

ESTIMATION OF INDUSTRYWISE WORKING POPULATION FROM 1951 AND 1961 CENSUS DATA

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Introduction

ESTIMATES OF Industrywise distribution of the working population at the state and all-India levels are necessary for such calculations as fixation of the employment target in the formulation of the Five-Year Plan, and the analysis of productivity per person in different branches of economic activity etc. In a developing country like India, the calculations are also used for the estimation of regional and national income. In India, at present, the net output of certain sectors of the economy in which 'product approach' cannot be followed mainly due to the absence of reliable data on gross value of production of goods and services and various cost items, is generally estimated by multiplying the estimated working-population by the corresponding average earning. Even in other sectors of the economy in which contribution to national/regional income is estimated by 'product approach', estimates of the working population are sometimes necessary to ensure that all productive activities are included in the sectoral output. In spite of its many limitations, 'economic data' collected during decennial population census is the only source available at present, from which one can have benchmark estimate of distribution of the working population for different economic (industrial) sectors.

In the paper, we have estimated,¹ on the basis of economic data of 1951 and 1961 population censuses, the distribution of all-India² working population, according to the following industries, namely, 1. Agriculture (including forestry, fishery and animal husbandry); 2. Mining and quarrying; 3. Manufacturing: (3.1) Food-stuffs, (3.2) Beverages, (3.3) Tobacco products, (3.4) Textiles, (3.5) Wood and wood products, (3.6) Paper and paper products, (3.7) printing and publishing, (3.8) Leather and leather products, (3.9) Rubber,