



# STATISTICAL NEWS

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## 2007 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING

### LABOUR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

The first release of 2007 Census Results, published in October 2008 dealt with the most basic characteristics of the population, its size, growth, structure and distribution. This second release covers the labour force characteristics of eligible respondents including employment and unemployment.

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The second release of 2007 Census information, which focuses on the labour force characteristics of the population, is timely. Recent statements in the media suggest that, following the 2006 coup, there is much uncertainty about the level of employment and unemployment in the country. A clear indication of this is that “guestimates” concerning the present unemployment rate, made by institutions and individuals, range from a fairly low 4 percent to a very high 30 to 40 percent. However, all these post-coup “guestimates” of unemployment are not based on hard evidence collected in a nationwide survey. Instead they seem to be based on sentiments and speculation.

The estimates in this release are based on nationwide evidence collected during the 2007 Census. The 2007 Census estimates are compared with those from the previous census, conducted in 1996. It needs to be emphasized that, because of the sensitivity of labour force indices, particularly unemployment rates, the FIBoS has taken extra care to ensure comparability of the 2007 and 1996 labour force data. This applies to labour force definitions, mode of data collection as well as processing and analysis of the data. The labour force definitions used are the ICLS definitions (International Classification of Labour Force Statisticians).

In order to appreciate the following comments, familiarity with the labour force classification shown in Figure 1 on page 10, is imperative.

## **1. Labour force participation (See Figure 2 on page. 19)**

- During the 1996-2007 intercensal period, the overall level of labour force participation has decreased marginally. This is mainly due to some decrease in male labour force participation whereas female labour force participation has remained approximately the same. (Users are again advised that the labour force is made up of employed and unemployed people).
- In 2007, as in 1996, male labour force participation is significantly higher than female labour force participation. However, this does not mean that female labour force participation is low. A significant proportion of the employed women (mainly Fijian women) are subsistence workers.
- In 1996, labour force participation was significantly higher for Fijians than for Indians. Once again, this was due to a high level of Fijian participation in the subsistence sector. During the intercensal period the difference between Fijian and Indian labour force participation has narrowed down significantly. This is due to a decrease of Fijian participation in the subsistence sector. On the other hand, Indian labour force participation in the age group 20 – 34 has increased and is now higher than that of Fijians.
- Rural labour force participation has decreased, especially for those aged over 40. This is mainly due to decreased participation of Fijians in the subsistence sector.
- In the 2007 Census, 7,799 youths aged 10-14 were classified as being in the labour force. These youths are predominantly rural Fijian males, many of them Class 8 school drop-outs engaged in subsistence activities.

## **2. Intercensal change in the level of employment and unemployment**

- The overall unemployment rate has increased during the 1996-2007 intercensal period from 3.7 percent to 8.6 percent. This increase, although not by far as large as some believe, is very significant. It does not come as a surprise, considering that Fiji experienced two coups during this period. These coups led to a downturn in the economy, job losses etc. In addition, many cane farmers lost their land during this period, due to non-renewal of land leases.
- In 2007 (as in 1996), female unemployment is still about two times higher than male unemployment. Proportionally, during the intercensal period, increase in male and female unemployment was about the same.
- During the intercensal period, unemployment of Fijians has increased much faster than that of Indians. This is mainly due to a decrease of the number of Fijians engaged in the subsistence sector.
- Although rural unemployment in 2007 is still significantly lower than urban unemployment, it has, during the intercensal period increased more than three

times. This applies to rural Fijian and Indian males as well as females. Although the level of unemployment of rural Fijian females is still below that of rural Indian females, the rate of increase in unemployment of rural Fijian females from 1.9 percent in 1996 to 9.9 percent in 2007 is particularly alarming. In comparison the increase in unemployment of rural Indian females during the same period was from 6.3 percent in 1996 to 13.1 percent in 2007.

- Although during the intercensal period, the increase in overall urban unemployment has been slightly less than the increase in overall rural unemployment, the overall urban unemployment rate has now reached a two-digit figure (10.5 percent). The highest unemployment rate for all subgroups of the population is now 16.7 percent for Fijian females in the urban sector.
- The only subgroup of the population which has been able to keep its unemployment rate below 5 percent (4.6 percent) are the Indian males. In 2007, rural Indian males have an unemployment rate of 4.0 percent and urban Indian males 5.0 percent.

### **3. Subcategories of the employed in 2007**

*Notes: i Unfortunately, the 1996 Census does not provide the same amount of detail regarding the employed as the 2007 Census. The comments below refer to the 2007 Census..*

*ii Subcategories of the employed include:*

- (1) Wage/salary earners*
- (2) Self employed (business)*
- (3) Subsistence workers.*

*A significant proportion of all employed is engaged in more than one of the above categories. Readers are advised to check Figure 3 on page 30).*

- More than 80 percent of all employed are engaged in one category of work only (1, 2 or 3). As expected, this percentage is significantly higher for the urban sector (93 percent) than for the rural sector (75 percent). In the case of females more than 90 percent of all employed are engaged in a single category.
- By far the largest sub-category of employed (about 64 percent) are pure wage/salary earners without any other activities. However for the Fijians, this category is only 52 percent and for Indians 78 percent. Once again, as expected the figures are very different for the urban and rural sector (85 percent and 43 percent respectively).
- In 2007, the sub-category of pure subsistence workers (only 3) has decreased to 16 percent of all employed. For Fijians this category is still 23 percent of all

employed whereas for Indians it is only 8 percent. Even in the urban sector, about 6 percent of all employed are pure subsistence workers. They are undoubtedly mainly found in the cities/towns with a large peri-urban area.

- As expected, a fairly large proportion of Fijian as well as Indian employed (about 7 percent) are wage/salary earners who are also engaged in subsistence activities. This percentage is higher for males (about 8 percent) than for females (about 4 percent).
- Only a small proportion of all employed Fijians as well as Indians (less than 1 percent) is engaged in all three main activities (1, 2 and 3). About 72 percent of these are rural dwellers.

#### 4. Actively looking for paid employment

*Note:* According to the ICLS definition, those who are unemployed:

- Did not work during the reference period*
- Were available for work*
- Were actively looking for work*

These “pure” unemployment rates by sex, ethnicity and geographic sector are shown below (*highlighted and in italics*).

Geogr. Sector	Ethnic Group	“Pure Unempl. Rate (%) acc. to ICLS definition			Unempl. Rate incl. Subs. Workers actively seeking paid employment		
		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
<b>All</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>12.9</b>	11.8	9.6	16.1
	<b>Fijians</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>13.1</b>	14.7	13.1	17.4
	<b>Indians</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>13.1</b>	8.2	5.6	14.6
<b>Rural</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>10.6</b>	11.7	9.6	16.2
	<b>Fijians</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>9.9</b>	13.9	12.3	16.8
	<b>Indians</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>13.1</b>	8.0	5.5	15.7
<b>Urban</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>14.8</b>	11.9	9.6	15.9
	<b>Fijians</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>16.7</b>	15.8	14.2	18.1
	<b>Indians</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>13.1</b>	8.3	5.7	14.0

Considering the loss in paid employment during the intercensal period, planners in Fiji have a special interest in those engaged in the subsistence sector who were also actively looking for paid employment. If these persons are included in the “unemployment rate” the rates shown in the table on page 4 are obtained. Users are, however, reminded that these additions are persons engaged in the subsistence sector.

#### 5. Unemployment according to the availability criterion

The significantly higher 2007 unemployment rates according to the ILO availability criterion are shown in the following table. For policy makers and planners, the “pure”

ICLS unemployment rates (which are again given for comparison) are probably more meaningful since they represent those who are actively looking for work. Moreover the “pure” ICLS unemployment rates are directly comparable with those obtained in previous censuses.

Geogr. Sector	Ethnic Group	“Pure Unempl. Rate (%) acc. to ICLS definition			Unempl. Rate(%) acc. to ILO “availability” criterion		
		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
<b>All</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>12.9</b>	11.9	8.5	18.3
	<b>Fijians</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>13.1</b>	13.6	10.6	18.5
	<b>Indians</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>13.1</b>	9.5	5.7	18.6
<b>Rural</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>10.6</b>	10.0	6.9	16.4
	<b>Fijians</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>9.9</b>	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	<b>Indians</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>13.1</b>	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
<b>Urban</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>14.8</b>	13.8	10.2	20.0
	<b>Fijians</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>16.7</b>	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	<b>Indians</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>13.1</b>	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

## **INTRODUCTION**

All censuses until the one conducted in 1986 included a limited number of questions concerning the labour force. However, the most recent censuses in 1996 and 2007 provide somewhat more comprehensive labour force (LF) information. In this release (number 2), the results of the analysis of the labour force data from these two censuses are presented. This information, cross-classified with other key census variables, age, sex, ethnicity, and geographic sector for the main geographic subdivisions of the country are essential for effective policy making and planning.

Section I, briefly discusses the sources of nationwide labour force data in the country. Section II is concerned with the collection of this kind of data in a census and the problems connected with this approach. The next Section III presents a classification of the labour force whereas Section IV discusses the labour force questions included on the 2007 Census Interview Schedule in some detail. Sections V to VII present a picture of 1996-2007 change in the labour force, employment and unemployment situation. The final Sections VIII and IX analyze the present employment and unemployment situation in somewhat more detail.

### **I. DATA SOURCES CONCERNING THE LABOUR FORCE**

In most western countries, a network of Labour Offices distributed throughout the country, routinely collect labour force information (particularly on unemployment). In Fiji, such a network is non-existent. Consequently, the Department of Labour does not and cannot provide basic labour force information on a continuous basis.

Because of this lack of service (administrative) statistics concerning the labour force, as well as for other reasons, the FIBoS has its own data collection systems. Firstly and most importantly, the Bureau collects labor force data by means of Labour Force (Employment and Unemployment) Surveys. The last survey of this type was carried out in 2004-2005. It presents the labour force situation during the interval between the 2000 and 2006 coups. The next survey has been scheduled for 2009-2010. Unfortunately, these surveys are based on a relatively small sample of the population and they only provide statistically meaningful results at the national and divisional level, as well as for the geographic sectors. In Fiji, the only data source that provides valid, albeit limited labour force information at the sub-national level is the national census.

## II. COLLECTION OF LABOUR FORCE INFORMATION IN A CENSUS

### 1. System of labour force statistics

The 1986 and 1996 censuses as well as the labour force surveys that have been conducted in Fiji used the International Labour Force Classification of Labour Force Statisticians (ICLS).<sup>1</sup> Because of the importance of comparability of the labour force indices based on the 2007 Census with those of previous censuses and surveys, the ICLS definitions of the labour force were once again adopted in 2007. However, some users of census information insisted that the census should also attempt to measure unemployment using the ILO “availability” criterion. Although, it was suggested that the use of the availability criterion introduces a certain amount of vagueness in the measurement of unemployment, particularly in a census interview situation, it was decided to measure unemployment according to this availability criterion as well.

### 2. Time reference of labour force data

Labour force measurement can focus on:

A Usual activity: This refers to a long reference period of usually one year.

Or:

B Current activity: This refers to a short reference period of usually one week

Both approaches have their advantages and disadvantages. Most countries do, however, prefer the current activity approach. One important reason for this is that information concerning occupation; industry and employment status is linked with current activity. Moreover, the current activity approach is usually chosen in countries where only a very small proportion of persons are engaged in seasonal activities. On the other hand, in countries where a large proportion of people is engaged in seasonal activities (in the South Pacific Region this is often the case with plantation labour, i.e. in Papua New Guinea), the usual activity approach is sometimes considered as more appropriate. However, in these cases, both approaches, usual and current activity are normally utilized simultaneously.

In Fiji, seasonal labour does exist, mainly in the sugar industry (and to some extent in the tourist industry as well). However, with regards the sugar industry, activities connected with the sugar cane harvest take up a significant part of the year. Moreover, a large proportion of the persons involved in the harvest consists of family labour. In Fiji, distortions in the current activity data, caused by involvement in seasonal activities are considered as probably not very significant. Consequently, in 2007, the FIBoS has, as during previous censuses, adopted the current activity approach. As in previous censuses, the reference period was once again one week, or more precisely, the week before the census.

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<sup>1</sup> This classification was introduced in 1982.

### **3. Age cut-off point for labour force questions**

On the strong recommendation of some members of the 2007 Census Users Advisory Committee, the FIBoS decided to ask the labour force questions of all persons age 10 and over. It will be noted that during all previous censuses (as well as surveys), these questions were asked of all persons age 15 and over. The latter is in agreement with the ICLS recommendation, which places the age cut-off point at age 15. Opponents of the proposal of the Users Advisory Committee argued that children below age 15 should be full time at school and that child labour is illegal.

Unfortunately, there is often a wide gap between theory and practice. For instance, in Fiji, it is common to see young children under the age of 15 at work, i.e. as shoeshine boys, wheelbarrow boys, bottle collectors etc. Moreover, many rural Class 8 school dropouts are engaged in subsistence activities. It is widely believed that, child labour is on the increase. In order to capture this, it was finally decided to decrease the age cut-off point from age 15 to age 10. All comparisons in this release between 1996 and 2007 indices are necessarily restricted to the population age 15 and over.

### **4. Some shortcomings and strengths of labour force data collected in a census.**

Analysts and users of labor force information collected in a census, should be aware of the shortcomings of this information. Firstly, contrary to a (sample) survey, a national census operation employs a large field staff (enumerators and supervisors). Although, this entire field staff is thoroughly trained, most of them do not have any specialized knowledge concerning the topics on which the census seeks information. This applies first of all to labor force information. Furthermore, once again contrary to the situation in a survey, a census interview is often conducted with one (senior) member of the household only. In most cases this is the head of household or his/her spouse. This person becomes the “proxy respondent” for all other (often absent) members of the household. Although data quality tests suggest that the census information, including that on the labour force is of reasonable quality, it is clear that more detailed and probably more accurate information can be obtained during a survey interview with the selected respondent and carried out by an interviewer specialized in the survey topics. This is the reason why a census is seldom concerned with the collection of specialized information and this includes detailed labor force information i.e. underemployment, time worked etc. As already mentioned, the FIBoS collects this information in specialized surveys on a sample basis.

On the other hand, contrary to information collected in survey based on a sample of the population, census information is not affected by sampling errors and it is available for the smallest geographic subdivisions of the country.

## **III. CLASSIFICATION OF THE LABOUR FORCE**

Figure 1 presents a classification of the labour force used in Fiji, during the 1996 and 2007 Census. Firstly, the potentially economically active population can be divided into those who are:



- In the Labour Force (or the economically active population)
- Not in the Labour Force (or the not economically active population)

The International Classification of Labor Force Statisticians (ICLS) defines the labour force as: “All persons of either sex who furnish the supply of labour for the production of goods and services as defined by the United Nations System of National Accounts and Balances during a specific time period.”

The labor force is further subdivided into the:

- Employed (and its subcategories).
- Unemployed.

It is important that users of the information included in this Release realize that unemployment can be measured in several ways. The most common ones are based on definitions devised by the ICLS and the ILO. In the ILO system, a person is unemployed if, during the reference period he/she:

(1) *Did not work*

*And*

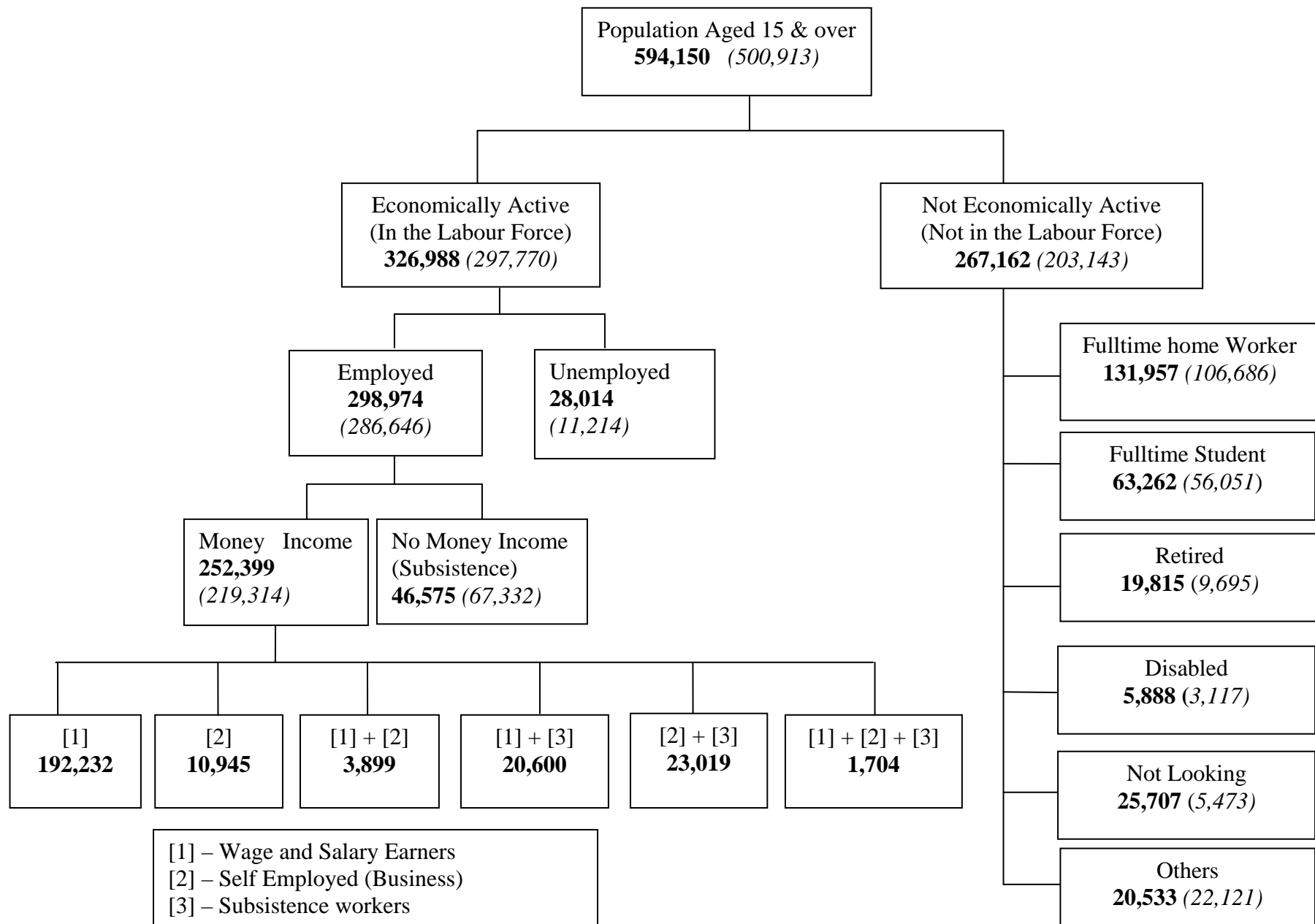
(2) *Was available for work*

In the ICLS system, there is a third requirement. There must be evidence that, during the reference period, this person

(3) *Was actively looking for work.*

During previous censuses in 1986 and 1996, Fiji adopted the ICLS system. The main reason was that it was thought that the concept “available for work” is rather vague and difficult to operationalize, especially in a census interview situation. It was even argued that, given the right conditions, virtually everybody who has no money income (subsistence workers, home workers etc.) might be inclined to say that they are available for work and would therefore join the ranks of the unemployed.

**Figure 1: Classification of the Labour Force used in the 1996 and 2007 Census\***



\* The 2007 figures are in **bold** and the 1996 figures are in *italics* and in brackets.

It was felt that the use of the concept “available for work” may be more suitable for a survey interview situation, using specialized interviewers who actually have a face-to-face interview with all persons selected in the sample. As already pointed out, this is not the case in a census.

As already mentioned, in order to maintain comparability with the labour force indices from previous censuses, it was decided that the 2007 census should once again attempt to establish the level of unemployment according to the same definition as used in 1986 and 1996. It was, however realized that information regarding “availability for work” might, at least in theory shed additional light on the unemployment situation in the country. It was therefore decided to attempt to get a picture of those available for work but not actively looking for work as well.<sup>2</sup> However, since these two unemployment measures provide a very different picture of the level of unemployment in Fiji, particularly in the urban sector, these different measures need to be considered with the utmost caution.

#### **IV. 2007 CENSUS QUESTIONS**

The labour force section of the 2007 Census Interview Schedule was designed to provide a simple nationwide framework of the economically active population (labour force) and the not economically active population. All questions in the labour force section of the 2007 Interview Schedule refer to a reference period of one week, viz. last week, which is the week before the census. The questions included on this schedule are briefly discussed below.

##### **1. The employed**

The first two questions (D19a and b) attempt to establish whether eligible respondents (those aged 10 years and over) did, during the reference period, any work for money, payment in kind or subsistence. They were given the following options:

###### *a. Work for money*

This includes all persons involved in activities that finally return money to the person, household or the company. Thus, beside wages/salary or business incomes, persons producing goods for sale, growing crops, catching fish, collecting shells or other things for sale are involved in money activities. This also applies to a person who sells his services i.e. repairs things like cars or builds houses, etc. In other words, persons with money income consist of:

- *Wage/salary earners*
- *Self-employed (business)*

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<sup>2</sup> This group is sometimes referred to as the inactive unemployed.

Note All those who were during the reference period (last week) were temporarily absent from work because they were on leave, sick, on strike, involved in a labour dispute etc. have been included in the category employed. They are referred to as the “inactive employed”. This category typically constitutes at least 10 percent of all the employed. Examples are a teacher who is on a holiday, a public servant who is sick, a factory employee who is on strike etc. These persons were regarded as having worked during the reference period.

*b. Farming, fishing or collecting for household consumption or subsistence only.*

According to the ICLS definition, these respondents who are solely engaged in subsistence activities (in other words without any money income), are included in the category “employed”.

All eligible respondents were asked, if applicable, to select more than one option.

The above questions are followed by a series of questions that have been asked of money or other compensation workers only. (Questions D20 - D24). These questions concern the:

- Occupation (D20)
- Industry (D21a-c),
- Employment status (D22),“ and
- Mode of payment (D23)

of this category of respondents.

## **2. The unemployed**

As mentioned above, according to the ICLS definition, a respondent has to meet three criteria in order to be considered as unemployed. These three criteria are that the person was during the reference period:

(1) *Without work*

(2) *Available for work*

(3) *Had been actively looking for work or in other words has taken steps to seek employment*

The crucial question is what should be considered as evidence of “looking for work”. In Fiji censuses and surveys, a very broad definition of “looking for work” has been used. Activities that are accepted as evidence of looking for work include:

- *Application letters to employers*
- *Asking for work at work sites*
- *Seeking assistance from relatives or friends to find a job*
- *Request for a loan from a financial institution to set up a business etc.*

However, during the 2007 census, unemployment has not only been measured according to the ICLS definition but also according to the ILO definition. It will be remembered that, according to the latter definition, persons are unemployed if they did not work during the reference period and were available for work but did not actively look for work.

On the 2007 Census Interview Schedule, those respondents who were not engaged in any of the specified activities during the reference period and those who were only engaged in subsistence activities (work to support their household by producing goods for own consumption), the questions concerning occupation, industry, employment status and mode of payment were not asked. For these respondents, it was established whether, during the reference period, they were:

- Actively looking for paid work and if that was the case, whether they were available to start work.
- If they did not actively look for a paid job, it was established whether, these respondents belonged to any of the not economically active categories and whether they were available for work.

### **3. Not economically active**

The three categories:

- (1) Those with money income (wage/salary or self employed)
- (2) Those engaged in subsistence activities and
- (3) The unemployed

constitute the economically active population or the labour force. Those who do not fall into one of these three categories are “not economically active” (not in the labour force). They have been classified using the following categories:

- *Full time home worker*

These can either be female or male. Full time home workers are engaged in domestic duties like cooking, cleaning the house, looking after children etc. However, in the South Pacific Region, especially in Melanesia, including Fiji, many home workers, especially women, combine their domestic duties with other work, particularly growing food in their garden, fishing, and collecting food from the sea etc. for subsistence (household consumption). These women have been classified as subsistence workers. It will be noted that domestic employees (house girls) have been classified as being in paid employment, even if their wages were far below the minimum urban wage.

- *Full time student*

During the 2007 Census, the category of full time students comprised students born in 1996 or before, who attended an educational institution at any level on a full-time basis. In Fiji, a very large proportion of persons under the age of 20 fall into this category. It needs to be stressed that the category “full time student” in this classification is a subcategory of the labour force category “not economically active”. Some students are, however, economically active. They have been classified under the appropriate category and not as full time student. In other words, the total number of persons categorized as full time students is less than the total number of students enrolled in educational institutions.<sup>3</sup>

- *Retired*

Retired persons are retired from the public or private sector and are not involved anymore in any moneymaking activity. In many cases, these retired persons receive income (a pension) from a former job. In Fiji, many retired persons are, however still involved in subsistence activities. They support their household by producing goods mainly for consumption of their own household.

- *Disabled*

These are persons suffering from some form of permanent mental or physical disability. Because of this disability, they are unable to be engaged in any economic activity. From the point of view of labour force statistics, it is important that those who can be considered as disabled but are engaged in any economic activity are classified as wage earner, subsistence farmer or whatever the case may be. It is therefore important that users realize that this category does not include all disabled persons age 10 and over. It will be noted that the 2007 Census Interview Schedule included a separate section on disability.

- *Not looking*

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<sup>3</sup> The census questions concerning education and training provide a complete picture of the educational situation in the country.

These respondents have given up looking for work since they believe that work that is suitable for them is not available.

- *Other, specify*

In censuses in the past, including those in Fiji, there has often been a tendency to classify persons with an uncertain labour force status in the category “Others”. Analysis of the data from these censuses suggests that this happened in particular in the case of young respondents (especially young males under the age of 25) who do not go to school, are at first sight not engaged in any economic activity (including subsistence farming or fishing) and have not taken any action to find a job. In reality, in the rural sector, most of them are probably engaged in some kind of activity. It will be realized that, in labour force statistics, this category “Others” is a very unsatisfactory rest category. During the 2007 Census, all enumerators were therefore instructed to check very carefully before classifying any respondent as an “Other”.

## **V. CHANGE IN LABOUR FORCE STATUS BETWEEN 1996 AND 2007**

This section provides a comparison of the labour force structure in 1996 and 2007. Since, in 1996, the labour force questions were asked of all persons age 15 and over, the comparisons in this section refer to the population in this age group. The following Tables 1a to c present the relative (%) change during the intercensal period in the number of persons age 15 and over in each of the sub-categories of the labour force.

### **1. Population by sex**

Table 1a shows that the total population age 15 and over increased by 18.6 percent during the 1996-2007 intercensal period. Growth of the economically active population, (labour force) during this period was only about half of this benchmark figure, whereas growth of not economically active population (population not in the labour force) was about two times higher than that of the total population age 15 and over. It will be noted that the average annual growth rate of the population age 15 and over, during the intercensal period (1.5 percent) is significantly higher than the average annual growth rate of the total population during the same period, 0.7 percent.

The picture becomes more unfavorable when intercensal change for the two main components of the labour force, the employed and unemployed are considered. Growth in employment has remained far below that of the total population age 15 and over, whereas growth in unemployment is about 8 times higher than that of the total population age 15 and over. The figures for females are slightly more unfavorable than those for males.

**Table 1a: Change in the labour force status of the population age 15 and over by sex between 1996 and 2007**

Labour Force Category	1996 Census			2007 Census			Change (%)		
	P	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F
<b>Pop. age 15+</b>	500,913	252,722	248,191	594,150	301,531	292,619	18.6	19.3	17.9
<b>1. Econ. Active</b>	297,770	200,052	97,718	326,988	216,955	110,033	9.8	8.4	12.6
<b>a. Employed</b>	286,646	194,350	92,296	298,974	203,120	95,854	4.3	4.5	3.9
<b>(1) Money inc.</b>	219,314	166,299	53,015	252,399	181,691	70,708	15.1	9.3	33.4
<b>-No subs.</b>	130,752	94,124	36,628	207,076	144,017	63,059	58.4	53.0	72.2
<b>-With subs.</b>	88,562	72,175	16,387	45,323	37,674	7,649	-48.8	-47.8	-53.3
<b>(2) Only Subs.</b>	67,332	28,051	39,281	46,575	21,429	25,146	-30.8	-23.6	-36.0
<b>b. Unemployed</b>	11,124	5,702	5,422	28,014	13,835	14,179	151.8	142.6	161.5
<b>2. Not econ. act.</b>	203,143	52,670	150,473	267,162	84,576	182,586	31.5	60.6	21.3
<b>-F/T Home W.</b>	106,686	2,591	104,095	131,957	9,173	122,784	23.7	254.0	18.0
<b>-F/T Student</b>	56,051	28,159	27,892	63,262	30,559	32,703	12.9	8.5	17.2
<b>-Retired</b>	9,695	6,094	3,601	19,815	12,624	7,191	104.4	107.2	99.7
<b>-Disabled</b>	3,117	1,826	1,291	5,888	3,170	2,718	88.9	73.6	110.5
<b>-Not looking</b>	5,473	3,653	1,820	25,707	16,061	9,646	369.7	339.7	430.0
<b>-Others</b>	22,121	10,347	11,774	20,533	12,989	7,544	-7.2	25.5	-35.9

The figures also indicate that, during the intercensal period, there has been a sharp decrease in the number of persons employed in the subsistence sector and an even sharper decrease in the number of persons with money income (wage/salary or self-employment) who complement their “income” with subsistence activities. Considering the present economic situation in Fiji, this is not a favorable development either.

Home workers have remained by far the largest subcategory of the not economically active. During the intercensal period this proportion has slightly declined from 53 percent to 49 percent. In Fiji, the category home worker is a female dominated category. In 1996, about 98 percent of all home workers were females. In 2007, this has decreased to 93 percent.

## **2. Population by ethnicity**

Table 1b compares labour force development for the two main ethnic components of the population, the Fijians and Indians. In making this comparison, it must be kept in mind that, due to a very high level of out-migration of Indians during the intercensal period, growth of the Indian population has come to a standstill.<sup>4</sup> In spite of that, it appears that, during the intercensal downturn, the Indian component of the population has, on the whole, fared somewhat better than the Fijian component. This will become particularly clear when the intercensal increase in unemployment is considered.

<sup>4</sup> This is discussed in detail in release number 1, which deals with the basic population characteristics, size and growth, structure and distribution. The average intercensal growth rate (1996-2007) for Indians was -0.7 percent annually, whereas that of Fijians was 1.7 percent annually.



**Table 1b: Change in the labour force status of the main ethnic groups age 15 and over between 1996 and 2007**

Labour Force Category	1996 Census			2007 Census			Change (%)		
	All	Fij	Ind	All	Fij	Ind	All	Fij	Ind
<b>Pop. Age 15+</b>	500,913	244,423	228,297	594,150	319,660	240,782	18.6	30.8	5.5
<b>1. Econ. Active</b>	297,770	156,409	125,200	326,988	178,510	129,926	9.8	14.1	3.8
<b>a. Employed</b>	286,646	150,987	120,234	298,974	161,006	120,815	4.3	6.6	0.5
<b>(1) Money inc.</b>	219,314	99,966	106,260	252,399	125,599	111,988	15.1	25.6	5.4
<b>-No subs.</b>	130,752	43,746	77,631	207,076	93,457	100,288	58.4	113.6	29.2
<b>-With subs.</b>	88,562	56,220	28,629	45,323	32,142	11,700	-48.8	-42.8	-59.1
<b>(2) Only Subs.</b>	67,332	51,021	13,974	46,575	35,407	8,827	-30.8	-30.6	-36.8
<b>b. Unemployed</b>	11,124	5,422	4,966	28,014	17,504	9,111	151.8	222.8	83.5
<b>2. Not econ. act.</b>	203,143	88,014	103,097	267,162	141,150	110,856	31.5	60.4	7.5
<b>-F/T Home W.</b>	106,686	41,544	60,511	131,957	65,239	61,477	23.7	57.0	1.6
<b>-F/T Student</b>	56,051	26,544	25,284	63,262	34,251	23,909	12.9	29.0	-5.4
<b>-Retired</b>	9,695	3,738	5,149	19,815	9,188	9,069	104.4	145.8	76.1
<b>-Disabled</b>	3,117	1,312	1,620	5,888	2,815	2,772	88.9	114.6	71.1
<b>-Not looking</b>	5,473	3,228	1,982	25,707	16,307	8,050	369.7	405.1	306.2
<b>-Others</b>	22,121	11,648	8,551	20,533	13,350	5,579	-7.2	14.6	-34.8

**Table-1c: Change in the labour force status of the population age 15 and over by geographic sector between 1996 and 2007**

Labour Force Category	1996 Census			2007 Census			Change (%)		
	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
<b>Pop. Age 15+</b>	500,913	258,730	242,183	594,150	283,410	310,740	18.6	9.5	28.3
<b>1. Econ. Active</b>	297,770	161,732	136,038	326,988	161,041	165,947	9.8	-0.4	22.0
<b>a. Employed</b>	286,646	158,456	128,190	298,974	150,491	148,483	4.3	-5.0	15.8
<b>(1) Money inc.</b>	219,314	107,853	111,461	252,399	111,780	140,619	15.1	3.6	26.2
<b>-No subs.</b>	130,752	43,566	87,186	207,076	75,501	131,575	58.4	73.3	50.9
<b>-With subs.</b>	88,562	64,287	24,275	45,323	36,279	9,044	-48.8	-43.6	-62.7
<b>(2) Only Subs.</b>	67,332	50,603	16,729	46,575	38,711	7,864	-30.8	-23.5	-53.0
<b>b. Unemployed</b>	11,124	3,276	7,848	28,014	10,550	17,464	151.8	222.0	122.5
<b>2. Not econ. act.</b>	203,143	96,998	106,145	267,162	122,369	144,793	31.5	26.2	36.4
<b>-F/T Home W.</b>	106,686	56,056	50,630	131,957	66,481	65,476	23.7	18.6	29.3
<b>-F/T Student</b>	56,051	22,781	33,270	63,262	22,691	40,571	12.9	-0.4	21.9
<b>-Retired</b>	9,695	4,037	5,658	19,815	7,781	12,034	104.4	92.7	112.7
<b>-Disabled</b>	3,117	1,929	1,188	5,888	3,287	2,601	88.9	70.4	118.9
<b>-Not looking</b>	5,473	2,225	3,248	25,707	12,553	13,154	369.7	464.2	304.9
<b>-Others</b>	22,121	9,970	12,151	20,533	9,576	10,957	-7.2	-4.0	-9.8

### **3. Population by geographic sector**

The last table in this series, Table 1c, compares labour force development for the rural and urban sector. As expected, the picture is bleak for both sectors. Nevertheless, the population of the urban sector seems to be managing significantly better than the

population in the rural sector. The change in the number of unemployed but even more so the change in the number of employed in the two sectors supports this view.

## **VI. CHANGE IN LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION BETWEEN 1996 AND 2007**

Labour force participation is expressed by means of labour force participation rates (LFPR). A LFPR for a particular age group (i) is defined as:

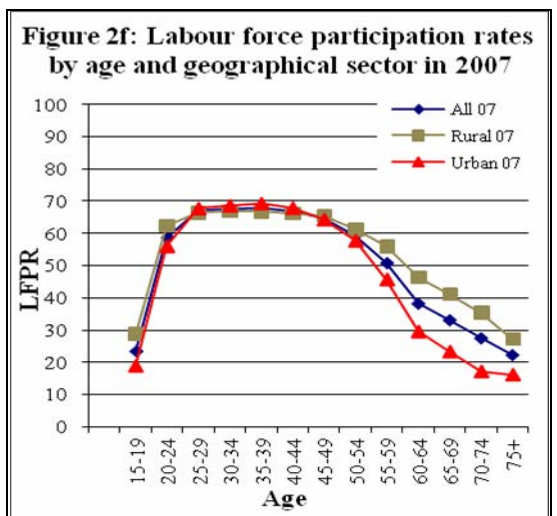
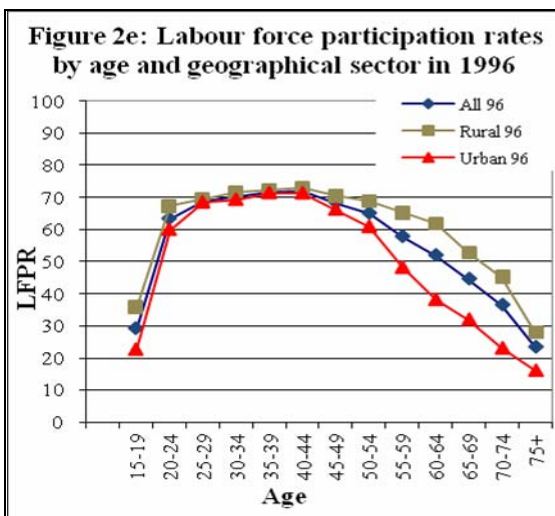
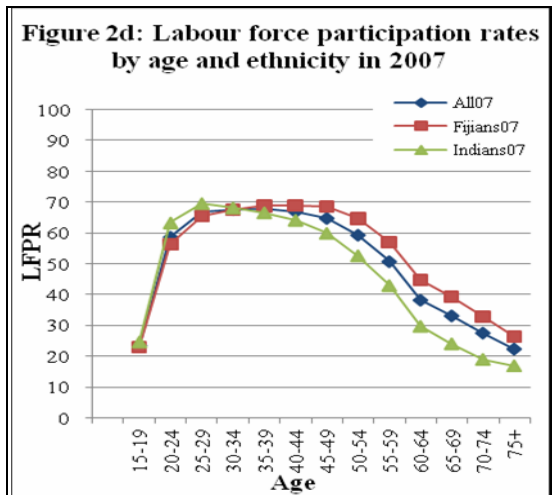
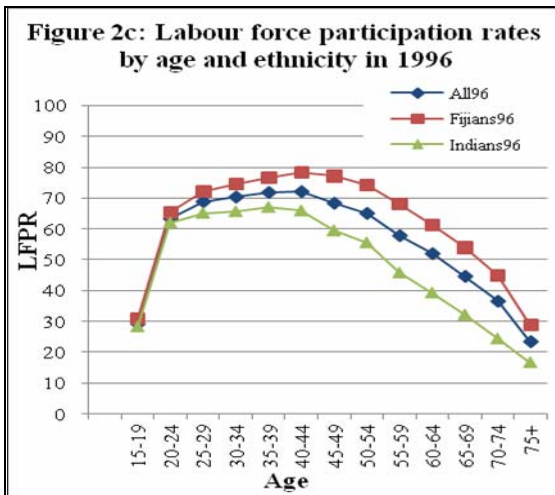
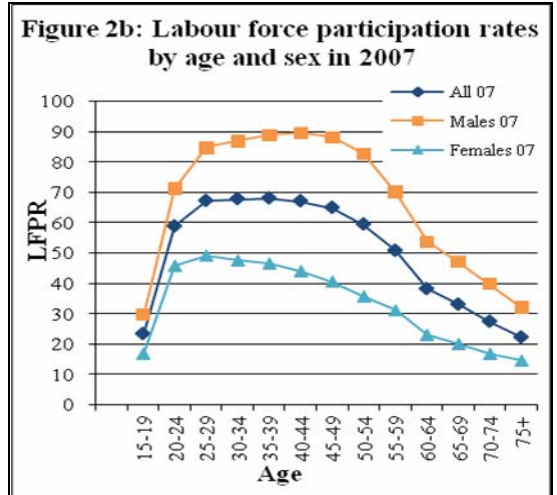
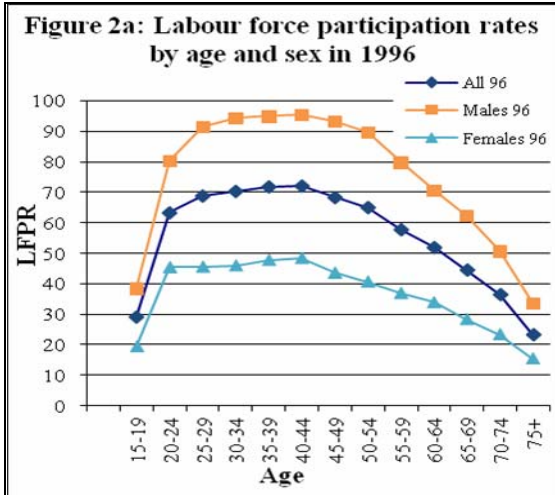
$$\text{LFPR}(i) = (\text{Number Persons age } i \text{ in the LF} / \text{Total Number Persons age } i) \times 100$$

The LFPRs by sex, ethnicity and geographic sector in 1996 and 2007 are presented in Table 2a, b and c. For 1996, these rates are given for five-year age groups starting from age 15 and for 2007 for five-year age groups starting from age 10. An overview of all these rates is also given in Figure 2.

The following comments refer to the information in these tables and figure:

- All tables as well as Figure 2, show that the overall LFPRs for all five-year age-groups in 2007 are somewhat lower than those in 1996. However this is due to the lower LFPRs for males. Those for females for the two years are approximately the same.
- Table 2a shows that the LFPRs for males are significantly higher than those for females. By international standards, the LFPRs for females are, however, not low. This is mainly due to the fact that a significant number of females (mainly Fijian females) are engaged in subsistence activities and therefore included in the labour force.
- Table 2b shows that, generally, the LFPRs for Fijians are somewhat higher than those for Indians. However, Fijian Rates have decreased during the intercensal period whereas those for Indians (in the age range 20-34 have increased).
- Table 2c indicates that, during the intercensal period, the LFPRs for the rural as well as the urban sector have decreased but more so for the rural than for the urban sector
- In 2007, a total number of 7,799 youths aged 10-14 were in the labour force, 4,503 of them males and 3,296 females whereas 5,066 are rural and 2,733 urban. The majority (5,162) are Fijians and 2,121 are Indians. A large proportion of these youths in the labour force are rural Fijian males engaged in subsistence activities after dropping out of school after Class 8.

**Figure 2: Labour Force Participation Rates by sex, ethnicity and geographic sector in 1996 and 2007.**



**Table 2a: Labour Force Participation Rates (%) for the population age 10 and over by sex derived from 1996 and 2007 Census data**

Age	Persons			Males			Females		
	LF (Nr)	Pop (Nr)	LFPR (%)	LF (Nr)	Pop (Nr)	LFPR (%)	LF (Nr)	Pop (Nr)	LFPR (%)
<b>1996</b>									
<b>0-14</b>	-	274164	-	-	141209	-	-	132955	-
<b>15-19</b>	24438	83682	29.2	16503	42829	38.5	7935	40853	19.4
<b>20-24</b>	42413	66955	63.3	27668	34444	80.3	14745	32511	45.4
<b>25-29</b>	42462	61660	68.9	28629	31283	91.5	13833	30377	45.5
<b>30-34</b>	42811	60841	70.4	28987	30727	94.3	13824	30114	45.9
<b>35-39</b>	40068	55779	71.8	27057	28525	94.9	13011	27254	47.7
<b>40-44</b>	31856	44180	72.1	21295	22341	95.3	10561	21839	48.4
<b>45-49</b>	25347	37081	68.4	17250	18482	93.3	8097	18599	43.5
<b>50-54</b>	18661	28683	65.1	12810	14286	89.7	5851	14397	40.6
<b>55-59</b>	12863	22245	57.8	8660	10857	79.8	4203	11388	36.9
<b>60-64</b>	8033	15459	52.0	5372	7605	70.6	2661	7854	33.9
<b>65-69</b>	4801	10761	44.6	3208	5138	62.4	1593	5623	28.3
<b>70-74</b>	2323	6357	36.5	1550	3054	50.8	773	3303	23.4
<b>75+</b>	1694	7230	23.4	1063	3151	33.7	631	4079	15.5
<b>Total*</b>	297770	775077	38.4	200052	393931	50.8	97718	248191	39.4
<b>2007</b>									
<b>0-9</b>	-	160737	-	-	83276	-	-	77461	-
<b>10-14</b>	7799	82384	9.5	4503	42369	10.6	3296	40015	8.2
<b>15-19</b>	18656	79518	23.5	12077	40818	29.6	6579	38700	17.0
<b>20-24</b>	47221	80352	58.8	29381	41325	71.1	17840	39027	45.7
<b>25-29</b>	49346	73487	67.1	31645	37390	84.6	17701	36097	49.0
<b>30-34</b>	43063	63535	67.8	28485	32825	86.8	14578	30710	47.5
<b>35-39</b>	38466	56552	68.0	25570	28778	88.9	12896	27774	46.4
<b>40-44</b>	37749	56274	67.1	25580	28598	89.4	12169	27676	44.0
<b>45-49</b>	32662	50322	64.9	22735	25835	88.0	9927	24487	40.5
<b>50-54</b>	23779	40009	59.4	16708	20215	82.7	7071	19794	35.7
<b>55-59</b>	15830	31161	50.8	11022	15735	70.0	4808	15426	31.2
<b>60-64</b>	9218	24120	38.2	6405	11956	53.6	2813	12164	23.1
<b>65-69</b>	5563	16808	33.1	3806	8098	47.0	1757	8710	20.2
<b>70-74</b>	2781	10110	27.5	1867	4716	39.6	914	5394	16.9
<b>75+</b>	2654	11902	22.3	1674	5242	31.9	980	6660	14.7
<b>Total*</b>	334787	837271	40.0	221458	427176	51.8	113329	410095	27.6

Note: \* The rates in this row are Crude labour Force Participation Rates

**Table 2b: Labour Force Participation Rates (%) for the population age 10 and over by ethnicity for Fiji derived from 1996 and 2007 Census data**

Age	All			Fijians			Indians		
	LF (Nr)	Pop (Nr)	LFPR (%)	LF (Nr)	Pop (Nr)	LFPR (%)	LF (Nr)	Pop (Nr)	LFPR (%)
<b>1996</b>									
<b>0-14</b>	-	274164	-	-	149152	-	-	110521	-
<b>15-19</b>	24438	83682	29.2	12448	40436	30.8	11053	39011	28.3
<b>20-24</b>	42413	66955	63.3	21963	33638	65.3	18255	29372	62.2
<b>25-29</b>	42462	61660	68.9	22382	31039	72.1	17711	27121	65.3
<b>30-34</b>	42811	60841	70.4	22049	29539	74.6	18452	28041	65.8
<b>35-39</b>	40068	55779	71.8	19657	25626	76.7	18176	27048	67.2
<b>40-44</b>	31856	44180	72.1	15722	20075	78.3	14292	21620	66.1
<b>45-49</b>	25347	37081	68.4	13168	17073	77.1	10670	17896	59.6
<b>50-54</b>	18661	28683	65.1	10068	13550	74.3	7493	13457	55.7
<b>55-59</b>	12863	22245	57.8	7808	11466	68.1	4356	9493	45.9
<b>60-64</b>	8033	15459	52.0	5175	8436	61.3	2398	6091	39.4
<b>65-69</b>	4801	10761	44.6	3178	5895	53.9	1336	4147	32.2
<b>70-74</b>	2323	6357	36.5	1650	3681	44.8	551	2260	24.4
<b>75+</b>	1694	7230	23.4	1141	3969	28.7	457	2740	16.7
<b>Total*</b>	297770	775077	38.4	156409	393575	39.7	125200	338818	37.0
<b>2007</b>									
<b>0-9</b>	-	160737	-	-	106712	-	-	44821	-
<b>10-14</b>	7799	82384	9.5	5162	49367	10.5	2121	28195	7.5
<b>15-19</b>	18656	79518	23.5	10565	46074	22.9	7155	29017	24.7
<b>20-24</b>	47221	80352	58.8	25133	44550	56.4	19862	31410	63.2
<b>25-29</b>	49346	73487	67.1	25714	39163	65.7	21049	30288	69.5
<b>30-34</b>	43063	63535	67.8	23720	35107	67.6	16936	24868	68.1
<b>35-39</b>	38466	56552	68.0	21162	30708	68.9	15017	22575	66.5
<b>40-44</b>	37749	56274	67.1	20517	29744	69.0	14915	23270	64.1
<b>45-49</b>	32662	50322	64.9	17283	25126	68.8	13449	22458	59.9
<b>50-54</b>	23779	40009	59.4	12697	19594	64.8	9568	18185	52.6
<b>55-59</b>	15830	31161	50.8	8927	15622	57.1	5891	13720	42.9
<b>60-64</b>	9218	24120	38.2	5572	12463	44.7	3026	10178	29.7
<b>65-69</b>	5563	16808	33.1	3618	9192	39.4	1589	6603	24.1
<b>70-74</b>	2781	10110	27.5	1871	5713	32.7	716	3766	19.0
<b>75+</b>	2654	11902	22.3	1731	6604	26.2	753	4444	16.9
<b>Total*</b>	334787	837271	40.0	183672	475739	38.6	132047	313798	42.1

Note: \* The rates in this row are Crude labour Force Participation Rates

**Table 2c: Labour Force Participation Rates (%) for the population age 10 and over by geographical sector derived from 1996 and 2007 Census data**

Age	All sectors			Rural Sector			Urban Sector		
	LF (Nr)	Pop (Nr)	LFPR (%)	LF (Nr)	Pop (Nr)	LFPR (%)	LF (Nr)	Pop (Nr)	LFPR (%)
<b>1996</b>									
<b>0-14</b>	-	274164	-	-	156852	-	-	117312	-
<b>15-19</b>	24438	83682	29.2	15083	42278	35.7	9355	41404	22.6
<b>20-24</b>	42413	66955	63.3	21032	31277	67.2	21381	35678	59.9
<b>25-29</b>	42462	61660	68.9	21440	30954	69.3	21022	30706	68.5
<b>30-34</b>	42811	60841	70.4	22784	31936	71.3	20027	28905	69.3
<b>35-39</b>	40068	55779	71.8	20813	28804	72.3	19255	26975	71.4
<b>40-44</b>	31856	44180	72.1	16265	22317	72.9	15591	21863	71.3
<b>45-49</b>	25347	37081	68.4	13423	19074	70.4	11924	18007	66.2
<b>50-54</b>	18661	28683	65.1	10564	15383	68.7	8097	13300	60.9
<b>55-59</b>	12863	22245	57.8	8260	12683	65.1	4603	9562	48.1
<b>60-64</b>	8033	15459	52.0	5596	9070	61.7	2437	6389	38.1
<b>65-69</b>	4801	10761	44.6	3462	6570	52.7	1339	4191	31.9
<b>70-74</b>	2323	6357	36.5	1754	3884	45.2	569	2473	23.0
<b>75+</b>	1694	7230	23.4	1256	4500	27.9	438	2730	16.0
<b>Total *</b>	297770	775077	38.4	161732	415582	38.9	136038	359495	37.8
<b>2007</b>									
<b>0-9</b>	-	160737	-	-	85547	-	-	75190	-
<b>10_14</b>	7799	82384	9.5	5066	43468	11.7	2733	38916	7.0
<b>15-19</b>	18656	79518	23.5	10660	37060	28.8	7996	42458	18.8
<b>20-24</b>	47221	80352	58.8	21556	34515	62.5	25665	45837	56.0
<b>25-29</b>	49346	73487	67.1	21805	32818	66.4	27541	40669	67.7
<b>30-34</b>	43063	63535	67.8	20002	29923	66.8	23061	33612	68.6
<b>35-39</b>	38466	56552	68.0	18179	27264	66.7	20287	29288	69.3
<b>40-44</b>	37749	56274	67.1	18638	28127	66.3	19111	28147	67.9
<b>45-49</b>	32662	50322	64.9	16229	24766	65.5	16433	25556	64.3
<b>50-54</b>	23779	40009	59.4	11897	19428	61.2	11882	20581	57.7
<b>55-59</b>	15830	31161	50.8	8671	15494	56.0	7159	15667	45.7
<b>60-64</b>	9218	24120	38.2	5778	12465	46.4	3440	11655	29.5
<b>65-69</b>	5563	16808	33.1	3794	9211	41.2	1769	7597	23.3
<b>70-74</b>	2781	10110	27.5	2034	5750	35.4	747	4360	17.1
<b>75+</b>	2654	11902	22.3	1798	6589	27.3	856	5313	16.1
<b>Total *</b>	334787	837271	40.0	166107	412425	40.3	168680	424846	39.7

Note: \* The rates in this row are Crude labour Force Participation Rates

Finally, Table 3 presents an overview of intercensal change in crude labour force participation. The Crude Labour Force Participation Rate (CLFPR) is defined as:

$$\text{CLFPR} = (\text{Number Persons in Labour Force} / \text{Total Population}) \times 100$$

The CLFPRs by sex, ethnicity and geographic sector in 1996 and 2007 are presented in Table 3.

**Table 3: Comparison of CLFPRs by sex, ethnicity and geographic sector in 1996 and 2007**

Geogr. Sector	Year	Total Population			Fijians			Indians		
		Pers.	Male	Fem.	Pers.	Male	Fem.	Pers.	Male	Fem.
All	1996	38.4	50.8	25.6	38.9	51.9	25.2	37.8	49.5	26.2
	2007	39.1	51.1	26.8	39.0	51.6	25.4	39.1	50.0	28.1
Rural	1996	39.7	48.5	30.7	41.2	50.2	31.6	37.6	45.9	29.5
	2007	37.5	46.5	28.2	38.7	48.4	28.0	36.1	43.9	28.4
Urban	1996	37.0	54.0	19.4	36.0	54.4	16.7	38.0	53.6	22.1
	2007	41.4	58.0	24.2	39.6	57.9	20.1	42.8	58.0	27.3

The following comments refer to the change in CLFPRs during the 1996-2007 intercensal period. Crude labour force participation:

- Increased marginally overall. This applies to males as well as females.
- For Fijians remained almost the same whereas there was some increase for Indians.
- In the rural sector decreased marginally for males as well as females, but more for Fijians than for Indians.
- In the urban sector increased somewhat for males as well as females but more for Indians than for Fijians.

## **VII. CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT BETWEEN 1996 AND 2007**

The two components of the labour force (economically active population) are the employed and the unemployed. Section 7 compares the employment and unemployment situation in 1996 and 2007. Since the age cut-off point for the labor force questions in 1996 was age 15 (and not age 10 as in 2007), the comparisons in this section refer to the population age 15 and over. Furthermore, it needs to be kept in mind that the employment

and unemployment figures and rates presented in this section are based on the ICLS definition of employed and unemployed. Unemployment in 2007, according to the ILO definition is discussed in a separate section.

**Table 4: Employment and unemployment for the population age 15 and over by sex, ethnicity and geographic sector derived from 1996 and 2007 Census data**

Eth Gp	Yr	Employed (Number)			Unemployed					
		P	M	F	Number			Rate (%)		
					P	M	F	P	M	F
<b>All Sectors</b>										
<b>Tot</b>	<b>96</b>	286,646	194,350	92,296	11,124	5,702	5,422	3.7	2.9	5.5
	<b>07</b>	298,974	203,120	95,854	28,014	13,835	14,179	8.6	6.4	12.9
<b>Fij</b>	<b>96</b>	150,978	94,158	56,829	5,422	2,769	2,653	3.5	2.9	4.5
	<b>07</b>	161,006	103,816	57,190	17,504	8,907	8,597	9.8	7.9	13.1
<b>Ind</b>	<b>96</b>	120,234	90,204	30,030	4,966	2,563	2,403	4.0	2.8	7.4
	<b>07</b>	120,815	88,437	32,378	9,111	4,221	4,890	7.0	4.6	13.1
<b>Rural Sector</b>										
<b>Tot</b>	<b>96</b>	158,456	109,258	49,198	3,276	1,663	1,613	2.0	1.5	3.2
	<b>07</b>	150,491	105,542	44,949	10,550	5,206	5,344	6.6	4.7	10.6
<b>Fij</b>	<b>96</b>	94,310	59,469	34,841	1,373	689	684	1.4	1.1	1.9
	<b>07</b>	95,183	63,356	31,827	7,003	3,493	3,510	6.9	5.2	9.9
<b>Ind</b>	<b>96</b>	59,616	46,534	13,082	1,810	930	880	2.9	2.0	6.3
	<b>07</b>	50,423	38,894	11,529	3,344	1,602	1,742	6.2	4.0	13.1
<b>Urban Sector</b>										
<b>Tot</b>	<b>96</b>	128,190	85,092	43,098	7,848	4,039	3,809	5.8	4.5	8.1
	<b>07</b>	148,483	97,578	50,905	17,464	8,629	8,835	10.5	8.1	14.8
<b>Fij</b>	<b>96</b>	56,677	34,689	21,988	4,049	2,080	1,969	6.7	5.7	8.2
	<b>07</b>	65,823	40,460	25,363	10,501	5,414	5,087	13.8	11.8	16.7
<b>Ind</b>	<b>96</b>	60,618	43,670	16,948	3,156	1,633	1,523	4.9	3.6	8.2
	<b>07</b>	70,392	49,543	20,849	5,767	2,619	3,148	7.6	5.0	13.1

Table 4 presents the number of employed and unemployed by sex, ethnicity and geographic sector at the time of the 1996 and 2007 Censuses. Moreover the unemployment rates for each of these populations are also included in this table. The unemployment rate is defined as follows:

$$\text{Unemployment Rate} = (\text{Number Unempl} / \text{Population in the Labour Force}) \times 100$$

The employment rates are not given in Table 4. They can easily be derived by taking the complement of the unemployment rates.

The following comments refer to the data in Table 4:



- Firstly, and most importantly, it appears that the overall unemployment rate has increased very drastically during the 1996-2007 intercensal period from 3.7 percent to 8.6 percent. This result is not surprising, considering that Fiji experienced two coups during this period. These coups led to a downturn in the economy, job losses etc. In addition, many cane farmers lost their land during this period, due to non-renewal of land leases.
- Proportionally, during the intercensal period, losses in male and female employment were about the same. However in 2007 as well as in 1996, female unemployment is about two times higher than male unemployment.
- During the intercensal period, unemployment of Fijians has increased much faster than that of Indians.
- Although rural unemployment in 2007 is still significantly lower than urban unemployment, it has, during the intercensal period increased more than three times. This applies to rural Fijian and Indian males as well as females. Although the level of unemployment of rural Fijian females is still below that of rural Indian females, the rate of increase in unemployment of rural Fijian females from 1.9 percent in 1996 to 9.9 percent in 2007 is particularly alarming. In comparison the increase in unemployment of rural Indian females during the same period was from 6.3 percent in 1996 to 13.1 percent in 2007.
- Although during the intercensal period, the increase in overall urban unemployment has been slightly lower than the increase in overall rural unemployment, the overall urban unemployment rate has now reached a two-digit figure (10.5 percent). The highest unemployment rate for all subgroups of the population is now 16.7 percent for Fijian females in the urban sector.
- The only subgroup of the population which has been able to keep its unemployment rate below 5 percent (4.6 percent) are the Indian males. In 2007, rural Indian males have an unemployment rate of 4.0 percent and urban Indian males 5.0 percent.

Employment and unemployment for each of the main subgroups of the population will be discussed in somewhat more detail in Section VIII and IX respectively.

### **VIII. FURTHER ANALYSIS OF THE EMPLOYED IN 2007**

As already mentioned, the first two questions in the labour force section of the 2007 Census Interview Schedule (D19a and b) attempt to measure the category employed. All eligible respondents for the labour force questions (those aged 10 years and over) were asked to report whether they did, during the reference period, any work for money, payment in kind or subsistence. They were given the following options:

- (1) Work for money
- (2) Work to support household by producing goods for sale
- (3) Work to support household by producing goods for household consumption<sup>5</sup>

It needs to be reiterated that the so-called “inactive employed” were included in the category employed.<sup>6</sup>

Respondents were asked, if applicable, to select more than one option. Consequently, in 2007, the employed can be subdivided into seven categories. The three main categories are:

- |                                      |     |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| <i>A. Purely wage/salary earners</i> | (1) |
| <i>B. Purely self-employed</i>       | (2) |
| <i>C. Purely subsistence workers</i> | (3) |

These persons are engaged in only one category of employment (single employment). However, the 2007 Census also identifies the following combinations of the above employment categories:

- |  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| <i>D. Wage/salary earners as well as self-employed</i>                 | (1) + (2)       |
| <i>E. Wage/salary earners as well as subsistence</i>                   | (1) + (3)       |
| <i>F. Self employed as well as subsistence</i>                         | (2) + (3)       |
| <i>G. Wage/salary earners and self-employed as well as subsistence</i> | (1) + (2) + (3) |

Respondents labeled D – G, are persons involved in more than one category of employment.

---

<sup>5</sup> It needs to be reiterated that, according to the ICLS definition, those respondents who are solely engaged in subsistence activities (in other words without any money income), are included in the category employed.

<sup>6</sup> The “inactive employed” include those who were during the reference period (last week) were temporarily absent from work because they were on leave, sick, on strike, involved in a labour dispute etc. In Fiji, this category typically constitutes at least 10 percent of all the employed.

**Table 5a: The employed population age 10 and over by sex, ethnicity and employment category (Number and %) in 2007**

Employment Category	Persons		Males		Females	
	Number	Perc.	Number	Perc.	Number	Perc.
<b>Total Population</b>						
<b>Total: All Employed</b>	305,820	100.0	207,084	100.0	98,736	100.0
<b>1</b>	194,579	63.6	134,325	64.9	60,254	61.0
<b>2</b>	11,315	3.7	8,272	4.0	3,043	3.1
<b>3</b>	49,932	16.3	23,153	11.2	26,779	27.1
<b>Total: Single category</b>	255,826	83.7	165,750	80.0	90,076	91.2
<b>1+2</b>	3,961	1.3	3,106	1.5	855	0.9
<b>1+3</b>	20,807	6.8	17,154	8.3	3,653	3.7
<b>2+3</b>	23,478	7.7	19,694	9.5	3,784	3.8
<b>1+2+3</b>	1,748	0.6	1,380	0.7	368	0.4
<b>Total: Multiple categories</b>	49,994	16.3	41,334	20.0	8,660	8.8
<b>Fijians</b>						
<b>Total: All Employed</b>	165,568	100.0	106,426	100.0	59,142	100.0
<b>1</b>	85,884	51.9	54,644	51.3	31,240	52.8
<b>2</b>	7,270	4.4	5,120	4.8	2,150	3.6
<b>3</b>	37,941	22.9	18,555	17.4	19,386	32.8
<b>Total: Single category</b>	131,095	79.1	78,319	73.6	52,776	89.2
<b>1+2</b>	1,787	1.1	1,291	1.2	496	0.8
<b>1+3</b>	11,357	6.9	9,134	8.6	2,223	3.8
<b>2+3</b>	20,300	12.3	16,896	15.9	3,404	5.8
<b>1+2+3</b>	1,029	0.6	786	0.7	243	0.4
<b>Total: Multiple categories</b>	34,473	20.8	28,107	26.4	6,366	10.8
<b>Indians</b>						
<b>Total: All Employed</b>	122,631	100.0	89,543	100.0	33,088	100.0
<b>1</b>	95,816	78.1	71,636	80.0	24,180	73.1
<b>2</b>	3,573	2.9	2,857	3.2	716	2.2
<b>3</b>	9,421	7.7	3,208	3.6	6,213	18.8
<b>Total: Single category</b>	108,810	88.7	77,701	86.8	31,109	94.0
<b>1+2</b>	1,980	1.6	1,687	1.9	293	0.9
<b>1+3</b>	8,724	7.1	7,459	8.3	1,265	3.8
<b>2+3</b>	2,471	2.0	2,151	2.4	320	1.0
<b>1+2+3</b>	646	0.5	545	0.6	101	0.3
<b>Total: Multiple categories</b>	13,821	11.3	11,842	13.2	1,979	6.0

Note \* Category 1 Wage/salary earners  
 Category 2 Self employed (Business)  
 Category 3 Subsistence workers

**Table 5b: The employed population age 10 and over by sex, geographic sector and employment category (Number and %) in 2007**

Employment Category	Persons		Males		Females	
	Number	Perc.	Number	Perc.	Number	Perc.
<b>All Sectors</b>						
<b>Total: All Employed</b>	305,820	100.0	207,084	100.0	98,736	100.0
<b>1</b>	194,579	63.6	134,325	64.9	60,254	61.0
<b>2</b>	11,315	3.7	8,272	4.0	3,043	3.1
<b>3</b>	49,932	16.3	23,153	11.2	26,779	27.1
<b>Total: Single category</b>	255,826	83.7	165,750	80.0	90,076	91.2
<b>1+2</b>	3,961	1.3	3,106	1.5	855	0.9
<b>1+3</b>	20,807	6.8	17,154	8.3	3,653	3.7
<b>2+3</b>	23,478	7.7	19,694	9.5	3,784	3.8
<b>1+2+3</b>	1,748	0.6	1,380	0.7	368	0.4
<b>Total: Multiple categories</b>	49,994	16.3	41,334	20.0	8,660	8.8
<b>Rural Sector</b>						
<b>Total: All Employed</b>	155,094	100.0	108,242	100.0	46,852	100.0
<b>1</b>	65,971	42.5	49,834	46.0	16,137	34.4
<b>2</b>	8,615	5.6	6,540	6.0	2,075	4.4
<b>3</b>	41,503	26.8	18,790	17.4	22,713	48.5
<b>Total: Single category</b>	116,089	74.9	75,164	69.4	40,925	87.3
<b>1+2</b>	2,143	1.4	1,830	1.7	313	0.7
<b>1+3</b>	13,057	8.4	11,262	10.4	1,795	3.8
<b>2+3</b>	22,556	14.5	18,979	17.5	3,577	7.6
<b>1+2+3</b>	1,249	0.8	1,007	0.9	242	0.5
<b>Total: Multiple categories</b>	39,005	25.1	33,078	30.6	5,927	12.7
<b>Urban Sector</b>						
<b>Total: All Employed</b>	150,726	100.0	98,842	100.0	51,884	100.0
<b>1</b>	128,608	85.3	84,491	85.5	44,117	85.0
<b>2</b>	2,700	1.8	1,732	1.8	968	1.9
<b>3</b>	8,429	5.6	4,363	4.4	4,066	7.8
<b>Total: Single category</b>	139,737	92.7	90,586	91.6	49,151	94.7
<b>1+2</b>	1,818	1.2	1,276	1.3	542	1.0
<b>1+3</b>	7,750	5.1	5,892	6.0	1,858	3.6
<b>2+3</b>	922	0.6	715	0.7	207	0.4
<b>1+2+3</b>	499	0.3	373	0.4	126	0.2
<b>Total: Multiple categories</b>	10,989	7.3	8,256	8.4	2,733	5.3

Note \* Category 1 Wage/salary earners  
 Category 2 Self employed (Business)  
 Category 3 Subsistence workers

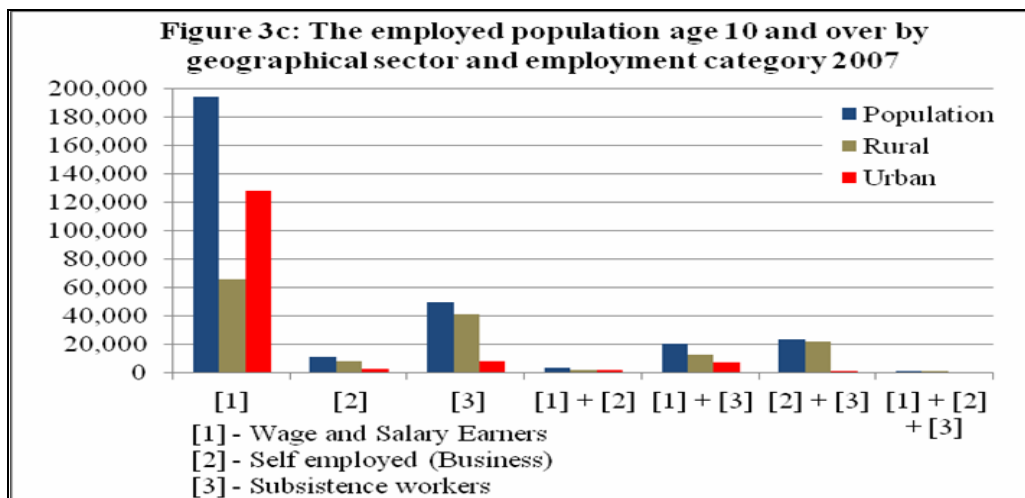
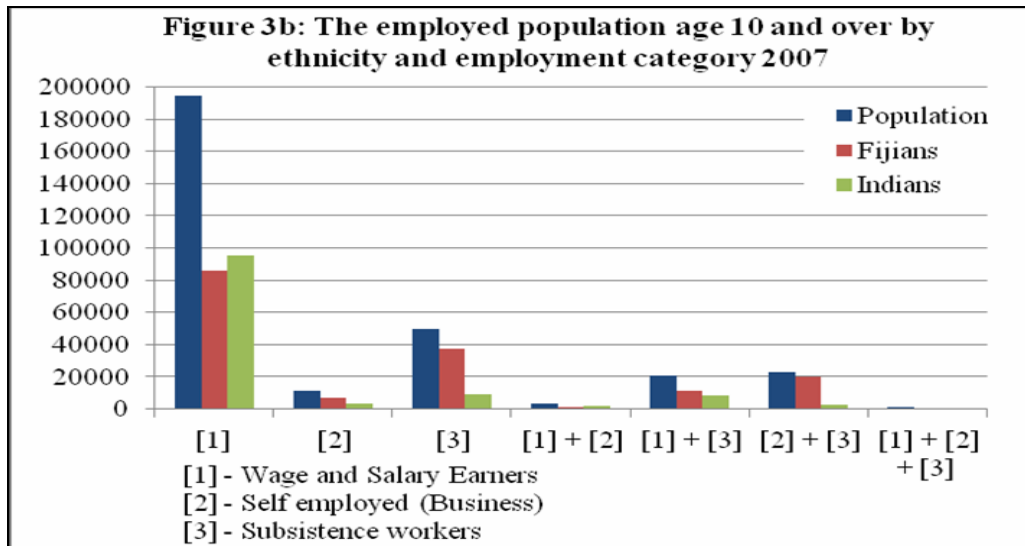
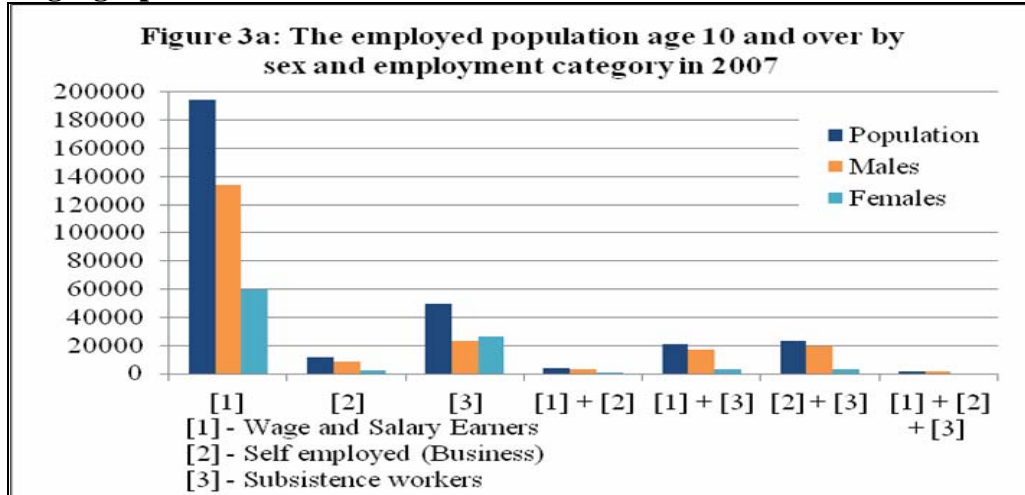
In Tables 5a and b the employed population age 10 and over by sex, ethnicity and geographic sector in 2007 is categorized according to the above classification. Unfortunately, the same classification cannot be applied to 1996 Census labor force data. It will be noted that, since Table 5a and b refer to 2007 Census data only, the information refers to the population age 10 and over.

The following comments refer to the information in Table 5a and b:

- More than 80 percent of all employed are engaged in one category of work only (1, 2 or 3). As expected, this percentage is significantly higher for the urban sector (93 percent) than for the rural sector (75 percent). In the case of females more than 90 percent of all employed are engaged in a single category.
- By far the largest sub-category of employed (about 64 percent) are pure wage/salary earners without any other activities. However for the Fijians, this category is only 52 percent and for Indians 78 percent. Once again, as expected the figures are very different for the urban and rural sector (85 percent and 43 percent respectively).
- The sub-category of pure subsistence workers (only 3) has decreased to 16 percent of all employed. For Fijians this category is still 23 percent of all employed whereas for Indians it is only 8 percent. Even in the urban sector, about 6 percent of all employed are pure subsistence workers. They are undoubtedly mainly found in the cities/towns with a large peri-urban area.
- As expected, a fairly large proportion of Fijian as well as Indian employed (about 7 percent) are wage/salary earners who are also engaged in subsistence activities. This percentage is higher for males (about 8 percent) than for females (about 4 percent).
- Only a small proportion of all employed Fijians as well as Indians (less than 1 percent) is engaged in all three main activities (1, 2 and 3). About 72 percent of these are rural dwellers.

An overview of the different categories of employed age 10 and over by sex, ethnicity and geographic sector is presented in Figure 3.

**Figure 3: Overview of the different categories of employed by sex, ethnicity and geographic sector in 2007.**



## **IX. FURTHER ANALYSIS OF THE UNEMPLOYED IN 1996 AND 2007**

After considering (in Section VIII), the employed in somewhat more detail, this present section has a somewhat closer look at the unemployed. As already mentioned, there are several ways to measure unemployment. Firstly the unemployment rates presented in Table 4 of Section VII are “pure” unemployment rates according to the ICLS definition of unemployment. In other words, during the reference period, these persons:

- (1) *Did not work*
- (2) *Were available for work*
- (3) *Were actively looking for work.*

However, these persons are not the only ones who were, during the reference period, actively looking for paid employment. Planners in Fiji are particularly interested to know to what extent those who have been categorized as subsistence workers during the census (those who were working for household consumption only), were actively attempting to get paid employment. In this respect, it should be mentioned that it is likely that a significant number of cane farmers who recently lost their land as well as other persons who lost their paid job after the coups in 2000 and 2006 were probably categorized as subsistence workers during the 2007 Census. Many of them are probably trying to get back into paid employment. This is further explored in Section 1.

Secondly, unemployment in 2007 can also be measured according to the ILO “availability” criterion. These are the unemployed who, during the reference period, did not work and were available for work. In this ILO definition, the third requirement, actively looking for work has been dropped. An overview of unemployment according to the ILO definition is presented in Section 2.

### **1. Subsistence workers actively seeking paid employment**

The following two Tables 6a and b present the number of subsistence workers age 15 and over who, in 2007, reported that they were actively looking for work. Table 6a presents this information by sex and ethnicity and Table 6b presents the same information by sex and geographic sector.

The information in these two tables does not present any major surprise. It confirms that a significant number of Fijians and a relatively small number of Indians, engaged in subsistence activities only, are seeking paid employment. However, there are two times more male subsistence workers than female subsistence workers, seeking paid employment. Furthermore, as expected, the majority of the male and female subsistence workers, seeking paid employment are rural dwellers.

**Table 6a: The subcategories of the “unemployed” age 15 and over by sex and ethnicity in 2007**

Ethnic Group	Sex	Econ. Active Pop.	Actively looking for paid employment					
			Total		Subsistence Workers		Pure (ICLS) Unemployed	
			Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
All	P	326,988	38,562	11.8	10,548	3.2	28,014	8.6
	M	216,955	20,868	9.6	7,033	3.2	13,835	6.4
	F	110,033	17,694	16.1	3,515	3.2	14,179	12.9
Fijians	P	178,510	26,216	14.7	8,712	4.9	17,504	9.8
	M	112,723	14,746	13.1	5,839	5.2	8,907	7.9
	F	65,787	11,470	17.4	2,873	4.4	8,597	13.1
Indians	P	129,926	10,638	8.2	1,527	1.2	9,111	7.0
	M	92,658	5,194	5.6	973	1.1	4,221	4.6
	F	37,268	5,444	14.6	554	1.5	4,890	13.1

**Table 6b: The subcategories of the “unemployed” age 15 and over by sex and geographic sector in 2007**

Ethnic Group	Sex	Econ. Active Pop.	Actively looking for paid employment					
			Total		Subsistence Workers		Pure (ICLS) Unemployed	
			Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
All Sectors	P	326,988	38,562	11.8	10,548	3.2	28,014	8.6
	M	216,955	20,868	9.6	7,033	3.2	13,835	6.4
	F	110,033	17,694	16.1	3,515	3.2	14,179	12.9
Rural Sector	P	161,041	18,849	11.7	8,299	5.2	10,550	6.6
	M	110,748	10,678	9.6	5,472	4.9	5,206	4.7
	F	50,293	8,171	16.2	2,827	5.6	5,344	10.6
Urban Sector	P	165,947	19,713	11.9	2,249	1.4	17,464	10.5
	M	106,207	10,190	9.6	1,561	1.5	8,629	8.1
	F	59,740	9,523	15.9	688	1.2	8,835	14.8

## **2. Unemployment according to the availability criterion**

In the 2007 Census, all those who did not do any work during the reference period and those who were only engaged in subsistence activities during this period were not only asked whether they are actively looking for paid employment (Question D24a on the 2007 Census Interview Schedule) but also whether they are available to start work (Question D24c on the 2007 Census Interview Schedule). The response is shown in Table 7a and b. Unfortunately, the 1996 Census did not include the “available for work” question.



From the 2007 information, the unemployment rate according to the availability criterion of the ILO can also be calculated. In Tables 7a and b these unemployment rates are compared to the “pure” rates based on the ICLS criteria (presented in Table 4). The ICLS unemployment rates in Table 4 refer to the population 15 and over. For reasons of comparison, the rates in the present tables also refer to the population age 15 and over.

**Table 7a: Unemployment rates (%) of the population age 15 and over by sex and ethnicity in 2007, according to ICLS and ILO criteria**

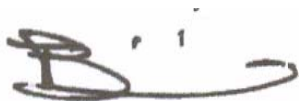
Sex	Available for work			Unempl. Rate (%)	
	Total	Actively looking	Not actively. Looking	Acc. to ICLS	Acc. to ILO
<b>Total Population</b>					
<b>P</b>	40,440	28,014	12,426	8.6	11.9
<b>M</b>	18,908	13,835	5,073	6.4	8.5
<b>F</b>	21,532	14,179	7,353	12.9	18.3
<b>Fijians</b>					
<b>P</b>	25,301	17,504	7,797	9.8	13.6
<b>M</b>	12,359	8,907	3,452	7.9	10.6
<b>F</b>	12,942	8,597	4,345	13.1	18.5
<b>Indians</b>					
<b>P</b>	12,722	9,111	3,611	7.0	9.5
<b>M</b>	5,321	4,221	1,100	4.6	5.7
<b>F</b>	7,401	4,890	2,511	13.1	18.6

**Table 7b: Unemployment rates (%) of the population age 15 and over by sex and geographic sector in 2007, according to ICLS and ILO criteria**

Sex	Available for work			Unempl. Rate (%)	
	Total	Actively looking	Not actively looking	Acc. to ICLS def.	Acc. to ILO def.
<b>All Sectors</b>					
<b>P</b>	40,440	28,014	12,426	8.6	11.9
<b>M</b>	18,908	13,835	5,073	6.4	8.5
<b>F</b>	21,532	14,179	7,353	12.9	18.3
<b>Rural Sector</b>					
<b>P</b>	16,707	10,550	6,157	6.6	10.0
<b>M</b>	7,869	5,206	2,663	4.7	6.9
<b>F</b>	8,838	5,344	3,494	10.6	16.4
<b>Urban Sector</b>					
<b>P</b>	23,733	17,464	6,269	10.5	13.8
<b>M</b>	11,039	8,629	2,410	8.1	10.2
<b>F</b>	12,694	8,835	3,859	14.8	20.0

The inclusion in the category of unemployed of those who are available for work but not actively looking for work leads of course to a significant increase in the unemployment rates. In order to interpret these higher ILO unemployment rates correctly, it must again be stressed that the underlying information has been collected in a census interview situation and that much of it has been provided by an assessment of proxy respondents. Planners should probably place more weight on the ICLS unemployment rates. For the unemployed included in the ICLS rates, there is evidence that they actively looked for work.

For further enquiries contact Mr Epeli Waqavonovono on Ph: 3315 822 extension 134.



**T.I. Bainimarama**  
**Government Statistician and Census Commissioner**