

Press Release

LCQ14: Statistics on poor households

Wednesday, November 23, 2016

Following is a question by the Hon Leung Yiu-chung and a written reply by the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Professor K C Chan, in the Legislative Council today (November 23):

Question:

At present, a poor household is defined as one whose monthly household income before policy intervention (i.e. before tax and social benefit transfer) (pre-transfer monthly income) is lower than 50 per cent of the median pre-transfer monthly income of all households with the same number of members. Regarding the statistics on the working hours of working members of poor households and other households in 2015, will the Government inform this Council whether it knows:

(1) in the poor households in 2015, the respective total numbers of working members who worked (i) less than 144 hours and (ii) between 144 and 192 hours a month on average, broken down by the household sizes listed in the table below;

Household size	(i)	(ii)
One		
Two		
Three		
Four		
Five		
Six and above		

(2) in the households whose pre-transfer monthly income in 2015 was lower than 60 per cent of the median, the respective total numbers of working members who worked (i) less than 144 hours and (ii) between 144 and 192 hours a month on average, broken down by the household sizes listed in the table below;

Household size	(i)	(ii)
One		
Two		
Three		
Four		
Five		
Six and above		

(3) the respective total numbers of working members, in the households whose pre-transfer monthly income in 2015 was (i) 50 per cent of the median or below, (ii) 60 per cent of the median or below and (iii) 70 per cent of the median or below, and their breakdowns by the household sizes listed in the table below; and

Income range	Household size						Total
	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six and above	
(i)							
(ii)							
(iii)							

(4) the respective numbers of working persons whose average monthly working hours in 2015 were (i) less than 36 hours and (ii) between 36 and 72 hours?

Reply:

President,

Based on the data collected from the General Household Survey (GHS) conducted by the Census and Statistics Department, the statistics for 2015 are given below (figures are rounded to the nearest hundred):

(1) Number of employed persons (excluding foreign domestic helpers) in poor households (before intervention) by household size and selected monthly hours of work* in 2015 are set out in Table 1 of the Annex.

(2) Number of employed persons (excluding foreign domestic helpers) in domestic households with monthly household income below 60 per cent of the median (before intervention) by household size and selected monthly hours of work* in 2015 are set out in Table 2 of the Annex.

(3) Number of employed persons (excluding foreign domestic helpers) in domestic households by household size and monthly household income (before intervention) in 2015 are set out in Table 3 of the Annex.

(4) Number of employed persons (excluding foreign domestic helpers) by selected monthly hours of work* in 2015 are set out in Table 4 of the Annex.

Notes: *Hours of work in GHS refers to the number of hours which an employed person actually worked in all employment during the seven days before enumeration. All paid and unpaid hours worked at the place of work are included, but meal breaks are excluded. The monthly hours of work are estimates derived by grossing up the above-mentioned hours of work using a ratio that there are 52 weeks over 12 months in a year.

Ends