
BURKINA FASO

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

Institut national de la statistique et de la démographie (INSD), 01 B.P. 374, Ouagadougou.

2. Population censuses conducted since 1945 (years):

1975 and 1985. The present description relates mainly to the 1985 population census, but reference is also made to the previous census (cf. para. 8), as well as to the next census (cf. para. 9).

3. Coverage of the census:

(a) *Geographical scope*: Whole country.

(b) *Persons covered*: All persons of all ages.

4. Reference period:

The reference periods used when asking questions on the economically active population, employment and unemployment are a short period in urban areas, i.e. the week previous to the census, and a long period in rural areas, i.e. the crop season (June to December - the 1985 census was in December).

5. Main topics:

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| (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: | yes |
| (f) Hours of work: | no |
| (g) Other information collected relating to persons' economic activity: | no |

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

6. Concepts and definitions:

(a) *Economically active population*: It comprises all persons aged 10 years and over 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 who, during the reference periods, had any economic activity, gainful or otherwise, for at least 3 days, and were not seeking work. 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) employed persons, temporarily absent from work;
- (iv) seasonal or occasional workers;
- (v) conscripts for military/civilian service;
- (vi) multiple job holders;
- (vii) apprentices and trainees.

Categories (i), (ii), (vi) and (vii) above can be identified separately by means of the question on status in employment.

Multiple job holders can be identified by the question "What are your (a) main and (b) secondary occupations?".

(c) *Unemployment*: Considered as "unemployed" are all persons aged 10 years and over who, in the reference periods, were without work or had worked for fewer than 3 days, and were seeking employment.

7. **Classifications used:**

Both employed persons and unemployed persons previously employed are classified by occupation and by status in employment.

(a) **Industry:** No classification by industry was made in the 1985 census.

(b) **Occupation:** The specific question asked both of employed persons and unemployed persons previously employed is: "What is (or was) your main occupation?". For employed persons this relates to the kind of work actually performed in the reference period; for unemployed persons previously employed it relates to the last work done. For coding occupation 8 main groups were used, i.e.: agriculture, stockbreeding, fisheries and forestry; administration (senior management ranks) and liberal professions; administration (middle management); labourers, salaried employees, wage-earners, and supervisory personnel; commerce; handicrafts; domestic and miscellaneous services; armed forces and security; and occupations not specified. Links to the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-68) have been established to mixed group level.

(c) **Status in employment:** The specific question asked both of employed persons and unemployed persons previously employed is: "What is (or was) your status in employment, i.e., are you (were you) an employer, employee, self-employed worker, apprentice, or family worker; if not, what other status?". For employed persons this question relates to the status during the reference period; for unemployed persons previously employed it relates to their last status. For coding status in employment the above 6 groups were used.

8. **The previous population censuses:**

At the 1975 census the lower age limit used to include a person in the economically active population was 15 years; at the 1985 census it was lowered to 10 years (in accordance with the concept of the population of working age). Furthermore, in 1975 the definition of economic activity did not include any information on the reference period or on the minimum hours of work to be used in deciding whether a person was to be counted as employed or unemployed.

9. **The next population census:**

It is planned for 1995 and will collect information about the economically active population and its components.

Essentially, the same questions and reference periods will be used to determine and describe the economically active population and its component groups.