

2006 POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS SOCIO – ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Internal Migration	Percent of Lesotho-born population that were lifetime migrants	--	47.0	53.0
International Migration	Percent of total emigrants who resides in the RSA	99.7	--	--
	Median duration of time spent in South Africa (years)	1 - 4	--	--
	Net migration rate	-62.1	-44.2	-17.9
Population Distribution	Density of population (2006)	61	--	--
	Density of population (1996)	61	--	--
	Density of population on arable land (2006)	658	--	--
	Density of population on arable land (1996)	588	--	--
Education	Percent of population 6 years & over that had never attended school	4.7	--	--
	Percent of school age population (6-24 years) still attending school	60.0	--	--
	Percent of school age population (6-24 years) have left school	35.3	--	--
	Percentage that completed standard 7, Vocational and Diploma after primary	--	14.9	24.3
	Percentage that completed secondary and non-graduate	--	29.5	36.2
	Percentage of graduates	--	1.3	1.2
Literacy	Percent literate	66.0	40.8	59.2
Employment	Crude economic activity rates (percent)	29.6	38.4	21.4
	Labour force participation rates (percent) – General econ. activity	38.1	49.8	27.2
	Employed labour force participation rates (percent)	38.1	49.8	27.2
Household	Average number of persons per household	4.4	--	--
	Proportion of Nuclear Households	48.2	--	--
	Proportion of Extended Households	40.4	--	--
	Proportion of Mixed Households	11.4	--	--
	Proportion of Male Headed Households	64.9	--	--
	Proportion of Female Headed Households	35.1	--	--
Housing	Percent of residential dwellings built on land acquired free from chiefs	67.0	--	--
	Percent of residential dwellings built on purchased land	7.0	--	--
	Percent of residential dwellings built on inherited land	20.0	--	--
	Average number of persons per room	1.7	--	--
	Percent of dwellings with walls built of stone	38.7	--	--
	Percent of dwellings with walls built of cement bricks	45.5	--	--
	Percent of dwellings with walls made of burnt bricks	4.2	--	--
	Percent of dwellings with walls made of mud bricks and mud/sticks	6.9	--	--
	Percent of dwellings with cement floors	32.7	--	--
	Percent of dwellings with floors made of mud and dung	35.2	--	--
	Percent of dwellings with roofs made of thatch/straw	28.3	--	--
	Percent of dwellings with roofs made of corrugated iron	68.3	--	--
Household Amenities	Percent of dwellings that used electricity as the main fuel for lighting	9.7	--	--
	Percent of dwellings that used candles as the main fuel for lighting	28.5	--	--
	Percent of dwellings that used paraffin as the main fuel for lighting	60.5	--	--
	Percent of dwellings that used electricity as the main fuel for cooking	2.8	--	--
	Percent of dwellings that used gas as the main fuel for cooking	24.8	--	--
	Percent of dwellings that used paraffin as the main fuel for cooking	15.7	--	--
	Percent of dwellings that used wood as the main fuel for cooking	52.5	--	--
	Percent of households that used electricity as the main fuel for heating	3.1	--	--
	Percent of households that used gas as the main fuel for heating	2.1	--	--
	Percent of households that used paraffin as the main fuel for heating	34.3	--	--
	Percent of households that used coal as the main fuel for heating	2.5	--	--
	Percent of households that used wood as the main fuel for heating	51.4	--	--
	Percent of households that used cow dung as the main fuel for heating	5.4	--	--

Sanitation	Percent of households with piped water on the premises	17.0	--	--
	Percent of households with source as piped water community supply	39.9	--	--
	Percent of households without toilets	42.0	--	--
	Percent of households with pit latrines	32.0	--	--
	Percent of households with V.I.P toilets	23.0	--	--
	Percent of households with sewage system	2.0	--	--
	Percent of households with septic tanks	1.0	--	--
	Percent of households that disposed of household refuse on communal refuse dump	6.3	--	--
	Percent of households that disposed of household refuse on the household's own refuse dump	87.8	--	--
	Percent of households where household refuse is regularly collected	1.5	--	--

Summary of Findings

Housing and Household Amenities

The 2006 Lesotho Population and Housing Census reported the total number of households to be 422,371. About 63.0 percent of these households occupy housing units holding Form C as their tenure of land. The proportion of households in housing units with leasehold is greater in urban than in rural areas. The most dominating method of acquisition of land is allocation by a chief. Majority of land acquired through government agency was acquired from LSPP followed by Lesotho Housing.

There were 689, 418 housing units and 1,105, 080 rooms recorded during the census. Based on the population of 1, 862, 860 in private households in 2006, this implies that an average of 1.7 persons occupy a room (about 2 people per room). Majority of the households who stated rontabole and heisi as their main type of house reside in the rural areas and those who live in malaene and the apartment types of houses are observed to be dominating in the urban areas.

Leribe, Berea, Maseru and Mafeteng districts reported greater shares of houses with walls constructed with cement bricks followed by stone. The opposite is true for the remaining districts. Among all the categories of roofing materials, corrugated iron sheets were mostly reported in almost all the districts with the exception of Mokhotlong and Thaba-Tseka districts where most households 67.5 and 68.3 percent respectively live in houses with roof made of thatch/straw. Households who specified mud and dug, and vinyl/linoleum as their material of the floor of their houses reside in the rural areas. A larger proportion of houses with floor made of brick tiles are observed in the urban areas.

Majority of households use paraffin for lighting across all types of houses with an exception of apartment and bungalow. Most households use wood as the main fuel for cooking. Wood and paraffin were reported to be the most used fuels for heating.

In terms of toilet facility, 89 percent of urban households and 41 percent rural households have sanitation. Households living mainly in polata and optaka houses use largely pit latrine. Households living in malaene and bungalow predominately use VIP.

Access to safe drinking water has increased from 62.0 percent of the population in 1996 to 73.9 percent in 2006. It takes less than 15 minutes walk to go, get safe drinking water and back, regardless of the district considered.

About two-thirds of the households are headed by males while the remaining is headed by females.

Household Size and Composition

Average household size does not differ much compared to the previous census. This may indicate that Basotho have not changed their pattern of living. Majority of the household population reside in rural areas, and the most common type of household is nuclear where parents live with their children.

In Lesotho, majority of the persons living in households are related. This is evident because 96.2 percent of the population living in households were related to the head of the household.

The results show that in Lesotho most of households are headed by men as they constitute 64.9 percent of total household heads, while female household heads comprise 35.1 percent. Proportion of male headed households has declined indicating an increase in female headed households.

It has also been observed that there is a higher proportion of male headed households with possession of household assets than the proportion of female headed households implying that male headed households are better off than their female counterparts. This situation may be explained that since in most societies, men are breadwinners, if they die females become heads. The results in 2006 Census show that there are more frequencies of widows than widowers.

It was also clearly shown from the results that literacy rates of female heads are higher than literacy rates of male heads. However, these results do not necessarily imply that the male heads are less advantaged than female heads, but they follow the pattern of literacy status of the whole population where females have high rates as compared with men.

Information on ownership of cellular phones, telephone lines, television, radio, computer as well as access to internet is critical on assessing the achievement on access to information and communication as indicated in Target 18 of the MDGs. Coverage of cellular phones and radio is relatively high while that of telephone lines, television as well as computer and internet is very low

Educational Characteristics of the Population

In summary it can be said that out of the population aged 6 to 24 years, 60 percent was still attending school, while 35 percent had left school and only 5 percent had never attended school. Maseru, Leribe, Berea and Mafeteng in that order had higher percentages of persons aged 6 to 24 years who were still attending school as compared to the rest of the districts.

Amongst the population aged 15 years and over during the 2006 population census, 36 percent of males and 33 percent of females had completed standard 1 to 6 while those who completed full primary education constituted 15 and 24 percent for males and females respectively.

According to the 2006 population and housing census, nationally, literacy rate has dropped to 66 percent when compared to the censuses and survey undertaken in earlier years which estimated literacy rate at around 80 percent. It is still higher for females than males and it declines with increase in age.

Economic Status of the Population

The main objective of chapter was to analyze and discuss the broad aspects of the economically active population which range from the size and growth of the labour force and its composition, its structure and other social attributes like, education, marital and residential status as well as the extent to which people participate in economic activities noting also the participation varies between the economically active males and females. The analysis also focused on the occupational, industrial as well as the employment and unemployment characteristics of the active population and those exclusive to the inactive population. This section therefore, attempts to summarize the findings from the discussions of the various sections of the chapter, excluding the introduction as follows:

Findings from Section 4.2: The size and growth of the population and the labour force

(i) Lesotho's labour force increases at a decreasing rate over time. Respective intercensal percentage gains in population size show declines from 28.6 to 21.6 and further to 4.0 percent between 1976-86, 1986-96 and 1996-06 respectively while the respective percentages for the labour force size are 18.9, 13.7 and -3.7 percent respectively in the same reference periods.

(ii) Sex differentials in patterns of decline in labour force size exist.

The percentage share of males in the labour force declines continuously from 67.6 percent to 49.8 percent between 1976 and 2006, while the corresponding percentage shares for females show fluctuations. There is an initial drop from 29.3 to nearly 23.0 percent between 1976 and 1986 but subsequent dates show an upward trend in percentage share (26.6 percent between 1986 1996 and 27.2 percent between 1996 and 2006 respectively) although to levels still comparatively lower than that for 1976.

(iii) As can be expected, over seventy percent of Lesotho's labour force population reside inside the country while the remaining proportion resides in South Africa, probably working as migrant workers in the South African mining companies. These proportions show a rising trend from 1976 to date. (71.7, 76.9 and 82.4 percent respectively for 1986, 1996, and 2006).

(iv) According to the 2006 census, male labour force constitutes nearly sixty three (62.9) percent while the remaining 37.1 percent is females. The sex composition of the labour force by urban/rural residence conforms to the pattern observed for totals with more males than females (51.0 percent males compared to 49.0 percent of females in the urban areas and, 67.9 percent for males versus 32.1 percent for females in the rural areas respectively).

Findings from Section 4.3: The analysis of the labour force characteristics of the economically active population.

- (i) The major finding from the analysis of the sex structure of the labour force is that the percentage of the population in the labour force increases with age. This pattern is consistent for both the total and the sex distribution of the labour force. The percentages rise to the respective maximum levels of 17.0 percent for totals, 16.7 for males and 17.6 percent for females in the age group 25-29 and decrease with increasing age thereafter.
 - (ii) Further, sex differentials in the age structure of the labour force shows the female percentages to be consistently higher than those corresponding to males in almost all ages except in the first two younger age groups.
 - (iii) The age/sex structural differentials in labour force between urban and rural areas demonstrates a peculiar pattern which shows higher rural than urban proportions in the first three age groups, followed by comparatively higher percentages now observed in the urban areas for the subsequent higher age groups starting at age group 25-29.
- Four finding specific to educational characteristics of the labour force are: For all age groups, majority of the active males and females have attained primary or lower educational level.
 - The extreme age groups show comparatively higher proportions of active males and females with primary or lower educational attainment than those which are intermediate.
 - For both the Upper and Lower Secondary levels of educational attainment, highest proportions of males and females are in age group 25-29 while subsequent age groups showing decrease in proportions as age increases. Tertiary educational levels also present a similar pattern although the figures are much lower at all ages compared to those for other educational categories.

Findings from Section 4.4: The analysis of labour force participation

Findings from this section take into account the fact that economic activity is not distributed evenly within either males or females of potentially active or employable ages meaning that the proportions of the economically active persons differ by activity status and as such, often range from nearly 100.0 percent in some status categories to zero percent in others. The appreciation of these variations has been achieved through analysis of age and sex activity or labour force participation rates the results of which are summarized as follows:

(i) For both males and females, the participation rates rise with age from low levels of 5.4 and 0.8 percent respectively in age group 10-14 to maximum levels of 78.7 for males in age group 35-39 and 45.6 percent for females in the broad age group 30-39.

(ii) Trends in participation rates by age and sex show a pattern which conforms to those observed for most national populations with participation rates showing low levels in the initial ages followed by a steady rise to peak levels in the broad age range 30-39 which sometimes extent to ages 40-44 and the eventual decrease in participation rates as age increases.

Particularly from the trend analysis two other findings are:

- That there is a clear downward trend in both the total and age specific labour force participation rates among males and females for the most recent census dates including that for 2006.
- Patterns of decrease differ especially for totals, between males and females. For instance, male labour force participation rates show clear and continuous decrease from a high level of 67.6 percent in 1976 to 66.8 percent in 1986 and further declines to 56.0 percent and 49.8 percent respectively in 1996 and 2006, females portray a different picture. The female pattern is characterized by an initial decline in overall labour force participation rates from 29.2 percent to 23.0 percent from 1976 to 1986 with subsequent dates however, pointing towards a rise in levels to 26.4 and 27.2 percent respectively in 1996 and 2006. Figure 4.3 captures fully well the above description.
- Residential differentials in labour force participation rates by age and sex point to the finding that the tempo and the propensity to participate in income generating activities differ not only by sex, but also between urban and rural areas. Thus, rural male labour force participation rates are comparatively higher (6.4, 28.0 and 53.4 percent respectively in the age groups 10-14, 15-19 and 20-24 compared to urban levels of 1.0, 11.4 and 48.1 percent respectively in the same age groups). Beyond age group 20-24, urban participation rates supersede the rural rates in magnitude and reach their highest level of 86.5 percent in the age group 35-39. By contrast urban female labour force participation rates are higher in all age groups when compared to those observed in the rural areas.

Youth

In the total population there are 438569 (23.5 percent share) people aged between 15 and 24. The share has increased from 22.3 percent to 23.5 percent. 75.7 percent of young persons are literate and literacy parity index is 131 per hundred males indicating that more females are literate than males. Most of young persons have attained primary level of education. The percentage of young married has decreased by 1.4 percentage points from 21.7 in 1996 to 20.3 percent in 2006. Although there is decline in proportion married since

marriage is one of the proximate determinants of fertility one would think that fewer young females are at the risk of having children but there is an increase in teenage fertility indicating that with decline in proportion married young people are bearing children out of marriage. Most of young people are children to head of the household.

The percentage share of youngsters in the labour force population is 39.4 percent. The country is experiencing a decline in the young people participation in the labour force with declining school attendance, implying that young people might be engaged in other activities other than economic activities or education which contribute negatively to the country. But participation of young females in the labour force is still lower except in Maseru, but it cannot be concluded that Maseru is better because migration of young females is high in to Maseru district because of factories where most of job opportunities are high for females. Also high unemployment rate of females, especially in age group 15-19 worth investigating. Furthermore high levels of young persons employed in elementary occupations and majority having attained primary level only calls for policy makers to may be extent the free education to higher levels of education. Census alone cannot give all the path ways of young people for instance their engagement in drugs and crime to mention the few. Therefore deeper analysis and further research is recommended.

Disability

The 2006 Population and Housing census results showed 3.7 percent of the population in households is disabled. The prevalence of disability is higher among males (4.5 percent) than among females (3.1 percent).

About 8.8 percent of the disabled males were born disabled while 7.4 percent of disabled females fell in this category.

Similarly, males disabled from causes such as traffic accidents, mine accidents, fight/assault, animal accidents for example, outnumber their female counterparts, while females disabled form domestic violence and domestic accidents outnumber their male counterparts.

The most common types of disabilities were found to be Amputation of foot/leg, Blindness, Lameness/paralyzed limb, Speech problem, Deafness, Mental illness and Mental retardation. When type of disability was cross classified by educational status of the population, it was observed that blindness, when compared with other types of disability does not necessarily pose a unique challenge to school attendance, or attainment of any level of education.

Analysis of disability by marital status shows that while disability does not undermine the chances of marriage among the population with disability, it clearly undermines the stability of their marriage through an elevated rate of marital dissolution mainly through the death of their spouse.

Concerning the duration of disability, this chapter has demonstrated that females have reported to have been disabled for a short period of less than one year or 1-4 years on the average. By contrast, males tend to have been disabled

for a longer period of 5 – 14 years. The other observation is that, the percentages for the disabled males begin at younger ages than for females. The overall figures for both males and females have shown that disability increases with age.

Data on causes of disability through Illness has shown to be also higher for both females and males in most districts, more research has to be made to find out the types of illness that contribute to higher prevalence of disability.

The recommendation based on the findings from this chapter is that the Government should engage in research on disability forecasting more on blindness, as it has shown to have higher prevalence than other types of disability. Special education program has been established for persons with disability in order to empower them educationally, however, the Government should look at the causes of different types of disabilities and introduce prevention mechanisms in order to reduce prevalence.