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## BANGLADESH

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### 1. Name and address of the organisation responsible for the last census:

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Statistics Division, Ministry of Planning, 41 Siddhegwari, Dhaka.

### 2. Population censuses conducted since 1945 (years):

1951, 1961, 1974 and 1981. The present description relates mainly to the 1981 population census, but reference is also made to earlier censuses (cf. para. 8), as well as to the next census (cf. para. 9).

### 3. Coverage of the census:

(a) *Geographical scope:* Whole country, except two enclaves of Bangladesh (Angurpeta and Dahagram) where, due to some disturbances, the census could not be conducted.

(b) *Persons covered:* All persons of all ages, except foreign residents and nationals residing abroad.

### 4. Reference period:

The reference period used when asking questions on the economically active population and employment is a short period, i.e. the day of the census. For not working population, a long reference period (i.e. 6 months) has been used.

### 5. Main topics:

(a) Total population, by sex and age:	yes
(b) Economically active population, by sex and age group:	yes
(c) Economically active population, by industry and by sex:	no
(d) Economically active population, by occupation and by sex:	yes
(e) Economically active population, by status in employment and by sex:	no
(f) Hours of work:	no
(g) Other information collected relating to persons' economic activity:	no

Re. (a) The age is defined in terms of age at last birthday.

### 6. Concepts and definitions:

(a) *Economically active population:* It comprises all persons aged 10 years and over (except those mentioned under 3 (a) and 3 (b) above) who, during the reference periods, were either employed or unemployed, according to the definitions given below.

(b) *Employment:* Considered as "employed" are all persons aged 10 years and over (except those mentioned under 3 (a) and 3 (b) above) who, at the time of the census, performed any work of an economic value, at home or out of home. Also included are the following categories:

- (i) persons doing unpaid work in family firm or business;
- (ii) persons engaged in the production of primary products for own consumption;
- (iii) seasonal or occasional workers;
- (iv) conscripts for military/civilian service;
- (v) multiple job holders.

None of the above categories can be identified separately.

(c) *Unemployment:* Considered as "unemployed" are all persons aged 10 years and over (except those mentioned under 3 (a) and 3 (b) above) who, during the 6 months preceding the census, were without work and seeking work. Virtually, unemployed persons could not be identified in the 1981 census, because the category "not working" also included certain inactives, such as students, housekeepers, disabled persons, etc.

## 7. Classifications used:

Only employed persons are classified by occupation. No classification by industry and by status in employment was made.

(a) *Industry*: No classification by industry was made.

(b) *Occupation*: The specific question asked of employed persons to determine occupation group is "What was the main occupation of X (name of the person) during the reference period?". There were 5 precoded groups for the main occupation of employed persons, namely: agriculture (cultivation); forestry/fishery/livestock; manufacturing; business; others. Links to the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-68) have not been established.

(c) *Status in employment*:

No classification by status in employment was made.

## 8. The previous population censuses:

The main differences concerning previous censuses can be summarised as follows:

In 1951, the minimum age limit for inclusion in the economically active population was 12 years; in 1961 and 1974, the minimum age was 10 years.

In 1951, 1961 and 1974, the reference period was one week in non-agricultural activities; no reference period was used in agricultural activities.

In 1951, the labour force included all persons who were either working or seeking work in January of that year. It excluded defence service personnel. Zamindars receiving rent in cash or kind for lands owned, but tilled by others, were also excluded from the labour force. In 1961 and 1974, all persons aged 10 years and over were asked whether they are (i) working; (ii) looking for work; (iii) neither working nor looking for work (this group includes students, pensioners, rent receivers, inmates of prisons and asylum, beggars, dependents and others); women doing household work only). For (i) and (ii), the question on main occupation was to be written and coded later. The question "name and type of industry" was asked of all persons other than cultivators.

In 1961 and 1974, there was a special code for unemployed and persons looking for work.

In 1951, 1961 and 1974, industry was asked of all employed persons and unemployed persons previously employed. The same categories were asked to give details on their present or previous occupation.

Concerning status in employment, in 1951 and 1961 non-agricultural workers were classified as follows: employer; employee; independent worker and unpaid family help. In 1974, the same were classified as follows: employer; employee; independent worker; family help. In 1951, agricultural workers consisted of the following groups: Zamindar (receives rent in cash or kind for the land which is tilled by others); owner cultivator (pays rent in cash or kind for the land he/she tills); labourer; in 1961: owner cultivator; tenant; share cropper and family help; in 1974: owner cultivator; owner cultivator own-share cropper; share cropper; agricultural labourer; family help.

## 9. The next population census:

It is planned for 1991. However, it is neither decided whether or not it will collect information about the economically active population and its components nor if the same questions and reference periods are likely to be used to determine and describe the economically active population and its component groups.