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Quarterly Report

April to June 1985

**General Household Survey
Labour Force Characteristics**

Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong

GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY
APRIL - JUNE 1985
LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS

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PART I : SURVEY RESULTS

1. Introduction

1.1 This report presents the results of a sample General Household Survey conducted by the Census and Statistics Department during the quarter between April and June 1985. The sample consisted of about 14 000 households or 52 000 persons, selected scientifically to represent the land based, civilian, non-institutional population. The survey is conducted on a continuous basis; its aim is to collect statistics on employment, unemployment and underemployment.

1.2 Part I of this report gives the broad conclusions of the survey, followed by a description of the characteristics of the employed, unemployed and underemployed population. Part II outlines the survey methodology adopted in the survey.

1.3 Starting from January 1985, the definitions used in measuring labour force, unemployment and underemployment have been revised to conform to those recommended by the Thirteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians in October 1982 (Appendix 1). As these differ slightly from the old definitions, estimates of the labour force, unemployment and underemployment based on both sets of definitions are given in Appendix 2 for comparison.

2. Broad conclusions

2.1 The broad conclusions of the survey are as follows:

- (a) the estimated total number of unemployed persons in the second quarter of 1985 was 74 500;
- (b) this figure represents 2.8% of the labour force which was estimated to be 2 632 200;
- (c) of the unemployed : 89.9% were people who were seeking work, 4.0% were not seeking work because they believed work was not available, 2.7% were waiting to start a new job/business, and 3.4% were not seeking work because they expected to return to their original jobs;
- (d) the unemployment rate was 2.9% after adjusting for seasonal variations. This may broadly be compared with the figure of 7.3% for the U.S.A. (April 1985 - Bureau of Labour Statistics) but caution is required in comparing the rates because there are differences in the definition of 'unemployment'. The U.S.A. definition uses a minimum age limit of 16 (Hong Kong's is 15); moreover, discouraged job-seekers are excluded from the U.S.A. definition of 'unemployment'. Adjusting the Hong Kong figure to conform with the U.S.A. definition, then the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in Hong Kong becomes 2.7%;

- (e) the estimated total number of underemployed persons in the second quarter of 1985 was 40 400 which represents 1.5% of the labour force.

3. Labour force participation and unemployment

3.1 The estimated labour force participation rate for the second quarter of 1985 was 64.9%, which compares with the rate of 64.7% for the first quarter of 1985. The increase in the labour force participation rate over the previous quarter was statistically not significant. The labour force increased by 37 800 over the same period. (Table 1)

3.2 There were no marked changes in the overall pattern of the age-sex-specific labour force participation rates for the period under study. Males had the highest participation rate for the 30 - 39 age group; females, the highest rate for the 20 - 29 age group. The overall male participation rate was approximately 32 percentage points higher than the overall female rate. (Table 1)

3.3 The estimated unemployment rate for the second quarter of 1985 was 2.8%. After discounting seasonal variations in the proportion of first-time job-seekers, the rate was 2.9%, compared with the deseasonalised unemployment rate of 3.1% for the first quarter of 1985. The decrease in the rate was statistically not significant. (Table 2 and Appendix 2)

3.4 For both males and females, the unemployment rate was much higher in the 15 - 19 age group than in others, and the rate for this age group had increased significantly over the first quarter of 1985. Males had a higher unemployment rate than females for all age groups in the first quarter, and for all age groups except 15 - 19 in the second quarter. Overall, the male unemployment rate was 0.8 - 1.1 percentage points higher than the female rate. (Table 2)

3.5 Geographically, Tsuen Wan had the highest labour force participation rate, whereas the New Territories (excluding Tsuen Wan) had the lowest. New Kowloon and Tsuen Wan had a higher unemployment rate than the overall rate for the territory. Compared with the previous quarter, Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and Tsuen Wan had a decrease in the unemployment rate. The rate for New Kowloon and the New Territories (excluding Tsuen Wan) had remained unchanged. (Table 3)

3.6 The labour force participation rate for unmarried females was considerably higher than the rate for those who were married. Unmarried females had the highest participation rate for the 20 - 39 age group, which was almost twice the rate for married females. (Table 4)

4. Characteristics of the employed population

4.1 The estimated number of employed persons in the second quarter of 1985 was 2 557 800, compared with 2 516 800 for the previous quarter. About two-thirds of the employed population were males. (Table 5)

4.2 On average, female workers were younger than male workers, with some 72% of female workers aged below 40. The corresponding percentage for male workers was about 63%. The median age for male workers was 34; that for female workers, 30. (Table 5)

4.3 85% of the employed population were employees. Compared with the first quarter of 1985, the number of employees increased by 32 000, which accounted for the bulk of the increase in the number of employed persons (by 41 000) over this period. (Table 6)

4.4 About one-third of the employed population had primary education and another half had secondary or matriculation education. One-tenth had post-secondary education, including university and technical/vocational training. (Table 7)

4.5 Less than half of the employed population were in production occupations; more than two-fifths in clerical, sales and service occupations. The number of production workers increased by 27 500, that of clerical, sales and service workers by 19 600, when compared with the previous quarter. (Table 8)

4.6 Less than two-fifths of workers were in manufacturing industries, and the manufacturing of textiles and wearing apparel was still the largest employer in the manufacturing sector. More than one-fifth were in wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels, and nearly one-third in services industries. Compared with the previous quarter, the number of workers in wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels, and services industries increased by 21 500, which accounted for more than half of the increase in the number of employed persons over this period. (Table 9)

4.7 The proportion of the employed population working 50 hours or more per week for this quarter was 27%, which was about the same as that for the previous quarter. However, the proportion of those working less than 35 hours dropped from 15% to 12% between the two quarters. Of those who worked less than 35 hours, 45% did so because they were on vacation/holiday; 22% could not work longer hours because they were too busy with their housework, schoolwork or personal business; 13% worked short hours because of slack work or because they could find only part-time work. (Tables 10 and 12)

4.8 The median hours of work for the second quarter of 1985 was 46, which was the same as that for the previous quarter.

Among industries, wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels had the highest median hours of work (50 hours), and services industries had the lowest (45 hours). (Table 11)

4.9 For workers who worked less than 35 hours per week, their median monthly employment earnings for the second quarter of 1985 was \$2,154, which compares with \$2,087 for the previous quarter. Workers working in services industries had the highest median income, whereas those in manufacturing industries had the lowest. (Tables 13 and 15)

4.10 For workers who worked more than 35 hours per week, their median monthly employment earnings for the second quarter of 1985 was \$2,611; that for the previous quarter was \$2,540. As with workers who worked less than 35 hours per week, those engaged in services industries had the highest median income. (Tables 14 and 16)

4.11 Of the employed population, about three-tenths earned less than \$2,000 a month; half earned between \$2,000 and \$4,000. Compared with the previous quarter, there was about a 4% increase in the median income of workers, from \$2,476 to \$2,565. (Table 17)

4.12 Workers in professional and managerial occupations had the highest median income. Compared with the previous quarter, there was an increase in the median income of workers in almost all occupations. (Table 18)

5. Characteristics of the unemployed population

5.1 The estimated number of unemployed persons in the second quarter of 1985 was 74 500; that for the previous quarter was 77 600. More than half of the unemployed were in the 15 - 29 age group. There were more males than females among the unemployed; the sex ratio (male : female) was 2.4 : 1 for this quarter. (Table 19)

5.2 About one-third of the unemployed had primary education and more than half had secondary or matriculation education. Those who had primary, secondary or matriculation, or university education had a higher unemployment rate. (Table 20)

5.3 About three-fifths of the unemployed (who had a previous job) were in production occupations previously; more than one-fifth in sales and service occupations. One out of twenty was previously a professional, administrative and managerial worker. On the whole, there were no marked changes in the occupational pattern of the unemployed over the period under study. (Table 21)

5.4 Two-fifths of the unemployed (who had a previous job) were in manufacturing industries previously; and about 45% were in wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels, and services industries. Again, there were no marked changes in the industrial pattern of the unemployed over the last six months. (Table 22)

5.5 More than half of the unemployed had been dismissed from their jobs or had been laid off. About one-third to two-fifths left their previous jobs because of dissatisfaction with pay or working conditions. (Table 23)

5.6 Half of the unemployed had been out of work for less than two months; one-fifth for half a year or more. The median duration of unemployment for this quarter was 60 days, compared with 59 days for the previous quarter. (Table 24)

5.7 90% of the unemployed were job-seekers, which compares with 84% for the previous quarter. As regards the main action taken to look for a job, more than half of them approached potential employers directly in response to advertisements, and about two-fifths sought assistance from relatives/friends. (Table 25)

5.8 Among the job-seekers, more than one-third desired to work in manufacturing industries; three-tenths in wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels; and more than one-fifth in services industries. This pattern had not changed appreciably over the last two quarters. (Table 26)

6. Underemployment and characteristics of the underemployed population

6.1 "Underemployed persons" refers to those employed persons who involuntarily worked less than 35 hours during the week before enumeration, and who were seeking more work or were not seeking more work but were available for additional work. Working short hours is involuntary if it is due to economic reasons which include slack work, material shortage, mechanical breakdown and inability to find full-time work. Based on this criterion, it was estimated that 40 400 employed persons were underemployed in this quarter, representing 1.5% of the labour force. The figures for the previous quarter were 39 700 and 1.5% respectively. (Table 27)

6.2 The underemployment rate for males was 0.2 percentage point higher than that for females. The rate was higher for males in the age group 50 and over and higher for females in the age group 60 and over. (Table 27)

6.3 Among the underemployed, half of them had primary education and more than one-third had secondary or matriculation education. The underemployment rate was higher for those who were less educated. (Table 28)

6.4 Slightly more than half of the underemployed were in manufacturing industries; one-fifth in construction industries; and another one-fifth in services industries. Compared with the previous quarter, there was a slight increase in the proportion of the underemployed in manufacturing and services industries but a decrease in construction. (Table 29)

6.5 The majority (83%) of the underemployed were production workers; one-tenth were service workers. Compared with the previous quarter, there was a decrease in the proportion of the underemployed in production occupations but an increase in service occupations. (Table 30)

6.6 37% of the underemployed worked less than 20 hours per week; more than one-quarter worked between 20 and 24 hours; and more than one-third worked between 25 and 34 hours. The median hours of work of the underemployed for this quarter was 22, the same as that for the previous quarter. (Table 31)

6.7 The median monthly employment earnings of the underemployed for this quarter was \$1,733, compared with \$1,811 for the previous quarter. One-fifth of the underemployed in this quarter earned less than \$1,000 a month; and two-thirds earned between \$1,000 and \$3,000. (Table 32)

7. Summary tables

Table

1. Labour force x Age x Sex
2. Unemployment x Age x Sex
3. Labour force and unemployment x Geographical area
4. Female labour force x Age x Marital status
5. Employed persons x Age x Sex
6. Employed persons x Activity status
7. Employed persons x Educational attainment
8. Employed persons x Occupation
9. Employed persons x Industry
10. Employed persons x Hours of work per week
11. Median hours of work of employed persons x Industry
12. Employed persons who worked less than 35 hours per week
x Reason for working less hours
13. Employed persons who worked less than 35 hours per week
x Monthly employment earnings
14. Employed persons who worked 35 hours or more per week
x Monthly employment earnings
15. Median monthly employment earnings of employed persons who
worked less than 35 hours per week x Industry
16. Median monthly employment earnings of employed persons who
worked 35 hours or more per week x Industry
17. Employed persons x Monthly employment earnings
18. Median monthly employment earnings of employed persons x
Occupation
19. Unemployed persons x Age x Sex
20. Unemployed persons x Educational attainment
21. Unemployed persons having had a previous job x Previous
occupation
22. Unemployed persons having had a previous job x Previous
industry
23. Unemployed persons having had a previous job x Reason for
unemployment
24. Unemployed persons x Duration of unemployment
25. Job-seekers x Main action taken to look for work
26. Job-seekers x Desired industry of next employment

27. Underemployment x Age x Sex
28. Underemployed persons x Educational attainment
29. Underemployed persons x Industry
30. Underemployed persons x Occupation
31. Underemployed persons x Hours of work per week
32. Underemployed persons x Monthly employment earnings

Figures in the above tables are rounded to the nearest hundred and may not add up to totals.

TABLE 1 : LABOUR FORCE BY AGE BY SEX

Age group	Jan - Mar 85		Apr - Jun 85	
	No. ('000)	Rate (%)	No. ('000)	Rate (%)
Total				
15 - 19	150.5	32.6	143.5	31.2
20 - 29	949.7	84.6	950.0	85.2
30 - 39	633.0	76.4	660.3	77.4
40 - 49	377.0	77.5	388.8	78.2
50 - 59	326.1	63.5	327.9	64.5
60 and over	158.0	26.5	161.8	26.1
Total	2 594.4	64.7	2 632.2	64.9
Male				
15 - 19	84.0	35.1	80.0	33.2
20 - 29	528.4	93.0	535.0	93.4
30 - 39	432.2	98.4	446.8	98.8
40 - 49	263.0	97.7	271.9	97.7
50 - 59	234.7	87.4	236.2	87.1
60 and over	107.2	40.0	107.3	39.2
Total	1 649.4	80.4	1 677.1	80.3
Female				
15 - 19	66.6	29.9	63.6	28.9
20 - 29	421.3	76.1	415.0	76.6
30 - 39	200.8	51.7	213.5	53.3
40 - 49	114.1	52.5	116.9	53.4
50 - 59	91.4	37.3	91.7	38.6
60 and over	50.8	15.5	54.5	15.7
Total	945.0	48.3	955.2	48.6

TABLE 2 : UNEMPLOYMENT BY AGE BY SEX

Age group	Jan - Mar 85		Apr - Jun 85	
	No. ('000)	Rate (%)	No. ('000)	Rate (%)
Total				
15 - 19	11.3	7.5	14.9	10.4
20 - 29	29.9	3.1	29.6	3.1
30 - 39	12.9	2.0	11.1	1.7
40 - 49	8.7	2.3	7.8	2.0
50 - 59	9.9	3.0	7.9	2.4
60 and over	4.8	3.1	3.1	1.9
Total	77.6	3.0	74.5	2.8
Male				
15 - 19	6.8	8.1	7.9	9.9
20 - 29	20.1	3.8	19.7	3.7
30 - 39	9.8	2.3	8.4	1.9
40 - 49	6.5	2.5	7.0	2.6
50 - 59	8.2	3.5	7.0	3.0
60 and over	4.2	4.0	2.5	2.4
Total	55.6	3.4	52.6	3.1
Female				
15 - 19	4.5	6.8	6.9	10.9
20 - 29	9.8	2.3	10.0	2.4
30 - 39	3.1	1.6	2.8	1.3
40 - 49	2.2	1.9	0.8	0.7
50 - 59	1.7	1.9	0.9	1.0
60 and over	0.6	1.2	0.5	0.9
Total	22.0	2.3	21.9	2.3

TABLE 3 : LABOUR FORCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT BY GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

Area	Jan - Mar 85		Apr - Jun 85	
	No. ('000)	Rate (%)	No. ('000)	Rate (%)
Labour force				
Hong Kong Island	599.7	65.5	617.4	65.3
Kowloon	369.2	64.3	359.3	64.7
New Kowloon	869.5	64.8	846.8	64.6
New Territories - Tsuen Wan	338.3	67.4	340.4	66.7
New Territories - Other areas	417.6	61.8	468.4	64.0
Overall	2 594.4	64.7	2 632.2	64.9
Unemployment				
Hong Kong Island	15.5	2.6	14.8	2.4
Kowloon	10.4	2.8	8.8	2.4
New Kowloon	29.0	3.3	27.9	3.3
New Territories - Tsuen Wan	11.5	3.4	10.3	3.0
New Territories - Other areas	11.2	2.7	12.7	2.7
Overall	77.6	3.0	74.5	2.8

TABLE 4 : FEMALE LABOUR FORCE BY AGE BY MARITAL STATUS

Marital status	Age group	Jan - Mar 85		Apr - Jun 85	
		No. ('000)	Rate (%)	No. ('000)	Rate (%)
Never married	15 - 19	65.8	29.8	62.5	28.9
	20 - 29	312.6	92.7	299.4	92.0
	30 - 39	34.0	92.7	40.9	95.4
	40 and over	10.4	42.0	11.4	47.6
	Total	422.8	68.3	414.3	68.0
Ever married	15 - 19	0.8	35.1	1.0	34.0
	20 - 29	108.7	50.2	115.6	53.4
	30 - 39	166.8	47.4	172.6	48.2
	40 - 49	111.0	52.0	113.2	52.8
	50 - 59	88.6	36.9	88.8	38.2
	60 and over	46.3	14.8	49.7	15.0
	Total	522.2	39.0	540.9	39.9

TABLE 5 : EMPLOYED PERSONS BY AGE BY SEX

Age group	Jan - Mar 85		Apr - Jun 85	
	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%
Total				
15 - 19	139.2	5.5	128.7	5.0
20 - 29	919.7	36.6	920.3	36.0
30 - 39	620.1	24.6	649.2	25.4
40 - 49	368.3	14.6	381.0	14.9
50 - 59	316.2	12.6	320.0	12.5
60 and over	153.2	6.1	158.7	6.2
Total	2 516.8	100.0	2 557.8	100.0
Male				
15 - 19	77.2	4.8	72.0	4.4
20 - 29	508.3	31.9	515.3	31.7
30 - 39	422.4	26.5	438.4	27.0
40 - 49	256.5	16.1	264.8	16.3
50 - 59	226.5	14.2	229.2	14.1
60 and over	102.9	6.5	104.7	6.5
Total	1 593.8	100.0	1 624.5	100.0
Female				
15 - 19	62.0	6.7	56.6	6.1
20 - 29	411.5	44.6	405.0	43.4
30 - 39	197.7	21.4	210.8	22.6
40 - 49	111.8	12.1	116.1	12.4
50 - 59	89.7	9.7	90.8	9.7
60 and over	50.2	5.5	54.0	5.8
Total	923.0	100.0	933.3	100.0

TABLE 6 : EMPLOYED PERSONS BY ACTIVITY STATUS

Activity status	Jan - Mar 85		Apr - Jun 85	
	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%
Employers	104.8	4.2	106.0	4.1
Outworkers	53.6	2.1	57.9	2.3
Self-employed (Hawking)	35.0	1.4	35.6	1.4
Self-employed (Others)	134.8	5.4	131.7	5.1
Employees	2 142.2	85.1	2 174.2	85.0
Unpaid family workers	46.5	1.8	52.5	2.1
Total	2 516.8	100.0	2 557.8	100.0

TABLE 7 : EMPLOYED PERSONS BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Educational attainment	Jan - Mar 85		Apr - Jun 85	
	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%
No schooling/kindergarten	181.3	7.2	188.9	7.4
Primary	813.0	32.3	838.4	32.8
Secondary/matriculation	1 268.8	50.4	1 275.7	49.9
Post-secondary, including technical/vocational	143.2	5.7	142.2	5.5
First degree/post-graduate	110.5	4.4	112.6	4.4
Total	2 516.8	100.0	2 557.8	100.0

TABLE 8 : EMPLOYED PERSONS BY OCCUPATION

Occupation	<u>Jan - Mar 85</u>		<u>Apr - Jun 85</u>	
	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%
Professional, administrative and managerial workers	270.9	10.7	255.2	10.0
Clerical and related workers	398.0	15.8	391.9	15.3
Sales workers	273.6	10.9	275.1	10.7
Service workers	396.8	15.8	421.0	16.5
Production and related workers, transport equipment operators and labourers	1 140.6	45.3	1 168.1	45.7
Others	36.9	1.5	46.6	1.8
Total	2 516.8	100.0	2 557.8	100.0

TABLE 9 : EMPLOYED PERSONS BY INDUSTRY

Industry	Jan - Mar 85		Apr - Jun 85	
	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%
<u>Manufacturing</u>	<u>933.9</u>	<u>37.1</u>	<u>936.4</u>	<u>36.6</u>
Manufacturing of textiles and wearing apparel	393.5	15.6	394.2	15.4
Manufacturing of plastic products	59.2	2.4	38.0	1.5
Basic metal and other metal industries	95.4	3.8	92.2	3.6
Manufacturing of electrical machinery and electronic products	146.0	5.8	141.2	5.5
Other manufacturing	239.8	9.5	270.9	10.6
<u>Construction</u>	<u>188.1</u>	<u>7.5</u>	<u>194.3</u>	<u>7.6</u>
<u>Wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels</u>	<u>555.2</u>	<u>22.1</u>	<u>564.1</u>	<u>22.1</u>
<u>Services</u>	<u>788.1</u>	<u>31.3</u>	<u>800.7</u>	<u>31.3</u>
Transport, storage and communication	202.0	8.0	209.5	8.2
Financing, insurance, real estate and business services	138.7	5.5	145.3	5.7
Other services	447.4	17.8	446.0	17.4
<u>Others</u>	<u>51.4</u>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>62.2</u>	<u>2.4</u>
Agriculture and fishing, mining and quarrying	34.8	1.4	46.2	1.8
Electricity, gas and water	16.4	0.6	15.9	0.6
Unclassifiable	0.3	*	0.1	*
Total	2 516.8	100.0	2 557.8	100.0

* Less than 0.05%

TABLE 10 : EMPLOYED PERSONS BY HOURS OF WORK PER WEEK

Hours of work per week	Jan - Mar 85		Apr - Jun 85	
	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%
Under 20	156.9	6.2	77.9	3.1
20 - 29	95.7	3.8	118.7	4.6
30 - 34	112.1	4.5	106.8	4.2
35 - 39	244.8	9.7	227.8	8.9
40 - 44	419.2	16.7	374.3	14.6
45 - 49	810.9	32.2	956.6	37.4
50 - 59	277.7	11.0	275.3	10.8
60 and over	399.5	15.9	420.4	16.4
Total	2 516.8	100.0	2 557.8	100.0

TABLE 11 : MEDIAN HOURS OF WORK OF EMPLOYED PERSONS BY INDUSTRY

Industry	Jan - Mar 85	Apr - Jun 85
	Hours	Hours
<u>Manufacturing</u>	46	46
Manufacturing of textiles and wearing apparel	46	46
Other manufacturing	46	46
<u>Construction</u>	46	47
<u>Wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels</u>	49	50
<u>Services</u>	44	45
<u>Others</u>	47	49
Overall	46	46

TABLE 12 : EMPLOYED PERSONS WHO WORKED LESS THAN 35 HOURS
PER WEEK BY REASON FOR WORKING LESS HOURS

Reason for working less than 35 hours per week	Jan - Mar 85		Apr - Jun 85	
	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%
On vacation, holiday	195.0	53.4	135.9	44.8
Slack work	38.9	10.7	37.5	12.4
Too busy with housework, schoolwork, personal business, etc.	68.8	18.9	67.9	22.4
Full-time work under 35 hours per week*	33.6	9.2	28.5	9.4
Permanent sickness/disablement/ old age/partially retired	13.8	3.8	15.2	5.0
Bad weather/material shortage/ mechanical breakdown	3.8	1.0	5.0	1.6
Started a new job/job terminated during the last 7 days	5.5	1.5	9.0	2.9
Could find only part-time work	2.8	0.8	2.6	0.9
Illness/injured on duty	0.7	0.2	0.9	0.3
Other reasons	1.7	0.5	0.8	0.3
Total	364.7	100.0	303.3	100.0

* This category refers to full-time workers who were scheduled to work less than 35 hours in the week before enumeration, and persons who worked in industries/occupations whose standard hours of work were less than 35 hours.

TABLE 13 : EMPLOYED PERSONS WHO WORKED LESS THAN 35 HOURS
PER WEEK BY MONTHLY EMPLOYMENT EARNINGS

Monthly employment earnings (HK\$)		Jan - Mar 85*		Apr - Jun 85	
		No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%
Under	500	28.9	7.9	28.0	9.2
	500 - 999	42.4	11.6	37.4	12.3
	1,000 - 1,499	44.3	12.1	33.2	10.9
	1,500 - 1,999	57.2	15.7	41.5	13.7
	2,000 - 2,499	55.0	15.1	37.6	12.4
	2,500 - 2,999	31.3	8.6	22.8	7.5
	3,000 - 3,499	28.7	7.9	22.6	7.5
	3,500 - 3,999	11.4	3.1	11.1	3.7
	4,000 - 4,499	11.0	3.0	12.6	4.2
	4,500 - 4,999	6.9	1.9	6.0	2.0
	5,000 - 5,999	12.9	3.6	13.2	4.4
	6,000 - 6,999	8.6	2.4	8.0	2.6
	7,000 - 7,999	10.0	2.7	10.0	3.3
	8,000 and over	16.2	4.4	19.3	6.3
Total		364.7	100.0	303.3	100.0
Median (HK\$)		2,087		2,154	

* Figures exclude Chinese New Year bonus/double pay.

TABLE 14 : EMPLOYED PERSONS WHO WORKED 35 HOURS OR MORE
PER WEEK BY MONTHLY EMPLOYMENT EARNINGS

Monthly employment earnings (HK\$)	Jan - Mar 85*		Apr - Jun 85	
	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%
Under 500	53.2	2.5	57.1	2.5
500 - 999	39.9	1.9	39.7	1.8
1,000 - 1,499	144.5	6.7	134.4	5.9
1,500 - 1,999	380.9	17.7	373.9	16.6
2,000 - 2,499	434.9	20.2	452.0	20.0
2,500 - 2,999	280.2	13.0	315.1	14.0
3,000 - 3,499	268.6	12.5	294.0	13.0
3,500 - 3,999	130.4	6.1	143.9	6.4
4,000 - 4,499	108.2	5.0	118.9	5.3
4,500 - 4,999	52.2	2.4	55.8	2.5
5,000 - 5,999	88.3	4.1	94.1	4.2
6,000 - 6,999	45.9	2.1	48.7	2.2
7,000 - 7,999	27.9	1.3	27.5	1.2
8,000 and over	96.9	4.5	99.3	4.4
Total	2 152.1	100.0	2 254.4	100.0
Median (HK\$)	2,540		2,611	

* Figures exclude Chinese New Year bonus/double pay.

TABLE 15 : MEDIAN MONTHLY EMPLOYMENT EARNINGS OF EMPLOYED PERSONS
WHO WORKED LESS THAN 35 HOURS PER WEEK BY INDUSTRY

Industry	Jan - Mar 85*	Apr - Jun 85
	(HK\$)	(HK\$)
Manufacturing	1,666	1,392
Construction	2,466	2,413
Wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels	1,992	2,127
Services	3,017	3,390
Overall	2,087	2,154

* Figures exclude Chinese New Year bonus/double pay.

TABLE 16 : MEDIAN MONTHLY EMPLOYMENT EARNINGS OF EMPLOYED PERSONS
WHO WORKED 35 HOURS OR MORE PER WEEK BY INDUSTRY

Industry	Jan - Mar 85*	Apr - Jun 85
	(HK\$)	(HK\$)
Manufacturing	2,226	2,260
Construction	2,949	3,070
Wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels	2,534	2,645
Services	3,048	3,075
Others	2,330	2,163
Overall	2,540	2,611

* Figures exclude Chinese New Year bonus/double pay.

TABLE 17 : EMPLOYED PERSONS BY MONTHLY EMPLOYMENT EARNINGS

Monthly employment earnings (HK\$)	Jan - Mar 85*		Apr - Jun 85	
	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%
Under 500	82.1	3.3	85.2	3.3
500 - 999	82.3	3.3	77.1	3.0
1,000 - 1,499	188.7	7.5	167.6	6.6
1,500 - 1,999	438.1	17.4	415.4	16.2
2,000 - 2,499	489.9	19.5	489.6	19.1
2,500 - 2,999	311.6	12.4	337.9	13.2
3,000 - 3,499	297.3	11.8	316.6	12.4
3,500 - 3,999	141.8	5.6	155.0	6.1
4,000 - 4,499	119.2	4.7	131.5	5.2
4,500 - 4,999	59.1	2.3	61.8	2.4
5,000 - 5,999	101.2	4.0	107.4	4.2
6,000 - 6,999	54.5	2.2	56.7	2.2
7,000 - 7,999	37.9	1.5	37.5	1.5
8,000 and over	113.0	4.5	118.6	4.6
Total	2 516.8	100.0	2 557.8	100.0
Median (HK\$)	2,476		2,565	

* Figures exclude Chinese New Year bonus/double pay.

TABLE 18 : MEDIAN MONTHLY EMPLOYMENT EARNINGS OF EMPLOYED
PERSONS BY OCCUPATION

Occupation	Jan - Mar 85*	Apr - Jun 85
	(HK\$)	(HK\$)
Professional, administrative and managerial workers	5,744	5,955
Clerical and related workers	2,539	2,686
Sales workers	2,735	2,885
Service workers	2,301	2,346
Production and related workers, transport equipment operators and labourers	2,307	2,368
Others	1,817	1,573
Total	2,476	2,565

*Figures exclude Chinese New Year bonus/double pay

TABLE 19 : UNEMPLOYED PERSONS BY AGE BY SEX

Age group	Jan - Mar 85		Apr - Jun 85	
	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%
Total				
15 - 19	11.3	14.6	14.9	20.0
20 - 29	29.9	38.5	29.6	39.8
30 - 39	12.9	16.7	11.1	14.9
40 - 49	8.7	11.2	7.8	10.5
50 - 59	9.9	12.8	7.9	10.7
60 and over	4.8	6.2	3.1	4.1
Total	77.6	100.0	74.5	100.0
Male				
15 - 19	6.8	12.2	7.9	15.1
20 - 29	20.1	36.2	19.7	37.4
30 - 39	9.8	17.6	8.4	15.9
40 - 49	6.5	11.7	7.0	13.4
50 - 59	8.2	14.7	7.0	13.4
60 and over	4.2	7.6	2.5	4.8
Total	55.6	100.0	52.6	100.0
Female				
15 - 19	4.5	20.6	6.9	31.6
20 - 29	9.8	44.5	10.0	45.6
30 - 39	3.1	14.2	2.8	12.6
40 - 49	2.2	10.1	0.8	3.7
50 - 59	1.7	7.8	0.9	4.2
60 and over	0.6	2.8	0.5	2.3
Total	22.0	100.0	21.9	100.0

TABLE 20 : UNEMPLOYED PERSONS BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Educational attainment	Jan - Mar 85			Apr - Jun 85		
	No. ('000)	%	Rate (%)	No. ('000)	%	Rate (%)
No schooling/kindergarten	5.1	6.5	2.7	3.1	4.1	1.6
Primary	25.6	32.9	3.0	24.1	32.4	2.8
Secondary/matriculation	40.3	52.0	3.1	41.6	55.8	3.2
Post-secondary including technical/vocational	3.0	3.9	2.1	2.6	3.6	1.8
First degree/post-graduate	3.6	4.7	3.2	3.1	4.1	2.6
Total	77.6	100.0	3.0	74.5	100.0	2.8

TABLE 21 : UNEMPLOYED PERSONS HAVING HAD A PREVIOUS
JOB BY PREVIOUS OCCUPATION

Previous occupation	Jan - Mar 85		Apr - Jun 85	
	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%
Professional, administrative and managerial workers	3.5	5.0	2.9	4.5
Clerical and related workers	9.2	13.1	8.8	13.7
Sales workers	5.7	8.1	4.4	6.9
Service workers	9.7	13.8	10.7	16.7
Production and related workers, transport equipment operators and labourers	41.7	59.4	36.4	56.9
Others	0.4	0.6	0.8	1.3
Total	70.2	100.0	63.9	100.0

**TABLE 22 : UNEMPLOYED PERSONS HAVING HAD A PREVIOUS JOB
BY PREVIOUS INDUSTRY**

Previous industry	Jan - Mar 85		Apr - Jun 85	
	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%
Manufacturing	26.1	37.1	25.3	39.5
Construction	11.7	16.7	8.9	13.9
Wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels	15.9	22.6	15.2	23.8
Services	15.6	22.2	13.4	21.0
Others	1.0	1.4	1.1	1.8
Total	70.2	100.0	63.9	100.0

TABLE 23 : UNEMPLOYED PERSONS HAVING HAD A PREVIOUS
JOB BY REASON FOR UNEMPLOYMENT

Reason for unemployment	Jan - Mar 85		Apr - Jun 85	
	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%
Illness/disability	4.1	5.9	2.1	3.4
Personal or family responsibilities	2.3	3.3	1.1	1.8
Dissatisfied with job (poor pay, working conditions, etc.)	21.7	30.9	24.3	38.1
Lost job or laid off	38.4	54.7	33.6	52.6
Others	3.6	5.2	2.6	4.1
Total	70.2	100.0	63.9	100.0

TABLE 24 : UNEMPLOYED PERSONS BY DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT

Duration of unemployment (months)	Jan - Mar 85		Apr - Jun 85	
	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%
< 1	23.6	30.5	21.1	28.3
1 - < 2	15.6	20.0	16.2	21.8
2 - < 3	9.4	12.1	9.7	13.0
3 - < 4	7.7	9.9	7.5	10.1
4 - < 5	3.3	4.3	3.1	4.1
5 - < 6	2.6	3.4	1.5	2.1
6 - < 12	8.7	11.2	7.8	10.5
12 and over	6.7	8.6	7.5	10.1
Total	77.6	100.0	74.5	100.0
Median (days)	59		60	

TABLE 25 : JOB SEEKERS BY MAIN ACTION TAKEN TO
LOOK FOR WORK

Main action taken to look for work	Jan - Mar 85		Apr - Jun 85	
	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%
Sent letters to firms/organisations	1.4	2.2	2.3	3.5
Answered/placed advertisement	33.5	51.5	36.6	54.6
Registered with private employment agency	-	-	9.1	0.2
Registered with public employment agency	1.2	1.8	2.5	3.8
Asked relatives/friends	28.6	43.9	25.0	37.3
Others	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.6
Total	65.2	100.0	66.9	100.0

Note : The main action taken to look for work as listed in this table refers to the one in which the respondent spent most effort (during the month before enumeration) irrespective of whether or not one or more actions had been taken.

TABLE 26 : JOB SEEKERS BY DESIRED INDUSTRY OF
NEXT EMPLOYMENT

Industry	Jan - Mar 85		Apr - Jun 85	
	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%
Manufacturing	21.6	33.2	23.5	35.1
Construction	10.0	15.3	7.7	11.6
Wholesale & retail trade, restaurants & hotels	17.1	26.2	19.9	29.7
Services	16.2	24.8	15.3	22.8
Others	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.8
Total	65.2	100.0	66.9	100.0

TABLE 27 : UNDEREMPLOYMENT BY AGE BY SEX

Age group	Jan - Mar 85		Apr - Jun 85	
	No. ('000)	Rate (%)	No. ('000)	Rate (%)
Total				
15 - 19	2.4	1.6	1.2	0.9
20 - 29	12.3	1.3	12.8	1.4
30 - 39	8.1	1.3	9.1	1.4
40 - 49	7.1	1.9	7.2	1.9
50 - 59	7.8	2.4	6.6	2.0
60 and over	2.0	1.3	3.5	2.1
Total	39.7	1.5	40.4	1.5
Male				
15 - 19	1.3	1.6	0.7	0.9
20 - 29	7.4	1.4	7.9	1.5
30 - 39	5.9	1.4	5.9	1.3
40 - 49	4.5	1.7	5.0	1.8
50 - 59	6.3	2.7	5.3	2.2
60 and over	1.8	1.7	2.2	2.1
Total	27.2	1.6	27.1	1.6
Female				
15 - 19	1.1	1.7	0.5	0.8
20 - 29	5.0	1.2	4.9	1.2
30 - 39	2.2	1.1	3.2	1.5
40 - 49	2.5	2.2	2.2	1.9
50 - 59	1.5	1.7	1.3	1.4
60 and over	0.2	0.4	1.2	2.2
Total	12.5	1.3	13.3	1.4

TABLE 28 : UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Educational attainment	Jan - Mar 85			Apr - Jun 85		
	No. ('000)	%	Rate (%)	No. ('000)	%	Rate (%)
No schooling/kindergarten	5.5	13.7	2.9	4.6	11.3	2.4
Primary	19.4	48.9	2.3	20.7	51.1	2.4
Secondary/matriculation	14.2	35.9	1.1	14.7	36.3	1.1
Post-secondary, including technical/vocational	0.4	1.0	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.1
First degree/post-graduate	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.4	1.0	0.4
Total	39.7	100.0	1.5	40.4	100.0	1.5

TABLE 29 : UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS BY INDUSTRY

Industry	Jan - Mar 85		Apr - Jun 85	
	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%
Manufacturing	18.6	46.8	20.9	51.6
Construction	11.1	28.0	8.9	21.9
Wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels	1.9	4.8	1.6	4.0
Services	8.1	20.4	9.0	22.2
Others	-	-	0.1	0.3
Total	39.7	100.0	40.4	100.0

TABLE 30 : UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS BY OCCUPATION

Occupation	Jan - Mar 85		Apr - Jun 85	
	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%
Professional, administrative and managerial workers	0.8	2.0	1.6	4.0
Clerical and related workers	0.5	1.3	0.4	1.0
Sales workers	0.9	2.3	0.6	1.5
Service workers	2.9	7.4	4.1	10.1
Production and related workers, transport equipment operators and labourers	34.5	86.8	33.6	83.1
Others	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.3
Total	39.7	100.0	40.4	100.0

TABLE 31 : UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS BY HOURS OF
WORK PER WEEK

Hours of work per week	Jan - Mar 85		Apr - Jun 85	
	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%
Under 20	13.3	33.6	15.1	37.3
20 - 24	11.1	28.0	10.9	26.9
25 - 29	2.5	6.4	3.0	7.3
30 - 34	12.7	32.0	11.5	28.5
Total	39.7	100.0	40.4	100.0
Median (hours)	22		22	

TABLE 32 : UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS BY MONTHLY EMPLOYMENT
EARNINGS

Monthly employment earnings (HK\$)	Jan - Mar 85*		Apr - Jun 85	
	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%
Under 500	1.8	4.6	2.3	5.8
500 - 999	5.0	12.5	5.7	14.1
1,000 - 1,999	16.4	41.2	17.0	42.1
2,000 - 2,999	11.5	29.0	10.1	24.9
3,000 - 4,999	4.6	11.7	4.5	11.1
5,000 and over	0.4	1.0	0.8	2.0
Total	39.7	100.0	40.4	100.0
Median (HK\$)	1,811		1,733	

* Figures exclude Chinese New Year bonus/double pay.

PART II : SURVEY METHODOLOGY

1. Coverage and sample design

1.1 The General Household Survey in the quarter ending June 1985 was based on a 1.023% sample of the population, which was a sub-sample of the 1981 Census 20% sample. For the purpose of the survey, the universe is defined to cover the population living in private land-households. The following categories of people were thus excluded :

- (a) hotel transients and inmates of institutions;
- (b) military personnel and dependants;
- (c) persons living on board ships and boats.

1.2 The sampling units for the survey were (a) quarters in permanent structures in urban areas and the new towns in the New Territories and (b) segments of temporary structures in rural and squatter areas with each segment consisting of about 12-15 contiguous houses or huts.

1.3 In addition to the basic sample, a supplementary sample of 1.023% of all quarters which came into existence after the 1981 Census was selected for the survey.

2. Survey method

2.1 The survey was conducted on a continuous month-to-month basis. Each month a sub-sample (about 0.34% sample) of households were surveyed. The households of the quarterly sample were interviewed by rotation, so that about 50% of the sample was the same for any two consecutive quarters. Personal and labour force data were collected by interviewing each individual member in the household (except the personal data of children aged under 12). These interviews were conducted by permanent field staff of the Census and Statistics Department. A 'shifting survey moment' or 'yesterday' approach was employed; that is to say, the number of persons in the household was as at 'yesterday'. The labour force characteristics of these persons, on the other hand, related to the week before 'yesterday'.

3. The questionnaire

3.1 The questionnaire was designed to collect some data on the personal characteristics of the population and detailed information on the labour force characteristics. Some data on the characteristics of living quarters and households were also sought.

3.2 The items of information included in the questionnaire were as follows:

For living quarters/households

- 1 Type of Living Quarter
- 2 Number of Households in the Living Quarter
- 3 Type of Household
- 4 Type of Accommodation
- 5 Tenure
- 6 Rent
- 7 Number of Persons in the Household
- 8 Household Income

For all persons

- 9 Relationship to Head
- 10 Sex
- 11 Age
- 12 Marital Status
- 13 Educational Attainment
- 14 Whether a Usual Household Member
- 15 Whereabouts at Reference Night
- 16 Non-Employment Income

For employed persons

- 17 Activity Status
- 18 Number of Hours Worked
- 19 Occupation
- 20 Industry
- 21 Earnings from Employment

For underemployed persons

- 22 Activity Status
- 23 Number of Hours Worked
- 24 Occupation
- 25 Industry
- 26 Earnings from Employment
- 27 Reason for Working Less than 35 Hours in the Reference Period
- 28 Whether Seeking More Work
- 29 Reason for Not Seeking More Work
- 30 Availability for More Work

For unemployed persons

- 31 Type of Unemployment
- 32 When and Why Left Previous Job
- 33 Previous Occupation
- 34 Previous Industry
- 35 Whether Seeking Work
- 36 Desired Industry of Next Employment
- 37 Reason for Not Seeking Work
- 38 Length of Time Looking for Work
- 39 Action Taken to Look for Work
- 40 Availability for Work
- 41 Reason for Non-availability for Work

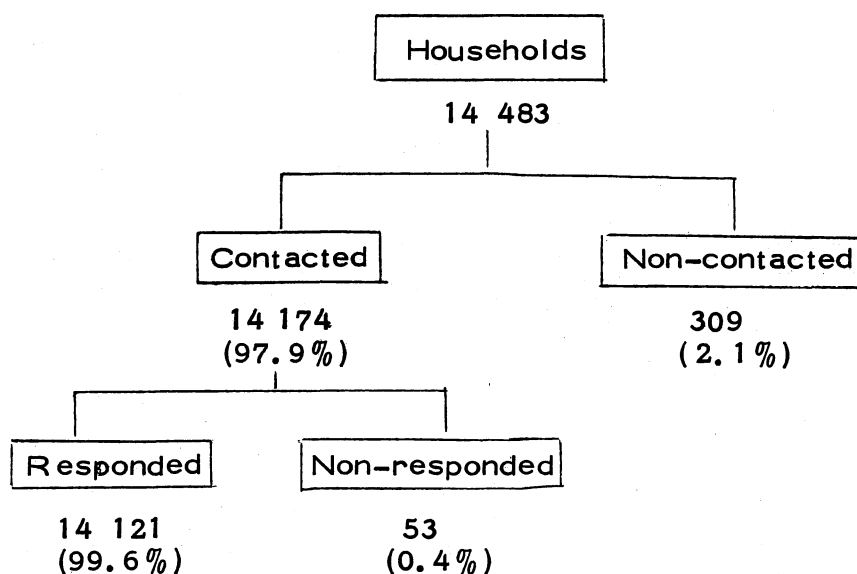
For economically inactive persons

42 Inactivity Status

4. Enumeration experience

4.1 Of the 15 141 addresses selected in the sample for the survey, 84.3% (12 763) turned out to be quarters occupied for domestic purposes, 7.5% (1 134) were unoccupied, 5.5% (838) were non-domestic and 2.7% (406) were demolished addresses. The percentage of non-domestic quarters related to those quarters which could not be identified as non-domestic during the sampling stage.

4.2 Assuming that each non-contact living quarter contained only one household, a total of 14 483 households were enumerated in the 12 763 occupied domestic living quarters. The following is a summary of the enumeration experience of these households:



4.3 For households which could not be contacted even after several follow-up visits, a self-administered questionnaire was deposited for them to fill in. A total of 362 forms were deposited and 118 completed forms were returned, covering 269 persons aged 15 and over. The following table compares the labour force characteristics of these persons with those of the total sample.

Activity status of persons aged 15 and over by sample

Activity status	Follow-up results of NC/NR cases	Total sample (excluding NC/NR cases)	Total sample (adjusted* for NC/NR cases)
Economically active			
Employed	196	25 110	25 711
Unemployed	7	731	753
Economically inactive	66	14 396	14 598
Total	269	40 237	41 062
Labour force participation rate	75.5 %	64.9 % **	65.1 % **
Unemployment rate	3.4 %	2.8 %	2.8 %

NC/NR = Non-contact or non-response households

* Assuming the remaining non-respondents having the same distribution of activity status as indicated by the returned self-administered questionnaires

** Estimate derived according to the estimation procedure described in Section 5

5. Estimation procedure

5.1 The total labour force in the second quarter of 1985 was derived by making use of the data obtained from the General Household Survey and the independent population estimate.

5.2 Specifically, the estimate of the labour force was derived by a Simple Average Estimator which is the sum of the products of the survey age-sex-specific participation rates and an independent estimate of the population for the same age-sex groups.

5.3 The estimates of the labour force participation rate, unemployment, employment and underemployment were calculated as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{(i) Labour force participation rate} \\
 & \quad = \frac{\text{Estimate of labour force}}{\text{Independent estimate of land civilian non-institutional population aged 15 and over}}
 \end{aligned}$$

- (II) Unemployment
= Estimate of labour force x Unemployment rate derived from survey
- (III) Employment
= Estimate of labour force - Unemployment estimated in (ii)
- (iv) Underemployment
= Estimate of labour force x Underemployment rate derived from survey

The estimates of the unemployment and underemployment rates for the quarter were obtained by dividing the total number of unemployed and underemployed persons by the total labour force in the sample.

6. Sampling error

6.1 Sampling errors for the estimates of labour force, labour force participation rate, unemployment, unemployment rate, underemployment and underemployment rate derived from the General Household Survey were calculated using an appropriate standard error formula. These are shown in the following table:

Standard errors of sample estimates

Characteristics	Sample estimate	Standard error
Labour force	2 632 200	11 800
Unemployed	74 500	2 800
Underemployed	40 400	2 200
Labour force participation rate	64.9 %	0.3 %
Unemployment rate	2.8 %	0.1 %
Underemployment rate	1.5 %	0.1 %

At the 95% confidence level, the interval estimates of these six characteristics are given by two standard errors above and below the values estimated from the sample.

Definitions of Labour Force Statistics

Labour force

The labour force consists of the land based civilian non-institutional population aged 15 and over who fulfil the criteria for inclusion in the employed and unemployed populations as defined below. Transients and inmates of institutions are excluded.

Employed population

- (1) The main requirement for a person to be classified as employed is formal job attachment or performance of some work for pay or profit. The criteria for formal job attachment are as follows:
 - (a) continued receipt of a wage or salary, or
 - (b) an assurance to return to work following the end of the contingency, or an agreement as to the date of return, or
 - (c) receipt of compensation benefits without an obligation to accept other jobs.
- (2) Accordingly, the employed population consists of all persons aged 15 and over in the following categories:
 - (a) at work : persons who during the seven days before enumeration performed some work for a wage or salary, in cash or in kind; and
 - (b) with a formal job attachment but not at work.
- (3) Persons are also regarded as employed if they performed some work during the reference week for profit or family gain, in cash or in kind. They include employers, the self-employed and outworkers. Those who had an enterprise but were not at work for any specific reason are also classified as employed.
- (4) Unpaid family workers who performed some work during the seven days before enumeration, are regarded as employed irrespective of the number of hours worked.
- (5) Apprentices who received pay in cash or in kind are considered as employed and classified as at work and not at work on the same basis as other employees.
- (6) Volunteer workers who performed some work not receiving any payment, in cash or in kind, and did not have a job or an enterprise are not considered as employed.

Unemployed population

- (1) The main criteria for a person to be classified as unemployed are :

- (a) not having a job and did not perform any work for pay or profit during the reference week;
 - (b) available for work during the reference week; and
 - (c) seeking work during the 30 days before enumeration.
- (2) Notwithstanding the above, the following are still considered as unemployed:
- (a) persons without a job and seeking work but currently not available for work because of temporary sickness;
 - (b) persons without a job and currently available for work but not seeking work because they had made arrangements to start a new job or to take up self-employment activities at a subsequent date;
 - (c) persons without a job and currently available for work but not seeking work because they believed work was not available; and
 - (d) persons without a job and currently available for work but not seeking work because they expected to be called back to work. This group of persons refer to those casual or substitute workers who are usually called back to work when there is a need for their service.

Labour force participation rate

The proportion of labour force members in the population aged 15 and over.

Unemployment rate

The proportion of unemployed persons in the labour force.

Underemployed population

The underemployed population consists of those employed persons who involuntarily worked less than 35 hours during the reference week, and who were seeking more work, or were not seeking more work but were available for additional work. Working short hours is involuntary if it is due to economic reasons which include slack work, material shortage, mechanical breakdown and inability to find full-time work.

Underemployment rate

The proportion of underemployed persons in the labour force.

Comparison of the old and new definitions of employment and unemployment used in the General Household Survey

- (1) Under the old definitions, unpaid workers working 15 hours or more during the seven days before enumeration were considered as employed. Under the new definitions, they were classified as unemployed or economically inactive depending on the above criteria.
- (2) Under the old definitions, unpaid family workers who worked less than 15 hours during the seven days before enumeration were not considered as employed. According to the new definitions, unpaid family workers who performed some work during the reference week were regarded as employed.
- (3) Under the old definitions, persons who were on temporary lay-off were regarded as unemployed. These persons were classified as employed under the new definitions if they had formal job attachment.
- (4) Persons who were seeking work but were not available for work because of temporary sickness were regarded as economically inactive under the old definitions. Under the new definitions, they were classified as unemployed.
- (5) Persons who were available for work but were not seeking work because of temporary sickness were regarded as unemployed under the old definitions. Under the new definitions, they were classified as economically inactive.
- (6) Under the old definitions, employed persons who worked less than 35 hours during the reference week were considered as underemployed if they were seeking more work or were not seeking more work because they believed more work was not available. Under the new definitions, persons who worked less than 35 hours during the reference week for economic reasons which included slack work, material shortage, mechanical breakdown and inability to find full-time work, and who were seeking more work or were not seeking more work but were available for additional work were regarded as underemployed.

Appendix 2

Comparison of estimates of employment and unemployment
under old and new definitions used in the
General Household Survey

A. Labour Force and Labour Force Participation Rate

Year/Month	Labour force (in thousands)		Labour force participation rate (percentage)	
	(1)	(2)	(1)	(2)
1984 : Jan - Mar	-	2 539.8	-	64.9
Apr - Jun	-	2 622.0	-	65.7
Jul - Sep	-	2 643.7	-	66.2
Oct - Dec	-	2 619.2	-	65.2
1985 : Jan - Mar	2 594.4	2 598.5	64.7	64.8
Apr - Jun	2 632.2	2 636.4	64.9	65.0

B. Unemployed Persons and Unemployment Rate

Year/Month	Unemployed persons (in thousands)		Unemployment rate (percentage)	
	(1)	(2)	(1)	(2)
1984 : Jan - Mar	-	101.2(102.0)	-	4.0(4.0)
Apr - Jun	-	94.3(91.9)	-	3.6(3.5)
Jul - Sep	-	102.2(92.4)	-	3.9(3.5)
Oct - Dec	-	106.4(99.5)	-	4.1(3.8)
1985 : Jan - Mar	77.6(81.1)	81.0(84.5)	3.0(3.1)	3.1(3.3)
Apr - Jun	74.5(75.1)	77.8(78.5)	2.8(2.9)	3.0(3.0)

Notes: (1) Based on the new definitions used in the General Household Survey since January 1985

(2) Based on the old definitions used in the General Household Survey

Figures in brackets refer to the deseasonalised unemployment rates (and estimates of unemployed persons) - assuming the same proportion of first-time job-seekers in all the periods specified.

C. Underemployed Persons and Underemployment Rate

Year/Month		Underemployed persons (in thousands)		Underemployment rate (percentage)	
		(1)	(2)	(1)	(2)
1984	: Jan - Mar	-	37.8	-	1.5
	Apr - Jun	-	25.6	-	1.0
	Jul - Sep	-	25.6	-	1.0
	Oct - Dec	-	21.8	-	0.8
1985	: Jan - Mar	39.7	34.1	1.5	1.3
	Apr - Jun	40.4	27.7	1.5	1.0

Notes: (1) Based on the new definitions used in the General Household Survey since January 1985

(2) Based on the old definitions used in the General Household Survey

LIST OF DETAILED TABULATIONS*

Living quarters

1. No. of living quarters x Type of living quarter x Living quarter size

Domestic households

2. No. of domestic households x Type of living quarter x Degree of sharing x Household size
3. No. of domestic households x Type of living quarter x Household income x Rent
4. No. of domestic households x Type of living quarter x Tenure x Rent
5. No. of domestic households x Type of living quarter x Tenure x Household income

All persons

6. No. of persons x Age x Sex x Marital status
7. No. of persons x Age x Sex x Whether attending school x Educational attainment

All persons aged 15 and over

8. No. of persons x Age x Sex x Marital status x Activity status
9. No. of persons x Age x Sex x Income from all employment

Employed persons aged 15 and over

10. No. of employed persons x Age x Sex x Occupation x Educational attainment
11. No. of employed persons x Age x Sex x Industry
12. No. of employed persons x Age x Sex x Educational attainment x Income from all employment
13. No. of employed persons x Occupation x Hours of work x Sex
14. No. of employed persons x Occupation x Income from all employment x Educational attainment
15. No. of employed persons x Industry x Hours of work x Income from all employment
16. No. of employed persons x Occupation x Industry

Unemployed persons aged 15 and over

17. No. of unemployed persons x Age x Sex x Educational attainment
18. No. of unemployed persons x Age x Sex x Duration of unemployment
19. No. of unemployed persons x Educational attainment x Duration of unemployment
20. No. of unemployed persons having had a previous job x Age x Sex x Previous occupation
21. No. of unemployed persons having had a previous job x Age x Sex x Previous industry
22. No. of unemployed persons having had a previous job x Age x Sex x Educational attainment
23. No. of first-time job-seekers x Age x Sex x Educational attainment
24. No. of first-time job-seekers x Educational attainment x Duration of unemployment
25. No. of job-seekers x Age x Educational attainment x Step taken to seek work

* These tables are available on request. Written requests can be sent to the General Household Survey Section of the Census and Statistics Department.