MALAWI

1. Name and address of the organisation responsible for the last census:
   National Statistical Office, P.O. Box 333, Zomba.

2. Population censuses conducted since 1945 (years):
   1966, 1977 and 1987. The present description relates mainly to the 1987 population census,
   but reference is also made to earlier censuses (cf. para. 8).

3. Coverage of the census:
   (a) Geographical scope: Whole country.
   (b) Persons covered: All persons of all ages.

4. Reference period:
   The reference period used when asking questions on the economically active population, em-
   ployment and unemployment is a short period, i.e. the 7 days preceding the census day.

5. Main topics:
   (a) Total population, by sex and age: yes
   (b) Economically active population, by sex and age group: yes
   (c) Economically active population, by industry and by sex: yes
   (d) Economically active population, by occupation and by sex: yes
   (e) Economically active population, by status in employment and by sex: yes
   (f) Hours of work:
   (g) Other information collected relating to persons’ economic activity: yes

   Re. (a) The age is defined in terms of age in completed years at the date of the census.
   Re. (g) The census also covers information on household’s economic activity.

6. Concepts and definitions:
   (a) Economically active population: It comprises all persons aged 10 years and over who, during
       the reference period, were either employed or unemployed, according to the definitions given
       below.

   (b) Employment: Considered as “employed” are all persons aged 10 years and over who, during
       the reference period, performed any work of an economic value, at home or out of home. The
       question used to determine whether or not a person is to be counted as employed is “Did you
       work during the last 7 days?”. Also included are the following categories:

       (i) persons doing unpaid work in family firm or business;
       (ii) persons engaged in the production of primary products for own consumption;
       (iii) employed persons, temporarily absent from work;
       (iv) working students with a part time job;
       (v) seasonal or occasional workers;
       (vi) conscripts for military/civil service;
       (vii) multiple job holders;
       (viii) apprentices and trainees.

       Only persons belonging to categories (i), (ii), (iv) and (viii) can be identified separately.

   (c) Unemployment: Considered as “unemployed” are all persons aged 10 years and over who,
       during the reference period, were without work and seeking work. The question used to de-
       termine whether or not a person is to be counted as unemployed, is identical to that mentioned
       under 6 (b) above.

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7. Classifications used:

Both employed and unemployed persons previously employed are classified by industry, by occupation and by status in employment.

(a) Industry: Specific questions were asked of employed and unemployed persons previously employed concerning the nature of the goods produced or services provided by the establishment in which they were working during the reference period, or worked previously in the case of unemployed. For coding industry, 10 groups were used, which are compatible with the International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC-68, rev. 2) to the 1-digit level.

(b) Occupation: Specific questions were asked of employed and unemployed persons previously employed on the kind of trade, profession or work they were performing during the reference period, or performed previously in the case of unemployed. For coding occupation, the codes of the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-68) were used to the minor group level.

(c) Status in employment: Specific questions were asked of employed and unemployed persons previously employed to determine their status in employment. For coding status in employment 5 groups were used, namely: farmer, self-employed, employer, employee, unpaid family worker.

8. The previous population censuses:

Essentially, the same questions and reference period were used in previous censuses to determine and describe the economically active population and its component groups.

9. The next population census:

It is not planned to carry out a population census during the period 1989-95.