



China's Labour Force Surveys: Challenges and Future Developments

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China began to develop its labour force surveys in late 1990s, based on the ILO recommendations and standards. This paper presents challenges faced at present, including the difficulties in measuring the large size of rural surplus labour force migrating into cities, the relatively high variation across cities, and the lack of sensitivity of employment data against macroeconomic development, brought about by the seasonal factors that are unique in the country. It further outlines the efforts made by statistical agencies to improve employment estimations by further enhancing the standardization of labour force surveys, improving sampling designs, applying new technology for data collection, strengthening quality control measures, and adopting appropriate seasonal adjustment techniques, to ensure the consistency and comparability of data on labour force.

Keywords: employment and unemployment data; seasonal factors; rural surplus labour force.