

LABOUR FORCE

Source of Data

Statistics on the Labour Force, Employed and Unemployed Persons are compiled from the Labour Force Survey conducted by the Manpower Research and Statistics Department of the Ministry of Manpower.

The Comprehensive Labour Force Survey effectively covers at least 25,000 private households. The objective of the survey is to collect data on the economic activities of the population, including detailed information on employment and unemployment, characteristics of the labour force and economically inactive persons.

The March, September and December surveys effectively cover at least 8,800 households each. The objective of these surveys is to obtain estimates on unemployment.

As the Labour Force Survey is on households, it excludes workers living in construction worksites, dormitories and workers' quarters at the workplace and persons commuting from abroad to work in Singapore. Estimates of the total labour force are derived by combining data on residents obtained from the survey with foreign workforce data compiled from administrative records.

Concepts and Definitions

The **reference period** refers to the week preceding the date of the survey interview.

Employed Persons refer to persons aged fifteen years and over who during the reference period:

- i) work for one hour or more either for pay, profit or family gains; or
- ii) have a job or business to return to but are temporarily absent because of illness, injury, breakdown of machinery at workplace, labour management dispute or other reasons.

Members of the Singapore Armed Forces including full-time National Servicemen are included in the persons employed, unless otherwise specified.

Unemployed Persons refer to persons aged fifteen years and over who during the reference period were:

- i) not working, (i.e. were not in salaried or self employment);
- ii) actively looking for a job; and
- iii) available for work.

They include persons who are not working but are taking steps to start their own

business or taking up a new job after the reference period.

Economically Active Persons

refer to persons aged fifteen years and over who are either employed (i.e. working) or unemployed (i.e. available and actively looking for work) during the reference period. This group is also known as the **labour force**.

The **Age-Sex Specific Labour Force Participation Rate** is defined as the percentage of economically active persons to the population in the specific sex and age group.

The **Unemployment Rate** is defined as the percentage of unemployed persons to economically active persons (i.e. those working or seeking work) aged fifteen years and over.