

## GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

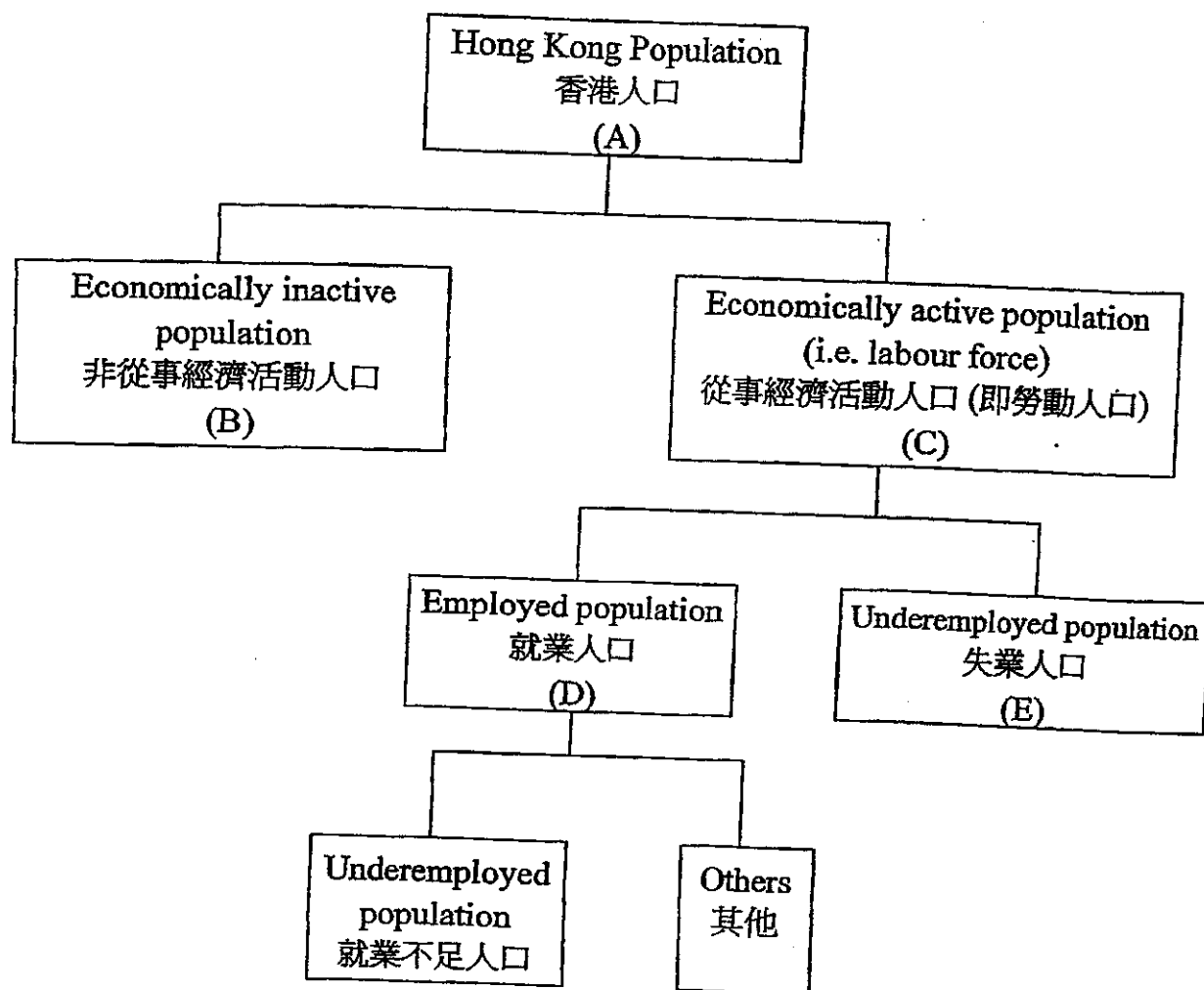
Table 2 : Number of economically inactive female persons aged 15 and over by reason for inactivity, 2001 - 2005

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
	('000)	('000)	('000)	('000)	('000)
Reason for inactivity					
Engagement in household duties	746.7	680.1	673.0	652.0	659.6
Retirement/ Old age	387.8	414.1	433.5	446.9	467.3
Attendance at educational institutions	237.8	229.1	229.3	236.7	241.7
Permanent sickness/ Disablement	22.8	33.4	38.1	45.8	41.8
Others	28.3	52.7	63.0	83.2	83.3
Total	1423.4	1409.4	1436.9	1464.6	1493.6

Note : Figures may not add up to the totals owing to rounding.

## Definitions of Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment

### I. Conceptual Framework of Labour Force Statistics



- The population of Hong Kong is composed of two main groups of people, viz. the economically inactive and the economically active (i.e.  $A = B + C$ ).
- Within the economically active population (also known as “labour force”), there are employed persons and unemployed persons (i.e.  $C = D + E$ ).
- Among the employed persons, a group of underemployed persons can be differentiated for further analysis.
- Persons who are neither employed nor unemployed are economically inactive persons. Such persons are mainly young children, students, retired persons and full-time home-makers (「全時間料理家務人士」)

- Statistics on the labour force, employment, unemployment and underemployment are compiled in accordance with the conceptual framework recommended by the International Labour Organization (ILO).

## II. Definitions

### The employed population

- 1) This comprises all employed persons. For a person aged 15 or over to be classified as employed, that person should:
  - a) be engaged in performing work for pay or profit during the seven days before enumeration; *or*
  - b) have formal job attachment (i.e. that the person has continued receipt of wage or salary; or has an assurance or an agreed date of return to job or business; or is in receipt of compensation without obligation to accept another job).

### The underemployed population

- 1) Within the employed population, a group of underemployed persons can be differentiated for further analysis.
- 2) The criteria for an employed person to be classified as underemployed are:

*involuntarily* working less than 35 hours during the seven days before enumeration; *and* either

  - a) has been available for additional work during the seven days before enumeration; *or*
  - b) has sought additional work during the thirty days before enumeration.
- 3) Working short hours is considered *involuntary* if it is due to slack work, material shortage, mechanical breakdown or inability to find a full-time job. Following this definition, employed persons taking no-pay leave due to slack work during the seven days before enumeration are also classified as underemployed if they worked less than 35 hours or were on leave even for the whole period during the seven-day period.

## The unemployed population

- 1) This comprises all unemployed persons. For a person aged 15 or over to be classified as unemployed, that person should:
  - a) not have had a job and should not have performed any work for pay or profit during the seven days before enumeration; *and*
  - b) have been available for work during the seven days before enumeration; *and*
  - c) have sought work during the thirty days before enumeration.

However, if a person aged 15 or over fulfils the conditions (a) and (b) above but has not sought work during the thirty days before enumeration because he/she believes that work is not available, he/she is still classified as unemployed, being regarded as a so-called 'discouraged worker'.

- 2) Notwithstanding the above, the following types of persons are also classified as unemployed:
  - a) persons without a job, have sought work but have not been available for work because of temporary sickness; *and*
  - b) persons without a job, have been available for work but have not sought work because they:
    - (i) have made arrangements to take up a new job or to start business at a subsequent date; or
    - ii) are expecting to return to their original jobs (e.g. casual workers are usually called back to work when service is needed).

## **Definitions of Domestic Household and Monthly Household Income**

### **Domestic Household**

It consists of a group of persons who live together and make common provision for essentials for living. These persons need not be related. If a person makes provision for essentials for living without sharing with other persons, he/she is also regarded as a household. In this case, the household is a one-person household.

### **Monthly Household Income**

It refers to the total cash income (including earnings from all jobs and other cash incomes) received in the last month by members of the household.