

Brief

Statistics compiled from the Manpower Survey have played a very essential role in modern nations as they pursue socio-economic development. To this end, countries all over the world have spared no effort to conduct this type of survey carefully and seriously in order to regularly obtain reliable manpower statistics that will satisfy their requirements in planning manpower allocation and implementing national construction programs. National natural resources are limited in Taiwan; therefore, it is especially important to deal with issues such as how to effectively use manpower and how to balance manpower demand and supply. The supply of manpower among the civilian population age 15 and above who are capable of and willing to work is regularly surveyed and analyzed for the following purposes:

1. To gain an insight into supply of civilian manpower:

Data such as quantity, quality, geographical distribution and others concerning the civilian population age 15 and above are collected to meet the needs in pursuing socio-economic development.

2. To understand the employment status of labor force:

Data on employment and unemployment in number of persons by industry, occupation, class of workers and others are collected for policy-making authorities as a reference in manpower planning, vocational training programs organizing, and related decision-making in public employment service.

3. To understand developing trends in manpower:

Manpower development trends in Taiwan Area (Kinmen and Lienchiang Counties are excluded) are analyzed using theories, experience and related data from home and overseas, with results provided for reference by public and private users at home and for comparison with international manpower data.

Preparation of manpower statistics in this country began in April 1962 when the Taiwan Provincial Department of Social Affairs set up the Labor Force Survey, Statistics, Research, and Development Group to establish a labor force survey system. The group was later reorganized into the Labor Force Survey and Research Group, which formally launched a quarterly labor force survey in October 1962. The group was again reorganized into the Labor Force Survey and Research Institute in July

1966 and charged with full responsibility for conducting labor force surveys. In view of the growing importance of manpower planning, the DGBAS was assigned to take over the Taiwan area labor force survey in 1977. A provisional organization entitled the "Labor Force Survey Statistics Evaluation Committee" was established in August of that year, with domestic experts and scholars invited to provide advice for practical operation and help formulate various reform measures. Two trial surveys were conducted in November and December 1977. The first formal survey was started in January 1978. Subsequently, manpower data from this survey was used more and more extensively, receiving much attention from all sorts of users. To strengthen functions of the organization, the committee was officially incorporated into the Fourth Bureau of DGBAS in July 1983. In February 2012, following the DGBAS's organizational transformation, "the Fourth Bureau" and "the Fourth Section" were retitled to "the Department of Census" and "the Manpower Survey Section", respectively.

Since the DGBAS took over the Manpower Survey, operational practices have been changed with the following major items of improvement:

1. The quarterly survey was changed to monthly in order to make monthly observations of structural changes in manpower supply possible.
2. The sampling method was improved, with the new one adopting a stratified two-stage sampling method. Basic sampling units in the first stage were changed from Hsiang/Chen/Chu to Tsun/Li (Basic Administrative unit), and the size of sample was increased to improve representativeness of the statistical results.
3. To expand the scope of utilization of the manpower statistical information and to meet the needs in planning the district development, starting from 1993, the sampling sub-population was changed from the original Taiwan Province, Taipei & Kaohsiung Cities to 23 counties/cities in Taiwan area (Kinmen and Lienchiang Counties are excluded), therefore the manpower statistics have been published monthly. Nevertheless, in order to reduce the sampling and non-sampling errors of labor market indicators by counties/cities, the release schedule has revised again to semi-annually since June 2005. After the restructuring of municipalities in 2010 and 2014, sampling sub-population was merged into 20 counties/cities.

4. The field work system was improved. At present, only well-trained personnel stationed in an extensive statistical survey network are assigned to do interviews to reduce the barriers between interviewers and interviewees and to make it easier to obtain accurate data.
5. The use of electronic data processing was intensified to ensure timely production of statistics and make earlier publication of statistics possible.
6. A series of supplementary surveys were attached to the regular monthly survey in order to better understand the labor force characteristics. Moreover, our hard work by the entire staffs has earned unanimous recognition at home and abroad that the Manpower Survey in this country has become a fairly healthy one and that the quality of statistics meets international standards.
7. Utilizing "Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) " technique to reduce the demands for time and manpower of the survey.
8. Adding an online version of self-completing method to provide diversified survey methods and increase the willingness of completing survey.

The manpower statistics prepared by the DGBAS take households as a base and utilize sampling surveys (around 21,000 households per month) to collect basic data such as quality, quantity, labor force structure, employment, unemployment, reasons of unemployment, and composition of those not in labor force among the civilian population age 15 and above, and the definitions of employment and unemployment refer to the provisions of the International Labor Organization (ILO) which is the same as those published by the labor force surveys of major countries in the world. For definitions of related terms and explanations of doubts, please refer to "Methods and Term Definitions" and "FAQ".

To meet the requirements of other government agencies in their manpower management and socioeconomic policy enforcement and decision-making, there were 15 supplementary surveys have been conducted since 1978, using the same sample, to collect more detailed data. These supplementary surveys include: (1) Manpower Utilization Survey, (2) Work Experiences Survey, (3) Housing Status Survey, (4) Women's Marriage, Fertility and Employment Survey , (5) Prevalent Diseases, Medical Aids and Employment Survey, (6) Internal Migration Survey, (7) Vocational Training Survey, (8) Youth Status Survey, (9) Elderly Status Survey, (10) Time Utilization Survey, (11) People's Leisure Life Survey, (12) Job Expectations Survey,

(13) People's Cultural Demands Survey, (14) Citizen's Life style and Ethics Survey and (15) Middle-aged and Elderly Status Survey. The results of which are all published in separate, special publications.

At present, except for the "Manpower Utilization Survey", which is conducted on an annual basis, other surveys have been merged into relevant surveys or have been discontinued, for example, the "Prevalent Diseases, Medical Aids and Employment Survey" has been merged into the "National Health Care Survey" system of the Ministry of Health and Welfare in 1988, the "Elderly Status Survey" has been conducted by the Ministry of the Interior since 1995, "Women's Marriage, Fertility and Employment Survey" has been merged into "Women's Living Condition Survey" by the Ministry of Health and Welfare since 2017. The Manpower survey was originally combined with the results of "Employee Earnings Survey" to compile the "Monthly Report of Labor Statistics", however, since the 167th issue in September 1987, in view of the fact that the data produced by the two are not always consistent, and the joint publication is too long, in order to improve the timeliness and facilitate the reference of users, the two are compiled and printed separately, and the Manpower Survey's publication is named "Monthly Bulletin of Manpower Statistics". However, in order to cooperate with the e-government and respond to environmental protection, the "Monthly Bulletin of Manpower Statistics" has stopped printed version since February 2007 (i.e. issue 399; dated January 2007), please check "DGBAS website (<https://eng.dgbas.gov.tw>) /Main Operations/Statistics/National Statistics/Labor Force/Statistical Tables/Time Series" for inquiries.

We greatly appreciate the full cooperation provided by interviewees in surveyed households and the detailed, accurate data they have supplied. We also greatly appreciate the careful review and valuable advices provided by devoted specialists and scholars in the DGBAS Census Committee and related technical research units. All of this makes possible the timely release of the publication on schedule and helps to enrich the contents. In light of continued progress of our society, however, we sincerely hope that users will continue to provide comments and advices so that we can make further improvements in the future.