

# LABOUR FORCE

## Source of Data

Statistics on the labour force, employed and unemployed persons are compiled from the Labour Force Survey conducted by the Manpower Research and Statistics Department of the Ministry of Manpower.

The comprehensive mid-year Labour Force Survey effectively covers at least 25,000 private households. The objective of the survey is to collect a wide range of data on the economic activities of the population, including detailed information on employment and unemployment and the characteristics of the labour force and economically inactive persons.

The March, September and December surveys effectively cover at least 6,000 households each. The objective of these surveys is to obtain estimates on unemployment.

As the Labour Force Survey is on households, it excludes workers living in construction worksites, dormitories and workers' quarters at the workplace and persons commuting from abroad to work in Singapore. To achieve full coverage of the labour force in Singapore, data on residents

(i.e. Singapore citizens and permanent residents) from the survey are combined with foreign workforce data compiled from work passes issued by the Ministry of Manpower.

## Concepts and Definitions

The **reference period** refers to the full calendar week preceding the date of the survey interview.

**Employed persons** refer to persons aged 15 years and over who worked for pay, profit or for family gains, as well as those who had a job to return to but were temporarily absent during the reference period.

**Unemployed persons** refer to persons aged 15 years and over who did not work but were available for work and were actively looking for a job during the reference period. They include persons who were not working but were taking steps to start their own business or taking up a new job after the reference period.

**Economically active persons** or the **labour force** refers to employed and unemployed persons.

The **age-sex labour force participation rate** is defined as the percentage of economically active persons to the total population in the same age group and sex.

The **unemployment rate** is defined as the percentage of unemployed persons to the total number of economically active persons aged 15 years and over.