

**The Labor Force Statistics and Informal Employment in China**

**NBS,China**

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## 1. The labor force statistics system in China.

Up to this day, a complete labor force statistics system is close to be established in China. It is constituted by the labor force survey, the population census, the population survey, the economic census, the wage statistics, the employment registration, etc.

The monthly labor force survey is going to be carried out from this month (July, 2015). This survey grew up of the semi-annual labor force survey established in 2005. The main index includes labor force participation rate, Employment to population ratio, unemployment rate, duration of unemployment, hours of work weekly, etc. And many new indicators concerning the informal employment are increased to the new questionnaire.

The population census and annual survey also play an important role in the labor force statistics system. First, they can provide structure of the population: grouping by area, age, gender, rural and urban, etc. Then they can make a large sample statistics in labor force. And also we can forecast the population in the future, especially the population of production age. And maybe the most important, the census provide the nationwide and regional population used for weighting.

The economic census can provide complete data of enterprises and employed person, include the variety and industry of the enterprises

and the number of employees.

The wage statistics can provide the average wage of the employed person classified by variety and industry.

The employment registration can provide the registered unemployed rate.

## 2. The labor force survey in China

The semi-annual labor force survey (LFS) is established in 2005, at that time, it is combined with the population survey. From 2009, The LFS added a 31 capital city monthly survey while the semi-annual survey is retained. In 2010, the annual survey is also combined with the population census. From 2013, the 31 capital monthly survey enlarged to a 65 large city monthly survey while the semi-annual national survey reduced to annual survey. From July,2015, the LFS will become a monthly national survey.

The purpose of LFS in China is:

- a. To reflecting employment status
- b. To monitor economic operation
- c. To adjust macro-economic policies
- d. To improve employment services
- e. To improve people's livelihood.

The Sample size of mothly LFS in China is 120,000 families.

Samples are rotated in monthly surveys: at the ultimate sampling unit level only. 80% ultimate sampling units remaining in the sample for two consecutive survey rounds. And an ultimate sampling unit will be interviewed at a Maximum number of 5 times.

The conductor is NBS and regional statistical bureaus. The objects of the survey are those aged 16 and above who lives in the households and who left the registered area less than half a year in both family households and Collective households. The reference period is 7 days preceding the reference time. The ultimate sampling units is family groups (4 adjacent families )

In recent years, the LFS in China is improving continually. PDA has been adopted from 2014. Data quality is getting increasing attention. The sample size will enlarged and the frequency is adjusted to monthly from July,2015. More indicators, some concern informal employment, are added into the new questionnaire. The LFS in China aims to become an important foundation for the government and society to understand the trend of social-economic development of China.

### 3. Situation of informal employment statistics in China

There is not yet an official definition of the informal employment published by NBS of China. And also haven't released a result about

the informal employment. But there are some related indicators in the LFS, population census, population survey, etc. Based on these surveys, some academic research has been made, in which the size and structure of informal employment are estimated, and the income and social security of informal employee and formal employee are contrasted.

From July, 2015, the LFS will enlarge to national monthly survey. The new questionnaire includes many new indicators, some concern informal employment. The related indicators about the informal employment are as below:

- F15.How long have work at present job?
- F16.What kind of sector do you belong?
- F17.Which kind of status is your status in your enterprise?
- F18.Have you sign a contract with your enterprise?
- F19.How much do you earn by your main job?

From these indicators, we can recognize the informal employment and the employment in informer sector easily. I think the research about informal employment in China will go deeper.