METHODOLOGY

Introduction

Labour Force Survey (LFS) has, more or less, been a regular activity of the Federal Bureau of Statistics (FBS) since 1963. In order to improve the labour force statistics, the survey's questionnaire was revised in 1990. Major improvement constituted the addition of probing questions on female activities to catch the hidden employment. The questionnaire was further improved in 1995 to reckon with the size and composition of migration and informal sectors. The scope of the survey was extended in 2001-02 to occupational safety and health as well. The surveys conducted so far are given at Annexure-I.

2.	This report presents the results of LFS 2003-04. The pertinent information has been collected from a national representative sample of 18,912 households, spread over four quarters of the year in order to grapple with the calculus of seasonal variations.

Objectives and Coverage

3.	The major aim of the survey is to collect a set of comprehensive statistics on the various dimensions of country's civilian labour force. The survey profiles information to pave the way for skill development, planning, employment generation, assessing the role and importance of the informal sector and, sizing up the volume, characteristics and contours of employment. The specific objectives of the survey are as follows:

-	To collect data on the socio-demographic characteristics of the total population i.e. age, sex, marital status, level of education, current enrolment and migration etc;

-	To acquire current information on the dimensions of Pakistan's labour force; i.e. number of persons employed, unemployed, underemployed or out of labour market;

-	To gather descriptive facts on the engagement in major occupational traits and the nature of work undertaken by the institution/organization;

-	To profile statistics on employment status of the individuals, i.e. whether they are employers, own account workers, unpaid family workers or paid employees (regular/casual);

-	To classify non-agricultural enterprises employing household member(s) as formal and informal;

-	To put figure on the hours worked at main/subsidiary occupations;

- To provide data on wages and mode of payment for paid employees;

- To quantify occupational health and safety of employed persons by causes, type of injuries/diseases occurred, parts of body injured, type of treatment received and period of absence from work; and

- To collect data on the characteristics of unemployed persons i.e. age, sex, level of education, previous experience if any, occupation, industry, employment status related to previous job, waiting time invested in the quest for work, their availability for work and expectations for future employment.

4.	The survey covered all urban and rural areas of the four provinces of Pakistan defined as such by 1998 Population Census, excluding Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), military restricted areas, and protected areas of NWFP. The population of excluded areas constitutes about 3% of the total population.

Field Operation

5.	FBS is the national statistical organization responsible for collection, processing, compilation and dissemination of statistics. It has 34 Regional/Field Offices located all over Pakistan. These offices are equipped and manned with regular and trained field staff for collection of data through censuses/surveys.

6.	In order to evolve dynamics of field enumeration in line with the survey's objectives, training is imparted to the concerned staff on interviewing techniques and other procedure to be used in the enumeration. For quality control, supervisors from Regional/Field Offices and headquarter, make frequent field visits to spot-checking the collection process.

Data Processing and Editing

7.	Soon after data collection, the supervisors clean, edit and check the filled in questionnaires manually for consistency and completeness and refer back to field where necessary.

8.	Editing is done at headquarter by the subject matter section. Computer edit checks are applied to get even with errors identified at the stage of data entry. Data ranges in numerical values are used to eliminate erroneous data resulting from mistakes made during coding. The survey records are further edited and rectified through a series of computer processing stages.

Sample Design

9.   *Universe:* The universe for Labour Force Survey consists of all urban and rural areas of the four provinces of Pakistan defined as such by 1998 Population Census, excluding Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Northern Areas, Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and military restricted areas and protected areas of NWFP. The Population of excluded areas constitute about 3% of the total population.

10. *Sampling Frame:* Federal Bureau of Statistics (FBS) has developed its own sampling frame for urban areas. Each city/town is divided into a number of enumeration blocks. Each enumeration block is based on 200 to 250 households on the average with well-defined boundaries and maps.   The list of enumeration blocks as updated through Economic Census 2003-04 and the list of villages/mouzas/dehs of 1998 Population Census have been taken as sampling frame. Enumeration blocks and villages are considered as Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) from urban and rural domains respectively.

11. *Stratification Plan Urban Domain:* Karachi, Lahore, Gujranwala, Faisalabad, Rawalpindi, Multan, Sialkot, Sargodha, Bahawalpur, Hyderabad, Sukkur, Peshawar, Quetta and Islamabad are considered as large cities. Each of these cities constitutes a separate stratum, further sub-stratified according to low, middle and high income groups based on the information collected in respect of each Enumeration Block at the time of demarcation/ updating of urban area sampling frame.

12. *Remaining Urban Areas*: After excluding the population of large cities from the population of respective ex-administrative division, the remaining urban population of ex-administrative division from provinces is grouped together to form another stratum called other urban. Thus each ex-division in remaining urban areas in the four provinces constitutes a stratum.

13. *Rural Domain:* Each administrative district in the Punjab, Sindh and NWFP is considered an independent stratum whereas in Balochistan, each ex-administrative division constitutes a stratum.

14. *Sample Design:* A stratified two-stage sample design has been adopted for the survey.

   i)   *Selection of primary sampling units (PSUs):* Enumeration Blocks in urban domain and mouzas/dehs/villages in rural are taken as Primary Sampling Units (PSUs). Sample PSUs are drawn with probability proportional to size (PPS) method. In urban domain, the number of households in an enumeration block as updated in 2003-04 through Economic Census and respective population of 1998 Census for a stratum is considered as measure of size.

   ii)   *Selection of secondary sampling units (SSUs):* The constituent households of sample PSUs are taken as Secondary Sampling Units (SSUs). A specified number of households i.e. 12 from each urban sample PSU, 16 from rural sample PSU have been selected with equal probability using systematic sampling technique with random a start.

15. *Sample Size and Its Allocation:* Keeping in view the variability of characteristics, population distribution and availability of field resources, a sample of 18912 households have been considered appropriate to provide reliable estimates of key labour force characteristics. The entire sample of households (SSUs) has been drawn from 1347 Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) out of which 660 are urban and 687 are rural. As urban population is more heterogeneous therefore, a higher proportion of sample size is allocated to urban domain. In order to get reliable estimates, a higher proportion of sample has been assigned to NWFP and Balochistan in consideration to their smallness. After fixing the sample size at provincial level, further distribution of sample PSUs to different strata in rural and urban domains in each province is made proportionately. The distribution of sample PSUs and SSUs in the urban and rural domain of the four provinces is as under: -

SAMPLE SIZE AND ITS ALLOCATION

(Nos.)

Province/Area	Enumeration Blocks/Villages (PSUs)			Sample Households (SSUs)		
	Urban	**Rural**	**Total**	**Urban**	**Rural**	**Total**
Punjab	308	320	628	3696	5120	8816
Sindh	192	139	331	2304	2224	4528
NWFP	96	132	228	1152	2112	3264
Balochistan	64	96	160	768	1536	2304
Pakistan	**660**	**687**	**1347**	**7920**	**10992**	**18912**

16. *Method of Data Collection:* Data are collected by direct interview method. The total sample for the year is evenly distributed for enumeration on quarterly basis to offset the effect of seasonal variations. The information collected however relate to the week proceeding the date of enumeration.

17. *Sample Covered:* All enumeration Blocks in urban areas and mouzas/dehs/villages in rural areas have been enumerated. The number of sample households (18,858) enumerated is less than the estimated sample size (18,912) due to non-contact and refusal cases in urban and rural areas.