

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

FSTB(FS)169

(Question Serial No. 3236)

Head: (26) Census and Statistics Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (6) Labour Statistics

Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Census and Statistics (Leo YU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

Question:

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025-26 indicate that the Census and Statistics Department will continue to improve the labour statistics compilation framework. In this regard, please inform the Committee of the following:

- (a) The estimated expenditure and staffing involved in the work to improve the labour statistics compilation framework;
- (b) The details of the relevant improvement work and the specific labour statistics involved; and
- (c) Whether the Government will further improve the labour statistics by adding new recurrent and regularly released labour statistics targeting at new modes of employment (e.g. platform workers), so as to help the Government better formulate corresponding labour policies. If so, what are the details; if not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon NG Chau-pei, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

In consultation with the Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB) and the Labour Department (LD), the reply to the question is as follows:

- (a) In 2025-26, the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) will continue to carry out work to improve the labour statistics compilation framework by a professional team comprising 3 senior statisticians, 3 statisticians, 3 senior statistical officers and 5 statistical officers, who are responsible for the regular compilation and development of labour statistics. As the improvement work constitutes part of the duties of this professional team, we do not have a separate breakdown of estimated expenditure.
- (b) The details of the relevant improvement work carried out by C&SD are as follows:

- (i) To review the survey methodology of the Annual Earnings and Hours Survey, based on the data analyses required for the review of the Statutory Minimum Wage rate.
 - (ii) To review the survey methodology of the Quarterly Survey of Employment and Vacancies in order to take into account the new data demands for analysing the manpower requirement situations in different major industries.
 - (iii) To provide statistical data and technical support to LWB for the Manpower Projection.
 - (iv) To revise the Hong Kong Standard Industrial Classification (HSIC), taking into account the changes in the local economic structure and the improvements brought about by the “International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, Revision 5” endorsed by the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2024. The new HSIC will be used progressively in different establishment surveys of C&SD starting from 2027.
- (c) As new forms of employment (e.g. platform workers) involve complex statistical concepts, there are currently no commonly agreed statistical definition and measurement standards. As such, C&SD currently does not compile such statistics on a regular basis. Nevertheless, in response to the request of LD, C&SD has for the first time conducted a Thematic Household Survey, through commissioning a private research company, on the characteristics and working conditions of selected digital platform workers from end 2023 to early 2024. The results of the survey have already been published.

C&SD will keep in view the latest international statistical standards and guidelines on the measurement of new forms of employment and make timely improvements to the relevant statistical systems.

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