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COMPLIMENTARY



Quarterly Report

January to March 1987

General Household Survey Labour Force Characteristics

Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong

GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY
JANUARY - MARCH 1987
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 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 1.

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

- (e) 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 deseasonalised 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 had a previous job 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 had a previous job 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 had a previous job had been dismissed from their jobs or were laid off; another 45% had left their jobs because of dissatisfaction with pay or working conditions. (Table 23)

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

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 86		Oct - Dec 86		Jan - Mar 87	
	No. ('000)	Rate (%)	No. ('000)	Rate (%)	No. ('000)	Rate (%)
Total						
15 - 19	143.2	32.3	138.4	32.0	125.0	29.4
20 - 29	948.6	85.1	983.3	86.1	939.4	85.2
30 - 39	689.2	77.2	731.6	78.1	726.2	76.2
40 - 49	389.0	77.9	403.1	78.8	396.6	78.1
50 - 59	325.6	63.5	315.0	62.1	320.7	63.2
60 and over	160.4	24.7	152.2	23.0	158.4	23.8
Total	2 656.0	64.6	2 723.5	65.0	2 666.4	64.1
Male						
15 - 19	78.5	33.7	72.2	32.5	66.7	30.7
20 - 29	529.2	92.8	540.7	93.7	521.4	93.5
30 - 39	468.3	98.3	493.6	99.1	494.5	98.8
40 - 49	272.9	97.3	279.8	97.9	277.8	97.9
50 - 59	236.2	87.5	234.5	87.5	237.0	88.5
60 and over	112.1	37.9	103.9	35.5	109.4	36.2
Total	1 697.2	79.8	1 724.7	80.4	1 706.7	80.1
Female						
15 - 19	64.7	30.7	66.2	31.4	58.4	28.1
20 - 29	419.4	77.0	442.6	78.4	418.1	76.6
30 - 39	220.9	53.0	238.0	54.3	231.7	51.2
40 - 49	116.1	53.1	123.3	54.7	118.9	53.0
50 - 59	89.4	36.9	80.5	33.7	83.7	35.0
60 and over	48.3	13.7	48.3	13.1	48.9	13.5
Total	958.8	48.3	998.8	48.8	959.7	47.2

TABLE 2 : UNEMPLOYMENT BY AGE BY SEX

Age group	Jan - Mar 86		Oct - Dec 86		Jan - Mar 87	
	No. ('000)	Rate (%)	No. ('000)	Rate (%)	No. ('000)	Rate (%)
Total						
15 - 19	15.1	10.6	10.1	7.3	9.0	7.2
20 - 29	30.4	3.2	26.6	2.7	20.6	2.2
30 - 39	15.6	2.3	8.4	1.1	8.7	1.2
40 - 49	7.7	2.0	5.1	1.3	5.3	1.3
50 - 59	10.7	3.3	6.6	2.1	5.3	1.7
60 and over	3.7	2.3	2.3	1.5	1.8	1.1
Total	83.2	3.1	59.0	2.2	50.7	1.9
Male						
15 - 19	9.2	11.7	5.3	7.3	5.2	7.8
20 - 29	17.4	3.3	16.1	3.0	10.5	2.0
30 - 39	12.0	2.6	6.3	1.3	6.9	1.4
40 - 49	6.8	2.5	3.9	1.4	4.5	1.6
50 - 59	8.9	3.8	5.7	2.4	4.8	2.0
60 and over	3.4	3.1	2.0	2.0	1.7	1.6
Total	57.6	3.4	39.4	2.3	33.5	2.0
Female						
15 - 19	6.0	9.2	4.8	7.3	3.8	6.5
20 - 29	13.0	3.1	10.4	2.4	10.1	2.4
30 - 39	3.6	1.6	2.0	0.9	1.8	0.8
40 - 49	0.9	0.8	1.2	1.0	0.8	0.7
50 - 59	1.8	2.0	0.9	1.1	0.5	0.6
60 and over	0.3	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.2
Total	25.6	2.7	19.6	2.0	17.2	1.8

TABLE 3 : LABOUR FORCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT BY GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

Area	Jan - Mar 86		Oct - Dec 86		Jan - Mar 87	
	No. ('000)	Rate (%)	No. ('000)	Rate (%)	No. ('000)	Rate (%)
Labour force						
Hong Kong Island	608.9	65.5	624.8	65.6	617.9	64.6
Kowloon	377.3	66.1	343.6	64.3	333.5	62.9
New Kowloon	827.2	63.8	821.1	64.5	816.2	63.9
New Territories - Tsuen Wan	332.6	66.1	342.2	65.5	339.3	65.5
New Territories - Other areas	509.9	62.9	591.8	65.2	559.5	63.6
Overall	2 656.0	64.6	2 723.5	65.0	2 666.4	64.1
Unemployment						
Hong Kong Island	16.5	2.7	12.6	2.0	10.8	1.8
Kowloon	13.1	3.5	7.4	2.2	5.8	1.8
New Kowloon	29.0	3.5	22.4	2.7	19.0	2.3
New Territories - Tsuen Wan	10.6	3.2	6.6	1.9	5.2	1.5
New Territories - Other areas	14.0	2.8	10.0	1.7	9.9	1.8
Overall	83.2	3.1	59.0	2.2	50.7	1.9

TABLE 4 : FEMALE LABOUR FORCE BY AGE BY MARITAL STATUS

Marital status	Age group	Jan - Mar 86		Oct - Dec 86		Jan - Mar 87	
		No. ('000)	Rate (%)	No. ('000)	Rate (%)	No. ('000)	Rate (%)
Never married	15 - 19	63.5	30.5	64.7	31.0	57.3	27.8
	20 - 29	307.4	91.8	321.8	92.8	308.5	91.2
	30 - 39	45.8	94.0	49.2	94.1	52.5	94.9
	40 and over	12.2	50.9	13.7	53.3	15.1	59.6
	Total	428.9	69.7	449.3	71.0	433.5	69.3
Ever married	15 - 19	1.2	50.6	1.5	63.8	1.1	59.0
	20 - 29	112.0	53.3	120.8	55.6	109.5	52.9
	30 - 39	175.1	47.6	188.8	48.9	179.2	45.1
	40 - 49	109.8	51.7	117.7	53.6	113.2	52.0
	50 - 59	87.6	36.7	77.5	33.0	80.8	34.4
	60 and over	44.3	13.1	43.2	12.2	42.5	12.2
	Total	529.9	38.7	549.5	38.8	526.2	37.4

TABLE 5 : EMPLOYED PERSONS BY AGE BY SEX

Age group	Jan - Mar 86		Oct - Dec 86		Jan - Mar 87	
	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%
Total						
15 - 19	128.0	5.0	128.2	4.8	116.0	4.4
20 - 29	918.2	35.7	956.7	35.9	918.8	35.1
30 - 39	673.6	26.2	723.2	27.2	717.5	27.4
40 - 49	381.3	14.8	398.1	14.9	391.3	15.0
50 - 59	314.9	12.2	308.4	11.6	315.4	12.1
60 and over	156.7	6.1	150.0	5.6	156.6	6.0
Total	2 572.7	100.0	2 664.6	100.0	2 615.7	100.0
Male						
15 - 19	69.3	4.2	66.9	4.0	61.5	3.7
20 - 29	511.9	31.2	524.6	31.1	510.8	30.5
30 - 39	456.3	27.8	487.2	28.9	487.6	29.2
40 - 49	266.1	16.3	275.9	16.4	273.3	16.3
50 - 59	227.3	13.9	228.8	13.6	232.2	13.9
60 and over	108.7	6.6	101.9	6.0	107.7	6.4
Total	1 639.6	100.0	1 685.4	100.0	1 673.2	100.0
Female						
15 - 19	58.7	6.3	61.3	6.3	54.6	5.8
20 - 29	406.4	43.5	432.2	44.1	408.0	43.3
30 - 39	217.3	23.3	235.9	24.1	229.9	24.4
40 - 49	115.2	12.3	122.1	12.5	118.0	12.5
50 - 59	87.6	9.4	79.6	8.1	83.2	8.8
60 and over	48.0	5.2	48.1	4.9	48.8	5.2
Total	933.2	100.0	979.2	100.0	942.5	100.0

TABLE 6 : EMPLOYED PERSONS BY ACTIVITY STATUS

Activity status	Jan - Mar 86		Oct - Dec 86		Jan - Mar 87	
	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%
Employers	111.5	4.3	124.9	4.7	119.8	4.6
Outworkers	39.4	1.5	47.7	1.8	36.0	1.4
Self-employed (Hawking)	34.6	1.4	28.8	1.1	29.4	1.1
Self-employed (Others)	119.2	4.6	121.9	4.5	121.5	4.6
Employees	2 220.2	86.3	2 293.6	86.1	2 270.7	86.8
Unpaid family workers	47.7	1.9	47.7	1.8	38.2	1.5
Total	2 572.7	100.0	2 664.6	100.0	2 615.7	100.0

TABLE 7 : EMPLOYED PERSONS BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Educational attainment	Jan - Mar 86		Oct - Dec 86		Jan - Mar 87	
	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%
No schooling/kindergarten	169.2	6.6	159.0	6.0	160.7	6.1
Primary	819.6	31.9	827.3	31.1	808.6	30.9
Secondary/matriculation	1 297.5	50.4	1 351.1	50.7	1 318.3	50.4
Post-secondary, including technical/vocational	167.4	6.5	192.7	7.2	184.3	7.1
First degree/post-graduate	119.1	4.6	134.5	5.0	143.8	5.5
Total	2 572.7	100.0	2 664.6	100.0	2 615.7	100.0

TABLE 8 : EMPLOYED PERSONS BY OCCUPATION

Occupation	Jan - Mar 86		Oct - Dec 86		Jan - Mar 87	
	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%
Professional, administrative and managerial workers	261.5	10.2	273.9	10.3	266.6	10.2
Clerical and related workers	410.4	15.9	442.2	16.6	439.9	16.8
Sales workers	290.1	11.3	298.0	11.2	291.3	11.1
Service workers	443.9	17.3	450.9	16.9	444.1	17.0
Production and related workers, transport equipment operators and labourers	1 122.3	43.6	1 156.3	43.4	1 127.4	43.1
Others	44.5	1.7	43.4	1.6	46.3	1.8
Total	2 572.7	100.0	2 664.6	100.0	2 615.7	100.0

TABLE 9 : EMPLOYED PERSONS BY INDUSTRY

Industry	Jan - Mar 86		Oct - Dec 86		Jan - Mar 87	
	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%
<u>Manufacturing</u>	<u>881.5</u>	<u>34.3</u>	<u>918.0</u>	<u>34.5</u>	<u>896.5</u>	<u>34.3</u>
Manufacturing of textiles and wearing apparel	383.0	14.9	394.1	14.8	380.4	14.6
Manufacturing of plastic products	61.8	2.4	79.2	3.0	73.3	2.8
Basic metal and other metal industries	86.6	3.4	82.6	3.1	86.4	3.3
Manufacturing of electrical machinery and electronic products	131.5	5.1	128.9	4.8	131.0	5.0
Other manufacturing	218.7	8.5	233.2	8.8	225.4	8.6
<u>Construction</u>	<u>196.7</u>	<u>7.6</u>	<u>208.1</u>	<u>7.8</u>	<u>203.3</u>	<u>7.8</u>
<u>Wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels</u>	<u>596.9</u>	<u>23.2</u>	<u>619.1</u>	<u>23.2</u>	<u>612.5</u>	<u>23.4</u>
<u>Services</u>	<u>838.1</u>	<u>32.6</u>	<u>858.0</u>	<u>32.2</u>	<u>838.8</u>	<u>32.1</u>
Transport, storage and communication	211.0	8.2	223.3	8.4	221.3	8.5
Financing, insurance, real estate and business services	160.9	6.3	170.0	6.4	163.6	6.2
Other services	466.2	18.1	464.6	17.4	454.0	17.4
<u>Others</u>	<u>59.4</u>	<u>2.3</u>	<u>61.4</u>	<u>2.3</u>	<u>64.5</u>	<u>2.4</u>
Agriculture and fishing, mining and quarrying	42.3	1.6	42.7	1.6	45.2	1.7
Electricity, gas and water	17.2	0.7	18.7	0.7	19.3	0.7
Unclassifiable	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2 572.7	100.0	2 664.6	100.0	2 615.7	100.0

TABLE 10 : EMPLOYED PERSONS BY HOURS OF WORK PER WEEK

Hours of work per week	Jan - Mar 86		Oct - Dec 86		Jan - Mar 87	
	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%
Under 20	181.1	7.0	64.0	2.4	207.7	7.9
20 - 29	133.0	5.2	76.4	2.9	167.8	6.4
30 - 34	120.8	4.7	76.1	2.8	124.1	4.8
35 - 39	242.6	9.4	283.9	10.6	238.7	9.1
40 - 44	368.2	14.3	380.7	14.3	363.6	13.9
45 - 49	806.4	31.4	991.0	37.2	816.8	31.2
50 - 59	288.4	11.2	321.8	12.1	273.9	10.5
60 and over	432.3	16.8	470.7	17.7	423.0	16.2
Total	2 572.7	100.0	2 664.6	100.0	2 615.7	100.0

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

Industry	Jan - Mar 86	Oct - Dec 86	Jan - Mar 87
	Hours	Hours	Hours
<u>Manufacturing</u>	46	47	46
Manufacturing of textiles and wearing apparel	46	47	46
Other manufacturing	46	47	45
<u>Construction</u>	46	47	46
<u>Wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels</u>	50	50	49
<u>Services</u>	44	45	44
<u>Others</u>	49	50	49
Overall	46	47	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 86		Oct - Dec 86		Jan - Mar 87	
	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%
On vacation, holiday	267.2	61.5	52.2	24.1	362.4	72.5
Slack work	42.1	9.7	23.8	11.0	20.6	4.1
Too busy with housework, schoolwork, personal business, etc.	55.4	12.7	74.3	34.4	66.9	13.4
Full-time work under 35 hours per week*	30.4	7.0	29.7	13.7	23.5	4.7
Permanent sickness/disable- ment/old age/partially retired	11.5	2.6	13.4	6.2	12.5	2.5
Bad weather/material shortage/ mechanical breakdown	2.2	0.5	3.9	1.8	2.0	0.4
Started a new job/job terminated during the last 7 days	5.5	1.3	5.9	2.7	4.1	0.8
Could find only part-time work	19.1	4.4	9.0	4.2	4.5	0.9
Illness/injured on duty	0.6	0.1	2.2	1.0	1.3	0.3
Other reasons	0.8	0.2	2.0	0.9	1.9	0.4
Total	434.8	100.0	216.5	100.0	499.6	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 86 ⁽¹⁾		Jan-Mar 87 ⁽¹⁾		Oct - Dec 86		Jan-Mar 87 ⁽²⁾	
	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%
Under 500	28.0	6.4	20.2	4.0	22.3	10.3	20.2	4.0
500 - 999	35.9	8.3	28.9	5.8	33.7	15.6	29.3	5.9
1,000 - 1,499	43.6	10.0	31.8	6.4	27.2	12.6	33.8	6.8
1,500 - 1,999	51.6	11.9	42.7	8.5	21.0	9.7	50.3	10.1
2,000 - 2,499	56.7	13.0	54.9	11.0	23.5	10.8	69.3	13.9
2,500 - 2,999	41.5	9.5	46.0	9.2	16.2	7.5	60.9	12.2
3,000 - 3,499	40.5	9.3	47.0	9.4	16.6	7.7	60.0	12.0
3,500 - 3,999	16.3	3.8	25.9	5.2	7.0	3.2	30.1	6.0
4,000 - 4,499	23.3	5.4	32.6	6.5	6.6	3.0	29.1	5.8
4,500 - 4,999	8.9	2.0	13.4	2.7	4.1	1.9	12.9	2.6
5,000 - 5,999	20.6	4.7	30.4	6.1	6.9	3.2	23.5	4.7
6,000 - 6,999	15.6	3.6	28.0	5.6	5.8	2.7	16.5	3.3
7,000 - 7,999	10.4	2.4	17.4	3.5	4.4	2.0	10.6	2.1
8,000 and over	42.0	9.7	80.6	16.1	21.3	9.8	53.2	10.6
Total	434.8	100.0	499.6	100.0	216.5	100.0	499.6	100.0
Median (HK\$)	2,519		3,270		2,087		2,885	

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

Monthly employment earnings (HK\$)	Jan-Mar 86 ⁽¹⁾		Jan-Mar 87 ⁽¹⁾		Oct - Dec 86		Jan-Mar 87 ⁽²⁾	
	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%
Under 500	50.0	2.3	38.1	1.8	50.2	2.0	38.1	1.8
500 - 999	32.6	1.5	17.4	0.8	21.3	0.9	17.4	0.8
1,000 - 1,499	86.7	4.0	51.4	2.4	72.7	3.0	53.2	2.5
1,500 - 1,999	285.4	13.3	190.4	9.0	265.9	10.9	205.6	9.7
2,000 - 2,499	345.5	16.2	311.1	14.7	411.7	16.8	346.9	16.4
2,500 - 2,999	273.5	12.8	277.0	13.1	353.1	14.4	308.6	14.6
3,000 - 3,499	272.8	12.8	312.7	14.8	373.3	15.2	337.3	15.9
3,500 - 3,999	144.7	6.8	173.2	8.2	199.8	8.2	181.9	8.6
4,000 - 4,499	151.6	7.1	169.6	8.0	179.4	7.3	168.8	8.0
4,500 - 4,999	65.1	3.0	92.4	4.4	94.7	3.9	88.8	4.2
5,000 - 5,999	123.5	5.8	139.7	6.6	140.5	5.7	118.6	5.6
6,000 - 6,999	81.1	3.8	90.9	4.3	77.5	3.2	70.1	3.3
7,000 - 7,999	53.0	2.5	55.8	2.6	44.5	1.8	39.4	1.9
8,000 and over	172.5	8.1	196.4	9.3	163.4	6.7	141.5	6.7
Total	2 137.9	100.0	2 116.1	100.0	2 448.1	100.0	2 116.1	100.0
Median (HK\$)	2,991		3,276		3,065		3,130	

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

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

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

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

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

Monthly employment earnings (HK\$)	Jan-Mar 86 ⁽¹⁾		Jan-Mar 87 ⁽¹⁾		Oct-Dec 86		Jan-Mar 87 ⁽²⁾	
	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%
Under 500	78.1	3.0	58.3	2.2	72.5	2.7	58.3	2.2
500 - 999	68.5	2.7	46.3	1.8	55.0	2.1	46.7	1.8
1,000 - 1,499	130.2	5.1	83.2	3.2	99.9	3.8	86.9	3.3
1,500 - 1,999	337.0	13.1	233.1	8.9	286.9	10.8	255.9	9.8
2,000 - 2,499	402.2	15.6	366.0	14.0	435.2	16.3	416.2	15.9
2,500 - 2,999	315.0	12.2	323.0	12.4	369.3	13.9	369.6	14.1
3,000 - 3,499	313.2	12.2	359.7	13.8	389.9	14.6	397.3	15.2
3,500 - 3,999	161.0	6.2	199.1	7.6	206.8	7.8	212.1	8.1
4,000 - 4,499	174.9	6.8	202.2	7.7	186.0	7.0	197.8	7.6
4,500 - 4,999	73.9	2.9	105.8	4.0	98.8	3.7	101.8	3.9
5,000 - 5,999	144.1	5.6	170.0	6.5	147.4	5.5	142.0	5.4
6,000 - 6,999	96.7	3.8	118.9	4.5	83.3	3.1	86.5	3.3
7,000 - 7,999	63.4	2.5	73.2	2.8	49.0	1.8	50.0	1.9
8,000 and over	214.5	8.3	276.9	10.6	184.7	6.9	194.7	7.5
Total	2 572.7	100.0	2 615.7	100.0	2 664.6	100.0	2 615.7	100.0
Median (HK\$)	2,929		3,275		3,017		3,093	

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

(2) Income excludes Chinese New Year bonus/double pay

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

Occupation	Jan-Mar 86 ⁽¹⁾	Jan-Mar 87 ⁽¹⁾	Oct-Dec 86	Jan-Mar 87 ⁽²⁾
	(HK\$)	(HK\$)	(HK\$)	(HK\$)
Professional, administrative and managerial workers	6,981	8,217	7,143	7,510
Clerical and related workers	3,290	3,689	3,062	3,161
Sales workers	3,191	3,602	3,238	3,336
Service workers	2,653	2,911	2,706	2,774
Production and related workers, transport equipment operators and labourers	2,617	3,023	2,838	2,903
Others	1,963	2,160	2,028	2,129
Total	2,929	3,275	3,017	3,093

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

Age group	Jan - Mar 86		Oct - Dec 86		Jan - Mar 87	
	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%
Total						
15 - 19	15.1	18.2	10.1	17.2	9.0	17.8
20 - 29	30.4	36.5	26.6	45.1	20.6	40.6
30 - 39	15.6	18.8	8.4	14.2	8.7	17.1
40 - 49	7.7	9.2	5.1	8.6	5.3	10.5
50 - 59	10.7	12.8	6.6	11.1	5.3	10.5
60 and over	3.7	4.5	2.3	3.8	1.8	3.5
Total	83.2	100.0	59.0	100.0	50.7	100.0
Male						
15 - 19	9.2	15.9	5.3	13.4	5.2	15.5
20 - 29	17.4	30.1	16.1	41.0	10.5	31.3
30 - 39	12.0	20.9	6.3	16.1	6.9	20.6
40 - 49	6.8	11.7	3.9	9.8	4.5	13.3
50 - 59	8.9	15.4	5.7	14.5	4.8	14.2
60 and over	3.4	6.0	2.0	5.2	1.7	5.1
Total	57.6	100.0	39.4	100.0	33.5	100.0
Female						
15 - 19	6.0	23.2	4.8	24.7	3.8	22.2
20 - 29	13.0	50.8	10.4	53.3	10.1	58.7
30 - 39	3.6	14.2	2.0	10.4	1.8	10.5
40 - 49	0.9	3.5	1.2	6.1	0.8	4.9
50 - 59	1.8	7.1	0.9	4.4	0.5	3.1
60 and over	0.3	1.2	0.2	1.1	0.1	0.6
Total	25.6	100.0	19.6	100.0	17.2	100.0

TABLE 20 : UNEMPLOYED PERSONS BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Educational attainment	Jan - Mar 86			Oct - Dec 86			Jan - Mar 87		
	No. ('000)	%	Rate (%)	No. ('000)	%	Rate (%)	No. ('000)	%	Rate (%)
No schooling/ kindergarten	3.6	4.4	2.1	1.9	3.3	1.2	2.3	4.6	1.4
Primary	25.3	30.4	3.0	15.7	26.7	1.9	13.9	27.4	1.7
Secondary/ matriculation	46.7	56.1	3.5	33.0	56.0	2.4	29.2	57.5	2.2
Post-secondary, including technical/ vocational	2.9	3.5	1.7	5.3	8.9	2.7	3.4	6.7	1.8
First degree/ post-graduate	4.6	5.6	3.7	3.0	5.1	2.2	1.9	3.8	1.3
Total	83.2	100.0	3.1	59.0	100.0	2.2	50.7	100.0	1.9

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

Previous occupation	Jan - Mar 86		Oct - Dec 86		Jan - Mar 87	
	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%
Professional, administrative and managerial workers	3.5	4.8	3.7	7.5	2.3	5.3
Clerical and related workers	10.4	14.0	8.0	16.4	7.0	15.8
Sales workers	7.1	9.5	4.7	9.8	4.4	9.8
Service workers	12.2	16.5	8.4	17.3	7.0	15.8
Production and related workers, transport equipment operators and labourers	40.8	55.1	23.6	48.6	23.2	52.4
Others	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.9
Total	74.0	100.0	48.5	100.0	44.4	100.0

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

Previous industry	Jan - Mar 86		Oct - Dec 86		Jan - Mar 87	
	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%
Manufacturing	25.4	34.4	15.3	31.5	14.3	32.3
Construction	12.0	16.2	5.5	11.3	6.1	13.6
Wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels	19.3	26.0	13.4	27.7	11.6	26.1
Services	17.1	23.0	13.7	28.2	12.0	27.0
Others	0.3	0.4	0.6	1.3	0.4	1.0
Total	74.0	100.0	48.5	100.0	44.4	100.0

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

Reason for unemployment	Jan - Mar 86		Oct - Dec 86		Jan - Mar 87	
	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%
Illness/disability	1.8	2.5	2.3	4.7	1.1	2.4
Personal or family responsibilities	1.9	2.6	0.8	1.5	0.4	1.0
Dissatisfied with job (poor pay, working conditions, etc.)	26.0	35.1	21.4	44.1	20.0	45.0
Lost job or laid off	42.1	56.8	22.3	45.9	20.9	47.1
Others	2.2	3.0	1.8	3.8	2.0	4.5
Total	74.0	100.0	48.5	100.0	44.4	100.0

TABLE 24 : UNEMPLOYED PERSONS BY DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT

Duration of unemployment (months)	Jan - Mar 86		Oct - Dec 86		Jan - Mar 87	
	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%
< 1	21.6	25.9	12.8	21.7	12.7	25.1
1 - < 2	17.7	21.2	12.6	21.3	10.6	20.9
2 - < 3	12.2	14.7	9.6	16.2	7.1	14.0
3 - < 4	7.8	9.3	6.9	11.7	6.3	12.3
4 - < 5	4.2	5.1	3.2	5.5	0.8	1.7
5 - < 6	2.8	3.4	2.2	3.7	1.9	3.8
6 - < 12	10.5	12.6	5.5	9.3	5.2	10.3
12 and over	6.5	7.8	6.2	10.6	6.1	11.9
Total	83.2	100.0	59.0	100.0	50.7	100.0
Median (days)	66		73		69	

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

Main action taken to look for work	Jan - Mar 86		Oct - Dec 86		Jan - Mar 87	
	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%
Sent letters to firms/ organisations	3.0	4.1	1.1	2.0	1.9	4.2
Answered/placed advertisement	38.1	51.9	33.6	62.0	27.6	60.0
Registered with private employment agency	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.6	-	-
Registered with public employment agency	1.5	2.1	1.1	2.0	0.6	1.4
Asked relatives/friends	30.5	41.4	18.0	33.2	15.8	34.4
Others	-	-	0.1	0.2	-	-
Total	73.5	100.0	54.1	100.0	46.0	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 86		Oct - Dec 86		Jan - Mar 87	
	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%
Manufacturing	21.0	28.5	14.8	27.4	13.8	30.0
Construction	10.9	14.8	5.2	9.6	4.5	9.7
Wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels	23.6	32.1	17.6	32.6	15.5	33.7
Services	17.8	24.2	16.4	30.2	11.9	25.9
Others	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.7
Total	73.5	100.0	54.1	100.0	46.0	100.0

TABLE 27 : UNDEREMPLOYMENT BY AGE BY SEX

Age group	Jan - Mar 86		Oct - Dec 86		Jan - Mar 87	
	No. ('000)	Rate (%)	No. ('000)	Rate (%)	No. ('000)	Rate (%)
Total						
15 - 19	2.1	1.5	1.6	1.2	1.1	0.8
20 - 29	17.9	1.9	8.6	0.9	8.1	0.9
30 - 39	12.5	1.8	7.4	1.0	5.9	0.8
40 - 49	11.5	3.0	5.3	1.3	4.0	1.0
50 - 59	12.8	3.9	6.6	2.1	4.9	1.5
60 and over	4.9	3.1	2.4	1.6	1.5	0.9
Total	61.7	2.3	31.8	1.2	25.5	1.0
Male						
15 - 19	0.7	0.9	1.1	1.5	0.5	0.8
20 - 29	11.0	2.1	5.7	1.1	5.1	1.0
30 - 39	8.9	1.9	5.1	1.0	4.9	1.0
40 - 49	8.4	3.1	3.9	1.4	2.7	1.0
50 - 59	9.3	3.9	5.6	2.4	4.6	1.9
60 and over	2.9	2.6	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.8
Total	41.2	2.4	22.4	1.3	18.6	1.1
Female						
15 - 19	1.4	2.2	0.5	0.8	0.5	0.9
20 - 29	6.9	1.6	2.9	0.7	3.0	0.7
30 - 39	3.6	1.6	2.4	1.0	1.1	0.5
40 - 49	3.1	2.7	1.4	1.1	1.4	1.2
50 - 59	3.5	4.0	1.0	1.2	0.3	0.4
60 and over	2.0	4.2	1.3	2.7	0.6	1.3
Total	20.6	2.1	9.5	0.9	6.9	0.7

TABLE 28 : UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Educational attainment	Jan - Mar 86			Oct - Dec 86			Jan - Mar 87		
	No. ('000)	%	Rate (%)	No. ('000)	%	Rate (%)	No. ('000)	%	Rate (%)
No schooling/ kindergarten	8.6	13.9	5.0	3.1	9.8	1.9	3.0	11.7	1.8
Primary	30.6	49.5	3.6	16.6	52.0	2.0	11.8	46.3	1.4
Secondary/ matriculation	20.8	33.7	1.5	11.1	34.8	0.8	10.2	40.0	0.8
Post-secondary, including technical/ vocational	1.1	1.8	0.7	0.5	1.7	0.3	0.2	0.8	0.1
First degree/ post-graduate	0.7	1.1	0.6	0.5	1.7	0.4	0.3	1.2	0.2
Total	61.7	100.0	2.3	31.8	100.0	1.2	25.5	100.0	1.0

TABLE 29 : UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS BY INDUSTRY

Industry	Jan - Mar 86		Oct - Dec 86		Jan - Mar 87	
	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%
Manufacturing	29.4	47.5	13.0	40.9	12.1	47.5
Construction	15.4	25.0	9.1	28.7	7.6	30.0
Wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels	4.2	6.9	3.0	9.5	1.2	4.6
Services	12.7	20.6	6.7	20.9	4.5	17.5
Others	-	-	-	-	0.1	0.4
Total	61.7	100.0	31.8	100.0	25.5	100.0

TABLE 30 : UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS BY OCCUPATION

Occupation	Jan - Mar 86		Oct - Dec 86		Jan - Mar 87	
	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%
Professional, administrative and managerial workers	2.0	3.3	1.7	5.4	1.1	4.2
Clerical and related workers	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.7	0.6	2.5
Sales workers	1.5	2.4	0.8	2.4	0.3	1.2
Service workers	7.2	11.6	4.5	14.2	2.3	9.2
Production and related workers, transport equipment operators and labourers	50.7	82.2	24.6	77.3	21.0	82.5
Others	-	-	-	-	0.1	0.4
Total	61.7	100.0	31.8	100.0	25.5	100.0

TABLE 31 : UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS BY HOURS OF WORK PER WEEK

Hours of work per week	Jan - Mar 86		Oct - Dec 86		Jan - Mar 87	
	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%
Under 20	18.3	29.6	10.8	33.8	6.7	26.3
20 - 24	18.0	29.1	7.1	22.3	7.5	29.6
25 - 29	5.1	8.3	2.3	7.1	1.5	5.8
30 - 34	20.4	33.0	11.7	36.8	9.8	38.3
Total	61.7	100.0	31.8	100.0	25.5	100.0
Median (hours)	23		23		24	

TABLE 32 : UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS BY MONTHLY EMPLOYMENT EARNINGS

Monthly employment earnings (HK\$)	Jan-Mar 86 ⁽¹⁾		Jan-Mar 87 ⁽¹⁾		Oct-Dec 86		Jan-Mar 87 ⁽²⁾	
	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%	No. ('000)	%
Under 500	4.1	6.7	1.0	3.7	1.0	3.0	1.0	3.8
500 - 999	8.7	14.0	1.0	3.7	3.4	10.8	1.0	3.7
1,000 - 1,999	24.4	39.6	8.1	31.7	10.2	32.1	8.2	32.1
2,000 - 2,999	16.8	27.3	8.8	34.6	11.0	34.5	8.9	35.0
3,000 - 4,999	6.9	11.1	6.3	24.6	5.8	18.2	6.0	23.7
5,000 and over	0.8	1.3	0.4	1.7	0.4	1.4	0.4	1.7
Total	61.7	100.0	25.5	100.0	31.8	100.0	25.5	100.0
Median (HK\$)	1,722		2,245		2,105		2,231	

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

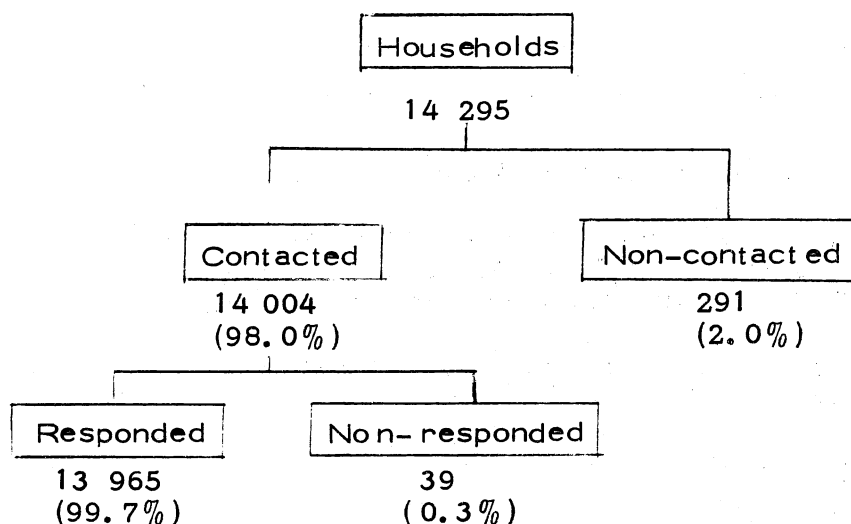
For economically inactive persons

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:



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

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	172	24 644	25 133
Unemployed	3	478	487
Economically inactive	72	14 180	14 385
Total	247	39 302	40 005
Labour force participation rate	70.9%	64.1% **	64.2% **
Unemployment rate	1.7%	1.9%	1.9%

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:

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

- (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	2 666 400	8 100
Unemployed	50 700	2 400
Underemployed	25 500	1 800
Labour force participation rate	64.1 %	0.2 %
Unemployment rate	1.9 %	0.1 %
Underemployment rate	1.0 %	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 WITH GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS
OF PRECEDING QUARTERS

A. Labour Force and Labour Force Participation Rate

Year/Month	Labour force (in thousands)	Labour force participation rate (percentage)
1986: Jan - Mar	2 656.0	64.6
Apr - Jun	2 704.9	65.4
Jul - Sep	2 721.8	65.3
Oct - Dec	2 723.5	65.0
1987: Jan - Mar	2 666.4	64.1

B. Unemployed Persons and Unemployment Rate

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

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

Year/Month	Underemployed persons (in thousands)	Underemployment rate (percentage)
1986: Jan - Mar	61.7	2.3
Apr - Jun	52.2	1.9
Jul - Sep	36.6	1.3
Oct - Dec	31.8	1.2
1987: Jan - Mar	25.5	1.0

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.

