

## **The China Urban Labor Survey (CULS)**

### **Collaboration with Local Offices of the State Statistical Bureau.**

The CULS was administered from November 2001 to January 2002 in five large Chinese cities: Shanghai, Shenyang, Wuhan, Xian and Fuzhou. The survey was administered by the Institute for Population Studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS-IPS), in collaboration with local offices of the National Statistical Bureau in each of the five cities. In four of the cities the surveys were conducted by the urban survey unit of the provincial statistical bureau (the *cheng diao dui*) and in Shenyang by the enterprise survey unit..

### **Survey Teams, Supervisors and Monitoring.**

All local enumerators, supervisors and monitors participated in an intensive week-long training program including lectures and discussion of interview methods, questionnaire content, data quality checks, survey protocol, mock interviews, and a certification test. Survey manuals developed specifically for the CULS were provided to all enumerators, supervisors and monitors. Each supervisor coordinated ten enumerators, and each enumerator was responsible for surveying ten households. Enumerators and supervisors were provided financial incentives (bonuses) if they achieved low error rates. Enumerators were dismissed without pay and supervisor remuneration was withheld if any returned survey instruments contained falsified information or if enumerators failed to enumerate each adult member of an assigned household. If any of enumerator questionnaires were falsified, the entire set of households assigned to the enumerator was resurveyed. Monitors were hired from among graduate students in the local city and were trained in the instruments along with enumerators and monitors. Other than this contact, monitors were from different work-units and had no contact or relationship with enumerators and supervisors of the survey. Ten percent of all households were randomly resurveyed and short interviews were conducted by monitors, who were then provided bonuses for finding falsified interviews. In addition, monitors assisted in the first pass of reviewing survey instruments for inconsistencies and obvious problems. Upon discovering logical errors or inconsistencies, households were re-interviewed by phone for small problems, and through follow-up visits for larger problems.

### **The Role of the Neighborhood Committee (originally known as the *Juweihui*, recently reformed and called *She Qu*).**

The neighborhood committee is the lowest administrative unit in urban China and keeps updated records of all residents in their geographically defined neighborhood. Since China maintains a strict household registration system, these form a reliable record of households classified as urban residents and migrants with legal temporary residence. Neighborhood committee members are familiar with members of the community, and refusal rates were kept low by using them to facilitate introductions to heads of households scheduled for interviews. The neighborhood committee also has knowledge about basic features of the population in the neighborhood, and the neighborhood committee is responsible for distributing the minimum living allowance to eligible households. For this reason, we also asked a member of the committee to fill out a short questionnaire.

### **The Urban Household Sample Frame.**

Within each city we used a proportional population sampling approach to sample an average of 15 households in each of 70 neighborhood clusters, using the 2000 population census as an aid to sampling clusters and households. An average of 10 households would be interviewed in each community, and an additional 5 would be available for interview if households could not be found, had moved, or refused to be interviewed. The local NSB assisted in developing sample frames and in coordinating local enumerators and supervisors, and the research team chose the actual sample.

### **The Migrant Sample Frame.**

In order to get a separate representative sample of migrants, we used the 2000 Population Census to first sample 60 communities. The 2000 Census asked a question about household registration that allowed us to determine the distribution of migrants across cities. While the same migrants may not be living in the same location as they had one year earlier, we assumed that the distribution of migrants across communities would remain the roughly the same. Once a neighborhood was selected for the migrant sample, the administrative records of the neighborhood committee were used to constructing a sample frame of all registered migrants within the neighborhood. Some migrants working at large units such as hotels or construction teams are registered by their work units directly with the local urban district police station (*paichusuo*). These migrants were also included in the sampling frame. Unregistered migrants are not contained in the sample frame; thus, we do not survey short-term migrants who fail to register for legal temporary residence.

### **The China Urban Adult Cognitive Ability Survey.**

A follow-up survey covering recent work experience, pension plan participation, and testing adult cognitive ability was administered in both Urban and Migrant households during September-November 2002. The recontact rate was above 90 percent in each city.

### **Funding.**

Funding for the main China Urban Labor Survey was provided by grants from Michigan State University, the University of Michigan, the Ford Foundation, and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. Funding for the follow-up China Urban Adult Cognitive Ability Survey has been provided by the World Bank.

### **Attached Questionnaires**

1. Household Questionnaire.
2. Individual Questionnaire.
3. Community Questionnaire.
4. China Urban Adult Cognitive Ability Survey.