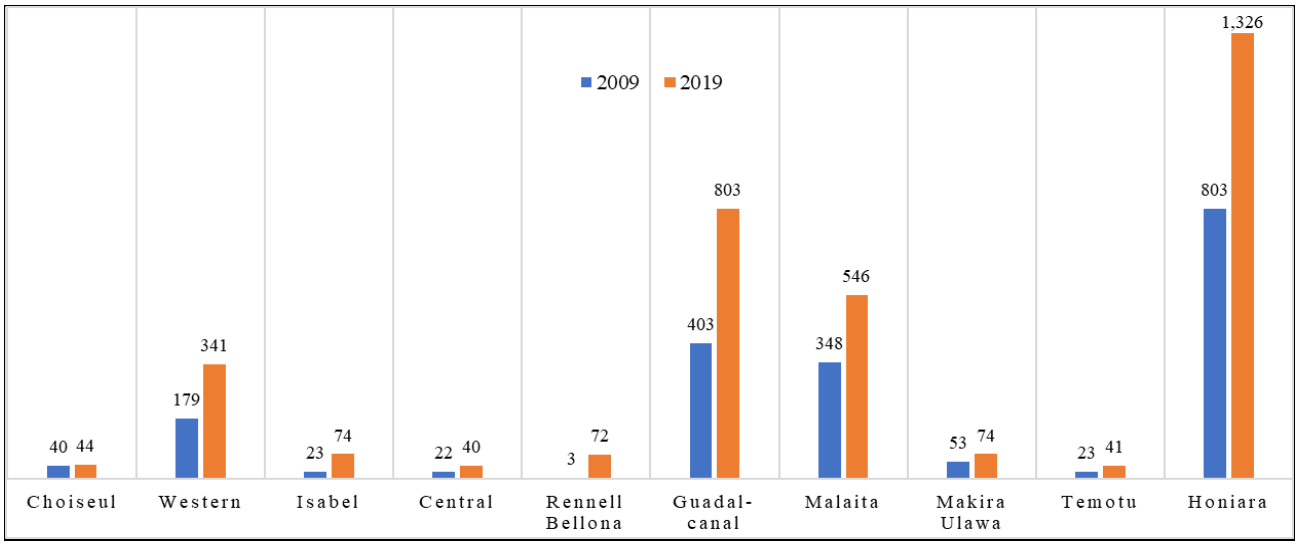
Across provinces, cars or busses in 2009 saw an increase in 2019. Rennell-Bellona had no cars reported during enumeration in 2009 while Central had only one reported car, and this could be due to lack of adequate responses from households in releasing information about private assets. Honiara saw the biggest increase in numbers, from about 2,000 in 2009 to about 8,000 in 2019, followed by Guadalcanal from about 500 cars to almost 3,000 cars during the decade. The numbers in some of the provinces remained relatively small (Figure 14.17.1).

Figure 14.17.1: Numbers of cars/busses by province, Solomon Islands: 2009 and 2019



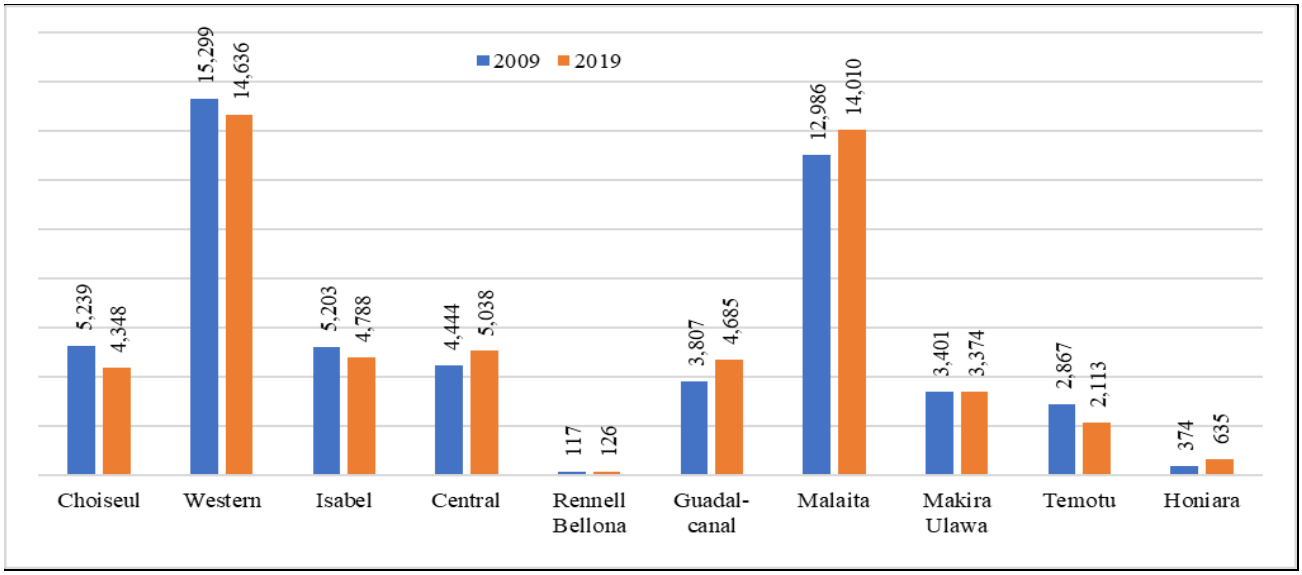
According to Figure 14.17.2, Honiara had the majority of trucks that increased from 800 in 2009 to 1,300 in 2019, followed by Guadalcanal and Malaita. Guadalcanal doubled its number of trucks from 400 to 800 by 2019 while Malaita increased its trucking fleet by 58% since 2009.

Figure 14.17.2: Number of trucks by province, Solomon Islands: 2009 and 2019



Only two provinces had more than 10,000 canoes in 2009 and 2019 – Western and Malaita. The numbers decreased during the decade for some of the provinces, and increased for others, but most of the changes were relatively small. The numbers in Rennell-Bellona went from 117 in 2009 to 126 in 2019, the lowest amongst all provinces (Figure 14.17.3).

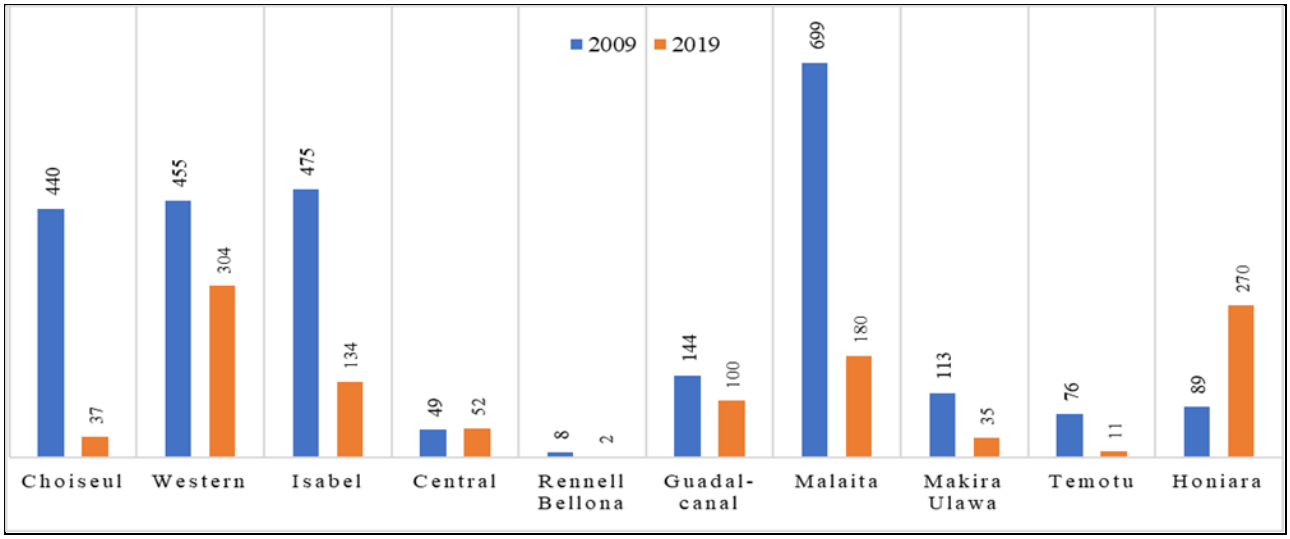
Figure 14.17.3: Number of canoes by province, Solomon Islands: 2009 and 2019



** Canoes comprised of both dugout canoes and OBM designed canoes*

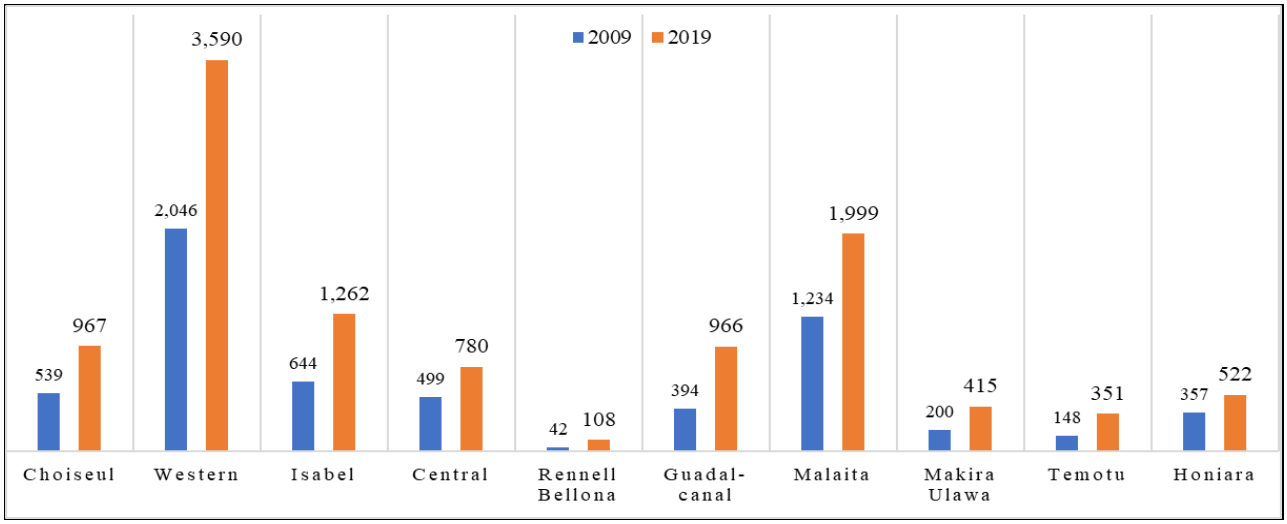
During 2009-2019, the number of boats declined significantly across all provinces except for Honiara. Malaita had about 700 boats in 2009 but only 180 in 2019. Choiseul, Western, and Isabel all showed significant decreases. However, the number of boats in Honiara tripled from 89 to 270 (Figure 14.17.4).

Figure 14.17.4: Number of boats by province, Solomon Islands: 2009 and 2019



While the number of boats decreased between 2009 and 2019, the number of outboard motors increased in all provinces. Western saw the biggest increase, from about 2,000 OBMs in 2009 to about 3,600 in 2019, an increase of 75%. Malaita also saw a significant rise as with Isabel (Figure 14.17.5).

Figure 14.17.5: Number of OBMs by province, Solomon Islands: 2009 and 2019



14.18 Bed-nets

Although the census question on bed nets was specifically aimed at recording insecticide treated bed-nets, it appeared that certain household respondents were unclear about whether or not their bed-nets were actually insecticide treated. Hence, the collected information presented should be used with caution.

The majority of households in the Solomon Islands had at least one insecticide treated bed-net (83.9%). In total, 429,898 bed-nets were counted in the 2019 Census compared to 210,657 in 2009 Census. The top three provinces with highest bed-net counts were Malaita (27.5%), Western (14.7% and Honiara with 11.1% (Table 14.18.1 and Figure 14.18.1).

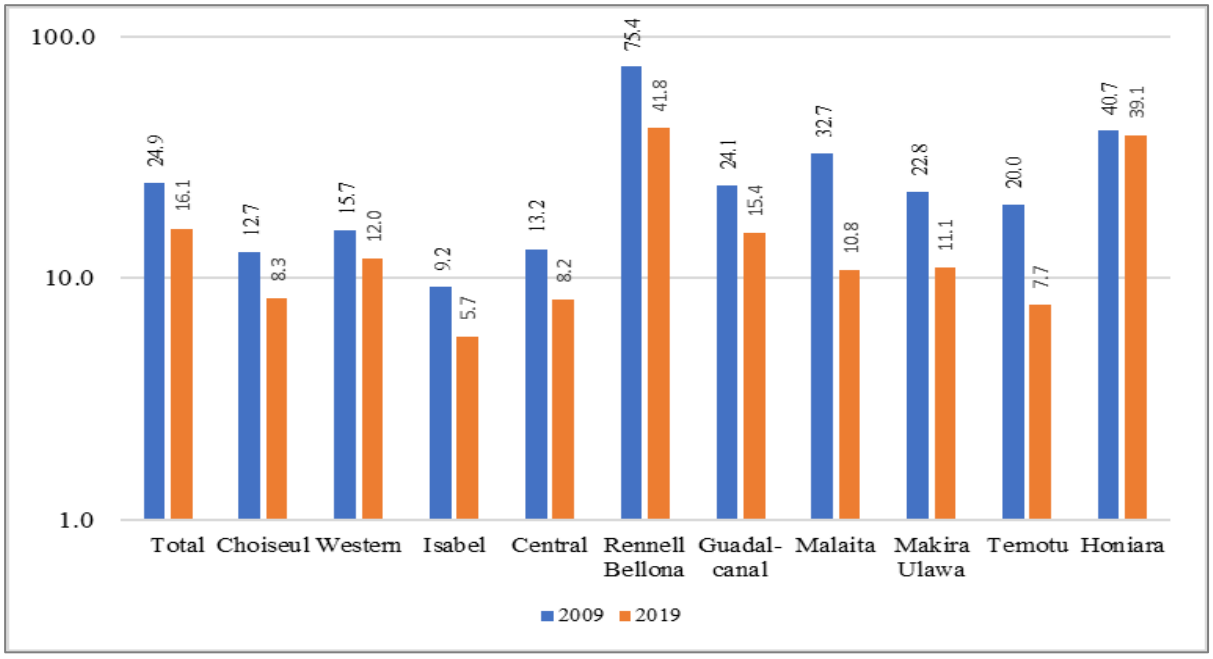
Households with no insecticides bed-nets showed a slight decrease of 6.7% since 2009 Census. Within respective provinces, Rennell-Bellona reported a significant percent of its households (41.8%) with no bed-nets as well as Honiara (39.1%). Only 5.7 percent of the households in Isabel did not have bed-nets.

The average number of bed-nets per household was 2.3 in 2009 and increased to 3.3 in 2019. Every province saw an increase in the average number of bed-nets per households.

Table 14.18.1: Number of private households by place of residence and availability of bed nets, Solomon Islands: 2009 and 2019

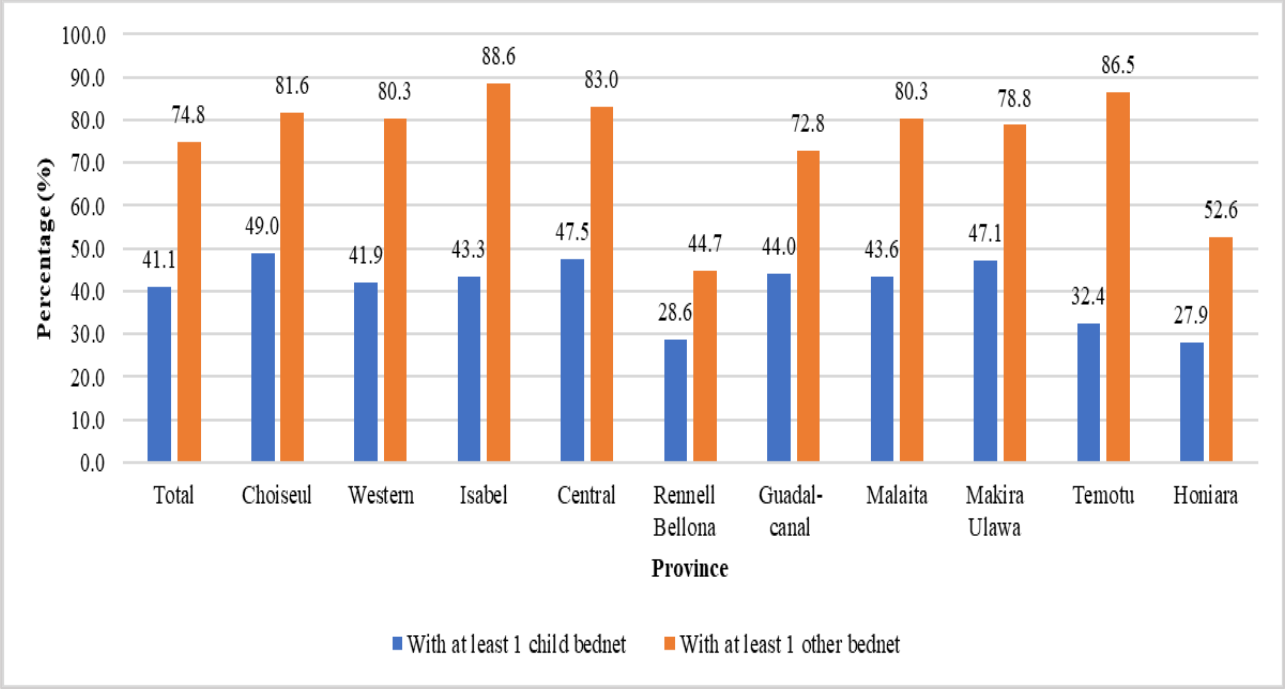
Province	2009						2019					
	Households with/without bednets			Percent (%)	Number of	Bednets	Households with/without bednets			Percent (%)	Number of	Bednets
	Total	Yes	No	No Bednets	bednets	per HH	Total	Yes	No	No Bednets	bednets	per HH
Total	**91,251**	**68,567**	**22,684**	**24.9**	**210,657**	**2.3**	**131,566**	**110,441**	**21,125**	**16.1**	**429,898**	**3.3**
Choiseul	4,712	4,112	600	**12.7**	13,126	**2.8**	5,520	5,064	456	**8.3**	19,691	**3.6**
Western	13,762	11,601	2,161	**15.7**	37,809	**2.7**	17,531	15,427	2,104	**12**	63,261	**3.6**
Isabel	5,143	4,670	473	**9.2**	16,093	**3.1**	6,250	5,892	358	**5.7**	23,348	**3.7**
Central	4,905	4,258	647	**13.2**	14,056	**2.9**	5,872	5,392	480	**8.2**	21,060	**3.6**
Rennell-Bellona	688	169	519	**75.4**	276	**0.4**	720	419	301	**41.8**	1,097	**1.5**
Guadacanal	17,163	13,025	4,138	**24.1**	35,747	**2.1**	28,746	24,319	4,427	**15.4**	87,102	**3**
Malaita	24,421	16,426	7,995	**32.7**	48,265	**2**	32,332	28,849	3,483	**10.8**	118,379	**3.7**
Makira-Ulawa	7,173	5,541	1,632	**22.8**	17,575	**2.5**	9,057	8,054	1,003	**11.1**	31,603	**3.5**
Temotu	4,303	3,441	862	**20**	11,447	**2.7**	4,699	4,336	363	**7.7**	16,568	**3.5**
Honiara	8,981	5,324	3,657	**40.7**	16,263	**1.8**	20,839	12,689	8,150	**39.1**	47,789	**2.3**

Figure 14.18.1: Percentage of private households without bed nets by Province, Solomon Islands: 2009 and 2019



About 2 in every 5 households had at least one child bed net with Rennell-Bellona and Honiara having relatively lower proportions of 28.6% and 27.9%, respectively. Moreover, close to 4 in very 5 households reported at least one other bed-net.

Figure 14.18.2: Percentage of Child and Other Bed-Nets by Province, Solomon Islands: 2019



14.19 Hazards

Occurrences of hazards (e.g., cyclones, earthquakes, floods etc.) in the Solomon Islands continue to have adverse effects on livelihoods and communities. In the 2019 Census, specific data was captured on whether households experienced exposure to various types and frequency of hazards, and whether households had hazard recovery plans. These hazard questions were not captured in previous censuses.

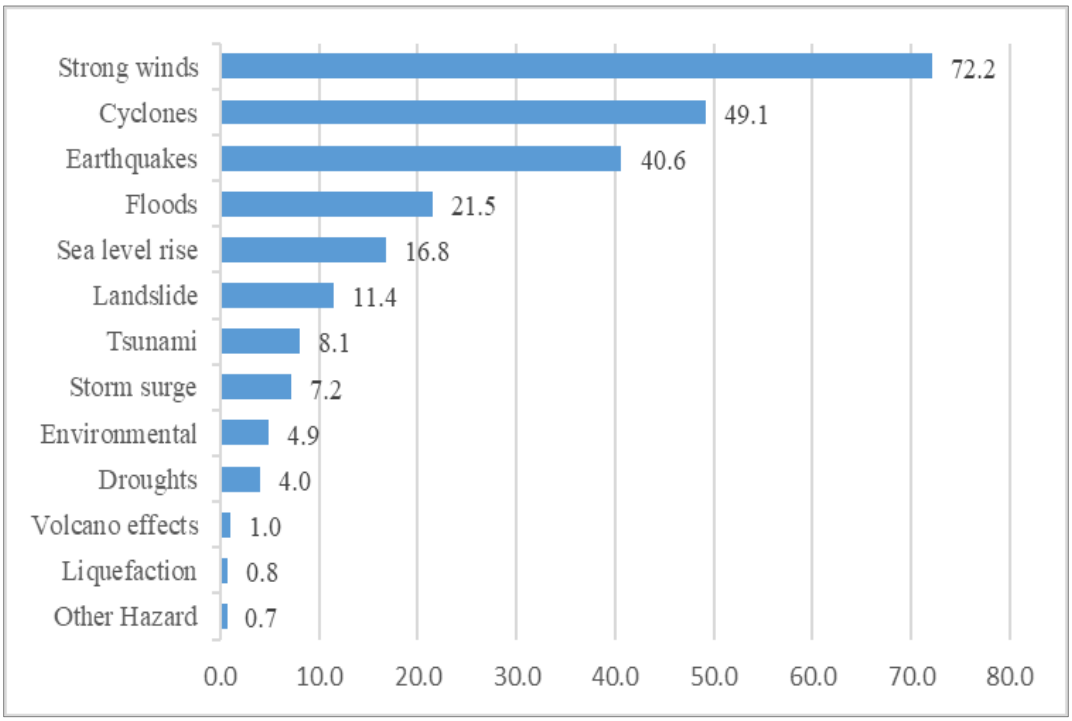
In the Solomon Islands, nearly all households (91.8%) were exposed to a hazard(s). This was more prevalent in rural areas (77.6%) in contract to urban areas where more households (56.4%) did not experience a hazard(s) (Table 14.19.1).

Table 14.19.1: Number and percentage of private households and status of being exposed to hazards by urban-rural areas, Solomon Islands 2019.

Status of whether Hhold Exposed to Hazards	Number				Percent (%)		
	Solomon Is.	%	Urban	Rural	Solomon Is.	Urban	Rural
All Households	131,566	*100.0*	33,206	98,360	100.0	25.2	74.8
Households -Hazard (Yes)	120,734	*91.8*	27,095	93,639	100.0	22.4	77.6
Households -Hazard (No)	10,832	*8.2*	6,111	4,721	100.0	56.4	43.6

The majority of households in the country reported that their locations and livelihoods were mostly vulnerable to strong wings (72.2%), followed by cyclones (49.1%), earthquakes (40.6%) and floods (21.5%) (Figure 14.19.1). A smaller proportion of households (below 10%) were affected by hazards such as droughts, tsunamis, and volcanic effects, amongst others.

Figure 14.19.1: Proportion of private households by type of hazards (multiple responses), Solomon Islands 2019.



With regard to the frequency of occurrence of hazards, more than half of all households (54.4%) in Solomon Islands were exposed to hazards (irrespective of type of hazard) more frequently (every year) while a third of all households were exposed to hazards less frequently (every two to five years) (Figure 14.19.2).

In terms of the type of hazard with the most frequent (annual) happenings, liquefaction (76.6%) was the most common hazard that households were exposed to, followed by sea level rise (69.5%), storm surge (69.3%) and environmental (67.8%).

Figure 14.19.2: Proportion of private households and frequency of types of hazard, Solomon Islands: 2019

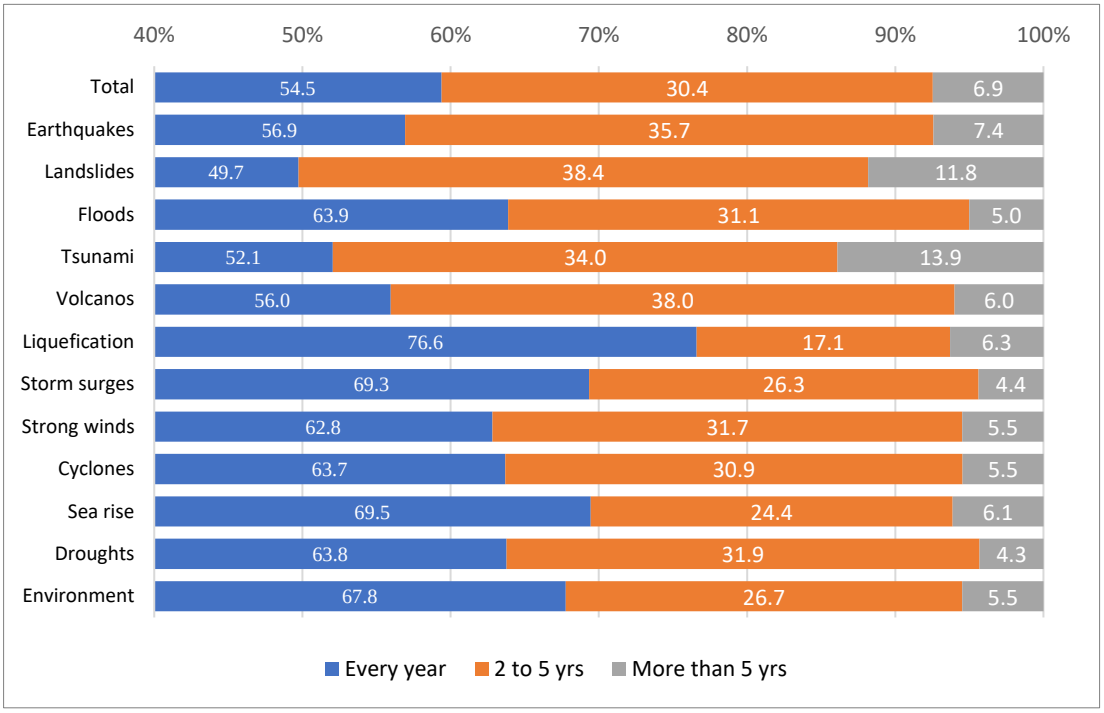
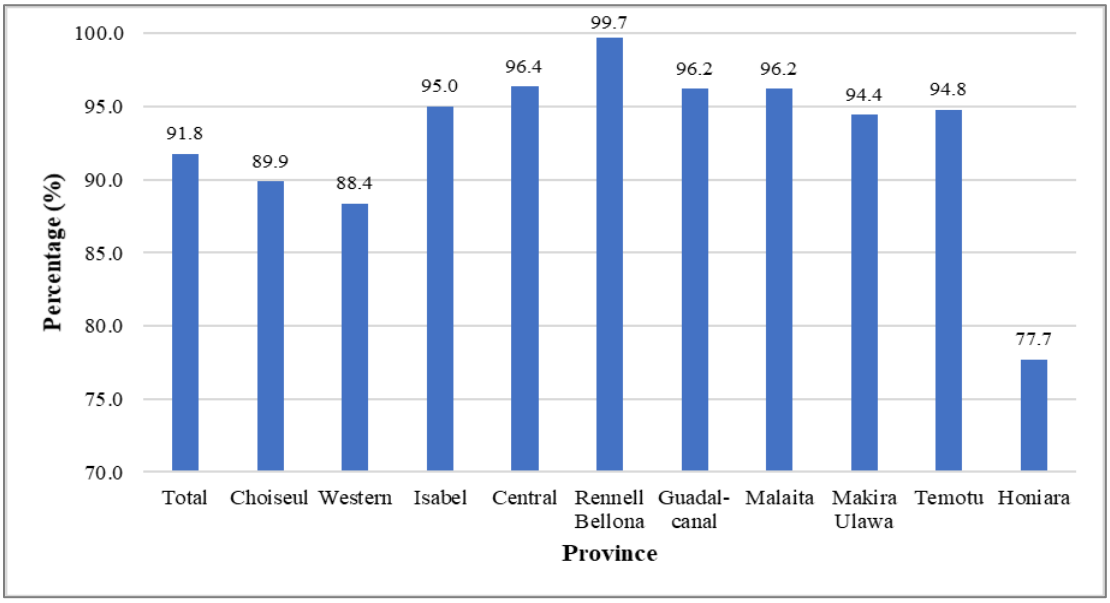


Figure 14.19.3: Percentage of private households whose location and livelihood was affected by a hazard(s) by province, Solomon Islands: 2019



At the provincial level, there was a similar pattern of exposure (over 88% of households across provinces) except for Honiara that had their locations and livelihoods affected by a hazard(s) (Figure 14.19.3).

Table 14.19.2 below presents the number and percent of households who had a hazard/disaster plan. A hazard/disaster plan involves planning preparedness measures or planning on what to do before any hazard happens and how to respond in the event of a hazard related disaster and subsequent recovery. A household hazard/disaster plan can be a formal binding plan such as the household disaster management plan or a village or community disaster management plan that had been set up to be acted upon in the event of a disaster/hazard. It can also be an informal plan that is not set up formally but is recognized as a disaster plan and can be acted upon in the event of a disaster/hazard.

Table 14.19.2: Number and percentage of private households and status of hazard plans by province, Solomon Islands: 2019

Hazard plans	Province										
	Total	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell Bellona	Guadalcanal	Malaita	Makira Ulawa	Temotu	Honiara
Total	**131,566**	**5,520**	**17,531**	**6,250**	**5,872**	**720**	**28,746**	**32,332**	**9,057**	**4,699**	**20,839**
Hazard plans	97,467	4,068	12,442	4,511	5,268	694	22,394	23,361	6,864	3,865	14,000
No hazard plans	34,099	1,452	5,089	1,739	604	26	6,352	8,971	2,193	834	6,839
	Total	**Percentage (%)**									
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Hazard plans	74.1	73.7	71.0	72.2	89.7	96.4	77.9	72.3	75.8	82.3	67.2
No hazard plans	25.9	26.3	29.0	27.8	10.3	3.6	22.1	27.7	24.2	17.7	32.8

In the Solomon Islands, the majority (74.1%) of all households had a hazard/disaster plan. Within provinces, nearly all households (96.4%) in Rennell Bellona had a hazard/disaster plan, followed by Central (89.7%) and Temotu (82.3%). Honiara had a significant proportion (32.8%) of its households that had no hazard/disaster plan.

Households were also asked about preparedness measures (e,g., undertaking drills, preparing food and related supplies, making savings etc) undertaken prior to any occurrence of a hazard(s). According to Table 14.19.3, a significant majority (over 87%) of households across all provinces had not undertaken any preparedness measures except for knowledge preparation (53.6%). These measures that had not been undertaken included undertaking drills and simulations (95%), preparing supplies (89.2%), preparing savings (96.0%), having a disaster plans (87.9%) and others (98.9%).

Table 14.19.3: Percentage of private households and preparedness measure by province, Solomon Islands: 2019

Preparedness Measures	Solomon Is.	%	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell-Bellona	Guadal-canal	Malaita	Makira - Ulawa	Temotu	Honiara
All households	**131,566**	***100.0***	**5,520**	**17,531**	**6,250**	**5,872**	**720**	**28,746**	**32,332**	**9,057**	**4,699**	**20,839**
Drills/Simulation Exercises												
Drills/Simulations	6,536	*5.0*	409	683	301	359	3	1,381	1,539	652	199	1,010
None	125,030	*95.0*	5,111	16,848	5,949	5,513	717	27,365	30,793	8,405	4,500	19,829
Preparation - Supplies												
Supplies	14,151	*10.8*	361	2,022	487	780	46	3,835	3,311	1,103	663	1,543
None	117,415	*89.2*	5,159	15,509	5,763	5,092	674	24,911	29,021	7,954	4,036	19,296
Preparation -Savings												
Savings	5,321	*4.0*	210	515	114	225	35	1,446	1,381	441	197	757
None	126,245	*96.0*	5,310	17,016	6,136	5,647	685	27,300	30,951	8,616	4,502	20,082
Preparation - Disaster plans												
Disaster plans	15,938	*12.1*	495	1,910	807	772	79	3,945	4,515	916	544	1,955
None	115,628	*87.9*	5,025	15,621	5,443	5,100	641	24,801	27,817	8,141	4,155	18,884
Preparation - Knowledge												
Knowledge	70,499	*53.6*	2,899	8,963	2,944	4,079	630	16,229	16,216	5,137	2,838	10,564
None	61,067	*46.4*	2,621	8,568	3,306	1,793	90	12,517	16,116	3,920	1,861	10,275
Prepation - Others												
Others	1,500	*1.1*	25	272	92	84	5	315	266	114	68	259
None	130,066	*98.9*	5,495	17,259	6,158	5,788	715	28,431	32,066	8,943	4,631	20,580

An effective means of communicating weather or disaster warnings is critical in disaster preparedness and in mitigating the adverse effects of hazards on households. Figure 14.19.4 illustrated that the majority (69.9%) of all households had access to weather and disaster warnings compared to 30.4% that had no access.

Over half of all households within all provinces had access to the warnings (weather and disasters) – including a significant majority (87.2%) of households in Honiara. It was also observed that a significant proportion of households did not have access to the warnings that mainly comprised of households in Isabel (43.5%), Makira-Ulawa (42.4%) and Choiseul (42.4%).

In terms of how the warnings (weather and disasters) were received by households and by the various means showed that the majority of households received their warnings from Wantoks (family and friends) (53.7%), followed by mobile phones (53.3%) and radio (50.9%) (Figure 14.19.5)

Figure 14.19.4: Percentage of private households and access to warnings (weather or disasters) by province, Solomon Islands: 2019

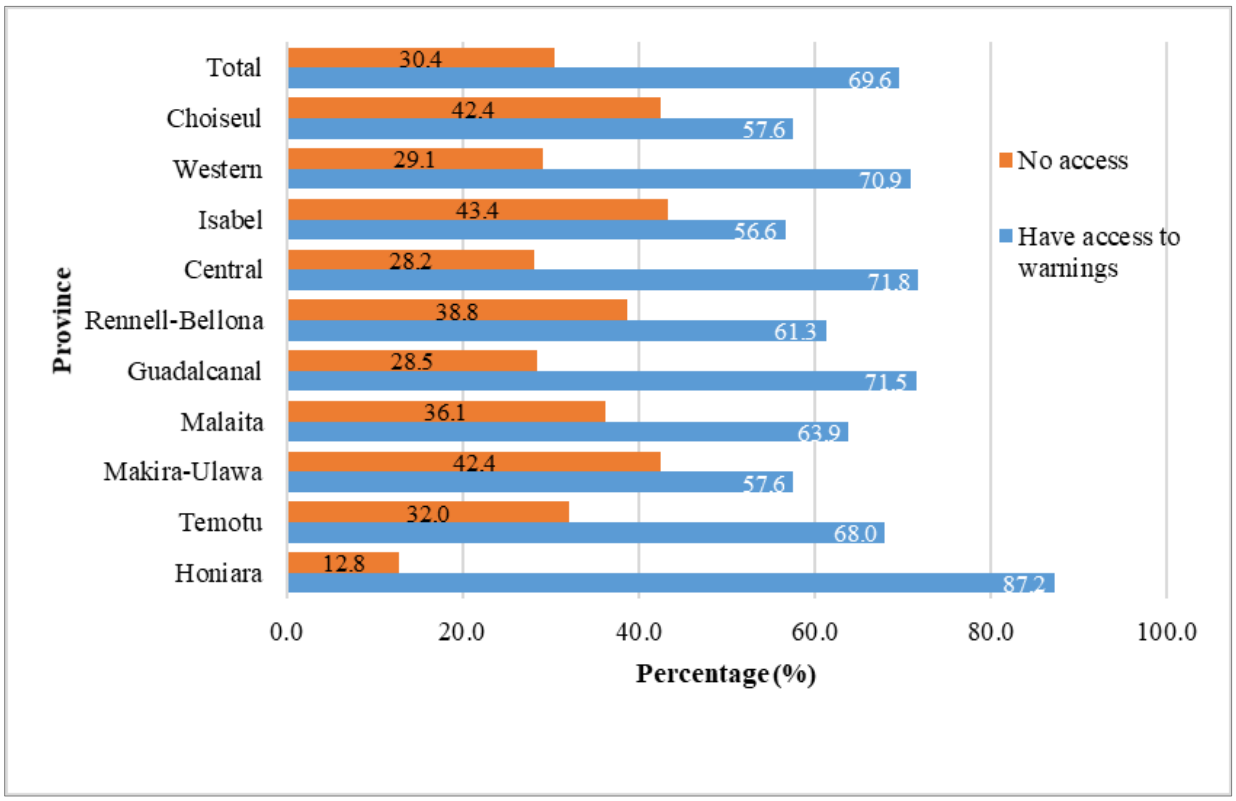
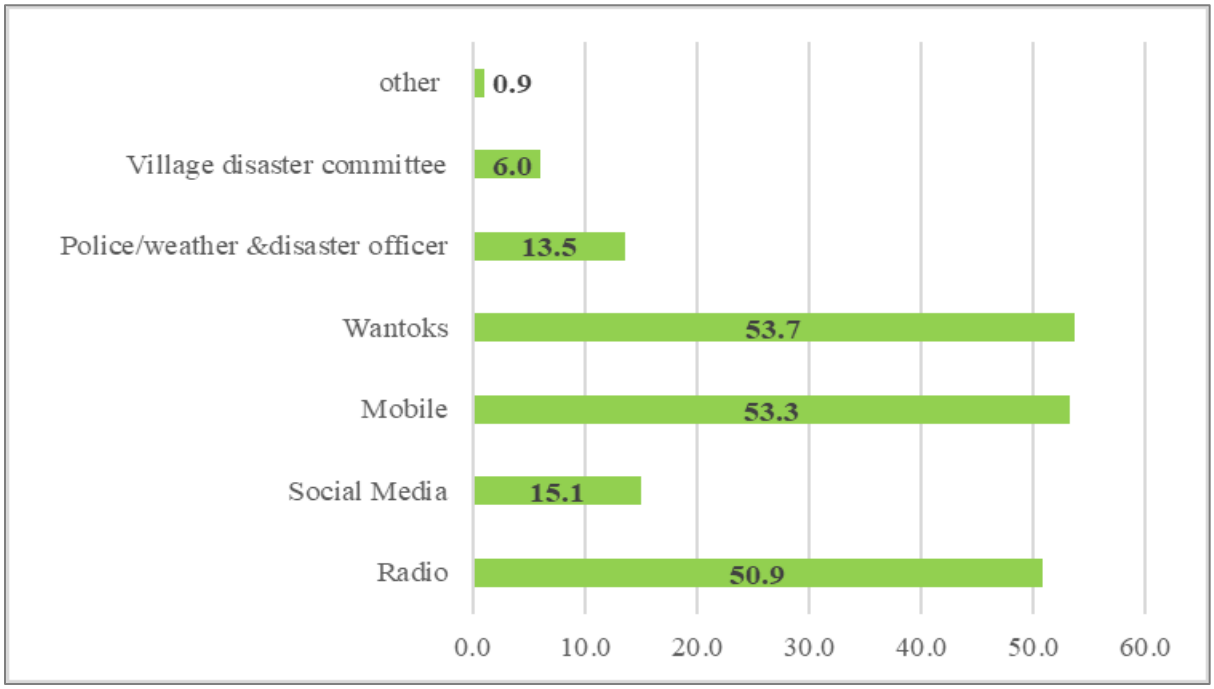


Figure 14.19.5: Percent (%) of private households and the means of receiving warnings (weather or disaster) by province, Solomon Islands: 2019



15. Household Participation: Constituency Development Fund (CDF)

This section captures the general perceptions of households across Solomon Islands on the awareness and impact of Constituency Development Funds (CDF) development assistances on their livelihoods. The CDF is a special funding allocation from public development funds provided to elected members of parliament to be used at their discretion within their respective constituencies.

In 2013, Parliament passed the Solomon Islands Constituency Development Fund Act 2013 into operation. In 2022, the government through the Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) begun a nationwide process of consultations towards the review of the current CDF Act and policy. The findings from the 2019 Census attempts to contribute towards this review as well as to inform policy formulation, discussion and debate about the CDF development assistance.

During the 2019 Census, the following questions were asked of the households:

1. "Are households aware of the Constituency Development Fund?
2. "What is the main area of development assistance that the CDF has contributed *positively* whether directly or indirectly to your household?"
3. "What is the main area of development assistance that the CDF has contributed *negatively* whether directly or indirectly to your household?"
4. "Generally, what would be your main suggestion to improve the future management and use of the CDF in development assistance to your household?"

Limitations:

- Data obtained from questions asked during the 2019 Census were based on a head-count of households at the time of the census enumeration. Hence, the census was not a specific research study (nor survey) focussing on the CDF. However, responses obtained were indicative of the general household perceptions at the time.
- Responses obtained constituted those of individual households and not those of the community/village nor any focussed group(s) of households. However, the aggregate views of the individual households are indicative of the views of their respective communities/villages.
- There were likely biases in household responses in terms of the clarity around the overlapping distinctions and conceptualisation of what was a CDF development assistance - separate from what was a general government development assistance, and/or donor driven development assistance, and/or a personal assistance from an elected member of parliament. Nevertheless, the perceptions were indicative of household responses on CDF assistance at the time of enumeration.

Data from the 2019 Census revealed that nearly all (98.9%) of households in the Solomon Islands were generally aware of the CDF. comprising 98.9% of households in rural areas and 99.0% in urban areas (Table 15.1). Across provinces, Malaita comprised the majority (24.6%) households who were aware of the CDF followed by Guadalcanal households. The reverse was the case, with Guadalcanal comprising the majority (35.5%) of households that were not aware of the CDF.

Table 15.1: Number and percentage of households and awareness of CDF by province and urban-rural area, Solomon Islands: 2019

Awareness of CDF	Solomon Islands	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell· Bellona	Guadal -canal	Malaita	Makira · Ulawa	Temotu	Honiara	Rural	Urban
Solomon Islands	131,566	5,520	17,531	6,250	5,872	720	28,746	32,332	9,057	4,699	20,839	98,360	33,206
Yes	130,134	5,495	17,403	6,229	5,836	718	28,237	32,031	9,005	4,661	20,519	97,248	32,886
No	1,432	25	128	21	36	2	509	301	52	38	320	1,112	320
(Percent (%), within provinces)													
Solomon Islands	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Yes	98.9	99.5	99.3	99.7	99.4	99.7	98.2	99.1	99.4	99.2	98.5	98.9	99.0
No	1.1	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.6	0.3	1.8	0.9	0.6	0.8	1.5	1.1	1.0
(Percent (%), accross provinces)													
Solomon Islands	100.0	4.2	13.3	4.8	4.5	0.5	21.8	24.6	6.9	3.6	15.8	74.8	25.2
Yes	100.0	4.2	13.4	4.8	4.5	0.6	21.7	24.6	6.9	3.6	15.8	74.7	25.3
No	100.0	1.7	8.9	1.5	2.5	0.1	35.5	21.0	3.6	2.7	22.3	77.7	22.3

15.1 Positive Impact of CDF Assistance

Of all the households that were aware of the CDF, a third (35.8%) of them stated that the CDF assistance had a positive impact (direct or indirect) on their livelihoods. However, the majority (64.2%) of households stated that there was no positive impact (direct or indirect) on their livelihoods. This implied that these households may have not received any CDF assistance at the time of enumeration[68]. This was evident among all provinces with the majority of households concentrated in Malaita (22.7%) and Guadalcanal (21.6%) – and comprising the majority of rural households (69.0%) compared to urban households (31.0%) (Table 15.2, Figure 15.1). However, within urban and rural areas respectively, a higher proportion (78.7%) of urban households were of the view that the CDF did not have a positive impact on them compared to 59.3% of rural households (see summary of main indicators).

The main areas of CDF development assistance that had positively impacted on households included: assistance for housing materials (19%) and supply of energy/solar (12%). Provinces such as Malaita, Guadalcanal, and Western were impacted more from both the supply of housing materials and

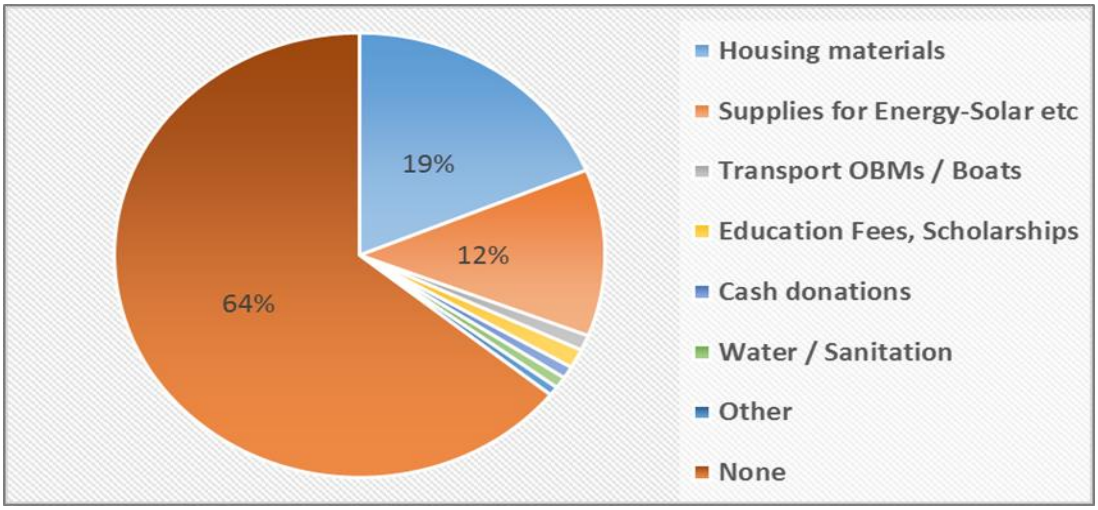
[68] At the time of the census enumeration, households were not further probed on whether their perceptions were different in the past in terms of the impact of CDF assistance – this extended questions should be considered in other focused studies or research.

energy/solar supplies. In fact, both Malaita and Guadalcanal households were impacted more by all main areas of CDF assistance except for in water/sanitation that had more impact amongst Western households and education support amongst households in Honiara.

Table 15.2: Number and percentage of households perceptions on main areas of CDF development assistance with positive impact by province and urban-rural area, Solomon Islands: 2019

Positive Impact - Main Areas of CDF Assistance	Solomon Islands	%	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell-Bellona	Guadal-canal	Malaita	Makira-Ulawa	Temotu	Honiara	Rural	Urban
Total	130,134	100.0	5,495	17,403	6,229	5,836	718	28,237	32,031	9,005	4,661	20,519	97,248	32,886
%	100.0	-	4.2	13.4	4.8	4.5	0.6	21.7	24.6	6.9	3.6	15.8	74.7	25.3
Housing materials	24,402	18.8	1,004	3,500	1,768	663	148	5,964	7,082	1,078	782	2,413	20,387	4,015
%	100.0	-	4.1	14.3	7.2	2.7	0.6	24.4	29.0	4.4	3.2	9.9	83.5	16.5
Supplies for Energy-Solar	15,824	12.2	1,180	2,481	828	493	131	3,272	4,547	1,241	939	712	14,460	1,364
%	100.0	-	7.5	15.7	5.2	3.1	0.8	20.7	28.7	7.8	5.9	4.5	91.4	8.6
Transport OBMs / Boats	1,457	1.1	34	376	102	203	21	194	258	114	75	80	1,325	132
%	100.0	-	2.3	25.8	7.0	13.9	1.4	13.3	17.7	7.8	5.1	5.5	90.9	9.1
Education Fees, Scholarships	1,816	1.4	50	181	35	37	24	280	449	173	35	552	1,102	714
%	100.0	-	2.8	10.0	1.9	2.0	1.3	15.4	24.7	9.5	1.9	30.4	60.7	39.3
Cash donations	1,148	0.9	34	102	35	30	-	268	293	121	20	245	799	349
%	100.0	-	3.0	8.9	3.0	2.6	-	23.3	25.5	10.5	1.7	21.3	69.6	30.4
Water / Sanitation	1,097	0.8	80	284	25	79	15	89	279	29	87	130	821	276
%	100.0	-	7.3	25.9	2.3	7.2	1.4	8.1	25.4	2.6	7.9	11.9	74.8	25.2
Other	861	0.7	68	101	60	72	8	113	130	160	50	99	693	168
%	100.0	-	7.9	11.7	7.0	8.4	0.9	13.1	15.1	18.6	5.8	11.5	80.5	19.5
None	83,529	64.2	3,045	10,378	3,376	4,259	371	18,057	18,993	6,089	2,673	16,288	57,661	25,868
%	100.0	-	3.6	12.4	4.0	5.1	0.4	21.6	22.7	7.3	3.2	19.5	69.0	31.0

Figure 15.1: Percentage of household perceptions of main areas of CDF assistance with positive impact, Solomon Islands: 2019



It was also evident that of all the households that were aware of the CDF, the majority (85%) in rural areas had a positive view of the impact of CDF assistance.

15.2 Negative Impact of CDF Assistance

Negative perceptions of the main issues arising from CDF support were evident amongst households across provinces. This was particularly predominant amongst the majority of households who stated that the main issue that CDF has contributed negatively to was the unfair distribution of resources (36%), followed closely with issues categorised under other/none (no negative impact) (34.7%).[69] While the former views were mainly predominant amongst households in Malaita (23.3%), Guadalcanal (21.3%) and Western (14.9%), there was less evident amongst smaller provinces such as Rennell-Bellona (0.8%). The latter perceptions were also popular amongst households in Malaita (26.6%) and Guadalcanal (21.5%), and in Honiara (17.5%) (Table 15.3, Figure 15.2)

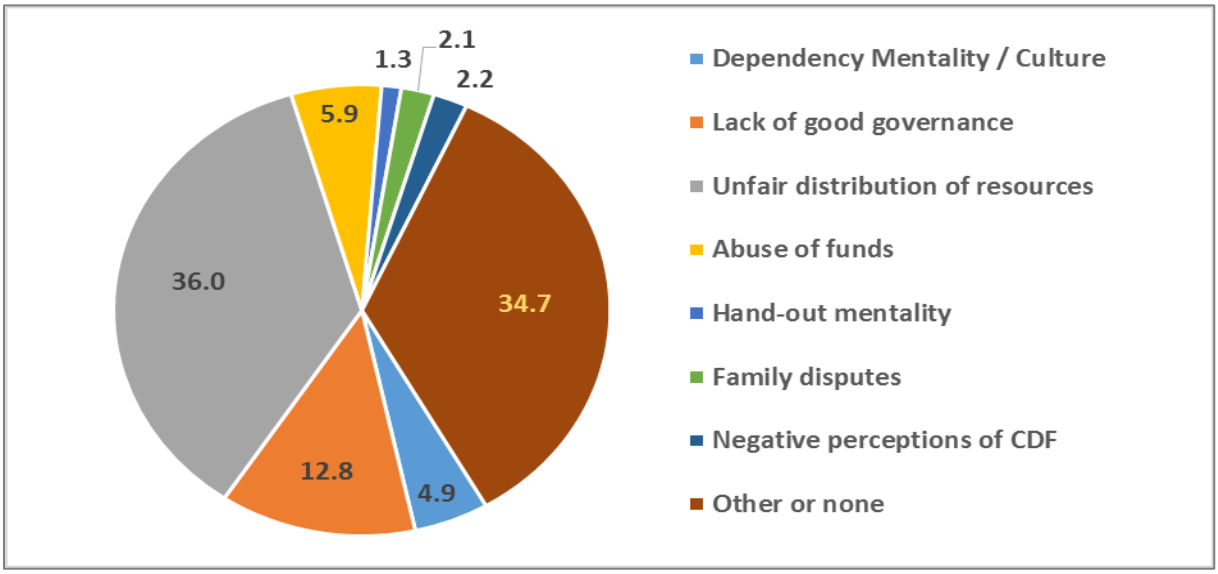
Other key issues that CDF assistance had led to negative perceptions included the lack of good governance (12.8%), abuse of funds (5.9%), and dependency mentality/culture (4.8%).

Table 15.3: Number and percentage of households perceptions on main areas of CDF development assistance with negative impact by province and urban-rural area, Solomon Islands: 2019

Negative Impact - Main Areas of CDF Assistance	Solomon Islands	%	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell-Bellona	Guadal - canal	Malaita	Makira -Ulawa	Temotu	Honiara	Rural	Urban
Total	130,134	*100.0*	5,495	17,403	6,229	5,836	718	28,237	32,031	9,005	4,661	20,519	97,248	32,886
%	*100.0*	-	*4.2*	*13.4*	*4.8*	*4.5*	*0.6*	*21.7*	*24.6*	*6.9*	*3.6*	*15.8*	*74.7*	*25.3*
Dependency Mentality / Culture	6,357	*4.9*	181	467	215	214	35	1,524	1,686	374	178	1,483	4,134	2,223
%	*100.0*	-	*2.8*	*7.3*	*3.4*	*3.4*	*0.6*	*24.0*	*26.5*	*5.9*	*2.8*	*23.3*	*65.0*	*35.0*
Lack of good governance	16,653	*12.8*	495	2,176	655	815	103	4,227	3,697	770	505	3,210	11,594	5,059
%	*100.0*	-	*3.0*	*13.1*	*3.9*	*4.9*	*0.6*	*25.4*	*22.2*	*4.6*	*3.0*	*19.3*	*69.6*	*30.4*
Unfair distribution of resources	46,897	*36.0*	2,427	6,986	2,612	2,760	380	9,983	10,927	3,380	2,182	5,260	38,178	8,719
%	*100.0*	-	*5.2*	*14.9*	*5.6*	*5.9*	*0.8*	*21.3*	*23.3*	*7.2*	*4.7*	*11.2*	*81.4*	*18.6*
Abuse of funds	7,662	*5.9*	246	1,013	202	432	57	1,677	1,553	612	338	1,532	5,394	2,268
%	*100.0*	-	*3.2*	*13.2*	*2.6*	*5.6*	*0.7*	*21.9*	*20.3*	*8.0*	*4.4*	*20.0*	*70.4*	*29.6*
Hand-out mentality	1,661	*1.3*	92	241	54	44	23	317	395	155	61	279	1,275	386
%	*100.0*	-	*5.5*	*14.5*	*3.3*	*2.6*	*1.4*	*19.1*	*23.8*	*9.3*	*3.7*	*16.8*	*76.8*	*23.2*
Family disputes	2,787	*2.1*	87	512	237	42	9	370	1,044	167	71	248	2,287	500
%	*100.0*	-	*3.1*	*18.4*	*8.5*	*1.5*	*0.3*	*13.3*	*37.5*	*6.0*	*2.5*	*8.9*	*82.1*	*17.9*
Negative perceptions of CDF	2,909	*2.2*	92	454	189	120	15	410	704	222	119	584	2,097	812
%	*100.0*	-	*3.2*	*15.6*	*6.5*	*4.1*	*0.5*	*14.1*	*24.2*	*7.6*	*4.1*	*20.1*	*72.1*	*27.9*
Other or none	45,208	*34.7*	1,875	5,554	2,065	1,409	96	9,729	12,025	3,325	1,207	7,923	32,289	12,919
%	*100.0*	-	*4.1*	*12.3*	*4.6*	*3.1*	*0.2*	*21.5*	*26.6*	*7.4*	*2.7*	*17.5*	*71.4*	*28.6*

[69] It was not feasible to demarcate separately responses from others and none due to design issues.

Figure 15.2: Percentage of household perceptions on main issues of CDF assistance with negative impact, Solomon Islands: 2019



15.3 Future Management and Use of CDF assistance

When asked about how households viewed the future management and use of CDF, the majority (32.7%) stated that improvement of good governance (e.g., accountability, transparency, free of abuse and corruption etc) was a concern that should be considered as part of the management process of future CDF assistances. This view was supported by the majority of households from Western (23.0%), Malaita (19.2%), Guadalcanal (18.3%) and Honiara (13.3%) (Table 15.4, Figure 15.3).

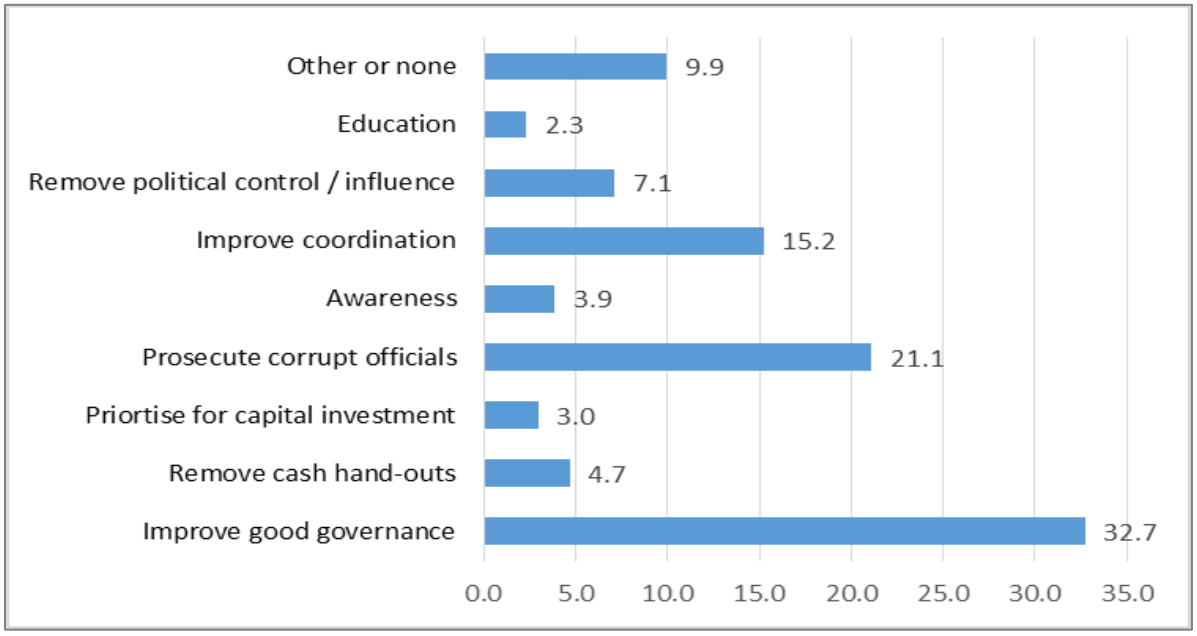
The second important concern related to prosecuting of corrupt officials (21.1%) and improving coordination (15.2%) of CDF assistances. The former perception was mainly supported by households from Malaita (51.6%), Makira-Ulawa (15.8%) and Guadalcanal (12.0%). Improving coordination of CDF support was most popular amongst the Honiara households (44.5%).

In all the views for future management and use of CDF assistance, rural households have expressed the majority of all views.

Table 15.4: Number and percentage of household suggestions on future management and use of CDF by province and urban-rural area, Solomon Islands: 2019

Suggestions for future use and management of CDF	Solomon Islands	%	Choiseul	Western	Isabel	Central	Rennell-Bellona	Guadal - canal	Malaita	Makira -Ulawa	Temotu	Honiara	Rural	Urban
Total	130,134	*100.0*	5,495	17,403	6,229	5,836	718	28,237	32,031	9,005	4,661	20,519	97,248	32,886
%	*100.0*	-	*4.2*	*13.4*	*4.8*	*4.5*	*0.6*	*21.7*	*24.6*	*6.9*	*3.6*	*15.8*	*74.7*	*25.3*
Improve good governance	42,614	*32.7*	3,031	9,806	3,440	1,859	144	7,809	8,174	1,467	1,113	5,771	32,656	9,958
%	*100.0*	-	*7.1*	*23.0*	*8.1*	*4.4*	*0.3*	*18.3*	*19.2*	*3.4*	*2.6*	*13.5*	*76.6*	*23.4*
Remove cash hand-outs	6,094	*4.7*	173	710	140	270	6	1,303	1,753	286	218	1,235	4,252	1,842
%	*100.0*	-	*2.8*	*11.7*	*2.3*	*4.4*	*0.1*	*21.4*	*28.8*	*4.7*	*3.6*	*20.3*	*69.8*	*30.2*
Priortise for capital investment	3,841	*3.0*	152	408	169	152	17	868	818	391	135	731	2,717	1,124
%	*100.0*	-	*4.0*	*10.6*	*4.4*	*4.0*	*0.4*	*22.6*	*21.3*	*10.2*	*3.5*	*19.0*	*70.7*	*29.3*
Prosecute corrupt officials	27,490	*21.1*	672	1,585	483	627	44	3,299	14,179	4,346	598	1,657	24,548	2,942
%	*100.0*	-	*2.4*	*5.8*	*1.8*	*2.3*	*0.2*	*12.0*	*51.6*	*15.8*	*2.2*	*6.0*	*89.3*	*10.7*
Awareness	5,049	*3.9*	328	1,016	448	223	17	833	1,077	446	218	443	4,293	756
%	*100.0*	-	*6.5*	*20.1*	*8.9*	*4.4*	*0.3*	*16.5*	*21.3*	*8.8*	*4.3*	*8.8*	*85.0*	*15.0*
Improve coordination	19,844	*15.2*	471	2,127	956	515	193	2,179	2,242	808	1,522	8,831	10,032	9,812
%	*100.0*	-	*2.4*	*10.7*	*4.8*	*2.6*	*1.0*	*11.0*	*11.3*	*4.1*	*7.7*	*44.5*	*50.6*	*49.4*
Remove political control / influence	9,276	*7.1*	519	1,220	475	590	192	1,571	2,050	887	563	1,209	7,426	1,850
%	*100.0*	-	*5.6*	*13.2*	*5.1*	*6.4*	*2.1*	*16.9*	*22.1*	*9.6*	*6.1*	*13.0*	*80.1*	*19.9*
Education	2,989	*2.3*	106	364	58	169	16	537	924	220	231	364	2,456	533
%	*100.0*	-	*3.5*	*12.2*	*1.9*	*5.7*	*0.5*	*18.0*	*30.9*	*7.4*	*7.7*	*12.2*	*82.2*	*17.8*
Other or none	12937	*9.9*	43	167	60	1431	89	9838	814	154	63	278	8868	4069
%	*100.0*	-	*0.3*	*1.3*	*0.5*	*11.1*	*0.7*	*76.0*	*6.3*	*1.2*	*0.5*	*2.1*	*68.5*	*31.5*

Figure 15.3: Percentage of household perceptions on suggestions for future management and use of CDF, Solomon Islands: 2019



In summary, the overall impact (positive and negative) of the CDF development assistance on household livelihoods revealed key findings that should be able to inform decision making, planning and policy formulation especially in relation to the delivery of the CDF development assistance in rural areas.

A key finding revealed that nearly all households (98.9%) in Solomon Islands were aware of the CDF. This is evidence of the increased awareness and public interest in the CDF across provinces.

Another key finding revealed that the majority (64.2%) of households in Solomon Islands reported that there was no positive impact (directly or indirectly) of CDF assistances on their livelihoods. This suggests that more work needs to be done in changing perceptions and attitudes of the people about the positive contributions of the CDF.

A key negative perception about the CDF assistance was that the CDF had contributed negatively towards the fair distribution of resources - according to 36.0% of all households. Renewed efforts is therefore required to counter any further increase in negative perceptions about the equitable distribution of CDF assistances.

In regard to the future use and management of CDF, the majority (32.7%) of households wanted to see improvements in good governance (e.g., accountability, free of abuse and corruption) to be considered in future management process of CDF assistances.

16. POPULATION PROJECTIONS

Population projections aid in portraying a scenario of the future size and structure of the population. It informs policy makers and planners of major trends in social, environmental and economic development, and how best to respond to these trends through relevant policies and strategies. Key socio-economic activities in areas as diverse as health, environment, poverty reduction, social progress, and economic growth depend on comprehensive and consistent demographic information over time.

Information about the population size and structure form key inputs in the production of population trends and projections. The basis for any projection is founded upon a reliable and current age and sex distribution of a population. Moreover, information on recent levels and patterns of fertility, mortality, and migration are key determinants in projecting the behavior of current and future trends.

Following from the past 2009 Census, the cohort-component method is applied in the derivation of the population projections. This procedure simulates population changes as a result of changes in the components of growth: fertility, mortality and migration. Based on past information and current levels, assumptions are made about future trends in these components of change. The assumed rates are applied to the age and sex structure of the population in a simulation that takes into account:

- age at which people die is related to their sex and age,
- women have children, and
- some people change their place of residence.

The cohort-component method of projecting a population involves tracing each cohort of persons with the same age and sex characteristics throughout their lifetime, according to their exposure to fertility, mortality and migration[15]. The software package used for the projections is the MORTPAK[16], application PROJECT.

The key to making meaningful projections depends on the choice of assumptions about future population developments. These assumptions relate to possible future birth, death and migration rates.

[15]1994.Arriaga.E.E.Populations analysis with microcomputers, volume I, Presentation of techniques, p.309-310, US Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, USA.

[16] MORTPAK for Windows (Version 4.3) was developed by the Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.

16.1 National Projections

Projection assumptions

When considering multiple assumptions about future levels of fertility, mortality and migration, a general guideline is observed where expected outcomes appear symmetrical. This implies that the level of high and low, or fast and slow growth assumptions appear equally positioned with respect to the medium level assumption (i.e. above and below the medium).

The following demographic inputs were produced for the projections.

Projection period

The population projections cover the 45-year period of 2019-2064.

Base population

Projections are based on the age and sex distribution of the 2019 Census adjusted to mid-year 2019. In contrast to the past 2009 Census which suffered from an under enumeration of 8.3% with subsequent adjustment made to the mid-year population, the 2019 Census enumerated population exceeds the projected estimate by a minimal 2.0% or around 14,100 people (see Table 16.1). Although the absolute population count is within expectation, there were suspected cases of over and under enumeration within the varying distributions of the age-sex cohorts. This was mainly due to age misreporting and/or age heaping. Hence, specific adjustments were made for under enumeration especially in the age groups 10-19 years for both males and females while adjustments for suspected over enumeration were mainly among the younger ages 0-9 years (especially males) and those in ages 20-34 years (especially females).

Usually persons in age groups 20-34 years represent a core cohort of the working age, and are often highly mobile and impacted by migration. This group, especially males, are often absent from their usual place of residence in search for employment or further education, and may have not been enumerated at their (temporary) place of residence during the past census count, but are now captured in the 2019 Census enumeration[70],[71],[72]. Moreover, it is suspected that the higher than expected growths within these age groups are also prone to misreporting of data on the field and issues of data quality.

[70] It is likely that these persons have been missed in the previous 2009 Census and are now captured in the 2019 Census and thus the extent of 2009 Census undercount could have been higher - noting that the 2009 Census was the first census conducted after the ethnic tensions (1999-2000) and the arrival of RAMSI in restoring stability until their departure in 2017 (although a reduced police presence remains under bilateral arrangements). During this period up to the 2019 Census, local perceptions have been affected. Those who may have not previously participated in large government undertakings (e.g., 2009 Census) may have shown interest in the 2019 Census.

[71] There is a likely bias (under-count) within the under 1-year cohort in both 2009 and 2019 censuses that could be due to infant mortality but also noting the 8.3% undercount in 2009 as reported in Chapter 5.

[72].The effect of migration may likely be observed in the next 2029 Census round in view of the recent Solomon Islands labour mobility scheme (employing numerous young people to temporarily migrate to work overseas, especially in Australia and New Zealand). The scheme started in 2021 after the 2019 census.

In all, a total of 3,900 people were adjusted, reducing the total enumerated population from 720,956 to a new total of 717,056, and thus further reducing the margin of over enumeration from 2.0% to 1.4% (see Table 16.2)

Table 16.1 and Figures 16:1-16.2 show a comparison of the 2019 Census enumerated population and the projected population based on the 2009 Census population (adjusted) as a starting point (base population) with inter-censual fertility and mortality estimates. In general, the comparison show generally a good fit for most male and female age distributions except for the specific age-sex distributions discussed earlier that have been adjusted for the projections.

Table 16.1: Comparison of the projected population 2019 and the enumerated population, 2019

Age Groups	2019 Enumerated Count			2019 Projected Population			Difference = Projected - Count			Percentage Difference		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
0-4	46,608	43,287	89,895	45,132	43,476	88,609	**-1,476**	189	-1,286	-3.2	0.4	-1.4
5-9	46,876	43,596	90,472	44,132	43,012	87,144	**-2,744**	**-584**	-3,328	-5.9	-1.3	-3.7
10-14	43,813	40,619	84,432	44,577	43,752	88,329	**764**	**3,133**	3,897	1.7	7.7	4.6
15-19	39,111	37,602	76,713	39,724	38,777	78,501	**613**	**1,175**	1,788	1.6	3.1	2.3
20-24	32,893	32,756	65,649	31,857	29,738	61,595	**-1,036**	**-3,018**	-4,054	-3.1	-9.2	-6.2
25-29	27,352	26,744	54,096	27,271	25,483	52,754	-81	**-1,261**	-1,342	-0.3	-4.7	-2.5
30-34	26,701	26,672	53,373	25,659	24,046	49,705	**-1,042**	**-2,626**	-3,668	-3.9	-9.8	-6.9
35-39	23,599	22,730	46,329	22,245	21,497	43,743	**-1,354**	**-1,233**	-2,586	-5.7	-5.4	-5.6
40-44	20,771	19,312	40,083	18,910	19,333	38,242	**-1,861**	21	-1,841	-9.0	0.1	-4.6
45-49	17,529	16,028	33,557	16,390	16,700	33,089	**-1,139**	**672**	-468	-6.5	4.2	-1.4
50-54	13,031	12,343	25,374	12,123	12,069	24,192	-908	-274	-1,182	-7.0	-2.2	-4.7
55-59	9,830	9,079	18,909	9,719	9,658	19,377	-111	**579**	468	-1.1	6.4	2.5
60-64	7,112	6,591	13,703	6,933	6,746	13,679	-179	155	-24	-2.5	2.3	-0.2
65-69	5,440	5,506	10,946	5,377	5,456	10,833	-63	-50	-113	-1.2	-0.9	-1.0
70-74	3,436	3,515	6,951	3,633	3,923	7,556	197	408	605	5.7	11.6	8.7
75-79	2,387	2,386	4,773	2,566	2,594	5,160	179	208	387	7.5	8.7	8.1
80+	2,907	2,794	5,701	2,135	2,227	4,362	**-772**	**-567**	-1,339	-26.6	-20.3	-23.5
Total	**369,396**	**351,560**	**720,956**	**358,384**	**348,486**	**706,870**	**-11,012**	**-3,074**	**-14,086**	**-3.0**	**-0.9**	**-2.0**

Since the projections should refer to the mid-year of each year of the projection period, the base year population has been further adjusted to a total of 710,650 for mid-year 2019 (applying the PAS procedure MOVEPOP) from the November census population) (Table 16.3).

Figure 16.1: Comparison of the projected male population and the enumerated male population

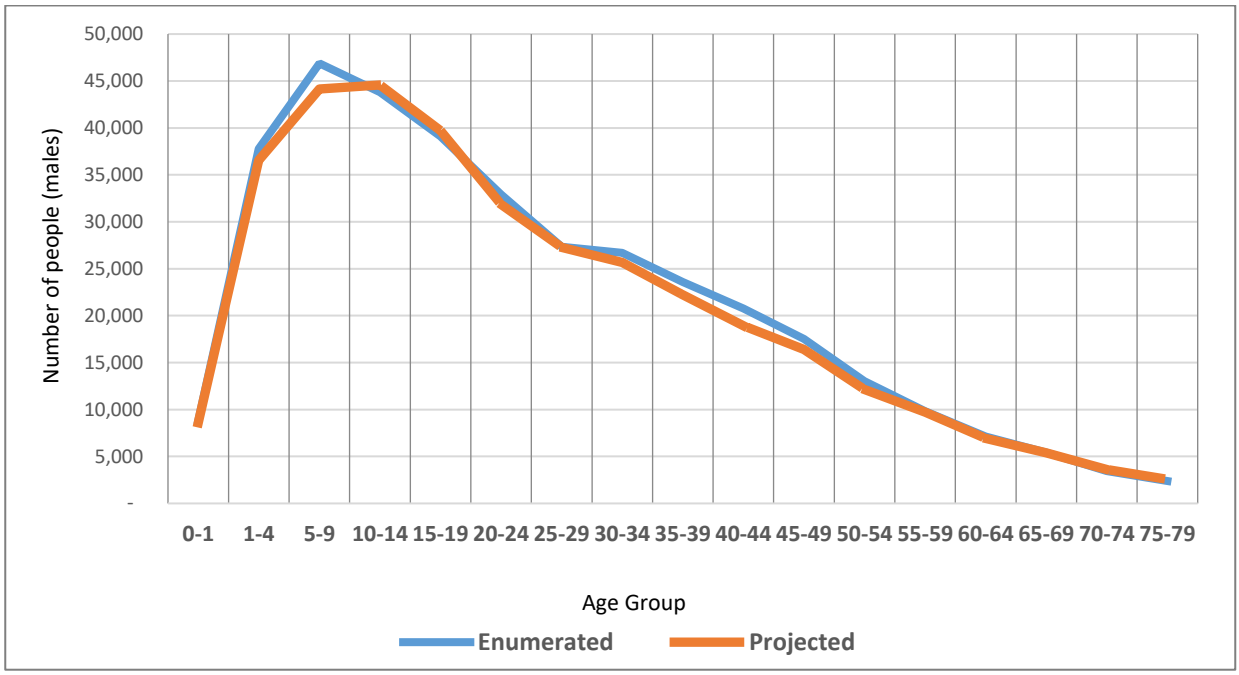


Figure 16.2: Comparison of the projected female population and the enumerated female population

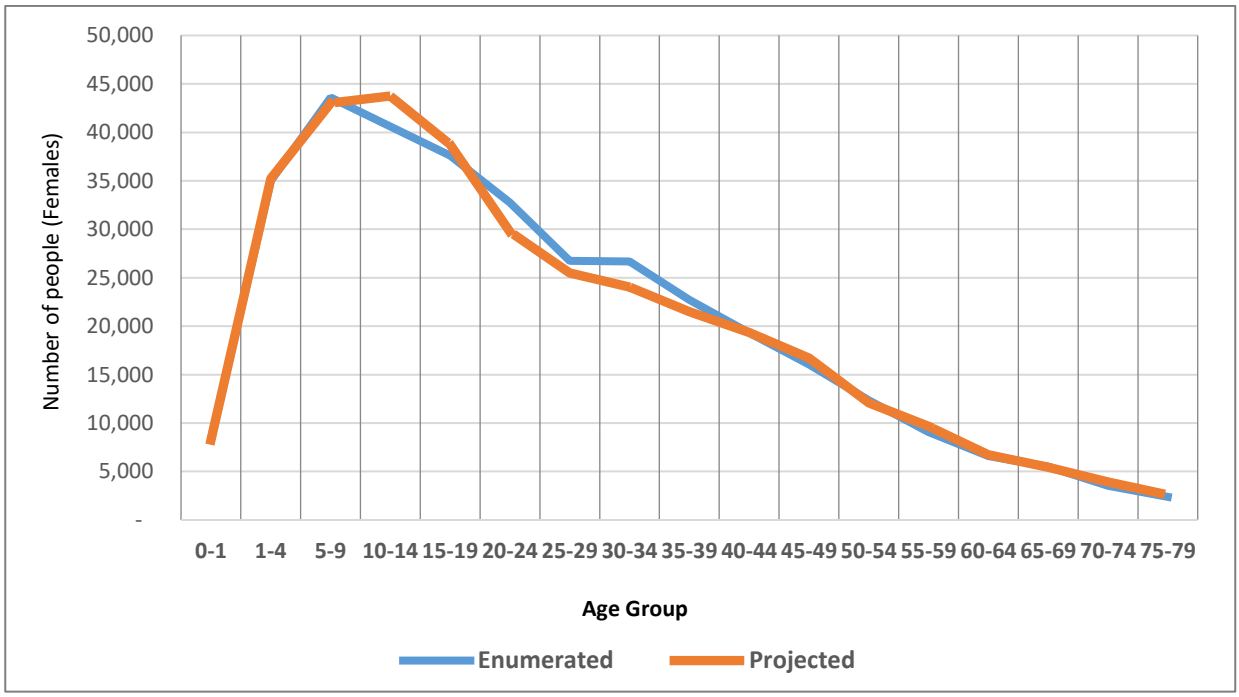


Table 16.2: Adjusted census population, November 2019

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
0-4	45,608	43,287	88,895
5-9	44,876	43,596	88,472
10-14	44,463	43,619	88,082
15-19	39,611	38,702	78,313
20-24	32,743	30,256	62,999
25-29	27,352	26,344	53,696
30-34	26,501	24,972	51,473
35-39	23,199	22,330	45,529
40-44	19,871	19,312	39,183
45-49	17,229	16,528	33,757
50-54	13,031	12,343	25,374
55-59	9,830	9,379	19,209
60-64	7,112	6,591	13,703
65-69	5,440	5,506	10,946
70-74	3,436	3,515	6,951
75-79	2,387	2,386	4,773
80+	2,907	2,794	5,701
Total	**365,596**	**351,460**	**717,056**

Table 16.3: Base population for projection, July 2019

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
0-4	45,201	42,900	88,101
5-9	44,475	43,207	87,682
10-14	44,065	43,229	87,294
15-19	39,258	38,356	77,614
20-24	32,450	29,986	62,436
25-29	27,108	26,109	53,217
30-34	26,264	24,748	51,012
35-39	22,992	22,131	45,123
40-44	19,693	19,139	38,832
45-49	17,075	16,381	33,456
50-54	12,915	12,233	25,148
55-59	9,742	9,295	19,037
60-64	7,048	6,532	13,580
65-69	5,392	5,457	10,849
70-74	3,405	3,483	6,888
75-79	2,366	2,365	4,731
80+	2,881	2,769	5,650
Total	**362,330**	**348,320**	**710,650**

Fertility

The estimated TFR of the period 2019 and associated ASFR, as described in Chapter 5 are used as a starting point, with four different assumptions made about future fertility developments (Figure.16.3).

The future TFR level of the medium fertility assumption is assumed to reach 1.7 which is the average level of TFR of populations in present-day Australia, France, New Zealand and the United States. This level will be reached (by means of extrapolation) with a pace of fertility decline that is based on the Solomon Islands' past fertility trend. According to this pace, the Solomon Islands will reach a TFR of 1.9 by 2059 and 1.7 at the end of the projection period in 2064. The likely reduction in fertility trends from fertility levels in previous censuses will have a drastic impact in the current projected estimates.

As in previous projections, the reason for choosing the fertility level of countries such as Australia, France, New Zealand and the United States as the future level for Solomon Islands is twofold:

1) These countries have completed the "demographic transition" (see Appendix 10) and that the TFR of these four countries has remained at an almost constant level of about 2.0 or slightly below, over the last 45 years (1975–2019).

2) They are regarded as the metropolitan focal points of Pacific Island countries.

Therefore the medium fertility assumption is set as follows.

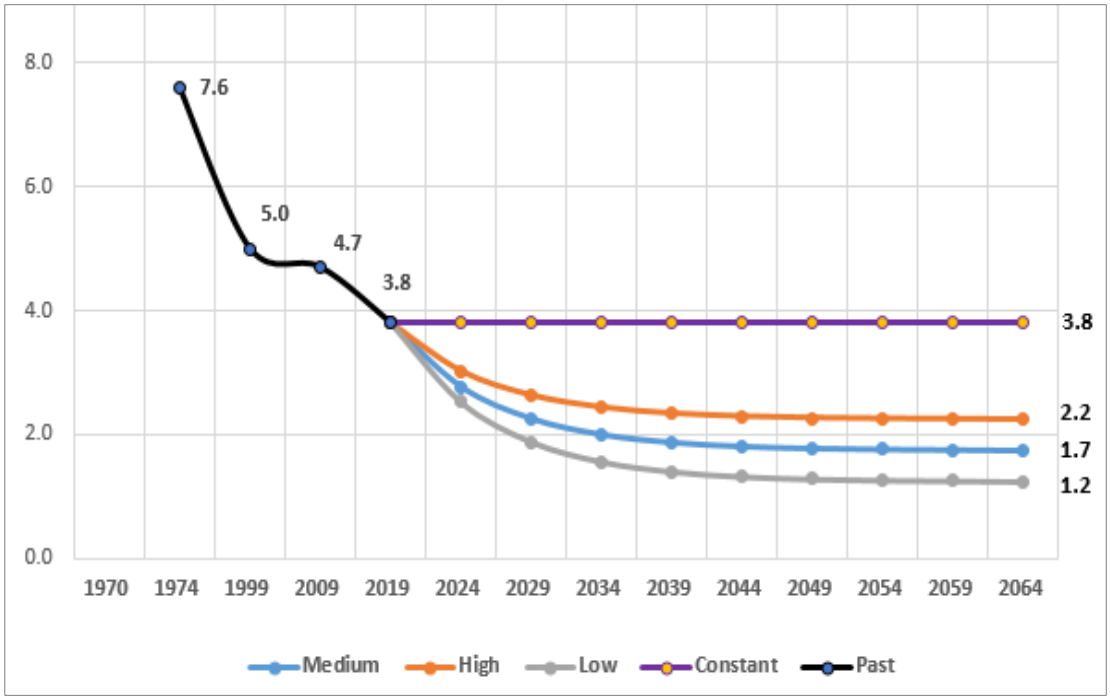
Assumption 1 — Medium Fertility: Fertility decreases to 1.7 in the year 2064 (as described above). The high and low fertility assumptions were built symmetrically around the medium fertility assumption.

Assumption 2 — High Fertility: The high fertility assumption assumes a TFR of 0.5 higher than the medium fertility level. Therefore, the level of TFR in 2064 is 2.2

Assumption 3 — Low Fertility: The low fertility assumption assumes a TFR of 0.5 lower than the medium fertility level. Therefore, the level of TFR in 2064 is 1.2.

Assumption 4 — Constant Fertility: This is a purely academic assumption, with the purpose to demonstrate what would happen to the Solomon Islands in terms of population size if the current TFR of 3.8 remains constant at this level for the entire projection period.

Figure 16.3: Estimated past levels of fertility, and future fertility assumptions for projections, 1999-2064



Mortality

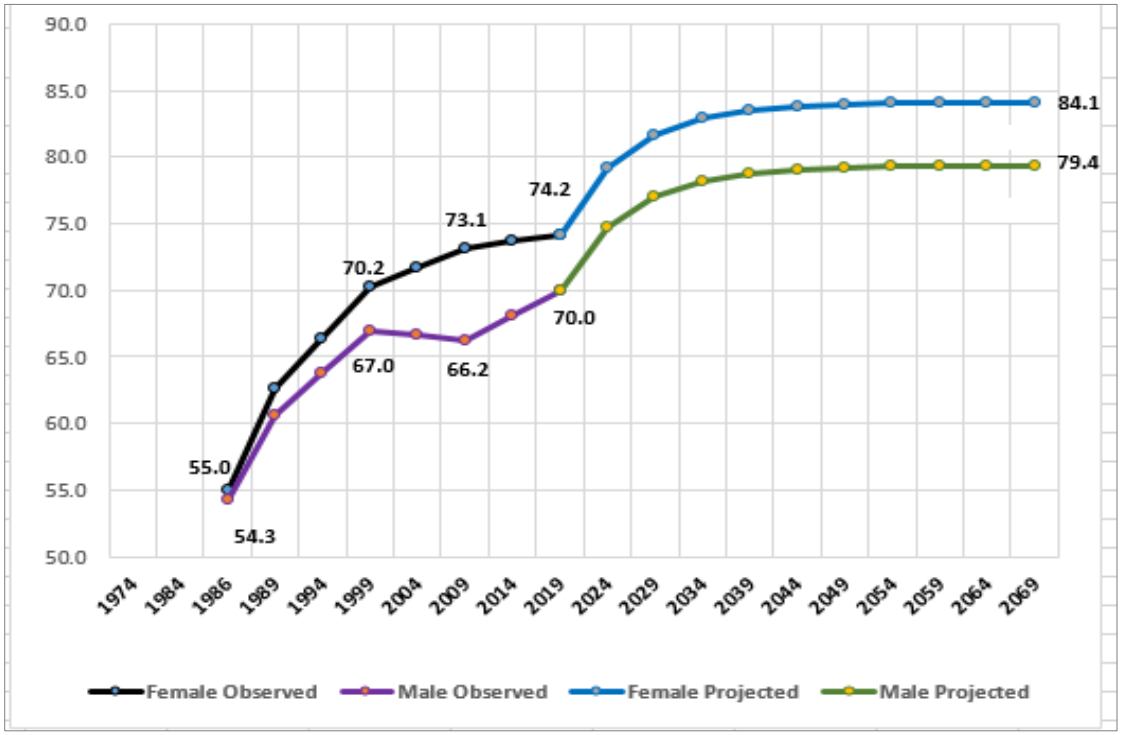
It is assumed that under normal circumstances (meaning in the absence of catastrophes such as wars, epidemics and major natural disasters), the Solomon Islands' health situation and mortality levels will continuously improve throughout the projection period.

The estimated life expectancies at birth [E(0)] – 70.0 years and 74.2 years for males and females, respectively — are used as the starting point for projections in 2019. These estimates are based on the estimates as outlined in Chapter 6 earlier.

Assumption: The population projections presented here assumes a rising trend in life expectancy for males and females according to the UN working models of mortality improvement, as described in "World Population Prospects". According to this model, current estimated life expectancies gradually increase and reach 84.1 and 79.4 years in 2064 for females and males, respectively (see Figure 16.4).

Only one assumption regarding mortality is made. This is because variations in mortality levels (multiple assumptions) usually have only a minor impact on final projection results; this would also require the production of numerous scenarios that ultimately would complicate the presentation of results. As in the past 2009 Census, the assumption was made that possible under-registration of deaths is not age specific and therefore does not affect the overall pattern of mortality. The **Coale-Demeny North** model pattern resembles most closely the empirical mortality pattern of Solomon Islands.

Figure 16.4: Estimated past levels of mortality, and future mortality assumptions projections, 1986-2064



Migration

When undertaking population projections, a major challenge involves the making of meaningful assumptions about future migration developments in the Solomon Islands. Many of the social and economic parameters influencing migration patterns depend largely on countries' overall social, economic and political developments, as well as environmental factors. All of these factors fluctuate widely and are difficult to predict. Migration projections also depend on economic and political developments overseas.

At present the Solomon Islands population is not known for migrating permanently overseas at any significant rate, while the country itself is not an immigration country either. With the absence of significant past international migration, it is assumed that net migration be zero for the entire projection period. It would be practically futile at this stage to come up with an accurate prediction of what the level of migration would be should it occur in future. However, the projections will have to be amended should this situation change.

Projection results

Since the projected results assume four different fertility assumptions, this results in four different projections (Table 16.4 and Figure 16.5). These different projections highlight the impact of different levels of fertility on the population size and structure of country. The higher the fertility level assumed,

the higher the population outcome. The four population projection scenarios are described in detail below:

Table 16.4: Population size according to four projection variants, 2020-2060

Fertility Assumptions	Year (mid-year projected population)								
	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060
Constant	725,078	804,605	897,209	1,000,766	1,111,237	1,226,011	1,346,675	1,476,967	1,619,898
High	725,078	803,733	894,686	990,811	1,087,038	1,180,816	1,272,229	1,362,494	1,448,883
Medium	**725,078**	**798,079**	**873,794**	**951,199**	**1,027,529**	**1,099,447**	**1,165,207**	**1,224,422**	**1,274,393**
Low	725,078	792,689	853,825	912,909	969,419	1,020,014	1,062,129	1,094,373	1,114,191

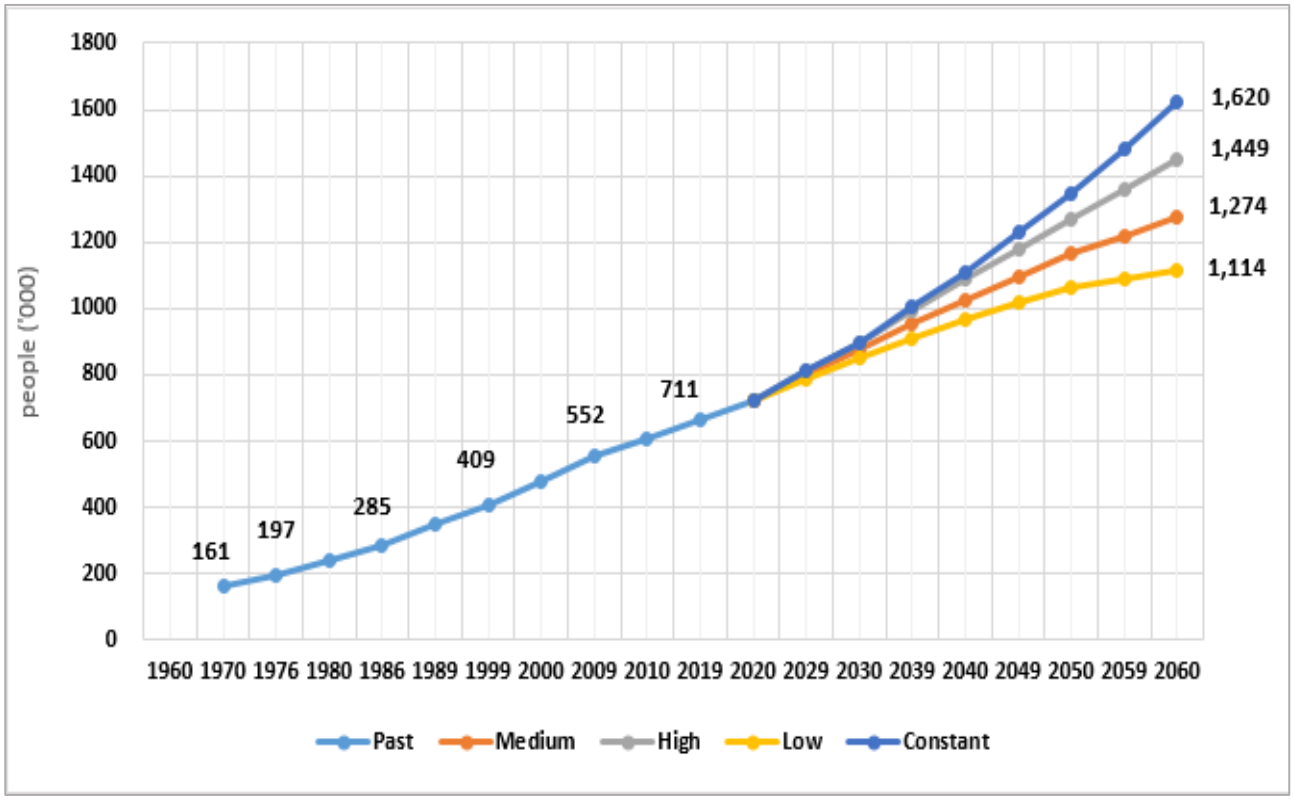
1) **High population scenario.** This projection outcome is determined by applying the high fertility assumption (slow fertility decline). This scenario results in a population size of 1.1 million in the year 2040, and 1.4 million people in the year 2060.

2) **Medium population scenario.** This projection outcome is determined by applying the medium fertility assumption (moderate fertility decline). This scenario results in a population size of slightly over 1 million in 2040 (with 1 million people reached in 2039), and 1.3 million people in 2060.

3) **Low population scenario.** This projection outcome is determined by applying the low fertility assumption (fast fertility decline). This scenario results in a population size of 970 thousand in the year 2040, and 1.1 million people in the year 2060.

4) **Constant population scenario.** This projection outcome is determined by assuming that the current high level of fertility remains constant during the entire projection period. This scenario results in a population size of 1.1 million people in the year 2040, and 1.6 million people in the year 2060.

Figure 16.5: Past and future population trends according to four projection variants, 1970-2060



The population is expected to increase substantially regardless of which projection scenario is applied. It is observed that the impact of the different projections on the population size appear relatively minor until the year 2030. Thereafter, significant population differences based on the different projection assumptions are imminent.

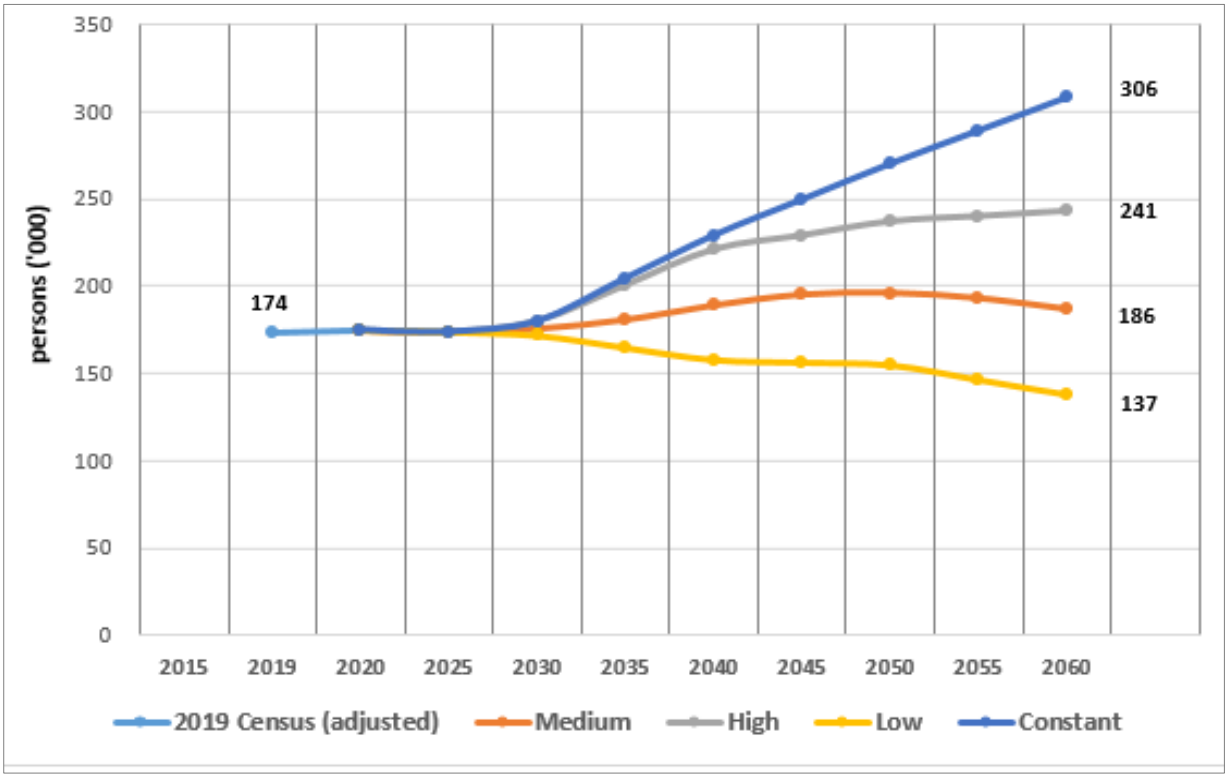
School age population

Figures 16.6 below show that the school age population aged 6–15 years is expected to increase gradually from its current size of 174 thousand regardless of the projection scenario applied, up until 2030. Thereafter, only the projections for the low fertility assumption would decline below its current size.

According to the constant population scenario, assuming constant fertility at its present high level, the school age population would close to double by 2060. Should the high fertility scenario materialize in future, the school age population would continuously increase until it reaches 306 thousand pupils in 2060.

According to the medium scenario, the school age population aged 6–15 would increase to about 195 thousand pupils in 2050 and declines until it reaches 186 thousand in 2060.

Figure 16.6: School age population aged 6-15 years according to four projection variants, 2019-2060



Working-age population

Regardless of the projection scenario applied, the size of the working age population (12 years over) will be larger than its current size in 2019 (500 thousand), reaching 587 thousand in 2025, and further increasing to 800 thousand people in 2040. According to the medium variant scenario, the working age population will reach 1.1 million in 2060. Note that the size of the population aged 12 years and older is not affected by the different fertility assumptions as these people were already born at the time of the 2019 Census (base year of projections).

The elderly population

The population aged 60 years and older will be significantly larger than 42 thousand in 2019 regardless of the projection scenario applied. The 'elderly' population will reach 53 thousand in 2025, and double in size to 108 thousand in 2040. By the year 2060 the population would reach 209 thousand, five times its current (2019) size. Therefore the population will grow older even when observed in the median age. Again, the size of the population aged 60 years and older is not affected by the different fertility assumptions as these people were already born at the start of the projections.

The young population

The proportion of the young population aged 0–14 (as part of the total population) will decrease regardless of the type of projection scenario used. However, its size will increase at least until 2045

with 291 thousand under medium scenario, and thereafter decline to reach 271 thousand by 2060. Under the low projection scenario, the population aged 0-14 would have decreased from year 2026 thereafter. On the other hand, the size of the young population will be much higher if fertility levels follow the trend of the high fertility assumption in which case there would be almost 365 thousand people aged 0-14 years in 2060.

Population growth

The three different projection scenarios will result in varying population growth rates: the high population scenario will result in an average annual population growth rate of 1.9% in 2040, while under the medium population scenario, annual growth will reach 1.7% in 2040, and about 1.4% in 2060. The trend in the annual growth rate slows as the period of projection increases under any projection scenario. The different projections result will also vary based on age-dependency ratios: the lower the level of future fertility, the lower the age-dependency ratio.

Most likely outcome

Predicting the likelihood of a certain future population size and structure is difficult for any country, and the further into the future the prediction, the more uncertain the outcome.

Several projection variants are generated to allow users to choose from an outcome that seems most probable according to their own views and opinions. Most data users, however, prefer to use a recommended projection scenario that depicts a "most likely outcome". Such a variant is usually called the “medium” projection scenario using the medium assumptions made.

Population changes close to those presented in the *medium population scenario* appears to be the most likely outcome because:

- The current fertility level is expected to decline as it has in the Solomon Islands’ recent past, and is furthermore expected to do so based on historical worldwide observations of countries with a similar level of fertility (see also the “theory of demographic transition”, Appendix 10). Therefore, the high fertility assumption, with its very slow fertility decline, seems to be a more unlikely outcome, and a constant high level of the current TFR of 3.8 is surely an unrealistic scenario.

- Regarding the low fertility assumption, fertility levels (TFR) have already declined to well below 2 in many parts of the world, and it is therefore a realistic assumption to make. Nevertheless, such rapid fertility decline does not seem likely to occur in the Solomon Islands as it seems “uncharacteristic” for Pacific Islands populations at the moment, and the decline in fertility levels have been relatively moderate in the recent past. In addition, the general assumption was made that the fertility level of the Solomon Islands will, on average, eventually reach the present day levels of countries such as Australia, France, New Zealand and the USA.

17. KEY POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The key findings of population dynamics and demographic trends has considerable implications on current policy and planning, decision-making, and monitoring and evaluation of strategies. Integrating and addressing these implications within the current policy and planning processes will ultimately lead towards the overarching outcomes of improved livelihoods and sustainable economic development.

The government's National Development Plan (NDP), the Medium Development Strategy (MTDS), Fiscal (budgetary) and Monetary policies and related crosscutting sector policies such as the population and national health plans are key strategic pillars that provide the road map towards achieving the country's socio-economic and environmental goals. These policies are expandable and vibrant in adopting revisions and expansions in activities and outcomes based on updated statistics and data in addressing these key challenges (mentioned below) – and in so doing strengthen the machinery for service delivery in the overall pursuit of sustainable socio-economic development in the country.

Some of the key areas for consideration and intervention include:

17.1 Population Growth rate

The population growth should be managed (and not controlled) to ensure it does not exceed economic (GDP) growth rate because it has broader implications on the equitable distribution of income per person (GDP per capita) in the country. In 2019, GDP growth rate in real terms was 1.7 percent which is below the average annual population rate of 2.6 percent resulting in a decline in income per capita. With a further contraction in the economy due to the covid-19 pandemic, real GDP growth contracted to negative -3.4 percent, and is expected to further contract in 2022 due to the Honiara riots, and than rebound towards positive territory in 2023.

The NDP and macroeconomic policies (fiscal and monetary policies) should consider reviewing current and innovative strategies to expand and stabilize growth in the local economy to ensure economic growth trends above population growth. Initiatives targeting private sector growth (especially reducing costs for small businesses and generating employment), encouraging investment (both in capital and physical infrastructure), freeing up land for development, reducing inflation, and revitalizing the labour and job market (including the informal sector and subsistence economy) should be considered, among others. On the other hand, transferring the proceeds from sustainable economic growth towards supporting social welfare, health and educational awareness programs targeting the demographic fundamentals (fertility, mortality, and migration) will assist in managing the population growth over the medium to long term.

17.2 Population projections

The population projection scenarios presented in this report point to a continuously growing population for the Solomon Islands during the next 40 years. The medium variant scenario of the projections points to a population reaching 1 million people by 2039, and 1.3 million people in 2060. The decline in fertility is reflected in the projections noting the decline in the crude birth rate and an increase in life expectancy since the 2009 Census. This is expected given the historical fertility pattern of the Solomon Islands as with many Pacific Island countries - where fertility has been declining from very high levels since the 1970s. Some of the attributing factors include improved access to family planning and health (reproductive) care, improved quality and access to education, and increased women's participation (empowerment). The social and health programs that drive these outcomes will have to be expanded to cater for the growing population.

The Solomon Islands is a least developing economy with a high dependency on foreign aid for budget (government) support. Confronted with a growing population, demand for public expenditure (per capita) will increase to counter the growing demand for public-social services such as basic utilities (water and energy), education and health care. Moreover, the increase in the working age population will also impact on employment and unemployment challenges especially amongst the youth, and those in the informal sector. This poses additional challenges for the local labour market, existing industries and social welfare programs to expand and ensure a conducive environment towards absorbing the increasing labour force.

Counter reactionary policy measures need to be considered to mitigate the effects of these challenges mentioned earlier, as well as prepare for unexpected events such as climate change, possible pandemics (post-Covid-19), economic recession, and emerging social challenges (noting past ethnic tensions and the recent riots in Honiara in 2022) that are likely to result in massive costs on public finances, livelihoods, migration and displacement of people.

Failure to consider a holistic counter response strategy nation-wide will likely result in the further entrapment of certain vulnerable groups (e.g., children and women) falling into or remaining in the poverty trap. This will be a burden (costly) for families and the government's on-going support; and the likely social-economic challenges that may arise such as law and order issues, and unemployment.

The government's fiscal (budgetary) and monetary policies are best placed to support macroeconomic growth, expand economic activity and encourage increased investment in the local economy. Some policy initiatives to consider include the formulation of an employment or labour market policy, informal sector policy (including structural and regulatory adjustments in the agriculture, forestry and fishing industries), or even a subsistence-based economic (livelihood) strategy (given the experiences of Covid-19 for people to return back to rural villages). These, among others, will support the expansion of the local economic base and increase opportunities for participation by the growing population in the development process, and into the future.

17.3 Fertility

In the absence of any significant international migration, the Solomon Islands population growth is determined predominantly by its natural growth. The average number of children per woman (TFR) is 3.8. This means that on average every woman has three children at the end of her childbearing years. While this represents a decrease from 4.7 in 2009, there are still approximately 21 thousand births per year compared to about 19 thousand in 2009. Fertility levels were especially high in Makira-Ulawa (5.6), and it was much lower in the urban (2.6) than the rural areas (4.5).

An analysis of fertility levels by educational background of women shows a very strong relationship. The higher the educational attainment of women, the lower the number of children she has. Government initiates should continue to support policies aimed at expanding and improving family-planning services and reproductive health to influence fertility levels and ensure the well-being of mothers and children.

Other important government and stakeholder initiatives for fertility should consider:

- Support for life education programs in the curriculum of young people and providing basic information and support needed before childbearing age,
- Expanding the family planning services for women (and their partners) available and accessible thus empowering them to make conscious decisions about the number and spacing of their children. The provision of the above services will assist to reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies as well as safeguard partners from risks of been infected by sexually transmitted diseases. Rural women and their partners should be targeted since their fertility levels are much higher than their urban counterparts are.
- Support for the discouragement of arranged marriages at an early age, through custom and culture, and the strict role of women as child bearers has implications on fertility. These practices and beliefs should be discouraged through well-defined inclusive initiatives in view of sensitives around such practices. The government and NGOs should discourage early age marriages for the health of the girl so that child bearing for women is delayed to older ages.
- A teenage pregnancy is not only a social issue but also especially a health risk to mothers and the child. Since teenage pregnancy usually occurs outside of marriage, it often carries a social stigma. Therefore, social protection for young mothers should also include the provision of child support and maintenance support.
- Expanded support for stakeholders (government and NGOs) involved in teenage reproductive health strategies. Government and NGOs work at various levels in the community in supporting the following areas: reducing teenage pregnancy through strategies for increasing the knowledge and practice of family planning; promoting peer education; providing sex education including contraceptives; involving young people in educating parents of teenagers on effective communication; providing better support for teenage mothers (such as help returning to education); working with young fathers; giving better childcare; and increasing

the availability of supported housing. These groups must continue to be supported, and if possible, provided with financial assistance.

17.4 Mortality

Mortality effects welfare and development as improved mortality rates mean that healthier people live longer lives. Based on the 2019 Census data for the number of children ever born and still alive, the infant mortality rate (IMR) was estimated at 24: 27 for males and 21 for females, showing an increase from 2009 rates estimated at 22: 24 for males and 20 for females. This is an improvement in infant mortality rates and reflects better availability and accessibility of health (reproductive) services.

Estimates of mortality presented in this report suggest that females live longer than males by about 4 years, a narrowing from about 7 years in 2009. Life expectancy at birth is estimated at 70.0 and 74.2 for males and females, respectively. Life expectancy increased from 69.3 in 2009 to 72.1.

Current government and stakeholder support must be expanded especially in supporting reproductive health services covering maternal mortality, infant and child mortality. Moreover, initiatives targeting strategies for countering and eradicating diseases such as life style diseases (diabetes, hypertension, etc. - caused by unhealthy eating habits, smoking and excessive alcohol consumption, and/or a lack of regular physical exercise etc.) should be supported at all levels. Other related initiatives include those mentioned earlier in the fertility considerations.

17.5 Internal Migration and Urbanization

Internal migration affects services offered and provided in the areas of people's origin and destination. Therefore community, regional and national planners need timely and accurate information on internal migration flows.

About 2 in every 5 people were living outside the ward where they were born. This indicates the magnitude of internal migration flows. Moreover, Honiara had the highest outmigration into Guadalcanal (34,700) especially surrounding settlements areas outside Honiara (within the borders of Guadalcanal province); and Malaita had the highest outmigration into Honiara (24,000) and Guadalcanal (11,700) at the time of the census. Guadalcanal accounted for the highest percent of people who never moved but remained in the province at the time of the census.

Areas that lose its population through migration is an indication of people's dissatisfaction with local living conditions such as the lack of education opportunities (for tertiary or vocational/technical qualifications), and limited employment opportunities.

Urban population has increased from 20% while the rural population has declined from 80.2% since 2009. Solomon Islands urban population increased from less than 20,000 people in 1976 to more than 199,000 in 2019. With an upturn in average annual growth from 4.2% during 1986 -1999, annual

urban growth further increased from 5.5% in 1999-2009 to 5.9% during 2009-2019. Accordingly, the share of urban population has continuously increased from 9.3% in 1976 to 27.6% in 2019. Honiara, the capital city and main commercial and administrative center of the country had the highest population growth rate (5.6%) of all provinces. Urban centers attract people by offering higher living standards through the availability and accessibility to services such as medical and educational institutions, entertainment facilities, and a wider range of employment opportunities.

If the government wishes to change the trend of people migrating to urban centers, at least some of the disadvantages of living in the remote rural areas and outer islands need to be eased by improving basic services (as discussed also in the above sections) and opportunities through:

- Promotion and expansion of policies for employment and livelihood in rural areas;
- Decentralization of government services to all provinces;
- Investment in physical infrastructure (roads, bridges, wharfs, airports) developments in provinces to improve transport and logistics amongst people, and better access to business opportunities and markets
- Support for income generating opportunities in provinces to retain populations, in particular the youth participation;
- Provision of better education and health services in the rural areas;
- Promotion of better market distribution systems;
- Provision of better and cheaper transport;
- Conducting of in depth research into youth migration and their reasons for migrating;
- Provision of basic services for the growing population in the urban/peri-urban areas.

17.6 International migration

Data on internal arrivals and departures of persons remain incomplete for detailed migration analysis. As such, the net migration level can only be crudely estimated by comparing intercensal population growth with estimated rates of natural increase for the same time period. While this method provides a reasonably robust indication of net migration, planners and policy-makers require more detailed and timelier information on the demographic makeup of opposing migration streams in order to make and implement realistic policy decisions.

There is insufficient evidence to fully support a positive (or negative) net migration for Solomon Islands. As the national average annual population growth rates were similar to the estimated natural growth, it can be concluded that net migration rates are negligible, and no significant international migration had occurred during the intercensal period 2009-2019. This is similar to the previous 1999-2009 assessment.

Government support is needed in expanding the collection of data and the analysis of age, sex and nationality of all arriving and departing passengers in the Solomon Islands. An alternative would be

to apply the proper demographic methodologies, by comparing the two nearest censuses, to calculate the desired population data. The disadvantage of this option is that this can only be done after the analysis of the latest census is completed. This exercise could prove more time consuming and costly than an efficient registration system that would provide regular and timely migration information.
The recently introduced labour mobility policy of the government through the seasonal worker program (SWP, Australia) and the recognized seasonal employment (RSE, New Zealand) are aimed at temporary short-term employment in Australia and New Zealand. Hence, it is not a policy that supports permanent outmigration of Solomon Islands into these countries.

17.7 Cross-cutting issues

17.7.1 Vital Statistics and Civil Registration System

A well-functioning registration system that is able to supply accurate and timely statistics on population development and key socio-economic data is of fundamental importance to planners and policy makers. To make reliable estimates regarding fertility and mortality levels and trends, a complete registration system needs to be in place; one that records the number of deaths by age and sex, and cause of death, and the number of births by sex and age of mother, date and place of birth and of mothers usual place of residence. Such as system will also reduce the costs for conducting national censuses in the future.

On-going support must continue for the Ministry of Home Affairs in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Medical Services in the development towards a functioning civil registration system to ensure new births and deaths are recorded, and system updated on a regular basis. Information on vital events of previous years will also have to be integrated and upgraded from manual processes to more efficient automated processes. .

There are certainly improvements needed with the collection and processing of vital events and it is hoped that the renewed collaboration between the relevant agencies will lead to timely and accurate dissemination of the number of births and deaths, and cause of deaths in future.

The scope of the vital statistics and civil registration system should also be considered within the framework of the Solomon Islands national statistics development strategy implemented by the Solomon Islands National Statistics Office.

17.7.2 The Environment, Hazards and Vulnerability

Careful use of terrestrial and marine resources and preparedness for unexpected natural occurrences (e.g., tsunamis, sea level rise etc.) contributes to sustainable, safe and healthy livelihoods. As such, maintaining a healthy and sustainable living environment should be a top priority for the government and its people. Apart from providing a pleasant living environment for the local people, conservation of the environment can foster a vibrant tourism industry in future.

At the national level, 17% of households stated that their physical (dwelling) locations were exposed to rising sea levels - out of all major hazards they experienced. In addition, 27% of households in the country reported having a household disaster plan. This poses major risks for two-thirds of households who do not have a plan in any event when faced with major hazards.

Moreover, the size and density of the population has a direct impact on water and energy consumption, sewage and waste production, general infrastructure (e.g., roads, health and education facilities), the use of land, and the development of agriculture and marine resources. High population densities put considerable stress on the environment. Consequently, there is an increasing demand for environmental health services such as public garbage collection, a well-functioning sewage system, availability of hygienic toilets, and protection of secure and clean water sources.

Economic activities such as the deforestation of timber and the harvest of marine resources help the national government to raise much needed revenues. However, the exploitation of the Solomon Islands natural resources needs to be carefully planned to ensure its sustainability.

17.7.3 Households

Population growth, not only contributes to an increased demand in water and energy supply, waste disposal, sewage connections and general infrastructure, but also to an increase in the number of households due to changes in average household size – with the 2019 Census recording a household size of 5.4 at the national level. This was close to stable compared to 2009 that reported a household size of 5.5. Even if the population size remained stable, the number of households would still increase when households and/or family structures break up into smaller units, often described as the transition from extended family type households to nuclear family type living arrangements.

The number of private households increased from 91,251 thousand in 2009 to 131,566 thousand in 2019, an overall increase of almost 40 thousand households.

Households and families that are economically incapable of sustaining an acceptable and healthy lifestyle might need extra assistance from the government, since unhealthy living environments affect everyone in the long term. In particular, access to clean water, public electricity, an adequate public sewage system and waste disposal facilities should all be the minimum housing standard for the Solomon Islands' population. Specific areas of assistance include:

- **Dwellings:** The majority of households (60.5%) resided in dwellings that had walls constructed from wood and wood materials are found mostly in rural areas. While wood is the most commonly used material, tin corrugated iron and concrete cement brick have also been increasingly used. This should be encouraged not only because these housing materials last longer and with dwindling timber supply, cement could be the best alternative. Given that the country is prone to natural disaster, the government needs to

improve housing in rural areas using local materials where possible, as they are affordable as long as the structures are cyclone proof;

- **Water supply**: Close to one-fifth of all households in the Solomon Islands have no access to safe and clean (improved) drinking water. Guadalcanal has a particular high proportion of households without improved drinking water sources, where many use rivers and streams. The development of more community programmes focusing on safe water supply, and providing water tanks, or water pumps is required;
- **Lighting:** About 80% of households use solar as their main source of lighting. This is a shift from the dependence of kerosene lamps as the main source of light reported in the 2009 Census. Given continued rising prices, kerosene is no longer an affordable source for the home, community, school, or business. The use of these 'green power' sources such as solar, wind, or renewable energy should be supported especially in the rural areas. In this respect, government could also encourage investment in innovation and human capital investment in fields such as engineering or environmental studies;
- **Toilet facilities:** A high percentage of households do not have either proper toilet facilities or none at all. For example, close to half (49%) of all households do not have toilets and so apply open defecation practices while others use types of toilets that are not hygienic. Health awareness programmes and assistance in the introduction and improvement of toilet facilities are needed.

17.7.4 Health services and well-being

The health status of each individual and his/her family members is probably one of the most important concerns people have. Therefore, the availability, accessibility, use and affordability of quality health care and medical services are major issues of concern. Government and health officials need to address the challenges of health services and the health care system.

In the remote areas and outer islands, small population size and isolation lack the operations of state-of-the-art health services that come with the demands for employment of specialist health personnel and the purchase and maintenance of specialized equipment. However, resident medical staff needs to be sufficiently qualified to provide basic health care. An efficient referral service to the nearest health facility, together with regular visits by medical specialists is needed to ensure that peoples' health demands are met.

Many deaths in the country are due to inefficient long referrals. Thus, an efficient referral service to the nearest health facility, together with regular visits by medical specialists is required to ensure that peoples' health demands are met, and unnecessary deaths are prevented.

The population projections show that the population aged 60 and older will increase substantially in future. This requires strengthening of special services for the growing number of elderly people, including a pension scheme with retirement benefits, and specialized health care.

In working towards a healthier population, the following efforts should be considered:

- Improve infant, child and maternal health by improving primary health care programmes;
- Improve emergency obstetric care to decrease neo natal mortality;
- Expand immunization programmes;
- Support post-Covid 19 pandemic recovery and mitigation efforts, including strategies for future pandemics
- Prevent sexual transmitted diseases by: (i) increasing awareness and knowledge of safer sexual behaviors and practices (including homosexual, gay sexual practices etc.); (ii) targeting priority groups (youth, women and men, particularly aged 10-24years) in addressing specific counter support strategies; (iii) enhancing education programmes to encourage open discussions (between partners and their children) on issues of sexual behaviors; (iv) promoting and disseminating information outlining the advantages and proper use of condoms by men and women; (v) developing a well-planned media campaign throughout the year based on health promotion with regards to STDs/HIV/AIDS; and (vi) ensuring that people living with STDs/HIV/AIDS have free and unrestricted access to medical treatment, facilities and support services.
- Other efforts include: addressing the increasing occurrence of Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs); combating the prevalence of diabetes and heart disease; promoting healthy eating habits and food nutrition programmes; advocating a general healthy life style including regular physical exercise; discouraging smoking and excessive alcohol consumption; providing a hygienic and safe living environment; improving the quality of drinking water; distribute and promote the use of insecticide treated bed-nets as a way of combating malaria.

17.7.5 Disabilities

The Solomon Islands is a signatory to a United Nations convention to uphold the rights of people with disabilities; and is therefore obliged to: “Promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities and to promote respect for their inherent dignity.”

The 2019 Census found that the prevalence of disability by type of functional forms despite severity of disability. There were higher prevalence of disability for females especially those residing in rural area and elderly population. Those having difficulty in seeing represented 10.6% of the population, followed by difficulty in remembering (8.4%), Walking (7.8%), Hearing (5.6%), Self-care (4.7%) and communicating (3.7%).

These population groups constitute a vulnerable and disadvantaged group, and they are a target group in need of specialized medical assistance.

Although it is commendable that the government supports an inclusive education policy, which also includes specialized schools for disabled pupils, the government needs to do more in order to meet its obligation as stated above. Further special facilities and resources in schools and work places are required to cater for the special needs of people with disabilities, and specialized education facilities are needed in the different provinces.

17.7.6 Education

Educational attainment is a key component of human capital investment as well as being a key indicator of development and quality of life in a country. Education plays an important role in development through its links with demographic, as well as economic and social factors. In general, there is a close and complex relationship between education, fertility, morbidity, mortality and mobility: when couples are better educated, they tend to have fewer children, their children's health status improves, and their survival rates tend to increase. Higher levels of educational attainment also contribute to a better-qualified workforce, higher wages, and better economic performance than for people who have little or no formal education and training.

Persons 12 years and over who had attained a level of education based on the highest level of education completed included primary educational attainment (24.8%); completed secondary education (Form 3-7) (28.4%); completed some tertiary and other educational levels (10%. The rest of the persons did not attend school or were below the primary level.

Whilst the population who reported never going to school declined over the census years, school attendance is still higher for males than females with males (38%) attending full time and part-time education compared to females (37%). The 2019 Census also found significant differences between male and female enrolment rates with male enrolment (51.6%) higher than females (48.4%). Since 2009, the number of pupils leaving school increased by close to 40%. By gender, the percentage increase was high for females who dropped out of school (42.4%) compared to males (37.4%).

The goal of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development (MEHRD) is to provide universal access to quality basic education for all children and improve access to relevant and demand oriented community, technical, vocational, and tertiary education and training. In addition, the Education Strategy Framework (ESF, 2016-2030) aims to achieve full enrolment for all 5 years old in the country. To achieve this, the cooperation of everyone in the community is paramount.

Other areas that the government is already engaging in or can could consider is increasing school budgets (for materials and teachers) to reduce early school drop-outs. In addition, expansion efforts in the building of vocational centers in the provinces featuring youth development programmes could provide life skills (including family planning). Such programmes could reduce teenage delinquency, and teenage pregnancy, while providing the youth with skills they need to be part of the work force and community. Finally yet importantly, an effort needs to be made to encourage young girls who have given birth to continue their education as mothers.

Sustainability is the main constraint for universal primary and secondary education in the country. Hence, on-going government counter-part funding is necessary to continue to sustain strategies such as free education initiatives and the provision of school materials to schools that are extremely under resourced and in remote areas.

School attendance, educational attainment, and literacy rates are much lower in the rural than in the urban areas, which is the result of the disparities of the educational systems in the urban and rural areas where schools lack resources and qualified teachers. This disparity surely is one of the important causes of rural to urban migration.

17.7.7 Labour Force and Economic Activity

Economic activity and labour participation are key drivers of production and economic growth. The type of economic activity and employment are shaped by the size of the working age population (12 years and over), the educational skill level of the labour force, and the economic resources available to a country.

According to the definition of work or employment (paid and unpaid), there were more persons employed (258.4 thousand, 92.1%) than unemployed (2.1 thousand, 7.9%) in the labour force. However, of the total employed, there were more unpaid workers (55.4%) than paid workers (44.6%).

The unemployment rate (official definition) of 7.9 percent is very high – noting that the expanded unemployment rate is twice the rate (or more than doubled) in all provinces, with the highest unemployment rate of 21.6% recorded in Honiara. Moreover, youth-unemployment rate (15-34 yrs) is above the national average of 11 % with similar rates for males (11.1%) and females (11.0%).

The combined agriculture, forestry and fishery industry is the predominant industry accounting for two-thirds (68.4%) of all employed persons in all industries. About 87.0% of employment in this sector is concentrated in the rural areas. This sector is also the predominant sector in the economy accounting for a third of gross domestic product (GDP). Moreover, the economy has a relatively small informal sector based on employment.

According to projection results, the working age population will increase substantially over the next 30 years and over. Hence, the private and public sector needs to absorb an increasing number of job seekers in future and are encouraged to collaborate in developing innovative strategies that will promote economic diversification and growth.

The above findings further exhibit the inequalities in employment by various socio-economic relationships whether by sector, industry, occupation or sex etc. The findings also reveal the underlying complexities of the labor market in both formal and informal sectors. In ensuring inclusive development, it is important that policies be formulated towards expanding the participation of those

who lack opportunities or are trapped in the poverty cycle, to be involved in the development process, including those in the informal economy.

The government's fiscal and monetary policies and the national development plan are best placed to support macroeconomic growth, expand economic activity, create employment and encourage increased investment in the local economy. Some policy initiatives to consider include the formulation of an employment or labour market policy, informal sector policy (including structural and regulatory adjustments in the agriculture, forestry and fishing industries), or even a subsistence-based economic (livelihood) strategy (given the experiences of Covid-19 for people to return back to rural villages). These, among others mentioned earlier, will support the expansion of the local economic base and increase opportunities for participation by the growing population in the development process, and into the future.

Lastly but not least, the recently introduced labour mobility policy of the government through the seasonal worker program (SWP, Australia) and the recognized seasonal employment (RSE, New Zealand) will contribute to employment opportunities and revenue generation (remittances) for Solomon Islanders, especially the youth. The government should also pursue similar agreements with other countries such as United Kingdom and Canada, and even across the region, especially in Papua New Guinea (in the areas of mining and petroleum sectors).

17.7.8 Communication and internet use

The access and use of mobile telecommunications and internet has increased since the emergence of information and digital technologies such as the mobile phone and computer technologies, internet expansion and rise in social media technologies since mid-2008. Existing research in telecommunications suggests that accessing such technologies can increase economic growth, attract foreign investment, improve market efficiencies, increase accessibility to health and education and empower women and the younger generation. The telecommunication sector is presumed to provide new opportunities and frontiers across businesses, social, economic and the political arena. An improvement in the infrastructure and facilities of telecommunications will have a direct effect on development.

- **Telephone and Mobile phone access**: Only 0.5% of all households reported having a landline phone available reflecting a significant drop from 2% of all households in the 2009 Census and indicating a shift in household behavior towards the use of mobile phones – where about 45% of all households now use mobile phones more commonly than landline phones - an increase from 21% of households recorded in 2009. With the increasing use of mobile/cell phones, increasing other service providers and providing competition could reduce user costs and hopefully this will widen the area of mobile phone coverage to reach more people, especially in rural areas. Work to expand and improve coverage to all the islands is progressing, and the mobile phone service providers in the country are obligated to ensure that this is achieved.

- **Radio availability**: The use of radio amongst households showed a significant decline from 24% in 2019 compared to 44% of households in 2009. There is a shift away from having radios (as a devise) and mobile phones because radio services can be still be accessed using mobile phones. Moreover, another reason for this relatively low percentage of radio owners could be connected with reception rather than affordability and/or how radios and radio programmes are valued by the communities. One way to improve reception in remote areas is through the establishment of provincial radio stations devoting airtime to not only music but also topics such as culture, sport, education, and health awareness programmes. In addition, government should assist existing radio stations by improving radio transmitters to reach out to a wider community. Radios are crucial in disaster management for transmitting important information to affected communities.
- **Internet access:** An increase of households with an internet connection was revealed in the 2019 Census. There were 1,971 households (1.5%) with internet access at the time of enumeration compared to 541 (less than 1 %) of households in 2009. Moreover, about 40.7% of persons who had a good working mobile phone accessed internet. The main reasons for accessing internet (using a mobile phone) was mainly for social media (66.0%), communications (62.0%) and entertainment (51.3%), respectively. Although Internet is a significant mode of communication in modern day society and business operations, the paying for the internet connection and data can be expensive. The government must encourage competition by inviting different internet providers to provide internet access at affordable prices. A well-functioning internet system - offers online educational/learning opportunities; makes medical advice available to medical staff in remote areas; provides information, news and entertainment to the public; facilitates tourism operators and businesses.

17.7.9 Constituency Development Fund

Parliament passed the Solomon Islands Constituency Development Fund Act (2013) into operation. In 2022, the government through the Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) begun a nationwide process of consultations towards the review of the current CDF Act and policy. The findings from the 2019 Census attempts to contribute towards this review as well as to inform policy formulation, discussion and debate about the CDF development assistance.

Data from the 2019 Census revealed that nearly all (98.9%) of households in the Solomon Islands were generally aware of the CDF. This is evidence of the increased awareness and public interest about the CDF across provinces. Of all the households that were aware of the CDF, the majority (64.2%) of households stated that there was no positive impact (direct or indirect) on their livelihoods. This suggests that more work needs to be done in changing perceptions and attitudes of the people about the positive contributions of the CDF.

The 2019 Census found also found that the CDF had contributed negatively towards the fair distribution of resources - according to 35.0% of all households. Renewed efforts is therefore required to counter any further increase in negative perceptions about the equitable distribution of CDF

assistances. Concerning the future use and management of CDF, the majority (32.7%) of households wanted to see improvements in good governance (e.g., accountability, free of abuse and corruption) to be considered in future management process of CDF assistances.

17.7.10 Christianity and Religion

Christianity has a large influence on Solomon Islands society - that started even before the colonial administration with the arrival of early missionaries. Upon independence in July 1978, and with the adoption of a parliamentary democratic system of government, it was evident that Christian principles and values such as the fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual, and the mention of the name of the Christian God in the preamble, and in oats and affirmations, demonstrated the integration of the Christian faith in the life and supreme law of the country (constitution). Christianity also played a significant role in affecting the way of life of many people especially though the provision of education and health services – provided or sponsored by a number of denominations such as the Catholic Church, the Anglican Church of Melanesia, the United Church, the South Sea Evangelical Church (SSEC), and the Seven day Adventist Church (SDA).

The Church has also acted in many ways as a welfare and social safety net for vulnerable people, and at times acted as an orphanage for abandoned children. During the ethnic tensions and the Covid-19 era, Churches provided a place of refuge for those persons who were traumatised psychologically, including support for counselling and spiritual assistance when needed.

According to the 2019 Census, 32% of the population regard themselves members of the Church of Melanesia and 20% as Roman Catholic. The SSEC comprised of 17% of the population, about 12% regarded themselves as belong to the SDA Church; and 9% belonged to United Church, and the rest belong to other religions.

The government must continue to support the Solomon Islands Christian Association and other smaller Christian associations - such as the SWIM/YWAM outreaches, and the Pentecostal Christian groups in community outreaches and missionary work throughout the country.

17.7.11 National Statistics Development

The government National Statistics Development Strategy (NSDS) 2015-2035 administered and implemented by the National Statistics Office (SINSO) must be supported – including expansions to meet new data needs for emerging policy needs (e.g., climate change etc.) and in supporting key indicators required by the government's the National Development Plan, the MTDS, and fiscal and monetary policies.

Some of the key areas that the NSDS is expected to support include:

- Regular production and supply of key socio-economic and demographic data and indicators required to meet the monitoring and evaluation requirements for the government's national development plan, MTDS, fiscal and monetary policies and other public sector specific policies and strategies;
- Implementing the forthcoming 2024-2025 Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES);
- Implementing the forthcoming 2026 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS);
- Implementing the forthcoming 2027 National Agriculture Census/Survey;
- Implementing the forthcoming 2029 National Population and Housing Census;
- Support for other short-term surveys (e., labour force survey) depending on government policy direction and funding;
- Support the National Elections in 2024 in terms of data provisions including population projections;
- Support the Boundaries Commission/Ministry of Lands in terms of new ward boundary demarcations and expansions, and alignment to statistical enumerated areas and mapping;
- Support for the Vital Statistics and Civil Registration system including regular supply of data and alignment with other data systems and data sources;
- Support the revitalisation of statistical units within government ministries including capacity building of staff; and
- Support for a proposed National Identity (national ID card) Project to support planning and in reducing the costs for future intercensual population censuses.

17.7.12 Good governance

Good governance and effective policy-making should provide the framework for sustainable development within which the interrelationship of population, environment, and all possible socioeconomic aspects of a country can prosper cohesively.

In this regard, it is important that policy-makers, planners, politicians and community leaders are aware of the needs and aspirations of the people in order to effectively provide for the specific needs of the population, and the different population sub-groups in the country. The government needs to know about its country's population structure, population processes and socioeconomic characteristics in order to plan for an adequate standard of living, and for a proper provision and distribution of goods and services.

GLOSSARY

Indicator	Definition
Adult mortality (45q15)	Probability of death between the ages of 15 years and 60 years
Age–dependency ratio	Number of people in the "dependent" age category (population <15 plus population 60+) per 100 in the "economically productive ages" 15–59 years
Average age at (first) marriage (SMAM)	Approximation of average age at marriage, based on proportion of population never married (single)
Balance equation	Population growth = births – deaths + net migration
Births — estimated number for 2019	Estimated age-specific fertility rates (ASFR) multiplied by enumerated number of women by age in 2019
Child-woman ratio (CWR)	Number of children under age 5 per 1,000 women aged 15-49
Child mortality rate (1q5)	The probability of dying between age 1 and age 5
Crude net migration rate	Rate of growth minus rate of natural increase
Deaths — estimated number for 2019	Estimated age-specific death rates [m(x)] by sex (from life multiplied by enumerated population by age and sex in 2019
Employment–population ratio	Proportion of employed people in work (paid+ unpaid) (by a given age and sex), as part of the corresponding total number of people of the same age and sex
General fertility rate	Annual number of births per 1,000 women of childbearing age (15-49)
Total fertility rate	Sum of the age-specific fertility rates (aged 15 to 49 years)
Infant mortality rate (IMR)	Number of infant deaths (children younger than 1 year) per 1,000 births

Institutions	Boarding schools, prisons, hospitals, hotels/hostels/guesthouses
Intercensal period	Time period between two censuses
Labour force	People employed (paid and unpaid work) and unemployed (excludes those not seeking employment)
Labour force participation rate	Proportion of people in the labour force (by a given age and sex), as part of the corresponding total number of people of the same age and sex
Language ability	see Literacy rate
Life expectancy at birth	Number of years a newborn baby can expect to live on average
Life expectancy at age 20	Number of additional years a 20 year old can expect to live on average
LTR, lifetime risk of maternal death	The chances of a woman dying from maternal causes over the course of her 35-year reproductive life span = 35 x maternal mortality rate
Literacy rate	Proportion of the population aged 15 years and older or 15-24 years who are able to read and write a simple sentence in any language
Mean age at childbearing	Average age of women when giving birth
Median age	The age at which exactly half the population is older and half is younger
Parity (average)	Average number of children per woman
PMFD, proportion of deaths due to maternal causes	Ratio between numbers of reported female deaths and maternal deaths.
Rate of growth (%)	Average annual growth rate during 2019–2009 ln (TotPop2009/TotPop1999)/10 x 100

Rate of natural increase	Crude birth rate (CBR) minus crude death rate (CDR)
Sex ratio	Number of males per 100 females
Teenage fertility rate	Number of births by women aged 15–19 per 1,000
Total fertility rate (TFR)	Average number of children per woman
Under 5 mortality (q5)	The probability of dying between birth and age 5

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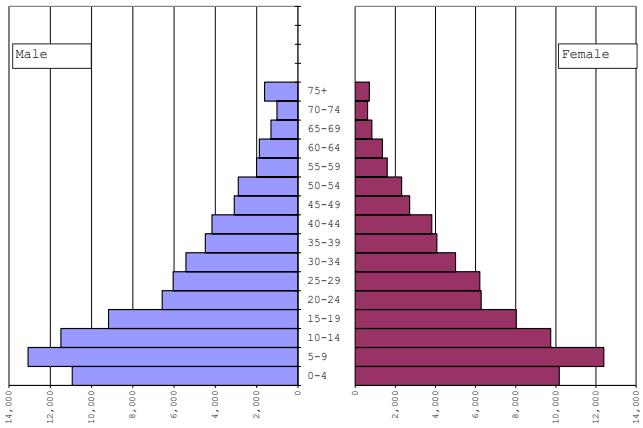
APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: Population Pyramids, Solomon Islands: 1970 to 1999

Table A1:Population Pyramids, Solomon Islands: 1970 to 1999

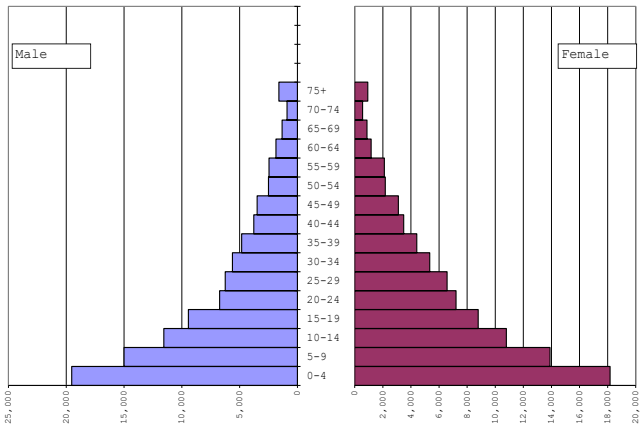
Solomon Islands: 1970

1. Population by Age and Sex



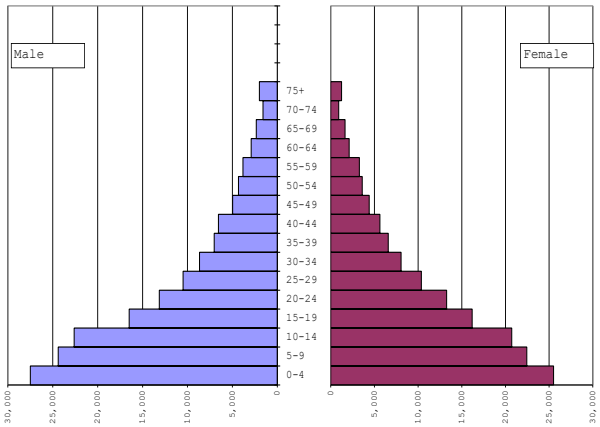
Solomon Islands: 1976

1. Population by Age and Sex



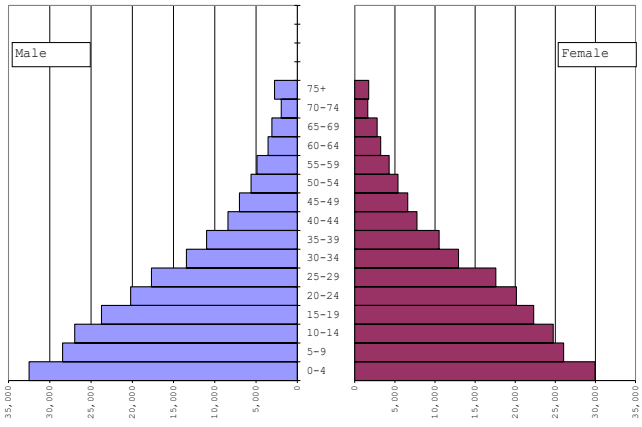
Solomon Islands: 1986

1. Population by Age and Sex



Solomon Islands: 1999

1. Population by Age and Sex



APPENDIX 2: Accuracy of Age Reporting – Indices of Age Heaping

Table A2.1: Whipple's Index for Provinces and Gender, 2019

Province	Total	Males	Females
Total	1.12	1.13	1.12
Choiseul	1.1	1.03	1.07
Western	1.07	1.05	1.06
Isabel	1.11	1.08	1.09
Central	1.15	1.18	1.16
Rennell-Bellona	1.1	1.2	1.14
Guadalcanal	1.13	1.18	1.16
Malaita	1.15	1.17	1.16
Makira	1.09	1.15	1.12
Temotu	1.08	1.14	1.11
Honiara	1.1	1.07	1.09

Source: 2019 Solomon Islands Census

Table A2.2: Myers, Whipples, and UN Index, Solomon Islands: 1999 to 2019

Census year	Myers'		Whipple's		UN
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Secretariat
1999	6.6	5.3	109	106	19.5
2009	7.6	7.1	119	117	20.2
2019	5.7	5.7	113	112	15

Sources: Solomon Islands Censuses

Table A2.3: Myer's Index for Provinces and Gender, Solomon Islands: 2

Province	Total	Males	Females
Total	5.85	5.74	5.67
Choiseul	6.53	5.65	5.76
Western	5.85	5.23	5.55
Isabel	4.91	5.61	5
Central	8.07	10.23	8.7
Rennell-Bellona	#N/A	7.41	#N/A
Guadalcanal	6.63	7.31	6.46
Malaita	7.41	8.21	7.55
Makira	4.32	5.72	4.72
Temotu	7.84	9.37	8.47
Honiara	5.92	5.96	5.7

Source: 2019 Solomon Islands Census

A basic interpretation of these indices (Table A1-2) is provided as:

Myers Index – the higher the index, the greater the concentration on the age examined. Positive

values show a preference for the digit, and negative values shows avoidance of the digit. The index calculated for males was 5.74 and 5.67 for females in 2019 compared to 7.6 for males and 7.1 for females in the previous 2009 Census; and for the 1999 Solomon Islands census it was 6.6 and 5.3 for males and females respectively. The theoretical range of Myer's index is 0, representing no heaping to 90, which would result if all ages were reported at a single digit.

Whipple Index: Males and Females was 113 and 112 in 2019 compared to 119 and 117 respectively in the 2009 Census. This measure means that the Solomon Islands population overstated ages ending in 0 or 5 by 13% and 12% for males and females in the 2019 Census, compared to 19% and 17% for males and females in the previous census. The decrease of the different indices is an indication that age reporting in the 2019 Census is less inaccurate compared to the 2009 Census, but in an acceptable range.

In general, it is not possible to accurately measure digit preference because an accurate distinction between the error due to digit preference and other errors, and real fluctuations cannot be made. Hence, none of the above indexes provides a critical value of age heaping/misreporting because of each country-specific effect of past trends of births, deaths and migration on a population's age distribution. The genuine fluctuations become the more pronounced the smaller the population (sample) size. Nonetheless, the fluctuations observed suggest some faulty reporting.

APPENDIX 3: Fertility Estimates using the Trussell P/F Ratio Technique, Solomon Islands: 2019

Solomon Islands : 2019
Trussell P/F Ratio Technique

Age	Reported ASFR f(i)	Average CEB P(i)	Cumulative fertility Phi(i)	F(i)	P/F ratio
15-19	0.031	0.077	0.155	0.061	1.277
20-24	0.132	0.662	0.816	0.523	1.266
25-29	0.159	1.583	1.612	1.294	1.223
30-34	0.136	2.617	2.290	2.035	1.286
35-39	0.093	3.280	2.753	2.588	1.268
40-44	0.039	3.865	2.948	2.869	1.347
45-49	0.014	4.111	3.018	3.002	1.369
Age code *	0				
TFR	3.0183				

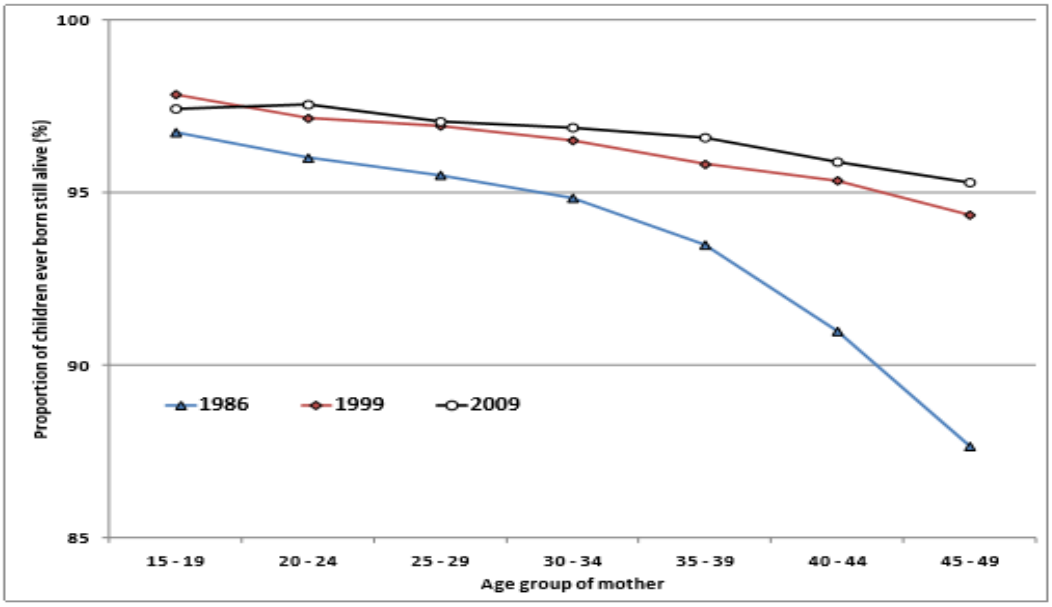
* Age code: ASFR based on age of mother at:
0 census/survey
1 birth of child

		Adjusted ASFR's			
Age	ASFR *	P2/F2 1.266	P3/F3 1.223	P4/F4 1.286	Avg(P3/F3,P4/F4) 1.255
15-19	0.0388	0.0491	0.0474	0.0498	0.0486
20-24	0.1403	0.1777	0.1717	0.1804	0.1761
25-29	0.1587	0.2009	0.1942	0.2041	0.1991
30-34	0.1317	0.1667	0.1611	0.1693	0.1652
35-39	0.0877	0.1110	0.1073	0.1128	0.1100
40-44	0.0355	0.0449	0.0434	0.0456	0.0445
45-49	0.0110	0.0139	0.0134	0.0141	0.0138
TFR	3.0183	3.8215	3.6927	3.8808	3.7867

* Pattern corrected for one-half year between birth and reporting.
ASFR Age-specific fertility rate.
CEB Average number of children ever born.

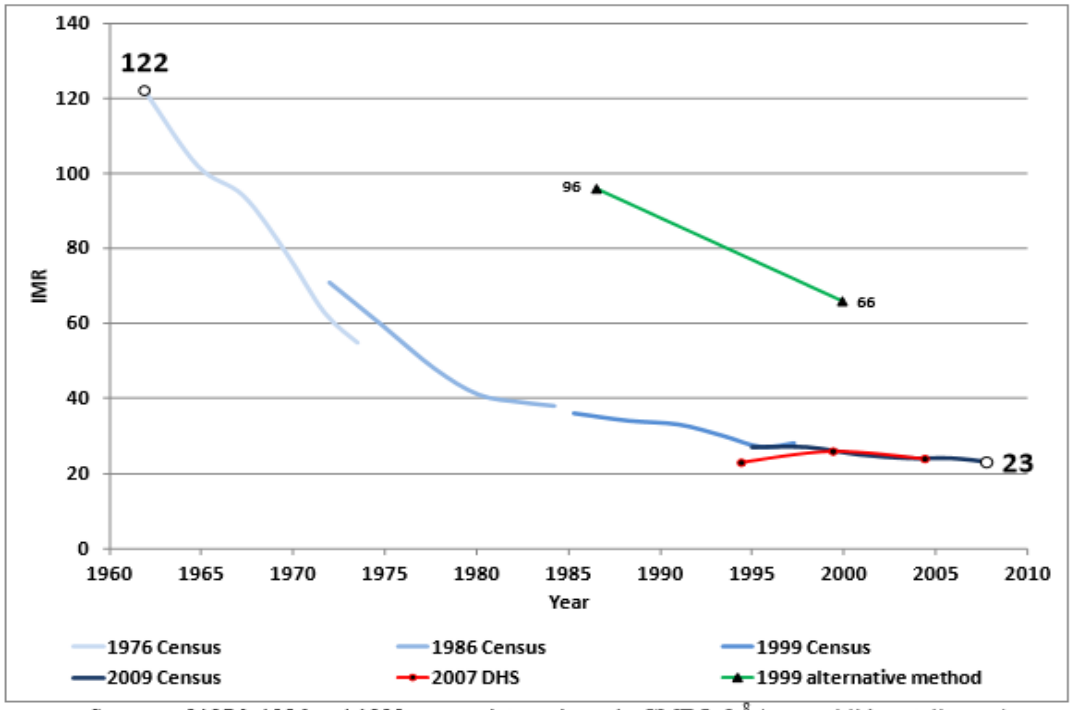
APPENDIX 4:

Proportion of children ever born and still alive by age of mother, Solomon Islands: 1986, 1999 and 2009



APPENDIX 5:

Infant mortality rate (IMR), Solomon Islands: 1961-2009



Source: of 1976, 1986 and 1999 census data and graph: CME Info[8] (www.childmortality.org).

APPENDIX 6: Abridged Life Tables, Males Urban: 2019

Table A6: Abridged life table for Urban - Males : 2019

Age	m(x,n	q(x,n)	l(x)	d(x,n)	L(x,n)	S(x,n)	T(x)	e(x)	a(x,n)
0	0.0298	0.0290	100,000	2,900	97,465	0.9679	6,978,905	69.8	0.1259
1	0.0020	0.0080	97,100	777	386,508	0.9926	6,881,440	70.9	1.5656
5	0.0010	0.0051	96,323	488	480,396	0.9956	6,494,932	67.4	2.5000
10	0.0007	0.0037	95,835	353	478,294	0.9947	6,014,536	62.8	2.5000
15	0.0015	0.0075	95,482	717	475,778	0.9907	5,536,243	58.0	2.7220
20	0.0022	0.0108	94,765	1,025	471,344	0.9889	5,060,465	53.4	2.5776
25	0.0022	0.0111	93,740	1,042	466,117	0.9884	4,589,121	49.0	2.5192
30	0.0024	0.0121	92,698	1,123	460,724	0.9873	4,123,004	44.5	2.5361
35	0.0027	0.0135	91,575	1,239	454,860	0.9849	3,662,280	40.0	2.5666
40	0.0034	0.0171	90,336	1,545	447,975	0.9804	3,207,421	35.5	2.6025
45	0.0046	0.0228	88,791	2,026	439,189	0.9710	2,759,446	31.1	2.6480
50	0.0074	0.0361	86,765	3,135	426,446	0.9579	2,320,257	26.7	2.6463
55	0.0100	0.0489	83,630	4,092	408,505	0.9382	1,893,810	22.6	2.6427
60	0.0161	0.0777	79,538	6,177	383,262	0.9021	1,485,306	18.7	2.6640
65	0.0259	0.1218	73,361	8,938	345,739	0.8479	1,102,044	15.0	2.6429
70	0.0415	0.1886	64,423	12,152	293,160	0.7638	756,305	11.7	2.6172
75	0.0687	0.2942	52,271	15,380	223,908	0.6410	463,145	8.9	2.5653
80	0.1127	0.4385	36,891	16,176	143,519	0.4834	239,238	6.5	2.4695
85	0.1832	0.6135	20,714	12,708	69,383	0.3161	95,719	4.6	2.3097
90	0.2822	0.7732	8,007	6,190	21,935	0.1815	26,335	3.3	2.0765
95	0.4033	0.8841	1,816	1,606	3,981	0.0952	4,400	2.4	1.8242
100	0.5022	...	210	210	419	...	419	2.0	1.9914

APPENDIX 7: Abridged Life Tables, Females Urban: 2019

Table A7: Abridged life table for Urban - Females : 2019

Age	m(x,n	q(x,n)	l(x)	d(x,n)	L(x,n)	S(x,n)	T(x)	e(x)	a(x,n)
0	0.0162	0.0160	100,000	1,600	98,557	0.9819	7,481,804	74.8	0.0980
1	0.0013	0.0050	98,400	492	392,369	0.9957	7,383,248	75.0	1.4980
5	0.0006	0.0031	97,908	299	488,792	0.9972	6,990,879	71.4	2.5000
10	0.0005	0.0025	97,609	239	487,446	0.9970	6,502,087	66.6	2.5000
15	0.0008	0.0039	97,370	375	485,973	0.9953	6,014,641	61.8	2.6691
20	0.0011	0.0056	96,994	539	483,683	0.9939	5,528,669	57.0	2.6096
25	0.0013	0.0066	96,456	636	480,722	0.9931	5,044,985	52.3	2.5518
30	0.0014	0.0072	95,820	690	477,409	0.9923	4,564,263	47.6	2.5499
35	0.0017	0.0085	95,130	807	473,718	0.9897	4,086,855	43.0	2.6091
40	0.0025	0.0123	94,322	1,165	468,848	0.9860	3,613,137	38.3	2.6271
45	0.0032	0.0160	93,158	1,486	462,275	0.9801	3,144,289	33.8	2.6370
50	0.0050	0.0245	91,671	2,244	453,071	0.9715	2,682,014	29.3	2.6444
55	0.0068	0.0333	89,428	2,974	440,155	0.9578	2,228,943	24.9	2.6519
60	0.0110	0.0536	86,454	4,630	421,569	0.9302	1,788,788	20.7	2.6890
65	0.0187	0.0895	81,824	7,325	392,159	0.8834	1,367,220	16.7	2.6848
70	0.0321	0.1494	74,498	11,133	346,426	0.8081	975,061	13.1	2.6586
75	0.0551	0.2436	63,366	15,439	279,947	0.6925	628,636	9.9	2.6111
80	0.0951	0.3846	47,927	18,433	193,857	0.5409	348,689	7.3	2.5166
85	0.1545	0.5494	29,494	16,204	104,864	0.3774	154,832	5.2	2.3708
90	0.2398	0.7143	13,289	9,492	39,579	0.2325	49,967	3.8	2.1694
95	0.3479	0.8432	3,797	3,202	9,202	0.1142	10,389	2.7	1.9442
100	0.5017	...	595	595	1,187	...	1,187	2.0	1.9934

APPENDIX 8: Abridged Life Tables, Males Rural: 2019

Table A8: Abridged life table for Rural - Males : 2019

Age	m(x,n)	q(x,n)	l(x)	d(x,n)	L(x,n)	S(x,n)	T(x)	e(x)	a(x,n)
0	0.0266	0.0260	100,000	2,600	97,705	0.9713	7,006,516	70.1	0.1173
1	0.0018	0.0070	97,400	682	387,946	0.9933	6,908,812	70.9	1.5747
5	0.0010	0.0050	96,718	484	482,379	0.9956	6,520,866	67.4	2.5000
10	0.0007	0.0037	96,234	355	480,280	0.9947	6,038,487	62.7	2.5000
15	0.0015	0.0077	95,879	738	477,711	0.9906	5,558,206	58.0	2.7215
20	0.0022	0.0108	95,140	1,029	473,204	0.9889	5,080,495	53.4	2.5724
25	0.0022	0.0111	94,111	1,046	467,962	0.9884	4,607,291	49.0	2.5192
30	0.0024	0.0121	93,065	1,128	462,548	0.9873	4,139,328	44.5	2.5361
35	0.0027	0.0135	91,938	1,244	456,660	0.9849	3,676,780	40.0	2.5666
40	0.0034	0.0171	90,694	1,551	449,749	0.9804	3,220,120	35.5	2.6025
45	0.0046	0.0228	89,142	2,034	440,928	0.9710	2,770,371	31.1	2.6480
50	0.0074	0.0361	87,109	3,148	428,135	0.9579	2,329,443	26.7	2.6463
55	0.0100	0.0489	83,961	4,108	410,122	0.9382	1,901,309	22.6	2.6427
60	0.0161	0.0777	79,853	6,202	384,779	0.9021	1,491,187	18.7	2.6640
65	0.0259	0.1218	73,652	8,973	347,108	0.8479	1,106,407	15.0	2.6429
70	0.0415	0.1886	64,678	12,200	294,321	0.7638	759,300	11.7	2.6172
75	0.0687	0.2942	52,478	15,441	224,794	0.6410	464,979	8.9	2.5653
80	0.1127	0.4385	37,037	16,240	144,087	0.4834	240,185	6.5	2.4695
85	0.1832	0.6135	20,796	12,758	69,658	0.3161	96,098	4.6	2.3097
90	0.2822	0.7732	8,038	6,215	22,022	0.1815	26,440	3.3	2.0765
95	0.4033	0.8841	1,823	1,612	3,997	0.0952	4,418	2.4	1.8242
100	0.5022	...	211	211	421	...	421	2.0	1.9914

APPENDIX 9: Abridged Life Tables, Females Rural: 2019

Table A9: Abridged life table for Rural - Females : 2019

Age	m(x,n)	q(x,n)	l(x)	d(x,n)	L(x,n)	S(x,n)	T(x)	e(x)	a(x,n)
0	0.0224	0.0220	100,000	2,200	98,055	0.9751	7,379,073	73.8	0.1160
1	0.0018	0.0070	97,800	685	389,479	0.9944	7,281,018	74.4	1.4882
5	0.0006	0.0032	97,115	315	484,788	0.9971	6,891,538	71.0	2.5000
10	0.0005	0.0026	96,800	256	483,361	0.9967	6,406,750	66.2	2.5000
15	0.0008	0.0042	96,544	403	481,780	0.9950	5,923,389	61.4	2.6642
20	0.0012	0.0059	96,141	564	479,357	0.9935	5,441,609	56.6	2.6044
25	0.0014	0.0070	95,578	665	476,261	0.9927	4,962,252	51.9	2.5513
30	0.0015	0.0076	94,913	721	472,798	0.9919	4,485,991	47.3	2.5491
35	0.0018	0.0089	94,192	841	468,947	0.9892	4,013,193	42.6	2.6079
40	0.0026	0.0130	93,351	1,209	463,883	0.9853	3,544,245	38.0	2.6254
45	0.0034	0.0167	92,142	1,536	457,076	0.9792	3,080,362	33.4	2.6353
50	0.0052	0.0255	90,606	2,309	447,585	0.9703	2,623,286	29.0	2.6433
55	0.0070	0.0346	88,296	3,057	434,300	0.9561	2,175,701	24.6	2.6510
60	0.0114	0.0557	85,239	4,744	415,224	0.9276	1,741,401	20.4	2.6873
65	0.0194	0.0928	80,495	7,467	385,169	0.8794	1,326,177	16.5	2.6824
70	0.0333	0.1544	73,028	11,273	338,707	0.8022	941,008	12.9	2.6552
75	0.0570	0.2507	61,755	15,481	271,715	0.6846	602,302	9.8	2.6061
80	0.0979	0.3936	46,274	18,215	186,004	0.5317	330,587	7.1	2.5093
85	0.1586	0.5591	28,060	15,687	98,896	0.3685	144,583	5.2	2.3608
90	0.2453	0.7225	12,372	8,938	36,445	0.2256	45,687	3.7	2.1565
95	0.3544	0.8485	3,434	2,914	8,222	0.1104	9,242	2.7	1.9292
100	0.5098	...	520	520	1,020	...	1,020	2.0	1.9616

APPENDIX 10: The demographic transition

According to the theory of demographic transition, over time all countries will undergo change from high rates of births and deaths to low rates of births and deaths. This transition process is usually closely associated with economic, social and scientific developments. This is assumed to happen in four distinct stages:

Stage 1: High birth rate, high death rate little or no population growth
Stage 2: High birth rate, falling death rate high growth
Stage 3: Declining birth rate, relatively low death rate slowed growth
Stage 4: Low birth rate, low death rate very low growth

Historically, high levels of births and deaths kept most populations from growing rapidly through time. In fact, many populations not only failed to grow but also completely died out when birth rates did not compensate for high death rates (**stage 1**). There are few populations/communities left today at stage 1.

Death rates eventually fell as living conditions, nutrition and public health improved. The decline in mortality usually preceded the decline in fertility, resulting in population growth during the transition period (**stage 2**). In Europe and other industrialised countries, death rates fell slowly. With the added benefit of medical advances, death rates fell more rapidly in the countries that began the transition in the 20th century. These are/were primarily developing countries. Their death rates often fell much faster than in European countries because they benefited from Western inventions and innovations.

In general, fertility rates fell neither as quickly nor as dramatically as death rates, and thus populations grew rapidly.

Stage 3 is characterized by falling birth rates, which occur for many reasons and vary from country to country and population to population. A decrease in birth rates may result from: a transition from a non-monetary to a monetary economy, urbanization, a change in values from a community emphasis to individualism, increasing emphasis on consumerism, improved education, availability of (modern) family planning methods (i.e. contraceptives), greater involvement of women in the workplace, rising cost of living, rising cost of raising children, and preferences in how people want to spend their time.

The demographic transition is regarded as completed when both birth and death rates have reached a low and stable level (**stage 4**). As a result, population growth is very low.
Originally, the theory of demographic transition included only the four stages described above. There is now another stage, the **post-transition period** (although it is uncertain whether all countries will reach this stage).

Post-transition period: Very low birth rate, low death rate negative growth
When fertility falls to very low levels and stays there for a protracted period, a slow rate of population growth can turn into a negative one, resulting in a population decrease. Many countries in Europe and some in Asia now have TFRs well below two children per woman. The TFRs of the Republic of Korea, Ukraine, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Republic of Moldova, Bulgaria, and Belarus — all about 1.2 — are among the world's lowest, and those of several other countries were not far behind. The TFRs of Macao and Hong Kong were even less than 1 child per woman on average. Many of the factors that lowered fertility in the first place — greater involvement of women in the workplace,

rising cost of living, and preferences in how people want to spend their time — appear to be keeping fertility rates very low.

While the theory of demographic transition describes the population history of Western Europe quite well, for many reasons developing countries do not always exhibit the same patterns of change. In some cases early contact with outside societies resulted in local epidemics, as groups succumbed to diseases against which they had no natural immunity, resulting in increased death rates. When health conditions improved as a result of the application of new and efficient disease control technologies, death rates declined, while birth rates sometimes increased. This combination of factors produced population growth rates in today's developing countries that are much higher than ever experienced in pre-industrial Western Europe.

Stylised graph of the European demographic transition

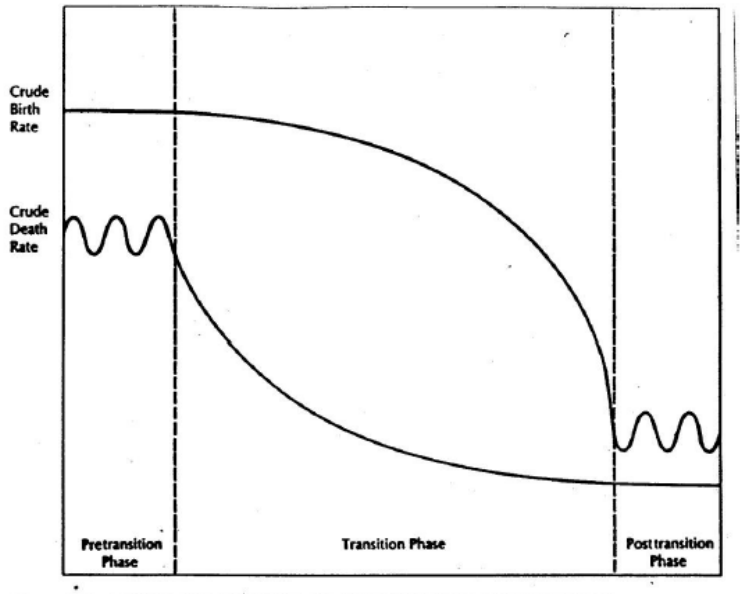


Figure 3–2 A SIMPLIFIED DIAGRAM OF THE EUROPEAN DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION
Source: Ansley J. Coale, 1974, p. 49.

Sources: 2004. Population Handbook, Population Reference Bureau, Inc, Washington D.C., 5th Edition;
1999. Papua New Guinea National Population Policy 2000–2010, Department of Planning