

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
PREFACE	v
INTRODUCTION	1
A. Purpose and scope of the manual	1
B. Concepts, definitions and classifications of census statistics on economic activities	2
C. Evaluation of the quality of data	6
I. MEASURES OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC DIMENSIONS OF THE LABOUR FORCE	8
A. Measures of the absolute and relative size of the labour force	8
B. Dependency ratios	13
C. Sex-age specific activity rates	14
D. Tables of economically active life	19
1. Measures of the length of active life	24
2. Loss of active years by mortality	27
3. Entries into the labour force, retirements, losses by death, and related measures	29
E. Intercensal comparisons of cohort activity rates	34
II. STUDIES OF FACTORS AFFECTING THE SIZE, COMPOSITION, AND GROWTH OF THE LABOUR FORCE	40
A. Framework of demographic and other factors	40
B. Influences of the population age structure	40
1. Age-standardized activity rates	40
2. Interdependence and interaction of factors	43
C. Influences of fertility, mortality and migration	46
1. Analytical projections	46
2. Estimates of the effects of internal migration	50
D. Influences of the marital and maternal status of women	51
1. Marital status and activity rates	51
2. Maternal status and activity rates	52
3. Analysis by multiple standardization	55
E. Influences of school attendance and educational level	56
1. School attendance and activity rates	57
2. Educational level and activity rates of adults	59
F. Influences of economic factors	62

CONTENTS (continued)

	<u>Page</u>
III. STUDIES OF TYPES OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES	64
A. Introduction	64
B. Classifications and summary groupings of industry, occupation and status	66
C. Effects of varying definitions, errors and biasses	73
D. Dual economic activities	76
E. Regional and urban-rural patterns	78
F. Trends over a period of time	84
G. Cohort analysis of changes in the industry, occupation and status groups	93
H. Age distribution of the labour force in the industry, occupation and status groups	101
I. Types of activity of workers in various age groups	108
J. Interrelations of industry and occupation	110
K. Interrelations of status with industry and occupation	120
L. Other variables related to the industry, occupation and status distributions	127

ANNEX

A COMPLETE TABLE OF ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE LIFE, UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC, MALES, 1960	129
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PREFACE

As part of the work programme developed by the Population Commission, the United Nations has during the past decade and a half published a series of manuals on demographic methodology. The first three manuals, which were issued in the 1950's, dealt with the following subjects: the methods of estimating the total population of countries for current dates (Manual I); the methods of evaluating the quality of basic data for population estimates (Manual II); and the methods of projecting the population by sex and age (Manual III). Manual IV, which appeared in 1967, presented methods of estimating basic demographic measures from incomplete data.

The present manual is the first to be issued in response to the Population Commission's recommendation that the United Nations prepare and publish technical manuals on methods of analysis and evaluation of population census results. It is concerned with methods of analysing data on economic activities and provides methodological guidelines for studies of the growth of the economically active population, its composition in terms of demographic characteristics and of industry, occupation and status (as, for example, employer or employee) and factors affecting these characteristics of manpower. The United Nations manuals on methods of analysing census data are intended as aids to policy-making and planning of economic and social development, with primary reference to developing countries.

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