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Quarterly Report
January to March 1987

General Household Survey
Labour Force Characteristics

Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong
PART I:

SURVEY RESULTS

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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 January to March 1987. The sample consists of some 14,000 households or 51,000 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 In the General Household Survey, the definitions used in measuring labour force, unemployment and underemployment follow those recommended by the Thirteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS). The definitions are shown at Appendix I.

2. Broad Conclusions

2.1 The broad conclusions of the survey are as follows:

(a) the estimated total number of unemployed persons in the first quarter of 1987 was 50,700;

(b) this figure represents 1.9% of the labour force, which was estimated to be 2,666,400;

(c) of the unemployed: 90.6% were seeking work, 3.3% were not seeking work because they believed work was not available, 3.3% were waiting to start a new job/business and 2.8% were not seeking work because they expected to return to their original jobs;

(d) the unemployment rate was 2.1%, after adjusting for seasonal variations. This may broadly be compared with the figure of 6.7% for the U.S.A. (February 1987 - 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'. After adjusting the Hong Kong figure to conform to the U.S.A. definition, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in Hong Kong becomes 2.0% and
the estimated total number of underemployed persons in the first quarter of 1987 was 25,500, representing 1.0% of the labour force.

3. Labour Force Participation and Unemployment

3.1 The estimated labour force participation rate for the first quarter of 1987 was 64.1%, compared with 65.0% for the previous quarter and 64.6% for the first quarter of 1986. The decrease in the rate below the previous quarter was statistically significant but the decrease below the first quarter of 1986 was not. In absolute terms, the labour force decreased by 57,100 below the previous quarter but increased by 10,400 over the first quarter of 1986. (Table 1)

3.2 There were no marked changes in the overall pattern of the age-sex-specific labour force participation rates for the periods under study. In all three quarters, males had the highest participation rate for the 30-39 age group and females, the highest rate for the 20-29 age group. The overall male participation rate was about 33 percentage points higher than the overall female rate. (Table 1)

3.3 The estimated unemployment rate for the first quarter of 1987 was 1.9%. After discounting seasonal variations in the proportion of first-time job-seekers the rate was 2.1%, compared with the desseasonalised unemployment rate of 2.2% for the previous quarter and 3.2% for the first quarter of 1986. The decrease in the rate below the previous quarter was statistically not significant but the decrease below the first quarter of 1986 was statistically significant. (Table 2 and Appendix 2)

3.4 Compared with the previous quarter, there was a general decrease in the unemployment rate for all age groups except 30-49. Males had a higher unemployment rate than females for all age groups except 20-29; the overall male unemployment rate was 2.0%, while the overall female rate was 1.8%. (Table 2)

3.5 Geographically, Tsuen Wan had the highest labour force participation rate, whereas Kowloon had the lowest. New Kowloon had the highest unemployment rate and Tsuen Wan had the lowest. Compared with the previous quarter, there was a decrease in the labour force participation rate in all areas except Tsuen Wan and a general decrease in the unemployment rate in all areas. (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. Compared with the previous quarter, there was a decrease in the rate for unmarried females in age group 15-29 and in the rate for married females in age group 15-49. (Table 4)
4. **Characteristics of the Employed Population**

4.1 **The estimated number of employed persons in the first quarter of 1987 was 2,615,700, compared with 2,664,600 for the previous quarter and 2,572,700 for the first quarter of 1986. About two-thirds of the employed population were males. (Table 5)**

4.2 **On average, female workers were younger than male workers; some 74% of female workers were below the age of 40 - the corresponding proportion for male workers was 63%. The median age for male workers was 35; that for female workers, 30. (Table 5)**

4.3 **87% of the employed population were employees. The number of employees decreased by 22,900 below the previous quarter and increased by 50,500 over the first quarter of 1986. As for self-employed persons and outworkers, the number decreased by 11,500 below the previous quarter and by 6,300 below the first quarter of 1986. (Table 6)**

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

4.5 **Some 43% of the employed population were in production occupations; 45% in clerical, sales and service occupations. One-tenth were professional, administrative and managerial workers. When compared with the previous quarter, the number of production workers decreased by 28,900, the number of clerical, sales and service workers by 15,800 and the number of professional, administrative and managerial workers by 7,300. (Table 8)**

4.6 **More than one-third of workers were in manufacturing industries; the manufacturing of textiles and wearing apparel was still the largest employer in the manufacturing sector. Less than one-quarter were in wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels, and about one-third in services industries. The number of persons employed in manufacturing industries as a whole decreased by 21,500 below the previous quarter but increased by 15,000 over the first quarter of 1986. The number in services industries decreased by 19,200 below the previous quarter and was about the same as in the first quarter of 1986. The number in wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels also decreased by 6,600 and increased by 15,600 over the respective periods. (Table 9)**

4.7 **The percentage of employed persons working less than 35 hours per week at 19% was 11 percentage points higher than the 8% in the previous quarter and 2 percentage points higher than the 17% in the first quarter of 1986. Of those who worked less than 35 hours, nearly three-quarters did so because they were on vacation/holiday; one-eighth could not work longer hours because they were too busy with housework, schoolwork or personal business. One in twenty 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 figure for the first quarter of 1987 was 46, which was lower than that for the previous quarter (47 hours) and was the same as that for the first quarter of 1986. Among all industries, it was the group 'Wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels' and the group 'others' (which includes agriculture and fishing, mining and quarrying, electricity, gas and water) which had the highest median hours of work (49 hours), while 'services' had the lowest (44 hours). (Table 11)

4.9 The median monthly employment earnings of workers who worked less than 35 hours per week for the first quarter of 1987, excluding Chinese New Year bonus/double pay, were $2,885; that for the previous quarter were $2,087. Apart from salary increases, the fact that a much larger proportion (73% as against 24%) of those who worked short hours were full-time workers on vacation/holiday also accounted for the higher median monthly earnings. Including Chinese New Year bonus/double pay, the median monthly earnings increased from $2,519 to $3,270 over the year. There was an increase in employment earnings in all industries when compared with the previous quarter and the first quarter of 1986. (Tables 13 and 15)

4.10 For workers who worked more than 35 hours per week, the median monthly employment earnings for the first quarter of 1987, excluding Chinese New Year bonus/double pay, were $3,130; that for the previous quarter were $3,065. Including Chinese New Year bonus/double pay, the median monthly earnings were $3,276, compared with $2,991 for the first quarter of 1986. As in the case of workers who worked less than 35 hours, there was an increase in employment earnings in all industries when compared with the previous quarter and the first quarter of 1986. In general, workers in services industries had the highest median income, whilst those in manufacturing industries had the lowest. (Tables 14 and 16)

4.11 Of the employed population, the median monthly employment earnings (excluding Chinese New Year bonus/double pay) for the first quarter of 1987 was $3,093, compared with $3,017 for the last quarter of 1986. Including Chinese New Year bonus/double pay, the median monthly earnings increased from $2,929 to $3,275 over the year. (Table 17)

4.12 Workers in professional, administrative and managerial occupations had the highest median monthly earnings. Compared with the previous quarter and the first quarter of 1986, there was an increase in the median income of workers in all occupations. (Table 18)

5. Characteristics of the Unemployed Population

5.1 The estimated number of unemployed persons in the first quarter of 1987 was 50,700, compared with 59,000 in the previous quarter and 83,200 in the first quarter of 1986. About three-fifths 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 1.9 to 1.0 for the first quarter of 1987. (Table 19)
5.2 More than a quarter of the unemployed had primary education and about three-fifths had secondary or matriculation education. Those who had secondary education had a higher unemployment rate. (Table 20)

5.3 More than half of the unemployed who had previously been in production occupations; one-quarter in sales and service occupations. One out of twenty was previously a professional, administrative or managerial worker. Compared with the previous quarter, there was a decrease in the proportion of the unemployed who had previously been in professional, administrative and managerial, clerical and service occupations and an increase in production occupations. (Table 21)

5.4 One-third of those unemployed who had previously been in manufacturing industries; more than half had been in wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels, and services industries. There were no marked changes in the industrial pattern of the unemployed in all three quarters. (Table 22)

5.5 47% of those unemployed who had previously been in manufacturing industries; more than half had been in wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels, and services industries. The median duration of unemployment for the first quarter of 1987 was 69 days, compared with 73 days for the previous quarter and 66 days for the first quarter of 1986. (Table 24)

5.6 46% of the unemployed had been out of work for less than two months; more than one-fifth for half-a-year or more. The median duration of unemployment for the first quarter of 1987 was 69 days, compared with 73 days for the previous quarter and 66 days for the first quarter of 1986. (Table 24)

5.7 Nine out of ten of the unemployed were job-seekers. As regards the main action taken to look for a job, about two-thirds of them approached potential employers directly either by sending letters or in response to advertisements; one-third sought assistance from friends and relatives. (Table 25)

5.8 Among the job-seekers, three-tenths wanted to work in manufacturing industries; one-tenth in construction; one-third in wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels; and another one-quarter in services industries. This pattern had not changed appreciably over the periods under study. (Table 26)

6. Underemployment and Characteristics of the Underemployed Population

6.1 "Underemployed persons" are 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 involuntarily if it is due to economic reasons which include slack work, material shortage, mechanical breakdown and inability to find full-time work. Based on these criteria, it was estimated that 25 500 employed persons were underemployed in the first quarter of 1987, representing 1.0% of the labour force. The corresponding figures for the previous quarter were 31 800 and 1.2% and for the first quarter of 1986 were 61 700 and 2.3%. (Table 27)
6.2 The underemployment rate for males was 0.4 percentage point higher than that for females. The rate was higher for males in the age group 50 - 59 and for females in the age group 60 and above. (Table 27)

6.3 Among the underemployed, about half had primary education and two-fifths had secondary education or matriculation. The underemployment rate was higher for those who were less educated. (Table 28)

6.4 Less than half of the underemployed were in manufacturing industries; three-tenths in construction and about one-sixth in services industries. Compared with the previous quarter, there was an increase in the proportion of the underemployed in manufacturing and construction industries but a decrease in wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels and services industries. (Table 29)

6.5 More than four-fifths of the underemployed were production workers; about one-tenth were service workers. Compared with the previous quarter, there was an increase in the proportion of the underemployed who were production and clerical workers but a decrease in the proportion of the underemployed who were professional, administrative and managerial workers and sales and service workers. (Table 30)

6.6 56% of the underemployed worked less than 25 hours per week; 38% worked 30 - 34 hours. The median of hours of work figure for the first quarter of 1987 was 24; the corresponding figures for the previous quarter and the first quarter of 1986 were both 23. (Table 31)

6.7 Of the underemployed, the median monthly employment earnings (including Chinese New Year bonus/double pay) for the first quarter of 1987 were $2,245, compared with $1,722 for the same quarter of 1986. Excluding Chinese New Year bonus/double pay, the median monthly earnings were $2,231, compared with $2,105 for the previous quarter. (Table 32)
7. Summary Tables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Labour force x Age x Sex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Unemployment x Age x Sex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Labour force and unemployment x Geographical area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Female labour force x Age x Marital status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Employed persons x Age x Sex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Employed persons x Activity status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Employed persons x Educational attainment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Employed persons x Occupation</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>Employed persons x Industry</td>
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<td>Employed persons x Hours of work per week</td>
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<td>Median hours of work of employed persons x Industry</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>Employed persons who worked less than 35 hours per week x Reason for working less hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Employed persons who worked less than 35 hours per week x Monthly employment earnings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Employed persons who worked 35 hours or more per week x Monthly employment earnings</td>
</tr>
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<td>15.</td>
<td>Median monthly employment earnings of employed persons who worked less than 35 hours per week x Industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>Median monthly employment earnings of employed persons who worked 35 hours or more per week x Industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>Employed persons x Monthly employment earnings</td>
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<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>Median monthly employment earnings of employed persons x Occupation</td>
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<td>Unemployed persons x Age x Sex</td>
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<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>Unemployed persons x Educational attainment</td>
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<td>21.</td>
<td>Unemployed persons having had a previous job x Previous occupation</td>
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<td>22.</td>
<td>Unemployed persons having had a previous job x Previous industry</td>
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<td>23.</td>
<td>Unemployed persons having had a previous job x Reason for unemployment</td>
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<td>Unemployed persons x Duration of unemployment</td>
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<td>25.</td>
<td>Job-seekers x Main action taken to look for work</td>
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<td>26.</td>
<td>Job-seekers x Desired industry of next employment</td>
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<td>27.</td>
<td>Underemployment x Age x Sex</td>
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<td>28.</td>
<td>Underemployed persons x Educational attainment</td>
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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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age group</th>
<th>Jan - Mar 86</th>
<th>Oct - Dec 86</th>
<th>Jan - Mar 87</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. (1'000)</td>
<td>Rate (%)</td>
<td>No. (1'000)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 - 19</td>
<td>143.2</td>
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<td>20 - 29</td>
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<td>2 723.5</td>
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#### Male

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<th>Oct - Dec 86</th>
<th>Jan - Mar 87</th>
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#### Female

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### TABLE 2: UNEMPLOYMENT BY AGE BY SEX

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Male

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Female

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<td>No. (’000)</td>
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### TABLE 3: LABOUR FORCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT BY GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

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TABLE 5: EMPLOYED PERSONS BY AGE BY SEX

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Male

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Female

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### TABLE 6: EMPLOYED PERSONS BY ACTIVITY STATUS

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### TABLE 7: EMPLOYED PERSONS BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

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<td>291.3 11.1</td>
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<td>450.9 16.9</td>
<td>444.1 17.0</td>
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<td>1 156.3 43.4</td>
<td>1 127.4 43.1</td>
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<td>43.4 1.6</td>
<td>46.3 1.8</td>
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<td>2 664.6 100.0</td>
<td>2 615.7 100.0</td>
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<td>Oct - Dec 86</td>
<td>Jan - Mar 87</td>
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<td>No. (‘000)</td>
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### TABLE 10: EMPLOYED PERSONS BY HOURS OF WORK PER WEEK

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<td></td>
<td>No. ('000)</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No. ('000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 20</td>
<td>181.1</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>64.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 - 29</td>
<td>133.0</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>76.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 - 34</td>
<td>120.8</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>76.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 - 39</td>
<td>242.6</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>283.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 - 44</td>
<td>368.2</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>380.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 - 49</td>
<td>806.4</td>
<td>31.4</td>
<td>991.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 - 59</td>
<td>288.4</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>321.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 and over</td>
<td>432.3</td>
<td>16.8</td>
<td>470.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,572.7</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>2,664.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Jan - Mar 86</th>
<th>Oct - Dec 86</th>
<th>Jan - Mar 87</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing of textiles and wearing apparel</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other manufacturing</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reason for working less than 35 hours per week</td>
<td>Jan - Mar 86</td>
<td>Oct - Dec 86</td>
<td>Jan - Mar 87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. (’000)</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No. (’000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On vacation, holiday</td>
<td>267.2</td>
<td>61.5</td>
<td>52.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slack work</td>
<td>42.1</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>23.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too busy with housework, schoolwork, personal business, etc.</td>
<td>55.4</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>74.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time work under 35 hours per week*</td>
<td>30.4</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>29.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent sickness/disable-ment/old age/partially retired</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>13.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bad weather/material shortage/mechanical breakdown</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Started a new job/job terminated during the last 7 days</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Could find only part-time work</td>
<td>19.1</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>9.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illness/injured on duty</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other reasons</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>434.8</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>216.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 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>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monthly employment earnings (HK$)</th>
<th>Jan-Mar 86(1)</th>
<th>Jan-Mar 87(1)</th>
<th>Oct - Dec 86</th>
<th>Jan-Mar 87(2)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. ('000)</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No. ('000)</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 500</td>
<td>28.0</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>20.2</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500 - 999</td>
<td>35.9</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>28.9</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,000 - 1,499</td>
<td>43.6</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>31.8</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,500 - 1,999</td>
<td>51.6</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>42.7</td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,000 - 2,499</td>
<td>56.7</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>54.9</td>
<td>11.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,500 - 2,999</td>
<td>41.5</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>46.0</td>
<td>9.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,000 - 3,499</td>
<td>40.5</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>47.0</td>
<td>9.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,500 - 3,999</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>25.9</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,000 - 4,499</td>
<td>23.3</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>32.6</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,500 - 4,999</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000 - 5,999</td>
<td>20.6</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>30.4</td>
<td>6.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6,000 - 6,999</td>
<td>15.6</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>28.0</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7,000 - 7,999</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>17.4</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8,000 and over</td>
<td>42.0</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>80.6</td>
<td>16.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>434.8</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
<td><strong>499.6</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median (HK$)</td>
<td>2,519</td>
<td></td>
<td>3,270</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:  
(1) Income includes Chinese New Year bonus/double pay  
(2) Income excludes Chinese New Year bonus/double pay
### TABLE 14: EMPLOYED PERSONS WHO WORKED 35 HOURS OR MORE PER WEEK BY MONTHLY EMPLOYMENT EARNINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monthly employment earnings (HK$)</th>
<th>Jan-Mar 86(1)</th>
<th>Jan-Mar 87(1)</th>
<th>Oct - Dec 86</th>
<th>Jan-Mar 87(2)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. (‘000)</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No. (‘000)</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 500</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>38.1</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500 - 999</td>
<td>32.6</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>17.4</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,000 - 1,499</td>
<td>86.7</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>51.4</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,500 - 1,999</td>
<td>285.4</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>190.4</td>
<td>9.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,000 - 2,499</td>
<td>345.5</td>
<td>16.2</td>
<td>311.1</td>
<td>14.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,500 - 2,999</td>
<td>273.5</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>277.0</td>
<td>13.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,000 - 3,499</td>
<td>272.8</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>312.7</td>
<td>14.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,500 - 3,999</td>
<td>144.7</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>173.2</td>
<td>8.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,000 - 4,499</td>
<td>151.6</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>169.6</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,500 - 4,999</td>
<td>65.1</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>92.4</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000 - 5,499</td>
<td>123.5</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>139.7</td>
<td>6.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6,000 - 6,499</td>
<td>81.1</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>90.9</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7,000 - 7,999</td>
<td>53.0</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>55.8</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8,000 and over</td>
<td>172.5</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>196.4</td>
<td>9.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2 137.9</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>2 116.1</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median (HK$)</td>
<td>2,991</td>
<td></td>
<td>3,276</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**
(1) Income includes Chinese New Year bonus/double pay
(2) Income excludes 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Jan-Mar 86(1) (HK$)</th>
<th>Jan-Mar 87(1) (HK$)</th>
<th>Oct-Dec 86 (HK$)</th>
<th>Jan-Mar 87(2) (HK$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>2,031</td>
<td>2,499</td>
<td>1,175</td>
<td>2,326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>2,542</td>
<td>3,329</td>
<td>2,628</td>
<td>3,243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels</td>
<td>2,835</td>
<td>3,690</td>
<td>2,020</td>
<td>2,916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>3,499</td>
<td>4,515</td>
<td>3,162</td>
<td>3,731</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>2,519</td>
<td>3,270</td>
<td>2,087</td>
<td>2,885</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**
1. Income includes Chinese New Year bonus/double pay
2. Income excludes 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Jan-Mar 86(1) (HK$)</th>
<th>Jan-Mar 87(1) (HK$)</th>
<th>Oct-Dec 86 (HK$)</th>
<th>Jan-Mar 87(2) (HK$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>2,474</td>
<td>2,839</td>
<td>2,666</td>
<td>2,741</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>3,210</td>
<td>3,570</td>
<td>3,421</td>
<td>3,490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels</td>
<td>2,999</td>
<td>3,300</td>
<td>3,003</td>
<td>3,098</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>3,485</td>
<td>3,798</td>
<td>3,476</td>
<td>3,521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>2,546</td>
<td>2,935</td>
<td>2,704</td>
<td>2,756</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>2,991</td>
<td>3,276</td>
<td>3,065</td>
<td>3,130</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**
1. Income includes Chinese New Year bonus/double pay
2. Income excludes Chinese New Year bonus/double pay
TABLE 17: EMPLOYED PERSONS BY MONTHLY EMPLOYMENT EARNINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monthly employment earnings (HK$)</th>
<th>Jan-Mar 86(1)</th>
<th>Jan-Mar 87(1)</th>
<th>Oct-Dec 86</th>
<th>Jan-Mar 87(2)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. (’000)</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No. (’000)</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 500</td>
<td>78.1</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>58.3</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500 - 999</td>
<td>68.5</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>46.3</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,000 - 1,499</td>
<td>130.2</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>83.2</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,500 - 1,999</td>
<td>337.0</td>
<td>13.1</td>
<td>233.1</td>
<td>8.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,000 - 2,499</td>
<td>402.2</td>
<td>15.6</td>
<td>366.0</td>
<td>14.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,500 - 2,999</td>
<td>315.0</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>323.0</td>
<td>12.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,000 - 3,499</td>
<td>313.2</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>359.7</td>
<td>13.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,500 - 3,999</td>
<td>161.0</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>199.1</td>
<td>7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,000 - 4,499</td>
<td>174.9</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>202.2</td>
<td>7.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,500 - 4,999</td>
<td>73.9</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>105.8</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000 - 5,999</td>
<td>144.1</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>170.0</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6,000 - 6,999</td>
<td>96.7</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>118.9</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7,000 - 7,999</td>
<td>63.4</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>73.2</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8,000 and over</td>
<td>214.5</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>276.9</td>
<td>10.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,572.7</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>2,615.7</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median (HK$)</td>
<td>2,929</td>
<td></td>
<td>3,275</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: (1) Income includes Chinese New Year bonus/double pay
(2) Income excludes Chinese New Year bonus/double pay
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Jan-Mar 86(1) (HK$)</th>
<th>Jan-Mar 87(1) (HK$)</th>
<th>Oct-Dec 86 (HK$)</th>
<th>Jan-Mar 87(2) (HK$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professional, administrative and managerial workers</td>
<td>6,981</td>
<td>8,217</td>
<td>7,143</td>
<td>7,510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clerical and related workers</td>
<td>3,290</td>
<td>3,689</td>
<td>3,062</td>
<td>3,161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales workers</td>
<td>3,191</td>
<td>3,602</td>
<td>3,238</td>
<td>3,336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service workers</td>
<td>2,653</td>
<td>2,911</td>
<td>2,706</td>
<td>2,774</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production and related workers, transport equipment operators and labourers</td>
<td>2,617</td>
<td>3,023</td>
<td>2,838</td>
<td>2,903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>1,963</td>
<td>2,160</td>
<td>2,028</td>
<td>2,129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,929</td>
<td>3,275</td>
<td>3,017</td>
<td>3,093</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: 
(1) Income includes Chinese New Year bonus/double pay
(2) Income excludes Chinese New Year bonus/double pay
### TABLE 19: UNEMPLOYED PERSONS BY AGE BY SEX

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age group</th>
<th>Jan - Mar 86</th>
<th>Oct - Dec 86</th>
<th>Jan - Mar 87</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. ('000)</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No. ('000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 - 19</td>
<td>15.1</td>
<td>18.2</td>
<td>10.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 - 29</td>
<td>30.4</td>
<td>36.5</td>
<td>26.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 - 39</td>
<td>15.6</td>
<td>18.8</td>
<td>8.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 - 49</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 - 59</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>6.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 and over</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>83.2</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>59.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Male

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age group</th>
<th>Jan - Mar 86</th>
<th>Oct - Dec 86</th>
<th>Jan - Mar 87</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
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<td>%</td>
<td>No. ('000)</td>
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<td>15.9</td>
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<td>17.4</td>
<td>30.1</td>
<td>16.1</td>
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<td>6.8</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>3.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>50 - 59</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 and over</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>6.0</td>
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</tr>
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<td>57.6</td>
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#### Female

<table>
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<th>Age group</th>
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<th>Oct - Dec 86</th>
<th>Jan - Mar 87</th>
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<td>%</td>
<td>No. ('000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>6.0</td>
<td>23.2</td>
<td>4.8</td>
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<td>2.0</td>
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<td>3.5</td>
<td>1.2</td>
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<td>50 - 59</td>
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<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 and over</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>0.2</td>
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<td>19.6</td>
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**TABLE 20 : UNEMPLOYED PERSONS BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT**

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<th>Jan - Mar 87</th>
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<td>%</td>
<td>No. ('000)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>25.3</td>
<td>30.4</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>Secondary/ matriculation</td>
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<td>56.1</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>Post-secondary, including technical/vocational</td>
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<td>3.5</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First degree/post-graduate</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>83.2</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>59.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.1</td>
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<td>2.2</td>
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**TABLE 21 : UNEMPLOYED PERSONS HAVING HAD A PREVIOUS JOB BY PREVIOUS OCCUPATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Previous occupation</th>
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<th>Jan - Mar 87</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. ('000)</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No. ('000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional, administrative and managerial workers</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clerical and related workers</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales workers</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service workers</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>8.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production and related workers, transport equipment operators and labourers</td>
<td>40.8</td>
<td>55.1</td>
<td>23.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>74.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>48.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous industry</td>
<td>Jan - Mar 86</td>
<td>Oct - Dec 86</td>
<td>Jan - Mar 87</td>
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<td>--------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
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<td>No. ('000)</td>
<td>No. ('000)</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
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<td>%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>25.4</td>
<td>15.3</td>
<td>14.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>34.4</td>
<td>31.5</td>
<td>32.3</td>
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<td>Construction</td>
<td>12.0</td>
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<td>6.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16.2</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>13.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels</td>
<td>19.3</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>11.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>26.0</td>
<td>27.7</td>
<td>26.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>17.1</td>
<td>13.7</td>
<td>12.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23.0</td>
<td>28.2</td>
<td>27.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
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<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>74.0</td>
<td>48.5</td>
<td>44.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
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### TABLE 23: UNEMPLOYED PERSONS HAVING HAD A PREVIOUS JOB BY REASON FOR UNEMPLOYMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason for unemployment</th>
<th>Jan - Mar 86</th>
<th>Oct - Dec 86</th>
<th>Jan - Mar 87</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. ('000)</td>
<td>No. ('000)</td>
<td>No. ('000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illness/disability</td>
<td>1.8 2.5</td>
<td>2.3 4.7</td>
<td>1.1 2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal or family responsibilities</td>
<td>1.9 2.6</td>
<td>0.8 1.5</td>
<td>0.4 1.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dissatisfied with job (poor pay, working conditions, etc.)</td>
<td>26.0 35.1</td>
<td>21.4 44.1</td>
<td>20.0 45.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lost job or laid off</td>
<td>42.1 56.8</td>
<td>22.3 45.9</td>
<td>20.9 47.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>2.2 3.0</td>
<td>1.8 3.8</td>
<td>2.0 4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>74.0 100.0</td>
<td>48.5 100.0</td>
<td>44.4 100.0</td>
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</table>
### TABLE 24: UNEMPLOYED PERSONS BY DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration of unemployment (months)</th>
<th>Jan - Mar 86</th>
<th>Oct - Dec 86</th>
<th>Jan - Mar 87</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. (1,000)</td>
<td>No. (1,000)</td>
<td>No. (1,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 1</td>
<td>21.6</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>12.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 - &lt; 2</td>
<td>17.7</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>10.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 - &lt; 3</td>
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<td>9.6</td>
<td>7.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 - &lt; 4</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 - &lt; 5</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>0.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 - &lt; 6</td>
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<td>2.2</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 - &lt; 12</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>5.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 and over</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>6.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>83.2</td>
<td>59.0</td>
<td>50.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median (days)</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>69</td>
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### TABLE 25: JOB-SEEKERS BY MAIN ACTION TAKEN TO LOOK FOR WORK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main action taken to look for work</th>
<th>Jan - Mar 86</th>
<th>Oct - Dec 86</th>
<th>Jan - Mar 87</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
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<td>No. (1,000)</td>
<td>No. (1,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sent letters to firms/organisations</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Answered/placed advertisement</td>
<td>38.1</td>
<td>33.6</td>
<td>27.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Registered with private employment agency</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered with public employment agency</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asked relatives/friends</td>
<td>30.5</td>
<td>18.0</td>
<td>15.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>73.5</td>
<td>54.1</td>
<td>46.0</td>
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</table>

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>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
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<th>Oct - Dec 86</th>
<th>Jan - Mar 87</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. ('000)</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No. ('000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>21.0</td>
<td>28.5</td>
<td>14.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>14.8</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels</td>
<td>23.6</td>
<td>32.1</td>
<td>17.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>17.8</td>
<td>24.2</td>
<td>16.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>0.3</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>73.5</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>54.1</td>
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### TABLE 27: UNDEREMPLOYMENT BY AGE BY SEX

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<th>Jan - Mar 87</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>No. ('000)</td>
<td>Rate (%)</td>
<td>No. ('000)</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 - 19</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.6</td>
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<td>8.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 - 39</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>7.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>40 - 49</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 - 59</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>6.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>60 and over</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>3.1</td>
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<td>2.3</td>
<td>31.8</td>
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**Male**

<table>
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<th>Jan - Mar 87</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>No. ('000)</td>
<td>Rate (%)</td>
<td>No. ('000)</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 - 19</td>
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<td>20 - 29</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 - 39</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 - 49</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 - 59</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 and over</td>
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<td>2.6</td>
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**Female**

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<th>Oct - Dec 86</th>
<th>Jan - Mar 87</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. ('000)</td>
<td>Rate (%)</td>
<td>No. ('000)</td>
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<td>15 - 19</td>
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<td>2.2</td>
<td>0.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 - 29</td>
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<td>2.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 - 39</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>2.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>40 - 49</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 - 59</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>60 and over</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
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<td>2.1</td>
<td>9.5</td>
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<td>Oct - Dec 86</td>
<td>Jan - Mar 87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. ('000)</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No. ('000)</td>
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<td>3.1</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Primary</td>
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<td>16.6</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Secondary/matriculation</td>
<td>20.8</td>
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<td>11.1</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-secondary, including technical/vocational</td>
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<td>1.8</td>
<td>0.5</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>First degree/post-graduate</td>
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<td>1.1</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>31.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
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### TABLE 29: UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS BY INDUSTRY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Jan - Mar 86</th>
<th>Oct - Dec 86</th>
<th>Jan - Mar 87</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. (1,000)</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No. (1,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>29.4</td>
<td>47.5</td>
<td>13.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>9.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>20.6</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>61.7</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>31.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### TABLE 30: UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS BY OCCUPATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Jan - Mar 86</th>
<th>Oct - Dec 86</th>
<th>Jan - Mar 87</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. ('000)</td>
<td>No. ('000)</td>
<td>No. ('000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional, administrative and managerial workers</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clerical and related workers</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales workers</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service workers</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>14.2</td>
<td>9.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production and related workers, transport equipment operators and labourers</td>
<td>50.7</td>
<td>24.6</td>
<td>21.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>82.2</td>
<td>77.3</td>
<td>82.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>61.7</td>
<td>31.8</td>
<td>25.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### TABLE 31: UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS BY HOURS OF WORK PER WEEK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours of work per week</th>
<th>Jan - Mar 86</th>
<th>Oct - Dec 86</th>
<th>Jan - Mar 87</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. ('000)</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No. ('000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 20</td>
<td>18.3</td>
<td>29.6</td>
<td>10.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 - 24</td>
<td>18.0</td>
<td>29.1</td>
<td>7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 - 29</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 - 34</td>
<td>20.4</td>
<td>33.0</td>
<td>11.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>61.7</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>31.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median (hours)</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### TABLE 32: UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS BY MONTHLY EMPLOYMENT EARNINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monthly employment earnings (HK$)</th>
<th>Jan-Mar 86(1)</th>
<th>Jan-Mar 87(1)</th>
<th>Oct-Dec 86</th>
<th>Jan-Mar 87(2)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. ('000)</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No. ('000)</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 500</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500 - 999</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,000 - 1,999</td>
<td>24.4</td>
<td>39.6</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>31.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,000 - 2,999</td>
<td>16.8</td>
<td>27.3</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>34.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,000 - 4,999</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>24.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000 and over</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>61.7</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>25.5</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median (HK$)</td>
<td>1,722</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,245</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
1. Income includes Chinese New Year bonus/double pay
2. Income excludes 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 March 1987 was based on a 1.0% sample of the total population in Hong Kong. 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 and (b) segments of temporary structures in rural and squatter areas with each segment consisting of about 10 - 12 living quarters.

2. Survey Method

2.1 The survey was conducted on a continuous month-to-month basis. Each month a sample of about 5,000 households were surveyed. The households in the quarterly sample were interviewed by rotation, so that about half of the sample were 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 13). 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 14,789 quarters selected in the sample for the survey, 87.4% (12,920) were occupied living quarters, 6.7% (994) were unoccupied, 4.3% (631) were non-domestic quarters and 1.6% (244) were demolished. 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 14,295 households were enumerated in the 12,920 occupied living quarters. The following is a summary of the enumeration experience of these households:

```
Households
  14,295
     |------------------------------------------------------|
     |  Contacted  |  Non-contacted |
     |  14,004    |  291           |
     | (98.0%)    | (2.0%)         |
     |------------------------------------------------------|
     |  Responded  |  Non-responded |
     |  13,965    |  39            |
     | (99.7%)    | (0.3%)         |
```

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 330 forms were deposited and 116 completed forms were returned, covering 247 persons aged 15 and above. 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity status</th>
<th>Follow-up results of NC/NR cases</th>
<th>Total sample (excluding NC/NR cases)</th>
<th>Total sample (adjusted* for NC/NR cases)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economic activity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>24,644</td>
<td>25,133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>478</td>
<td>487</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic inactivity</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>14,180</td>
<td>14,385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>39,302</td>
<td>40,005</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Labour force participation rate**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>70.9%</th>
<th>64.1%**</th>
<th>64.2%**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Unemployment rate**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1.7%</th>
<th>1.9%</th>
<th>1.9%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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 first quarter of 1987 was derived by making use of the data obtained from the General Household Survey and an 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:

\[
\text{Labour force participation rate} = \frac{\text{Independent estimate of land civilian non-institutional population aged 15 and over}}{\text{Estimate of labour force}}
\]
(ii) Unemployment
= Estimate of labour force \times \text{Unemployment rate derived from survey}

(iii) Employment
= Estimate of labour force - \text{Unemployment estimated in (ii)}

(iv) Underemployment
= Estimate of labour force \times \text{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. \textbf{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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Sample estimate</th>
<th>Standard error</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Labour force</td>
<td>2666400</td>
<td>8100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed</td>
<td>50700</td>
<td>2400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underemployed</td>
<td>25500</td>
<td>1800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labour force participation rate</td>
<td>64.1%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underemployment rate</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
### A. Labour Force and Labour Force Participation Rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year/Month</th>
<th>Labour force (in thousands)</th>
<th>Labour force participation rate (percentage)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1986: Jan - Mar</td>
<td>2,656.0</td>
<td>64.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr - Jun</td>
<td>2,704.9</td>
<td>65.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul - Sep</td>
<td>2,721.8</td>
<td>65.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct - Dec</td>
<td>2,723.5</td>
<td>65.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987: Jan - Mar</td>
<td>2,666.4</td>
<td>64.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### B. Unemployed Persons and Unemployment Rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year/Month</th>
<th>Unemployed persons (in thousands)</th>
<th>Unemployment rate (percentage)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1986: Jan - Mar</td>
<td>83.2 (85.0)</td>
<td>3.1 (3.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr - Jun</td>
<td>80.9 (80.6)</td>
<td>3.0 (3.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul - Sep</td>
<td>81.3 (75.0)</td>
<td>3.0 (2.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct - Dec</td>
<td>59.0 (59.4)</td>
<td>2.2 (2.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987: Jan - Mar</td>
<td>50.7 (54.8)</td>
<td>1.9 (2.1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year/Month</th>
<th>Underemployed persons (in thousands)</th>
<th>Underemployment rate (percentage)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1986: Jan - Mar</td>
<td>61.7</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr - Jun</td>
<td>52.2</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul - Sep</td>
<td>36.6</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct - Dec</td>
<td>31.8</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987: Jan - Mar</td>
<td>25.5</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix 3

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.