

## **Geography**

### ***Cultural Geography***

Southeast Asia's region is one plagued by the scars of colonialism and the subsequent manipulation of Capitalist and Communist parties. (Bunnell, Kong, and Law, 2005) There may be no better country in Southeast Asia that can encapsulate the generations of foreign influence and the scars it left on the region than Vietnam. Vietnam was originally a colonial asset of France known as French Indochina until the Japanese takeover in June 1940 in an attempt to cut off a potential trade route through Indochina to China during wartime. (Dreifort, 1982) After Japan's surrender to the Allied Forces in the year 1945, Japan ceased its occupation of Vietnam and for the first time, Vietnam had established its own freedom and declared its name as the Democratic Republic of Vietnam going as far as to quote the lines of the U.S. Declaration of Independence and Constitution in their first president, Ho Chi Minh's declaration of Vietnam's freedom. (Obama, 2013) The strife that has plagued Vietnam's territory would not end here, however. France had been well aware, through years of colonial rule, of the value that Vietnam's geographical position holds. It was with this knowledge that France made an attempt to regain control of Vietnam via another invasion in the year 1946 continuing on until 1954. (Bodinier, 1989) Vietnam would ultimately succeed at defending itself from France regaining the territory but the unified government of Vietnam had been completely destabilized. Vietnam would go on to be governed by two warring factions: The Communist Party with the support of China and Russia (North Vietnam) and the Anti-Communist Party with the support of the United States (South Vietnam). (Hastings, 2018) Once the war had concluded, Vietnam would find it difficult

to develop trade partners due to its reputation and internal policies, requiring a complete overhaul on the base on which its economic structure could be built.

### *Economic Geography*

The solution would be to begin taking up an economic strategy that had already experienced some success within the continent of Asia. The geographical location of Vietnam is located directly south of China. In 1986, Vietnam would face an economic crisis due to its command economy structure. (Path, 2020) The command economic structure of Vietnam had been improperly regulated by the Government of Vietnam, resulting in vast disparities between the poor and rich populations of Vietnam. In order to remedy the crisis, Vietnam switched its economic structure to align more with socialist ideals, extremely similar to the economic style of China, with their new method of *Đổi Mới*, which directly translates to innovation. (Stern, 1986) This newfound economic structure heavily relies on foreign investment in manufacturing to regulate Vietnam's economy, enacting an open-door market-based economic structure, introducing Vietnam's economy to the world of *International and Global Trade*. (Bureau of Economic Affairs, 2023). Vietnam has created a path to consistent financial growth through global manufacturing at extremely competitive rates with booming *export* businesses in the industries of garment production, technology, and toys to name a few. (Martin, 2021) As of 2023, Vietnam remains one of the fastest-growing economies and with PRC business on a decline due to ongoing tension, the appeal of Vietnam as a replacement manufacturing hub has skyrocketed.

Karlique Caesar

## Climate

The climate in Vietnam is distinguished by tropical heat and moisture, with a variation of rainfall in distinct seasons (Turley et al., 2023). Similar to Vietnam's geography, China and the Gulf of Thailand both border the country's 1,000-mile South China Sea coastline (Justice, n.d.). Mountainous terrain makes up the majority of the western border between Vietnam and Laos and Cambodia, which also affects the region's climate and natural resources. The northern reaches have a very different climate from the southern (Justice, n.d.). The three microregions of Northern Vietnam, Central Vietnam, and Southern Vietnam serve as the main divisions of Vietnam's regions (Bich, 2022). Hanoi, Vietnam's capital city, is located in the country's north and the coldest month was January reaching 63 degrees Fahrenheit, however, the median yearly temperature reached up to 74 degrees Fahrenheit (Turley et al., 2023). Hue, a city in Central Vietnam, has a median yearly temperature of up to 77 degrees Fahrenheit (Turley et al., 2023). The Southern Vietnam City, Ho Chi Minh, has a median yearly temperature of up to 81 degrees Fahrenheit (Turley et al., 2023). In Northern Vietnam, the winter season persists from November to April, while consistent drizzles from February to March (Turley et al., 2023). Although, during the summer persists with warmth, heavy precipitations, and infrequent typhoons (When to go to Vietnam, n.d.). The southwest monsoon winds in central and south Vietnam, blow from June through November and bring rain and typhoons to the lowland plains and eastern slopes of the highlands. Typhoons significantly harm the economy because thousands of livestock and millions of chickens perished or were carried away, more than 49,930 acres of rice and other crops were damaged (Disasters, 2022). December through April are dehydrated and marked by northeast monsoon winds and intense heat in the south (When to go to Vietnam, n.d.).

One can remain cool and comfortable when traveling by dressing appropriately for the season and climate in Vietnam, however, locals are enduring the heat like it's an Arctic winter (Kendra, 2022; Subramanian, 2023). One suggests wearing loose and breathable clothing during the summer and the ideal natural fabrics are cotton, silk and linen, so for bottoms one would opt denim for joggers or skirts (Kendra, 2022). However, locals and motorists in Vietnam cover one's whole body in order to avoid the sun and pollution despite the intense heat (Subramanian, 2023). Motorists would wear a face mask, long sleeved shirts, and long legged pants. One would avoid wearing dark colors and wear lighter colored clothes because dark colors trap heat from the sunlight (Stephenson, 2021). During the colder months in North Vietnam one would wear a button down as a thin blazer and others would layer a rain jacket when there is heavy precipitation (Laundry, n.d.). In different regions that may have four to two seasons, Vietnamese citizens seem to wear light and thin clothes when there is humidity but some would dress conservatively to avoid the sun and dust. During freezing months such in December to January in North Vietnam, Vietnamese citizens would layer up like anyone would.

Marilyn Chiu

## Natural Resources

Occupying the eastern coastline of Southeast Asia, Vietnam is abundant in several natural resources. The main mineral resources consist of coal and petroleum as Vietnam's mining sector continues to progress quickly. In the past decades, Vietnam is recognized for its large production of oil and gas within the region. The narrow s-shaped country produced approximately forty-nine million tons of coal in 2022 with an expectancy to increase the following year (Nguyen, 2023). Vietnam acts as one of the world's leading coal-powered generators. Due to its massive production in Vietnam, coal has become a fueling force for economic development. Industrialization as well as market expansion has rapidly increased energy usage in the country. Vietnam's moist climate and physical geography create a prime location for these non-renewable resources. Vietnam produces roughly thirty-two thousand barrels of petroleum per day. Following India and China, Vietnam holds the majority of oil reserves in Asia (Crosse, 2022). Vietnam's agricultural areas are dependent on the Mekong and Red River Delta. As a result, Vietnam's import of cashews has tremendously skyrocketed since 2022 (Auditor, 2022). Currently, Vietnam remains the world's largest exporter of cashew nuts. Exporting around 580 thousand tons each year, the cashew nut industry accumulates about 3.8 billion annually. After Thailand and Cambodia, Vietnam is one of the greatest contributors to cassava exports globally. The exportation of this industrial crop has generated nearly 260 million in cassava and cassava product sales (Kim, 2016). Vietnam's geographical makeup makes the region an ideal space for cassava production. This tropically grown crop is known to thrive even in the midst of adverse climate change and weather conditions. Cassava root is known to withstand drought, poor soil, and even resistance to pests and disease (Kim et al., n.d.). The cassava root is extremely profitable due to its vast availability and low production costs. It is one of most cultivated cash

crops in Southeast Asia and is used in raw form and various different products. The key to Vietnam's enriched economical system significantly relies upon the country's natural resources and locally grown crops. In this country, the *four factors of production* play a crucial role in the overall welfare of the country. *Land* in Vietnam is an important component as its natural resources such as oil and cassava are used to create a good or service which generates income for the economy (Hicks, 2020). *Labor* is also a strong contributing factor due to the large agricultural workforce that employs millions of Vietnamese citizens. One can view *capital*, another factor of production, as man made products, natural resources, and infrastructure utilized in the actual production of services and goods. Lastly, *Entrepreneurs* combine all factors of production to create revenue, as small businesses account for forty percent of Vietnam's gross domestic product rate.

Shelby Simon

## Population & Demographics

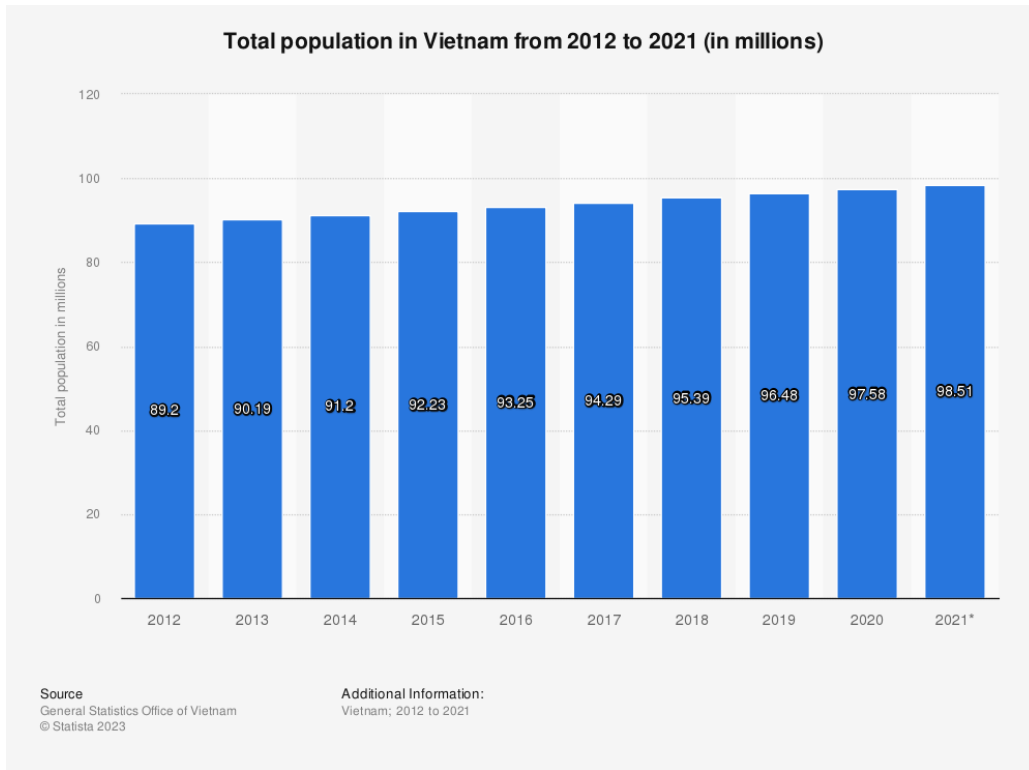


Figure 1. A bar graph of Vietnam's Total Population from 2012 to 2021

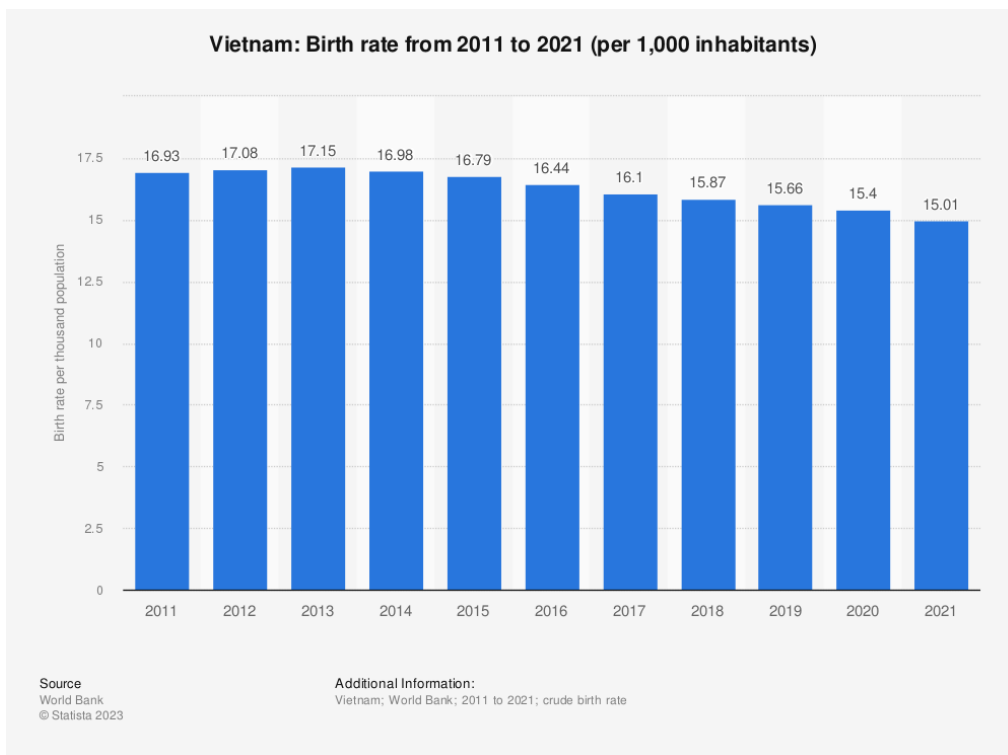
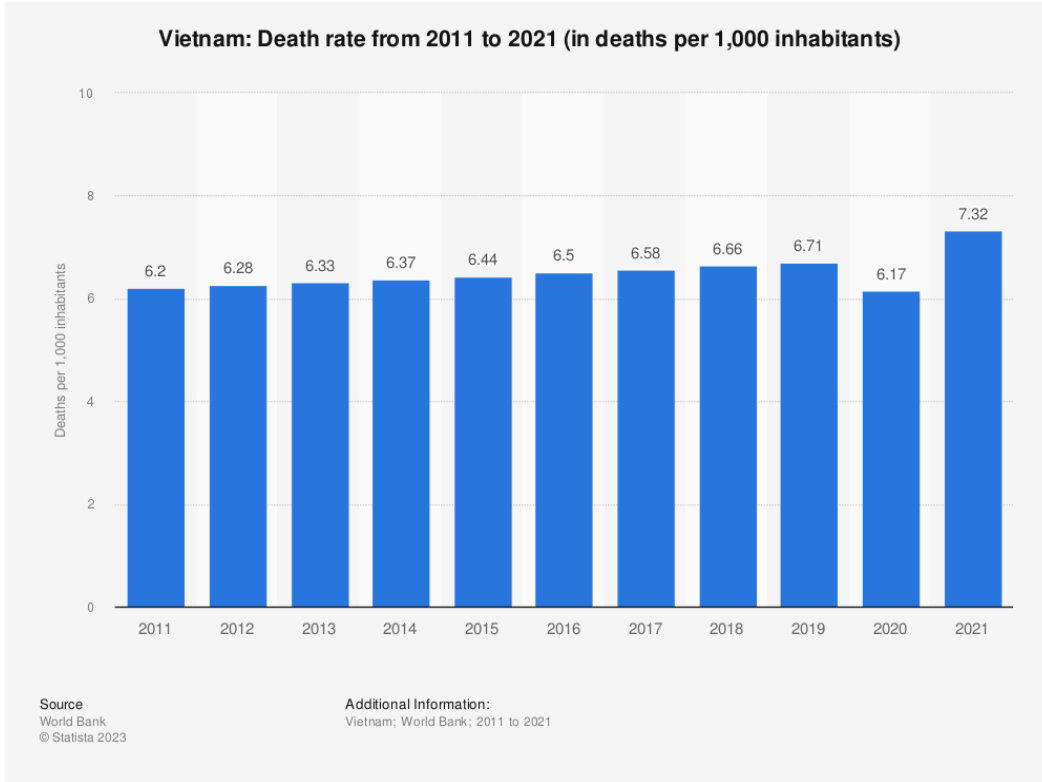
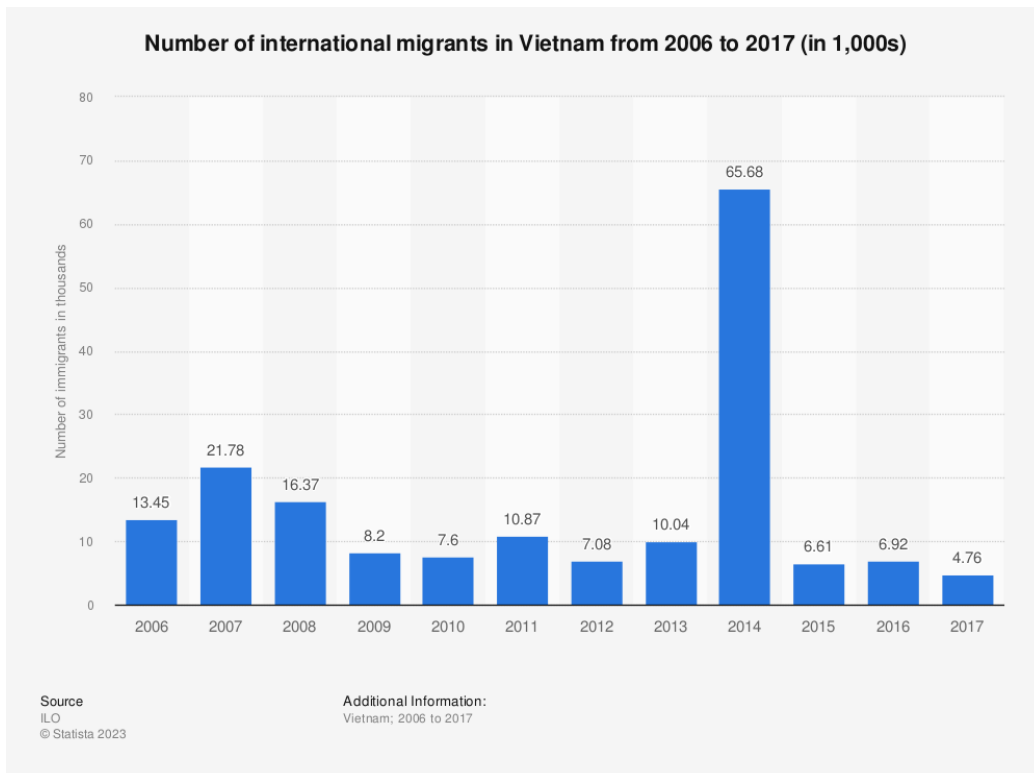


Figure 2. A bar graph of Vietnam's Birth rate from 2011 to 2021



*Figure 3. A bar graph of Vietnam's Death rate from 2011 to 2021*



*Figure 4. A bar graph of international migrants in Vietnam*



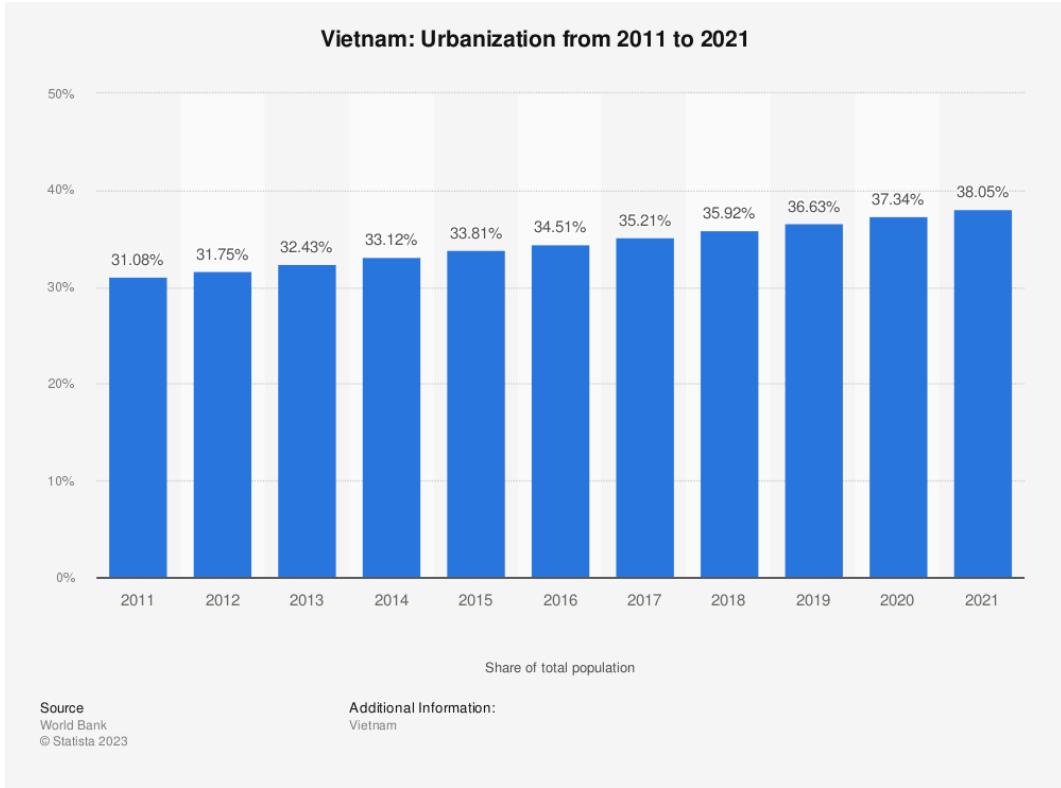


Figure 5. A bar graph of Vietnam's Urbanization from 2011 to 2021

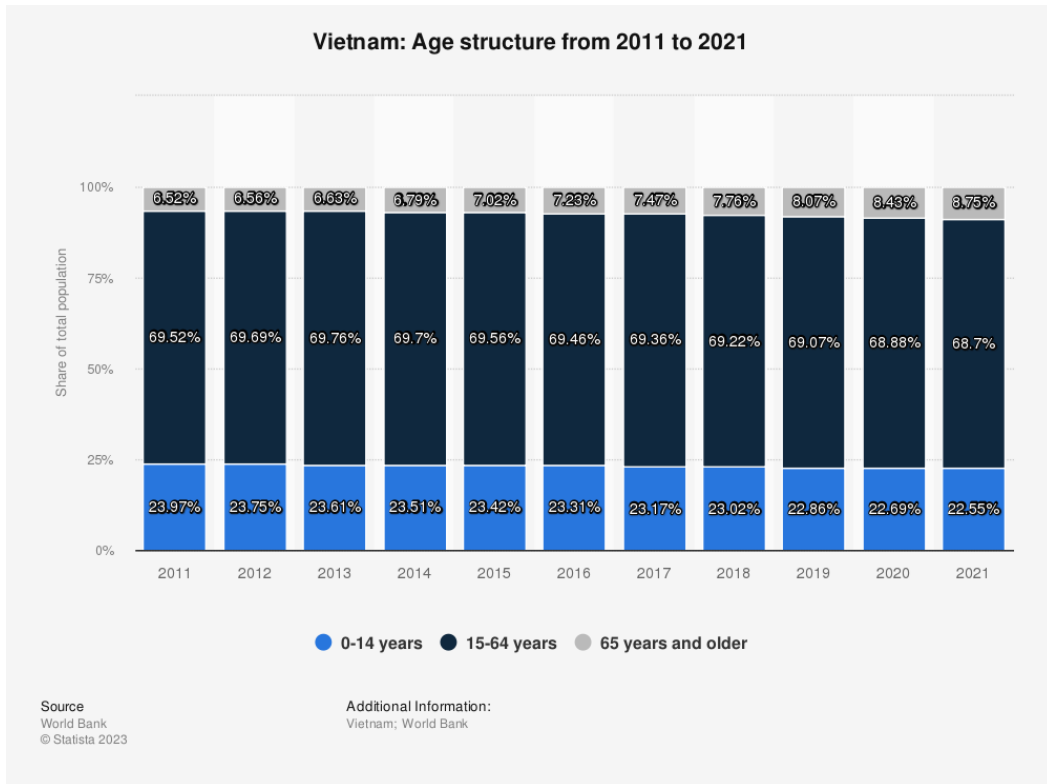
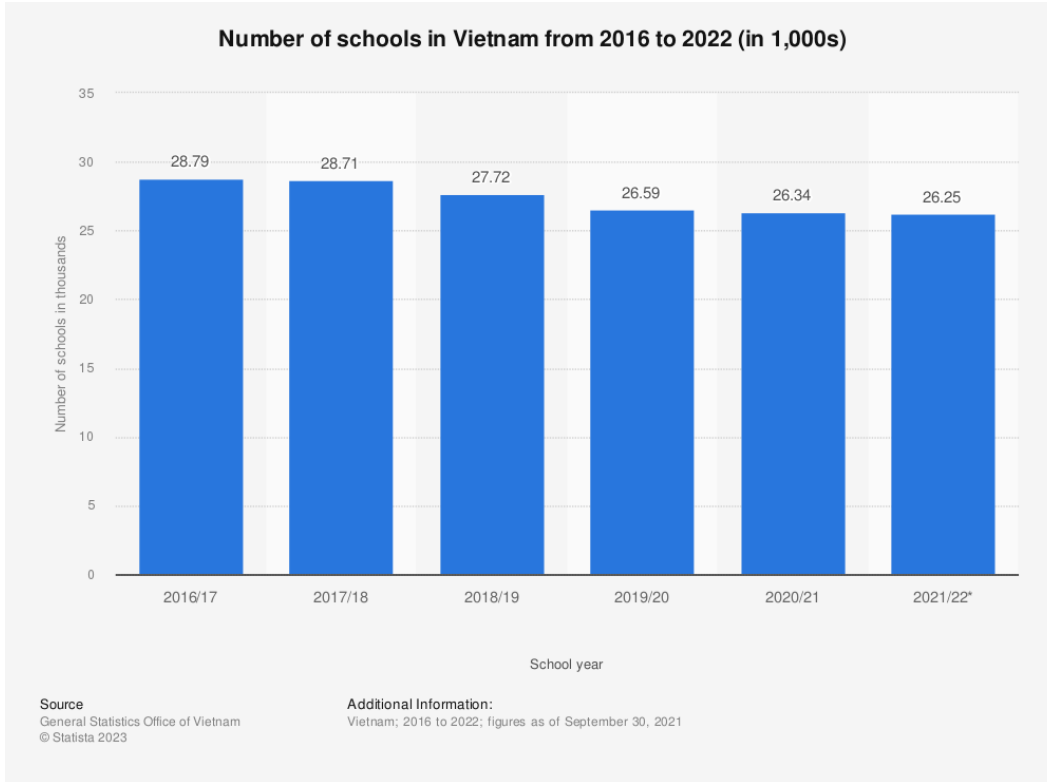
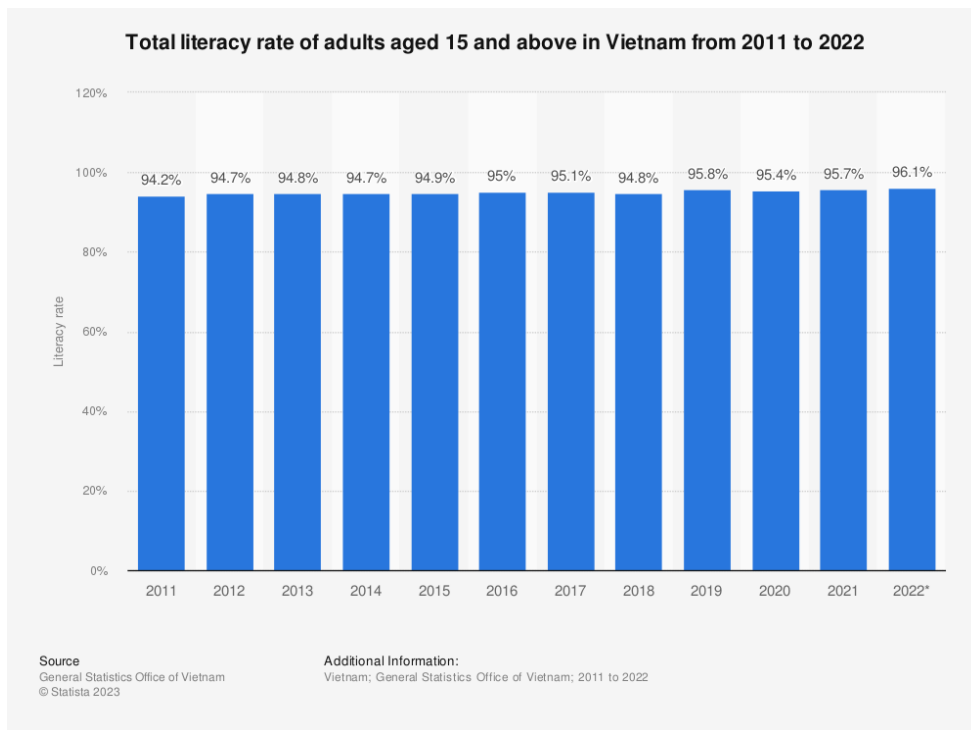


Figure 6. A bar graph of Vietnam's age structure from 2011 to 2021



*Figure 7. A bar graph of schools in Vietnam from 2016 to 2022*



*Figure 8. A bar graph of total literacy rate in Vietnam*

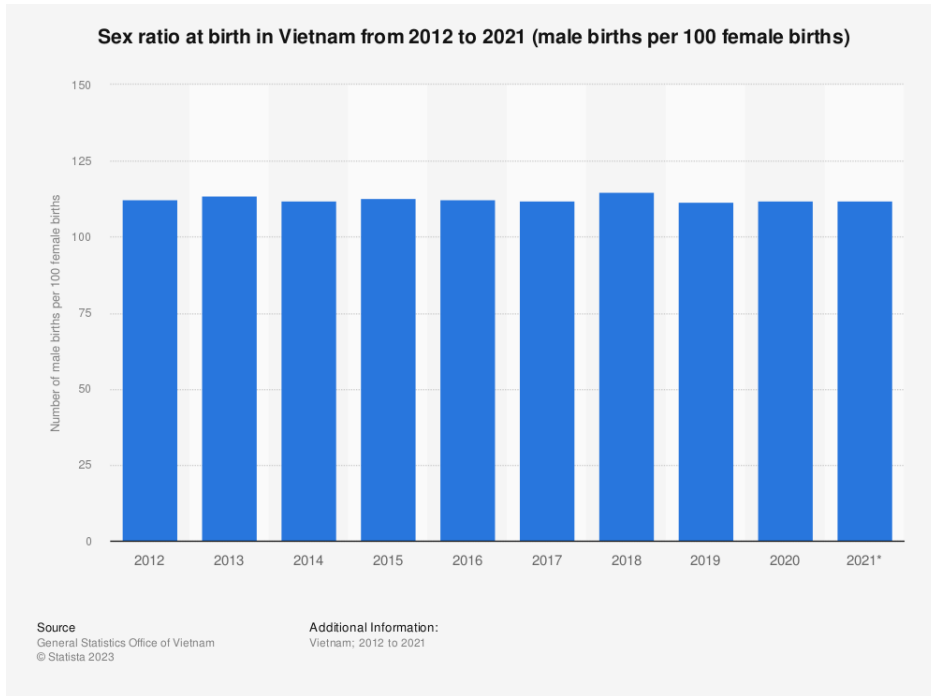
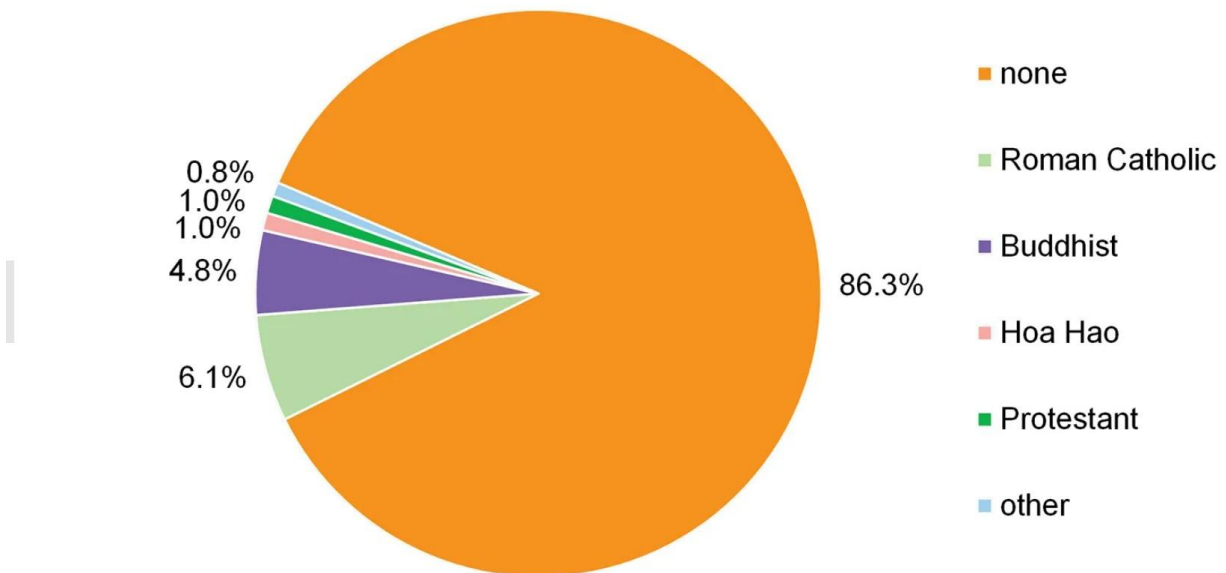


Figure 9. A bar graph of Sex ratio at birth in Vietnam

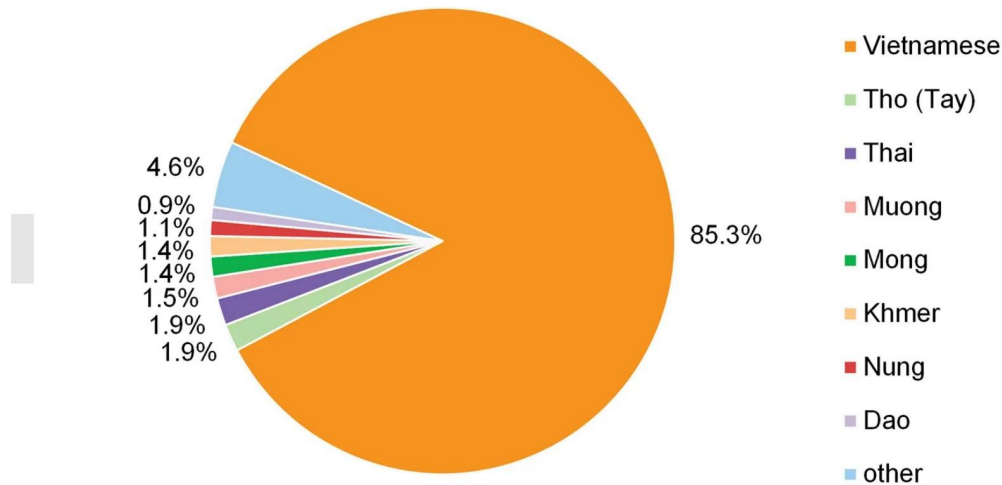
### Vietnam religious affiliation (2019)



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Figure 10. A pie graph of Vietnam religious affiliation

### Vietnam ethnic composition (2019)



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*Figure 11. A pie graph of Vietnam ethnic composition*

The land of Vietnam may seem small but there are more lives within the region than one can think. The population of Vietnam increased by about a million people from the previous year, reaching 98.51 million in 2021, with a 0.74% growth rate (Nguyen, 2023; Vietnam Population Growth Rate, n.d.). In the ASEAN region, Vietnam is one of the most populous nations in the area. Although in the previous years, in Vietnam there has been a decrease in birth rate by -2.6% (O'Neill, 2023). The death rate in Vietnam reached its peak in 2021 by an increase of 19.45% since 2020. About 65.68% of international migrants moved to Vietnam at their peak and compared to 2017 about 4.76 thousand international migrants moved to Vietnam (Nguyen, 2021). 85.3% of Vietnam citizens are Vietnamese, while 1.9% of other ethnics are Tho(Tay) and Thai, 1.5% of other ethnics are Muong, 1.4% are Mong and Khmer, 1.1% are Nung, 0.9% are Dao (Encyclopædia Britannica, n.d.). More than half of Vietnam remains rural, however, urbanization grew by 7% from 2011 to 2021 (O'Neill, 2023). Even though Vietnam's birth rate

has decreased and the death rate has increased, Vietnam's population continues to grow over the years.

The demographics in Vietnam include age, educational system, literacy, birth rate, fertility, and religion. From 2011 to 2021, in Vietnam, there was a steady decline of youth ages 0-14 and 15-64 but there was an incline of older generation ages 65 and older (O'Neill, 2023). Although the youth may have had a minor decline and older generations grew, the nation's overall fertility rate rose to 2.11 in the same year (Nguyen, 2023). In Vietnam, there were roughly 112 male births for every 100 female births in 2021. In Vietnam, there were 26 thousand schools consisting of three levels of educational systems: primary, secondary, and high school lasting twelve years in the school year 2021 to 2022 (Nguyen, 2023). Over the years, the literacy rate in Vietnam increased, the literacy rate in 2022 is about 96.1% making Vietnam high-rising adult literacy amongst other countries in the Pacific of Asia. 86.3% of Vietnamese citizens are not affiliated with any religion while 6.1% of Vietnamese citizens follow the Roman Catholic, 4.8% of Vietnamese citizens are Buddhist, 1.0% of Vietnamese citizens are Hoa Hao, and of Vietnamese citizens, 1.0% are protestant (Encyclopædia Britannica, n.d.).

Marilyn Chiu

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Figure 2. World Bank. (June 29, 2023). Vietnam: Birth rate from 2011 to 2021 (per 1,000 inhabitants) [Graph]. In *Statista*. Retrieved July 19, 2023, from <https://www-statista-com.citytech.ezproxy.cuny.edu/statistics/978730/crude-birth-rate-in-vietnam/>

Figure 3. World Bank. (June 29, 2023). Vietnam: Death rate from 2011 to 2021 (in deaths per 1,000 inhabitants) [Graph]. In *Statista*. Retrieved July 19, 2023, from <https://www-statista-com.citytech.ezproxy.cuny.edu/statistics/581140/death-rate-in-vietnam/>

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Figure 6. World Bank. (May 10, 2023). Vietnam: Age structure from 2011 to 2021 [Graph]. In *Statista*. Retrieved July 19, 2023, from <https://www-statista-com.citytech.ezproxy.cuny.edu/statistics/444599/age-structure-in-vietnam/>

Figure 7. General Statistics Office of Vietnam. (June 30, 2023). Number of schools in Vietnam from 2016 to 2022 (in 1,000s) [Graph]. In *Statista*. Retrieved July 19, 2023, from <https://www-statista-com.citytech.ezproxy.cuny.edu/statistics/813396/number-of-schools-in-vietnam/>

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Figure 9. General Statistics Office of Vietnam. (January 9, 2023). Sex ratio at birth in Vietnam from 2012 to 2021 (male births per 100 female births) [Graph]. In *Statista*. Retrieved July 19,

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