

Chapter 5

EMPLOYMENT

5.0 Introduction

This chapter examines the population characteristics pertaining to labour force. Labour force, a term, which refers to the population that furnish the supply of labour for production of goods and services.

The IHS2 collected information from all individuals aged 10 years and above regarding their main economic activity, and employment and time spent working on various tasks. Furthermore, employment is one of the main sources of income for most people and therefore the statistics on employment and its related statistics are major factors in formulation and evaluation of policies that effect income generating, reduction poverty and income situation of the working population. The analysis has been done on main economic activity, by gender and age disparities in labour force participation, industry and occupation structure.

Definitions

The labour force framework classifies the population above a certain specified minimum age for measuring economically active population, into three mutually exclusive and exhaustive categories: employed, unemployed and population not in the labour force. The labour force framework espouses the following definitions for employed, unemployed and out of labour force:

Employed persons are those aged 15 years or more who worked for pay, profit or family business workers and the self employed who worked for at least for one hour during seven-day period before the interview or who did not work during that period but had a job or business to go back to.

Unemployed persons are those aged 15 years or more, during the interview, did not work and had no job or business to go back, but who were available for work. Here unemployed definition being used is the broad one. According to international statistical standards, the unemployed should in principle satisfy the three criteria; (a) *being without work*; (b) *being available for work*; (c) *seeking work*

The *labour force* equals the number of employed plus the number of unemployed.

The labour force participation rate, or economic activity rate, is the percentage of persons that are economic active out of all persons aged 15 years and above (the working age population)

The unemployment rate is the percentage of unemployed persons in labour force.

The 'out of labour force' is the population that did not work for pay, profit or family for at least one hour during seven-day period before the interview or who did not work during that period and had no job or business to go back, in addition they were not available for work in the reference period.

The usual activity status is determined by person's main activity. The main activity refers to what a person has been doing for the longest period within the last twelve months. The usual active population equals the number of usually employed plus the number of usually unemployed.

5.1 Labour force participation , employment and unemployment

Labour force participation rate is an indicator of the country's potential labour supply at a given time i.e. 7 days in this survey. Table 5.1 shows that the LFP rate in Malawi at 90 percent.

The gender disparity in the labour force is minimal; a difference of 2 percentage points, 94 percent for men and 93 percent for women. This is not surprising; given the background that the bulk of the labour force is 'mlimi/farmer'. However, equality in labour force participation might be, on small scale, as a result of relaxation of the 'seeking work' axiom which tend to increase labour force participation of women by categorizing women who are not seeking work but are available for work as unemployed. This group of people 'not seeking, but available for work' tend to be dominated by women more than men. But looking at employment figures for women and men at 95 percent and 90 percent, respectively; gender disparity in employment is still small.

5.1.2 Youth employment

Table 5.1 shows that the age group 15-24 has the lowest participation rate, at 86 percent for both men and women compared to any other age groups. However, this fact is compounded by higher incidence of unemployment among this age group than any age group; 11 percent and 14 percent for young men and women respectively.

Table 5.1 Labor Force Participation Rate, Employment Rate, Unemployment Rate among males and females aged 15 years and above according to background characteristics, Malawi 2005.

Background characteristics	Labor force participation rate			Employment rate			Unemployment rate		
	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All
Malawi	93.9	91.6	92.7	94.6	90.0	92.2	5.4	10.0	7.8
Place of residence									
Urban	82.9	66.9	75.5	88.4	69.4	80.6	11.6	30.6	19.4
Rural	95.6	94.8	95.2	95.5	91.8	93.6	4.5	8.2	6.4
Age group									
15-24	86.0	85.8	85.9	89.4	85.6	87.4	10.6	14.4	12.6
25-34	98.4	95.6	97.0	96.9	90.3	93.6	3.1	9.7	6.4
35-49	99.2	96.8	98.0	98.0	93.5	95.8	2.0	6.5	4.2
50-64	98.7	96.4	97.5	96.7	93.9	95.3	3.3	6.1	4.7
65+	93.1	85.9	89.2	95.3	93.2	94.2	4.7	6.8	5.8
Education									
None	94.9	91.7	93.3	95.5	89.9	92.8	4.5	10.1	7.2
Primary	90.1	82.8	87.3	93.8	85.9	90.9	6.2	14.1	9.1
Secondary and above	90.2	85.0	88.4	90.3	78.1	86.4	9.7	21.9	13.6
Household per capita expenditure quintile									
1 st	94.8	94.6	94.7	96.3	93.8	95.0	3.7	6.2	5.0
2 nd	93.9	93.5	93.7	94.6	92.1	93.3	5.4	7.9	6.7
3 rd	95.1	91.5	93.3	94.2	89.9	92.0	5.8	10.1	8.0
4 th	94.2	90.9	92.5	94.5	87.4	91.0	5.5	12.6	9.0
5 th	91.1	85.7	88.6	93.1	83.9	89.0	6.9	16.1	11.0
Northern Region									
Chitipa	95.7	95.4	95.5	97.4	89.6	93.3	2.6	10.4	6.7
Karonga	98.0	98.0	98.0	91.9	93.0	92.4	8.1	7.0	7.6
Nkhatabay	99.6	97.2	98.2	99.2	98.1	98.6	0.8	1.9	1.4
Rumphi	99.2	96.1	97.7	99.2	91.9	95.6	0.8	8.1	4.4
Mzimba	96.2	93.5	94.8	94.8	88.8	91.8	5.2	11.2	8.2
Mzuzu city	87.2	78.8	83.2	89.1	71.4	81.2	10.9	28.6	18.8
Central Region									
Kasungu	97.7	95.5	96.7	92.1	90.5	91.3	7.9	9.5	8.7
Nkhotakota	94.7	89.9	92.3	98.5	92.4	95.4	1.5	7.6	4.6
Ntchisi	94.2	93.5	93.7	91.4	83.4	87.5	8.6	16.6	12.5
Dowa	99.0	97.6	98.3	93.9	85.8	89.8	6.1	14.2	10.2
Salima	88.0	86.8	87.4	94.3	93.1	93.7	5.7	6.9	6.3
Lilongwe rural	96.4	94.7	95.5	95.2	88.3	91.7	4.8	11.7	8.3
Lilongwe city	86.8	77.2	82.3	88.3	72.4	81.4	11.7	27.6	18.6
Mchinji	94.9	97.4	96.1	96.3	91.7	94.0	3.7	8.3	6.0
Dedza	95.1	97.7	96.6	94.9	95.3	95.1	5.1	4.7	4.9
Ntcheu	96.2	94.1	95.0	98.1	95.3	96.4	1.9	4.7	3.6
Southern Region									
Mangochi	95.8	93.2	94.4	93.4	89.7	91.5	6.6	10.3	8.5
Machinga	96.6	97.2	96.9	98.3	95.8	97.0	1.7	4.2	3.0
Zomba rural	99.0	98.0	98.5	97.0	96.9	97.0	3.0	3.1	3.0
Zomba municipality	87.8	72.4	80.4	90.2	76.1	84.1	9.8	23.9	15.9
Chiradzulu	98.9	96.9	97.8	98.8	98.1	98.4	1.2	1.9	1.6
Blantyre rural	87.4	90.7	89.1	93.4	83.1	88.1	6.6	16.9	11.9
Blantyre city	77.0	51.3	65.3	87.9	62.0	78.7	12.1	38.0	21.3
Mwanza	93.0	95.5	94.3	100.0	98.9	99.4	0.0	1.1	0.6
Thyolo	92.9	91.3	92.1	92.6	84.2	88.2	7.4	15.8	11.8
Mulanje	89.7	87.3	88.4	92.6	89.5	91.0	7.4	10.5	9.0
Phalombe	93.0	95.2	94.2	96.2	95.8	96.0	3.8	4.2	4.0
Chikwawa	96.4	93.2	94.8	96.3	94.2	95.3	3.7	5.8	4.7
Nsanje	95.8	95.4	95.6	96.9	96.8	96.8	3.1	3.2	3.2
Balaka	99.2	98.9	99.1	98.0	97.9	98.0	2.0	2.1	2.0

5.2 Occupation structure for wage earners

Table 5.2 shows the distribution of wage earners by their main occupational status; about 1 in 4 persons belongs to labourers not elsewhere classified, 17 percent of the wage earners are categorised as Communication and related workers, transport equipment workers, 12 percent of the wage earners belong to Professional, technical, and related workers and about the same belong to Animal husbandry and forestry workers. The sex difference shows that of the women wage earners tend the majority are in the labourers category 29 percent, 21 percent on the service category while 7 percent are in the professional, technical and related workers, This distribution is illustrated in figure 5.1 below.

Figure 5.1 Occupation by sex

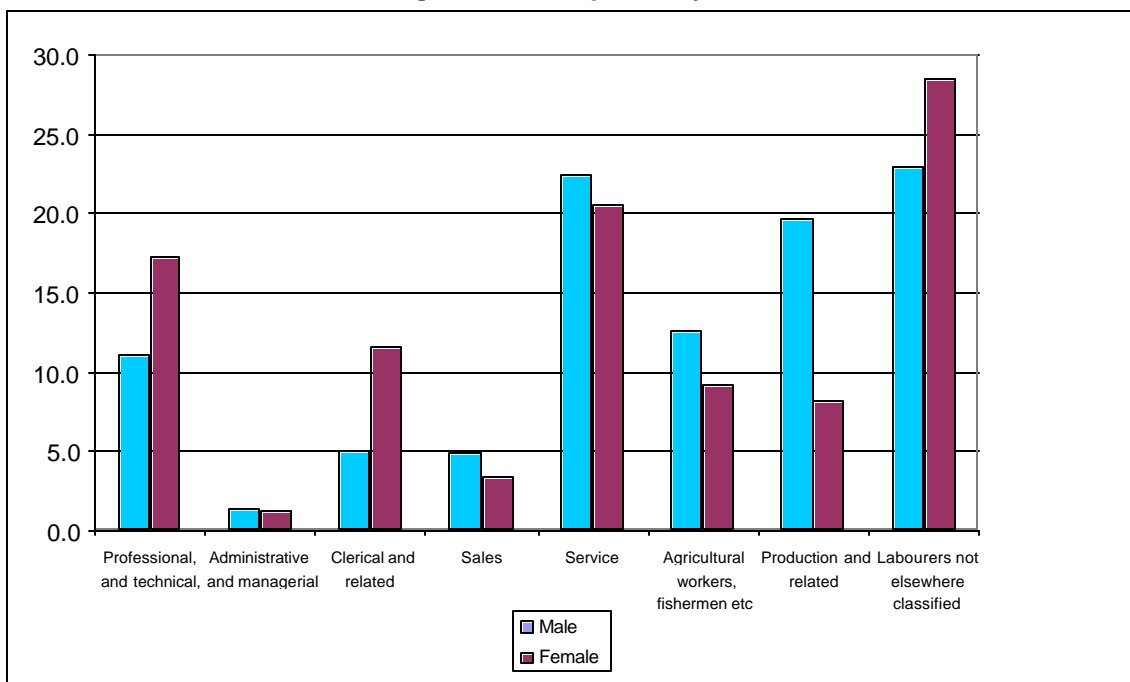


Table 5.2 Percentage distribution of persons aged 15 years and over in wage employment over the past 12 months by occupation according to background characteristics, Malawi 2005

Background characteristics	Occupation (ISCO)							
	Professional, and technical,	Administrative and managerial	Clerical and related	Sales	Service	Agriculture fishermen etc	Production and related	Labourer n.e.c
Malawi	12.4	1.3	6.5	4.6	22.1	11.8	17.1	24.1
Place of residence								
Urban	16.2	4.2	14.6	7.9	31.8	0.8	18.2	6.3
Rural	11.1	0.2	3.6	3.5	18.6	15.8	16.8	30.5
Sex								
Male	11.1	1.3	5.1	5.0	22.5	12.5	19.7	22.8
Female	17.3	1.2	11.6	3.4	20.6	9.3	8.2	28.5
Age								
15-24	3.2	0.1	6.4	7.5	21.2	19.7	12.6	29.2
25-34	14.6	1.0	7.1	4.7	18.7	10.9	18.9	24.0
35-49	18.5	2.6	7.2	3.4	21.3	8.7	18.3	19.9
50-64	10.3	1.3	4.0	1.7	33.6	7.3	18.2	23.6
65+	5.9	0.0	1.1	3.7	37.1	7.5	15.9	28.8
Education								
None	1.3	0.0	1.3	4.0	27.6	15.7	18.6	31.6
Primary	8.9	0.0	7.3	6.6	25.3	6.9	22.7	22.3
Secondary and above	35.4	4.2	16.9	6.3	13.0	2.3	15.0	6.8
Household per capita expenditure quintile								
1 st	2.5	0.0	1.7	2.4	24.9	14.4	18.0	36.0
2 nd	3.6	0.2	2.3	3.4	22.0	16.0	18.2	34.3
3 rd	8.8	0.2	2.5	3.6	21.7	13.1	20.5	29.6
4 th	10.5	0.0	5.7	6.0	22.9	12.4	19.1	23.2
5 th	25.3	4.0	13.8	6.0	20.5	7.2	12.9	10.3

Table 5.2 Continued, Percentage distribution of persons aged 15 years and above in wage employment past 12 months by occupation according to background characteristics, Malawi 2005.

Background characteristics	Occupation (ISCO 1 digit code)							
	Professional, and technical,	Administrative and managerial	Clerical and related	Sales	Service	Agricultural fishermen etc	Production and related	Labourers n.e.c
Malawi	12.4	1.3	6.5	4.6	22.1	11.8	17.1	24.1
Northern Region	20.1	0.3	3.8	3.3	15.2	4.4	20.4	32.5
Chitipa	26.5	0.0	1.5	4.4	19.1	2.9	17.6	27.9
Karonga	47.6	0.0	4.8	4.8	33.3	0.0	9.5	0.0
Nkhatabay	8.3	2.1	4.2	2.1	8.3	4.2	50.0	20.8
Rumphi	25.0	0.0	8.3	10.4	14.6	10.4	29.2	2.1
Mzimba	14.9	0.0	3.2	1.1	12.8	4.3	10.6	53.2
Mzuzu city	17.5	1.5	11.7	10.9	25.5	0.7	16.8	15.3
Central Region	11.4	0.3	3.4	2.4	16.9	27.5	12.5	25.8
Kasungu	5.9	0.0	1.2	1.8	8.9	60.4	16.6	5.3
Nkhotakota	31.1	0.0	8.2	0.0	18.0	6.6	11.5	24.6
Ntchisi	17.9	0.9	3.8	0.0	15.1	10.4	1.9	50.0
Dowa	6.1	0.6	7.9	4.2	12.1	26.7	12.1	30.3
Salima	17.5	2.5	5.0	5.0	20.0	5.0	12.5	32.5
Lilongwe rural	11.5	0.0	2.4	2.0	15.9	28.5	12.5	27.1
Lilongwe city	20.3	5.8	15.6	4.7	34.5	1.4	12.3	5.5
Mchinji	7.7	0.0	7.7	5.1	23.1	33.3	17.9	5.1
Dedza	8.3	0.0	0.0	3.0	18.8	21.1	14.3	34.6
Ntcheu	14.4	0.0	2.1	2.1	36.1	11.3	8.2	25.8
Southern Region	12.3	1.8	8.2	5.7	25.1	5.0	19.1	22.6
Mangochi	13.4	0.5	5.0	3.5	21.3	10.4	13.4	32.7
Machinga	6.0	0.0	2.2	3.3	13.7	10.4	18.1	46.2
Zomba rural	14.1	0.0	1.2	2.4	38.8	2.4	2.4	38.8
Zomba municipality	23.7	1.7	8.5	7.3	31.6	0.6	18.1	8.5
Chiradzulu	1.8	0.0	0.0	14.3	32.1	5.4	19.6	26.8
Blantyre rural	7.2	1.0	3.1	4.1	26.8	4.1	20.6	33.0
Blantyre city	10.4	3.4	14.9	11.0	29.8	0.3	25.0	5.3
Mwanza	7.7	0.0	5.8	5.8	19.2	25.0	32.7	3.8
Thyolo	13.6	0.0	5.6	2.5	21.2	1.0	18.7	37.4
Mulanje	11.6	0.5	7.4	2.1	13.2	0.0	14.7	50.5
Phalombe	11.8	0.0	5.9	5.9	14.7	2.9	23.5	35.3
Chikwawa	5.8	0.0	1.4	4.3	6.5	20.1	28.1	33.8
Nsanje	3.4	0.0	4.2	4.2	14.4	9.3	38.1	26.3
Balaka	11.1	0.0	1.9	9.3	24.1	11.1	16.7	25.9

5.3 Industry structure for wage earners

Table 5.3 shows the distribution of wage earners across industry reveals that 35 percent of wage earners are employed in social and community services sector, 22 percent in Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry, 17 percent in manufacturing industry and 12 percent in Construction industry. Women wage earners are predominantly found in Social and community services industry at 45 percent compared to men at 32 percent, and Construction industry and Finance and business industry at 18 percent. Mining and Quarrying remains the smallest industry in the country with less than 1 percent workers. This is illustrated in figure 5.2 below.

Figure 5.2 Employment by type of Industry

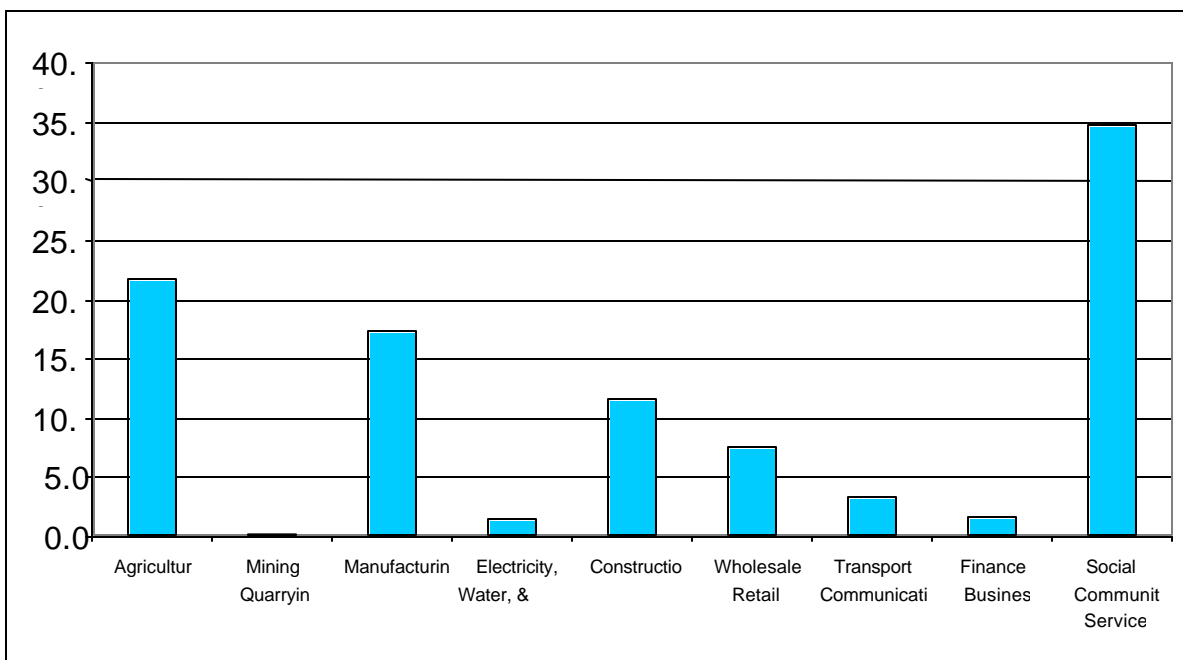


Table 5.3 Percentage distribution of persons aged 15 years and over in wage employment by type of industry according to background characteristics, Malawi 2005

Background characteristics	Type of industry (ISIC 1 digit code)								
	Agriculture	Mining & Quarrying	Manufacturing	Electricity, Water, & Utilities	Construction	Wholesale & Retail	Transport & Communication	Finance & Business	Social & Community Services
Malawi	21.9	0.1	17.3	1.5	11.6	7.7	3.5	1.7	34.7
Place of residence									
Urban	3.0	0.0	15.9	2.4	3.9	12.8	8.0	4.2	49.8
Rural	28.6	0.2	17.8	1.2	14.3	5.9	1.9	0.9	29.3
Sex									
Male	23.0	0.2	20.1	1.7	9.9	8.0	3.8	1.6	31.7
Female	18.0	0.0	7.4	0.6	17.5	6.8	2.5	2.1	45.1
Age									
15-24	33.4	0.2	15.4	1.7	8.4	10.2	3.7	0.6	26.3
25-34	19.3	0.1	19.4	1.6	11.3	8.4	4.5	1.8	33.7
35-49	16.8	0.1	17.6	1.2	13.1	5.6	2.7	2.3	40.6
50-64	19.2	0.3	15.0	1.7	14.3	5.6	2.2	2.6	39.0
65+	22.3	0.0	11.1	0.0	16.3	9.4	1.1	1.2	38.5
Education									
None	29.2	0.1	19.6	1.1	13.6	8.0	1.5	0.6	26.2
Primary	16.4	0.5	17.2	1.1	11.4	8.1	5.8	1.1	38.4
Secondary and above	4.5	0.1	14.5	2.6	5.1	9.6	6.6	3.8	53.2
Household per capita expenditure quintile									
1 st	28.9	0.1	19.1	1.1	16.9	5.5	1.5	1.3	25.8
2 nd	29.5	0.2	21.6	1.1	15.3	5.3	1.8	0.3	24.9
3 rd	25.0	0.3	18.5	1.4	14.3	6.6	2.1	0.8	30.9
4 th	22.9	0.1	18.1	2.1	11.9	8.0	4.4	0.6	31.9
5 th	12.0	0.0	12.9	1.6	5.3	10.5	5.5	4.0	48.3

Table 5.3- Continued, Percentage distribution of persons aged 15 years and above in wage employment by type of industry according to background characteristics, Malawi 2005

Background characteristics	Type of industry (ISIC 1 digit code)								
	Agriculture	Mining & Quarrying	Manufacturing	Electricity, Water, & Utilities	Construction	Wholesale & Retail	Transport & Communication	Finance & Business	Social & Community Services
Malawi	21.9	0.1	17.3	1.5	11.6	7.7	3.5	1.7	34.7
Northern	26.1	1.0	16.3	1.5	16.3	6.0	2.8	0.5	29.6
Chitipa	2.9	0.0	2.9	1.5	54.4	4.4	0.0	0.0	33.8
Karonga	4.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.5	9.5	4.8	0.0	71.4
Nkhatabay	12.5	0.0	62.5	0.0	2.1	4.2	4.2	0.0	14.6
Rumphi	10.4	8.3	4.2	2.1	14.6	10.4	10.4	0.0	39.6
Mzimba	48.9	0.0	11.7	2.1	7.4	5.3	1.1	1.1	22.3
Mzuzu city	1.5	0.0	10.9	6.6	10.9	19.7	9.5	0.7	40.1
Central	39.6	0.2	8.5	0.7	16.2	4.2	1.9	0.6	28.1
Kasungu	65.7	0.0	7.1	0.0	7.1	4.1	2.4	0.6	13.0
Nkhotakota	1.6	1.6	29.5	0.0	14.8	0.0	4.9	0.0	47.5
Ntchisi	14.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	47.2	0.9	0.0	1.9	35.8
Dowa	41.8	0.0	3.6	1.2	27.3	6.7	3.0	0.6	15.8
Salima	12.5	0.0	10.0	5.0	17.5	2.5	5.0	2.5	45.0
Lilongwe rural	44.9	0.0	8.2	1.0	10.2	3.7	0.3	0.0	31.6
Lilongwe city	5.2	0.0	12.6	1.6	3.0	9.1	4.7	4.9	58.8
Mchinji	53.8	0.0	10.3	0.0	2.6	12.8	0.0	0.0	20.5
Dedza	40.9	0.0	12.9	0.0	15.2	3.8	3.0	0.0	24.2
Ntcheu	18.8	1.0	3.1	1.0	19.8	4.2	2.1	2.1	47.9
Southern	13.2	0.0	21.5	1.8	9.0	9.5	4.3	2.4	38.2
Mangochi	47.1	0.0	4.9	2.0	7.8	9.8	0.0	0.0	28.4
Machinga	33.3	0.0	3.3	0.0	23.0	8.2	1.1	0.5	30.6
Zomba rural	32.1	0.0	2.4	1.2	9.5	8.3	1.2	1.2	44.0
Zomba municipality	2.8	0.0	7.3	0.6	5.1	8.5	8.5	4.5	62.7
Chiradzulu	3.6	0.0	30.4	0.0	12.5	12.5	0.0	0.0	41.1
Blantyre rural	4.1	0.0	16.5	1.0	3.1	9.3	8.2	1.0	56.7
Blantyre city	0.8	0.0	21.6	2.8	3.7	16.6	11.2	3.9	39.3
Mwanza	25.0	0.0	5.8	1.9	30.8	5.8	0.0	5.8	25.0
Thyolo	6.6	0.0	57.1	0.5	3.0	2.0	2.0	0.5	28.3
Mulanje	0.5	1.1	65.3	1.6	4.7	3.2	1.6	0.0	22.1
Phalombe	5.9	0.0	14.7	8.8	29.4	8.8	2.9	0.0	29.4
Chikwawa	20.1	0.0	51.8	5.0	9.4	2.2	0.0	0.7	10.8
Nsanje	18.1	0.0	27.6	0.9	30.2	8.6	1.7	0.0	12.9
Balaka	20.0	0.0	3.6	0.0	21.8	18.2	0.0	9.1	27.3

5.4 Income generating tasks

Persons above 15 years old were asked if they had worked for household agricultural activities (including fishing) or household business or engaged in casual or part-time or ganyu labour or worked for salary, commission, wage or any payment in kind but excluding ganyu in the past seven days and numbers of hours they spent on these income generating activities for the past seven days. The result in table 5.4 shows that 79 percent of the population above 15 years is engaged in income generating activities. The rates of participation in income generating activities depend on a host of factors. For example gender, age and education level play a role. High proportional of male 86 percent compared to female counterparts at 75 percent participate in income generating activities.

Table 5.4 shows that among persons doing tasks on average persons spends 23 hours on income generating activities in the past seven days; 13 hours is spent on household agricultural activities, 3.6 hours on non-agricultural and non-fishing household business, 2.0 hours on casual or part time or ganyu labour and 4.2 hours on wage, salary, commission or any payment in kind (not including ganyu).

Table 5.4 Proportion of persons aged 15 years and above doing income generating activities past 7 days and average weekly hours worked among these persons according to background characteristics, Malawi 2005

Background characteristics	Proportion of persons who did income generating tasks	Average weekly hours				
		Household agricultural or fishing activities	Non-agricultural and non-fishing household business	Casual, part time or ganyu labour	Wage, salary commission or any payment in kind	Total average hours worked
Malawi	78.9	13.3	3.6	2.0	4.2	23.1
Place of residence						
Urban	56.7	2.5	7.1	1.8	13.0	24.3
Rural	82.1	14.9	3.1	2.0	2.9	22.9
Sex						
Male	83.1	13.5	4.8	2.7	7.1	28.0
Female	74.9	13.1	2.5	1.3	1.4	18.4
Age						
15-24	69.4	10.7	2.3	1.8	2.1	16.8
25-34	84.7	13.6	5.5	2.5	6.2	27.8
35-49	87.1	15.1	4.6	2.2	6.6	28.5
50-64	85.7	17.1	3.2	1.7	3.8	25.7
65+	73.3	14.2	1.8	1.1	1.5	18.6
Education						
None	81.0	13.9	3.8	2.2	3.0	22.9
Primary	72.7	11.4	4.6	1.5	4.8	22.2
Secondary and above	70.0	6.7	4.4	0.9	13.6	25.6
Household per capita expenditure quintile						
1st	82.6	15.3	1.8	2.4	2.1	21.7
2nd	80.4	14.7	2.7	2.3	3.0	22.7
3rd	79.4	14.7	3.5	1.9	3.2	23.3
4th	77.8	12.2	4.5	1.7	4.6	23.0
5th	72.9	8.7	6.2	1.4	8.7	25.0

Table 5.4- continued, Proportion of persons aged 15 years and above doing income generating tasks past 7 days and average weekly hours worked among these persons according to background characteristics, Malawi 2005

Background characteristics	Proportion of persons who did income generating tasks	Average weekly hours				
		Household agricultural or fishing activities	Non-agricultural and non-fishing household business	Casual, part time or ganyu labour	Wage, salary commission or any payment in kind	Total average hours worked
Malawi	78.9	13.3	3.6	2.0	4.2	23.1
Northern Region	84.3	15.9	2.6	1.3	2.0	21.8
Chitipa	84.1	18.4	3.1	1.4	2.0	24.8
Karonga	88.5	17.5	5.9	0.6	1.3	25.3
Nkhatabay	91.2	6.1	0.6	0.1	3.3	10.1
Rumphi	84.3	12.6	1.1	0.5	1.5	15.8
Mzimba	80.4	18.3	2.1	2.1	2.1	24.4
Mzuzu city	63.1	3.6	7.4	2.6	10.2	23.9
Central Region	80.8	14.5	3.1	2.2	2.5	22.3
Kasungu	79.8	15.7	3.3	1.6	4.8	25.4
Nkhotakota	85.4	17.1	2.4	2.6	3.7	25.7
Ntchisi	73.6	16.8	2.4	2.2	3.3	24.8
Dowa	82.3	14.7	3.9	2.5	2.5	23.6
Salima	77.7	12.2	2.6	2.3	1.1	18.3
Lilongwe rural	79.0	13.1	2.2	2.1	2.1	19.4
Lilongwe city	62.5	3.9	6.0	2.5	12.8	25.2
Mchinji	87.3	13.8	1.7	2.0	1.5	19.0
Dedza	81.4	17.5	4.4	2.4	1.7	26.0
Ntcheu	80.6	11.8	5.0	2.3	1.7	20.9
Southern Region	76.5	12.0	4.1	2.0	5.7	23.8
Mangochi	78.6	10.8	4.2	1.5	2.9	19.5
Machinga	82.9	12.9	3.8	2.0	2.5	21.2
Zomba rural	88.2	27.1	2.6	1.8	1.9	33.4
Zomba municipality	57.7	2.6	9.0	2.4	10.8	24.9
Chiradzulu	93.2	11.4	2.3	2.0	2.2	17.9
Blantyre rural	69.2	4.7	5.0	1.6	6.4	17.6
Blantyre city	48.8	0.6	7.9	0.7	14.2	23.3
Mwanza	88.5	26.4	2.2	2.7	1.9	33.1
Thyolo	76.0	10.2	2.9	2.6	7.4	23.0
Mulanje	75.7	10.2	3.4	1.3	6.9	21.7
Phalombe	83.4	14.5	3.1	3.8	1.5	22.9
Chikwawa	86.7	18.5	2.2	1.5	3.8	25.9
Nsanje	85.3	16.8	3.7	1.5	2.0	24.0
Balaka	88.7	12.2	3.0	2.6	1.9	19.6

5.5 Domestic tasks

Information on domestic tasks (excluding child care) were collected in this survey. Persons above 15 years were asked if they had spent time doing household chores in the past 24 hours and for how many hours. Table 5.5 below shows that 58 percent of the population age above 15 years participated in domestic tasks. Slightly more people in rural areas (58 percent) did some household chores compared to those in urban areas (56 percent). By sex, there is a clear difference between men and women. More women than men are involved in domestic tasks at 90 percent compared to 24 percent for men. There is also a positive relationship between per capita expenditure quintile and proportion of persons who spent time doing household chores over the past 24 hours. As may be noted from table 5.5 below, the lowest quintile reported that 56 percent of persons in this group spent time doing some household chores. The proportion is increasing as the quintiles are increasing such that the highest quintile has reported 60 percent of persons in that group as having been involved in household chores. Of the three regions of the country, the southern region has the highest proportion of persons engaged in household chores (59 percent) followed by the central region (57 percent) and then finally the northern region (53 percent).

Three main household chores were asked during the survey. These were cooking, laundry and cleaning house; collecting water and collecting firewood. As table 5.5 below reveals, most of the time spent on household chores is spent on cooking, laundry and house cleaning. On average, people have reported that they spend almost 9 hours in a week doing this household task. The next highest household chore is that of collecting water as people spend about four hours in a week undertaking this task while collecting firewood is the least with only one hour, on average spent in a week.

The survey has further revealed that people aged 15 years and over spend about 5 hours doing household chores in a week. Rural people spend more time (5 hours) doing household chores per week compared to urban people (4 hours). By sex, women spend almost eight times more hours per week doing household chores compared to men. Of the three regions of the country, the southern and central region have both revealed that people in those areas spend about five hours in a week doing household chores while the northern region has reported that people there spend, on average, four hours doing household chores.

Table 5.5 Proportion of persons aged 15 years and over doing domestic tasks and average daily hours worked among these persons according to background characteristics, Malawi 2005

Background characteristics	Proportion of persons who did domestic tasks (excluding child care)	Average weekly hours			
		Cooking, laundry and cleaning house	Collecting water	Collecting firewood	Average hours
Malawi	57.8	8.6	3.6	1.4	4.6
Place of residence					
Urban	56.1	9.5	1.8	0.4	3.9
Rural	58.1	8.5	3.9	1.5	4.7
Sex					
Male	24	8.3	3.5	1.3	1.2
Female	90	9.9	4.3	1.8	7.7
Household per capita expenditure quintile					
1 st	56.4	8.1	3.9	1.6	4.5
2 nd	57.3	8.4	4.1	1.7	4.7
3 rd	57.7	8.8	3.9	1.6	4.8
4 th	58.4	8.7	3.4	1.3	4.5
5 th	59.9	9.1	3.1	0.8	4.3
Northern Region	53	5.7	3.9	1.1	3.6
Chitipa	47.8	7.7	3.1	0.4	3.7
Karonga	55.7	7.2	4.2	0.7	4.1
Nkhatabay	65.9	6.9	4.9	2.6	4.8
Rumphi	52.9	3.6	2.7	0.8	2.4
Mzimba	49.2	5.3	4.9	1.3	3.8
Mzuzu city	26.1	3.2	0.4	0.1	1.3
Central Region	57.2	8.6	3.4	1.4	4.5
Kasungu	47.7	6.3	3.9	1.5	3.9
Nkhotakota	60.9	11.7	7.0	2.5	7.0
Ntchisi	60.1	2.0	2.5	0.6	1.7
Dowa	64.8	8.3	3.6	2.3	4.7
Salima	52.8	9.0	5.7	1.7	5.5
Lilongwe rural	58.1	8.1	2.8	1.4	4.1
Lilongwe city	62.2	11.5	2.2	0.6	4.7
Mchinji	52.7	9.4	4.0	0.8	4.7
Dedza	55.9	6.0	2.7	1.5	3.4
Ntcheu	64.6	12.8	3.4	1.7	5.9
Southern Region	59.2	9.3	3.8	1.5	4.9
Mangochi	55.3	11.3	4.0	1.1	5.5
Machinga	52.3	10.9	6.2	3.3	6.8
Zomba rural	63.1	9.7	5.3	3.2	6.1
Zomba municipality	54.4	8.8	2.5	0.3	3.8
Chiradzulu	59.5	6.6	3.9	0.4	3.6
Blantyre rural	62.2	9.0	2.3	0.4	3.9
Blantyre city	56.5	8.9	1.8	0.1	3.6
Mwanza	59.4	4.8	3.8	1.3	3.3
Thyolo	58.7	9.0	2.7	1.7	4.5
Mulanje	55.9	11.2	3.9	1.3	5.5
Phalombe	53.6	5.7	3.4	1.0	3.3
Chikwawa	65.7	13.5	6.5	2.0	7.3
Nsanje	64.7	9.0	2.5	1.8	4.4
Balaka	74.9	8.4	3.7	1.3	4.5

5.6 Main economic activity and inactivity

5.6.1 Economic activity

All persons above age of 15 years were asked to describe their main activity in past seven days according to their employment status. Table 5.6 shows the distribution of the employed in last seven days; 75 percent of the employed indicates their main activity as mlimi, 13 percent categorises their main activity as employee, 7 percent gives their main activity as self-employed and 5 percent gives their main activity as family business worker. Examination of main activity against various background characteristics raises a number of interesting factors that characterise the employment structure. For example 6 out every 10 employed males are mlimi compared to 8 out of every 10 employed females. A relatively higher proportion of the youth below 25 years and the elderly over 49 years are employed as mlimi at 82 percent for 15-24 age group, 81 percent for 50-64 age group and 90 percent for 65 and above age group. This can be compared to 67 percent and 70 percent of mlimi that are in age groups of 25-34 and 35-49, respectively. Furthermore, as educational level increases, there is a decrease in proportion of people employed as mlimi. Not surprisingly, higher proportion of households in lower household per capita expenditure quintiles are home to mlimi at 88 percent and 83 percent for the first and second quintiles.

Table 5.6 Percentage distribution of currently employed persons aged 15 years and over by type of employment according to background characteristics, Malawi 2005

Background characteristics	Type of economic activity					Total
	Farmer (Mlimi)	Employee	Family business worker	Self employed	Employer	
Malawi	75.4	12.7	5.1	6.5	0.2	100
Place of residence						
Urban	15.3	53.4	6.4	24.9	0.1	100
Rural	81.4	8.7	5.0	4.6	0.2	100
Sex						
Male	64.9	20.0	5.9	8.9	0.3	100
Female	86.6	5.1	4.4	3.9	0.1	100
Age						
15-24	81.7	8.7	5.0	4.6	0.1	100
25-34	67.0	17.0	6.7	9.0	0.2	100
35-49	70.3	17.0	5.2	7.2	0.3	100
50-64	81.4	9.3	3.9	5.3	0.1	100
65+	90.8	3.9	1.9	3.1	0.2	100
Education qualification						
None	78.4	8.8	5.8	6.9	0.2	100
Primary	68.0	15.8	6.1	9.9	0.2	100
Secondary and above	35.0	49.3	6.0	9.3	0.5	100
Household per capita expenditure quintile						
1 st	87.5	6.3	2.8	3.2	0.2	100
2 nd	83.2	8.4	3.1	5.0	0.2	100
3 rd	78.8	10.1	4.6	6.3	0.1	100
4 th	70.7	13.8	7.1	8.2	0.3	100
5 th	50.6	28.7	9.4	11.1	0.2	100

Table 5.6 continued; Percentage distribution of currently employed persons aged 15 years and above by type of employment according to background characteristics, Malawi 2005

Background characteristics	Type of economic activity					
	Farmer (Mlimi)	Employee	Family business worker	Self employed	Employer	Total
Malawi	75.4	12.7	5.1	6.5	0.2	100
Northern Region	86.0	6.5	3.4	4.0	0.1	100
Chitipa	83.0	4.9	11.1	1.1	0.0	100
Karonga	78.3	3.6	3.4	14.5	0.2	100
Nkhatabay	87.8	8.5	2.1	1.7	0.0	100
Rumphi	88.9	7.3	1.6	2.2	0.0	100
Mzimba	89.1	7.4	2.0	1.4	0.1	100
Mzuzu city	21.7	37.1	33.0	7.5	0.6	100
Central Region	83.6	7.1	6.0	3.0	0.3	100
Kasungu	78.7	14.2	4.0	3.1	0.0	100
Nkhotakota	81.3	11.7	5.2	1.8	0.0	100
Ntchisi	80.3	14.1	0.6	4.4	0.6	100
Dowa	83.2	5.8	9.8	1.1	0.1	100
Salima	89.3	3.9	3.9	2.6	0.3	100
Lilongwe rural	83.0	7.0	6.7	2.9	0.3	100
Lilongwe city	24.5	50.4	4.7	20.5	0.0	100
Mchinji	86.7	4.7	1.5	7.0	0.2	100
Dedza	88.1	3.4	5.1	3.0	0.3	100
Ntcheu	80.3	4.6	12.7	1.6	0.9	100
Southern Region	67.3	18.1	4.9	9.5	0.2	100
Mangochi	71.9	11.1	3.9	12.9	0.1	100
Machinga	80.3	7.1	5.1	7.5	0.0	100
Zomba rural	89.7	5.4	4.5	0.5	0.0	100
Blantyre city	2.6	61.8	2.2	33.4	0.0	100
Chiradzulu	84.8	7.7	2.6	4.9	0.0	100
Blantyre rural	40.4	25.8	14.3	19.5	0.0	100
Zomba municipality	11.1	49.6	5.4	33.9	0.0	100
Mwanza	91.4	4.3	1.2	3.1	0.0	100
Thyolo	62.1	25.2	8.0	3.9	0.7	100
Mulanje	60.2	21.2	2.4	13.1	3.2	100
Phalombe	86.6	3.6	5.3	4.5	0.0	100
Chikwawa	85.6	9.3	2.3	2.8	0.0	100
Nsanje	82.2	6.7	5.9	5.2	0.0	100
Balaka	87.6	5.4	0.0	7.0	0.0	100

5.6.2 In-activity

Labour force framework categorises economically not active persons, but also those that are unavailable for work or out of labour force. The survey estimates that there are about 7 percent of the 15 years and above population who are inactive; more females at 8 percent than males at 6 percent and a high proportion of the inactive are in urban at around 25 percent than in rural at 5 percent.

The reasons that are given in table 5.7; 53 percent of inactive are students and 35 percent are doing housework only and 12 percent are old and sick. Urban set-up has a high proportion of inactive who are house workers than rural set-up at 43 percent and 31 percent, respectively. The rural households have a proportionally high proportion of inactivity due to sickness or aging at 17 percent compared to 2 percent in urban areas.

Table 5.7 Proportion of persons aged 15 years and over who were economically inactive and the percentage distribution by reasons for being economically inactive according to background characteristics, Malawi 2005

Background characteristics	Proportion economically inactive	Reasons for inactivity			
		Housework	Student	Sick or old	Total
Malawi	7.3	35.2	52.8	12.0	100
Place of residence					
Urban	24.5	43.3	55.1	1.6	100
Rural	4.8	30.9	51.6	17.4	100
Sex					
Male	6.1	14.1	74.5	11.4	100
Female	8.4	48.9	38.6	12.4	100
Age group					
15-24	14.1	26.3	71.1	2.6	100
25-34	3.0	66.0	11.8	22.2	100
35-49	2.0	65.5	0.0	34.5	100
50-64	2.5	66.4	0.0	33.6	100
65+	10.8	36.9	0.0	63.1	100
Education					
None	6.7	39.0	51.8	9.2	100
Primary	12.7	21.2	75.3	3.5	100
Secondary and above	11.6	21.0	74.9	4.1	100
Household per capita expenditure quintile					
1 st	5.3	27.8	53.1	19.1	100
2 nd	6.3	33.6	52.2	14.2	100
3 rd	6.7	41.9	45.4	12.7	100
4 th	7.5	35.0	53.7	11.3	100
5 th	11.4	36.0	57.5	6.4	100

Table 5.7 continued, proportion of persons aged 15 years and above who were economically inactive and the percentage distribution by reasons for being inactive according to background characteristics, Malawi 2005

Background characteristics	Proportion economically inactive	Reasons for inactivity			
		Housework	Student	Sick or old	Total
Malawi	7.3	35.2	52.8	12.0	100
Northern Region	3.7	23.5	36.8	39.7	100
Chitipa	4.5	3.1	18.8	78.1	100
Karonga	2.0	12.5	56.3	31.3	100
Nkhatabay	1.8	5.6	11.1	83.3	100
Rumphi	2.3	63.6	13.6	22.7	100
Mzimba	5.2	27.5	46.4	26.1	100
Mzuzu city	16.8	39.2	57.8	2.9	100
Central Region	4.7	26.2	55.3	18.5	100
Kasungu	3.3	46.3	38.9	14.7	100
Nkhotakota	7.7	22.4	61.2	16.3	100
Ntchisi	6.3	15.0	77.5	7.5	100
Dowa	1.7	25.8	51.6	22.6	100
Salima	12.6	19.7	65.8	14.5	100
Lilongwe rural	4.5	28.2	50.3	21.5	100
Lilongwe city	17.7	47.0	50.0	3.0	100
Mchinji	3.9	35.0	55.0	10.0	100
Dedza	3.4	8.7	63.8	27.5	100
Ntcheu	5.0	27.0	52.7	20.3	100
Southern Region	9.8	40.6	53.0	6.3	100
Mangochi	5.6	29.5	51.1	19.3	100
Machinga	3.1	24.4	60.0	15.6	100
Zomba rural	1.5	52.8	38.9	8.3	100
Blantyre city	34.7	41.8	57.5	0.6	100
Chiradzulu	2.2	22.2	55.6	22.2	100
Blantyre rural	10.9	44.6	47.7	7.7	100
Zomba municipality	19.6	40.4	58.8	0.7	100
Mwanza	5.7	9.1	84.8	6.1	100
Thyolo	7.9	45.6	44.1	10.3	100
Mulanje	11.6	24.6	71.9	3.5	100
Phalombe	5.8	40.5	43.2	16.2	100
Chikwawa	5.2	66.7	25.4	7.9	100
Nsanje	4.4	31.0	58.6	10.3	100
Balaka	0.9	9.1	45.5	45.5	100