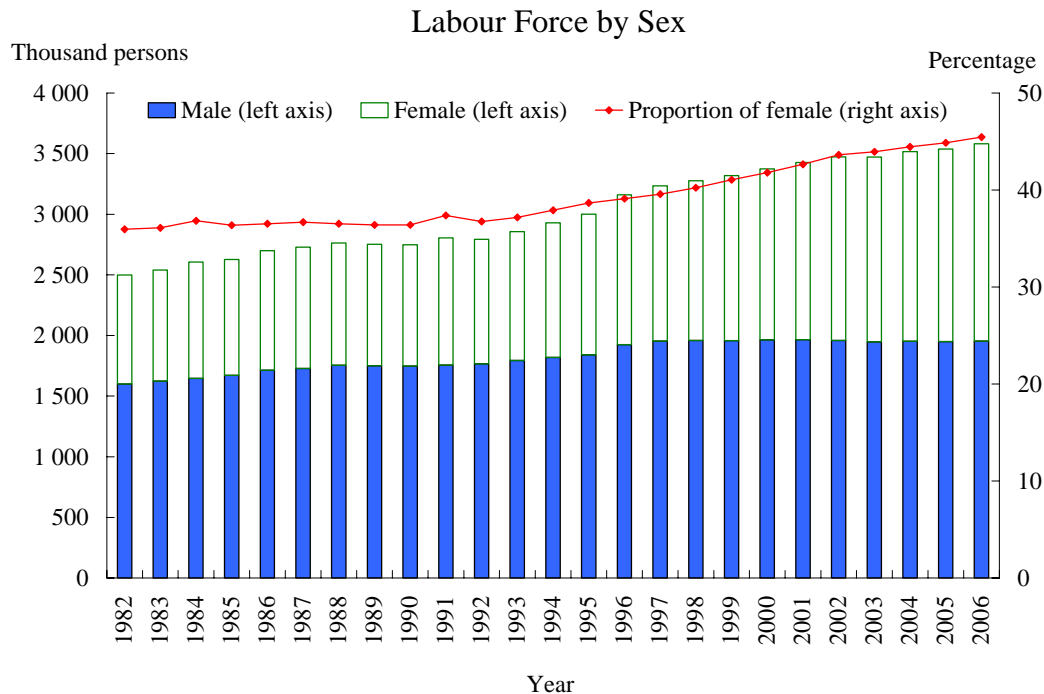


## Labour Force Showed An Increasing Trend

- The labour force, being the sum of the employed population and the unemployed population, showed an increasing trend over the past 20 and more years. It increased from 2.50 million persons in 1982 to 3.58 million persons in 2006.
- The male labour force increased from 1.60 million persons in 1982 to 1.95 million persons in 1997 at an average annual growth rate of 1.3%. Then, the trend leveled off in the past ten years and the figure was kept at the level of 1.95 million persons in 2006.
- The female labour force increased steadily from 0.90 million persons in 1982 to 1.63 million persons in 2006 at an average annual growth rate of 2.5%.
- The proportion of females in the labour force increased substantially from 36% in 1982 to 45% in 2006. It was the combined effect of a faster population growth of females relative to males and an increasing rate of participation in the labour market for females.



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