
The South African labour market: 1995 – 2006

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ABSTRACT

Given the importance of the labour market to economic activity in any country, it is important to correctly infer trends from the available labour data. In South Africa, several researchers have compared selected household surveys with each other and then drew conclusions about the 'trends' in the labour market for the entire period between surveys. It is argued that such a methodology is imperfect and could give misleading results. A better methodology would entail looking at all the available surveys to ascertain the real trends over time. Therefore, this paper seeks to examine the trends of the labour force (LF), labour force participation rate (LFPR) and employment, as well as the working conditions of the employed, and the personal and household characteristics of the unemployed from 1995 to 2006, using the October Household Survey (OHS) data from 1995 to 1999, and the Labour Force Survey (LFS) data from 2000 to 2006.

The paper finds that, with the exception of an unusual slight decrease between 1995 and 1996, the LF and LFPR in both narrow and broad terms experienced a rapid increase during the OHSs, followed by an abrupt increase during the changeover from OHS to LFS. The narrow LF and LFPR have since increased slightly, while the broad LF and LFPR have stabilized. The trends over the LFS period do not suggest any further "feminization of the LF" (Casale 2004; Casale, Muller & Posel 2005), and the abrupt break in this trend between the LFS and OHS periods may suggest that the observed trend over the former period could perhaps have been the result of improved capturing of participation rather than a real shift in LFPR.

In addition, the number of employed clearly shows enormous fluctuations, and it is only since LFS2004b that employment growth enjoyed a stable and continuous increase. Therefore, it is possible to obtain contrasting conclusions on whether job creation or jobless growth has taken place in the South African economy, if different reference points are used for comparison. Finally, both the narrow and broad unemployment rates increased continuously from OHS1995 to LFS2003a, before this was replaced by a continuous downward trend since LFS2003b. Such a decline needs to be more rapid before the ASGISA goal of reducing the narrow unemployment rate to below 15% in 2014 could be achieved.

Keywords: South Africa, Household survey, Labour market trends
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1. Introduction

Recent papers (e.g., Burger & Woolard (2005), Oosthuizen (2006) and Van der Westhuizen et al. (2006)) review South African labour market ‘trends’ by comparing the October Household Survey (OHS) 1995 data with the most recent available Labour Force Survey (LFS) data. However, OHS and LFS are incomparable in many aspects, given changes in the sampling frame, inconsistencies in questionnaire design, coding errors, changes in methodology to capture employment status, outliers in wage earnings data, etc.² Furthermore, comparing an OHS with an LFS provides only a snapshot of the South African labour market *between two points in time*, but does not provide detail on the labour market trends *over the period*.

This paper aims to give a more detailed picture of the labour market trends from 1995 to 2006, using OHS data from 1995 to 1999, and LFS data from 2000 to 2006³. This methodology avoids the problem of a snapshot overview between two points in time, whilst allowing for the formation of a clearer picture of the trends in the labour market over the period in question. The data from OHS1995 to LFS2000a are weighted using the 1996 census weights, while data from LFS2000b to LFS2006b are weighted using the 2001 census weights.

Section 2 focuses on the demographic, geographic and educational attainment characteristics of the labour force, considering whether increased “feminization of the labour force” took place or not during the period in question. Section 3 discusses, employment trends, with specific reference to occupation, industry, skills and working conditions. This section also examines whether jobless growth has occurred, examining this in the light of the goals set by government for 2014. Characteristics of the unemployed and the households in which they find themselves are reviewed in section 4.

Since other important issues such as the causes of unemployment⁴ and the policies which aim to solve the unemployment problem⁵ are discussed in recent papers (Arora & Ricci (2006), Centre for Development and Enterprise (2007), Kingdon & Knight (2007), and Pauw, Oosthuizen & Van der Westhuizen (2006)), the focus of this paper is the statistical analyses of the labour market data. Moreover, the study will be conducted by taking just one or two variables into account at a time when describing the labour force, employment or unemployment⁶. Such an approach is believed to assist researchers and policy makers in making better decisions regarding the South African labour market.

² Most of these problems are discussed in detail in Burger & Yu (2006) and Yu (2007).

³ For the remainder of the paper, the OHSs conducted between 1995 and 1999 will be referred as OHS1995, OHS1996, etc., while the LFSs from 2000 to 2006 will be referred to as LFS2000a (for the March 2000), LFS2000b (September 2000), LFS2001a, LFS2001b and so forth.

⁴ For example, skills mismatch, trade union pressure, employment legislation, wage rigidity, etc.

⁵ For example, promoting medium and small-scale enterprise, skills development programs, etc.)

⁶ It is, of course, possible to conduct multivariate analysis such as heckprobit or heckman regressions on participation, employment and earnings, but such analysis requires a paper of its own.

2. Characteristics of the labour force

This section looks at the demographic, location and educational attainment characteristics of the labour force (LF). Unless otherwise stated, the analysis that follows uses the expanded definition⁷ of LF.

Table 1 and Figure 1 show the working-age population and LF, and labour force participation rate (LFPR) from 1995 to 2006, respectively. After a slight decline between OHS1995 and OHS1996, the LF in both narrow and broad terms showed a relatively large increase between OHS1996 and LFS2000a. The greatest increase occurred during the changeover from the OHS to the LFS⁸ – an increase of more than 2 million in both narrow and broad terms. A similar trend is observed in both the narrow and broad LFPR during the same period. Since LFS2000b, the LF and LFPR in narrow terms surprisingly showed a slight downward trend before increasing again from LFS2005a onwards. In contrast, the broad LF increased slowly between LFS2000b and LFS2006b, while the broad LFPR hovered around 68% over the same period. It is not clear whether the rapid increase in LF and LFPR in the earlier surveys was the result of increased entry into the labour market or improvement in the ability of Statistics South Africa to capture participation.

Table 2 and Figure 2 show the LF and LFPR by gender respectively. It may be seen that the decrease of the LF in both narrow and broad terms between 1995 and 1996 was caused entirely by males. In fact, the increase in the female LF was negligible between the two years. However, the abrupt increase of the LF and LFPR between OHS1999 and LFS2000a mentioned earlier was more significant in both narrow and broad terms in the case of females. Further, there were slight downward trends of the narrow LF and LFPR between LFS2000b and LFS2004b for both males and females. The broad LF of both genders increased steadily during the LFSs, while the broad LFPR stabilized at approximately 72% and 63% for males and females respectively. Finally, the female share of the LF remained around 46% from LFS2000b onwards. Conclusively, the period covered by LFS showed no evidence of “feminization of the labour force”.

The racial composition of the LF is presented in Table 3. The decrease of the LF between 1995 and 1996 was driven almost entirely by the Black population group. Additionally, the Black share of the LF increased slightly throughout the period (even during the years covered by LFS), while the White share became smaller. Figure 3 shows a similar pattern for the LFPRs of all four races (i.e., an increase during the years covered by the OHSs), although the increase in LFPR was more rapid for the Black and Indian race groups. This was followed by a more abrupt increase during the changeover from the OHS to the LFS, after which the trend stabilized.

⁷ The narrow labour force is the sum of the employed and narrow unemployed persons, while the broad labour force is the sum of the employed and broad unemployed persons. Two standard definitions of unemployment are utilized by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), namely the narrow definition and broad definition of unemployment. There are numerous changes in the methodology used by Stats SA to derive the employment status under both definitions throughout the years (Yu, 2007). According to the latest methodology, adopted since LFS2000b, individuals are narrowly unemployed if they (a) did not work for at least 1 hour during the seven days prior to the interview, (b) wanted to work and were available to start work within two weeks of the interview, and (c) had taken active steps to look for work or to start a business in the four weeks prior to the interview. The broad definition of unemployment excludes criterion (c).

⁸ LFS2000a is a pilot study for the newly introduced LFSs and its sample size is much smaller (Yu, 2007: 4).

Table 4 shows the LFPR by race and gender. It is seen that the male LFPR exceeded that of females in all race groups. Figure 4 shows the difference between male and female LFPR by race⁹. This difference decreased rapidly during the years covered by OHS, but has stabilized at about 7 percentage points for Blacks, 10 percentage points for Coloureds, and 15 percentage points for Whites during the years covered by LFS¹⁰. Again, therefore, these trends do not support the presence of “feminization of the labour force”.

Looking at the LFPR by province, Table 5 shows that Gauteng and the Western Cape were the only two provinces with LFPRs above the national rate in all surveys. Limpopo showed the greatest increase in LFPR if one only compares OHS1995 with LFS2006b (an increase of 18 percentage points). However, looking at the most recent years, there has not been big changes in the LFPR of all provinces, with the exception of a slight declining trend in Free State.

The LFPR by age category is presented in Table 6, and it is discernable that the LFPR was highest in the 25-34 year old and 35-44 year old age groups. As far as the share of LF by age category was concerned, with the exception of the slight increase of the 15-24 year olds share (from 18% during the OHS years to about 20% during the LFS years) and a dwindling share for 35-44 year olds (from 26% to 23% during the same period), the shares of each age category were very stable. In fact, the bulk of the LF (nearly 60%) was between the age of 25 and 44 years. Figure 5 shows the results for LF in LFS2006b.

The educational attainment of the LF declined in both the number and the share of people with no or incomplete primary schooling, which coincided with the increase in both the number and share of people with at least Matric. The results are presented in Table 7. Therefore, the labour force has gradually become more educated on average. Figure 6 provides more detail by showing the share of broad LF with at least Matric by race. In the Black and Coloured population, roughly one-third had at least Matric, while for Whites eight out of ten people had at least Matric. Table 8 shows the LFPR in each educational attainment category. Note that the abrupt increase of the LFPR between OHS1999 and LFS2000a was more substantial in the groups in which people had the lowest level of educational attainment.

In summary, the LFPR increased during the OHS years and we see an abrupt increase between OHS1999 and LFS2000, after which it appeared to stabilize. Therefore, comparing an OHS (e.g., 1995) and comparing it with an LFS may result in a misleading conclusion that LFPR increased rapidly throughout the years. Longer time spans better allows one to identify trends in LFPR and to judge whether the observed increase was really due to the increasing number of entrants into the LF or rather due to the improved capturing of data.

⁹ The male-female gap may be over-estimated because of the younger retirement age of females (60 years).

¹⁰ The difference in the case of Indians shows extremely unstable fluctuations. This may be due to small sample size for this group. It is therefore not included in Figure 4.

3. Employment

3.1 Number of employed and employment growth

Table 9 shows the number of employed, and its absolute and percentage change between consecutive surveys. It seems the employment figures fluctuated substantially throughout period under investigation. An over-estimation of the number of employed occurred in OHS1995 compared with other OHS years (this figures exceeded the 1996, 1997 and 1998 figures), which was mainly the result of over-estimation of employment in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industry. This is explained in greater detail in section 3.3. A sudden increase of nearly 1 million in OHS1999, followed by an even greater increase of about 1.5 million in LFS2000a is observed, after which a substantial decrease of 1 million took place in LFS2001b. It seems the sizeable fluctuations of employment figures had come to an end in the last five LFSs, as employment exhibited a continuous upward trend (an increase of between 1.2% and 3.3% between successive surveys). LFS2000b, LFS2001a, LFS2005b, LFS2006a and LFS2006b were the only five surveys in which employment numbers exceeded 12 million people.

Since the employment figures were extremely unstable, the target growth rate (TGR)¹¹, actual growth rate (AGR)¹² and employment absorption rate (EAR)¹³ were very sensitive to the reference points used for analysis. Recent articles (Oosthuizen 2006) use OHS1995 and the most recent LFS available at the time of writing to derive these 3 rates, concluding that the economy was slow to create jobs and that the jobless growth¹⁴ phenomenon was quite serious, especially in the case of Blacks (See Table 10 in which LFS2006b is compared with OHS1995). However, a comparison between LFS2006b and LFS2001b (which showed a sharp decline in the number of employed from LFS2001a), indicates that the economy seemed to have created more jobs than required in narrow terms (EAR equaled 119.4%), even in the case of Blacks (EAR equaled 113.5%). One could therefore argue that the economy created more than enough employment

¹¹ Target growth rate (TRG) measures how fast employment would have had to expand in order to provide work for all the net entrants to the labour market from period X to period Y. Period X and Y need not be two consecutive years. $TGR = \frac{LF_Y - LF_X}{E_X}$, where LF and E stand for the number of labour force and employed respectively.

¹² Actual growth rate (AGR) is the growth rate of the number of employed from period X to period Y. $AGR = \frac{E_Y - E_X}{E_X}$.

¹³ Employment absorption rate measures the proportion of the net increase in the labour force from period X to period Y that finds employment during the same period. $EAR = \frac{E_Y - E_X}{LF_Y - LF_X}$.

¹⁴ According to one perspective, jobless growth can be interpreted in two ways, either as an expansion of the economy in conjunction with a stagnant or decline in the absolute employment level, or growth in economic growth that is accompanied by an increasing unemployment rate (Altman, 2003: 12). Despite the fluctuations, the employment figures in Table 9 still show an increasing trend in the number of employed, but the unemployment rate in both narrow and broad terms also show a continuous increase until LFS2003a (to be explained in section 4). Therefore, the second interpretation of jobless growth is exactly what happened to the South Africa economy at least until early 2003, if one uses the OHS/LFS data. Note that the first interpretation of jobless growth happens during the 1990s if the employment data from the South African Reserve Bank's Survey of Employment and Earnings (SEE) data are used (See Figure 7). However, Oosthuizen (2006: 9) argues that the SEE data are problematic, as the survey explicitly excludes the agriculture sector and informal sector, ignores small firms, and fails to capture employment in newly established firms properly, thereby resulting in relatively poor coverage of the small, medium and micro enterprise sector (SMME).

opportunities, and that jobless growth did not take place. The difference between the two periods was also partly due to large labour force growth perceived when later surveys were compared to the early OHS years, requiring much larger employment growth.

Therefore, the contrasting results from the two examples in Table 10 implied that serious care needed to be taken when deciding which two surveys to choose in the calculation of TGR, AGR and EAR, as the selection of surveys for comparison may lead to very different results. More care should be taken to determine the year from which jobless growth phenomenon has stopped, and during which years the economy actually showed an EAR exceeding 100%. Table 11 provides more information by showing the TGR, AGR and EAR when comparing LFS2006b with different surveys.

Table 12 provides more information by showing the employment type. Note that the large number of unspecified people in OHS1995 and OHS1996 was due to the fact that employees were not asked to declare their formal/informal sector status. However, the over-estimation of subsistence agriculture workers could explain the aforementioned abrupt increase of the number of employed in LFS2000a. Finally, since LFS2001b, informal sector employment (if subsistence agriculture and domestic workers were included) as percentage of total employment has stabilized at approximately 30%, as shown in Figure 8.

Table 13 presents the number and the proportion of employed working as employees and self-employed. It is apparent that self-employment was under-estimated during the OHS years – a result of problematic categorization of the question¹⁵. Note that apart from the over-estimation of subsistence agriculture workers mentioned earlier, the doubling of the number of self-employed between OHS1999 and LFS2000a could also explain the rapid increase in the number of employed in LFS2000a. The unusually large decline in the number of employed in LFS20001b seemed to be mainly caused by a decrease of the number of self-employed. Finally, employees as percentage of all employed hovered around 80% from LFS2001b onwards.

3.2 Demographic, geographic and educational attainment characteristics of the employed

Table 14 shows the number of employed by gender. The figures for females were relatively more erratic, even during the LFS years. The sudden increase in the number of employed between OHS1999 and LFS2000a was greater for females (an increase of more than 1 million and 28.2% in absolute and percentage terms respectively), which caused the female share of the employed to increase by 5 percentage points to 47% over the same period. Subsequently, the female share stabilized at about 42%. Therefore trends in the LFSs do not indicate that job creation was concentrated amongst females.

¹⁵ In the OHS surveys, there are only three options regarding employment type, namely working for ‘someone else’, ‘himself/herself’ and ‘both himself/herself and someone else’. A negligible proportion (less than 1%) of respondents chooses the third option in all OHSs. In this analysis, people choosing the first and third options are regarded as employees, while people choosing the second option are regarded as self-employed. Since LFS2000a, this question has been improved, and there are five categories: ‘working for someone else for pay’, ‘working for one or more private households as a domestic employee, gardener or security guard’, ‘working on his/her own or on a small family farm/plot or collecting natural products from the forest or sea’, ‘working on his/her own or with a partner, in any type of business (including commercial farms)’ and ‘helping without pay in a family business’. For this analysis, people choosing the last three options are regarded as self-employed.

Looking at the employment trends by race, Table 15 shows that the bulk of the net increase in employment took place among Blacks. In addition, the slight increase in the Black share of the employed was complemented by the slight decrease in the White share. In absolute terms, Black employment has increased by about 1 million in the last five LFSs, while White employment remained at 2 million. Note that the over-estimation of the number of employed in OHS1995 and the sudden decline of this number in LFS2001b were almost entirely the result of the decline amongst Blacks.

With regard to employment trends by province, employment has been consistently concentrated in Western Cape, Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal, as the sum of the number of employed of these three provinces accounted for about 60% of the total throughout the period under consideration. The provincial shares have been very stable throughout the years, with the exception of a slight increase in the share of Gauteng and a slight decrease in the share of the Free State. Figure 9 shows the provincial shares of employment in LFS2006b.

The number of employed in each age category is presented in Table 16. It can be seen that the 25-34 year old and 35-44 year old age groups accounted for about 60% of total employment during the LFS years. The abrupt increase of the number employed during the changeover from the OHS to the LFS was most rapid in the 15-24 year old age group. Finally, as far as the employment by educational attainment was concerned, Table 17 indicates that the employed have become more educated on average, as the share of employed with at least Matric displayed an increasing trend, even during the LFS years. Figure 10 provides more detail, showing the employment share by race and educational attainment in selected years.

3.3 Work activities of the employed

Despite the clear increase in employment in the South African economy between 1995 and 2006, the experiences in various occupations and industries differed. Table 18 presents the percentage of employed in each broad occupation category. The skilled agricultural and fishery worker category (column F) showed the biggest fluctuations. In fact, the rapid increase in the number of employed in LFS2000a and the equally rapid decrease in the number of employed in LFS2001b mentioned in section 3.1 was mainly the result of changes in this.

With regard to employment by skills level, Figure 11 shows that although there was an increase in the number of people engaged in skilled occupations throughout the years under investigation, skilled employment as percentage of total employment showed only a slight increase of about 2 percentage points if only OHS1995 and LFS2006b are compared. Skilled employment as a share of overall employment was found to be slightly over-estimated in OHS1996-OHS1999. This may well have resulted from the relatively poor capture of the informal and low-income employment (Yu 2007 and Essop & Yu 2008). This share has stabilized at approximately 21% in the LFSs. Note that the number of employed in unskilled and semi-skilled occupations was over-estimated in OHS1995, which in turn explained the slight over-estimation of the number of employed that year. The results are presented in table 19. Finally, Figure 12 provides more detail by showing the percentage of employed involved in skilled occupations in each race group. It is obvious that this share was higher for Indians and Whites.

As far as employment by industry is concerned, Table 20 reports the percentage of employed in each broad industry category. Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting category (column A) was the category showing the greatest fluctuations. In fact, the slight over-estimation in OHS1995 and

the abrupt increase in LFS2000a of the number of employed mentioned in section 3.1 was mainly caused by sudden increase of the number of employed in this industry. Figure 13 provides more detail by showing that the number and share of tertiary sector employment have shown a noticeably increasing trend even during the LFS years.

The changing nature of employment by the three broad skills categories at the industry level in selected years is presented in Table 21. As mentioned before, there was only a slight increase in the proportion of skilled employed of about 2 percentage points if only OHS1995 and LFS2005b are compared (from 19.9% to 21.5%), and a similar decrease in the share of unskilled workers. Furthermore, despite an upward trend in early LFSs, the share of semi-skilled workers remained at approximately 48%.

However, the experiences were varied when looking at the skills composition of each industry. In agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, the proportion of semi-skilled occupations increased significantly from 22.0% in OHS1995 to 40.6% in OHS1997 (it is 35.9% in OHS1996), after which the proportion remained quite stable in the 40%-50% range. It is possible that OHS1995 over-estimated the unskilled share. In mining and quarrying, employment shifted slightly in favour of semi-skilled occupations against the unskilled occupations during the OHSs and the early LFSs, but if one looked at LFS2006b, the proportions are largely similar to those in OHS1995. As far as the secondary sector was concerned, in manufacturing as well as electricity, gas and water supply, the skilled proportion of the employed increased slightly, while the proportions of semi-skilled and unskilled workers decreased. In construction, the proportion of unskilled employment surprisingly increased marginally.

Looking at the tertiary sector, in the wholesale and retail industry, it surprising that the share of unskilled occupations showed a continuous upward trend during the OHSs, before stabilizing at slightly above 30% in the LFSs. This was complemented by the decrease in the semi-skilled share. In the transport, storage and communication industry, the semi-skilled proportion displaced the skilled proportion by about 3 to 4 percentage points. In the financial, insurance and business services industry, there was an equal rise of both unskilled and skilled employment (4% points each) at the expense of semi-skilled employment. There was a slight increase in the share of skilled occupations in the community, social and personal services, at the cost of the dwindling shares of semi-skilled and unskilled occupations. Finally, in private households, if one considers the changes throughout the period in question, it is noticeable that the semi-skilled proportion was very erratic.

3.4 Working conditions of the employed

Since the introduction of LFS, more questions have been asked about the working conditions of the employed. Discussion of all of them is beyond the scope of this paper. Table 22 gives a snapshot of the working conditions of workers by sector in LFS20006. In this section, working hours, job length and trade union membership of the employed are discussed in greater detail.

The usual weekly work hours from the main job on average remained fairly stable at about 44-46 hours per week throughout the years in question. Moreover, it could be expected that workers with relatively fewer work hours would be willing to work longer. Figure 14 shows that, in LFS2006b, more than 30% of workers who worked 0-30 hours per week at the time of the survey reported that they would like to work longer, while this proportion dropped below 20% in the case of workers who work more than 30 hours per week. However, Table 23 shows that there is

an obvious declining trend in the proportion of employees with permanent employment contracts with their employers - a trend is more noticeable in the less educated categories. This is shown in Figure 15.

The proportion of employees with union membership remained relatively stable at roughly 30% throughout the period under consideration. However, unionization rates by occupation and industry were varied, as shown in Tables 24 and 25. Finally, the positive association between unionization rate and educational attainment is shown in Figure 16.

4. Characteristics of the unemployed¹⁶

4.1 Demographic, geographic and educational attainment characteristics of the unemployed

Table 26 shows that the number of narrowly defined unemployed more than doubled from 2 million in OHS1995 to 4.4 million in LFS2006b, while the number of broadly defined unemployed also increased from 4.2 million to 7.6 million between the first and last surveys. Nonetheless, throughout the surveys, the number of unemployed throughout was found to be extremely unstable. The increase of the number of unemployed was relatively more rapid between OHS1995 and LFS2000a in both narrow and broad terms than it was in the surveys following LFS2000a. After an unusual decrease in LFS2000b, these figures displayed an increasing trend again until LFS2003a. Since LFS2003b, the number of narrow unemployed seemed to have stabilized at between 4.2-4.4 million, while there was a slight downward trend in the number of broad unemployed.

Figure 17 shows that, despite the fluctuations explained above, both the narrow and broad unemployment rates have displayed an upward trend before peaking in LFS2003a. From then onwards, both rates displayed a continuous downward trend. In LFS2006b, the narrow and broad unemployment rates were 25.5% and 37.3% respectively. Since LFS2003b, narrow unemployment decreased at approximately 0.4 percentage points on average between successive surveys. It seems that a slightly greater decrease is required in order to meet the ASGISA goal of reducing the narrow unemployment rate to below 15% by 2014. Similar trends were observed in the case of unemployment rates by gender as shown on Figure 18, with females being more likely to be unemployed than males.

If one looks at the unemployment rate by race, Figure 19 shows that, in broad terms, the highest unemployment rates (in excess of 40% in most surveys) were experienced by Blacks. However, these have shown a slight declining trend since LFS2004b. On the other hand, the Coloured unemployment rate clearly showed a continuous upward trend until LFS2005b, while the Indian unemployment rate was extremely unstable. In the case of Whites, the unemployment rate hovered around 7%-10% during the LFSs. Table 27 provides more detail on unemployment rate by race and gender. Finally, as far as the racial share of the unemployed was concerned, the Black share remained quite stable at slightly below 90% of the total unemployed in both narrow and broad terms throughout the years in question.

¹⁶ The broadly defined unemployed will be the focus of this section, unless stated otherwise.

Looking at unemployment rates by province, a comparison between OHS1995 and LFS2006b indicates that Northern Cape, Free State, North West and Limpopo experienced the greatest increase of unemployment rate (approximately 10 percentage points (Table 28)). In fact, the unemployment rates in all provinces increased between the two surveys. However, looking at recent years, it was found that the unemployment rates of most provinces have been gradually declining. Note that Western Cape and Gauteng were the two provinces with the lowest unemployment rates.

Unemployment rate decreased among the older age groups (Table 29). The upward trend of the unemployment rate until LFS2003a was relatively greater in the 15-24 year old age group. Consequently, the unemployed share of this increased slightly.

With regard to the relationship between educational attainment and unemployment, it is expected that as the South African economy becomes more skill-intensive, the unemployment problem will become more serious for less educated people. Surprisingly however, Table 30 shows that in the first part of the period under investigation, people with post-Matric qualifications experience an upward trend in unemployment; fortunately, a downward trend took place since LFS2003b¹⁷. The share of unemployed with at least Matric increased from below one-fifth in OHS1995 to nearly 30% in LFS2005b. It is worrying that this share remained between 27%-30% in the LFSs and did not display a downward trend.

4.2 Other personal characteristics of the unemployed

This section will focus on the following four characteristics of the unemployed:

- ◆ whether they have worked before or not,
- ◆ when they last worked,
- ◆ the reason they were not working at the time of the survey, and
- ◆ their action and duration of looking for work¹⁸.

Figure 20 indicates that there has been a downward trend during the LFS years in the proportion of both narrow and broad unemployed who have worked before. It increased again in 2006 (it appeared that this proportion may have been under-estimated in the OHSs). However, regarding reasons for not working, Table 31 shows that, with the exception of LFS2002b, more than four-fifths of the broad unemployed claimed that they were not working at the time of the survey simply because they could not find work. This proportion has been showing a slight increasing trend.

Table 32 shows the time since the broad unemployed last worked. In general, about 40% of the unemployed claimed that they last worked more than 3 years ago. This result is consistent through all of the surveys. Throughout the years under investigation, more than one-third of the

¹⁷ Pauw et al. (2006) identify a number of factors accounting for increasing graduate unemployment, such as the oversupply of graduates in certain fields of study (e.g., commerce), continued discrimination favouring Whites, lack of soft skills (e.g., communication skills, presentation skills, time management skills, basic numeracy and literacy skills, etc.), graduate over-expectation, etc. A recent report by the Centre for Development and Enterprise (2007) claims that the problem in the South African labour market is not only skills shortage (numbers of qualified and experienced people) but a skills deficit (poor quality of educated people), resulting in the unemployment of 'qualified' people at both school-leaving and tertiary level.

¹⁸ Only the LFS2006b results will be shown in the figures and tables of this section (unless stated otherwise), because almost all the variables analyzed show no big fluctuations during the period under study.

broadly unemployed have been looking for work for more than 3 years, and altogether about two-thirds of them have been looking for work for more than 1 year, as shown in Table 33. Furthermore, the time since last worked as well as the duration of the period looking for work were larger for the older age groups and lower educational attainment categories.

Finally, Table 34 shows the job-seeking action of the unemployed. It is interesting to note that non-Blacks and the better educated were more likely to actively look for work. Furthermore, a relatively higher percentage of unemployed Blacks declared that “waiting at street side” was their action to look for job opportunities.

4.3 Household characteristics and the unemployed

This section looks at the household’s characteristics in terms of income source, dwelling type and access to grants, by employment status of household members. First of all, a large proportion of the broad unemployed were members of households with one or no employed member. This proportion remained above 80% throughout the period under study, as shown in Figure 21. Figure 22 reports this information by race group in LFS2006b, indicating that almost 50% of the unemployed Blacks were members of households without any employed member.

Most households with at least one employed member declared that salaries/wages was their main source of income. However, remittances, as well as pensions and grants were the main source of income in the absence of an employed household member. Table 35 presents the results in LFS2004b. Figure 23 shows the percentage of households with access to at least one type of welfare grant in selected years. This proportion increased, regardless of the number of unemployed in the households. This result was expected, considering the rapid expansion in social grant payments in much of the post-transition period. Finally, Figure 24 shows that a higher proportion of households without an employed member stayed in informal dwelling.

5. Conclusion

This paper provides information on the trends of the LF, LFPR and employment, as well as on the working conditions of the employed, and the personal and household characteristics of the unemployed from 1995 to 2006. It was found that the LF and LFPR in both narrow and broad terms experienced a rapid increase during the OHSs (with the exception of the slight decrease between 1995 and 1996), followed by an abrupt increase during the changeover from OHS to LFS. The narrow LF and LFPR have since increased slightly, while the broad LF and LFPR have stabilized. The trends in the LFSs did not suggest that any “feminization of labour force” had taken place after the OHS years.

The number of employed showed enormous fluctuations, and it is only since LFS2004b that the employment growth has increased in a stable and continuous fashion. Therefore, if different reference points are used in the calculation of TGR, AGR and EAR, one may draw contradictory conclusions regarding whether job creation or jobless growth occurred place in the South African economy. Finally, both the narrow and broad unemployment rates increased continuously from OHS1995 to LFS2003a, followed by a continuous downward trend from LFS2003b onwards. Such a decline needs to be more rapid before the ASGISA goal of reducing the narrow unemployment rate to below 15% by 2014 can be achieved.

Given the importance of the labour market to the economic growth of any country, it is important to correctly infer trends from the available labour data. In South Africa, several researchers have compared selected household surveys with each other and then drawn conclusions about the 'trends' in the labour market for the whole period between surveys. It is argued that such a methodology may give misleading results and that it is preferable to look at all the available surveys before real trends could be determined.

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Tables

Table 1 The South African labour force, 1995 – 2006

	Working-age population	Labour force – number		Labour force - % change	
		Narrow	Broad	Narrow	Broad
OHS1995	24 190 583	11 527 589	13 731 073		
OHS1996	24 909 065	11 190 599	13 532 623	-2.9%	-1.4%
OHS1997	25 506 089	11 544 385	14 295 597	3.2%	5.6%
OHS1998	25 665 233	12 528 080	14 996 600	8.5%	4.9%
OHS1999	26 246 545	13 509 926	16 231 269	7.8%	8.2%
LFS2000a	26 465 110	16 205 643	18 424 127	20.0%	13.5%
LFS2000b	27 836 456	16 381 316	18 596 239	1.1%	0.9%
LFS2001a	28 062 004	16 668 067	19 361 231	1.8%	4.1%
LFS2001b	28 084 327	15 817 377	18 807 980	-5.1%	-2.9%
LFS2002a	28 298 255	16 494 331	19 535 489	4.3%	3.9%
LFS2002b	28 495 088	16 214 594	19 404 685	-1.7%	-0.7%
LFS2003a	28 724 521	16 409 029	19 642 235	1.2%	1.2%
LFS2003b	28 906 230	15 840 687	19 609 716	-3.5%	-0.2%
LFS2004a	29 099 787	15 787 749	19 549 788	-0.3%	-0.3%
LFS2004b	29 270 821	15 761 080	19 704 344	-0.2%	0.8%
LFS2005a	29 489 763	16 172 520	19 991 966	2.6%	1.5%
LFS2005b	29 663 379	16 770 161	20 078 497	3.7%	0.4%
LFS2006a	29 817 824	16 707 953	20 386 846	-0.4%	1.5%
LFS2006b	29 972 521	17 173 402	20 386 338	2.8%	0.0%

Table 2 Labour force by gender, 1995 – 2006

	LF				Female share of LF*	
	Male		Female		Narrow	Broad
	Narrow	Broad	Narrow	Broad		
OHS1995	6 712 969	7 586 663	4 814 620	6 144 410	41.8%	44.7%
OHS1996	6 355 881	7 338 252	4 834 718	6 194 371	43.2%	45.8%
OHS1997	6 707 618	7 824 735	4 836 767	6 470 862	41.9%	45.3%
OHS1998	7 181 403	8 166 369	5 346 677	6 830 231	42.7%	45.5%
OHS1999	7 479 376	8 571 047	6 023 030	7 650 660	44.6%	47.2%
LFS2000a	8 384 982	9 239 436	7 815 777	9 179 807	48.2%	49.8%
LFS2000b	8 916 092	9 702 777	7 464 574	8 891 735	45.6%	47.8%
LFS2001a	8 987 783	10 016 262	7 677 460	9 342 145	46.1%	48.3%
LFS2001b	8 667 638	9 750 342	7 149 739	9 057 638	45.2%	48.2%
LFS2002a	8 926 206	10 049 831	7 567 311	9 484 844	45.9%	48.6%
LFS2002b	8 920 769	10 104 895	7 288 998	9 294 963	45.0%	47.9%
LFS2003a	8 953 007	10 131 643	7 453 703	9 507 553	45.4%	48.4%
LFS2003b	8 770 123	10 155 003	7 070 564	9 454 713	44.6%	48.2%
LFS2004a	8 710 036	10 114 022	7 073 295	9 431 348	44.8%	48.3%
LFS2004b	8 791 142	10 238 817	6 961 048	9 454 736	44.2%	48.0%
LFS2005a	8 898 550	10 310 903	7 267 126	9 670 716	45.0%	48.4%
LFS2005b	9 103 058	10 270 284	7 660 851	9 798 721	45.7%	48.8%
LFS2006a	9 056 623	10 439 990	7 649 143	9 944 600	45.8%	48.8%
LFS2006b	9 277 248	10 449 011	7 895 745	9 936 600	46.0%	48.7%

* People with unspecified gender are excluded.

Table 3 Broad labour force by race, 1995 – 2006

	LF				Racial share of LF*			
	Black	Coloured	Indian	White	Black	Coloured	Indian	White
OHS1995	9 859 915	1 482 086	415 826	1 973 246	71.8%	10.8%	3.0%	14.4%
OHS1996	9 620 896	1 493 603	395 838	2 022 286	71.1%	11.0%	2.9%	14.9%
OHS1997	10 415 856	1 489 031	414 606	1 976 104	72.9%	10.4%	2.9%	13.8%
OHS1998	10 958 585	1 534 267	424 736	2 066 858	73.1%	10.2%	2.8%	13.8%
OHS1999	11 888 454	1 682 671	491 273	2 147 812	73.3%	10.4%	3.0%	13.2%
LFS2000a	13 803 708	1 805 970	542 623	2 265 228	74.9%	9.8%	2.9%	12.3%
LFS2000b	13 995 851	1 796 866	502 104	2 269 512	75.4%	9.7%	2.7%	12.2%
LFS2001a	14 669 729	1 867 824	518 100	2 282 200	75.9%	9.7%	2.7%	11.8%
LFS2001b	14 134 239	1 819 643	557 200	2 276 236	75.2%	9.7%	3.0%	12.1%
LFS2002a	14 784 020	1 886 475	539 715	2 305 331	75.8%	9.7%	2.8%	11.8%
LFS2002b	14 723 415	1 850 563	567 681	2 242 138	76.0%	9.5%	2.9%	11.6%
LFS2003a	14 956 784	1 873 214	554 045	2 246 121	76.2%	9.5%	2.8%	11.4%
LFS2003b	14 950 009	1 847 825	541 156	2 261 013	76.3%	9.4%	2.8%	11.5%
LFS2004a	14 933 892	1 881 972	529 153	2 196 483	76.4%	9.6%	2.7%	11.2%
LFS2004b	15 079 616	1 862 627	529 029	2 196 077	76.7%	9.5%	2.7%	11.2%
LFS2005a	15 311 340	1 905 421	555 771	2 192 154	76.7%	9.5%	2.8%	11.0%
LFS2005b	15 393 344	1 924 192	558 130	2 162 093	76.8%	9.6%	2.8%	10.8%
LFS2006a	15 645 826	1 946 652	546 535	2 227 056	76.8%	9.6%	2.7%	10.9%
LFS2006b	15 656 647	1 943 763	530 560	2 200 076	77.0%	9.6%	2.6%	10.8%

* Excluding people whose race group is either 'others' or 'unspecified'.

Table 4 Broad labour force participation rates by race and gender, 1995 – 2006

	Black		Coloured		Indian		White	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
OHS1995	62.5%	47.0%	73.9%	57.6%	77.9%	40.2%	76.3%	53.2%
OHS1996	58.8%	44.9%	71.9%	55.9%	71.6%	40.6%	75.3%	54.3%
OHS1997	61.0%	47.9%	71.6%	53.4%	72.6%	40.7%	75.0%	52.1%
OHS1998	63.5%	50.0%	73.6%	55.9%	76.0%	40.6%	76.2%	56.7%
OHS1999	65.0%	54.8%	76.5%	62.9%	78.3%	51.1%	77.9%	60.7%
LFS2000a	71.3%	66.8%	78.5%	69.5%	80.9%	61.2%	79.2%	62.3%
LFS2000b	70.2%	62.0%	77.9%	65.2%	77.2%	50.1%	76.9%	62.1%
LFS2001a	71.5%	65.5%	79.3%	67.2%	78.9%	52.4%	79.6%	61.4%
LFS2001b	69.6%	62.4%	78.7%	66.0%	79.6%	53.8%	78.1%	62.5%
LFS2002a	71.7%	65.3%	79.6%	67.6%	75.6%	53.4%	79.6%	62.7%
LFS2002b	70.9%	64.2%	78.8%	64.4%	79.7%	56.6%	78.2%	61.1%
LFS2003a	70.7%	64.8%	76.8%	67.2%	78.8%	52.1%	80.2%	62.5%
LFS2003b	70.8%	63.7%	76.8%	64.9%	78.3%	51.6%	80.8%	62.2%
LFS2004a	70.0%	63.2%	78.2%	64.7%	78.1%	47.7%	78.7%	61.5%
LFS2004b	70.4%	63.1%	74.8%	64.8%	80.3%	48.0%	80.3%	61.6%
LFS2005a	70.5%	63.9%	76.3%	66.3%	79.4%	52.1%	81.0%	60.9%
LFS2005b	70.1%	64.1%	77.9%	66.3%	79.1%	54.4%	78.0%	62.0%
LFS2006a	70.6%	64.9%	77.7%	66.9%	81.0%	52.6%	79.1%	63.1%
LFS2006b	70.3%	64.6%	76.1%	67.1%	78.0%	49.8%	78.9%	63.3%

Table 5 Broad labour force participation rates by province, 1995 – 2006

	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GAU	MPU	LIM	SA
OHS1995	66.5%	47.3%	59.7%	62.6%	53.1%	56.4%	68.7%	54.9%	39.9%	56.8%
OHS1996	63.6%	45.4%	56.0%	58.7%	48.7%	53.8%	68.2%	53.1%	37.9%	54.3%
OHS1997	62.8%	42.8%	55.4%	58.2%	54.5%	57.5%	69.1%	52.8%	43.5%	56.0%
OHS1998	63.9%	46.0%	60.3%	60.6%	57.4%	58.5%	70.3%	59.5%	45.3%	58.4%
OHS1999	70.7%	50.7%	62.8%	62.4%	58.9%	61.3%	73.4%	61.9%	50.5%	61.8%
LFS2000a	74.9%	64.9%	67.2%	72.3%	68.0%	68.2%	75.7%	66.9%	63.3%	69.6%
LFS2000b	71.5%	60.1%	68.0%	69.0%	65.3%	65.1%	76.3%	66.2%	55.1%	66.8%
LFS2001a	72.3%	63.0%	69.9%	70.8%	67.1%	69.4%	77.6%	67.4%	59.4%	69.0%
LFS2001b	72.2%	60.0%	68.0%	69.4%	64.1%	66.5%	75.4%	65.3%	59.6%	67.0%
LFS2002a	72.4%	66.0%	70.1%	71.0%	65.8%	66.7%	77.0%	67.2%	61.4%	69.0%
LFS2002b	70.3%	60.0%	68.4%	69.3%	66.7%	66.8%	77.4%	66.7%	61.6%	68.1%
LFS2003a	72.7%	60.9%	70.0%	70.9%	65.6%	65.6%	76.5%	69.3%	62.5%	68.4%
LFS2003b	72.5%	59.3%	66.3%	71.5%	65.0%	67.0%	76.8%	68.3%	60.2%	67.8%
LFS2004a	72.1%	56.8%	70.6%	69.7%	64.4%	66.5%	75.7%	68.5%	61.4%	67.2%
LFS2004b	73.0%	59.1%	66.4%	66.8%	62.7%	66.2%	77.4%	67.7%	61.7%	67.3%
LFS2005a	72.1%	61.4%	67.8%	67.8%	65.0%	66.2%	77.2%	67.9%	59.3%	67.8%
LFS2005b	72.9%	59.9%	67.7%	66.8%	63.6%	67.7%	78.2%	67.6%	59.2%	67.7%
LFS2006a	74.0%	64.6%	67.8%	66.3%	64.5%	66.6%	77.4%	66.5%	60.1%	68.4%
LFS2006b	74.4%	59.7%	68.5%	66.1%	64.6%	67.1%	78.5%	67.4%	57.8%	68.0%

Table 6 Broad labour force participation rates by age category, 1995 – 2006

	15-24yrs	25-34yrs	35-44yrs	45-54yrs	55-65yrs
OHS1995	29.4%	77.5%	79.1%	69.9%	34.6%
OHS1996	27.6%	74.6%	77.3%	65.4%	33.1%
OHS1997	27.8%	77.0%	78.1%	66.9%	34.0%
OHS1998	31.1%	80.6%	80.1%	69.8%	34.6%
OHS1999	34.7%	83.7%	84.2%	72.6%	37.3%
LFS2000a	44.0%	89.8%	88.5%	80.9%	51.4%
LFS2000b	40.5%	86.9%	86.3%	78.0%	49.4%
LFS2001a	43.6%	89.4%	88.3%	78.3%	50.0%
LFS2001b	42.5%	88.6%	86.4%	75.2%	42.6%
LFS2002a	45.1%	90.2%	87.7%	77.0%	45.6%
LFS2002b	43.6%	89.5%	87.6%	76.5%	43.4%
LFS2003a	44.5%	90.2%	87.1%	76.3%	42.8%
LFS2003b	44.5%	90.2%	86.0%	74.7%	40.8%
LFS2004a	43.7%	89.2%	85.3%	73.9%	42.0%
LFS2004b	42.9%	89.6%	86.1%	75.1%	41.6%
LFS2005a	42.9%	90.1%	86.1%	75.4%	45.4%
LFS2005b	42.8%	89.9%	86.3%	76.5%	43.2%
LFS2006a	43.5%	90.4%	86.3%	76.9%	45.4%
LFS2006b	41.9%	89.8%	87.8%	77.2%	45.1%

Table 7 Broad labour force by educational attainment, 1995 – 2006

	LF						% with at least Matric*
	No schooling	Incomplete primary	Incomplete secondary	Matric	Matric + Cert/Dip	Degree	
OHS1995	1 179 786	2 437 265	5 694 208	2 868 709	964 888	462 852	31.6%
OHS1996	1 174 310	2 337 822	5 587 824	2 936 030	825 470	533 044	32.1%
OHS1997	1 281 050	2 352 538	6 082 817	3 128 741	938 158	471 153	31.8%
OHS1998	1 333 214	2 615 720	6 163 910	3 391 402	998 132	455 231	32.4%
OHS1999	1 164 908	2 871 805	6 569 503	3 712 415	884 979	723 515	33.4%
LFS2000a	1 388 113	3 379 529	7 788 637	3 941 234	1 045 370	673 921	31.1%
LFS2000b	1 379 154	3 408 146	7 785 770	3 798 961	1 165 217	899 182	31.8%
LFS2001a	1 392 014	3 354 466	8 155 411	4 343 037	1 157 155	802 835	32.8%
LFS2001b	1 248 134	3 297 300	7 863 757	4 318 251	1 096 884	806 157	33.4%
LFS2002a	1 313 795	3 200 423	8 286 597	4 613 403	1 137 712	826 850	33.9%
LFS2002b	1 228 103	3 132 161	8 260 408	4 610 100	1 160 194	848 879	34.4%
LFS2003a	1 190 036	3 137 107	8 332 522	4 815 893	1 175 527	859 161	35.1%
LFS2003b	1 067 694	2 981 718	8 281 137	5 113 200	1 221 545	838 270	36.8%
LFS2004a	1 082 852	2 926 148	8 246 369	5 217 268	1 154 760	847 473	37.1%
LFS2004b	1 100 139	2 832 456	8 485 370	5 154 080	1 169 795	787 778	36.4%
LFS2005a	1 022 272	2 799 407	8 625 394	5 363 057	1 227 123	849 733	37.4%
LFS2005b	1 086 087	2 718 838	8 707 903	5 380 262	1 245 317	819 064	37.3%
LFS2006a	1 019 656	2 713 229	8 781 693	5 596 884	1 372 220	836 235	38.4%
LFS2006b	991 950	2 582 108	8 886 023	5 603 161	1 418 709	807 059	38.6%

* Excluding people whose educational attainment is either 'others' or 'don't know' or 'unspecified'.

Table 8 Broad labour force participation rates by educational attainment, 1995 – 2006

	No schooling	Incomplete primary	Incomplete secondary	Matric	Matric + Cert/Dip	Degree
OHS1995	51.8%	59.6%	48.6%	69.5%	80.2%	83.1%
OHS1996	46.7%	53.7%	47.7%	67.5%	80.7%	84.8%
OHS1997	50.9%	54.9%	48.3%	71.5%	84.7%	83.7%
OHS1998	52.7%	58.7%	49.8%	74.8%	84.8%	86.3%
OHS1999	54.4%	59.3%	53.7%	77.5%	87.3%	86.9%
LFS2000a	67.6%	72.7%	61.3%	81.2%	88.5%	87.7%
LFS2000b	62.7%	67.0%	59.1%	78.9%	88.5%	89.6%
LFS2001a	65.4%	69.3%	61.0%	81.5%	90.3%	88.3%
LFS2001b	57.2%	66.2%	59.4%	81.3%	88.3%	90.3%
LFS2002a	61.0%	68.5%	61.5%	82.2%	90.1%	90.2%
LFS2002b	59.1%	65.8%	60.5%	83.0%	88.9%	91.2%
LFS2003a	57.6%	68.2%	60.3%	82.5%	91.6%	90.2%
LFS2003b	53.4%	64.4%	59.9%	84.4%	91.9%	90.8%
LFS2004a	53.3%	64.7%	59.5%	82.2%	90.9%	88.8%
LFS2004b	53.9%	63.3%	60.1%	82.8%	91.2%	87.9%
LFS2005a	53.1%	65.6%	60.2%	82.3%	90.4%	89.5%
LFS2005b	55.3%	63.4%	60.5%	82.8%	88.3%	86.0%
LFS2006a	55.5%	65.8%	60.9%	82.1%	89.3%	88.4%
LFS2006b	54.8%	63.6%	60.2%	83.3%	90.4%	89.1%

Table 9 Number of employed, 1995 – 2006

	Number of employed	Change in the number of employed	
		Absolute	Percentage
OHS1995	9 499 347		
OHS1996	8 966 307	-533 040	-5.6%
OHS1997	9 093 647	127 340	1.4%
OHS1998	9 370 130	276 483	3.0%
OHS1999	10 356 143	986 013	10.5%
LFS2000a	11 874 409	1 518 266	14.7%
LFS2000b	12 224 406	349 997	2.9%
LFS2001a	12 260 207	35 801	0.3%
LFS2001b	11 167 541	-1 092 666	-8.9%
LFS2002a	11 603 398	435 857	3.9%
LFS2002b	11 283 924	-319 474	-2.8%
LFS2003a	11 297 621	13 697	0.1%
LFS2003b	11 411 351	113 730	1.0%
LFS2004a	11 378 217	-33 134	-0.3%
LFS2004b	11 630 196	251 979	2.2%
LFS2005a	11 894 320	264 124	2.3%
LFS2005b	12 287 798	393 478	3.3%
LFS2006a	12 437 963	150 165	1.2%
LFS2006b	12 787 285	349 322	2.8%

Table 10 Employment performance of the economy, LFS2006b vs. OHS1995 and LFS2006b vs. LFS2001b

	Narrow			Broad			
LFS2006b vs. OHS1995							
	TGR*	AGR**	EAR***		TGR	AGR	EAR
Black	80.5%	44.6%	55.4%		94.5%	44.6%	47.2%
Coloured	33.9%	23.2%	68.3%		40.3%	23.2%	57.4%
Indian	27.5%	25.9%	94.3%		32.0%	25.9%	80.9%
White	8.9%	7.8%	88.5%		12.2%	7.8%	64.3%
Male	44.3%	26.3%	59.4%		49.4%	26.3%	53.2%
Female	83.0%	47.6%	57.3%		102.2%	47.6%	46.5%
All	59.4%	34.6%	58.2%		70.1%	34.6%	49.4%
LFS2006b vs. LFS2001b							
	TGR	AGR	EAR		TGR	AGR	EAR
Black	18.3%	20.8%	113.5%		20.7%	20.8%	100.4%
Coloured	10.2%	10.4%	102.5%		9.7%	10.4%	107.0%
Indian	-6.6%	5.4%	-82.2%		-6.2%	5.4%	-86.6%
White	-6.2%	-4.5%	72.5%		-3.6%	-4.5%	123.9%
Male	9.5%	13.6%	144.0%		10.9%	13.6%	125.6%
Female	15.8%	15.7%	99.4%		18.6%	15.7%	84.4%
All	12.1%	14.5%	119.4%		14.1%	14.5%	102.6%

* Target growth rate (TRG) measures how fast employment would have had to expand in order to provide work for all the net entrants to the labour market from period X to period Y. Period X and Y need not be two consecutive years. $TRG = (LF_Y - LF_X)/E_X$, where LF and E stand for the number of labour force and employed respectively.

** Actual growth rate (AGR) is the growth rate of the number of employed from period X to period Y. $AGR = (E_Y - E_X)/E_X$.

*** Employment absorption rate (EAR) measures the proportion of the net increase in the labour force from period X to period Y that finds employment during the same period. $EAR = (E_Y - E_X)/(LF_Y - LF_X)$.

Table 11 Employment performance of the economy, comparing LFS2006b with each of the selected surveys

	Narrow			Broad		
	TGR	AGR	EAR	TGR	AGR	EAR
LFS2006b vs. OHS1995	59.4%	34.6%	58.2%	70.1%	34.6%	49.4%
LFS2006b vs. OHS1996	66.7%	42.6%	63.9%	76.4%	42.6%	55.8%
LFS2006b vs. OHS1997	61.9%	40.6%	65.6%	67.0%	40.6%	60.6%
LFS2006b vs. OHS1998	49.6%	36.5%	73.6%	57.5%	36.5%	63.4%
LFS2006b vs. OHS1999	35.4%	23.5%	66.4%	40.1%	23.5%	58.5%
LFS2006b vs. LFS2000a	8.1%	7.7%	94.3%	16.5%	7.7%	46.5%
LFS2006b vs. LFS2000b	6.5%	4.6%	71.1%	14.6%	4.6%	31.4%
LFS2006b vs. LFS2001a	4.1%	4.3%	104.3%	8.4%	4.3%	51.4%
LFS2006b vs. LFS2001b	12.1%	14.5%	119.4%	14.1%	14.5%	102.6%
LFS2006b vs. LFS2002a	5.9%	10.2%	174.3%	7.3%	10.2%	139.1%
LFS2006b vs. LFS2002b	8.5%	13.3%	156.8%	8.7%	13.3%	153.1%
LFS2006b vs. LFS2003a	6.8%	13.2%	194.9%	6.6%	13.2%	200.2%
LFS2006b vs. LFS2003b	11.7%	12.1%	103.2%	6.8%	12.1%	177.2%
LFS2006b vs. LFS2004a	12.2%	12.4%	101.7%	7.4%	12.4%	168.4%
LFS2006b vs. LFS2004b	12.1%	9.9%	81.9%	5.9%	9.9%	169.7%

Table 12 Employment by sector, 1995 – 2006

Year	Domestic workers	Informal	Formal	Subsistence agriculture	Commercial agriculture	Don't know	Not specified	Total
OHS1995	695 416	521 668	219 213	26 530	49 546	0	7 986 974	9 499 347
OHS1996	766 334	330 100	304 260	24 687	56 296	0	7 484 630	8 966 307
OHS1997	828 254	1 043 347	6 436 017	187 486	525 618	0	72 925	9 093 647
OHS1998	747 281	1 077 141	6 508 097	202 082	725 474	0	110 055	9 370 130
OHS1999	812 465	1 571 646	6 796 008	284 336	798 905	0	92 783	10 356 143
LFS2000a	1 002 719	1 819 556	6 672 951	1 507 625	756 510	86 472	28 576	11 874 409
LFS2000b	941 463	2 026 065	7 077 307	1 074 413	766 917	108 318	229 923	12 224 406
LFS2001a	844 135	2 836 182	6 798 257	742 404	784 712	214 235	40 282	12 260 207
LFS2001b	881 168	1 964 763	7 019 158	382 241	764 521	127 023	28 667	11 167 541
LFS2002a	875 172	1 821 426	7 089 163	862 747	864 576	74 868	15 446	11 603 398
LFS2002b	843 019	1 778 542	7 173 080	550 068	851 897	61 643	25 675	11 283 924
LFS2003a	885 322	1 827 711	7 223 138	443 426	841 440	57 332	19 252	11 297 621
LFS2003b	894 626	1 901 131	7 364 616	365 378	831 526	36 403	17 671	11 411 351
LFS2004a	845 965	1 764 630	7 473 638	340 515	912 831	25 704	14 934	11 378 217
LFS2004b	880 067	1 944 236	7 684 843	425 083	624 358	52 970	18 639	11 630 196
LFS2005a	848 914	2 068 479	7 741 991	513 022	647 448	27 756	46 710	11 894 320
LFS2005b	858 199	2 459 690	7 979 587	337 884	578 059	33 783	40 596	12 287 798
LFS2006a	849 085	2 187 940	8 051 532	702 881	605 795	14 098	26 632	12 437 963
LFS2006b	884 898	2 376 338	8 376 441	472 697	605 129	46 935	24 847	12 787 285

Table 13 Type of employment, 1995 – 2006

	Employee		Self-Employed		Unspecified	Total Employed
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage		
OHS1995	8 123 412	85.5%	1 375 935	14.5%	0	9,499,347
OHS1996	8 313 240	93.2%	611 045	6.8%	42 022	8,966,307
OHS1997	8 167 479	89.8%	926 168	10.2%	0	9,093,647
OHS1998	8 339 925	89.0%	1 025 748	11.0%	4 457	9,370,130
OHS1999	8 844 574	85.5%	1 505 706	14.5%	5 863	10,356,143
LFS2000a	8 787 145	74.1%	3 073 630	25.9%	13 634	11,874,409
LFS2000b	9 370 733	76.8%	2 825 474	23.2%	28 199	12,224,406
LFS2001a	9 024 720	73.7%	3 218 407	26.3%	17 080	12,260,207
LFS2001b	9 011 975	80.8%	2 144 102	19.2%	11 464	11,167,541
LFS2002a	9 081 627	78.4%	2 508 940	21.6%	12 831	11,603,398
LFS2002b	9 081 716	80.6%	2 190 994	19.4%	11 214	11,283,924
LFS2003a	9 194 238	81.4%	2 099 251	18.6%	4 132	11,297,621
LFS2003b	9 276 158	81.3%	2 131 304	18.7%	3 889	11,411,351
LFS2004a	9 356 332	82.3%	2 018 613	17.7%	3 272	11,378,217
LFS2004b	9 414 391	81.0%	2 206 814	19.0%	8 991	11,630,196
LFS2005a	9 535 624	80.3%	2 340 253	19.7%	18 443	11,894,320
LFS2005b	9 846 100	80.3%	2 422 542	19.7%	19 156	12,287,798
LFS2006a	9 771 856	78.6%	2 658 832	21.4%	7 275	12,437,963
LFS2006b	10 184 406	79.7%	2 592 531	20.3%	10 348	12,787,285

Table 14 Number of employed by gender, 1995 – 2006

	Number of employed		Percentage change		Share of employed*	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
OHS1995	5 789 311	3 710 036			60.9%	39.1%
OHS1996	5 327 006	3 639 301	-8.0%	-1.9%	59.4%	40.6%
OHS1997	5 538 965	3 554 682	4.0%	-2.3%	60.9%	39.1%
OHS1998	5 634 541	3 735 589	1.7%	5.1%	60.1%	39.9%
OHS1999	6 001 439	4 347 732	6.5%	16.4%	58.0%	42.0%
LFS2000a	6 295 403	5 574 122	4.9%	28.2%	53.0%	47.0%
LFS2000b	6 935 174	5 288 582	10.2%	-5.1%	56.7%	43.3%
LFS2001a	6 779 725	5 478 494	-2.2%	3.6%	55.3%	44.7%
LFS2001b	6 434 660	4 732 881	-5.1%	-13.6%	57.6%	42.4%
LFS2002a	6 598 433	5 004 541	2.5%	5.7%	56.9%	43.1%
LFS2002b	6 607 224	4 672 907	0.1%	-6.6%	58.6%	41.4%
LFS2003a	6 517 218	4 778 602	-1.4%	2.3%	57.7%	42.3%
LFS2003b	6 606 589	4 804 762	1.4%	0.5%	57.9%	42.1%
LFS2004a	6 631 623	4 746 594	0.4%	-1.2%	58.3%	41.7%
LFS2004b	6 764 751	4 860 273	2.0%	2.4%	58.2%	41.8%
LFS2005a	6 904 057	4 984 977	2.1%	2.6%	58.1%	41.9%
LFS2005b	7 047 991	5 235 926	2.1%	5.0%	57.4%	42.6%
LFS2006a	7 103 718	5 333 252	0.8%	1.9%	57.1%	42.9%
LFS2006b	7 312 529	5 474 347	2.9%	2.6%	57.2%	42.8%

* People with unspecified gender are excluded.

Table 15 Number of employed by race, 1995 – 2006

Year	Number of employed				Share of employed*			
	Black	Coloured	Indian	White	Black	Coloured	Indian	White
OHS1995	6 136 137	1 144 836	358 589	1 859 785	64.6%	12.1%	3.8%	19.6%
OHS1996	5 489 346	1 222 031	337 118	1 917 812	61.2%	13.6%	3.8%	21.4%
OHS1997	5 713 778	1 161 019	361 837	1 857 013	62.8%	12.8%	4.0%	20.4%
OHS1998	5 915 277	1 168 302	342 141	1 934 031	63.2%	12.5%	3.7%	20.7%
OHS1999	6 659 911	1 285 810	391 951	2 001 963	64.4%	12.4%	3.8%	19.4%
LFS2000a	8 120 175	1 317 383	394 599	2 035 873	68.4%	11.1%	3.3%	17.2%
LFS2000b	8 363 113	1 332 926	407 860	2 095 919	68.6%	10.9%	3.3%	17.2%
LFS2001a	8 455 545	1 320 941	409 630	2 055 501	69.1%	10.8%	3.3%	16.8%
LFS2001b	7 344 392	1 277 194	428 345	2 099 927	65.9%	11.5%	3.8%	18.8%
LFS2002a	7 776 952	1 311 916	406 219	2 092 780	67.1%	11.3%	3.5%	18.1%
LFS2002b	7 506 688	1 292 001	429 390	2 042 567	66.6%	11.5%	3.8%	18.1%
LFS2003a	7 497 609	1 337 553	411 287	2 041 843	66.4%	11.8%	3.6%	18.1%
LFS2003b	7 570 529	1 309 498	432 700	2 090 445	66.4%	11.5%	3.8%	18.3%
LFS2004a	7 540 422	1 388 152	420 024	2 022 965	66.3%	12.2%	3.7%	17.8%
LFS2004b	7 866 030	1 296 317	418 797	2 014 698	67.8%	11.2%	3.6%	17.4%
LFS2005a	8 079 850	1 356 286	422 606	2 011 964	68.1%	11.4%	3.6%	16.9%
LFS2005b	8 497 599	1 327 511	440 182	1 991 480	69.3%	10.8%	3.6%	16.2%
LFS2006a	8 567 842	1 387 420	429 705	2 036 940	69.0%	11.2%	3.5%	16.4%
LFS2006b	8 873 535	1 410 063	451 410	2 005 587	69.6%	11.1%	3.5%	15.7%

* Excluding people whose race group is either 'others' or 'unspecified'.

Table 16 Number of employed by age category, 1995 – 2006

Year	Share of employed					% aged 25-44yrs
	15-24yrs	25-34yrs	35-44yrs	45-54yrs	55-65yrs	
OHS1995	1 124 324	3 275 749	2 858 183	1 586 764	654 327	64.6%
OHS1996	1 098 552	2 987 524	2 739 732	1 507 992	632 507	63.9%
OHS1997	989 249	3 054 476	2 809 467	1 609 749	630 706	64.5%
OHS1998	1 096 436	3 188 453	2 857 463	1 594 218	633 560	64.5%
OHS1999	1 299 589	3 508 775	3 076 888	1 747 532	723 359	63.6%
LFS2000a	1 771 113	3 710 631	3 368 825	1 979 158	1 044 682	59.6%
LFS2000b	1 567 116	3 894 813	3 354 237	2 282 665	1 125 575	59.3%
LFS2001a	1 518 501	3 917 413	3 408 932	2 276 375	1 138 986	59.8%
LFS2001b	1 314 064	3 647 842	3 183 070	2 094 279	928 286	61.2%
LFS2002a	1 415 137	3 751 576	3 246 067	2 173 654	1 016 964	60.3%
LFS2002b	1 285 210	3 763 971	3 170 959	2 105 469	958 315	61.5%
LFS2003a	1 201 708	3 801 814	3 194 901	2 153 501	945 697	61.9%
LFS2003b	1 227 247	3 912 463	3 146 812	2 181 996	942 833	61.9%
LFS2004a	1 206 905	3 884 253	3 143 731	2 165 005	978 323	61.8%
LFS2004b	1 287 063	3 944 374	3 129 906	2 266 227	1 002 626	60.8%
LFS2005a	1 268 911	3 996 560	3 223 517	2 298 793	1 106 539	60.7%
LFS2005b	1 414 874	4 149 552	3 248 822	2 372 862	1 101 688	60.2%
LFS2006a	1 417 677	4 232 064	3 222 037	2 411 240	1 154 945	59.9%
LFS2006b	1 457 079	4 351 368	3 342 738	2 479 563	1 156 537	60.2%

Table 17 Number of employed by educational attainment, 1995 – 2006

	Number of employed						% with at least Matric*
	No schooling	Incomplete primary	Incomplete secondary	Matric	Matric + Cert/Dip	Degree	
OHS1995	770 646	1 538 685	3 682 335	2 093 433	888 596	444 862	36.4%
OHS1996	711 185	1 304 674	3 437 550	2 142 430	775 698	504 372	38.6%
OHS1997	753 036	1 274 369	3 632 613	2 112 796	844 805	445 415	37.5%
OHS1998	840 588	1 487 181	3 476 774	2 240 552	868 011	429 014	37.9%
OHS1999	768 621	1 724 340	3 786 553	2 405 924	746 554	675 932	37.9%
LFS2000a	1 021 806	2 190 908	4 640 515	2 419 819	829 959	604 102	32.9%
LFS2000b	992 601	2 214 822	4 672 999	2 391 383	968 230	847 647	34.8%
LFS2001a	999 521	2 123 171	4 700 046	2 612 214	958 988	739 212	35.5%
LFS2001b	784 663	1 845 475	4 115 718	2 658 154	887 173	738 526	38.8%
LFS2002a	911 276	1 888 251	4 309 777	2 698 383	916 235	759 979	38.1%
LFS2002b	794 875	1 727 572	4 163 107	2 742 493	946 104	785 616	40.1%
LFS2003a	746 859	1 786 112	4 180 194	2 724 800	970 501	789 633	40.1%
LFS2003b	670 168	1 654 789	4 150 803	3 057 559	1 013 607	792 212	42.9%
LFS2004a	700 419	1 660 373	4 164 803	3 033 795	976 281	789 816	42.4%
LFS2004b	720 256	1 564 795	4 320 886	3 138 018	1 001 154	752 183	42.5%
LFS2005a	644 350	1 610 347	4 467 571	3 250 697	1 029 418	808 939	43.1%
LFS2005b	709 368	1 573 432	4 698 212	3 348 071	1 080 437	782 937	42.7%
LFS2006a	655 371	1 625 175	4 705 944	3 468 882	1 138 658	791 018	43.6%
LFS2006b	663 005	1 572 692	4 936 012	3 547 530	1 228 494	761 088	43.6%

* Excluding people whose educational attainment is either 'other' or 'don't know' or 'unspecified'.

Table 18 Percentage of employed in each broad occupation category, 1995 – 2006

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
OHS1995	5.3%	3.4%	11.2%	11.9%	11.4%	1.2%	11.8%	11.7%	24.7%	7.3%	0.2%
OHS1996	4.9%	4.1%	13.7%	9.7%	11.6%	2.9%	13.0%	8.7%	16.8%	8.6%	6.0%
OHS1997	7.3%	8.8%	8.3%	8.8%	10.3%	3.0%	14.4%	10.3%	16.6%	9.1%	3.1%
OHS1998	7.8%	5.4%	9.6%	10.0%	12.3%	2.4%	14.0%	10.1%	17.8%	8.0%	2.6%
OHS1999	6.6%	5.3%	10.1%	10.3%	11.8%	4.5%	13.1%	10.5%	18.2%	7.9%	1.7%
LFS2000a	5.3%	3.7%	8.9%	8.8%	11.3%	14.0%	12.1%	9.5%	17.7%	8.4%	0.3%
LFS2000b	4.7%	4.8%	9.3%	8.6%	12.0%	9.8%	13.0%	10.0%	19.7%	7.7%	0.5%
LFS2001a	5.2%	3.8%	9.7%	8.7%	13.6%	7.7%	12.7%	9.5%	21.8%	6.9%	0.4%
LFS2001b	5.9%	4.4%	10.5%	9.8%	12.8%	4.7%	13.7%	10.1%	20.1%	7.9%	0.2%
LFS2002a	6.1%	4.1%	10.4%	9.5%	11.4%	9.1%	12.2%	10.0%	19.3%	7.5%	0.4%
LFS2002b	6.5%	4.4%	10.7%	9.8%	11.0%	6.3%	12.9%	10.2%	20.3%	7.5%	0.4%
LFS2003a	6.3%	4.9%	10.0%	9.7%	11.4%	3.8%	12.4%	10.6%	22.6%	7.8%	0.4%
LFS2003b	7.2%	4.8%	10.1%	10.1%	11.9%	3.0%	12.7%	10.0%	22.1%	7.8%	0.2%
LFS2004a	7.3%	4.7%	9.9%	10.3%	11.8%	2.7%	12.4%	10.2%	23.0%	7.4%	0.1%
LFS2004b	7.8%	3.9%	9.9%	10.0%	12.5%	2.8%	13.2%	9.6%	22.5%	7.6%	0.2%
LFS2005a	6.7%	4.5%	9.5%	10.1%	12.3%	3.6%	13.8%	9.9%	22.4%	7.1%	0.2%
LFS2005b	7.0%	4.8%	9.7%	9.7%	13.1%	2.5%	14.2%	9.2%	22.9%	7.0%	0.2%
LFS2006a	6.9%	4.9%	9.5%	9.7%	12.5%	5.2%	13.7%	8.8%	22.0%	6.8%	0.2%
LFS2006b	6.8%	4.7%	9.6%	9.7%	12.8%	3.4%	15.0%	8.7%	22.2%	6.9%	0.1%

Skilled: A: Legislators, senior officials and managers
 B: Professionals
 C: Technicians and associate professionals
 Semi-skilled: D: Clerks
 E: Service workers and shop and market sales
 F: Skilled agricultural and fishery worker
 G: Craft and related trade workers
 H: Plant and machinery operators and assemblers
 Unskilled: I: Elementary occupations
 J: Domestic workers
 Others: K: Others / Unspecified

Table 19 Employment by skills level of work, 1995 – 2006

Year	Number of employed				Share of employed*		
	Unskilled	Semi-skilled	Skilled	Unspecified	Unskilled	Semi-skilled	Skilled
OHS1995	3 044 666	4 552 800	1 883 994	17 887	32.1%	48.0%	19.9%
OHS1996	2 274 462	4 107 229	2 044 422	540 194	27.0%	48.8%	24.3%
OHS1997	2 339 065	4 250 539	2 219 920	284 123	26.6%	48.3%	25.2%
OHS1998	2 413 848	4 573 974	2 136 223	246 085	26.5%	50.1%	23.4%
OHS1999	2 695 865	5 206 307	2 276 692	177 279	26.5%	51.2%	22.4%
LFS2000a	3 101 665	6 619 898	2 115 537	37 309	26.2%	55.9%	17.9%
LFS2000b	3 346 526	6 526 262	2 292 201	59 417	27.5%	53.7%	18.8%
LFS2001a	3 517 211	6 412 183	2 278 615	52 198	28.8%	52.5%	18.7%
LFS2001b	3 129 761	5 690 504	2 323 468	23 808	28.1%	51.1%	20.9%
LFS2002a	3 112 955	6 058 059	2 389 738	42 646	26.9%	52.4%	20.7%
LFS2002b	3 136 187	5 668 597	2 437 349	41 791	27.9%	50.4%	21.7%
LFS2003a	3 443 561	5 418 196	2 392 275	43 589	30.6%	48.1%	21.3%
LFS2003b	3 420 900	5 451 407	2 521 666	17 378	30.0%	47.9%	22.1%
LFS2004a	3 467 148	5 398 345	2 497 351	15 373	30.5%	47.5%	22.0%
LFS2004b	3 496 091	5 596 376	2 514 897	22 832	30.1%	48.2%	21.7%
LFS2005a	3 515 021	5 898 610	2 456 894	23 795	29.6%	49.7%	20.7%
LFS2005b	3 665 696	5 961 761	2 639 325	21 016	29.9%	48.6%	21.5%
LFS2006a	3 583 650	6 204 345	2 629 525	20 443	28.9%	50.0%	21.2%
LFS2006b	3 722 117	6 348 536	2 702 517	14 115	29.2%	49.7%	21.1%

* Excluding the employed with unspecified skills level of work.

Table 20 Percentage of employed in each broad industry category, 1995 – 2006

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
OHS1995	13.0%	4.6%	15.1%	0.9%	4.7%	17.5%	5.0%	6.1%	22.9%	8.4%	1.8%
OHS1996	8.5%	2.8%	15.4%	1.4%	4.7%	15.3%	5.4%	8.3%	22.5%	9.0%	6.8%
OHS1997	8.3%	4.3%	16.7%	1.3%	5.6%	17.3%	5.8%	8.0%	20.6%	8.3%	3.7%
OHS1998	10.0%	4.6%	14.7%	1.2%	5.8%	19.0%	5.9%	9.1%	19.7%	8.2%	1.7%
OHS1999	10.6%	4.6%	14.5%	0.8%	5.5%	20.1%	5.2%	9.0%	19.1%	9.3%	1.5%
LFS2000a	19.2%	3.9%	12.4%	0.7%	5.0%	20.5%	4.6%	7.1%	16.0%	10.0%	0.6%
LFS2000b	15.6%	4.9%	12.9%	0.8%	5.6%	20.2%	4.8%	8.0%	17.0%	9.4%	0.8%
LFS2001a	12.9%	4.6%	13.2%	0.8%	5.2%	24.9%	4.7%	8.2%	16.4%	8.4%	0.6%
LFS2001b	10.5%	5.0%	14.5%	0.8%	5.7%	22.0%	4.9%	9.3%	17.8%	9.2%	0.4%
LFS2002a	15.0%	4.7%	13.8%	0.7%	5.0%	20.0%	4.9%	8.9%	17.3%	9.3%	0.5%
LFS2002b	12.6%	5.0%	14.5%	0.7%	5.4%	19.4%	5.1%	9.6%	18.1%	9.1%	0.6%
LFS2003a	11.4%	4.9%	14.0%	0.8%	5.3%	20.6%	5.1%	9.2%	18.7%	9.6%	0.4%
LFS2003b	10.6%	4.8%	13.6%	0.8%	5.8%	21.3%	4.7%	9.6%	19.1%	9.4%	0.3%
LFS2004a	11.1%	4.9%	14.0%	0.9%	5.8%	20.7%	5.1%	9.4%	19.0%	9.0%	0.2%
LFS2004b	9.1%	3.5%	14.7%	0.9%	7.1%	21.8%	4.8%	9.9%	18.8%	9.2%	0.2%
LFS2005a	9.8%	3.6%	13.9%	1.1%	6.8%	22.3%	5.0%	9.6%	18.8%	9.0%	0.3%
LFS2005b	7.5%	3.3%	13.9%	0.8%	7.6%	24.6%	5.0%	10.5%	17.8%	8.7%	0.2%
LFS2006a	10.6%	3.2%	13.9%	0.8%	6.9%	24.1%	4.5%	9.6%	17.5%	8.7%	0.2%
LFS2006b	8.5%	3.1%	13.6%	0.9%	8.0%	23.9%	4.8%	10.2%	18.1%	8.7%	0.3%

Primary: A: Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting

B: Mining and quarrying

Secondary: C: Manufacturing

D: Electricity, gas and water supply

E: Construction

Tertiary: F: Wholesale and retail

G: Transport, storage and communication

H: Financial, insurance and business services

I: Community, social and personal services

J: Private households

Others:

K: Other / Unspecified

Table 21 Skills breakdown of employment by industry, selected years

Industry	Skills	OHS 1995	OHS 1997	OHS 1999	LFS 2001b	LFS 2003b	LFS 2005b	LFS 2006b
A	Skilled	0.8%	5.0%	3.3%	1.4%	5.2%	4.9%	3.9%
	Semi-skilled	22.0%	40.6%	42.9%	40.9%	41.3%	44.0%	48.4%
	Unskilled	77.2%	54.4%	53.8%	57.7%	53.5%	51.2%	47.7%
B	Skilled	6.7%	18.7%	8.6%	5.9%	7.3%	6.1%	7.1%
	Semi-skilled	74.2%	64.6%	82.1%	83.6%	81.4%	78.5%	73.8%
	Unskilled	19.2%	16.7%	9.2%	10.5%	11.3%	15.5%	19.2%
C	Skilled	11.7%	18.4%	17.2%	16.4%	18.3%	15.7%	15.1%
	Semi-skilled	68.5%	59.4%	65.3%	67.3%	66.7%	66.0%	64.9%
	Unskilled	19.8%	22.2%	17.4%	16.3%	15.0%	18.3%	20.0%
D	Skilled	18.1%	19.1%	19.2%	22.5%	21.0%	22.6%	28.1%
	Semi-skilled	67.0%	62.4%	62.9%	64.6%	65.8%	63.3%	64.8%
	Unskilled	14.9%	18.5%	18.0%	12.9%	13.2%	14.1%	7.2%
E	Skilled	9.5%	8.7%	9.2%	7.2%	8.2%	9.6%	8.2%
	Semi-skilled	70.9%	72.8%	73.0%	77.1%	68.5%	67.1%	70.9%
	Unskilled	19.6%	18.5%	17.8%	15.7%	23.3%	23.3%	21.0%
F	Skilled	16.7%	19.2%	14.6%	12.4%	13.0%	13.5%	15.4%
	Semi-skilled	63.5%	57.5%	59.4%	56.6%	55.0%	53.3%	53.8%
	Unskilled	19.8%	23.3%	26.0%	31.0%	32.0%	33.3%	30.9%
G	Skilled	26.2%	21.5%	23.5%	25.7%	24.3%	20.9%	20.7%
	Semi-skilled	61.9%	66.8%	67.2%	63.6%	62.7%	62.8%	65.7%
	Unskilled	12.0%	11.7%	9.3%	10.7%	13.0%	16.2%	13.7%
H	Skilled	37.6%	39.4%	42.6%	43.3%	44.6%	41.7%	39.2%
	Semi-skilled	55.8%	49.2%	49.3%	47.6%	45.1%	48.1%	51.2%
	Unskilled	6.6%	11.4%	8.1%	9.1%	10.3%	10.3%	9.5%
I	Skilled	45.6%	54.1%	53.0%	52.5%	51.4%	50.8%	48.8%
	Semi-skilled	39.2%	31.6%	35.9%	36.3%	35.7%	36.0%	37.8%
	Unskilled	15.2%	14.4%	11.1%	11.2%	12.9%	13.2%	13.4%
J	Skilled	0.2%	1.3%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Semi-skilled	2.4%	16.0%	16.2%	14.7%	0.5%	0.8%	0.7%
	Unskilled	97.5%	82.7%	83.7%	85.3%	99.5%	99.2%	99.3%
All employed	Skilled	19.9%	25.2%	22.4%	20.9%	22.1%	21.5%	21.2%
	Semi-skilled	48.0%	48.3%	51.2%	51.1%	47.8%	48.6%	49.7%
	Unskilled	32.1%	26.6%	26.5%	28.1%	30.0%	29.9%	29.1%

Primary: A: Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting

B: Mining and quarrying

Secondary: C: Manufacturing

D: Electricity, gas and water supply

E: Construction

Tertiary: F: Wholesale and retail

G: Transport, storage and communication

H: Financial, insurance and business services

I: Community, social and personal services

J: Private households

Table 22 Working conditions of the employed by sector, LFS2006b

	Domestic workers	Informal sector	Formal sector	Subsistence agriculture	Commercial agriculture	All employed
Work location						
Owner's home/farm	14.3%	41.0%	3.5%	74.0%	76.2%	17.4%
Someone else's home	83.4%	17.9%	1.1%	15.0%	1.6%	10.5%
Factory/Office	1.8%	4.1%	62.9%	0.5%	15.3%	43.0%
Service outlet	0.2%	6.2%	29.5%	0.3%	2.0%	20.7%
At a market	0.0%	0.5%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%
Footpath, street	0.0%	6.2%	1.0%	5.5%	2.6%	2.1%
No fixed location	0.3%	24.1%	1.7%	4.5%	1.9%	6.0%
Others	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.4%	0.1%
Firm size						
1 worker	82.3%	53.9%	2.7%	48.1%	2.1%	19.6%
2-4 workers	14.3%	30.4%	8.0%	36.6%	10.6%	13.8%
5-9 workers	1.8%	6.4%	11.3%	5.4%	10.9%	9.5%
10-19 workers	0.8%	4.7%	16.6%	3.9%	20.5%	13.1%
20-49 workers	0.6%	2.9%	20.8%	2.7%	24.7%	15.5%
50 or more	0.1%	1.7%	40.6%	3.3%	31.3%	28.6%
Written contract with employer***						
Yes	26.5%	20.1%	83.7%	23.2%	62.1%	71.9%
No	73.6%	79.9%	16.3%	76.8%	37.9%	28.1%
Job length***						
permanent	49.1%	28.5%	78.1%	47.0%	67.0%	70.8%
fixed period contract	2.6%	7.5%	6.1%	2.9%	2.8%	5.7%
temporary	31.6%	37.5%	9.1%	31.7%	16.4%	13.9%
casual	16.5%	25.4%	6.5%	13.8%	5.5%	8.9%
seasonal	0.2%	1.1%	0.2%	4.6%	8.3%	0.7%
Tenure***						
0-1 year	30.6%	41.9%	21.9%	29.7%	27.4%	24.7%
1-2 years	13.2%	14.7%	11.6%	13.1%	9.4%	11.9%
2-3 years	8.0%	7.8%	8.2%	10.0%	6.9%	8.1%
3-5 years	12.9%	9.3%	12.5%	15.1%	12.9%	12.3%
5-10 years	19.3%	15.3%	18.9%	11.5%	20.6%	18.7%
10-20 years	12.1%	7.4%	16.8%	14.7%	15.5%	15.6%
More than 20 years	4.0%	3.7%	10.1%	5.9%	7.3%	8.8%
Union membership***						
Yes	1.8%	3.5%	37.3%	1.2%	9.4%	29.6%
No	98.3%	96.5%	62.7%	98.8%	90.6%	70.4%
Supervision of work***						
Work supervised	79.5%	81.8%	92.4%	76.6%	93.8%	90.4%
Work independently	20.5%	18.2%	7.7%	23.4%	6.2%	9.6%
Paid leave***						
Yes	22.2%	12.4%	72.8%	17.1%	41.9%	61.4%
No	77.8%	87.6%	27.2%	82.9%	58.1%	38.6%
Retirement fund contributions by employer***						
Yes	7.6%	6.7%	63.9%	8.1%	24.3%	51.7%
No	92.4%	93.3%	36.2%	91.9%	75.7%	48.3%
UIF deductions						
Yes	24.1%	4.3%	71.6%	5.3%	63.4%	52.8%
No	75.9%	95.7%	28.4%	94.7%	36.6%	47.2%

Table 22 Continued

	Domestic workers	Informal sector	Formal sector	Subsistence agriculture	Commercial agriculture	All employed
Medical aid						
Yes, self only	0.2%	0.7%	9.0%	1.2%	2.4%	6.2%
Yes, self & dependants	0.8%	1.3%	22.7%	1.4%	7.1%	15.6%
Yes, but not using it	0.0%	0.1%	5.4%	0.1%	1.5%	3.6%
No	98.9%	98.0%	63.0%	97.4%	89.0%	74.6%
Registered as company/cc						
Yes	4.7%	7.0%	87.6%	7.2%	94.0%	64.1%
No	95.3%	93.0%	12.4%	92.8%	6.0%	35.9%
Registration for VAT						
Yes	2.7%	3.7%	82.0%	6.3%	93.0%	59.5%
No	97.3%	96.3%	18.0%	93.7%	7.0%	40.5%
Registration for income tax						
Yes	3.7%	4.9%	82.4%	7.9%	92.5%	59.5%
No	96.3%	95.1%	17.6%	92.1%	7.5%	40.5%
Flexible work hours						
Can decide fully	5.6%	62.9%	8.5%	76.6%	11.9%	21.2%
Within a limited range	4.1%	7.5%	3.8%	4.1%	2.1%	4.5%
Fixed by employer	90.3%	29.6%	87.6%	19.2%	85.9%	74.4%
Usual weekly work hours						
Mean	39.19	45.17	45.65	27.65	48.90	44.61
Standard deviation	15.70	20.32	11.53	20.17	11.60	14.74
Willing to work longer						
Yes	18.9%	26.2%	14.3%	18.6%	12.1%	16.9%
No	81.2%	73.8%	85.7%	81.4%	87.9%	83.1%

*** Only the employees could answer the question.

Note: only negligible proportion (less than 1%) of respondents give 'I don't know' as the answer in the questions, and these answers are excluded from the tabulations.

Table 23 Nature of employment of employees, OHS1999 – LFS2006b

	Permanent	Fixed period contract	Temporary	Casual	Seasonal
OHS1999	79.2%	2.7%	9.7%	7.1%	1.4%
LFS2000a	78.2%	2.8%	11.4%	6.5%	1.1%
LFS2000b	74.4%	3.8%	12.3%	8.5%	1.0%
LFS2001a	77.5%	3.7%	10.9%	6.8%	1.1%
LFS2001b	77.4%	3.6%	11.4%	6.8%	0.8%
LFS2002a	75.6%	3.1%	13.3%	6.9%	1.1%
LFS2002b	76.0%	4.3%	12.6%	6.4%	0.7%
LFS2003a	75.1%	4.1%	13.2%	6.6%	1.0%
LFS2003b	77.3%	3.8%	11.7%	6.5%	0.7%
LFS2004a	75.7%	3.8%	12.6%	6.7%	1.1%
LFS2004b	75.1%	4.7%	12.8%	6.8%	0.6%
LFS2005a	73.0%	5.3%	12.9%	7.9%	1.0%
LFS2005b	71.7%	5.4%	13.6%	8.6%	0.8%
LFS2006a	71.7%	5.5%	12.2%	9.8%	0.9%
LFS2006b	70.8%	5.7%	13.9%	8.9%	0.7%

Note: the question on job length of employees is only asked since OHS1999, and only employees are allowed to answer it.

Table 24 Proportion of employees with union membership by occupation, 1995 – 2006

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	All
OHS1995	22.4%	33.0%	43.7%	30.7%	31.9%	13.5%	40.6%	46.8%	24.4%	N/A	33.8%
OHS1996	28.2%	36.1%	37.4%	32.9%	28.9%	9.0%	38.1%	43.7%	24.9%	8.1%	30.3%
OHS1997	31.2%	48.9%	39.4%	33.4%	32.4%	16.5%	38.0%	47.2%	32.2%	13.7%	34.6%
OHS1998	31.6%	38.6%	50.2%	32.5%	32.4%	17.8%	35.5%	45.9%	29.1%	2.4%	32.8%
OHS1999	31.2%	48.5%	49.3%	34.4%	34.8%	13.0%	37.2%	46.7%	27.6%	5.5%	33.9%
LFS2000a	26.8%	40.0%	52.4%	29.3%	34.7%	6.1%	36.5%	49.9%	25.3%	2.2%	31.6%
LFS2000b	23.7%	42.3%	50.2%	32.9%	31.6%	8.6%	30.3%	44.4%	22.1%	1.6%	29.8%
LFS2001a	22.3%	49.7%	49.8%	31.0%	33.1%	12.0%	34.3%	47.6%	22.6%	1.9%	31.5%
LFS2001b	24.6%	48.9%	51.0%	35.2%	30.8%	10.6%	36.4%	44.3%	24.4%	1.4%	32.1%
LFS2002a	26.3%	46.1%	51.8%	30.4%	28.9%	8.3%	34.9%	45.3%	22.0%	0.9%	30.6%
LFS2002b	26.9%	41.6%	51.1%	31.0%	31.9%	9.3%	33.6%	43.6%	23.2%	1.3%	30.8%
LFS2003a	23.6%	47.0%	52.1%	33.5%	30.4%	22.2%	32.6%	43.5%	21.8%	1.4%	30.8%
LFS2003b	30.8%	42.9%	50.9%	33.4%	29.6%	10.7%	32.7%	45.0%	21.7%	1.8%	30.9%
LFS2004a	24.4%	41.1%	50.5%	32.0%	31.5%	8.3%	32.4%	42.2%	19.9%	3.1%	29.8%
LFS2004b	24.9%	48.9%	47.3%	32.2%	29.1%	2.2%	27.0%	43.5%	20.1%	3.1%	29.0%
LFS2005a	27.5%	41.6%	49.5%	32.3%	28.8%	11.2%	30.4%	46.0%	22.2%	2.5%	30.4%
LFS2005b	30.9%	48.2%	51.5%	35.1%	31.6%	23.4%	27.8%	46.0%	21.8%	3.8%	31.6%
LFS2006a	30.6%	47.4%	49.2%	33.6%	30.2%	15.1%	26.7%	44.4%	19.9%	2.1%	30.0%
LFS2006b	26.5%	46.1%	45.4%	32.5%	31.6%	16.7%	26.3%	43.5%	20.4%	1.8%	29.1%

Skilled: A: Legislators, senior officials and managers
B: Professionals
C: Technicians and associate professionals

Semi-skilled: D: Clerks
E: Service workers and shop and market sales
F: Skilled agricultural and fishery worker
G: Craft and related trade workers
H: Plant and machinery operators and assemblers

Unskilled: I: Elementary occupations
J: Domestic workers

Table 25 Proportion of employees with union membership by industry, 1995 – 2006

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	All
OHS1995	6.9%	70.8%	46.7%	40.9%	19.4%	24.6%	44.7%	20.5%	43.8%	2.8%	33.8%
OHS1996	7.0%	70.1%	42.1%	43.2%	19.5%	24.0%	45.2%	22.3%	40.3%	5.3%	30.3%
OHS1997	10.5%	69.8%	46.5%	42.0%	18.8%	26.8%	43.1%	21.3%	51.0%	6.8%	34.6%
OHS1998	9.4%	73.0%	43.5%	48.5%	15.1%	22.7%	41.9%	22.7%	54.6%	2.4%	32.8%
OHS1999	14.8%	75.9%	39.6%	51.8%	17.1%	23.1%	38.6%	24.4%	58.6%	4.9%	33.9%
LFS2000a	7.8%	75.6%	41.5%	44.1%	18.8%	21.6%	35.2%	23.5%	58.3%	1.9%	31.6%
LFS2000b	8.2%	70.2%	37.1%	50.6%	10.9%	17.5%	34.8%	17.8%	57.1%	1.4%	29.8%
LFS2001a	8.0%	76.7%	37.1%	46.2%	13.0%	19.2%	32.9%	23.6%	58.6%	1.7%	31.5%
LFS2001b	7.9%	79.1%	36.9%	49.0%	15.8%	19.2%	33.3%	23.4%	59.7%	1.4%	32.1%
LFS2002a	6.4%	74.5%	38.0%	50.7%	16.0%	20.1%	33.5%	20.3%	56.5%	0.8%	30.6%
LFS2002b	6.8%	77.0%	33.2%	50.6%	12.6%	19.1%	32.7%	21.6%	58.9%	1.1%	30.8%
LFS2003a	7.8%	76.3%	35.8%	47.5%	12.9%	18.2%	32.9%	20.2%	58.1%	1.2%	30.8%
LFS2003b	7.6%	75.7%	37.1%	47.3%	13.0%	19.2%	32.9%	22.4%	55.9%	1.6%	30.9%
LFS2004a	6.4%	77.4%	34.9%	48.1%	10.7%	18.9%	29.2%	20.2%	54.4%	2.7%	29.8%
LFS2004b	6.1%	78.2%	34.0%	53.9%	8.8%	19.2%	31.0%	21.1%	53.6%	2.8%	29.0%
LFS2005a	8.9%	74.9%	40.5%	52.9%	11.0%	20.9%	30.6%	21.4%	52.6%	2.3%	30.4%
LFS2005b	9.6%	78.5%	38.3%	55.6%	10.5%	23.7%	31.4%	24.1%	56.9%	3.3%	31.6%
LFS2006a	8.7%	74.0%	36.4%	39.3%	10.7%	20.0%	33.2%	26.2%	55.2%	1.7%	30.0%
LFS2006b	8.0%	72.5%	35.3%	46.8%	11.6%	20.7%	30.5%	24.4%	53.0%	1.6%	29.2%

Primary: A: Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting

B: Mining and quarrying

Secondary: C: Manufacturing

D: Electricity, gas and water supply

E: Construction

Tertiary: F: Wholesale and retail

G: Transport, storage and communication

H: Financial, insurance and business services

I: Community, social and personal services

J: Private households

Table 26 Number of unemployed, 1995 – 2006

Year	Number			Absolute change		Percentage change	
	Narrow	Broad	Discouraged workseekers	Narrow	Broad	Narrow	Broad
OHS1995	2 028 242	4 231 726	2 203 484				
OHS1996	2 224 292	4 566 316	2 342 024	196 050	334 590	9.7%	7.9%
OHS1997	2 450 738	5 201 950	2 751 212	226 446	635 634	10.2%	13.9%
OHS1998	3 157 950	5 626 470	2 468 520	707 212	424 520	28.9%	8.2%
OHS1999	3 153 783	5 875 126	2 721 343	-4 167	248 656	-0.1%	4.4%
LFS2000a	4 331 234	6 549 718	2 218 484	1 177 451	674 592	37.3%	11.5%
LFS2000b	4 156 910	6 371 833	2 214 923	-174 324	-177 885	-4.0%	-2.7%
LFS2001a	4 407 860	7 101 024	2 693 164	250 950	729 191	6.0%	11.4%
LFS2001b	4 649 836	7 640 439	2 990 603	241 976	539 415	5.5%	7.6%
LFS2002a	4 890 933	7 932 091	3 041 158	241 097	291 652	5.2%	3.8%
LFS2002b	4 930 670	8 120 761	3 190 091	39 737	188 670	0.8%	2.4%
LFS2003a	5 111 408	8 344 614	3 233 206	180 738	223 853	3.7%	2.8%
LFS2003b	4 429 336	8 198 365	3 769 029	-682 072	-146 249	-13.3%	-1.8%
LFS2004a	4 409 532	8 171 571	3 762 039	-19 804	-26 794	-0.4%	-0.3%
LFS2004b	4 130 884	8 074 148	3 943 264	-278 648	-97 423	-6.3%	-1.2%
LFS2005a	4 278 200	8 097 646	3 819 446	147 316	23 498	3.6%	0.3%
LFS2005b	4 482 363	7 790 699	3 308 336	204 163	-306 947	4.8%	-3.8%
LFS2006a	4 269 990	7 948 883	3 678 893	-212 373	158 184	-4.7%	2.0%
LFS2006b	4 386 117	7 599 053	3 212 936	116 127	-349 830	2.7%	-4.4%

Table 27 Unemployment rates by race and gender

	Narrow											
	Black			Coloured			Indian			White		
	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All
OHS1995	16.8%	28.3%	21.6%	13.3%	19.2%	15.9%	8.8%	14.1%	10.6%	3.1%	5.1%	3.9%
OHS1996	21.3%	32.5%	26.2%	9.8%	14.4%	11.8%	9.0%	13.7%	10.8%	3.3%	4.3%	3.7%
OHS1997	22.3%	33.7%	27.1%	12.9%	18.3%	15.3%	8.4%	12.2%	9.8%	2.9%	5.3%	3.9%
OHS1998	27.3%	38.3%	32.1%	13.5%	18.7%	15.8%	13.6%	16.9%	14.7%	3.9%	5.0%	4.4%
OHS1999	24.5%	35.0%	29.2%	13.4%	17.5%	15.2%	14.5%	17.2%	15.6%	4.4%	5.1%	4.7%
LFS2000a	30.0%	33.2%	31.6%	19.5%	21.4%	20.4%	16.7%	24.8%	19.9%	5.9%	7.9%	6.8%
LFS2000b	27.1%	34.1%	30.3%	15.8%	21.6%	18.5%	13.6%	19.6%	15.8%	4.1%	8.2%	5.9%
LFS2001a	29.4%	33.0%	31.1%	19.9%	22.8%	21.2%	14.4%	20.5%	16.7%	6.0%	8.2%	6.9%
LFS2001b	31.5%	40.7%	35.7%	19.5%	23.1%	21.2%	15.7%	23.5%	18.8%	4.7%	7.4%	5.8%
LFS2002a	31.4%	39.5%	35.2%	21.4%	27.2%	24.1%	17.5%	24.0%	20.1%	5.0%	8.6%	6.5%
LFS2002b	31.5%	42.3%	36.4%	19.9%	26.6%	23.0%	15.6%	27.1%	20.4%	5.0%	7.4%	6.0%
LFS2003a	32.8%	42.6%	37.3%	20.2%	24.7%	22.4%	18.3%	28.7%	22.4%	5.6%	7.7%	6.5%
LFS2003b	30.0%	38.7%	33.9%	18.8%	23.6%	21.1%	15.5%	18.4%	16.6%	4.0%	6.2%	5.0%
LFS2004a	29.4%	39.9%	34.2%	16.2%	20.2%	18.1%	14.0%	21.0%	16.5%	3.9%	6.3%	4.9%
LFS2004b	27.6%	36.0%	31.3%	19.7%	24.1%	21.8%	12.4%	15.4%	13.4%	5.1%	5.8%	5.4%
LFS2005a	26.7%	37.6%	31.6%	18.6%	21.2%	19.8%	15.4%	22.6%	18.0%	4.4%	5.9%	5.1%
LFS2005b	26.6%	37.1%	31.5%	20.6%	24.6%	22.4%	14.0%	18.6%	15.8%	3.6%	6.9%	5.0%
LFS2006a	25.8%	36.2%	30.7%	18.3%	19.6%	18.9%	11.9%	10.2%	11.2%	3.6%	6.2%	4.7%
LFS2006b	25.4%	36.4%	30.5%	16.6%	22.6%	19.4%	6.6%	14.3%	9.6%	4.6%	4.4%	4.5%
	Broad											
	Black			Coloured			Indian			White		
	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All
OHS1995	29.5%	47.6%	37.8%	17.9%	28.4%	22.8%	10.0%	20.6%	13.8%	3.7%	8.7%	5.7%
OHS1996	35.5%	51.4%	42.9%	14.5%	22.6%	18.2%	11.7%	19.9%	14.8%	4.2%	6.5%	5.2%
OHS1997	36.9%	54.7%	45.1%	18.3%	26.7%	22.0%	10.1%	17.1%	12.7%	4.1%	8.8%	6.0%
OHS1998	38.4%	54.8%	46.0%	19.8%	28.7%	23.9%	16.3%	24.9%	19.4%	5.6%	7.6%	6.4%
OHS1999	36.7%	51.9%	44.0%	19.3%	28.4%	23.6%	17.8%	23.8%	20.2%	6.3%	7.3%	6.8%
LFS2000a	37.8%	44.4%	41.2%	24.3%	29.8%	27.1%	19.1%	38.0%	27.3%	8.2%	12.6%	10.1%
LFS2000b	34.4%	46.3%	40.2%	20.1%	31.9%	25.8%	14.5%	25.6%	18.8%	5.1%	10.9%	7.6%
LFS2001a	38.1%	46.7%	42.4%	25.8%	33.0%	29.3%	17.4%	26.4%	20.9%	8.0%	12.6%	9.9%
LFS2001b	41.0%	55.4%	48.0%	25.0%	34.8%	29.8%	18.3%	30.0%	23.1%	5.6%	10.5%	7.7%
LFS2002a	41.0%	53.9%	47.4%	26.0%	35.2%	30.5%	19.4%	32.1%	24.7%	6.7%	12.6%	9.2%
LFS2002b	41.4%	56.9%	49.0%	24.7%	36.2%	30.2%	18.6%	32.1%	24.4%	7.0%	11.5%	8.9%
LFS2003a	42.5%	57.4%	49.9%	24.4%	32.8%	28.6%	21.0%	32.9%	25.8%	7.6%	11.1%	9.1%
LFS2003b	41.9%	57.1%	49.4%	24.5%	34.0%	29.1%	17.5%	24.0%	20.0%	5.6%	10.0%	7.5%
LFS2004a	41.4%	57.8%	49.5%	22.8%	29.9%	26.2%	17.2%	26.5%	20.6%	6.1%	10.3%	7.9%
LFS2004b	40.1%	55.9%	47.8%	25.8%	35.1%	30.4%	17.2%	27.1%	20.8%	7.0%	9.8%	8.3%
LFS2005a	38.9%	55.7%	47.2%	24.6%	33.2%	28.8%	20.0%	30.8%	24.0%	7.2%	9.6%	8.2%
LFS2005b	36.7%	52.9%	44.8%	25.8%	36.6%	31.0%	16.4%	28.2%	21.1%	5.5%	10.8%	7.9%
LFS2006a	37.5%	53.0%	45.2%	25.7%	32.1%	28.7%	17.1%	27.6%	21.4%	6.2%	11.4%	8.5%
LFS2006b	35.3%	51.5%	43.3%	22.0%	33.1%	27.5%	12.2%	29.1%	14.9%	8.3%	9.6%	8.9%

Table 28 Broad unemployment rates by province, 1995 – 2006

	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GAU	MPU	LIM	SA
OHS1995	20.0%	42.6%	29.5%	26.8%	34.4%	33.8%	24.1%	34.7%	42.2%	30.8%
OHS1996	16.9%	48.2%	25.9%	30.6%	36.7%	38.4%	30.3%	29.6%	48.4%	33.7%
OHS1997	17.0%	51.3%	26.2%	31.8%	43.0%	41.8%	31.3%	35.4%	46.7%	36.4%
OHS1998	21.0%	51.9%	29.8%	31.6%	42.7%	41.3%	32.6%	34.9%	49.2%	37.5%
OHS1999	18.9%	46.7%	29.1%	34.0%	37.8%	42.1%	32.5%	37.0%	50.2%	36.2%
LFS2000a	23.8%	34.1%	32.8%	28.1%	39.5%	43.8%	36.0%	37.6%	39.6%	35.5%
LFS2000b	21.0%	38.6%	24.9%	31.4%	36.3%	40.3%	32.5%	33.9%	43.9%	34.3%
LFS2001a	24.8%	43.0%	32.6%	34.3%	36.9%	43.0%	34.1%	34.2%	46.9%	36.7%
LFS2001b	24.4%	46.8%	36.0%	35.2%	45.9%	44.7%	36.1%	40.5%	53.0%	40.6%
LFS2002a	23.3%	37.4%	38.5%	37.6%	47.6%	45.8%	38.4%	41.6%	53.7%	40.6%
LFS2002b	25.1%	47.7%	35.7%	38.4%	45.0%	44.9%	38.2%	42.4%	56.7%	41.8%
LFS2003a	24.7%	43.9%	39.0%	39.7%	47.7%	46.3%	38.2%	44.9%	58.9%	42.5%
LFS2003b	25.1%	49.2%	38.6%	40.6%	45.4%	46.1%	36.4%	41.3%	56.9%	41.8%
LFS2004a	22.6%	50.5%	39.5%	38.1%	46.7%	46.9%	35.9%	41.9%	57.7%	41.8%
LFS2004b	26.3%	46.1%	39.3%	39.1%	43.7%	47.5%	36.7%	40.1%	54.4%	41.0%
LFS2005a	24.8%	43.6%	41.3%	39.1%	45.5%	45.6%	34.1%	42.1%	57.4%	40.5%
LFS2005b	25.5%	43.4%	39.9%	37.7%	43.4%	43.3%	31.8%	41.5%	53.5%	38.8%
LFS2006a	23.0%	36.9%	36.3%	38.7%	44.0%	45.6%	34.3%	39.4%	59.0%	39.0%
LFS2006b	22.6%	42.1%	37.3%	38.4%	38.4%	44.8%	32.3%	38.6%	55.4%	37.3%

Table 29 Broad unemployment rates by age category, 1995 – 2006

Year	Broad unemployment rate					Share of unemployed				
	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-65	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-65
OHS1995	53.1%	34.1%	22.0%	18.1%	14.0%	30.1%	40.0%	19.0%	8.3%	2.5%
OHS1996	52.8%	37.9%	26.2%	22.0%	15.5%	26.9%	39.9%	21.3%	9.3%	2.5%
OHS1997	57.6%	41.4%	28.2%	22.9%	16.6%	25.8%	41.4%	21.2%	9.2%	2.4%
OHS1998	59.6%	41.9%	27.6%	22.8%	19.1%	28.7%	40.9%	19.4%	8.4%	2.7%
OHS1999	58.0%	40.0%	27.5%	20.3%	15.5%	30.5%	39.8%	19.9%	7.6%	2.3%
LFS2000a	55.0%	41.1%	25.4%	19.8%	13.4%	33.1%	39.5%	17.5%	7.5%	2.5%
LFS2000b	58.0%	38.6%	24.5%	18.3%	11.9%	34.0%	38.5%	17.1%	8.0%	2.4%
LFS2001a	62.3%	40.8%	25.3%	19.8%	13.7%	35.3%	38.0%	16.2%	7.9%	2.5%
LFS2001b	66.6%	44.4%	28.7%	23.1%	17.6%	34.3%	38.1%	16.8%	8.2%	2.6%
LFS2002a	66.2%	44.5%	28.5%	23.0%	17.0%	34.9%	37.9%	16.3%	8.2%	2.6%
LFS2002b	68.3%	44.5%	30.2%	25.9%	18.6%	34.1%	37.2%	16.9%	9.1%	2.7%
LFS2003a	71.1%	45.0%	29.3%	24.9%	20.0%	35.4%	37.3%	15.9%	8.6%	2.8%
LFS2003b	70.6%	44.0%	29.6%	23.1%	16.9%	36.0%	37.5%	16.2%	8.0%	2.3%
LFS2004a	70.6%	44.3%	29.3%	23.7%	17.5%	35.5%	37.8%	15.9%	8.2%	2.5%
LFS2004b	68.3%	44.1%	30.3%	22.2%	15.5%	34.3%	38.6%	16.9%	8.0%	2.3%
LFS2005a	68.8%	44.0%	28.5%	22.0%	16.9%	34.5%	38.8%	15.9%	8.0%	2.8%
LFS2005b	65.2%	42.1%	28.5%	21.4%	14.6%	34.0%	38.7%	16.6%	8.3%	2.4%
LFS2006a	65.9%	41.9%	28.7%	21.7%	14.5%	34.4%	38.5%	16.3%	8.4%	2.5%
LFS2006b	63.7%	40.3%	27.8%	20.4%	13.6%	33.7%	38.6%	16.9%	8.4%	2.4%

Table 30 Broad unemployment rates by educational attainment, 1995 – 2006

	Broad unemployment rate						% of unemployed with at least Matric*
	No schooling	Incomplete primary	Incomplete secondary	Matric	Matric + Cert/Dip	Degree	
OHS1995	34.7%	36.9%	35.3%	27.0%	7.9%	3.9%	20.8%
OHS1996	39.4%	44.2%	38.5%	27.0%	6.0%	5.4%	19.3%
OHS1997	41.2%	45.8%	40.3%	32.5%	10.0%	5.5%	21.9%
OHS1998	37.0%	43.1%	43.6%	33.9%	13.0%	5.8%	23.3%
OHS1999	34.0%	40.0%	42.4%	35.2%	15.6%	6.6%	25.7%
LFS2000a	26.4%	35.2%	40.4%	38.6%	20.6%	10.4%	27.8%
LFS2000b	28.0%	35.0%	40.0%	37.1%	16.9%	5.7%	26.1%
LFS2001a	28.2%	36.7%	42.4%	39.9%	17.1%	7.9%	28.2%
LFS2001b	37.1%	44.0%	47.7%	38.4%	19.1%	8.4%	25.5%
LFS2002a	30.6%	41.0%	48.0%	41.5%	19.5%	8.1%	27.9%
LFS2002b	35.3%	44.8%	49.6%	40.5%	18.5%	7.5%	26.5%
LFS2003a	37.2%	43.1%	49.8%	43.4%	17.4%	8.1%	28.5%
LFS2003b	37.2%	44.5%	49.9%	40.2%	17.0%	5.5%	28.3%
LFS2004a	35.3%	43.3%	49.5%	41.9%	15.5%	6.8%	29.7%
LFS2004b	34.5%	44.8%	49.1%	39.1%	14.4%	4.5%	27.6%
LFS2005a	37.0%	42.5%	48.2%	39.4%	16.1%	4.8%	29.1%
LFS2005b	34.7%	42.1%	46.0%	37.8%	13.2%	4.4%	28.8%
LFS2006a	35.7%	40.1%	46.4%	38.0%	17.0%	5.4%	30.3%
LFS2006b	33.2%	39.1%	44.5%	36.7%	13.4%	5.7%	30.2%

* Excluding people whose educational attainment is either 'others' or 'don't know' or 'unspecified'.

Table 31 Reasons why the broad unemployed are not working, selected years

	LFS 2002b	LFS 2003a	LFS 2003b	LFS 2004a	LFS 2004b	LFS 2005a	LFS 2005b	LFS 2006a	LFS 2006b
Seasonal/Contract worker	1.0%	0.7%	1.0%	0.8%	0.8%	0.7%	0.8%	0.9%	0.9%
Lack of skills	17.1%	12.4%	9.8%	8.6%	8.2%	6.1%	6.8%	5.9%	6.6%
Has found a job and will start at a later date	0.4%	0.5%	0.3%	0.2%	0.4%	0.2%	0.5%	0.5%	0.4%
Cannot find work	76.1%	81.9%	81.9%	84.2%	83.2%	86.7%	87.1%	88.4%	87.2%
Others	5.3%	4.5%	7.1%	6.2%	7.5%	6.2%	4.8%	4.4%	4.9%

Note: it is difficult to get meaningful results in earlier years because of different categories/wording of the question.

Table 32 Time since the broad unemployed last worked, LFS2006b

	1week-1month	1-6months	6-12months	1-2years	2-3years	3years or more
By race						
Black	4.0%	21.2%	10.2%	14.9%	11.8%	37.9%
Coloured	3.2%	28.0%	17.9%	15.1%	10.2%	25.7%
Indian	0.0%	26.2%	12.1%	16.0%	32.6%	13.1%
White	18.9%	22.9%	12.6%	6.3%	8.2%	31.2%
All	4.5%	22.1%	11.3%	14.6%	11.7%	35.9%
By age category						
15-24yrs	5.8%	39.9%	19.1%	19.4%	7.7%	8.1%
25-34yrs	5.9%	23.5%	13.1%	17.0%	13.0%	27.6%
35-44yrs	3.3%	17.7%	7.3%	13.3%	14.5%	43.9%
45-54yrs	2.1%	10.2%	6.0%	8.5%	8.7%	64.5%
55-65yrs	2.1%	7.8%	6.0%	5.1%	9.1%	70.0%
By educational attainment						
No schooling	4.3%	12.9%	8.5%	12.2%	9.3%	52.9%
Incomplete primary	5.1%	16.7%	9.9%	10.3%	11.0%	47.0%
Incomplete secondary	3.3%	23.4%	11.2%	15.4%	11.4%	35.4%
Matric	6.1%	23.2%	12.5%	17.0%	13.4%	27.8%
Matric + Cert/Dip	2.9%	34.6%	15.7%	14.1%	11.5%	21.3%
Degree	28.5%	26.8%	13.2%	4.5%	12.3%	14.7%

Table 33 Broad unemployed's duration of looking for work, LFS2006b

	<1month	1-6months	6-12months	1-3years	>3years
By race					
Black	8.9%	20.3%	10.8%	23.0%	37.1%
Coloured	10.7%	26.6%	20.4%	20.8%	21.4%
Indian	10.5%	34.5%	16.7%	24.0%	14.3%
White	8.6%	36.4%	18.5%	18.7%	17.9%
All	9.0%	21.3%	11.8%	22.8%	35.2%
By age category					
15-24yrs	8.7%	25.3%	16.8%	30.2%	19.1%
25-34yrs	9.2%	19.6%	9.7%	22.0%	39.5%
35-44yrs	9.6%	19.1%	8.0%	15.4%	47.9%
45-54yrs	7.4%	19.3%	10.2%	14.2%	48.9%
55-65yrs	11.1%	15.2%	7.8%	9.6%	56.4%
By educational attainment					
No schooling	13.4%	20.6%	6.6%	12.4%	47.1%
Incomplete primary	11.9%	19.9%	10.7%	16.5%	41.1%
Incomplete secondary	8.0%	22.6%	12.1%	23.0%	34.4%
Matric	9.4%	19.3%	11.9%	26.3%	33.0%
Matric + Cert/Dip	7.3%	23.2%	16.7%	22.8%	30.0%
Degree	5.9%	35.7%	6.6%	13.7%	38.2%

Table 34 Broad unemployed's action to look for work, LFS2006b

	Active action	Passive action	Try to open own business	Waiting at street side	Others
By race					
Black	73.1%	10.7%	1.5%	13.0%	1.7%
Coloured	81.3%	12.2%	1.0%	4.0%	1.6%
Indian	90.4%	4.7%	0.0%	3.1%	1.9%
White	91.3%	4.6%	1.3%	0.0%	2.9%
All	74.3%	10.6%	1.5%	11.9%	1.7%
By age category					
15-24yrs	75.2%	10.0%	1.0%	11.9%	1.8%
25-34yrs	76.8%	8.3%	1.6%	11.7%	1.6%
35-44yrs	72.1%	13.0%	2.1%	11.3%	1.5%
45-54yrs	63.5%	18.7%	2.0%	13.0%	2.8%
55-65yrs	70.5%	13.4%	1.9%	13.5%	0.7%
By educational attainment					
No schooling	62.6%	20.0%	1.4%	14.6%	1.5%
Incomplete primary	63.5%	17.0%	1.4%	16.1%	1.9%
Incomplete secondary	71.7%	10.5%	1.6%	14.2%	2.0%
Matric	83.1%	7.8%	1.0%	6.8%	1.3%
Matric + Cert/Dip	85.3%	4.8%	6.4%	3.3%	0.4%
Degree	97.5%	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%	0.7%

Active action: waited/registered at employment agency, enquired at workplaces, or placed/answered advertisements.
 Passive action: sought assistance from relatives or friends.

Table 35 Households' income source by number of employed and broad unemployed household members, LFS2004b

	Number of employed in the household					
	0	1	2	3	4+	All
Salaries and/or wages	2.9%	83.4%	89.5%	89.5%	87.4%	62.8%
Remittances	41.8%	2.8%	1.0%	1.3%	0.9%	13.0%
Pensions and grants	41.4%	5.2%	2.8%	4.4%	1.2%	14.6%
Sales of farm products	0.1%	1.2%	1.0%	0.9%	3.6%	0.9%
Other non-farm income	7.0%	7.2%	5.7%	3.9%	7.0%	6.8%
No income	6.9%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	Number of broad unemployed in the household					
	0	1	2	3	4+	All
Salaries and/or wages	74.4%	52.1%	34.6%	44.4%	38.6%	62.8%
Remittances	7.5%	20.6%	21.8%	15.4%	16.9%	13.0%
Pensions and grants	9.9%	15.7%	32.2%	29.6%	32.5%	14.6%
Sales of farm products	0.9%	0.9%	0.6%	0.2%	2.6%	0.9%
Other non-farm income	6.7%	6.9%	6.8%	7.8%	5.8%	6.8%
No income	0.6%	3.9%	4.1%	2.6%	3.6%	2.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Figures

Figure 1 Labour force participation rate, 1995 – 2006

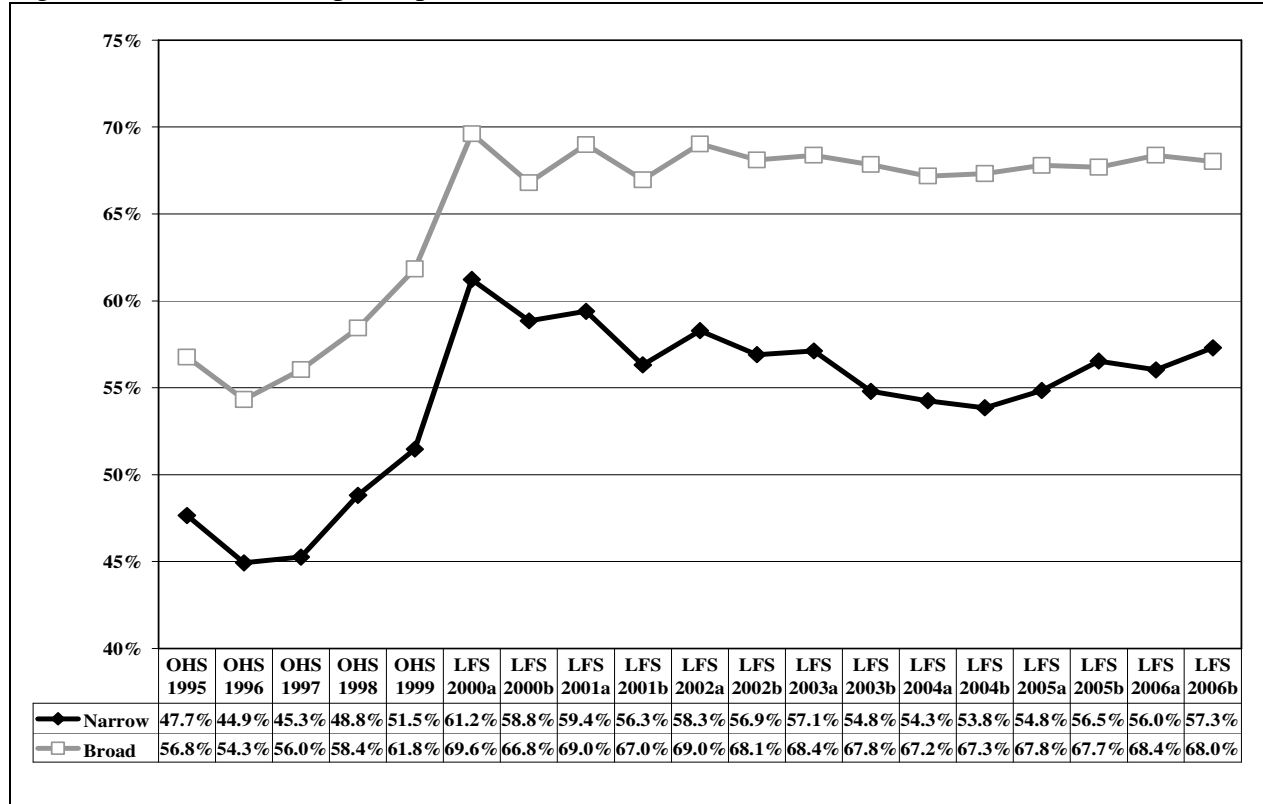


Figure 2 Labour force participation rates by gender, 1995 – 2006

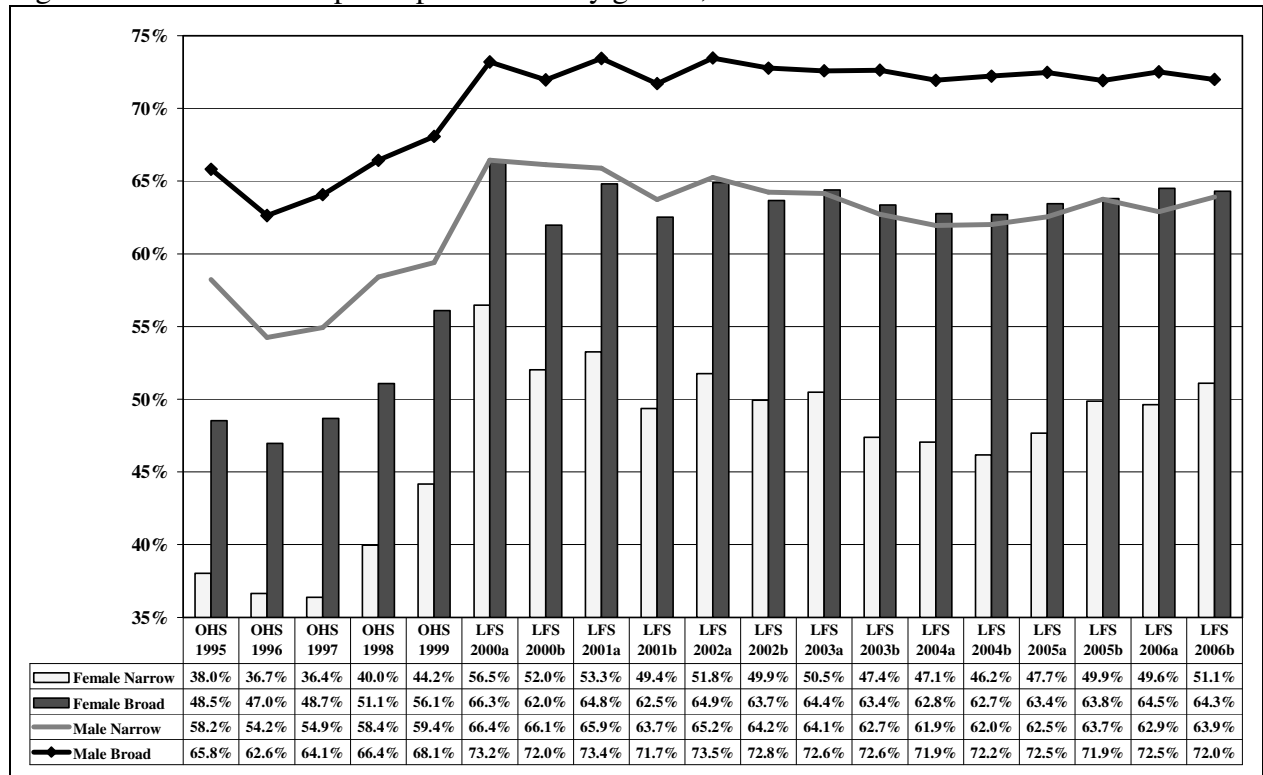


Figure 3 Broad labour force participation rates by race, 1995 – 2006

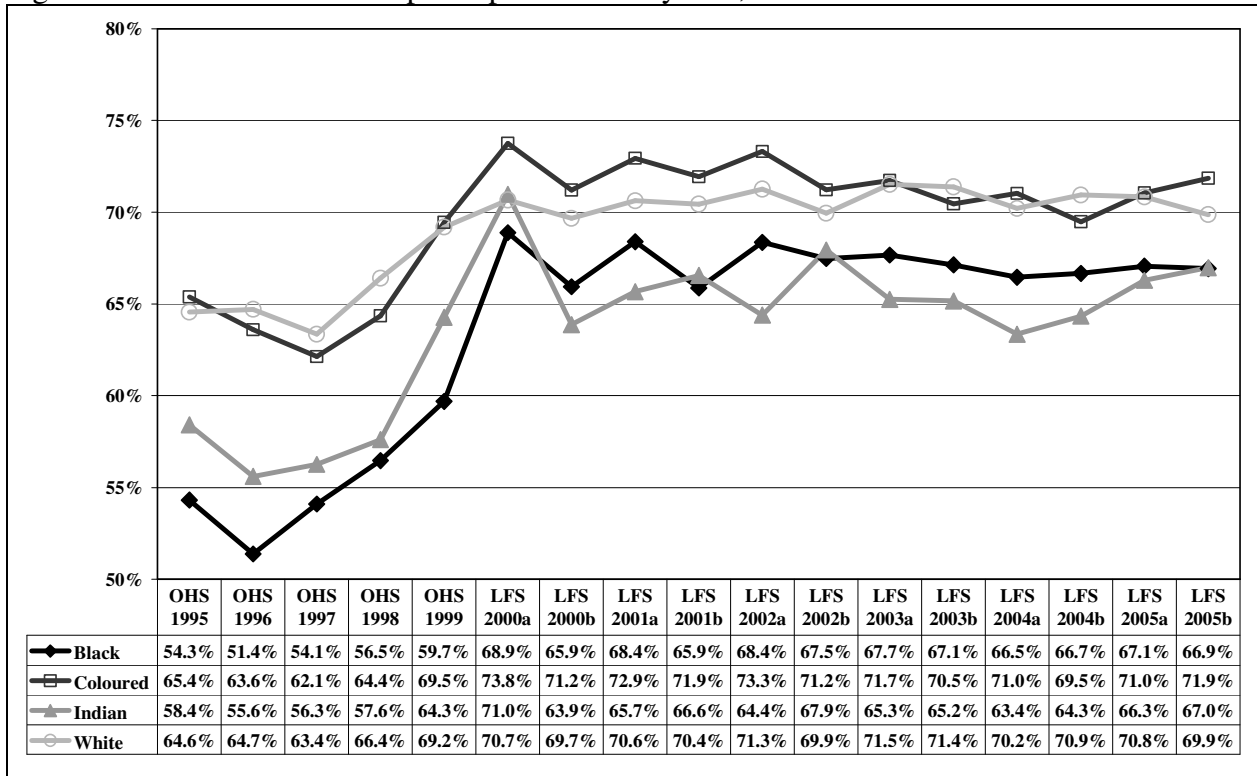


Figure 4 (Broad male labour force participation rate – broad female labour force participation rate) difference by race, 1995 – 2006

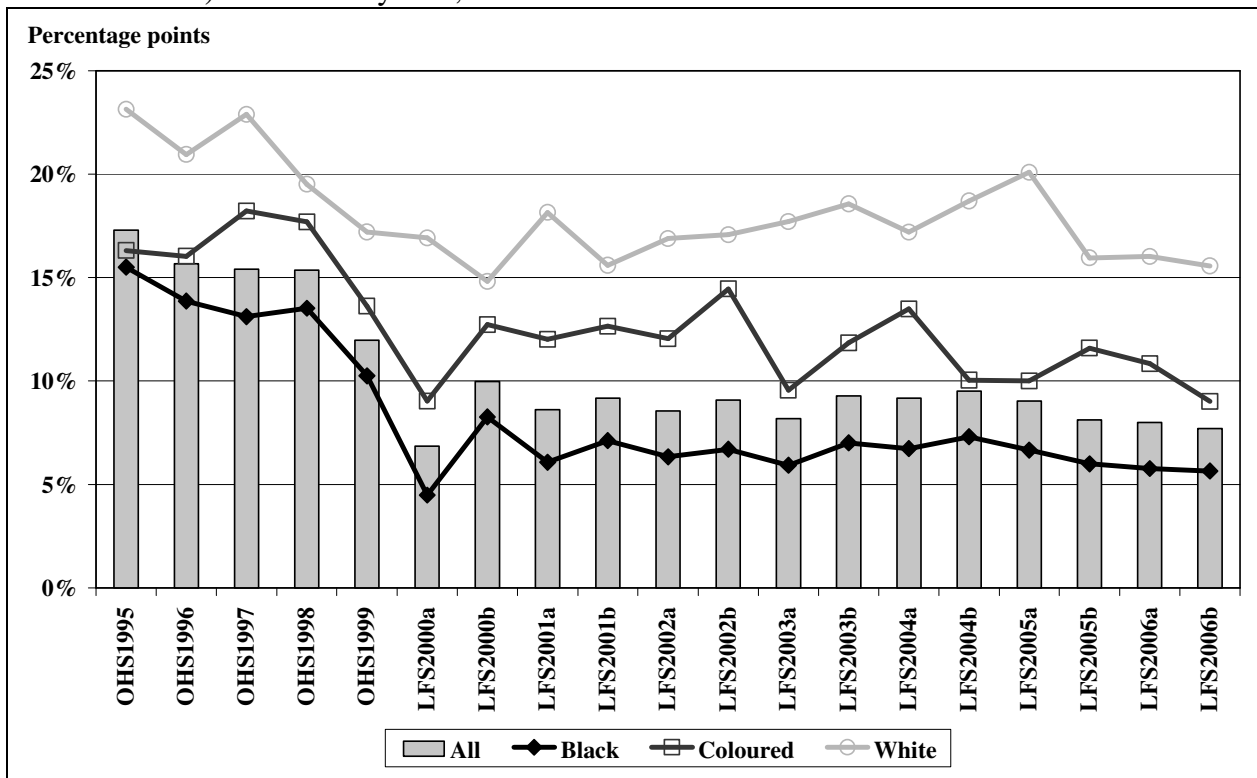


Figure 5 Broad labour force by age category, LFS2006b

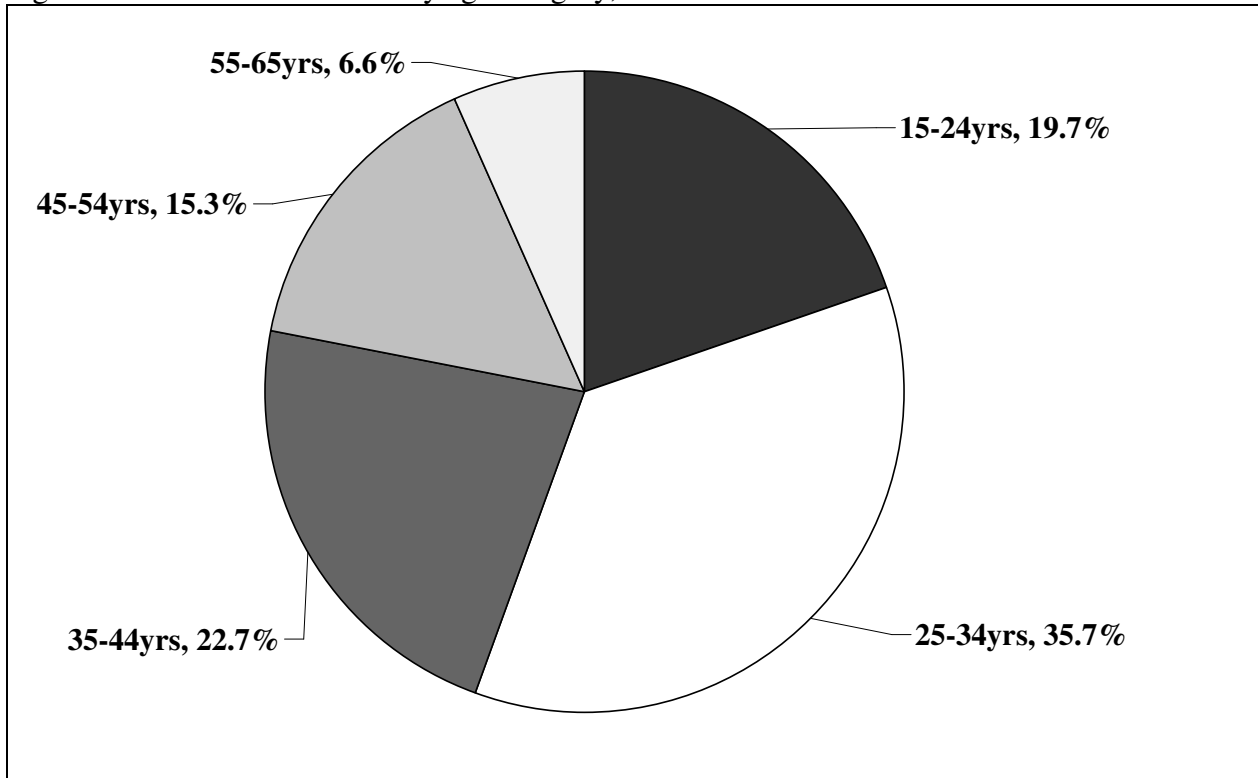
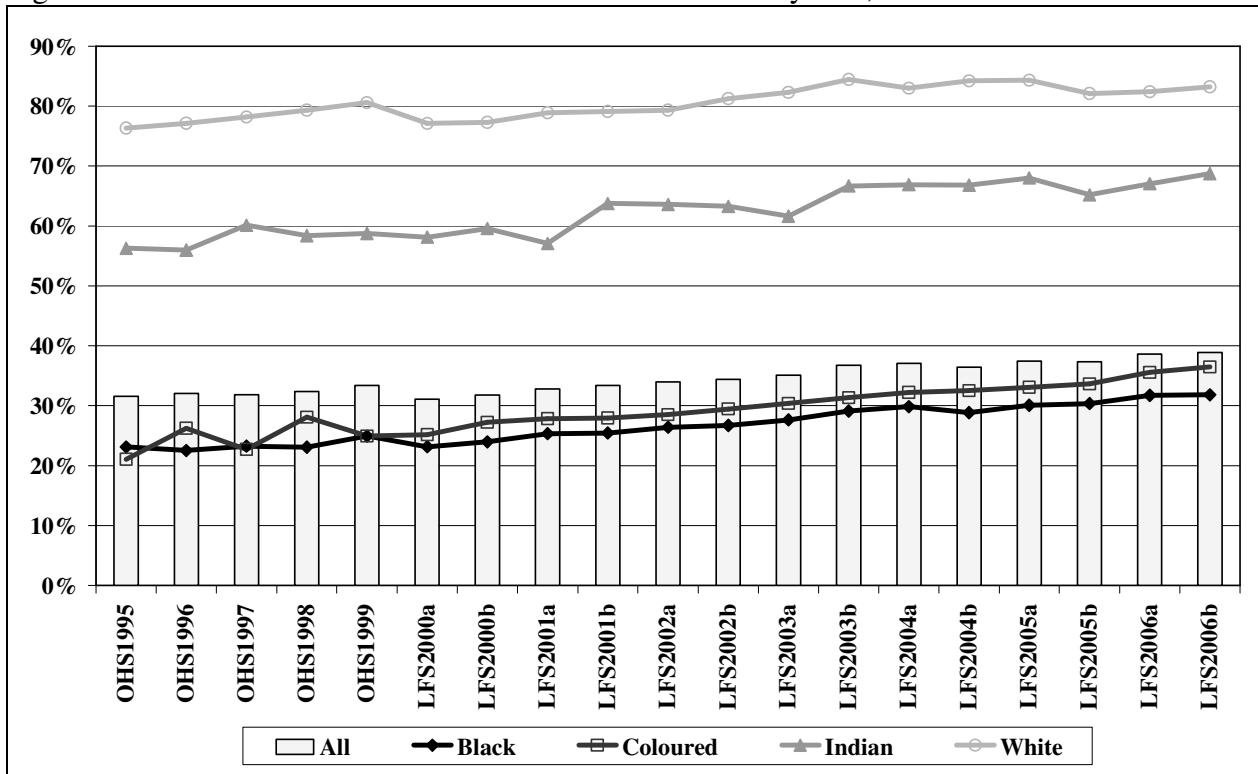
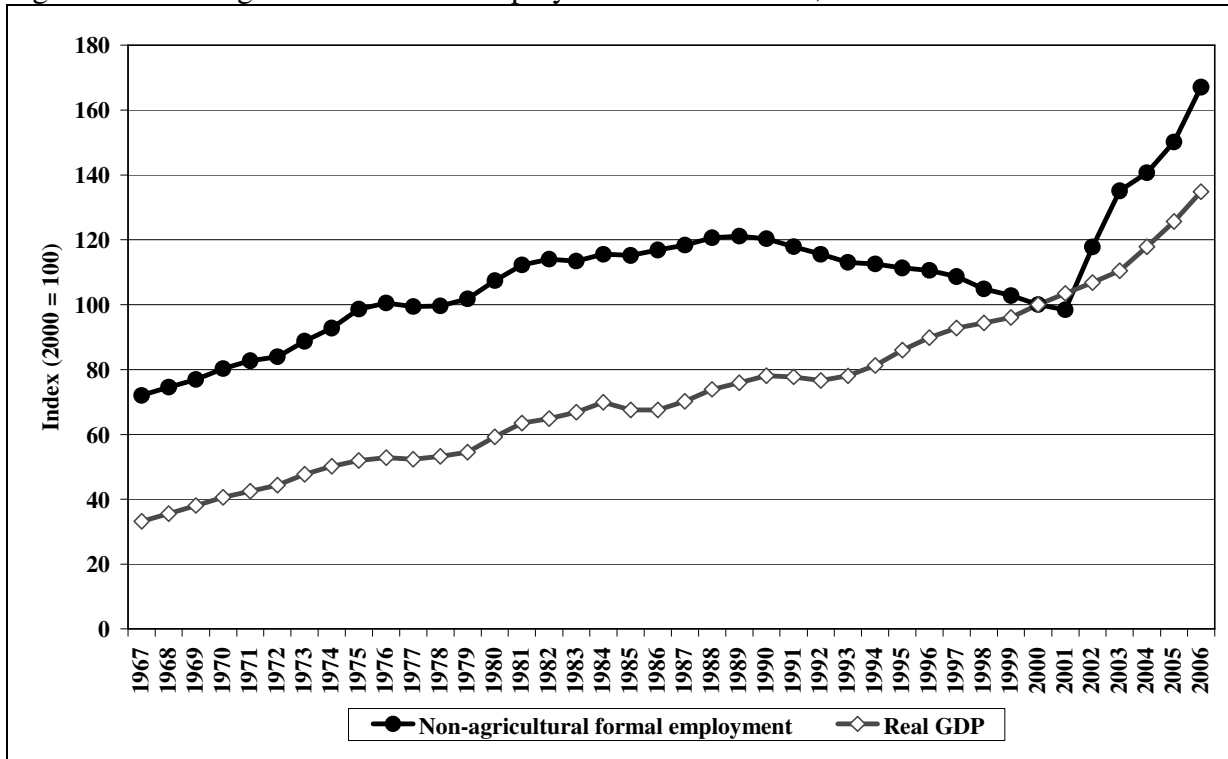


Figure 6 Share of broad labour force with at least Matric by race, 1995 – 2006



* Excluding people whose educational attainment is either 'others' or 'don't know' or 'unspecified'.

Figure 7 Non-agricultural formal employment and real GDP, 1967 – 2006

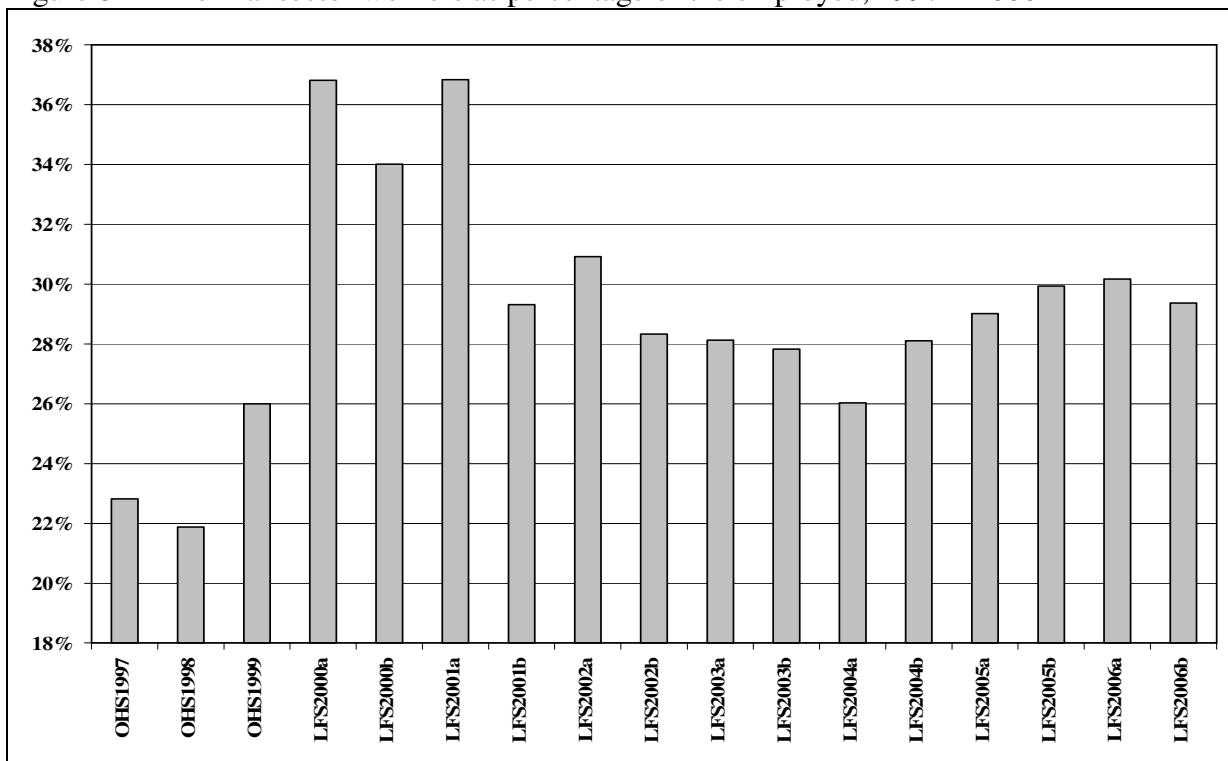


Data source: South African Reserve Bank Website. Available: <http://www.reservebank.co.za/>

* Non-agricultural formal employment index (Index in 2000 = 100) – Code: KBP7009J

* Real GDP (2000 prices) – Code: KBP6006Y (Real GDP is converted into an index, and the index in 2000 = 100)

Figure 8 Informal sector workers as percentage of the employed, 1997 – 2006



* Subsistence agriculture workers and domestic workers are included in the informal sector workers.

* Excluding people whose sector is either 'don't know' or 'unspecified'.

Figure 9 Provincial share of employment, LFS2006b

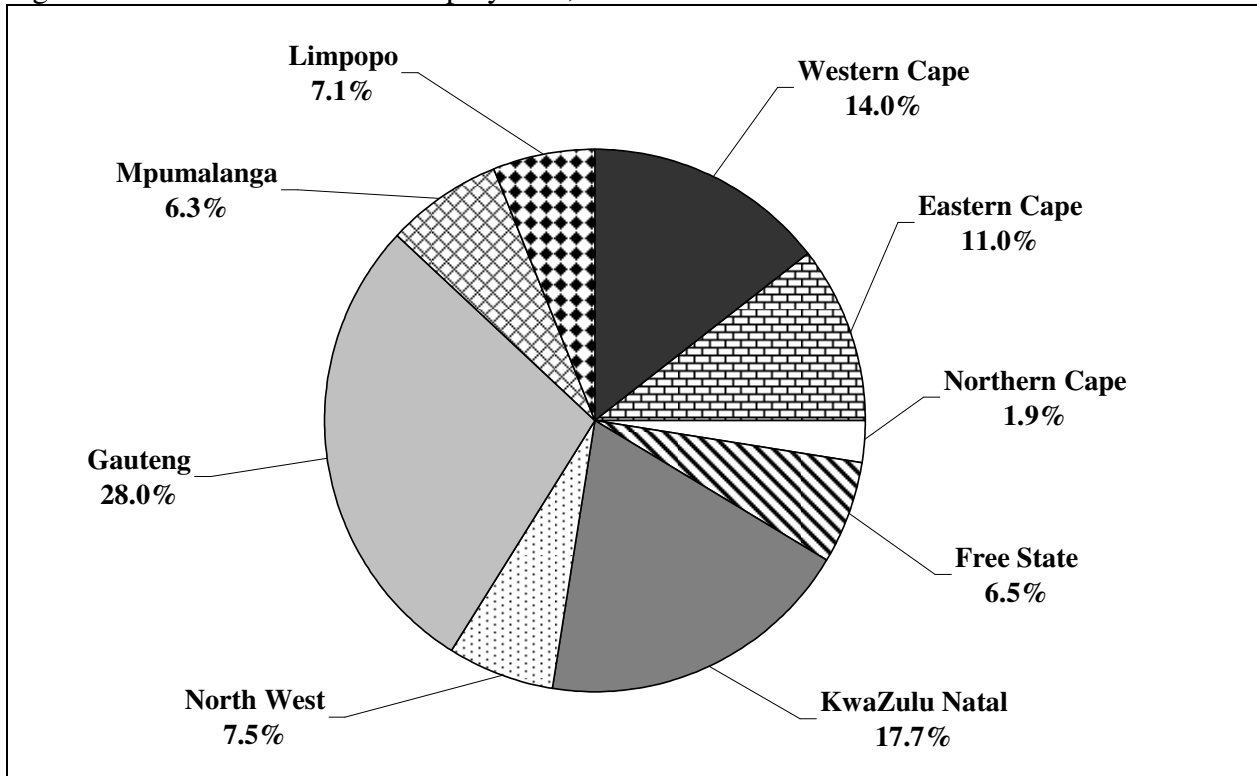
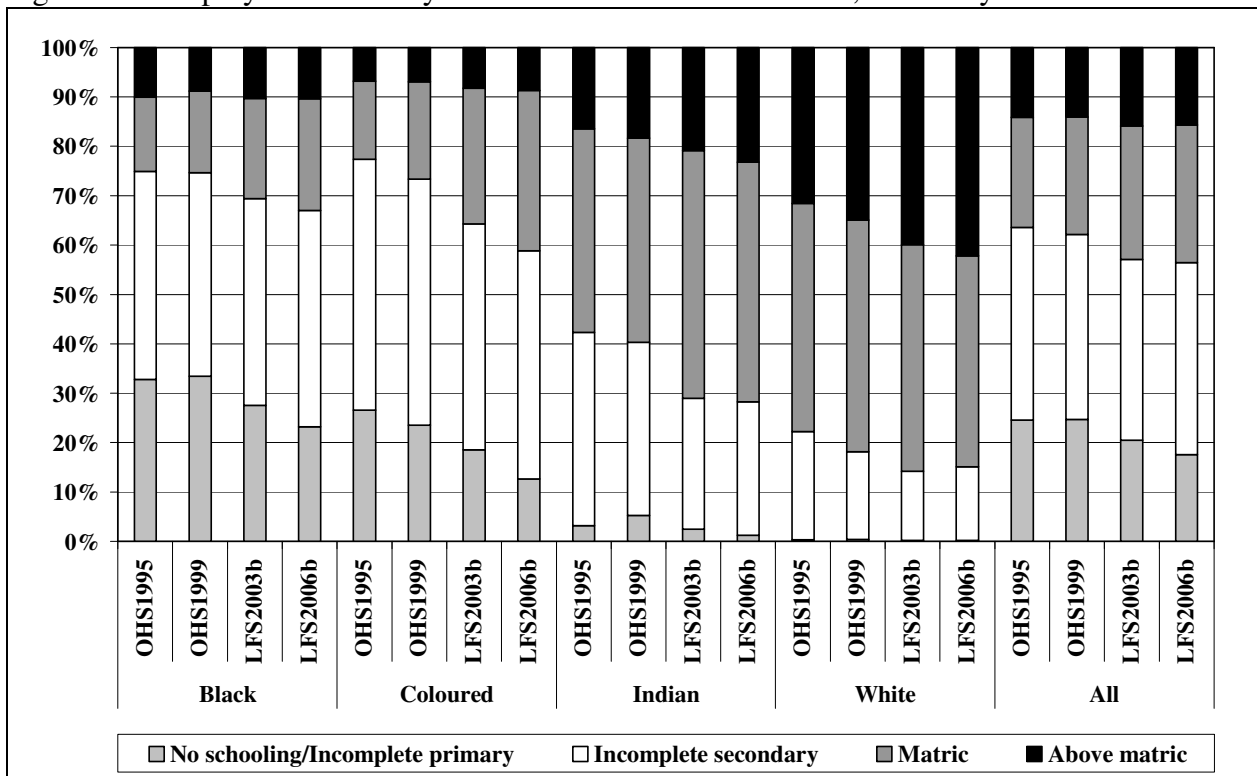
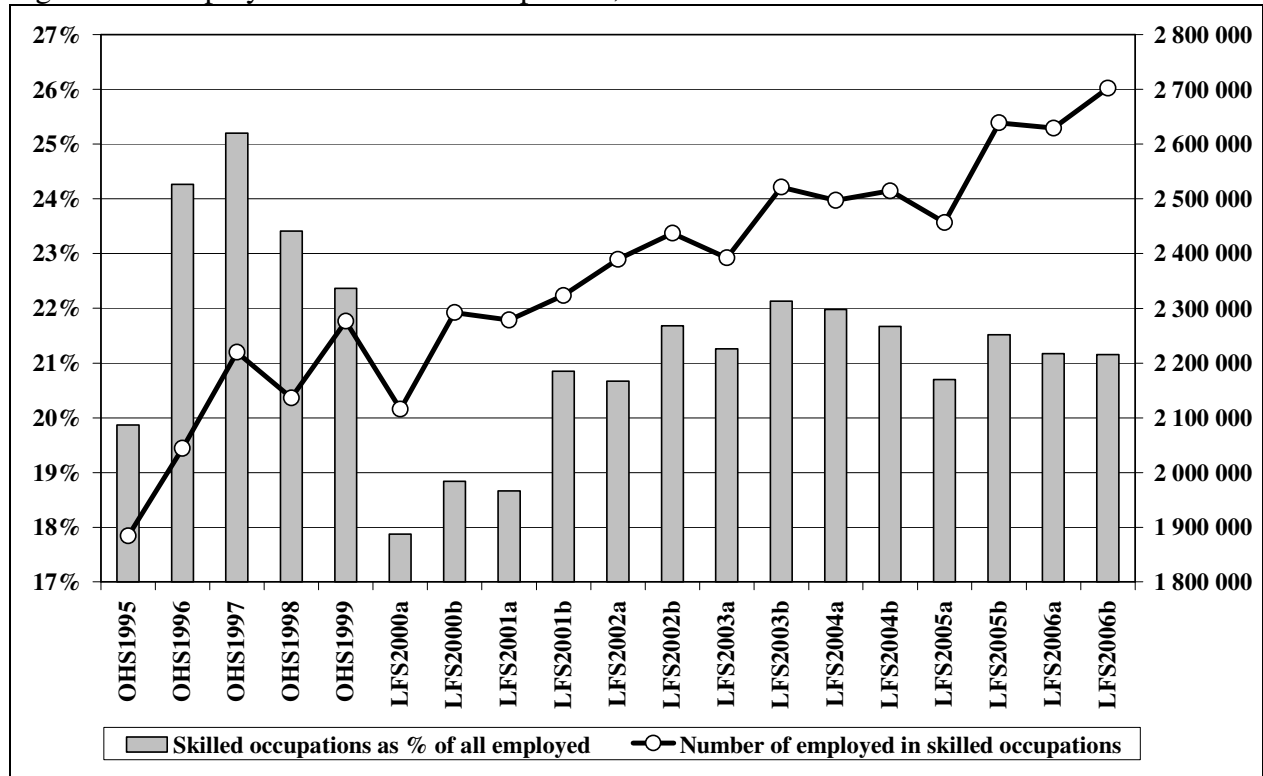


Figure 10 Employment share by race and educational attainment, selected years



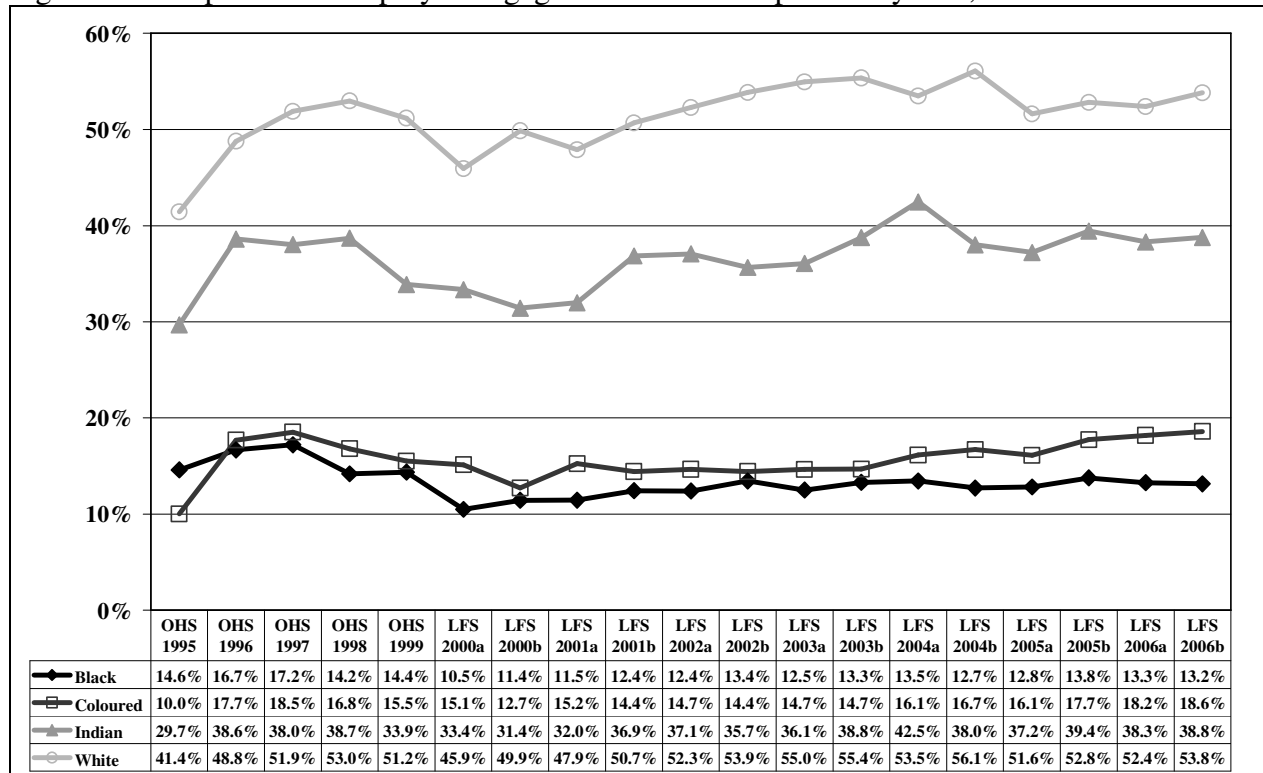
* Excluding people whose educational attainment is either 'others' or 'don't know' or 'unspecified'.

Figure 11 Employment in skilled occupations, 1995 – 2006



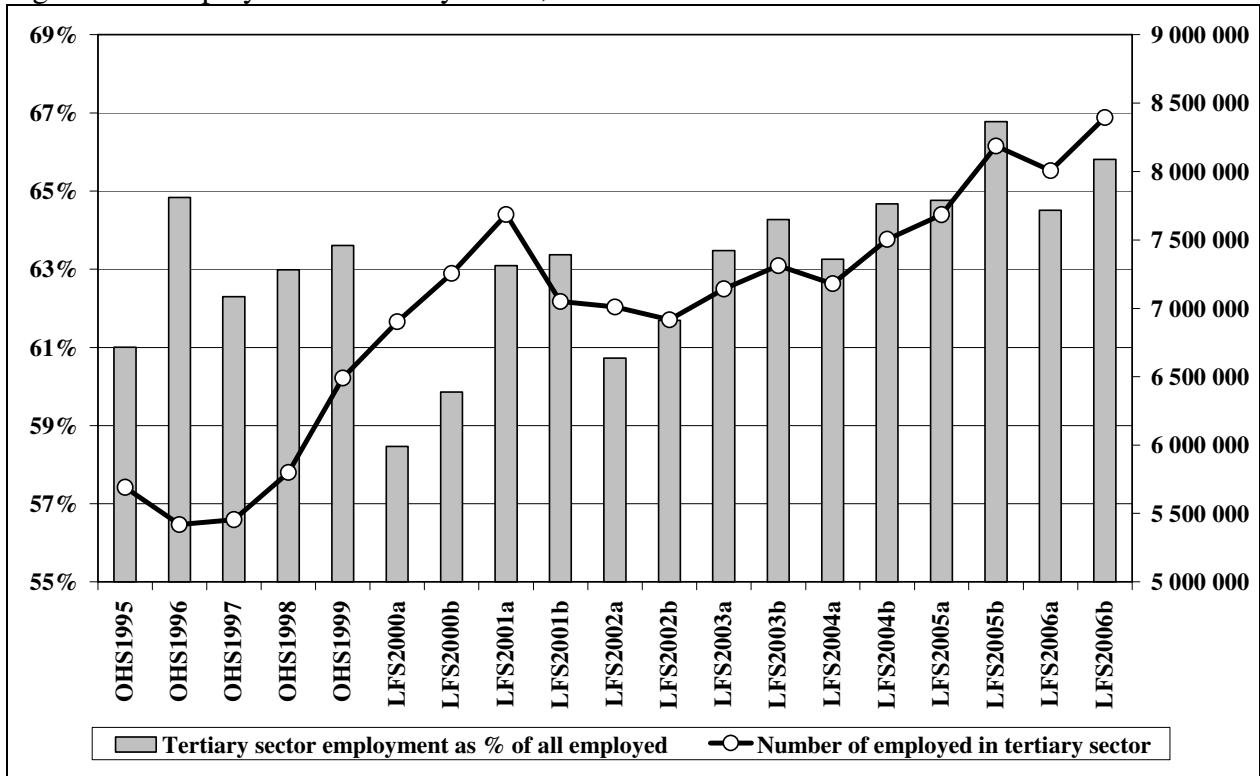
Note: the employed whose occupation is 'others' or 'unspecified' are excluded.

Figure 12 Proportion of employed engaged in skilled occupations by race, 1995 – 2006



Note: the employed whose occupation is 'others' or 'unspecified' are excluded.

Figure 13 Employment in tertiary sector, 1995 – 2006



Note: the employed whose industry is 'others' or 'unspecified' are excluded.

Figure 14 Proportion of workers willing to work longer, by usual weekly work hours category, LFS2006b

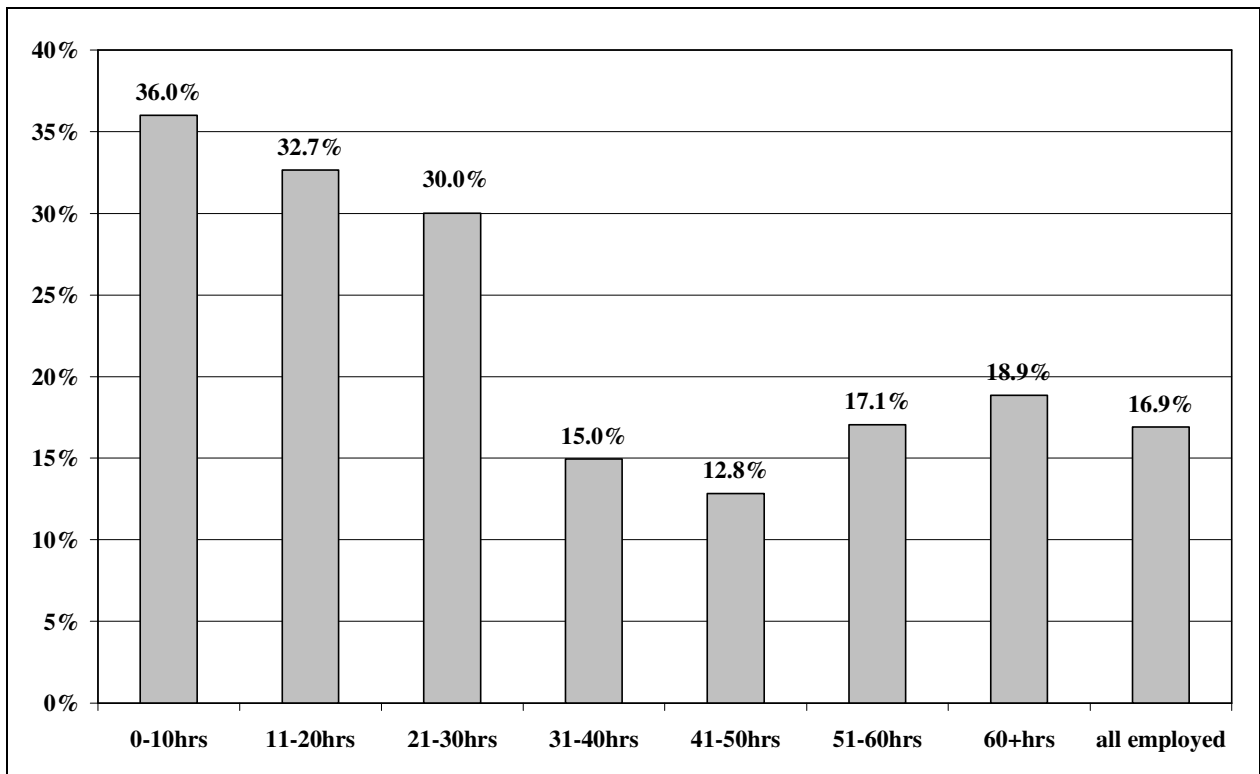


Figure 15 Proportion of employees with permanent work status by educational attainment, selected years

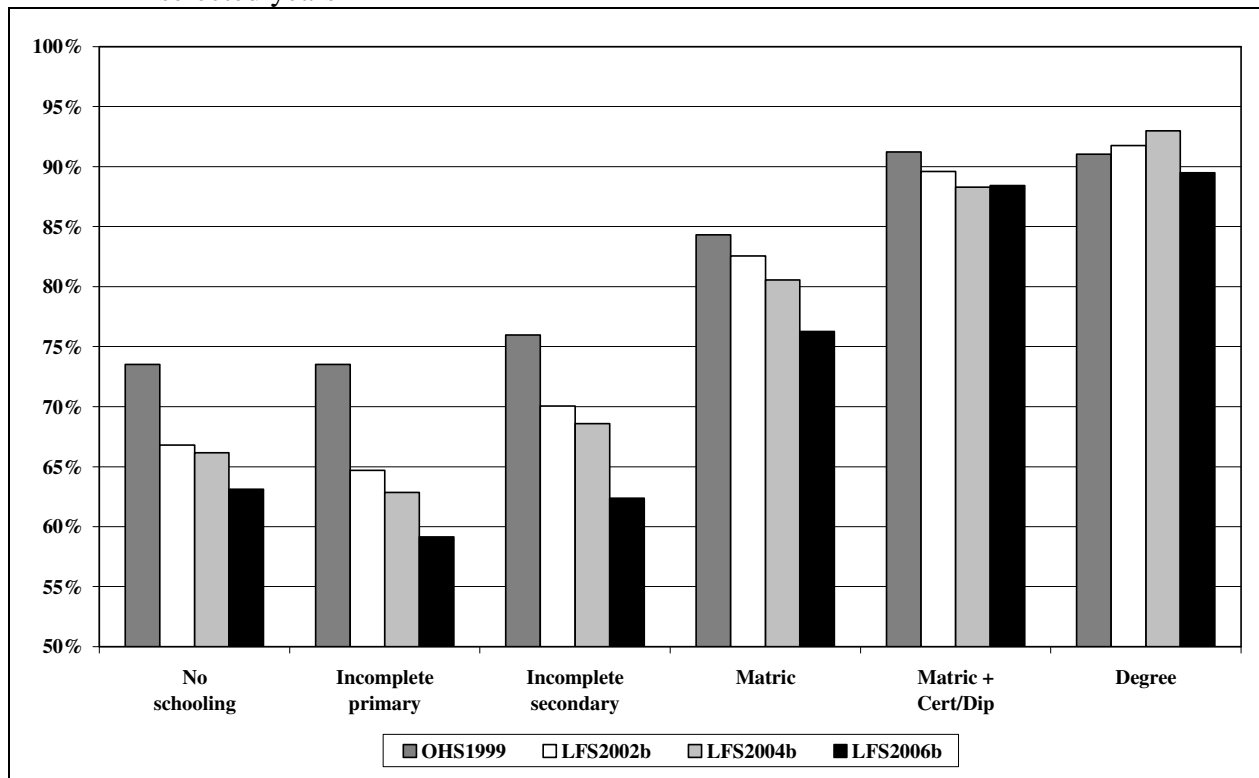


Figure 16 Proportion of employees with union membership by educational attainment, selected years

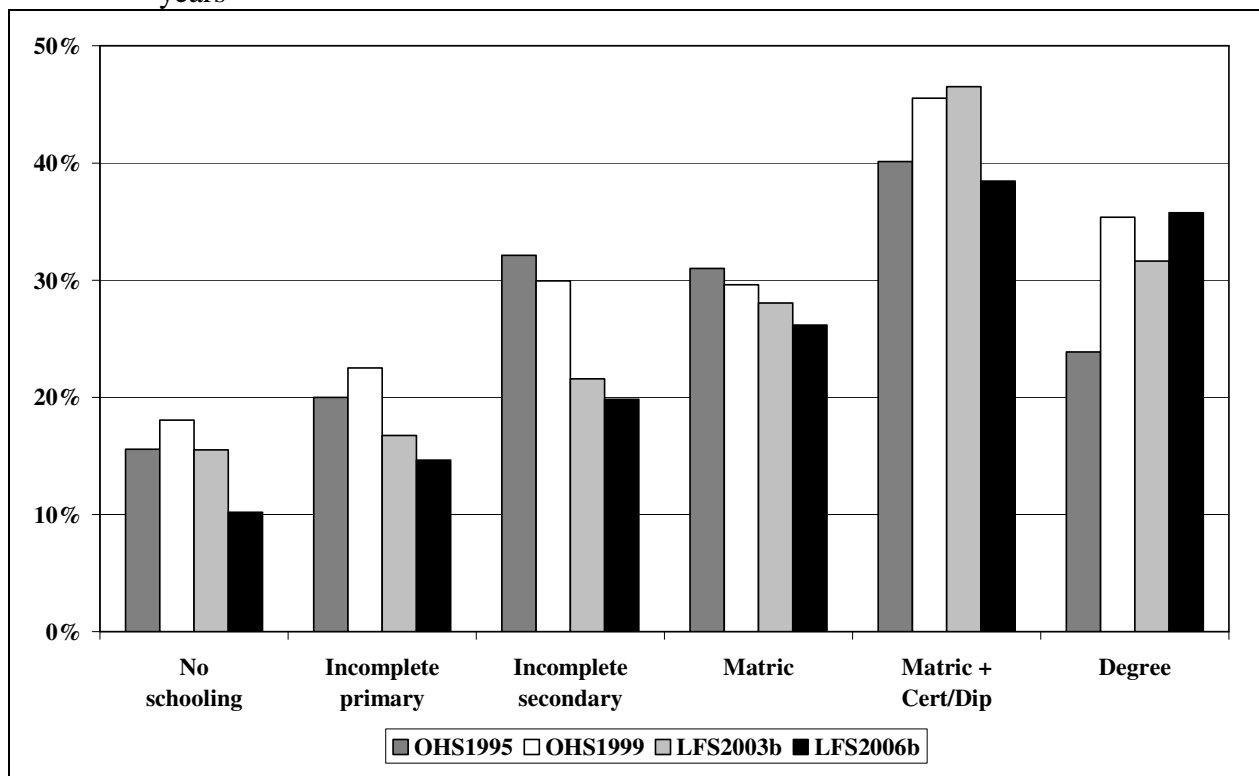


Figure 17 Unemployment rates, 1995 – 2006

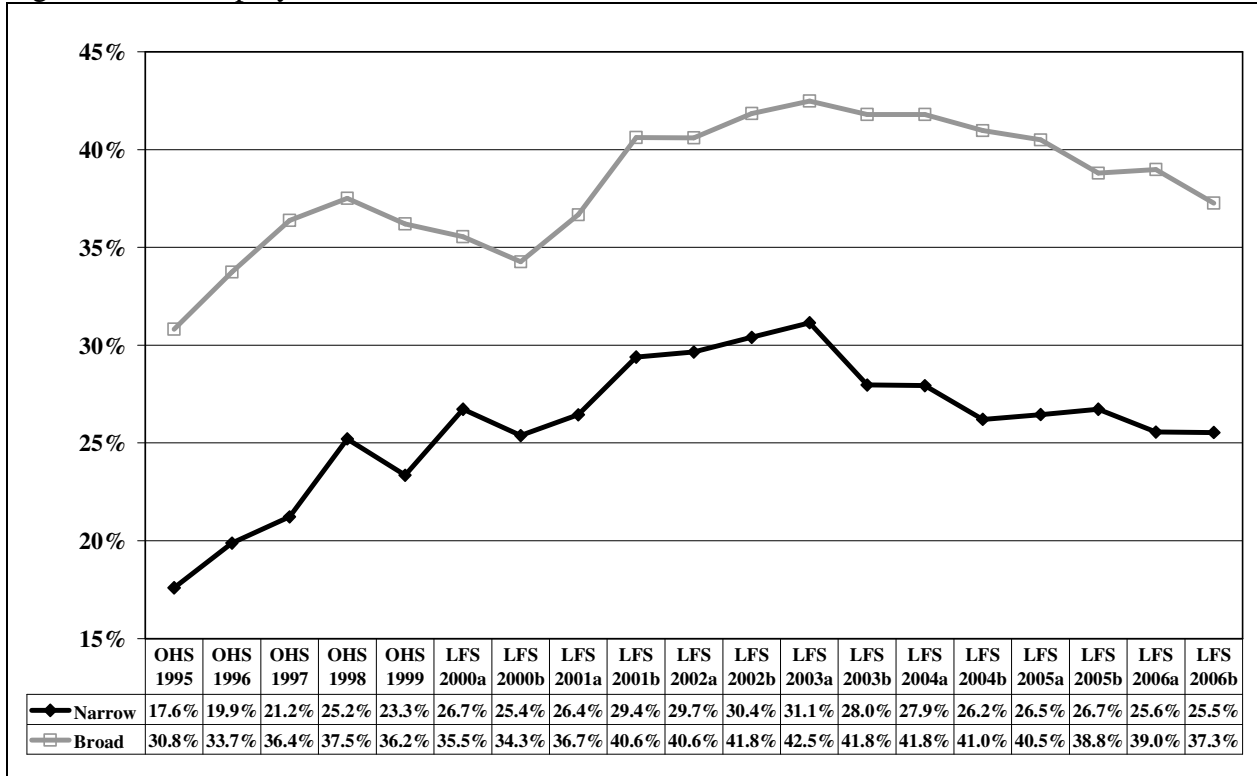


Figure 18 Unemployment rates by gender, 1995 – 2006

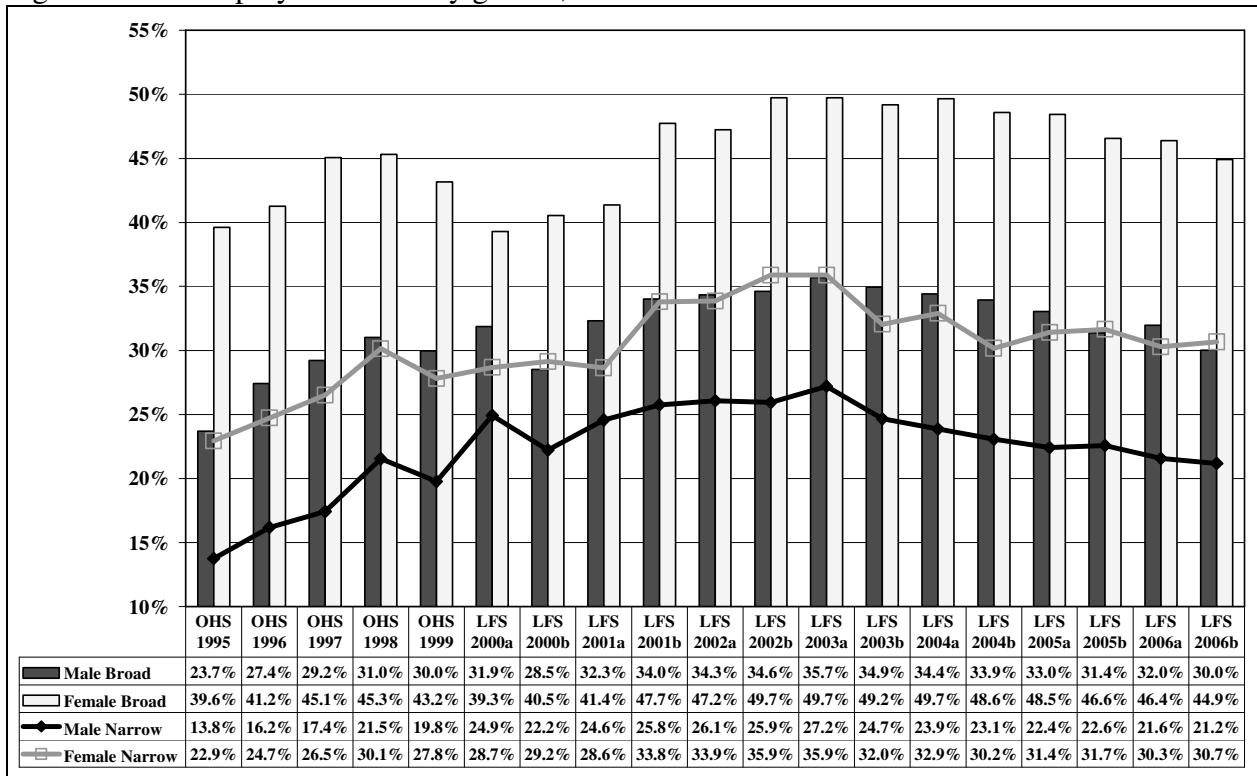


Figure 19 Broad unemployment rates by race, 1995 – 2006

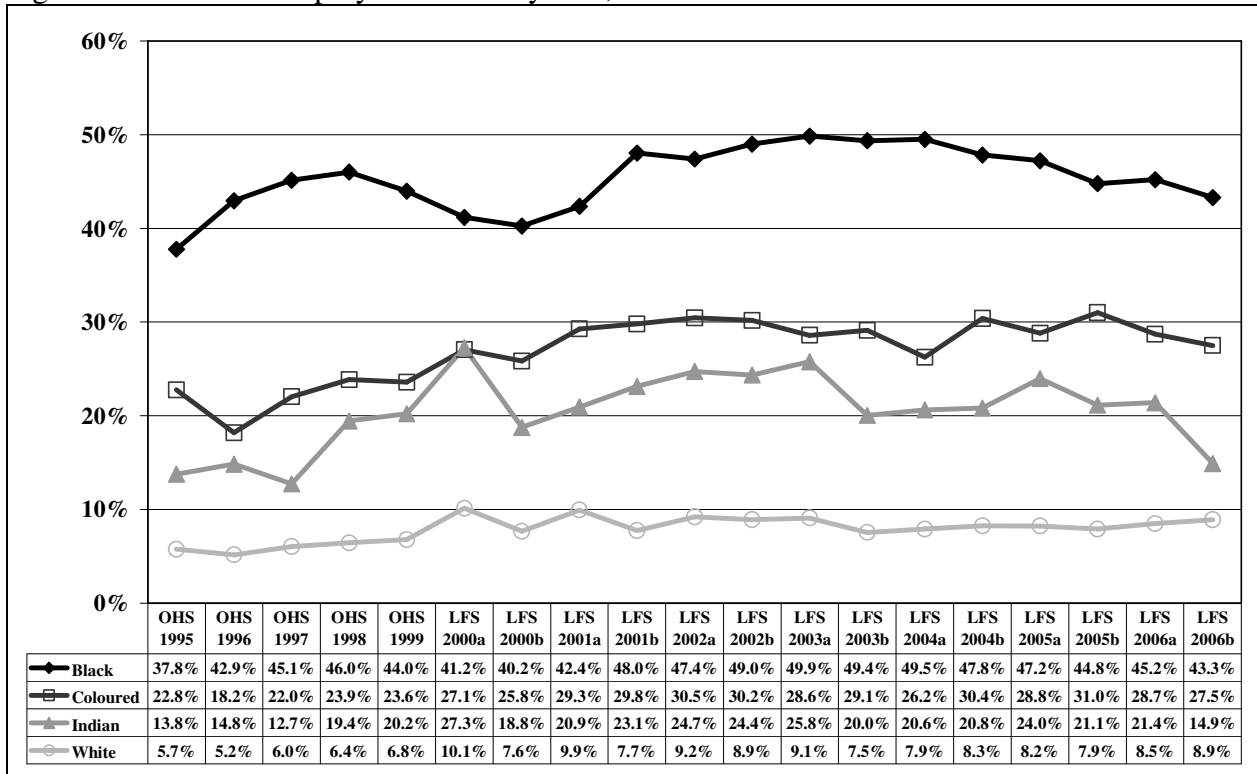
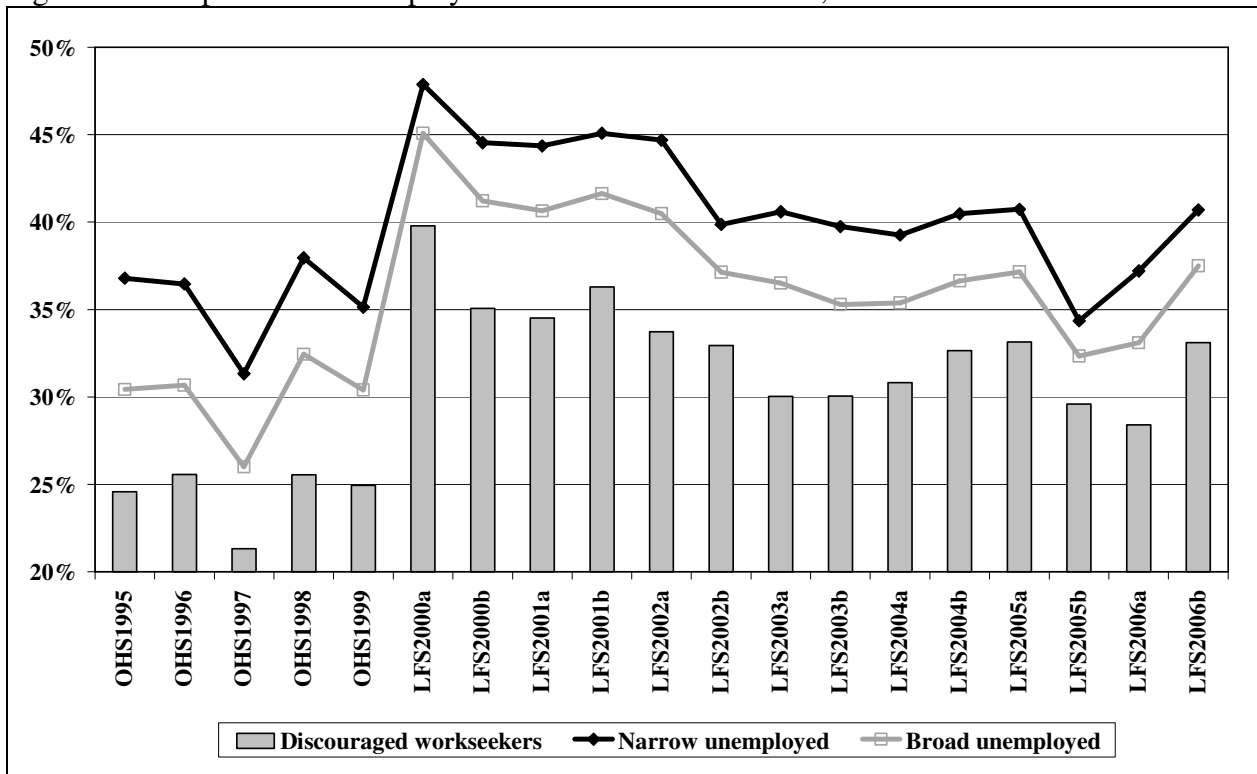


Figure 20 Proportion of unemployed who have worked before, 1995 – 2006



Note: the unemployed who did not answer this question are excluded.

Figure 21 Distribution of broad unemployed by number of employed in the household, 1995 – 2006

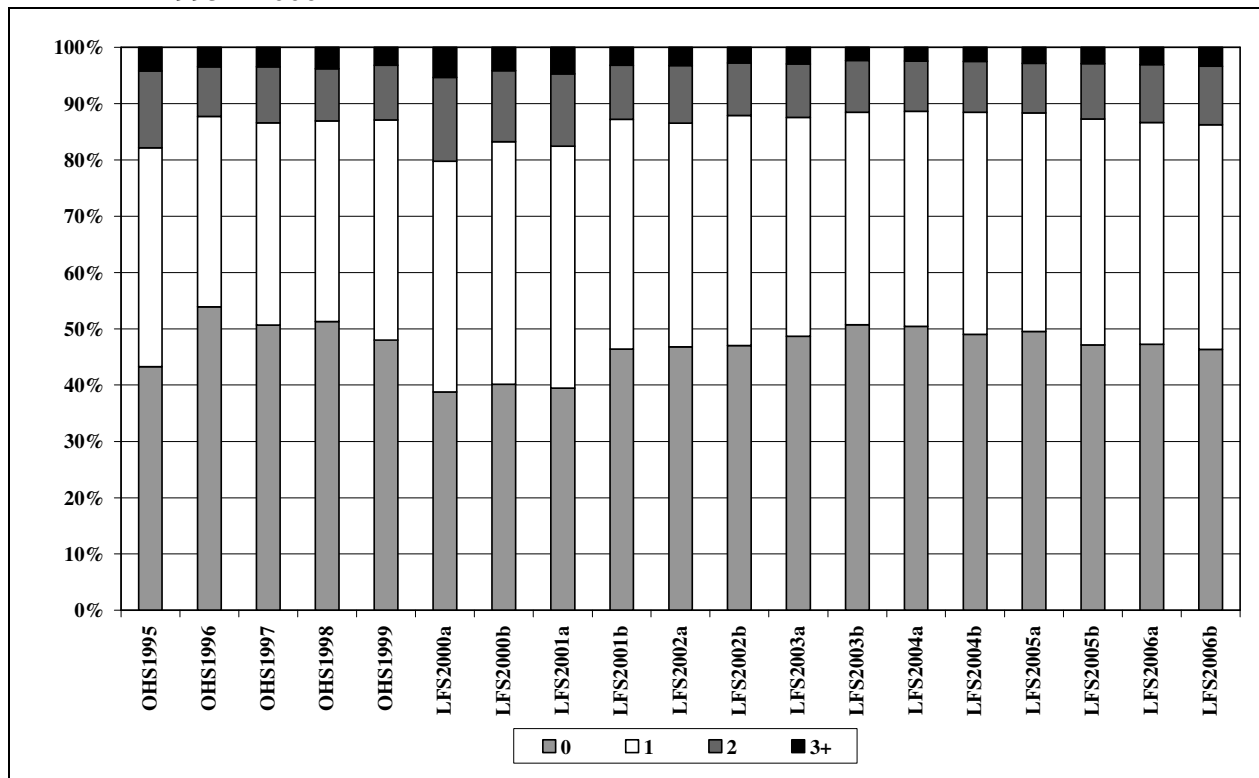


Figure 22 Distribution of broad unemployed by the number of employed in the household and race, LFS2006b

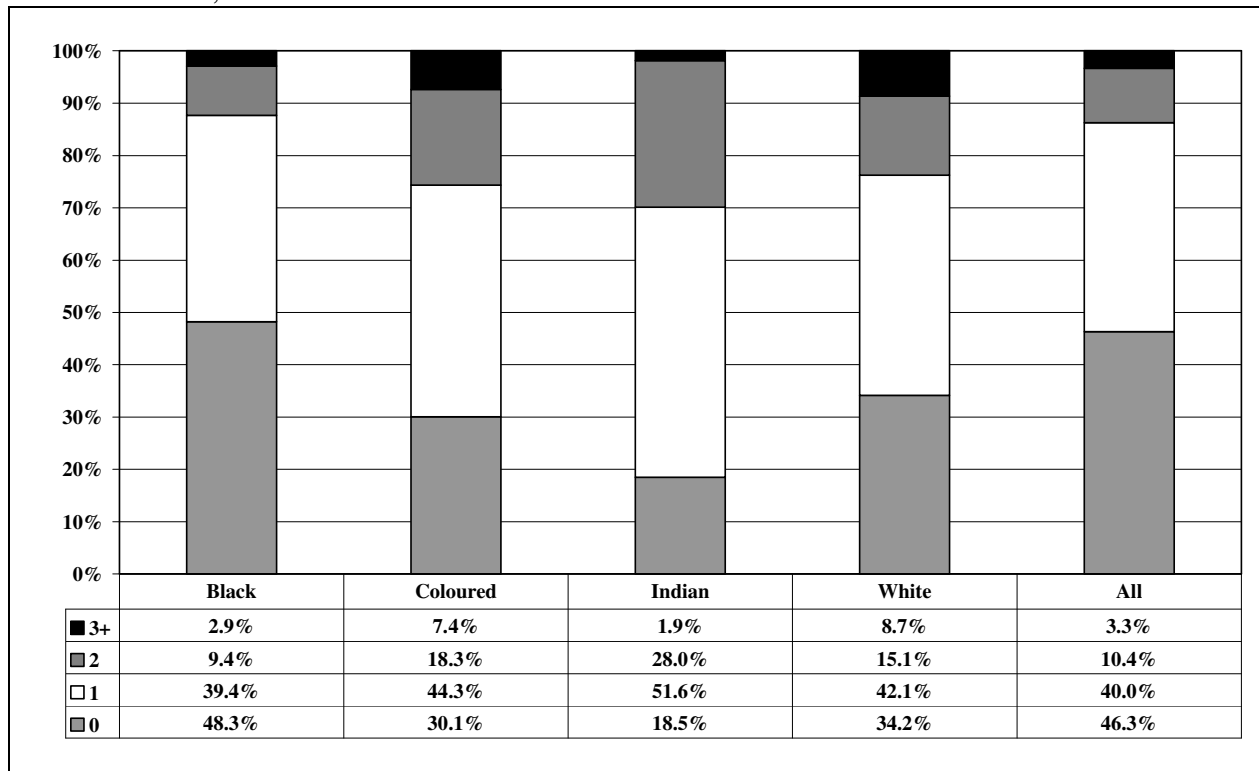


Figure 23 Percentage of households with access to at least one type of welfare grant by the number of broad unemployed household members, selected years

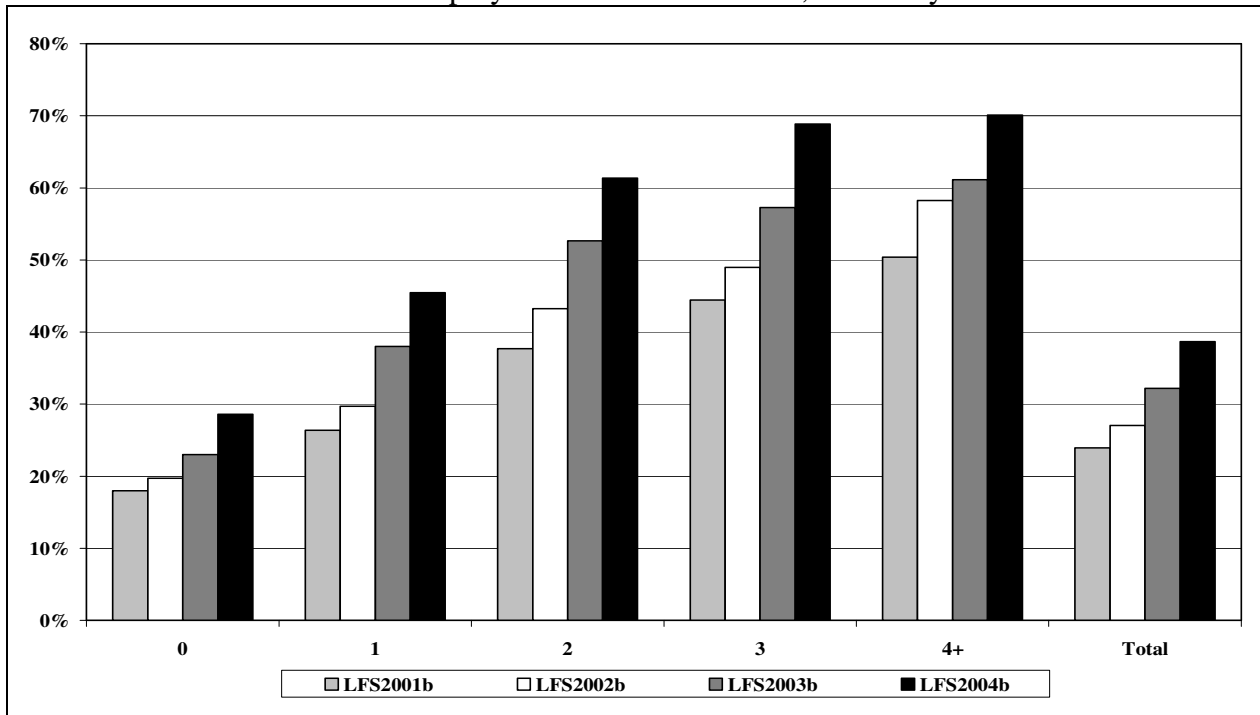
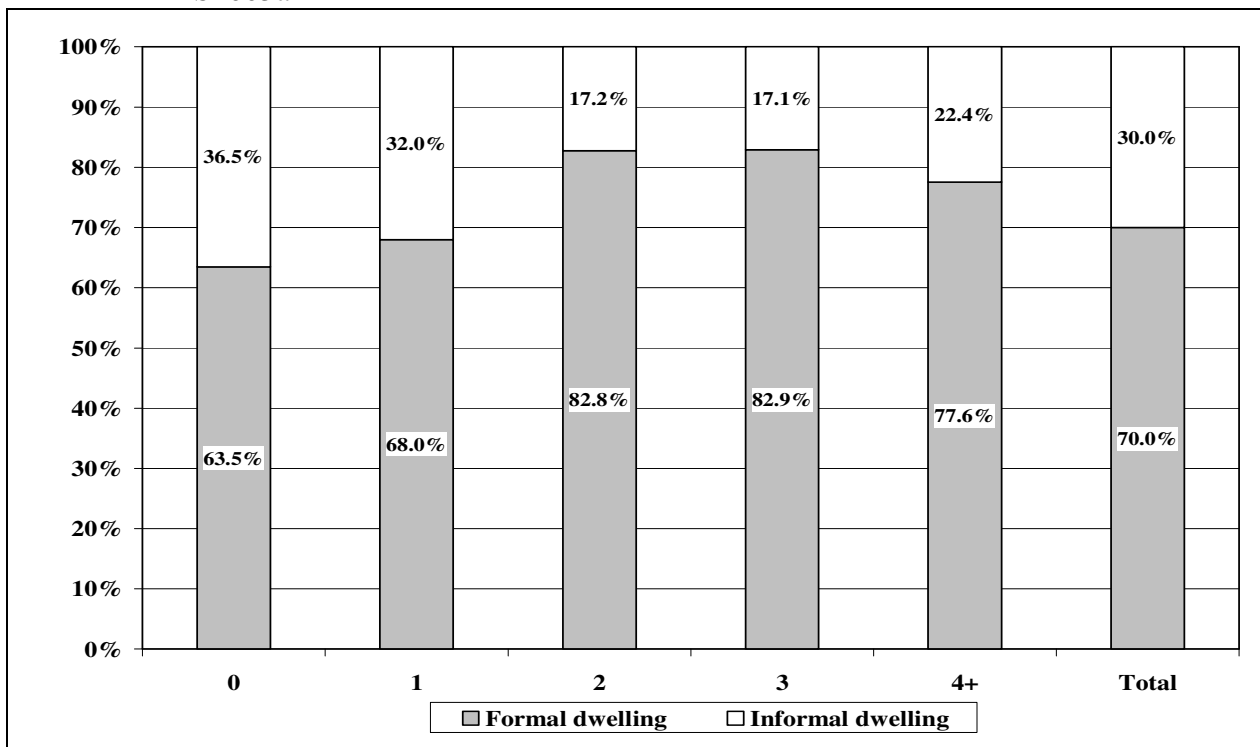


Figure 24 Households' main dwelling type by the number of employed household members, LFS2005a



Note: The question on the dwelling type was last asked in LFS2005a.

* Formal dwelling includes the following: dwelling or brick structure on a separate stand/yard/farm, flat in a block of flats, town/cluster/semi-detached house, unit in retirement village, dwelling/flat/room in backyard, and room/flatlet.

* Informal dwelling includes the following: traditional dwelling/huts/structure made of traditional materials, informal dwelling in backyard, informal dwelling not in backyard, and caravan/tents.