


**Labour Department (Headquarters)**

勞工處 (總處)

Your reference 來函編號 :

Our reference 本處檔案編號 : LDHQ819/1 Pt.3

Tel. number 電話號碼 : 2852 4102

Fax number 傳真機號碼 : 2544 3271

22 May 2009

Clerk to the Finance Committee  
 Legislative Council  
 3rd floor, Citibank Tower  
 3 Garden Road  
 Hong Kong

Attn: Ms Anita SIT

Dear Ms SIT,

**Unemployment statistics for ethnic minorities**

At the meeting of the Finance Committee on 8 May 2009, the Chairman asked the Administration to explore the possibility of compiling unemployment statistics for ethnic minorities in Hong Kong. Having consulted the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD), we would like to report as follows:

- (a) Statistics on unemployment are compiled based on data obtained from the General Household Survey (GHS). Since GHS does not capture information on ethnicity, there is no statistics on the unemployment rate of ethnic minorities.
- (b) Data on ethnicity is not collected in GHS as the ethnic minorities only account for a very small proportion of Hong Kong's population. According to the results of the 2006 Population By-census, the number of ethnic minorities (excluding foreign domestic helpers) only accounted for about 2.3 % of Hong Kong's population. The number of ethnic minorities found in the sample of GHS will be too small for compiling the relevant

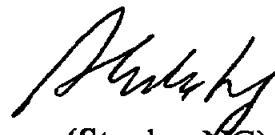
statistics. If C&SD were to enlarge the sample size of GHS to make it more representative of the ethnic minorities, the additional resources required would be quite substantial. At present, C&SD has no plan to enlarge the sample size of GHS for compiling statistics on the ethnic minorities.

(c) Data on ethnicity was collected in the Population By-census in 2006. Detailed statistics on ethnic minorities have been published in a dedicated report "2006 Population By-census Thematic Report: Ethnic minorities". In particular, the following statistics on the employment situation of ethnic minorities were included:

- (i) labour force participation rate
- (ii) working population by occupation
- (iii) working population by industry
- (iv) median monthly income from main employment

A table showing such information is annexed.

Yours sincerely,



(Stanley NG)

for Commissioner for Labour

c.c. Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury  
(Attn: Ms Bernadette Linn)

Commissioner for Census and Statistics  
(Attn: Ms Rebecca WF Siu)

## Employment of Ethnic Minorities, 2006

	Include Foreign Domestic Helpers		Exclude Foreign Domestic Helpers	
	Ethnic Minorities	Whole Population	Ethnic Minorities	Whole Population
<b>Labour force participation rate (%)</b>				
Male	82.0	69.2	81.5	69.2
Female	86.7	52.4	47.6	49.4
Both sexes	85.7	60.3	64.0	59.0
<b>Working population by occupation (%)</b>				
Managers and administrators	8.5	10.8	29.7	11.4
Professionals/Associate professionals	8.0	22.2	28.0	23.5
Clerks/Service workers and shop sales workers	6.3	33.2	21.9	35.2
Craft and related workers/Plant and machine operators and assemblers	1.8	14.7	6.1	15.6
Elementary occupations	75.4	18.8	14.2	14.0
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers: and occupations not classifiable	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.3
<b>Working population by industry (%)</b>				
Manufacturing	1.7	9.7	6.0	10.2
Construction	1.4	6.8	5.0	7.2
Wholesale, retail and import/export trades, restaurants and hotels	9.0	27.2	31.4	28.8
Transport, storage and communications	3.2	11.6	11.1	12.3
Financing, insurance, real estate and business services	7.2	17.0	25.3	18.0
Community, social and personal services	77.2	26.9	20.5	22.6
Others <sup>(1)</sup>	0.2	0.8	0.8	0.8
<b>Median monthly income from main employment (HK\$)<sup>(2)</sup></b>				
Male	20,000	11,000	21,000	11,000
Female	3,320	8,500	10,000	9,500
Both sexes	3,500	10,000	15,500	10,000

Notes: (1) "Others" include such industries as "Agriculture and fishing", "Mining and quarrying", "Electricity, gas and water" and industrial activities inadequately described or unclassifiable.

(2) The figures exclude unpaid family workers.