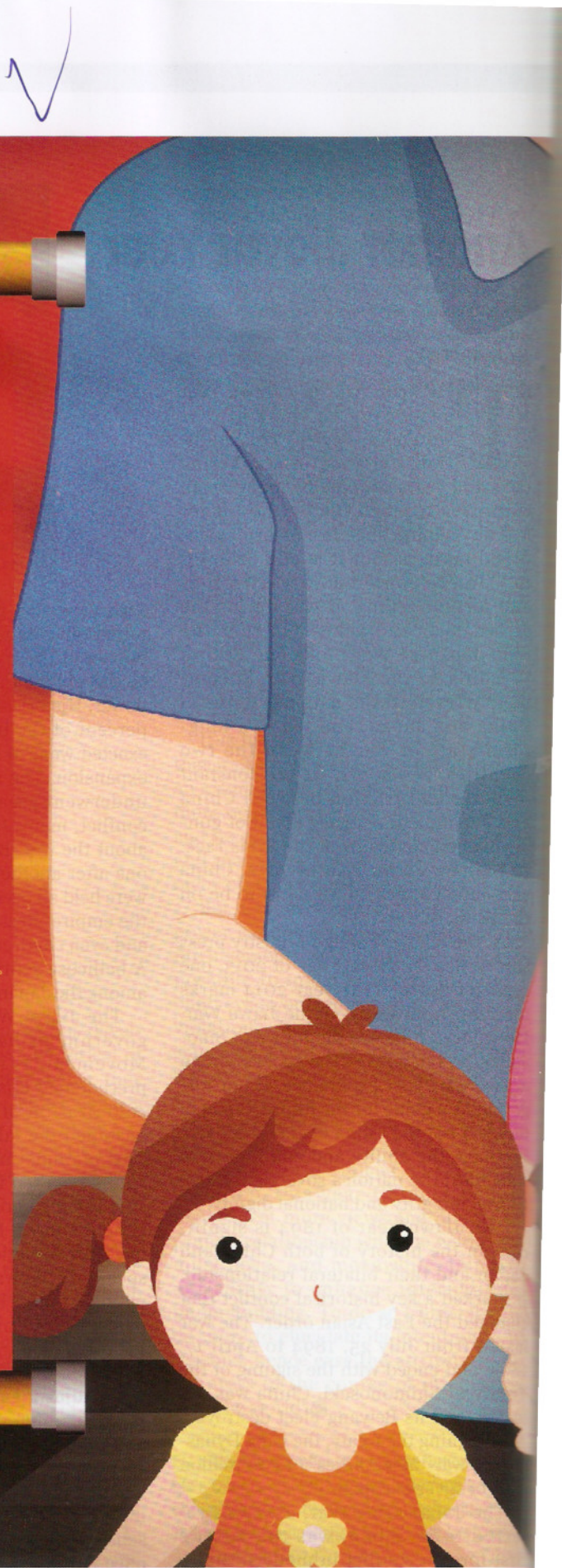


Readjustment to China's Birth Policy

Since its introduction of the one-child policy for most Chinese couples in the late 1970s, China has effectively reined in its rampant population growth. Benefiting from the policy, Chinese women have been liberated from the birth burden to a great degree and their education and employment situation has improved dramatically. To promote long-term, balanced development of the population, China is gradually adjusting its family planning policy. On December 23, 2013, a bill to allow couples to have two children if either parent is an only child was approved at the sixth meeting of the Standing Committee of the 12th National People's Congress. The move marks another major adjustment to China's family planning policy since the country allowed couples to have two children if both parents are only children.





The Top 10 Most Expensive Cities in which to Raise a Child

Rank City Cost (Million RMB)

Having a Child: A Hefty Investment

From getting pregnant to giving birth and raising a child until he or she graduates from college – how much does it all cost? In a table of the top 10 most expensive cities to raise a child published online in July 2013, the cost surpasses RMB 2 million in Beijing and Shanghai. This equates to a middle-income family saving 20 years' worth of their salaries outright. Though the chart is not authoritative, it is true that the cost of raising children today has soared.



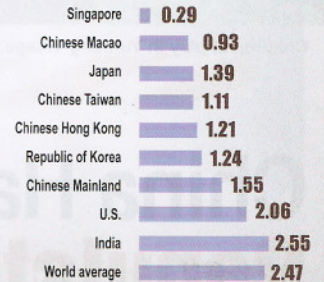
Boost Fertility Rate

According to strategic research into population development carried out by the State Council, the peak of China's total population should be controlled at around 1.5 billion and the total fertility rate of about 1.8; figures either side of these markers threaten the balanced development of the population, economy and society.



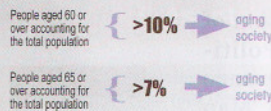
The total fertility rate refers to the average number of babies born per woman of childbearing age. If the rate is lower than 2.1, the newborn population will not match that of the earlier generation. Currently, the total fertility rate of Chinese women sways between 1.5 and 1.6, while in 1970, the rate reached 5.8.

Estimated Fertility Rates in 2013



Slowing China's Aging

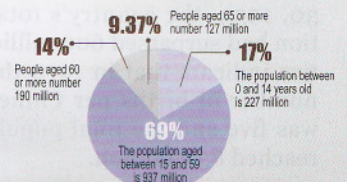
With its current population structure, China will become the "oldest" country in the world by 2050. The new two-child policy for couples where either parent is from a one-child family is expected to slow the aging rate down in a long run.



The Retirement Clock

Hu Xiaoyi, Vice Minister of Human Resources and Social Security, said that in the last several years, each day sees about 25,000 Chinese reaching the age of 60. On each of the 252 workdays of 2012, an average of 24,800 people went through the retirement procedure. This is equal to one person retiring in China every second.

In a press conference on January 18, 2013, Ma Jianlong, Commissioner of the National Bureau of Statistics, revealed that as of the end of 2012, the total population of the Chinese mainland was 1.354 billion. This figure includes inhabitants of 31 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government, and military personnel in active service, but does not include those living in Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions, Taiwan Province and overseas.



Sources: the official website of the National Health and Family Planning Commission of the People's Republic of China, the official website of the National Bureau of Statistics of the People's Republic of China, People's Daily, Xinhua, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Nefesse, Tencent Finance