

# EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES- STATISTICS, DEFINITION AND COVERAGE, 1961

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## 1. *Introduction*

There has been a lot of discussion about employment, underemployment and unemployment both in agricultural and non-agricultural sectors. Of late, along with the study on the problems of unemployment in agriculture, greater emphasis is put on the growth and pattern of employment in non-agricultural sector also. It has been the opinion held by many that with the growth of the economy the shift in employment pattern is broadly in the nature of bringing down the proportion of employment in the agricultural sector and some increase in the proportion of employment in the industrial sector.

As far as employment potential of the industrial sector is concerned, this would firstly be the direct employment provided by the industries and secondly, the indirect employment provided through general activation of economy through industrial development. Employment potential generated in the industrial sector would, however, depend upon two factors, e.g., (a) rate of industrial production and (b) pattern and structure of industrial development.

In order to make an attempt at discussing the above-mentioned factors a systematic analysis of the data on non-agricultural activities has to be made. This, however, is particularly a difficult problem. Either data are not available in the required detail and pattern or there is a time gap in the availability of data from the same or different sources.

The Census which takes place every ten years collects data about workers and non-workers in the country. It helps one to know to what extent the people of India are gainfully employed. But during the interval between two censuses the economists are otherwise left in the dark. Sometimes attempts are made to measure the growth of employment from other sources, e.g., from the Labour Bureau statistics on factory employment. But often times these latter sources reveal the volume of employment in the country as much as an iceberg reveals its size above water.

## 2. *The Present Study*

The earliest that the statistics on employment in secondary and tertiary sectors are available on a relatively comprehensive scale is