

Population Changes Under the Impact of Industrialization in Vietnam: A Case Study of Binh Duong Province



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ABSTRACT: Population change is a key component of Vietnam's economic development paradigm. However, in each locality, population shifts can be stimulating while also posing hurdles to socioeconomic development programs. This article assesses population changes in Binh Duong province and suggests plans for development and population control. The findings suggest that Binh Duong has a diversified population and is constantly receiving new population classes. Binh Duong's population increased the most rapidly between 1997 and 2023, following a centuries-long steady pace. This is also a time of dramatic demographic change, with the population becoming more multi-ethnic, multi-regional, multinational, and multicultural. Binh Duong's socioeconomic development successes reflect the contributions of all segments of the community, with immigrants playing a significant role. Binh Duong province must develop and implement policies for sustainable population management and development, including the establishment of a population database system linked to economic and social development strategies, the incorporation of population policies into economic, social, and cultural development programs and plans, and the linking of population development and management policies to sustainable population policies.

KEYWORDS: Binh Duong, Changes, Population, Industrialization, Vietnamese

1. INTRODUCTION

In recent decades, Vietnam has seen significant population mobility inside the country. While some provinces and cities with significant industrial and urban growth have become densely populated, rural populations are decreasing. Domestic population migration is seen as a key component of Vietnam's economic development strategy, contributing to economic growth. However, population changes have caused disruptions in national development policies. In the perspective of rural economic growth, migration is viewed as a "bleeding" of labor. The administration believes that rural-urban migration is damaging to development. To stem the tide of migration, the Vietnamese government has started an ambitious statewide drive to promote rural development known as the National Target Program for New countryside Construction since 2010. (Prime Minister, 2010). Population variations in industrial and urban growth zones serve as both a driving force and a significant impediment to economic and social development. When the population grows rapidly (mostly due to migrant labor), the locality provides people resources for economic development while also causing significant social and cultural pressure, particularly in issue issues concerning housing, education, healthcare, and social security, etc.

Unusual and spontaneous population changes keep local governments in a state of perplexity, particularly when it comes to incorporating population and labor issues into local development initiatives. Many indications demonstrate that population variations in Vietnam, and specifically in Binh Duong province, have not been effectively used to contribute to socioeconomic growth. This article tries to assess the current state of population change in Binh Duong province throughout time. The purpose of this article is to identify gaps and issues in population management and development policies. Based on historical population change, the article advocates a balanced population development policy that is consistent with local economic, social, and environmental goals.

2. DATA AND RESEARCH METHOD

The data used in this article are from the Vietnamese government's investigating agency, the General Statistics Office (GSO). This is an agency under the Ministry of Planning and Investment that advises and assists the Minister of Planning and Investment with state statistics management, statistical coordination, and statistical activity organization. Statistics and the distribution of socioeconomic statistics information to agencies, organizations, and individuals in accordance with applicable laws. The article

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makes use of three key data sets from this institution, including the results of national population and housing censuses conducted in Vietnam in 1999, 2009, and 2019. These are three censuses conducted every ten years to collect basic information on population and housing across the entire Vietnamese territory in order to assess the implementation of socioeconomic development strategies and monitor the country's sustainable development goals (GSO, 1999). Population and housing census data provide detailed demographic information. This is reliable information for researching, analyzing, and forecasting the population and housing development process, providing information to build a comprehensive database on population, and evaluating the results of implementing recommendations, resolutions, and plans on socioeconomic development, as well as the United Nations' sustainable development targets (GSO, 2019).

The article's second source of data comes from Binh Duong Statistics Office (BDOS) publications, which are compiled annually by the province's statistical agency. The content of statistical publications provides fundamental facts that generally reflect the dynamics and current state of the socioeconomic situation in Binh Duong province, as well as its districts, towns, and cities. The data in these publications were collected, processed, synthesized, and calculated in accordance with the scope and procedures of Vietnam Statistics (BDSO, 1999). Each chapter includes an overall socioeconomic assessment of a variety of industries and fields in 2023, as well as explanations of vocabulary, content, and calculation techniques for some statistical indicators (BDSO, 2023).

In addition to statistical publications, the article also uses data and comments in a number of publications related to the socioeconomic transformation of Binh Duong province through historical periods, on the issue population and ethnic groups in Binh Duong province in the past (Mac Duong et al., 1985; Nguyen Van Hiep, 2011; Phan Xuan Bien, 2013; Le Thu Quynh, 2020).

Regarding methodology, this article is presented based on the interdisciplinary method of historical political economy. This approach allows for the study of how political and economic actors and institutions interact over time (Jenkins & Rubin ed., 2023). The process of population change will be discussed in relation to historical progress. This method seeks to define the content and characteristics of population development stages, as well as to compare eras of change in order to determine the nature of that change and its major patterns and laws. The divergence technique is the primary tool for understanding the history of population shifts. In addition to the divergence approach, the article employs statistical methods to directly track the population's phenomena and development. This method is primarily employed in sociological research, but it may also be applied to historical research because it allows for the examination of the impact of general rules in specific historical forms that they appear (Robert 1978).

When documenting the history of population change using the multidisciplinary technique of political and economic history, it will include an in-depth study of density, structure, and characteristics, as well as a thorough exploration of politics. Treat the problems under investigation. Furthermore, studies adopting the multidisciplinary technique of political and economic history consider the historical context while discussing the causes, processes, consequences, and historical importance. The interdisciplinary approach of political and economic history lends itself to social scientific inquiry that highlights the political causes or consequences of historical problems. Jenkins and Rubin assert that the methodology allows for deepening historical sources to improve the measurement of the impact of historical context, using multiple sources to validate historical claims, analyze cause and effect relationships, explain historical events, and use historical context to better understand the past and challenges in the present (Jenkins & Rubin ed., 2023).

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. From the history of progressive development of Binh Duong's population

Binh Duong is a land that the Vietnamese people explored and settled during the same period as Saigon – Gia Dinh. Many historical documents affirm that the first Vietnamese settlers from the Northern and Central regions migrated to Binh Duong for livelihood at the end of the 16th century and the beginning of the 17th century. This diverse group included impoverished farmers who could not endure the hardships and difficulties in their homeland, individuals escaping from the military, debts, or taxes, as well as those fleeing from feudal authorities abandoning fields or evading pursuit. Along with Mo Xoai, Cu Lao Pho, Ben Nghe, and the surrounding areas of Thu Dau Mot (Lai Thieu, Phu Cuong), Tan Uyen (Tan Ba, Tan Khanh...) were ideal settlement areas during the initial stages of land exploration, where communities and villages were established and expanded (Communist Party Of Song Be, 1991).

In 1698, the Southeastern region officially became a province of Vietnam, and Binh An District was established with four main administrative centers: Thu Thiem, Thu Duc, Thu Dau Mot, and Thu Bang Bot. Among them, "Thu Dau Mot" was the most significant, serving as the center of Binh An District and later becoming the administrative center of Binh An Province. The Binh An region (formerly Binh Duong) had the most fertile land, indicating that it was the most densely populated agricultural area. The areas surrounding Thu Dau Mot, such as Phu Cuong, Lai Thieu, Phu Loi, or the regions of Tan Khanh, Tan Uyen, and Cu Lao Rua, were bustling villages in Binh Duong since the early days of settlement (Phan Xuan Bien, 2013).

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From 1808 until the French invasion, the Vietnamese population in the region continued to grow. Additionally, Chinese immigrants from Cu Lao Pho (Bien Hoa) and Ben Nghe (Gia Dinh) established pottery kilns in Lai Thieu, Phu Cuong, and Tan Uyen, attracting more population and labor to form traditional Chinese settlements that persist to this day, such as in the cities of Thu Dau Mot, Lai Thieu – Thuan An, and Tan Uyen. While engaging in various traditional trades, with pottery being the predominant one, the Chinese community also thrived in trade and organized cultural festivals, contributing to the distinctive cultural vitality of the Binh Duong people throughout different periods.

When the French Colonialists imposed domination and conducted exploitative activities, the population in this region developed rapidly, leading to the formation of numerous hamlets and villages. In areas specializing in forestry, such as Thu Dau Mot, various products ranging from houses, furniture, beds, cabinets, weapons, ceremonial objects, to shipbuilding wood, were manufactured and exchanged vigorously. This region also attracted skilled architects and renowned shipbuilders nationwide. The early establishment of production, exchange, and trade activities in forestry solidified Thu Dau Mot's position as the 'capital' of the Southern region.

The heritage of houses, ancient temples, and pagodas constructed with various durable and beautiful types of wood, showcasing the pure Vietnamese architectural style, is still preserved in Binh Duong. Notable examples include the wooden ancestral shrines in Lai Thieu, the carpentry villages in Phu Tho, and Chanh Nghia, which are unique communities in Binh Duong. This is also the reason why the French established the Ba Nghe School in Thu Dau Mot, a renowned vocational training institution in the former Indochina. The development of handicrafts (pottery, carpentry, engraving, and lacquerware) has transformed the demographic composition of Thu Dau Mot.

Binh Duong has been the top rubber-growing province since the early twentieth century. As France's plantations developed, the number of rubber workers climbed. The majority of rubber growers are from the North and Central areas (primarily in the North), and the majority of them have had to leave the nation to work on "contracts." According to the 1910 Indochina Statistical Yearbook, Binh Duong had 41 Europeans, 87,000 Kinh, 1,250 Chinese, 700 Minh Huong, and 14,300 ethnic people... By 1926, there was more precise information on the city. Thu Dau Mot has a population of 105,968 Vietnamese people of Southern origin; Vietnamese people of Northern and Central region are 4,122 people, Khmer people are 2,469 people, Stieng people are 11,945 people, Cham people are 453 people, Minh Huong people are 1,097 people, Chinese people are 1,374 people" (Mac Duong et al, 1985). These statistics show that population changes are frequent and quite clear.

During the 30 years of war (1945-1975), Binh Duong's population composition and density continued to be supplemented from many places. Notably, from the migration of Vietnamese people from the Northern provinces and some from the Central region to the "district" policies of the Saigon government. In 1955, after the exodus of Catholics, Thu Dau Mot's population was 214,500 people. In 1967, after the US imperialists sent American combat troops and their allies to fight in the battlefield of South Vietnam, establishing a base in Lai Khe, Phu Loi, Binh Duong area was divided into three regions: *temporarily occupied* (area managed by the Saigon government), area 39,663 hectares, population 133,558 people; *guerrilla area* (disputed area between the Saigon Army and the Resistance Army), area 59,545 hectares, population 39,561 people; and the *resistance area* (base and liberation area managed by the revolutionary government), area of 121,344 hectares, population of 52,330 people. Although due to the war situation, in 12 years (1955 - 1967) the population in Thu Dau Mot still increased by 10,949 people (Nguyen Van Hiep, 2011)

Since the country's reunification, the population composition has changed rapidly and significantly, with some notable characteristics: people returning home after the war to their old hometowns; a group of officers and soldiers from the North came to stay and chose this place as their new hometown; new economic people, people building state-owned forestry farms in accordance with Party and State policies... Binh Duong's population has grown dramatically in the more than twenty years after liberation. Binh Duong province had 646,317 people in 1996, which was roughly comparable to Song Be province's population of 671,000 in 1980.

3.2. To the process of change in the recent quarter of a century

Since Binh Duong province was established and went into industrialization and modernization, Binh Duong's population has had notable changes in population density, population composition and many labor and social issues that are very noteworthy.

The *fastest population expansion in all historical periods* is immediately identifiable, owing primarily to policies aimed at attracting workers and jobs when Binh Duong established concentrated industrial parks. Three timelines separated by ten years: 1999, 2009, and 2019. The population increased dramatically. In 1999, there were 720,800 people; on April 1, 2009, there were 1,482,636 people, a growth of 766,208 people over 1999, making it the province with the 17th highest population among the country's 63 provinces and cities, and the third largest. In comparison to the Southeast area, only Ho Chi Minh City and Dong Nai province rank higher. The average annual population growth rate is 2.25 times higher than the general growth rate of the Southeast region and

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is the highest in the country. According to 2023 statistics, Binh Duong's population currently has 2,763,100 people (BDSO, 2023). The population chart of Thu Dau Mot, Binh Duong, looking back into the past, clearly shows that.

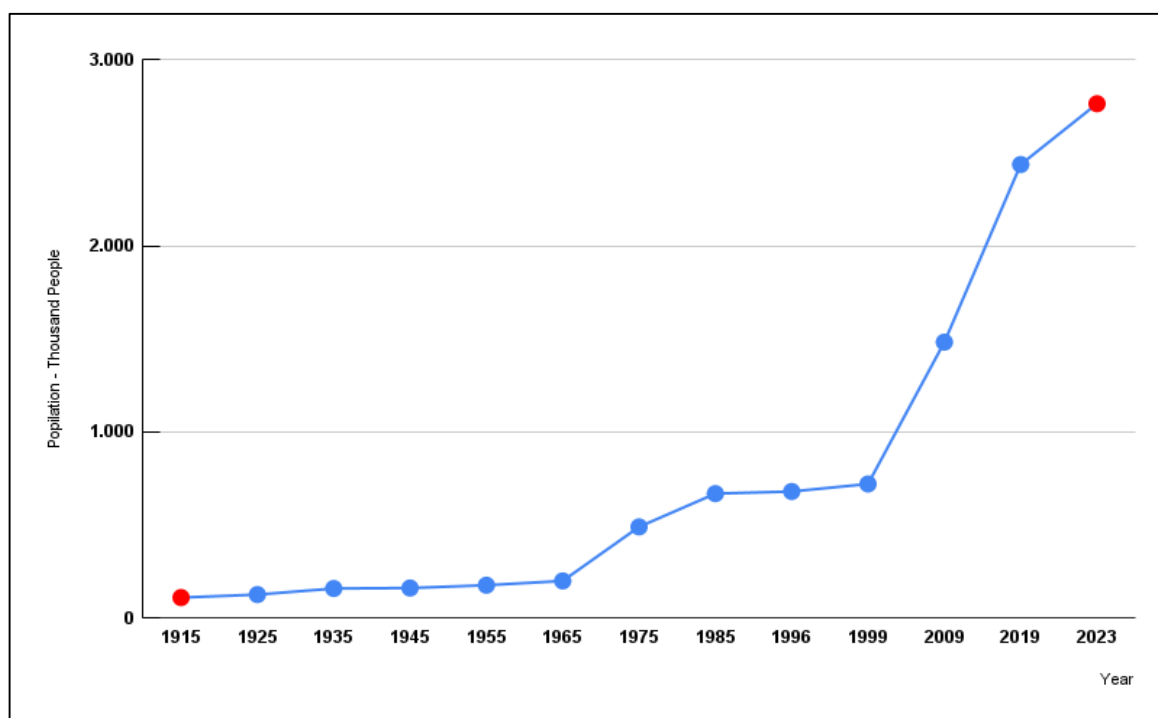


Figure 1. Binh Duong population development chart from 1915 – 2023 (Nguyen Van Hiep, 2020; BDSO, 2023)

The second change is that *the population changes more deeply towards multi-ethnic, multi-regional, multinational and multicultural*. Along with population growth (mainly mechanical growth), Binh Duong's population is clearly developing in a multi-ethnic direction. In 1999, Binh Duong had 25 ethnic groups, in 2009 there were 37 ethnic groups and by 2019 there were 49 ethnic groups. Some ethnic minorities are increasing very rapidly such as Khmer, Tay, Nung, Muong, Thai... Regarding regions, in previous centuries, people coming to Binh Duong mainly came from the North (lowland), Central, however, in recent times, regional imprints have become more diverse, in addition to the North and Central regions, there is also the South. In the North, there are not only people from the lowlands but also people from the upstream (the Muong, Tay, Thai... ethnic groups). People from the South come to Binh Duong from all over the Southeast and Southwest provinces... Foreigners coming to Binh Duong are also more diverse: Europeans, Americans and many Asian countries (China, Taiwan, Japan, Singapore, Korea...). Table 1 is detailed statistics on population changes in Binh Duong through three population censuses in 1999, 2009 and 2019.

Table 1. Population changes by ethnicity in Binh Duong through 3 population and housing censuses 1999, 2009 and 2019

No.	Ethnic group	1999	2009	2019
	Total population	716.661	1,481,550	2,426,561
1.	Kinh	695.710	1,421,233	2,306,193
2.	Hoa	14.445	18,783	17,993
3.	Khmer	1.490	15,435	65,233
4.	Tay	514	5,443	5,619
5.	Nung	453	3,050	5,178
6.	Muong	315	10,222	9,021
7.	Xtieng	60	153	355
8.	Thai	59	3,869	6,672
9.	San Chay	53	530	406
10.	Choro	27	134	120
11.	Xinhmun	26		3
12.	Dao	23	443	689
13.	Giarai	22	20	575

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14.	Sandiu	11	383	314
15.	Ngai	8		8
16.	E đê	4	99	1,937
17.	Mnong	3	59	356
18.	Tho	3	510	789
19.	Raglay	2	19	102
20.	Bru Van Kieu	2	11	100
21.	Sila	2		6
22.	Coho	1	37	141
23.	Hre	1	18	287
24.	Ma	1	18	58
25.	Chu ru	1	14	6
26.	Cham		837	2,518
27.	Mong		57	907
28.	Giay		28	14
29.	Co lao		23	72
30.	Xodang		18	100
31.	Ba na		10	250
32.	Khang		6	5
33.	La chi		5	8
34.	Mang		5	3
35.	Taoi		2	101
36.	Phula		2	4
37.	Pupeo		2	4
38.	Brau		1	1
39.	O du		1	
40.	Khomu			262
41.	Co			41
42.	Cotu			33
43.	Gietrieng			20
44.	Ha nhi			8
45.	Chut			8
46.	Romam			8
47.	Lahu			4
48.	Lolo			3
49.	Pathen			3
50.	Laha			1

The population change makes cultural and religious life in Binh Duong have many new nuances. In addition to the cultural activities and beliefs of the Vietnamese and Chinese people that have been preserved over the centuries, today Binh Duong has many more cultural activities of the Muong and Cham ethnic groups... According to data. According to 1999 statistics, Binh Duong province has 13 religions with 186,021 followers; The largest number is Catholicism (108,260 followers), followed by Buddhism (58,2020 followers), Hoa Hao Buddhism (10,619 followers), Cao Dai (5,962 followers), Protestantism (1,962), Islam (745 followers), Tu An Hieu Nghia (1010), along with many other religions such as Tinh Do Cu Si, Brahmans, Minh Ly Dao, Buu Son Ky Huong... The picture of a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, multi-belief population Religion is also the basis for formation - also a symbol of a multi-income community adapting to the natural conditions and social context of Binh Duong during the most vibrant period of history (Nguyen Van Hiep – Tran Hanh Minh Phuong, 2020).

The third change is *the rural-urban population shift, which results in the transformation of rural agricultural society into urban industrial society*. Within 25 years of development, Binh Duong's population has shifted from rural to urban. In 1997, the province's rural-urban population ratio was 73% - 27%; in 2007, it was 71% - 29%; and in 2017, it totally broke through, with 24%

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rural and 76% urban citizens. By 2021, the ratio of rural to urban population in Binh Duong will be 16% - 84%. Binh Duong civilization essentially becomes an urban society.

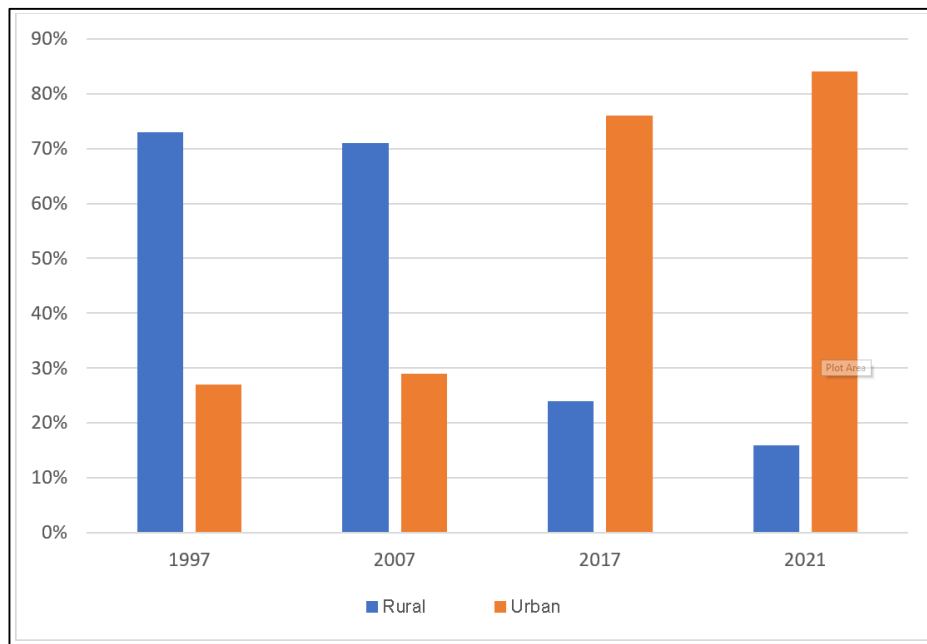


Figure 2. Diagram of rural - urban population change in Binh Duong province 1997 - 2021

The change in rural-urban population leads to a vigorous urbanization process, with the vision of a centrally managed Binh Duong metropolis in the future. Thu Dau Mot City became a provincial city in 2013. According to the 2019 housing census, Thu Dau Mot has a population of 321,607 people. With the growth planning of Binh Duong new city and the many institutions and colleges that have been and are being established, Thu Dau Mot city will continue to draw a huge number of people to come here to study and work in a variety of fields. Thuan An - Di An region, which has a high population density, is where large-scale industrial parks have been formed and developed, attracting many workers and residents from all over the region. In 2020, Thuan An and Di An have become two provincial cities with dozens of modern, typical industrial parks for the whole country. According to the 2019 Population and Housing Census, Thuan An's population is over 596,000 people, Di An's population is over 474,000 people. In reality, the number of residents in these two cities may be much larger. These are the two areas with the greatest population pressure in the province. The issue of planning and population management here is at a challenging stage. Tan Uyen and Ben Cat have formed industrial parks, industrial clusters and urban areas, attracting quite a large number of workers and residents. In 2013, Ben Cat was split into Ben Cat town and Bau Bang district, Tan Uyen was also split into Tan Uyen town and Bac Tan Uyen district. In 2019, the population of this area was 830,073 people. The population of Bau Bang and Bac Tuan Uyen districts is also increasing rapidly with the pace of industrialization and urbanization. Dau Tieng and Phu Giao districts are also entering a period of urbanization and population growth. Many towns and cities have been formed. Currently, Dau Tieng has a population of over 112,000 people; Phu Giao has over 65,000 people. It can be affirmed that the image of a centrally run Binh Duong city is clearly emerging. This is also evidence that Binh Duong's population composition has continuously changed in the last quarter of this century.

4. CONCLUSION

In recent years, Binh Duong has also prioritized economic and social development planning, including population planning. Typically, Binh Duong province's master plan for socioeconomic development to 2020 is supplemented with plans to 2025 (2014); Binh Duong province's socioeconomic development project implements a three-house cooperation model toward smart urban areas (2021), as well as many socioeconomic development plans at the city, town, and district levels. All of these programs contain aims relating to social issues and policies, such as population size, labor, employment, and social security... These are crucial foundations for the province's population policy and management.

Population data information is incomplete and not updated regularly; Some areas have high population density that exceeds the limits of technical and social infrastructure, causing many difficulties for management, especially social security and security order management.

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Binh Duong's population is huge, dense, and growing. Binh Duong has a high mechanical population growth rate, but attitudes and policies on immigration have not been properly defined in socioeconomic development plans, particularly immigration-related ones. Exploiting the benefits of immigrants to serve labor and employment policies, as well as adapting to the economic and social realities of each location when accessing fundamental social services (education, health) for immigrants.

Urban scale is rapidly developing, Binh Duong has created an appeal for people from other areas to urban areas to raise the population automatically, but planning and planning management still have many difficulties. Fragmented residential neighborhoods established on their own; forecasting population changes is insufficient to keep up with the rate of economic and social growth and people's demands.

5. RECOMMENDATION

The picture of Binh Duong's population provides us with a variety of information. It can be said that Binh Duong is what it is now because of the efforts of many generations and layers of people from all regions and nations who came together to establish their fortunes. This is also a valuable resource for the province in terms of labor, intellectual capital, market, and cultural identity. This valuable resource must be developed and marketed as a competitive advantage for the province in worldwide economic integration. As a result, planning and population development play a significant role in the province's building and growth. Some of the policy ideas below should be explored for adoption in the near future:

Developing a population database associated with economic and social development strategies: The population database is critical to socioeconomic growth because it serves as the framework for policy planning and population management. It also serves as the groundwork for the development of the digital economy and society, as well as the premise for the creation of other databases. The province must immediately study, assess, and construct a demographic database to support both immediate and long-term economic and social development initiatives, with a variety of objectives:

- Population information is complete and accurate, supplemented and updated regularly every day, interconnected with the national population database to serve different fields: people, businesses, essential public service...
- Convenient in retrieving population data by area of residence, age and gender, ethnic group, time of living and moving, occupation, and basic social security information of the individual...

Integrate population policy in the province's economic and social development strategies, programs and plans. It is vital to clearly convey that the population, particularly immigrants, is a valuable resource for socioeconomic progress. Immigrants require policies that enable access to social security as well as regimes and policies that promote long-term labor and employment, security, safety, environmental sanitation, and opportunity. Business enhances both monetary and spiritual existence. Consider caring for immigrants to be a benefit to the province rather than a "burden" on social security. In-depth research on immigrants, planning and implementing immigration policy within the context of globalization and labor market integration.

Defining the population size for each area and manage the population size scientifically. When designing and planning policies, planning, and socioeconomic development plans for each city, district, and town, the population size must be determined in order to capitalize on demographic advantages. Development and modification of local technological and social infrastructure to ensure equal access to fundamental social services (housing, education, and healthcare) for all people. The regulation of population size in each area must be stringent. There must be a strategic direction and plan in place to redistribute population and labor in accordance with the technological and social infrastructure of each locality, production, and business sector throughout each specific period.

Population policy associated with urbanization. Urbanization and rural-urban population transformation are not only unavoidable in Binh Duong, but they are also occurring at a rapid pace, exceeding prior policy plans' projections. This. As a result, in the future, the province's urbanization must be guided by demographic figures. Based on population number, density, and composition, a complete and synchronous implementation plan is designed to ensure that the population has a stable and developed life. First and foremost, data from spontaneous residential areas and points, as well as plans for each area, must be reviewed to ensure that the population scale is consistent with the technical infrastructure of the areas and housing points, assuring consistency and correctness. Develop plans and solutions to overcome technical infrastructure of the area, seriously implement planning and planning management.

Population management is associated with improving population quality. Population management must be founded on the goal of generating high-quality people resources to advance the cause of industrialization, modernization, and global integration. It is required to implement a mechanical population growth program that is linked to the development of human resource quality in order to increase the share of middle-class managers, professional and technical personnel, and skilled workers. Implement a policy that selectively attracts people based on job possibilities while also focusing on training and developing professional

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capacity and abilities to meet the needs of changing population policies and solving population challenges including magnitude, structure, distribution, and quality.

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