



**Kingdom of Lesotho**

# 2006 LESOTHO POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS

## ANALYTICAL REPORT, Volume IIIB Socio Economics Characteristics



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Maseru, December 2009

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The 2006 Population and Housing Census results are presented in the following reports:

- ❖ Census Village List
- ❖ Census Post Enumeration Survey
- ❖ Census Analytical reports (Volume IIIA, Population Dynamics Report and Volume IIIB, Socio economic Characteristics)
- ❖ Census Tables
- ❖ Census Atlas

This report is divided into six Chapters which are meant to provide detailed analysis on the findings from the census on the following themes:

- Housing and Household amenities
- Household size and composition
- Educational characteristics of the population
- Economic status of the population
- Youth
- Disability

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***Mission: Provide accurate, timely and reliable culturally relevant and internationally comparable statistical data for evidence based planning, and to satisfy the demand of each data user.***

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## FOREWORD

The 2006 Population and Housing census was undertaken by the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MoFDP) through the department of the Bureau of statistics (BOS) in April 2006. This was the fifth scientific census undertaken by Lesotho since that of 1966. Besides being scientific, like those of 1966, 1976, 1986 and 1996, it applied the latest technology in demarcating the Enumeration Areas (EA's) for the preparation of data collection for the census. Moreover, data processing activity used the scanning technology which is recommended for quick release of the census data. These measures were put in place so that the 2006 census would provide a more accurate population data benchmarks, as well as geographic frame for inter-censal surveys and related statistical sample enquiries.

The census used the same questionnaire as that used in 1996, with some modifications as this census had to be aligned with and serve as a tool for monitoring and evaluating government development programs within frameworks such as the Vision 2020, Millennium Development Goals (MDG's), National Population Policy (NPP) and Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS). The census provides a variety of information on topics like education, housing amenities, household characteristics, mortality, fertility, nuptiality, gender, orphanhood, youth, economic characteristics, migration (both internal and international) urbanization, population distribution. The census also provides information on disability for the first time.

The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning wishes to express its gratitude to the following international organizations which provided financial assistance and technical assistance for the successful execution of the census activities: United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Development Cooperation of Ireland (DCI), The European Union (EU). Their support contributed immensely to the successful completion of the census.

The Ministry appreciates the dedication of all who participated in census activities in different ways, both those from the BOS and other ministries. For example: those who devoted a lot of time in the retrieval and packaging of the census material, data collectors, supervisors, coordinators, data processors, editors, data analysts, reviewers of the census chapters, auditors, human resources, finance team and drivers. Special thanks go to Dr Samuel Kalu, the Census Advisor, whose advice and support has lead to the production of this report. His meticulous editing of this report is gratefully appreciated.

Finally, the MoFDP wishes also to express appreciation to the Basotho nation along with their Chiefs for their willingness and cooperation to provide the needed information.

L. M. Lefosa  
Director, Bureau of Statistics

## Summary of Findings

### Housing and Household Amenities

The 2006 Lesotho Population and Housing Census reported the total number of households to be 422,371. About 63.0 percent of these households occupy housing units holding Form C as their tenure of land. The proportion of households in housing units with leasehold is greater in urban than in rural areas. The most dominating method of acquisition of land is allocation by a chief. Majority of land acquired through government agency was acquired from LSPP followed by Lesotho Housing.

There were 689, 418 housing units and 1,105, 080 rooms recorded during the census. Based on the population of 1, 862, 860 in private households in 2006, this implies that an average of 1.7 persons occupy a room (about 2 people per room). Majority of the households who stated rontabole and heisi as their main type of house reside in the rural areas and those who live in malaene and the apartment types of houses are observed to be dominating in the urban areas.

Leribe, Berea, Maseru and Mafeteng districts reported greater shares of houses with walls constructed with cement bricks followed by stone. The opposite is true for the remaining districts. Among all the categories of roofing materials, corrugated iron sheets were mostly reported in almost all the districts with the exception of Mokhotlong and Thaba-Tseka districts where most households 67.5 and 68.3 percent respectively live in houses with roof made of thatch/straw. Households who specified mud and dug, and vinyl/linoleum as their material of the floor of their houses reside in the rural areas. A larger proportion of houses with floor made of brick tiles are observed in the urban areas.

Majority of households use paraffin for lighting across all types of houses with an exception of apartment and bungalow. Most households use wood as the main fuel for cooking. Wood and paraffin were reported to be the most used fuels for heating.

In terms of toilet facility, 89 percent of urban households and 41 percent rural households have sanitation. Households living mainly in polata and optaka houses use largely pit latrine. Households living in malaene and bungalow predominately use VIP.

Access to safe drinking water has increased from 62.0 percent of the population in 1996 to 73.9 percent in 2006. It takes less than 15 minutes walk to go, get safe drinking water and back, regardless of the district considered.

About two-thirds of the households are headed by males while the remaining is headed by females.

## **Household Size and Composition**

Average household size does not differ much compared to the previous census. This may indicate that Basotho have not changed their pattern of living. Majority of the household population reside in rural areas, and the most common type of household is nuclear where parents live with their children.

In Lesotho, majority of the persons living in households are related. This is evident because 96.2 percent of the population living in households were related to the head of the household.

The results show that in Lesotho most of households are headed by men as they constitute 64.9 percent of total household heads, while female household heads comprise 35.1 percent. Proportion of male headed households has declined indicating an increase in female headed households.

It has also been observed that there is a higher proportion of male headed households with possession of household assets than the proportion of female headed households implying that male headed households are better off than their female counterparts. This situation may be explained that since in most societies, men are breadwinners, if they die females become heads. The results in 2006 Census show that there are more frequencies of widows than widowers.

It was also clearly shown from the results that literacy rates of female heads are higher than literacy rates of male heads. However, these results do not necessarily imply that the male heads are less advantaged than female heads, but they follow the pattern of literacy status of the whole population where females have high rates as compared with men.

Information on ownership of cellular phones, telephone lines, television, radio, computer as well as access to internet is critical on assessing the achievement on access to information and communication as indicated in Target 18 of the MDGs. Coverage of cellular phones and radio is relatively high while that of telephone lines, television as well as computer and internet is very low

## **Educational Characteristics of the Population**

In summary it can be said that out of the population aged 6 to 24 years, 60 percent was still attending school, while 35 percent had left school and only 5 percent had never attended school. Maseru, Leribe, Berea and Mafeteng in that order had higher percentages of persons aged 6 to 24 years who were still attending school as compared to the rest of the districts.

Amongst the population aged 15 years and over during the 2006 population census, 36 percent of males and 33 percent of females had completed standard 1 to 6 while those who completed full primary education constituted 15 and 24 percent for males and females respectively.

According to the 2006 population and housing census, nationally, literacy rate has dropped to 66 percent when compared to the censuses and survey undertaken in earlier years which estimated literacy rate at around 80 percent. It is still higher for females than males and it declines with increase in age.

### **Economic Status of the Population**

The main objective of chapter was to analyze and discuss the broad aspects of the economically active population which range from the size and growth of the labour force and its composition, its structure and other social attributes like, education, marital and residential status as well as the extent to which people participate in economic activities noting also the participation varies between the economically active males and females. The analysis also focused on the occupational, industrial as well as the employment and unemployment characteristics of the active population and those exclusive to the inactive population. This section therefore, attempts to summarize the findings from the discussions of the various sections of the chapter, excluding the introduction as follows:

#### **Findings from Section 4.2: The size and growth of the population and the labour force**

(i) Lesotho's labour force increases at a decreasing rate over time. Respective intercensal percentage gains in population size show declines from 28.6 to 21.6 and further to 4.0 percent between 1976-86, 1986-96 and 1996-06 respectively while the respective percentages for the labour force size are 18.9, 13.7 and -3.7 percent respectively in the same reference periods.

(ii) Sex differentials in patterns of decline in labour force size exist.

The percentage share of males in the labour force declines continuously from 67.6 percent to 49.8 percent between 1976 and 2006, while the corresponding percentage shares for females show fluctuations. There is an initial drop from 29.3 to nearly 23.0 percent between 1976 and 1986 but subsequent dates show an upward trend in percentage share (26.6 percent between 1986 1996 and 27.2 percent between 1996 and 2006 respectively) although to levels still comparatively lower than that for 1976.

(iii) As can be expected, over seventy percent of Lesotho's labour force population reside inside the country while the remaining proportion resides in South Africa, probably working as migrant workers in the South African mining companies. These proportions show a rising trend from 1976 to date. (71.7, 76.9 and 82.4 percent respectively for 1986, 1996, and 2006).

(iv) According to the 2006 census, male labour force constitutes nearly sixty three (62.9) percent while the remaining 37.1 percent is females. The sex composition of the labour force by urban/rural residence conforms to the pattern observed for totals with more males than females (51.0 percent males compared to 49.0 percent of females in the urban areas and, 67.9 percent for males versus 32.1 percent for females in the rural areas respectively.

### **Findings from Section 4.3: The analysis of the labour force characteristics of the economically active population.**

- (i) The major finding from the analysis of the sex structure of the labour force is that the percentage of the population in the labour force increases with age. This pattern is consistent for both the total and the sex distribution of the labour force. The percentages rise to the respective maximum levels of 17.0 percent for totals, 16.7 for males and 17.6 percent for females in the age group 25-29 and decrease with increasing age thereafter.
  - (ii) Further, sex differentials in the age structure of the labour force shows the female percentages to be consistently higher than those corresponding to males in almost all ages except in the first two younger age groups.
  - (iii) The age/sex structural differentials in labour force between urban and rural areas demonstrates a peculiar pattern which shows higher rural than urban proportions in the first three age groups, followed by comparatively higher percentages now observed in the urban areas for the subsequent higher age groups starting at age group 25-29.
- Four finding specific to educational characteristics of the labour force are: For all age groups, majority of the active males and females have attained primary or lower educational level.
  - The extreme age groups show comparatively higher proportions of active males and females with primary or lower educational attainment than those which are intermediate.
  - For both the Upper and Lower Secondary levels of educational attainment, highest proportions of males and females are in age group 25-29 while subsequent age groups showing decrease in proportions as age increases. Tertiary educational levels also present a similar pattern although the figures are much lower at all ages compared to those for other educational categories.

### **Findings from Section 4.4: The analysis of labour force participation**

Findings from this section take into account the fact that economic activity is not distributed evenly within either males or females of potentially active or employable ages meaning that the proportions of the economically active persons differ by activity status and as such, often range from nearly 100.0 percent in some status categories to zero percent in others. The appreciation of these variations has been achieved through analysis of age and sex activity or labour force participation rates the results of which are summarized as follows:

- (i) For both males and females, the participation rates rise with age from low levels of 5.4 and 0.8 percent respectively in age group 10-14 to maximum levels of 78.7 for males in age group 35-39 and 45.6 percent for females in the broad age group 30-39.
- (ii) Trends in participation rates by age and sex show a pattern which conforms to those observed for most national populations with participation rates showing low levels in the initial ages followed by a steady rise to peak levels in the broad age range

30-39 which sometimes extent to ages 40-44 and the eventual decrease in participation rates as age increases.

Particularly from the trend analysis two other findings are:

- That there is a clear downward trend in both the total and age specific labour force participation rates among males and females for the most recent census dates including that for 2006.
- Patterns of decrease differ especially for totals, between males and females. For instance, male labour force participation rates show clear and continuous decrease from a high level of 67.6 percent in 1976 to 66.8 percent in 1986 and further declines to 56.0 percent and 49.8 percent respectively in 1996 and 2006, females portray a different picture. The female pattern is characterized by an initial decline in overall labour force participation rates from 29.2 percent to 23.0 percent from 1976 to 1986 with subsequent dates however, pointing towards a rise in levels to 26.4 and 27.2 percent respectively in 1996 and 2006. Figure 4.3 captures fully well the above description.
- Residential differentials in labour force participation rates by age and sex point to the finding that the tempo and the propensity to participate in income generating activities differ not only by sex, but also between urban and rural areas. Thus, rural male labour force participation rates are comparatively higher (6.4, 28.0 and 53.4 percent respectively in the age groups 10-14, 15-19 and 20-24 compared to urban levels of 1.0, 11.4 and 48.1 percent respectively in the same age groups). Beyond age group 20-24, urban participation rates supersede the rural rates in magnitude and reach their highest level of 86.5 percent in the age group 35-39. By contrast urban female labour force participation rates are higher in all age groups when compared to those observed in the rural areas.

## Youth

In the total population there are 438569 (23.5 percent share) people aged between 15 and 24. The share has increased from 22.3 percent to 23.5 percent. 75.7 percent of young persons are literate and literacy parity index is 131 per hundred males indicating that more females are literate than males. Most of young persons have attained primary level of education. The percentage of young married has decreased by 1.4 percentage points from 21.7 in 1996 to 20.3 percent in 2006. Although there is decline in proportion married since marriage is one of the proximate determinants of fertility one would think that fewer young females are at the risk of having children but there is an increase in teenage fertility indicating that with decline in proportion married young people are bearing children out of marriage. Most of young people are children to head of the household.

The percentage share of youngsters in the labour force population is 39.4 percent. The country is experiencing a decline in the young people participation in the labour force with declining school attendance, implying that young people might be engaged in other activities other than economic activities or education which contribute negatively to the country. But participation of young females in the labour force is still lower

except in Maseru, but it cannot be concluded that Maseru is better because migration of young females is high in to Maseru district because of factories where most of job opportunities are high for females. Also high unemployment rate of females, especially in age group 15-19 worth investigating. Furthermore high levels of young persons employed in elementary occupations and majority having attained primary level only calls for policy makers to may be extent the free education to higher levels of education. Census alone cannot give all the path ways of young people for instance their engagement in drugs and crime to mention the few. Therefore deeper analysis and further research is recommended.

## **Disability**

The 2006 Population and Housing census results showed 3.7 percent of the population in households is disabled. The prevalence of disability is higher among males (4.5 percent) than among females (3.1 percent).

About 8.8 percent of the disabled males were born disabled while 7.4 percent of disabled females fell in this category.

Similarly, males disabled from causes such as traffic accidents, mine accidents, fight/assault, animal accidents for example, outnumber their female counterparts, while females disabled form domestic violence and domestic accidents outnumber their male counterparts.

The most common types of disabilities were found to be Amputation of foot/leg, Blindness, Lameness/paralyzed limb, Speech problem, Deafness, Mental illness and Mental retardation. When type of disability was cross classified by educational status of the population, it was observed that blindness, when compared with other types of disability does not necessarily pose a unique challenge to school attendance, or attainment of any level of education.

Analysis of disability by marital status shows that while disability does not undermine the chances of marriage among the population with disability, it clearly undermines the stability of their marriage through an elevated rate of marital dissolution mainly through the death of their spouse.

Concerning the duration of disability, this chapter has demonstrated that females have reported to have been disabled for a short period of less than one year or 1-4 years on the average. By contrast, males tend to have been disabled for a longer period of 5 – 14 years. The other observation is that, the percentages for the disabled males begin at younger ages than for females. The overall figures for both males and females have shown that disability increases with age.

Data on causes of disability through Illness has shown to be also higher for both females and males in most districts, more research has to be made to find out the types of illness that contribute to higher prevalence of disability.

The recommendation based on the findings from this chapter is that the Government should engage in research on disability forecasting more on blindness, as it has shown to have higher prevalence than other types of disability. Special education program has been established for persons with disability in order to empower them educationally, however, the Government should look at the causes of different types of disabilities and introduce prevention mechanisms in order to reduce prevalence.

## **CHAPTER 1: HOUSING AND HOUSEHOLD AMENITIES<sup>1</sup>**

### **1.1 Introduction**

Under the Customary system, the chief or headmen were privileged to allocate land. These allocations were mainly for residential and agricultural purposes. This system had been modified by the statute which led to the emergence of the Land Act of 1979. Through this Act, the power to manage land was taken away from the chiefs and replaced with more representative local land administration institutions.

The standard of living of a household is reflected by the type of housing and access to various types of housing amenities. These amenities include sanitation and various energy sources for cooking, lighting and heating.

The 2006 Population and Housing Census reported the total number of households to be 422, 371 as compared to 370, 972 households in 1996 Population census. This shows an increase of 13.9 percent in the total number of households throughout the country. On the other hand, the percentage increase of the population between the two censuses has been 0.08 percent. These percentages suggest a potential increase in the demand for housing units.

### **1.2 Definition of a housing unit**

The concepts used in this report are all defined with reference to the enumerator's manual used during the 2006 Population and Housing Census data collection exercise.

A housing unit is a house, an apartment, a mobile home, a group of rooms, or a single room occupied, or intended for occupancy, as separate quarters (US Census Bureau, October 2001). It is important not to confuse a housing unit with a household. A household is one person or a group of persons who live together and have common catering arrangements, whether or not they are related by blood or marriage.

A housing unit is also not synonymous with a dwelling unit. The latter denotes housing accommodation appropriate for occupation by one household. Hence a dwelling unit may consist of a private house, or part thereof, or a flat or an apartment which forms part of a block of flats (Internal Union for the Scientific Study of Population, 1982).

The types of housing units covered in the census include:

#### **1.2.1 Rontable**

This is a round building with a pitched thatched, tiled or corrugated iron roof and walls of local materials such as sandstone, rubble or mud brick and render. Floors are normally earth but can also be cement. There is normally no ceiling.

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<sup>1</sup> **This Chapter was prepared by Tsepiso Thabane and Makhala Molejane**

### **1.2.2. Heisi**

This is a rectangular building with a thatched roof and walls of sandstone, rubble, mud, sand, cement, brick and render. Internally the heisi is normally finished as for the rontable and the number of rooms is usually three or less.

### **1.2.3 Polata**

This is a rectangular building with a flat corrugated iron roof and walls of concrete blocks, sandstone, rubble, burnt or mud bricks. This type of dwelling may be rendered and decorated externally. The level of internal finish is highly variable from flooring of earth or concrete covered by linoleum or vinyl tiles and ceilings either not installed or of decorated rhino board. It usually has three rooms or less.

### **1.2.4 Malaene**

This is a rectangular building normally of concrete blocks or local bricks, with a flat corrugated iron roof which normally comprises single rooms for rent to individual household. The standard of internal is highly variable. The definition of habitable rooms in the Malaene accepted that the norm is to combine living, cooking, eating and sleeping arrangements in a single room.

### **1.2.5 Optaka**

This is a single storey house of a rectangular, L or T design with a double-pitched roof of corrugated iron sheets or thatch. Walls are normally of sandstone, rubble, brick or concrete blocks. Internal finishes are highly variable. The Optaka is considered to have five or less habitable rooms.

### **1.2.6 Bungalow**

This is a single or multiple storey house of variable design with either flat or double-pitched roof of corrugated iron sheets, tiles or thatch. Walls may be of sandstone, first grade brick or rendered and decorated concrete block. The level of internal finishes normally includes cement flooring and rhino board ceiling.

### **1.2.7 Apartment/Town House**

This is a single or multi-storey complex of self-contained dwelling units built of modern construction materials such as concrete block or first-grade brick with flat or double-pitched roof, of corrugated iron sheets or tiles. These housing units are normally rented out. The factor, which distinguishes the apartment/town house units from *malaene*, is the number of habitable rooms and the level of services.

### **1.2.8 Temporary Structure**

This is an informal housing structure commonly built from old and disused roofing materials. They do not normally have defined space and are characterized by inhabitable living conditions.

## **1.3 Land Tenure**

The traditional system of land tenure is such that the King holds the land in trust for the nation. Culturally the land belongs to the nation while individuals have *use* rights.

Under Customary Law only men can be allocated rights of using the land and their sons can inherit such rights. In rural areas women’s access rights and widow’s tenure security are inadequate. Land is both a national and social asset to be utilized for the benefit of the people.

Three types of land titles are recognized; those with Form C which is allocated by a land committee; title deeds and leasehold. Households who occupied land without any title were also catered for. Leasehold acts as a check on individual subdivision and allocation of land. The Land Act 1979 requires that all land rights are converted to leaseholds at the point of transfer or any other transaction.

Figure 1.1 depicts the proportion of households in occupied dwelling units by urban and rural residence and type of land tenure. The magnitude of individual titles was calculated as the proportion of total tenure. The figure shows that in Lesotho, about 63.0 percent of households hold Form C, followed by ‘No title’ with 29.0 percent as their tenure of land. The same trend is observed in both urban and rural areas in respect of these two titles. Figure 1.1 further shows that, the proportion of households in urban areas who hold leasehold as their tenure of land is greater than that of households in rural areas by a margin of 3.5 points. The proportion of those households who stated that they did not know the tenure status of the land they acquired was insignificant.

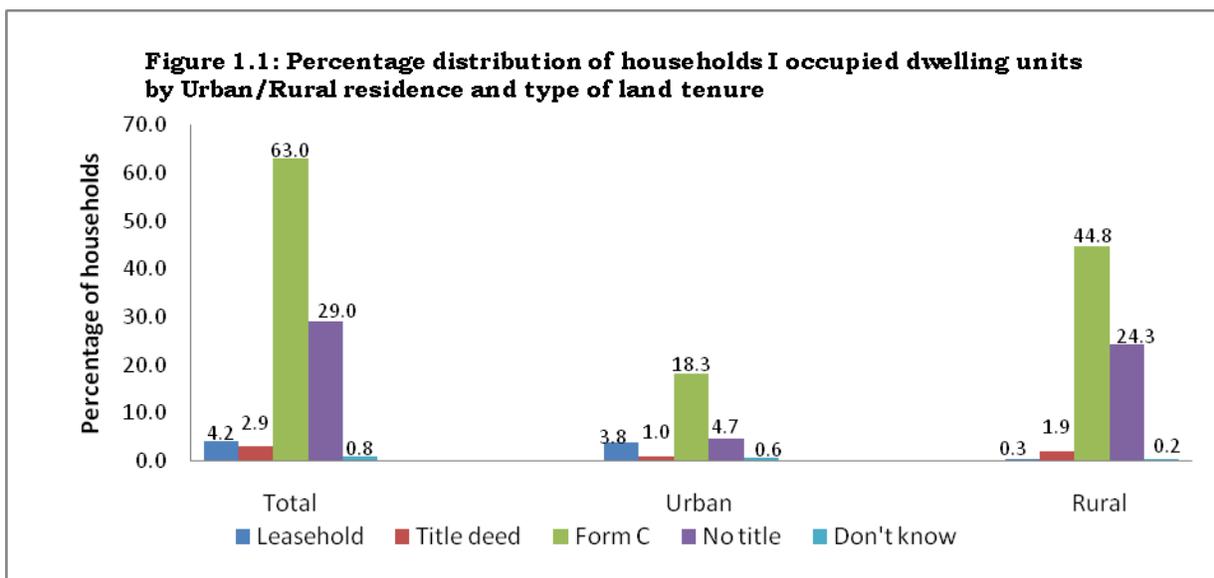


Table 1.1 presents percentage distribution of households in occupied dwelling units by district and type of land tenure. The table reveals that only two districts, Maseru and Berea have high proportions of households with leasehold (8.6 and 5.7 percent respectively) as compared to title deed (3.1 and 2.3 percent respectively). The opposite relationship is observed in other districts except Quthing where the proportion of both the leasehold and the title deed is equal at 1.8 percent.

**Table 1.1: Type of land tenure**

Percentage distribution of households in occupied dwelling units by district and type of land tenure, Census 2006

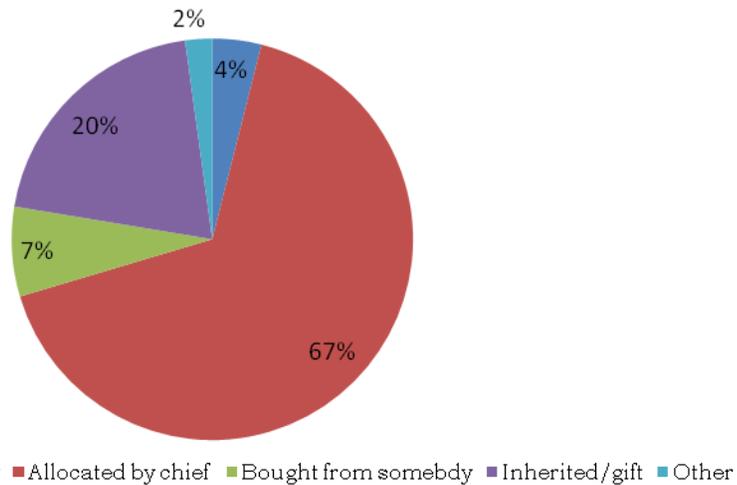
District	Type of Land tenure					Total
	Leasehold	Title deed	Form C	No title	Don't know	
Lesotho	4.2	2.9	63.1	29.0	0.80	100.0
Botha-Bothe	2.1	4.6	71.0	22.3	0.01	100.0
Leribe	2.0	2.2	66.8	27.5	1.47	100.0
Berea	5.7	2.3	61.0	29.6	1.34	100.0
Maseru	8.6	3.1	66.5	20.6	1.20	100.0
Mafeteng	2.5	2.6	64.5	30.1	0.31	100.0
Mohale's						
Hoek	1.5	5.2	60.1	33.2	0.01	100.0
Quthing	1.8	1.8	58.5	37.9	0.01	100.0
Qacha's Nek	3.0	4.2	52.7	39.5	0.62	100.0
Mokhotlong	1.5	2.6	60.9	34.9	0.03	100.0
Thaba-Tseka	1.0	1.7	50.6	46.3	0.27	100.0
Total households	17,569	12,329	266,596	122,514	3,363	422,371

#### 1.4 Acquisition of Land

Data on the acquisition of land provide information on how the households acquired their land, whether allocated by chief, purchased, inherited or received as a gift.

Figure 1.2 illustrates the households in occupied dwelling units by mode of acquisition of land. The most dominating method of acquisition is the one allocated by chief with 67.0 percent followed by those households that have inherited their land or received it as a gift (20.0 percent). Only 7.0 percent of the households reported to have acquired their land by purchasing from somebody. The method of acquisition of land for dwelling units was not specified for 2.0 percent of the households.

**Figure 1.2: Percentage distribution of households in occupied dwelling units by mode of acquisition of land**



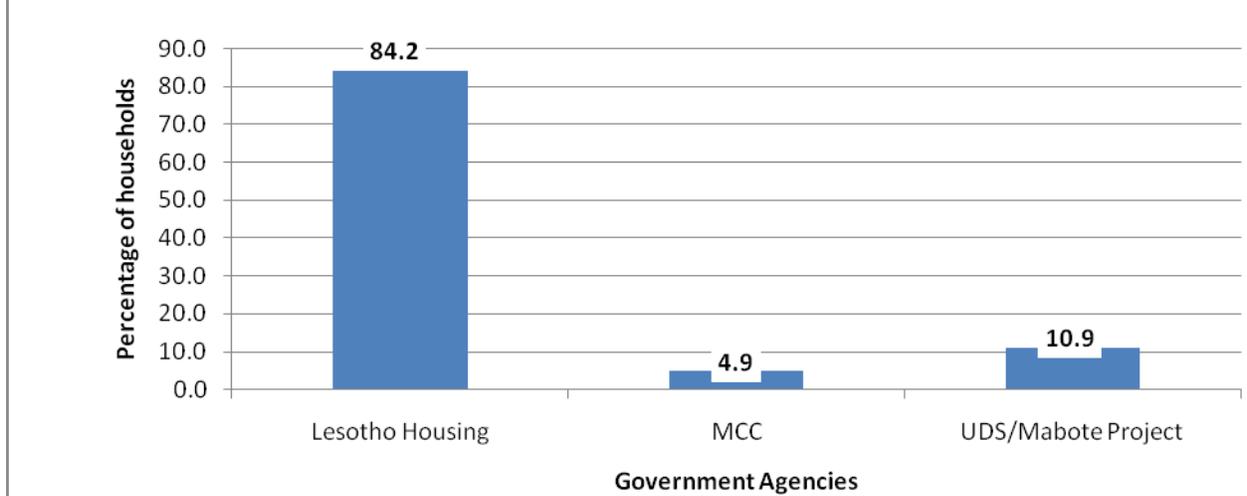
### 1.5 Implementing Agencies

Land can be acquired through a relevant government agency, for example: Lesotho Housing, Mabote Project and Maseru City Council (MCC). The primary responsibility of the Lesotho Housing is to provide sites and services, housing delivery for sale and rentals to all income groups.

Land used to be allocated by the chief to households. Some households buy land from other individuals and others inherit or receive it as a gift. The data on source(s) of financing give information on the extent to which the government provides financial assistance for the construction of new residential units.

Figure 1.3 portrays the proportion of households in occupied dwelling units who build their housing units on land acquired from the government agencies. It is observed that majority of households acquired their land from Lesotho Housing (84.2 percent) followed by Mabote Project with 10.9 percent. For the purpose of this analysis Lesotho Housing includes Lower Income Housing Company (LEHCOOP) which provided urban housing for the low income group. Lesotho Housing and Land Development Corporation (LHLDC) is a self-financing and investment institution and also one of the implementing agencies.

**Figure 1.3: Percentage distribution of households in occupied dwelling units built on land acquired from Government agency, 2006 Census**



## 1.6 Characteristics of Housing Units

Data on the type of housing units and the number of rooms provide information on the available housing accommodation at the time of census. Such details are essential for planning future housing needs.

Information on the main material of construction of walls; main material of the floor and main material of the roof of a house is indicative of the quality of the housing unit.

Table 1.2 presents information on housing units by type of house and district. Maseru has 21.6 percent of the total housing units in the country during 2006, while Leribe district follows with 16.4 percent. Qacha's Nek has the smallest proportion of housing units in Lesotho amounting to only 3.8 percent.

On the other hand, Thaba-Tseka has the largest share of rontabole as compared to other districts: 17.1 percent. Heisi is mostly found in Leribe district with 29.6 percent. Various types of housing units which are found in large proportions in Maseru district include polata (21.3 percent), malaene (60.2 percent), apartment houses (49.7 percent) and bungalows (27.7 percent).

<b>Table 1.2: Type of housing unit</b>									
Percentage distribution of housing units by districts and type of housing unit, Census 2006									
	Type of housing unit								
	Total	Rontabole	Heisi	Polata	Malaene	Optaka	Apart ment	Bungalow	Tempo rary
Total number of housing units	689,418	192,517	38,285	309,773	57,666	49,623	5,023	30,895	5,636
<b>District</b>									
Botha-Bothe	6.7	8.7	12.0	5.9	2.3	4.4	4.6	7.4	3.1
Leribe	16.4	11.3	29.6	19.3	10.8	13.1	13.5	19.7	11.2
Berea	12.8	8.5	23.5	15.0	11.1	7.4	12.2	14.9	23.8
Maseru	21.6	12.8	12.2	21.3	60.2	11.8	49.7	27.7	36.2
Mafeteng	9.9	3.8	4.0	13.3	7.0	16.0	4.3	17.8	5.1
Mohale's Hoek	9.6	10.8	5.9	9.5	3.9	19.5	3.2	3.9	10.9
Quthing	6.2	8.6	3.7	5.8	1.5	9.6	5.8	2.0	3.3
Qacha's Nek	3.8	5.5	2.9	2.8	0.8	8.7	1.8	3.1	1.7
Mokhotlong	5.5	13.0	2.9	2.4	1.3	5.8	1.9	2.0	1.6
Thaba-Tseka	7.5	17.1	3.3	4.6	1.1	3.7	3.0	1.6	2.9
<b>Total</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 1.3 shows the average number of persons per room by district. The 2006 census reported a total of 1,105,080 rooms available in housing units. In Lesotho an average of 1.7 persons occupy a room (about 2 people per room). All the districts portray a similar pattern.

<b>Table 1.3: Persons per room</b>			
Average number of persons per room by district, Census 2006			
District	Number of rooms	Population	Average number of Persons per room
Botha-Bothe	64,687	109,907	1.7
Leribe	191,238	291,610	1.5
Berea	158,343	248,945	1.6
Maseru	270,660	426,521	1.6
Mafeteng	121,630	191,608	1.6
Mohale's Hoek	100,525	175,404	1.7
Quthing	61,099	123,437	2.0
Qacha's Nek	34,423	69,613	2.0
Mokhotlong	43,501	96,920	2.2
Thaba-Tseka	58,974	128,895	2.2
Lesotho	1,105,080	1,862,860	1.7

### 1.6.1 Main Type of House

There are various types of houses in Lesotho namely rontabole, heisi, polata, malaene,

optaka, apartment, town house, bungalow and temporary structures. Due to insignificant number of mobile homes, the latter was merged with temporary structures.

Table 1.4 illustrates percentage distribution of dwelling units by type of house, urban/rural residence, and district. It is observed that in urban areas, many households (41.4 percent) dwell in malaene type of houses while rontabole is the predominant (33.2 percent) dwelling unit found in rural areas.

Thaba-Tseka and Mokhotlong recorded large proportions of 66.9 and 65.8 percent of households whose main type of house is rontabole.

<b>Table 1.4: Occupied dwelling units</b>									
Percentage distribution of occupied dwelling units by main type of house, Urban/Rural residence, and District, Census 2006									
Urban/Rural	Type of house								Total
	Rontabole	Heisi	Polata	Malaene	Optaka	Apartment	Bungalow	Temporary	
Lesotho	102,130	18,942	187,226	56,162	28,099	4,463	20,364	4,985	422,371
Percent	24.2	4.5	44	13.3	6.7	1.1	4.8	1.2	100.0
Urban	1.5	0.8	38	41.4	6.0	2.7	7.8	2.2	100.0
Rural	33.2	6.0	47	2.1	6.9	0.4	3.7	0.8	100.0
<b>District</b>									
Botha-Bothe	34.4	9.4	38.5	5.6	4.9	1.0	5.6	0.6	100.0
Leribe	17.4	8.7	51.8	9.0	5.9	0.9	5.5	0.9	100.0
Berea	15.7	8.1	52.1	11.1	4.4	1.2	5.3	2.2	100.0
Maseru	12.3	2.1	41.3	30.6	4.0	1.8	5.9	1.8	100.0
Mafeteng	9.5	1.9	59.7	9.1	10.6	0.5	8.1	0.6	100.0
Mohale's									
Hoek	28.1	2.9	46.3	5.7	13.2	0.5	2.2	1.1	100.0
Quthing	35.4	2.8	44.3	3.8	10.8	0.6	1.7	0.6	100.0
Qacha's									
Nek	39.6	3.4	34.5	3.3	13.7	0.7	4.0	0.7	100.0
Mokhotlong	65.8	2.3	19.2	3.7	6.3	0.5	1.8	0.4	100.0
Thaba-Tseka	66.9	1.9	23.8	2.4	3.1	0.6	0.9	0.5	100.0

### 1.6.2 Main Material for the Construction of the Wall

Data on the construction material of the wall provide information on the quality of housing units. It also gives an indication of the number of households that are housed in structurally acceptable housing units.

Table 1.5 shows the percentage distribution of dwelling units by main type of house and materials used for construction of walls. The results show that most households dwell in houses with the walls constructed with cement bricks (45.5 percent), or stone (38.7 percent).

About 78.2 percent of rontaboles and 60.1 percent of heisi have walls made of stone. The results show that walls made of cement bricks follow with more than 50.0 percent in polata, malaene, optaka, apartment and bungalow.

**Table 1.5: Material used for construction of walls**

Percentage distribution of dwelling units by main type of house and material used for construction of walls, Census 2006

Main type of house	Total dwelling units	Material used for construction of walls						
		Burnt brick	Cement bricks	Mud bricks	Stick and mud	Corrugated iron	Stone	Other
	422371	4.2	45.5	6.9	3.3	0.9	38.7	0.4
Rontabole	102130	0.4	3.0	9.8	8.4	0.0	78.2	0.3
Heisi	18942	0.8	12.1	20.1	6.5	0.0	60.1	0.3
Polata	187226	2.4	56.3	7.4	2.1	0.0	31.7	0.1
Malaene	56162	6.7	85.4	2.4	0.3	0.0	5.2	0.1
Optaka	28099	8.5	59.4	1.4	0.0	0.0	30.4	0.3
Apartment	4463	41.1	54.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.8	0.6
Bungalow	20364	22.6	70.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.5	0.4
Temporary	4985	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	79.2	0.0	20.4

Table 1.6 presents percentage distribution of dwelling units by main material of construction of walls and district. The walls can be constructed using burned bricks, cement or mud bricks; stick and mud; corrugated iron and stone. Dwelling units with walls constructed with stones or cement bricks in Botha-Bothe district have almost the same proportions. Leribe, Berea, Maseru and Mafeteng districts reported greater shares of dwelling units with walls constructed with cement bricks followed by stone. For the remaining districts, stone was used for the construction of the walls of most of the dwelling units.

**Table 1.6: Materials used for the construction of walls**

Percentage distribution of dwelling units by main material of construction of walls and districts, Census 2006

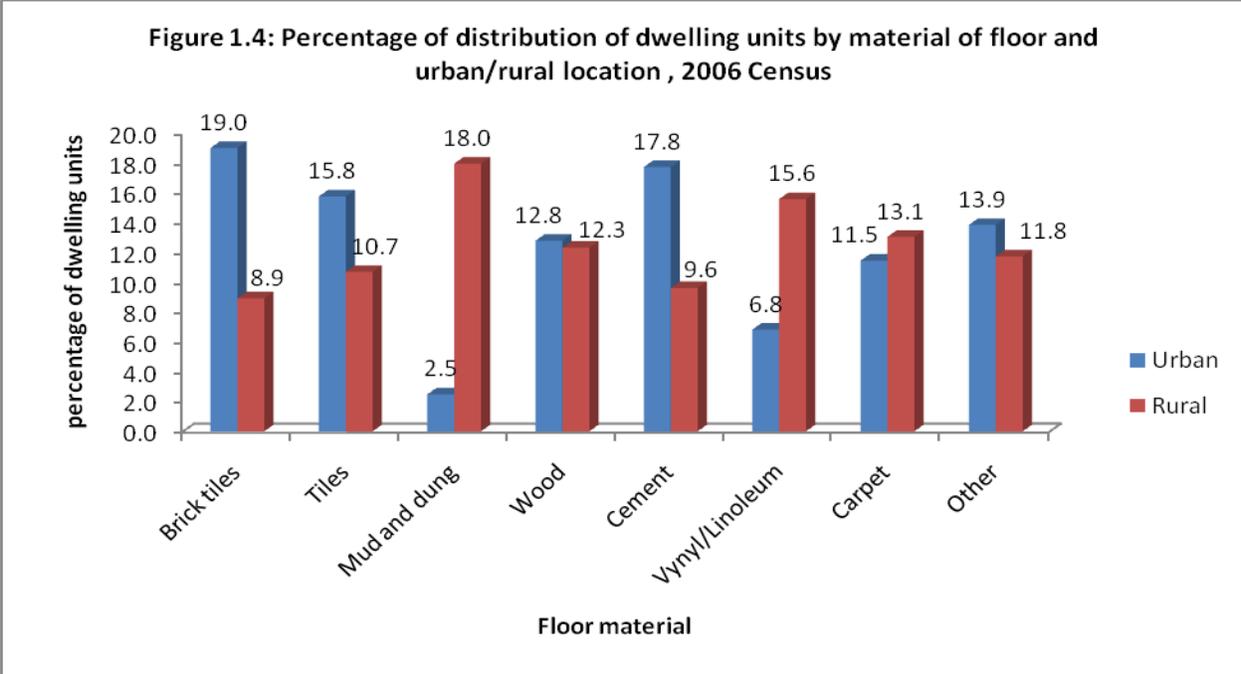
	Constructions of Walls							Total
	Burnt brick	Cement bricks	Mud bricks	Stick and mud	Corrugated iron	Stone	Other	
Lesotho	17,566	192,324	29,346	13,911	3,947	163,450	1,827	422,371
Percent	4.2	45.5	6.9	3.3	0.9	38.7	0.4	100.0
<b>District</b>								
Botha-Bothe	1.9	36.3	19.8	4.9	0.5	36.2	0.4	100.0
Leribe	3.6	54.7	11.5	3.9	0.7	25.3	0.2	100.0
Berea	4.1	54.6	12.5	3.5	1.5	22.9	0.8	100.0
Maseru	8.0	59.6	4.4	1.9	1.5	24.2	0.5	100.0
Mafeteng	3.6	49.4	6.6	1.1	0.5	38.6	0.2	100.0
Mohale's Hoek	2.5	34.6	1.8	7.2	0.9	52.6	0.4	100.0
Quthing	2.9	34.4	2.1	4.6	0.3	55.4	0.4	100.0
Qacha's Nek	1.0	19.2	4.3	6.5	0.6	67.8	0.7	100.0
Mokhotlong	0.9	13.4	1.5	1.0	0.3	82.7	0.2	100.0
Thaba-Tseka	0.6	11.4	0.7	2.4	0.4	84.0	0.5	100.0

### 1.6.3 Main material of the floor

The data on the material of the floor will provide planners with information on the quality of existing dwelling units in the country. Generally, the floor of most houses is made of mud and dung (35.2 percent) as well as cements (32.7 percent).

<b>Table 1.7: Material used for the floor</b>										
Percentage distribution of dwelling units by main type of house and material used for construction of floor, Census 2006										
Main type of house	Total dwelling units	Material used for the floor								
		Brick tiles	Tiles	Mud and dung	Wood	Cement	Vinyl	Carpet	Other	Total
	422371	0.7	8.0	35.2	0.6	32.7	14.3	8.5	0.1	100.0
Rontabole	102130	0.1	0.6	82.4	0.6	5.1	8.1	3.1	0.0	100.0
Heisi	18942	0.1	2.3	54.0	0.5	11.9	22.2	9.0	0.1	100.0
Polata	187226	0.4	8.2	24.6	0.3	36.6	19.0	10.8	0.1	100.0
Malaene	56162	0.3	6.8	4.7	0.3	75.2	6.6	6.1	0.0	100.0
Optaka	28099	1.5	17.2	13.6	1.2	34.4	19.7	12.1	0.2	100.0
Apartment	4463	3.8	46.4	0.0	4.2	21.8	7.6	15.9	0.2	100.0
Bungalow	20364	6.1	32.0	0.0	0.5	37.7	10.6	13.0	0.2	100.0
Temporary	4985	0.2	2.2	36.8	5.2	28.5	14.3	11.6	1.2	100.0

Figure 1.4 represents percentage distribution of dwelling units by material of the floor and urban/rural location. The results show that, dwelling units in urban areas have floors mainly made of brick tiles, cement, tiles, wood or carpet, in that order. Only 2.5 percent of dwelling units in urban areas have floor made of mud and dung. In rural areas, the floors of dwelling units are predominantly made of mud and dung, vinyl/linoleum, carpet, wood or tiles, in that order. About 10 percent of rural dwelling units have floor made of cement, while barely 9 percent have floors made of brick tiles. The substantial difference between the proportion of urban and rural dwelling units that have floors made of low quality materials such as mud and dung or vinyl/linoleum is indicative of higher living standards of urban households than their rural counterparts.



**1.6.4 Main material of the roof**

Data on the main material used for roofing will provide information on the replacement and improvement of housing units. Structural acceptability of housing units implies that these are made of durable roofing materials that will protect the occupants from undesirable climatic effects and provide safety and privacy.

In Lesotho majority of houses are roofed with corrugated iron sheets (68.3 percent). Dwelling units roofed with thatch or straw constitute 28.3 percent. Almost all dwelling units in rontabole and heisi types of houses appeared to have been roofed with thatch or straw. For the rest of the dwelling units, corrugated iron sheets have been the most preferred roofing material.

**Table 1.8: Material used for roofing**

Percentage distribution of dwelling units by type of house and main material used for roofing, Census 2006

Main type of house	Total households	Material used for roofing				Total
		Thatch/Straw	Roof tiles	Corrugated iron	Other	
	422371	28.3	3.3	68.3	0.1	100.0
Rontabole	102130	98.5	0.1	1.4	0.1	100.0
Heisi	18942	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Polata	187226	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0
Malaene	56162	0.0	1.3	98.6	0.2	100.0
Optaka	28099	0.0	10.9	88.9	0.2	100.0
Apartment	4463	1.8	25.3	71.8	1.1	100.0
Bungalow	20364	0.5	44.7	54.7	0.1	100.0
Temporary	4985	0.1	0.1	99.8	0.0	100.0

Figure 1.5 presents the distribution of dwelling units by main material of the roof. It indicates that majority of the dwelling units (68.3 percent) were roofed with corrugated iron sheets, 28.3 percent were roofed with thatch/straw, 3.3 percent with roof tiles, while other types of roofing materials were used in roofing the remaining 0.1 percent.

**Figure 1.5: Percentage distribution of dwelling units by material of roof, 2006 Census**

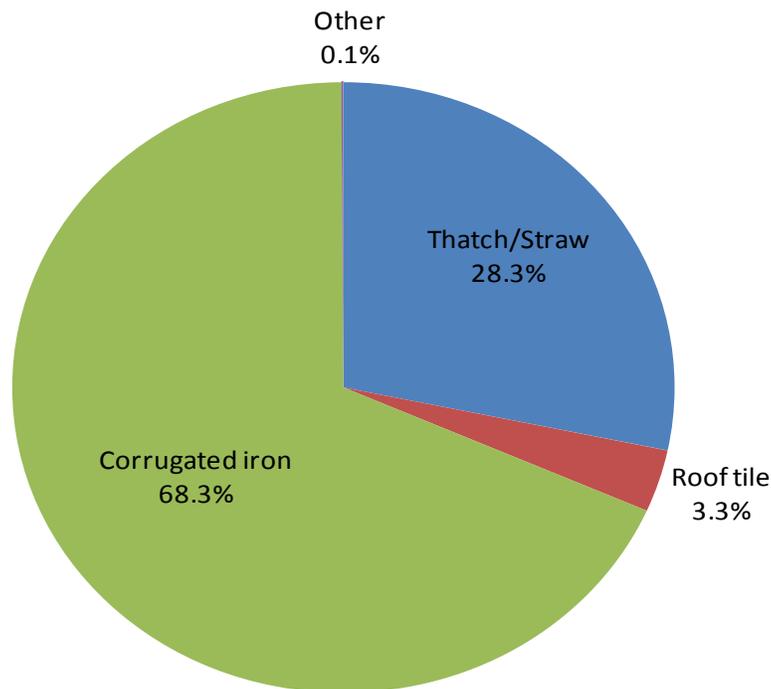


Table 1.9 shows the percentage distribution of dwelling units by main material of roof and district. Among all the categories of roof materials, the observation was that corrugated iron sheets were mostly reported in almost all the districts with an exception of Mokhotlong and Thaba-Tseka districts where dwelling units with roof made of thatch/straw constitute 67.5 and 68.3 percent respectively.

<b>Table 1.9: Material used for roofing</b>							
Percentage distribution of dwelling units by main material of construction of the roof and District, Census 2006							
District	Material of the roof				Percent	Number	
	Thatch/Straw	Roof tiles	Corrugated iron sheets	Other			
Botha-Bothe	43.5	2.8	53.6	0.1	100.0	23,724	
Leribe	25.8	3.8	70.3	0.0	100.0	66,697	
Berea	23.5	4.9	71.4	0.1	100.0	56,567	
Maseru	14.2	4.7	80.9	0.1	100.0	109,978	
Mafeteng	11.1	2.5	86.3	0.1	100.0	42,948	
Mohale's Hoek	30.6	2.1	67.3	0.1	100.0	37,631	
Quthing	37.6	1.1	61.3	0.0	100.0	23,528	
Qacha's Nek	42.5	1.6	55.9	0.0	100.0	14,122	
Mokhotlong	67.5	1.3	31.2	0.0	100.0	20,431	
Thaba-Tseka	68.3	1.4	30.4	0.1	100.0	26,745	

### 1.7 Household Amenities

The 2006 Population and Housing census collected information on the main source of

fuels used for lighting, heating and cooking. The information on various types of fuels is significant in assessing energy planning decisions, energy conservation programs and in developing marketing strategies. This information is useful in monitoring supply and demand requirements for alternative fuels.

The data on sanitary status of the household is an important measure in evaluating the facilities available to the housing units. Safe drinking water source, toilet facility and the method of garbage disposal are good indicators in determining the health conditions of the household members. In addition, these indicators are useful in measuring progress towards meeting Millennium Development Goal number seven as well as compliance to the principles of Sustainable Development.

### 1.7.1 Main source of fuel for lighting

The proportion of households with access to electricity can provide planners with useful indication of shortfall in access to lighting and hence plan for power installations. Data on sources of types of fuel can be analyzed to forecast future demands for various sources of energy.

Table 1.10 shows the percentage distribution of households by type of house and source of fuel for lighting. The table shows that majority of households were using paraffin for lighting across all types of houses with an exception of apartment and bungalow. A similar pattern was observed for rontabole and malaene in 1996 Population Census where each constituted 64.5 and 55.8 percent respectively (Bureau of Statistics, 1998: p.13).

<b>Table 1.10: Main fuel for lighting</b>								
Percentage distribution of households by source of main fuel for lighting and main type of house, Census 2006								
Source of fuel for lighting	Main type of house							
	Rontabole	Heisi	Polata	Malaene	Optaka	Apartment	Bungalow	Temporary
Electricity (mains)	0.6	1.0	7.8	17.4	16.1	66.3	39.8	6.6
Electricity (Generator)	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.5	1.1
Electricity (Solar)	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.8	0.8	1.2	0.1
Electricity (Battery)	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.1
Gas	0.2	0.5	0.6	1.1	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.6
Paraffin	75.4	55.7	55.5	65.6	55.1	22.4	38.4	58.6
Candles	23.5	42.4	35.5	15.2	26.8	8.9	18.9	32.5
Other	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total households	102,130	18,942	187,226	56,162	28,099	4,463	20,364	4,985

In the 2006 Population and Housing Census, electricity was classified into four main sources as reflected in Table 1.10. This analysis will only compare electricity from the

national grid as data for the other sources were not collected during the 1996 Population census. The results in Table 1.11 show that there has been an increase in the percentage of households who use electricity from the national grid for lighting in all types of houses except for rontabole and heisi.

<b>Table 1.11: Electricity for lighting</b>									
Percentage distribution of households using electricity (mains) for lighting by census year and type of house, Census 2006									
Census Year	Type of house								
	Rontabole	Heisi	Polata	Malaene	Optaka	Apartment	Bungalow	Temporary	Other
2006	0.6	1	7.8	17.4	16.1	66.3	39.8	6.6	-
1996*	0.7	1.1	2.7	6.2	12.4	40.7	-	-	7.1

\*Source: 1996 Population Census Analytical Report

### 1.7.2 Source of main fuel for cooking and heating

Generally, the source of energy used for cooking and lighting by households is mainly determined by the level of income of the particular household. The 2006 Population and Housing Census collected information on the source of main fuel for cooking and heating as in previous censuses, except that information was collected separately for electricity from the national grid and electricity from solar energy.

Figure 1.6 depicts percentage distribution of households by main fuel for cooking. For comparison sake, only electricity from the national grid had been used in this analysis as it was the only category collected during 1986 and 1996 Population Censuses. The figure further reveals that there was no significant change from 1986 to 1996 (as both censuses recorded 1.3 percent) but a slight increase of 1.5 percentage points from 1996 to 2006 was observed.

The three censuses reveal that generally, households use wood as the main fuel for cooking accounting for 45.8 percent in 1986, increasing to 53.2 percent in 1996 and slightly declining to 52.5 percent in 2006. The censuses further show that, the use of dung as main fuel for cooking is steadily decreasing as opposed to gas which shows a rapid increase between 1986 and 2006. Households which reported using paraffin for cooking increased by 3.4 percentage points between 1986 and 1996, however, a sharp decrease of 15.1 percentage points was observed between 1996 and 2006.

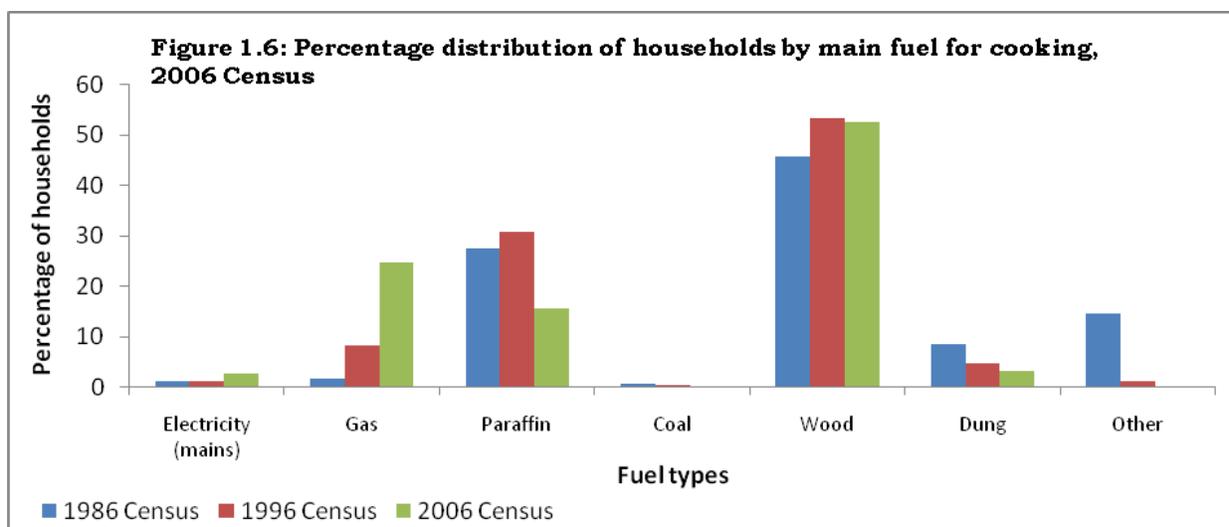


Table 1.12 presents the percentage distribution of households by main fuel for heating during the period 1986 to 2006. Information on crop waste and electricity (solar) were not collected in 1986 and 1996. Wood and paraffin were reported to be the main source of fuel used for heating as compared to other sources of fuel throughout the three censuses. Table 1.9 indicates that the use of wood has increased by a margin of 8.3 points between 1986 and 2006. However there is minor difference between 1996 and 2006. Households using paraffin for heating increased from 23.7 to 31.9 and further increased to 34.3 percent during the period 1986 to 2006.

<b>Table 1.12: Main heating fuel</b>			
Percentage distribution of households by main heating fuel, 1986-2006			
Type of Heating Fuel	Census Year		
	1986	1996	2006
Electricity (mains)	1.3	1.5	3.1
Electricity (Solar)	-	-	0.1
Gas	0.7	1.9	2.1
Paraffin	23.7	31.9	34.3
Coal	5.9	4.7	2.5
Wood	43.1	51.1	51.4
Dung	13.8	7.5	5.4
Crop waste	-	-	0.5
Other	11.5	-	0.6

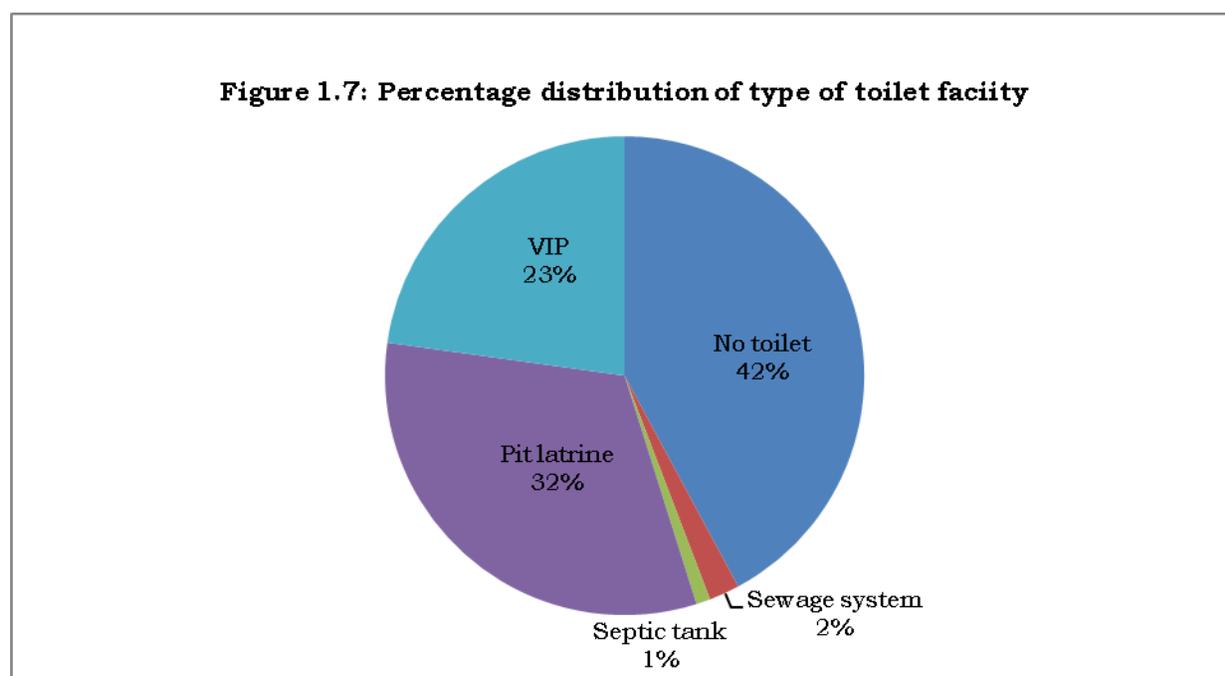
### 1.7.3 Main toilet facility

A sanitary toilet facility is a good determinant of improved health condition of household members. This indicator likewise determines the sanitation status of households and also helps to monitor progress in the relevant target under Millennium Development Goal (MDG) number seven. The census results indicate that

88.9 percent of population in urban areas and 46.9 percent in rural areas have access to improved sanitary toilet facility. On the average, 58.0 percent of the total population has access to improved sanitary toilet facility.

Figure 1.7 depicts the percentage distribution of households by main type of toilet facility. In both 1986 and 1996 Population Censuses, data on bucket system and public toilets was collected while in 2006 this was not the case. Comparison of the type of toilet facility for these three census years would not be possible.

Figure 1.7 reveals that 42 percent of households throughout the country do not have toilets in their residences. This implies that households without any toilet facility are at a risk of unhygienic methods of human waste disposal. About 32 percent of the households use pit latrines while 23 percent reported VIP as their main type of toilet facility in their residences. Households that use sewage system and septic tank represent only 3 percent of all households in the country.



#### 1.7.4 Main source of drinking water

Safe water is defined as piped water within the premises, covered spring or well and village or community water supply (Bureau of Statistics, 2007:p. 23). The proportion of households with access to safe drinking water can be used as a proxy of the proportion of households that is not exposed to the risk of water borne diseases. In 1996, 62.0 percent of Lesotho's population had access to safe drinking water. The 2006 Census estimates 73.9 percent which indicates an increase of 11.9 percentage points.

The proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source stands at 87.8 percent in urban areas and 12.2 percent in rural areas.

Table 1.13 represents the percentage distribution of households by main source of drinking water and main type of house. Source of drinking water was classified into eleven categories as displayed in Table 1.13. Majority of households who specified their main type of house as malaene, polata and bungalow reported their source of drinking water as piped water on premises with 41.7, 30.0 and 10.5 percent respectively. Households, whose main type of house is rontabole, indicated that their main source of drinking water is 'spring covered' accounting for 46.5 percent compared with other sources of drinking water. Public borehole for households whose main type of house is polata constitutes a high proportion of 67.6 percent.

<b>Table 1.13: Main source of drinking water</b>									
Percentage distribution of households by main source of drinking water and main type of house, Census 2006									
Main source of drinking water	Main Type of housing								Total
	Rontabole	Heisi	Polata	Malaene	Optaka	Apartment	Bungalow	Temporary	
Piped water on premises	2.8	0.8	30.0	41.7	7.7	4.7	10.5	1.8	100.0
Piped water community supply	28.8	5.2	46.7	7.9	6.8	0.4	3.2	1.1	100.0
Catchment tank	19.3	7.4	52.4	8.0	6.3	0.4	5.0	1.3	100.0
Public well	39.0	6.3	42.5	3.2	5.3	0.0	2.8	0.8	100.0
Private well	18.4	2.6	41.8	23.7	5.9	0.5	5.8	1.3	100.0
Spring covered	46.5	6.1	37.1	2.1	4.7	0.3	2.4	0.8	100.0
Spring uncovered	35.4	6.4	45.5	2.0	6.5	0.2	3.0	0.9	100.0
River	23.4	5.4	54.5	2.9	7.6	0.5	4.8	0.9	100.0
Private borehole	1.6	0.9	43.8	32.9	7.8	0.9	10.1	1.8	100.0
Public borehole	7.8	3.9	67.6	5.7	7.4	0.3	6.2	1.0	100.0
Other	3.5	0.9	41.5	41.5	4.3	0.8	4.3	3.2	100.0

Table 1.14 shows the percentage distribution of households by main source of drinking water and ecological zones. In the lowlands households reported their main source of drinking water to be piped water community supply amounting to 31.6 percent, followed by piped water on premises totaling to 24.7 percent. The households in the foothills also reported their main source of drinking water to be piped water community supply (56.7 percent) followed by public well (20.0 percent). A similar pattern to that of the foothills is also observed in the mountain and Senqu River Valley zones.

<b>Table 1.14: Main source of drinking water</b>				
Percentage distribution of households by main source of drinking water and Ecological Zone, Census 2006				
Main source of drinking Water	Ecological zone			
	Lowlands	Foothills	Mountain	Senqu River Valley
Piped water on premises	24.7	2.2	4.8	9.1
Piped water community supply	31.6	56.7	49.2	54.9
Catchment tank	1.8	1.5	0.9	1.1
Public well	10.9	20.0	22.0	16.3
Private well	1.3	0.4	1.1	0.9
Spring covered	3.2	7.6	10.0	5.5
Spring uncovered	6.7	8.3	9.5	9.3
River	1.1	0.6	1.2	0.9
Private borehole	4.3	0.1	0.1	0.3
Public borehole	12.4	2.2	0.8	1.4
Other	2.1	0.3	0.6	0.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total households	256,622	50,669	77,499	37,581

### 1.7.5 Time taken to get water

Time taken to get water was measured by the number of minutes the household members took to get to the source of drinking water, get water and come back (including the waiting period where necessary).

More than 50 percent of the households in the country reported spending less than 15 minutes to get water. Those who spend 15 to 29 minutes account for 20.5 percent. Table 1.15 further reveals that less than 3 percent of the household members travel for two hours or more to get water for their households.

<b>Table 1.15: Time in minutes taken to get water</b>								
Percentage distribution of households by source of drinking water and time in minutes taken to get water, Census 2006								
Source of drinking water	Time taken to get water							Total
	00 - 14	15 - 29	30 - 44	45 - 49	50 - 59	60 - 119	120 +	
Piped water on premises	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Piped water community supply	57.2	24.6	8.9	2.6	3.1	2.3	1.3	100.0
Catchment tank	37.7	24.5	15.5	4.0	8.0	5.8	4.4	100.0
Public well	26.2	26.4	17.6	7.2	10.5	7.6	4.4	100.0
Private well	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Spring covered	28.8	28.9	16.9	7.3	8.6	6.2	3.4	100.0
Spring uncovered	21.7	26.6	18.1	7.7	12.1	9.2	4.7	100.0
River	21.1	20.8	16.0	8.6	15.4	11.1	7.0	100.0
Private borehole	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Public borehole	31.1	28.2	16.1	6.2	7.5	5.9	5.0	100.0
Other	49.2	30.9	10.3	3.5	3.0	2.0	1.1	100.0
Percent Total	54.5	20.5	10.2	3.8	5.0	3.8	2.3	100.0
households	230,164	86,502	43,070	15,860	21,264	15,913	9,598	422,371

Table 1.16 indicates the percentage distribution of households by districts and time taken to get water. In all the districts, most households reported spending less than 15 minutes to go, get water and come back walking. These households are followed by those who indicated spending 15 to 29 minutes to perform the same activity. In the districts of Leribe, Quthing and Berea 3.2, 3.1 and 3.0 percent of households spend more than two hours (120+ minutes) to get water.

**Table 1.16: Time in minutes taken to get water and come back walking**  
 Percentage distribution of households by district and time in minutes taken to get water and come back walking, Census 2006

District	Time taken to get water							Number
	00 - 14	15 -29	30 - 44	45 - 49	50 - 59	60 - 119	120 +	
Botha-Bothe	52.7	22.0	10.8	4.0	4.5	3.8	2.2	100 (23,724)
Leribe	47.5	22.0	11.7	4.7	6.2	4.6	3.2	100 (66,697)
Berea	54.4	19.2	10.2	3.7	5.6	3.9	3.0	100 (56,567)
Maseru	63.5	17.4	8.1	2.8	3.5	2.9	1.7	100 (109,978)
Mafeteng	49.7	21.8	11.8	4.6	5.8	4.0	2.2	100 (42,948)
Mohale's Hoek	53.2	20.6	10.3	3.4	5.7	4.7	2.2	100 (37,631)
Quthing	50.6	23.2	10.0	3.1	5.4	4.6	3.1	100 (23,528)
Qacha's Nek	61.9	22.0	8.2	2.5	2.5	2.1	0.8	100 (14,122)
Mokhotlong	54.5	22.0	10.7	4.0	4.3	3.0	1.5	100 (20,431)
Thaba-Tseka	45.6	24.1	12.8	5.5	6.9	3.7	1.4	100 (26,745)

### 1.7.6 Garbage disposal

Information on proper waste management (refuse and waste water) indicates enhanced and controlled sanitation.

Figure 1.9 illustrates percentage distribution of households by garbage disposal method and urban/rural residence. Generally, the observation is that majority of households in Lesotho use 'own refuse dumping' to dispose off their garbage. Households in urban areas appear to have higher proportions in all categories of garbage disposal as opposed to the rural areas.

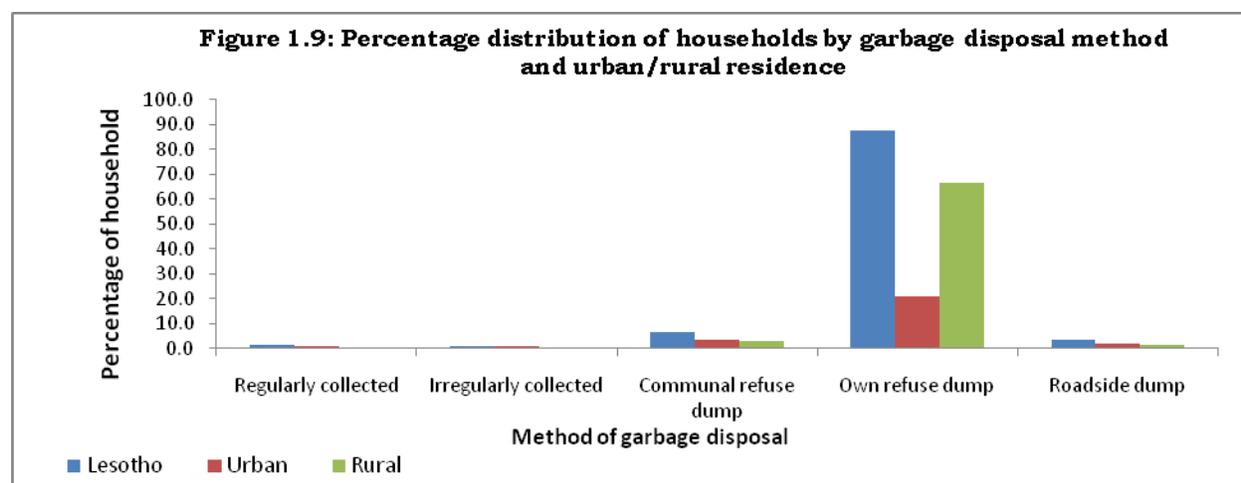


Table 1.17 illustrates percentage distribution of households by garbage disposal method and main type of house. Across all main type of houses, majority of households dispose off their refuse by 'own dumping'. About a quarter of households, whose main type of house is apartment, reported that their garbage is regularly collected while 16.9 percent of household in malaene type of house use communal refuse dump.

<b>Table 1.17: Type of solid waste disposal</b>								
Percentage distribution of households by type of solid waste disposal and main type of house, Census 2006								
Waste Disposal	Main type of house							
	Rontabole	Heisi	Polata	Malaene	Optaka	Apartment	Bungalow	Temporary
Regularly collected	0.4	0.4	0.9	2.4	2.6	24.2	5.1	3.7
Irregularly collected	0.5	0.3	0.7	2.0	1.6	10.1	2.8	2.0
Communal refuse dump	4.4	3.5	4.6	16.9	5.0	9.5	6.8	8.3
Own refuse dump	93.6	93.9	90.8	71.3	87.5	53.1	81.1	78.7
Roadside dump	1.1	1.8	3.1	7.4	3.2	3.0	4.3	7.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total households	102,130	18,942	187,266	56,162	28,099	4,463	20,364	4,985

## 1.8 Housing and Gender issues

### 1.8.1 Households by type of land tenure and sex of household head

It is important to compare male-headed households with female-headed households in terms of the tenure of land they hold. The Land Tenure system entitles all households to have access to the land for housing, farming, and or business undertakings in urban areas.

Table 1.18 shows that 64.9 percent of male-headed households have titles to their land as compared to 35.1 percent of their female counterparts. Indeed, for every two of each of the titles held by male heads of household, their female counterparts held one, demonstrating inequality in access to land in favour of males.

<b>Table 1.18: Type of land tenure</b>			
Percentage distribution of households by type of land tenure and sex of household head, Census 2006			
Type of Land tenure	Sex of household head		Total
	Male	Female	
Leasehold	65.3	34.7	100.0
Title deed	62.9	37.1	100.0
Form C	66.3	33.7	100.0
No title	62.1	37.9	100.0
Lesotho	64.9	35.1	100.0

**1.8.2 Household heads by sex and type of house**

Table 1.19 presents the distribution of heads of households by sex and type of house. The results from the table reveal that the proportion of female household heads that own Malaene, Heisi, Polata and Rontabole types of houses respectively is higher than the corresponding proportion of their male counterparts who own similar types of houses. Conversely, the proportion of male heads of households that own Optaka, Apartment, Bungalow and temporary types of houses respectively, is higher than the proportion among their female counterparts.

<b>Table 1.19: Type of house</b>		
Percentage distribution of households by type of house and sex of household head, Census 2006		
Type of house	Sex of household head	
	Male	Female
Rontabole	12	13.5
Heisi	11.4	14.8
Polata	12	13.5
Malaene	11.3	15
Optaka	12.8	11.8
Apartment	13.4	10.7
Bungalow	13.8	9.8
Temporary	13.3	10.9
Total %	100	100

**1.8.3 Households by material of walls, floor, roof and sex of household head**

The difference in the quality of houses is brought about by the materials used to construct the walls, floor and the roof of the house. Table 1.20 shows that a higher proportion of female-headed households dwell in houses with walls made of mud bricks, stick and mud and stone, compared with the proportion of male-headed households living in houses with walls made of similar materials. On the other hand, a higher proportion of male-headed households than female-headed households live in houses with walls made of burned bricks, cement bricks or corrugated iron sheets. With respect to the material of the floor, more male-headed than female-headed households live in houses with floor made of brick tiles or tiles, while more female-headed than male-headed households dwell in houses with floor made of mud and dung, linoleum or carpet.

**Table 1.20: Main material of walls, floor and roof**

Percentage distribution of households by main material of walls, floor, roof and sex of head of household, Census 2006

	Sex of household head	
	Male	Female
<b>Material of Walls</b>	14.2	13.9
Burned brick		
Cement bricks	14.5	13.9
Mud bricks	12.6	17.4
Stick and mud	13.9	14.9
Corrugated iron	15.6	11.7
Stone	13.9	15
Other	14.6	13.6
<b>Material of floor</b>		
Brick tiles	13.9	9.6
Tiles	13.1	11.2
Mud and dung	11.5	14.6
Wood	12.7	12.1
Cement	12.3	12.9
Vinyl/Linoleum	11.8	13.9
Carpet	11.8	14
Other	12.8	11.8
<b>Material of roof</b>		
Thatch/Straw	24	27
Roof tiles	29.2	16.6
Corrugated iron	24.2	26.6
Other	22.5	29.9

#### 1.8.4 Households by fuel for cooking, heating and sex of household head

Table 1.21 presents percentage distribution of households by sex of the head and source of fuel for cooking or heating. A higher proportion of male-headed than female-headed households use electricity, coal or dung for cooking. On the other hand, a higher proportion of female-headed than male-headed households use paraffin, wood or crop waste for cooking. With respect to source of energy for heating, a higher proportion of male-headed than female-headed households use electricity from the national grid, gas, coal or dung, while more female-headed than male-headed households use electricity from solar, wood or crop waste for heating.

<b>Table 1.21: Fuel for cooking, heating</b>				
Percentage distribution of households by fuel for cooking, heating and sex of household head, Census 2006				
Fuel for cooking and heating	Cooking		Heating	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Electricity (mains)	12	9.5	12.1	9.2
Electricity (Solar)	12.6	8.3	10.5	12.3
Gas	11.8	9.9	12.1	9.2
Paraffin	10.8	11.7	11.1	11.2
Coal	11.3	10.8	12.4	8.7
Wood	10.9	11.4	10.7	11.9
Dung	11.7	10	11.5	10.2
Crop waste	9.1	14.8	8.8	15.6
Other	9.7	13.6	10.8	11.7

### 1.8.5 Households by fuel for lighting and sex of household head

Table 1.22 shows percentage distribution of households by sex of household head and source of fuel for lighting. The major source of fuel for lighting among male-headed households is electricity, especially from solar energy. This contrasts from the case of female-headed households that mainly use Paraffin, Candles and Gas for lighting, although about the same proportion as among male-headed households use electricity from the national grid. These results suggest that a substantial proportion of male-headed households is at an advantage of having access to cleaner energy for lighting than female-headed households.

<b>Table 1.22: Fuel for lighting</b>		
Percentage distribution of households by fuel for lighting and sex of head of household, Census 2006		
Fuel for lighting	Sex of household head	
	Male	Female
Electricity (mains)	12.6	12.3
Electricity (Generator)	13.6	10
Electricity (Solar)	14.3	8.4
Electricity (Battery)	12.8	11.9
Gas	12	13.6
Paraffin	11.6	14.5
Candles	11.6	14.5
Other	11.5	14.8

### 1.8.6 Households by type of toilet facility and sex of household head

Table 1.23 presents the percentage distribution of households by sex of the household head and type of toilet facility. Slightly more (17.7 percent) of female-headed households than male-headed households (16.1 percent) have no toilets. The proportion of male-headed households that have sewage system or septic tank type of toilet facility is higher compared with the proportion of female-headed households that have similar toilet facilities. However, slightly more female-headed (17.8 percent) than male-headed households (16.1 percent) have pit latrines.

Type of toilet facility	Sex of household head	
	Male	Female
No toilet	16.1	17.7
Sewage system	17.4	15.2
Septic tank	17.1	15.8
Soak away	16.7	16.7
Pit latrine	16.1	17.8
VIP	16.6	16.8

### 1.8.7 Households by source of drinking water and sex of household head

Table 1.24 displays the percentage distribution of households by the sex of the household head and source of drinking water. As the results show, there is virtually no difference in household access to potable water by the sex of the household head.

Source of drinking water	Sex of household head	
	Male	Female
Piped water on premises	9	9.4
Piped water community supply	9	9.4
Catchment tank	9	9.2
Public well	9.3	8.8
Private well	9	9.3
Spring covered	9.4	8.5
Spring uncovered	9.3	8.7
River	9.1	9
Private borehole	9.3	8.6
Public borehole	9	9.2
Other	8.6	9.9

## 1.8 Summary of findings

The 2006 Population and Housing Census reported the total number of households to be 422,371. About 63.0 percent of these households occupy housing units holding Form C as their tenure of land. The proportion of households in housing units with leasehold is greater in urban than in rural areas. The most dominating method of acquisition of land is the one allocated by a chief. The majority of land acquired through government agency was acquired from LSPP followed by Lesotho Housing. There were 689, 418 housing units and 1,105, 080 rooms recorded during the census. Based on the population of 1, 862, 860 in private households in 2006, this implies that an average of 1.7 persons occupy a room (about 2 people per room). Majority of the households who stated rontabole and heisi as their main type of house reside in the rural areas and those who stay in malaene and the apartment types of houses are observed to be dominating in the urban areas.

Leribe, Berea, Maseru and Mafeteng districts reported greater shares of houses with walls constructed with cement bricks followed by stone. The opposite is true for the remaining districts. Among all the categories of roofing materials, corrugated iron sheets were mostly reported in almost all the districts with the exception of Mokhotlong and Thaba-Tseka districts where most households 67.5 and 68.3 percent respectively live in houses with roof made of thatch/straw. Households who specified mud and dug, and vinyl/linoleum as their material of the floor of their houses reside in the rural areas. A larger proportion of houses with floor made of brick tiles are observed in the urban areas.

Majority of households use paraffin for lighting across all types of houses with an exception of apartment and bungalow. Most households use wood as the main fuel for cooking. Wood and paraffin were reported to be the most used fuels for heating.

In terms of toilet facility, 89 percent of urban households and 41 percent rural households have sanitation. Households living mainly in polata and optaka houses use largely pit latrine. Households living in malaene and bungalow predominately use VIP.

Access to safe drinking water has increased from 62.0 percent of the population in 1996 to 73.9 percent in 2006. It takes less than 15 minutes walk to go, get safe drinking water and back, regardless of the district considered.

About two-thirds of the households are headed by male while the remaining are headed by females.

## CHAPTER 2: HOUSEHOLD SIZE AND COMPOSITION<sup>2</sup>

### 2.1 Introduction

Information pertaining to size, composition and socio-economic characteristics of the household is important and useful in socioeconomic planning. A household is defined as one person or a group of persons who live together and have common catering arrangements, whether or not they are related by blood or marriage. People living in the same dwelling unit but having separate living and eating arrangements were regarded as different households. This definition was also used in the 1986, 1996 Population Censuses, 1994/95 household Consumption and Expenditure Survey, 2001 Lesotho Demographic Survey. It is the smallest unit for decision making for most economic and social aspects such as education, health, labour and others. A distinction was made between a 'private' and 'institutional' household. The latter included people who were staying at the hotels, Correctional Services, Convents, boarding schools and others.

Three types of questionnaires namely; household questionnaire, Institutional and Cattle Post questionnaires were used for the 2006 census. The household questionnaire was used to collect information on the following members of the households;

- a) Usual residents and visitors who were not usual members of the household, but spent the night preceding the census in the household.
- b) Usual members who normally live there but had spent the census night elsewhere were excluded with the assumption that they would be counted at the place where they spent the census night. However those who were temporarily absent during census night (e.g. on night duty) were counted in their usual households.
- c) Those who were absent from their usual households for more than six months, but within the country, were not treated as usual members of the households. Members of the households who were continuously absent outside the country for more than three years were excluded from their usual households. This allows analysis of either de jure (usual residents) or de facto (those who were present at the time of the enumeration) population.

The most important characteristics of the household that will be discussed in this chapter are household population, household type, household size, relationship, household headship, marital status, possession of household assets and literacy of households head.

The 2006 Population and Housing Census reported the total number of households as 422,371. This figure has increased by 51,399 households from 370,972 of 1996

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<sup>2</sup> This Chapter was prepared by M.Thaisi and M. Masemene

census. This is a growth rate of 13.9 percent of the households. A larger proportion of households was found in the lowlands (60.7 percent) followed by mountains (18.3 percent).

## 2.2 Present and absent population living in households

The spatial distribution of households as indicated in Table 2.1 shows that there were 422,371 households of which 30.1 22.6 percent were in the urban areas, and 77.4 were in the rural areas.

Table 2.2 presents the distribution of the household population enumerated at the time of census. About 93.2 percent of the household population was found in their usual places of residence, while the remaining 6.8 percent was away during census enumeration. This table reveals that a higher proportion of household population starts to leave their households from the ages of 20-24 to 45-49. This is higher for males (69.2) than females. Males assume headship earlier than their female counterparts, as such they could be leaving their households and working elsewhere or going out to look for work, while females are taking care of the children.

Movement is not common for household population at older ages. For instance, there was an insignificant movement for household population from age 65 and above. Apparently, this could be that population aged 65 and above is not economically active, and as a result they do not have reasons for leaving their place of residence.

<b>Table 2.1 Households and Households population</b>						
Number and Percentage Distribution of Households and Households population by residential status, 2006 Census						
Residence	Households			Population		
	Present	Absent	Percent	Present	Absent	Percent
Urban	110,884	9,584	28.5	402,131	18,974	22.6
Rural	25,7907	43,996	71.5	1,333,757	107,998	77.4
Total	368,791	53,580	100	1,735,888	126,972	100

**Table 2.2 Household Population**

Distribution of Household Population by Age and Sex , 2006 Census

Age Group	Lesotho			Male			Female			Percent		
	Total	Present	Absent	Total	Present	Absent	Total	Present	Absent	Total	Male	Female
0 - 4	201,995	198,910	3,085	101,397	99,913	1,484	100,598	98,997	1,601	10.8	11.2	10.5
5 - 9	211,947	209,341	2,606	106,695	105,387	1,308	105,252	103,954	1,298	11.4	11.8	11.0
10 - 14	220,938	217,815	3,123	110,778	109,352	1,426	110,160	108,463	1,697	11.9	12.2	11.5
15 - 19	229,389	221,492	7,897	114,800	110,850	3,950	114,589	110,642	3,947	12.3	12.7	12.0
20 - 24	207,062	188,216	18,846	101,385	88,766	12,619	105,677	99,450	6,227	11.1	11.2	11.0
25 - 29	164,867	144,156	20,711	82,202	67,177	15,025	82,665	76,979	5,686	8.9	9.1	8.6
30 - 34	119,530	102,967	16,563	60,107	47,805	12,302	59,423	55,162	4,261	6.4	6.6	6.2
35 - 39	93,490	79,554	13,936	45,645	35,238	10,407	47,845	44,316	3,529	5.0	5.0	5.0
40 - 44	83,299	69,545	13,754	39,596	29,278	10,318	43,703	40,267	3,436	4.5	4.4	4.6
45 - 49	72,621	61,153	11,468	34,102	25,356	8,746	38,519	35,797	2,722	3.9	3.8	4.0
50 - 54	63,084	55,078	8,006	28,723	22,898	5,825	34,361	32,180	2,181	3.4	3.2	3.6
55 - 59	50,148	46,200	3,948	23,225	20,402	2,823	26,923	25,798	1,125	2.7	2.6	2.8
60 - 64	37,699	36,179	1,520	16,724	15,798	926	20,975	20,381	594	2.0	1.8	2.2
65 - 69	32,028	31,308	720	13,369	13,003	366	18,659	18,305	354	1.7	1.5	1.9
70 - 74	35,609	35,137	472	13,380	13,162	218	22,229	21,975	254	1.9	1.5	2.3
75 - 79	18,141	17,984	157	6,327	6,255	72	11,814	11,729	85	1.0	0.7	1.2
80 - 84	10,498	10,422	76	3,251	3,213	38	7,247	7,209	38	0.6	0.4	0.8
85 +	10,515	10,431	84	2,686	2,657	29	7,829	7,774	55	0.6	0.3	0.8
Total	1862,860	1735,888	126,972	904,392	816,510	87,882	958,468	919,378	39,090	100.0	100.0	100.0

### 2.3 Household type

Apart from the distinction made between private and institutional households indicated earlier, private households were further classified by type as follows:

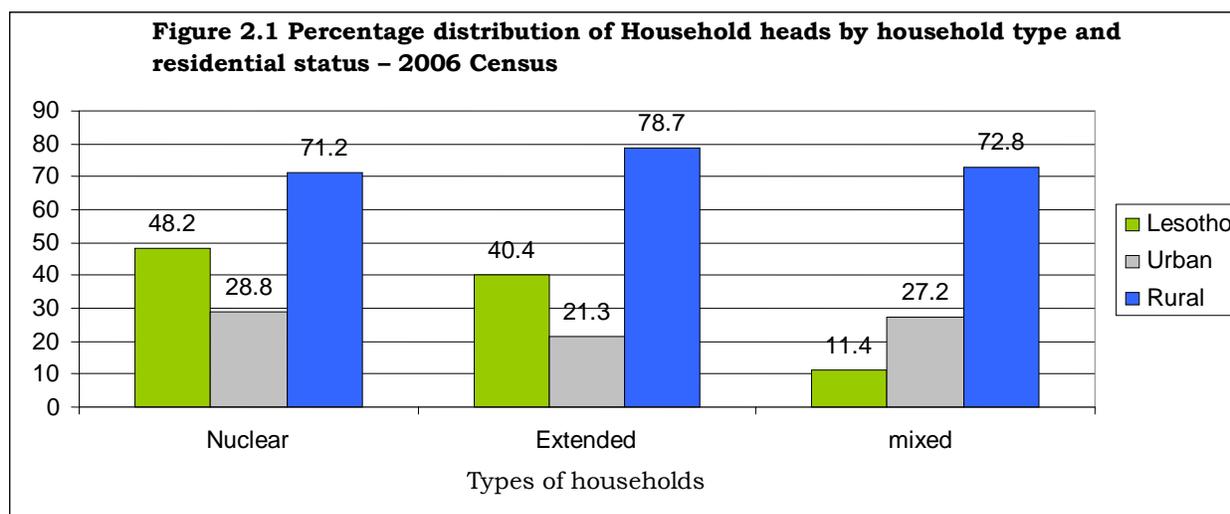
The identification of a household head as a reference person was conducted in each household setting. Each household was assigned a number to cover every household. The types of households which were covered included;

- a) Nuclear households whose composition was entirely parents staying with their unmarried offspring. This type of household may also consist of either one person in cases of unmarried, divorced or widows/widowers parents who make provision for their living essentials.
- b) Extended households which consisted of both parents and their children living together including relatives of either household head or spouse, and sharing common catering arrangements.
- c) Mixed households made up of unrelated people staying together and sharing some common catering arrangements.

The same classification was adopted in 1996 Population and Housing Census. It is observed from figure 2.3 that rural households have the larger proportion for all types of households as compared to urban area. In Lesotho 48.2 of the households are nuclear, while 40.4 and 11.4 represent for extended and mixed households respectively.

Within this category of household types, the 2006 Population and Housing census made a distinction between household population, institutional and cattle posts population. The institutional population constituted both males and females living in Boarding schools, Correctional Services prisons, Barracks and Convents. People working at these institutions but living at their private households were included in their households.

The 2006 Lesotho Population and Housing Census estimated total de jure population at 1,876,633. This included household, institutional and cattle posts population. Household population comprised 1,862,860 while institutional and cattle posts constituted 13,773.



## 2.4 Average household size

Average household size is the average number of persons living in the household. Household size affects the resources of the household, for instance it has some implications on health, education, food and shelter for the household. Household size is influenced by several factors such as age and sex of the population, fertility, mortality, migration and other economic and social factors.

As indicated earlier, the 2006 census enumerated present and absent members of the households with the exception of those who do not qualify to be members. The characteristics of those who were absent were recorded in order to allow for proper analysis. The average household size was estimated at 4.4. This is a slight decrease compared to 5 persons in 1996 Population census. Household size tends to be higher in rural than urban areas.

Table 2.3 shows the trend analysis for average household size for 1996 and 2006 Population Censuses. Mixed households have the largest average number of members in both censuses, and followed by extended type of households. This is true regardless of the residential status.

<b>Table 2.3: Household size</b>						
Average household size by type of household, urban and rural residence, 1996 – 2006 censuses						
Household type	Residence					
	1996			2006		
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural
Total	5.0	3.9	5.2	4.4	3.8	4.7
Nuclear	4.2	3.3	4.4	3.2	2.9	3.3
Extended	6.1	5.2	6.3	5.5	4.7	5.8
Mixed	6.3	5.2	6.8	5.8	5.0	6.1

## 2.5 Relationship within households

In Lesotho, most of the persons living in households are related. The 2006 Population and Housing Census Questionnaire identified the reference person or the head of household during census enumeration, and thereafter identified the rest of the members of the household. The head of the household was recorded as the first member, regardless of whether they were present or absent from the household during census enumeration. The remaining members were listed in order according to the relationship to the head. The order is very important because it allows proper analysis of household structure. For instance the spouse was listed as the second person and then children, thereafter other members of the household.

About 96.2 of the population living in households were related to the head of the household (Table 2.3). The remaining 3.8 percent was not related to head. These were domestic employees, herdboys and others. About 23.0 percent of the persons living in households were heads of households, while 11.5 percent represented spouses of the head of households. The largest category of persons living in households was of children (39.8 percent). Grand children constituted 12.6 percent while other relatives represented 8.3 percent.

About 30.6 percent of all males living in households were heads of households, while 15.8 percent were female household heads. This is because household headship is culturally influenced. About 44.2 percent of persons living in households were male children of household head compared to 35.6 percent of female children of household head.

There were some differences between urban and rural household relationships. The proportions for urban and rural areas were 29.2 and 21.2 percent respectively. Of all the persons living in households for both urban and rural areas, 39.9 and 28.1 percent were male household heads.

**Table 2.4: Relationship to household head**

Percentage distribution of the household population by relationship to head of the household, sex and residence, 2006 census

Relationship to head	Lesotho			Urban			Rural		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>								
Head	23	30.6	15.8	29.2	39.9	20	21.2	28.1	14.5
Spouse	11.5	0.5	21.8	13.3	0.8	24	10.9	0.4	21.1
Child	39.8	44.2	35.6	36.5	40.3	33.3	40.7	45.3	36.3
Son/daughter-in-law	2	0.3	3.5	0.8	0.2	1.3	2.3	0.3	4.2
Grand/great grand child	12.6	13.2	12	6.6	7.2	6.1	14.3	14.8	13.8
Parent/Parent-in-law	0.6	0.1	1.0	0.6	0.1	0.9	0.6	0.1	1.0
Other relative	8.3	8.1	8.5	10.1	9.4	10.6	7.8	7.8	7.9
Other person not related	3.8	4.8	2.9	4.7	2.5	6.7	3.6	5.5	1.7

## 2.6 Household Headship

As it has been mentioned earlier, the household is the smallest unit for decision making for most economic and social sectors such as education, health, living arrangements. The household head is the person who is regarded by members of the household (whether a male or female) as generally responsible for the day- to -day running and maintenance of the household. Household headship is measured by household headship rate. This is estimated as the percentage of adult population of a specific age who are heads of households.

The importance of headship rates lies in the fact that it indicates the rate of household formation and the degree of housing privacy enjoyed by persons in each age-sex group of the population. It also measures “household complexity” which is the extent to which persons or couples form their own households or double up existing households, for example, persons remaining in the parents’ households when they are married or those returning to their married children’s households when they become old or widowed.

Looking at male and female disparities, about 64.9 percent of the households were headed by males, and the remaining 35.1 percent was headed by females. This was a decrease on male side when compared to 70.6 percent in 1996. On the other hand females are gradually taking responsibility at households because there is an increase of female household heads from 29.4 percent in 1996 to 35.1 percent of female heads in 2006.

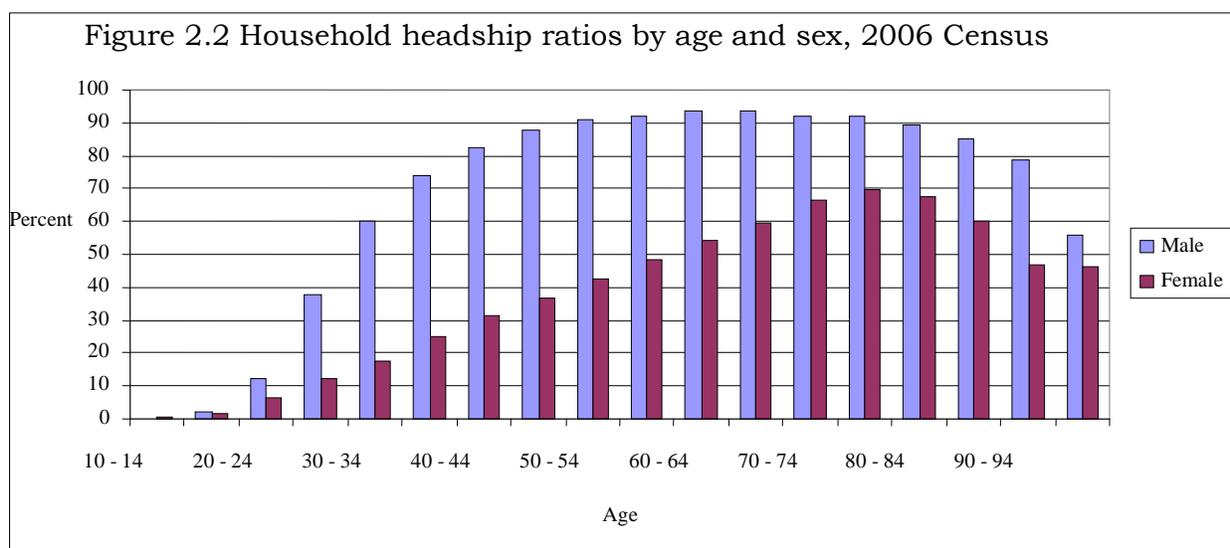
Figure 2.4 and Table 2.4 present household headship rates by age and sex. It was generally observed that headship rate increases as age increases; which means there is a strong relationship between age and becoming head of a household. This is evidence for all age groups for both sexes, though on the other hand headship rates

decline at older ages. The decline is observed from age 70 and above for males while for females is observed at age 80 and above.

Headship rates are higher for males than for females in all age groups except for age group 10-14. This reflects the cultural norm of regarding males as heads of households. As males marry, they automatically become heads of households irrespective of whether they are capable of maintaining the rest of the members or not.

Higher headship rates for females are observed from age 35 and above. In most cases females become heads of households when their husbands have passed away. Apart from that females could be household heads if they are separated, divorced or not married and heading their own households.

A small proportion of household heads is observed for ages 10-14. Household heads at this age group represented 0.2 percent, out of which 0.2 and 0.3 percent were males and females respectively. Headship is not common at these age groups. Possibly this could be the orphans of HIV and AIDS.



According to Table 2.4, rural household heads represented 71.5 percent of total heads, and the remaining 28.5 was for urban heads. For both urban and rural heads, males constituted larger proportions compared to females, 63.4 and 65.5 percent respectively.

Headship is also associated with a general rise in the level of urbanization and standard of living. As people migrate to urban areas for employment, they form new households. Table 2.4 depicts that there were more urban male heads from age 15 to 54 compared to rural heads. On the other hand, there were more female heads from age 15 to 64 compared to rural female heads in those ages. This is true because this is the

population that is economically active. For rural area a larger proportion of female heads was observed from age 30 and above

**Table 2.4: Household headship rates**  
Percentage distribution of household population aged 10 years and over that were household heads by age, sex and urban-rural residence, 2006 census

Age Group	Lesotho			Urban			Rural		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
10 - 14	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2
15 - 19	1.8	2	1.6	3.9	4.2	3.7	1.2	1.4	0.9
20 - 24	9	12	6.1	17.3	22.7	13.6	6.2	9.2	3.1
25 - 29	24.5	37.5	11.7	38.1	57.5	22.8	18.7	30.1	6.1
30 - 34	38.4	59.5	17	50.6	76	27.9	32.9	52.8	11.7
35 - 39	48	73.1	24	57.6	83.8	33.7	43.8	68.5	19.7
40 - 44	54.8	81.4	30.6	61.9	87.1	39.1	52.1	79.3	27.4
45 - 49	59.9	86.8	36.1	66	89.6	44.7	58	85.9	33.4
50 - 54	63.8	90.1	41.8	67.8	91	48.2	62.7	89.8	40.1
55 - 59	67.6	91.2	47.3	69.9	90.6	52.6	67.1	91.3	46.1
60 - 64	70.7	92.5	53.3	72.4	91.3	56.9	70.4	92.8	52.6
65 - 69	72.6	92.1	58.6	71.5	90.6	58.1	72.7	92.3	58.7
70 - 74	74.9	90.4	65.6	71.8	88	62.1	75.4	90.8	66.1
75 - 79	76.5	91.2	68.5	69.5	84.8	62.2	77.5	92.1	69.5
80 - 84	73.5	88.2	66.8	65.6	81.8	59.2	74.6	89.1	68
85 +	62	80.3	55.7	49.3	68.8	42.4	63.7	81.9	57.4

## 2.7 Age and sex of household heads

The distribution of household heads within districts, ecological zones as well as rural-urban residence and sex is shown on Table 2.5. The results indicate that in Lesotho most of households are headed by men as they constitute 64.9 percent on average, while female household heads constitute 35.1 percent. In addition, this proportion of male household heads has decreased by 5.2 percentage points, from 70.1 percent in 1996 (1996 Population Census Analytical Report, Volume IIIB: Socio economic Characteristics and Population Projections, Bureau of Statistics, Lesotho,). This pattern is also consistent with the results from the 2004 LDHS which observed at 62.7 percent of male heads and 37.3 percent for female heads.

An increase in the proportion of female headed households can be explained by the results in the Mortality chapter, which show higher mortality for males than females for all age groups above 30-34. Furthermore, the chapter on Orphanhood revealed significantly higher paternal than maternal orphanhood. Thus, more women are assuming responsibilities as heads of households following the death of their spouses.

<b>Table 2.5: Residence of Household Head</b>			
Percentage distribution of the Household Heads by District, Ecological Zones, Urban-Rural residence and Sex- 2006 Census			
Residence	Sex of Household Head		Total
	Male	Female	
Total	64.9	35.1	100
<b>District</b>			
Botha-Bothe	66.8	33.2	100
Leribe	66	34	100
Berea	65.7	34.3	100
Maseru	63.5	36.5	100
Mafeteng	64.7	35.3	100
Mohale's Hoek	62.9	37.1	100
Quthing	61.9	38.1	100
Qacha's Nek	62.4	37.6	100
Mokhotlong	67.3	32.7	100
Thaba-Tseka	69.6	30.4	100
<b>Ecological Zone</b>			
Lowlands	64.3	35.7	100
Foothills	66	34,0	100
Mountains	67.6	32.4	100
Senqu River Valley	61.7	38.3	100
<b>Urban-Rural Residence</b>			
Urban	63.4	36.6	100
Rural	65.5	34.5	100

The distribution of household heads according to districts follows the same pattern since in each of the districts, the male household heads have a share ranging from 61.9 percent (in Quthing) to 69.6 percent (in Thaba-Tseka). Furthermore, the proportion of female headed households are low ranging from 30.4 to 38.1 percent in each district. The situation is the same for both Urban and Rural as well as for Ecological Zones. The variation between districts is very small as in all districts there are more male heads than female heads.

This is so because Lesotho is not different from most of other African societies where men are mostly heads, an example is Nigeria. It had been stated that culturally, it is not common in the Nigerian context for a woman to be a head the household if her husband is still alive (1991 Population Census of the Federal Republic of Nigeria).

Data on sex of the household heads play an important role in providing information for determining gender issues. Therefore, Table 2.6 shows the distribution of household heads by age, sex and urban-rural residence. In all households, large proportions of the household heads are in age groups, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44 and 45-49 with the percentages 10.9, 10.6, 10.8 and 10.3 respectively.

In the urban areas most of the heads of the household are in ages 25 to 44. However, in rural areas higher proportions of household heads are in ages 40-54. The higher proportion of heads of the household in age range 25-44 in urban areas compared to rural areas is expected because it is a reflection of rural to urban migration resulting in the formation of new households by migrants.

Urban male heads are highest in age group 30-34 while urban female heads are mostly aged between 25 and 29, on the other hand, the rural male heads are mostly aged 40-44 and rural female heads are mostly aged 70-74. This may be due to the fact that most of young people tend to migrate to urban areas and normally older males in rural areas tend to be engaged more in agriculture. On the other hand very old female heads tend to stay at their home. It is worth noting that on the average the proportion of heads in younger ages and older ages is lower as compared to those of heads with middle ages regardless of sex and residence.

Household heads aged 10-14 years are likely to be orphans, who in the absence of a relative to support them assume responsibility of caring for themselves. Parents or grandparents often stay in the households of their children or grand children, which is why there is low proportion of heads in ages 80 and above.

<b>Table 2.6: Urban-Rural Residence of Household heads</b>									
Percentage Distribution of Household Heads by age group, Urban-Rural Residence and Sex - 2006 Census									
Age group	Total			Urban			Rural		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
10-14	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2
15 - 19	1	0.8	1.2	1.6	1.2	2.2	0.7	0.7	0.8
20 - 24	4.4	4.4	4.4	7.5	6.4	9.5	3.2	3.7	2.3
25 - 29	9.6	11.2	6.6	15.8	16.6	14.5	7.1	9.2	3.2
30 - 34	10.9	13	6.9	15.4	17.2	12.4	9	11.4	4.6
35 - 39	10.6	12.2	7.8	13.7	15	11.5	9.4	11.1	6.3
40 - 44	10.8	11.7	9	11.7	12.3	10.5	10.4	11.5	8.4
45 - 49	10.3	10.8	9.4	9.7	9.9	9.4	10.5	11.1	9.4
50 - 54	9.5	9.4	9.6	7.4	7.2	7.7	10.4	10.3	10.5
55 - 59	8	7.7	8.6	5.4	5	6	9.1	8.7	9.7
60 - 64	6.3	5.6	7.5	3.8	3.4	4.5	7.3	6.5	8.8
65 - 69	5.5	4.5	7.4	2.8	2.3	3.7	6.6	5.3	8.9
70 - 74	6.3	4.4	9.8	2.5	1.8	3.6	7.9	5.5	12.4
75 - 79	3.3	2.1	5.4	1.3	0.8	2.2	4.1	2.6	6.8
80 - 84	1.8	1.1	3.2	0.7	0.4	1.3	2.3	1.3	4.1
85 +	1.5	0.8	2.9	0.5	0.3	0.9	1.9	1	3.8

## 2.8 Marital status of household heads

Although being a head of the household may not necessarily depend on the marital status, the results show that 56 percent of all heads are monogamously married while proportion of never married constitutes only 9.6 percent, which is the lowest. Table 2.7 depicts that proportion of never married household heads is highest on age group 25-29 while for monogamously married, polygamously married, living together, separated, divorced and widowed categories, highest proportion of household heads is found in age groups 30-34, 45-49, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49 and 50-54 respectively. However the pattern of marital status highly differs according to individual age groups of the household heads.

From the results, it is evident that there is a relationship between marital status and being a head of the household since proportions of persons who are currently married as well as those who have previously married is higher than proportions of those who are single. This means it is normal that once a person is married he or she becomes independent and heads own household.

Age group	Total	Never married	Monogamously Married	Polygamously Married	Living together	Separated	Divorced	Widowed
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
10-14	0.1	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
15 - 19	1.0	8.8	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.0
20 - 24	4.4	25.2	3.3	1.3	4.4	2.7	1.1	0.5
25 - 29	9.6	25.2	11.1	3.2	11.4	8.7	3.6	2.1
30 - 34	10.9	13.2	13.8	6.7	13.4	12.0	7.0	4.2
35 - 39	10.6	7.8	12.9	9.3	14.6	13.9	9.4	6.5
40 - 44	10.8	5.2	12.2	12.9	12.6	14.7	11.5	8.8
45 - 49	10.3	3.8	11.0	13.9	11.8	14.0	12.5	10.0
50 - 54	9.5	2.9	9.5	12.8	10.5	11.4	12.4	11.0
55 - 59	8.0	2.0	7.8	10.0	6.7	8.2	10.2	10.2
60 - 64	6.3	1.3	5.7	8.1	5.1	5.4	7.6	9.2
65 - 69	5.5	1.0	4.5	6.8	2.8	3.5	7.4	9.3
70 - 74	6.3	1.1	4.3	7.6	3.5	3.3	8.2	12.7
75 - 79	3.3	0.5	2.0	3.6	1.6	1.2	4.6	7.2
80 - 84	1.8	0.3	1.0	2.2	0.5	0.4	2.5	4.3
85 +	1.5	0.2	0.7	1.4	0.6	0.3	2.0	4.0

## 2.9 Household Assets

In 1996 Census, information was collected only for the ownership of the radio. As a way of improvement in 2006 Lesotho Housing and Population Census administered questions on ownership of a radio, telephone lines, cellular phones, computers as well as access to internet. In 1996, 57.8 percent of households owned a radio while in 2006 the results show some improvement as the household ownership of radio has increased to 59.2 percent. This means that more households have access to information.

Furthermore, information on other assets, such as: television, refrigerator, bed/mattresses, car and scotch cart was also collected. The Enumerator had to probe in order to find out if these assets are operating. Therefore, Table 2.8 analyses the households that own a given type of asset by district. The results from this table shows that households which own radios constitute 59.2 percent, 15.2 percent of the households own TV, 5.4 percent own telephones, 35.2 percent own cellular phones, 14.0 percent own refrigerators, households with bed/mattresses constitute 83.9 percent, households which own cars constitute 5.9 percent, households with scotch cart represent 7.4 percent, 1.4 percent represent the households which own computers while households with internet constitute 0.4 percent. It is worth noting that the results are independent for each asset

This relatively high proportion of households which own cellular phones shows that there are many households having access to communication facilities. However, it would be very enlightening if the 1996 Census had collected similar information to enable assessment of progress towards achieving MDG target 18, indicators 47 and 48.

The results also reflect the standard of living of the households as they show that there are very few households which could afford a car, refrigerator, TV, computer or have access to internet. This means that there is a need for a development of creation of job opportunities so that the individual families may improve their standard of living.

It is also important to note that although the proportions of household possessing assets vary according to the districts, they show general pattern across all types of assets (except radio). For instance, in every district there are more households which own bed/mattresses than those which do not have this type of assets. In addition, across all districts there are fewer households who own television, cellular phone, telephone, refrigerator, car, scotch cart, computer or internet access as compared to the households which do not have these assets. Concerning the ownership of a radio, districts with higher proportions of households which have the radio as compared to those who do not have include; Botha-Bothe, Leribe, Berea, Maseru and Mafeteng while the districts such as Mhale's Hoek, Quthing, Qacha's Nek, Mokhotlong as well as Thaba-Tseka have fewer households with radios than those who do not own a radio

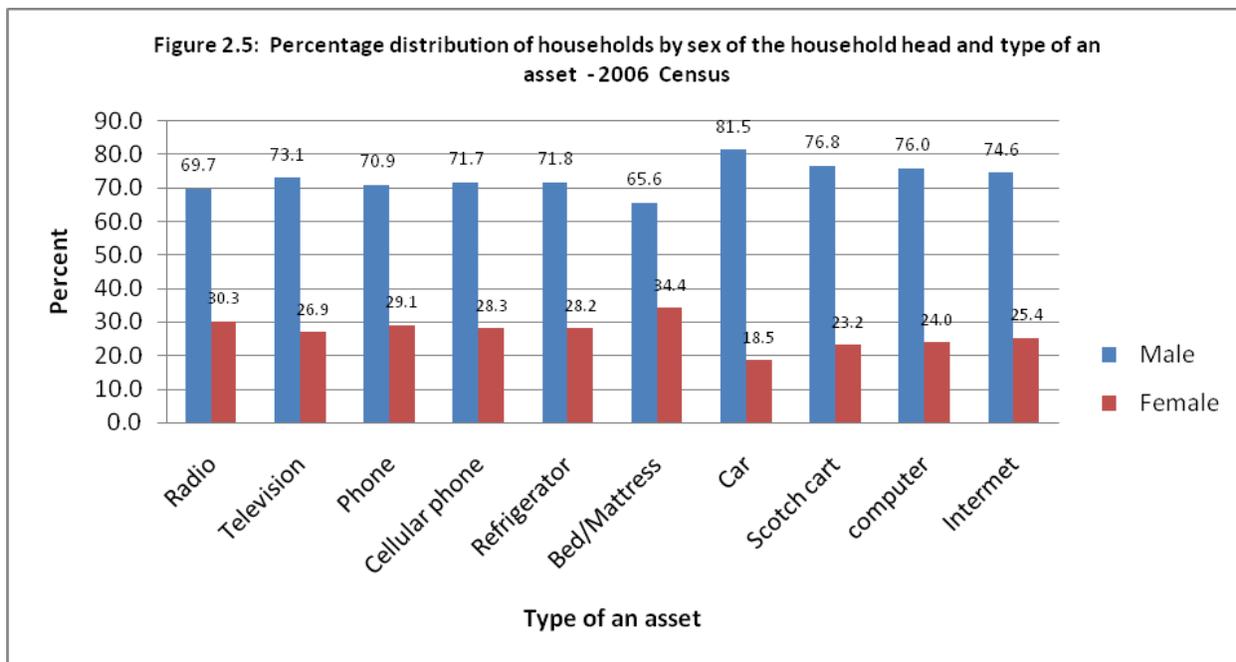
When comparing proportion of households who own each type of an asset within each of the districts, Maseru has more households with possession of most of the assets

(except for car and scotch cart) as compared to households owning assets in other districts. For instance, for the possession of a radio, households residing in Maseru constitute 68.7 percent while proportion of households possessing a radio in all other districts range from 38.1 percent (for Mokhotlong district) to percent 66.8 (for Berea district) as compared to their counterparts in each of the districts.

<b>Table 2.8: Household Assets</b>											
Percentage distribution of household assets by type of asset owned and district , - 2006 Census											
Type of Assets	District										
	Total	Botha Bothe	Leribe	Berea	Maseru	Mafeteng	Mohale's Hoek	Quthing	Qacha's Nek	Mokhotlong	Thabatasek
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Radio	59.2	60.7	65.3	66.8	68.7	57.9	48.4	45.8	47.3	38.1	38.4
No radio	40.8	39.3	34.7	33.2	31.3	42.1	51.6	54.2	52.7	61.9	61.6
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Television	15.2	9.5	15.2	24	24.2	13.8	8.9	3.7	5	2.3	1.8
No television	84.8	90.5	84.8	76	75.8	86.2	91.1	96.3	95	97.7	98.2
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Phone	5.5	3.3	4.3	9	9.7	2.9	2.8	2.2	2.8	1.3	1.3
No phone	94.5	96.7	95.7	91	90.3	97.1	97.2	97.8	97.2	98.7	98.7
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Cellular phone	35.2	33.5	38.6	41.8	46.8	33.1	27.2	24.7	19.1	17.5	13
No cellular phone	64.8	66.5	61.4	58.2	53.2	66.9	72.8	75.3	80.9	82.5	87
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Refrigerator	14	11.3	13.3	20.2	21.1	12.3	9.6	7.6	5.4	3.4	3.1
No refrigerator	86	88.7	86.7	79.8	78.9	87.7	90.4	92.4	94.6	96.6	96.9
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Mattress	83.9	85.1	87.7	87.6	89.3	85.2	79	78.2	79	65.9	70.4
No mattress	16.1	14.9	12.3	12.4	10.7	14.8	21	21.8	21	34.1	29.6
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Car	5.9	5.1	5.5	8.4	7.9	5.5	4.4	4.1	2.7	2.5	1.8
No car	94.1	94.9	94.5	91.6	92.1	94.5	95.6	95.9	97.3	97.5	98.2
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Scotch cart	7.5	11.1	11.1	12.3	5	13.5	5.6	1.8	1	0.7	1.6
no scotch cart	92.5	88.9	88.9	87.7	95	86.5	94.4	98.2	99	99.3	98.4
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
computer	1.4	0.6	0.7	2.2	3	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2
no computer	98.6	99.4	99.3	97.8	97	99.4	99.6	99.7	99.6	99.8	99.8
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Internet	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.8	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
no internet	99.6	99.8	99.7	99.5	99.2	99.8	99.8	99.9	99.8	99.9	99.9

The distribution of household heads by sex of household heads and type of asset is presented in Figure 2.5. This figure shows clearly that male-headed households are far more likely to possess assets than female-headed households. Male-headed households are twice as likely to have a radio, a phone or a bed/mattress as female-headed households. The differential widens to one female-headed household for every three male-headed households for possession of a television, a cellular phone,

refridgerator, scotch cart, computer or internet access respectively. Only one female-headed household for every four male-headed households has a car. Since possession of any of these assets is a function of economic capacity, these results clearly demonstrate that the female headed households in Lesotho are by far economically disadvantaged than male headed households.



In addition, the household heads were distributed by 10 year age groups for each type. According to Table 2.9, generally, for every type of asset, proportions of household heads in age groups 30-39, 40-49 and 50-59 are significantly higher as compared to those for household heads with lower age groups (10-19,20-29) and higher age groups(70-79, 80-89 and 90 and over). For instance, the results from each type of an asset show that the highest proportions of households owning the following assets, television, phone, refridgerator, bed/mattresses, car, computer and internet are in age group 40-49.

The age groups with highest proportions for ownership of a radio and scotch cart are age groups 30-39 and 50-59 respectively. This may reflect the fact that for lower ages more of the population is not yet independent, but still attending school as highlighted on the education chapter. Furthermore most persons from age 30 to age 69 are engaged in economic activities, as a result they could afford many items while more persons in older ages are no longer working.

**Table 2.9: Type of Household asset**  
Percentage distribution of households by type of assets and district - 2006 Census

Type of asset	Age group									Total
	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90+	
Radio	0.8	14.3	24.7	23.7	17.6	10.2	6.7	1.8	0.2	100
Television	0.5	10.2	27	29.7	19.2	8.8	3.6	0.8	0.1	100
Phone	0.5	6	21.5	32.3	21.9	11.6	5	1.2	0.1	100
Cellular phone	0.8	16.9	27.8	26.2	16.6	7.4	3.4	0.8	0.1	100
Refrigerator	0.6	8.2	23.2	30.5	21.6	10.3	4.5	1	0.1	100
Bed/Mattress	1.1	13.9	21.8	21.9	17.9	11.7	8.8	2.6	0.3	100
Car	0.5	7.8	24.6	30.7	21	10	4.4	1	0.1	100
Scotch cart	0.5	4.2	9.1	23.3	28.8	19.8	11.5	2.7	0.2	100
computer	0.7	13.8	25.1	28.2	19.9	8.3	3.1	0.8	0	100
Internet	0.8	8.6	24.4	27.7	21.8	10.1	5.2	1.2	0.1	100

## 2.10 Economically active members

Regarding the distribution of households by number of economically active members, on the overall, proportion of households with 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 or more members constitute 13.4, 12.0, 14.4, 15.9 and 44.4 percent of the total households economically active respectively. According to Table 2.10, in 1 member households, more than half (59.1 percent) are households with 1 economically active member while in other households with 2, 3, 4 as well as those with 5 or more members less than 50 percent of households have one economically active member and they comprise 42.5, 46.9, 44.8 and 33.7 percent respectively.

About one quarter of households with 2, 3, 4 and with 5 or more members have 2 members who are economically active in each household size. In 3 member households, households where all 3 members are economically active constitute 3.6 percent while in 4 and 5 member households, households whose members are all economically active constitute 1.1 percent and 2.3 percent respectively. It is clear from the results that the larger the size of the household the lower number of economically active members becomes, and this may be reasoned that most of the members in the households are children.

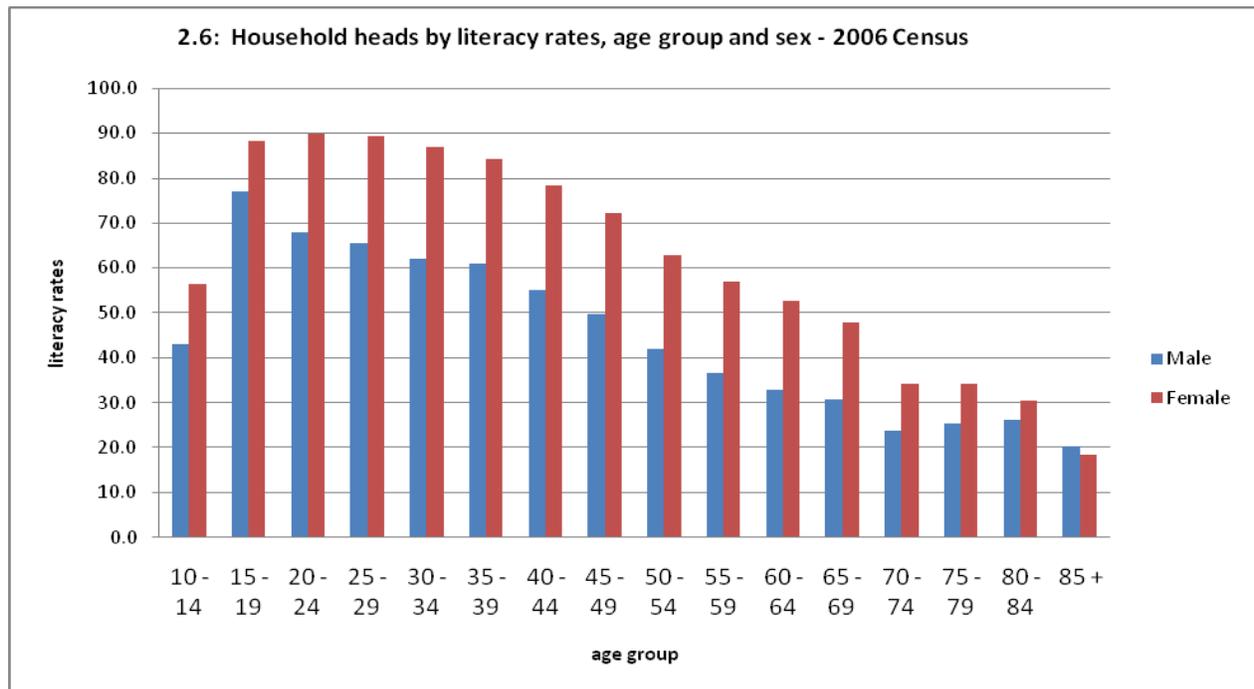
**Table 2.10: Economically Active Members in Households**

Percentage distribution of households by number of economically active members and household size – 2006 Census

Economically active members	Household Size				
	1	2	3	4	5+
Total	100	100	100	100	100
0	40.9	32.6	25.8	21.4	15.6
1	59.1	42.5	46.9	44.8	33.7
2	--	24.9	23.6	26.3	26.6
3	--	--	3.6	6.4	14.4
4	--	--	--	1.1	6.1
5	--	--	--	--	2.3
6	--	--	--	--	0.8
7	--	--	--	--	0.3
8	--	--	--	--	0.1
9+	--	--	--	--	0

### 2.11 Literacy Status of Household Heads

Figure 2.6 presents literacy rates of household heads by age group and sex. It is highlighted from the results that the female heads in all age groups are more literate than male heads. This follows the pattern of the literacy for the whole population that shows high rates of literacy for females as compared to that of males. In addition, as highlighted in chapter on Education the dropout rates for males is higher than that of females, implying that females are more likely to be literate than males.



## 2.12 Summary

Average household size does not differ much compared to the previous census. This may indicate that Basotho have not changed their pattern of living. Majority of the household population reside in rural areas, and the most common type of household is nuclear where parents live with their children.

In Lesotho, majority of the persons living in households are related. This is evident because 96.2 percent of the population living in households were related to the head of the household.

The results show that in Lesotho most of households are headed by men as they constitute 64.9 percent of total household heads, while female household heads comprise 35.1 percent. Proportion of male headed households has declined indicating an increase in female headed households.

It has also been observed that there is a higher proportion of male headed households with possession of household assets than the proportion of female headed households implying that male headed households are better off than their female counterparts. This situation may be explained that since in most societies, men are breadwinners, if they die females become heads. The results in 2006 Census show that there are more frequencies of widows than widowers.

It was also clearly shown from the results that literacy rates of female heads are higher than literacy rates of male heads. However, these results do not necessarily imply that the male heads are less advantaged than female heads, but they follow the pattern of literacy status of the whole population where females have high rates as compared with men.

Information on ownership of cellular phones, telephone lines, television, radio, computer as well as access to internet is critical on assessing the achievement on access to information and communication as indicated in Target 18 of the MDGs. Coverage of cellular phones and radio is relatively high while that of telephone lines, television as well as computer and internet is very low.

## **CHAPTER 3: EDUCATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION <sup>3</sup>**

### **3.1 Introduction**

Education plays a fundamental role in the overall development of nations, thus, it is vital to personal and societal development and well being. It is for this reason that education has been declared by many countries as a human rights issue as attested to by the 1990 Jomtien declaration on Education For All and the 1990 Convention on the rights of the Child (Republic of Zambia, CSO, 2004). The Lesotho Government has recognized the important role of education in grooming morally and intellectually upright individuals with the intentions of using the acquired skills and knowledge for the overall development, and in response to the 1990 Jomtien declaration on Education For All, in the year 2000, Lesotho introduced the Free Primary Education (FPE).

Over the past decade, the goal of reducing inequality in educational attainment has been brought to the forefront of the global agenda. The promotion of the education of women in particular, was emphasized as a priority at the International Conference on Population and Development and the Fourth World Conference on Woman held in 1995. In addition, the United Nations has articulated the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which include goals for improved education, equality and empowerment (SADC Millennium Census Project, 2005).

This chapter presents the analysis of education data derived from the 2006 population and housing census. Education indicators that are covered in the population census include school attendance, educational attainment and literacy.

#### **3.1.1 Census undertaking and education**

The census questions on education in Lesotho were asked for individuals since 1966 population and housing census. Censuses in general provide a good basis for monitoring the participation of the population in the educational system and also reveal the absorption power of the same system. The 2006 population and housing census captured information on the following education aspects for all persons as per UN recommendations:

- School attendance
- Educational attainment
- Literacy

These questions were addressed to the head of household who answered them on behalf of household members, except in cases where the eligible respective household members were present in the household at the time of the interview and chose to respond to the questions themselves.

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<sup>3</sup> This Chapter was prepared by 'M'asentle. Malebo

### 3.2 School attendance

The first question in the education module asked heads of households to state if each listed household member, aged 2 years and over had ever attended school. However, analysis in this section will mainly focus on the official school going ages at various levels. The official primary school going age bracket is 6 to 12 years for primary education, 13 to 17 years for secondary education (that is, from form A up to form E) and 18 to 24 for post secondary school level.

The pre-coded responses to this question provided on the census schedule were:

- Never attended
- Still attending
- Left school

Figure 3.1 shows the percentage distribution of persons who were aged 6 to 24 years during the 2006 population and housing census by school attendance categories.

Table 3.1 shows the percentage distribution of persons aged 6 to 24 by school attendance reported in the 1996 and the 2006 population and housing censuses. It can be observed that, the “never attended” category declined from 19.3 to 4.7 percent while the “still attending” category increased from 52.3 to 60 percent. When looking into school attendance by age it is observed that the percentage changes in school attendance between the 1996 and the 2006 population and housing censuses have shown a very significant improvement in the category “never attended”. For instance, at age 6, the percentage of the population who never attended declined by 55 percentage points; at age 7 it declined by 42 percentage points and at ages 8 and 9 it declined by 30 and 22 percentage points respectively. The major improvement was also highest at age 6 in the “still attending” category, however, the magnitude of the percentage change declined substantially at ages 7 and 8 years.

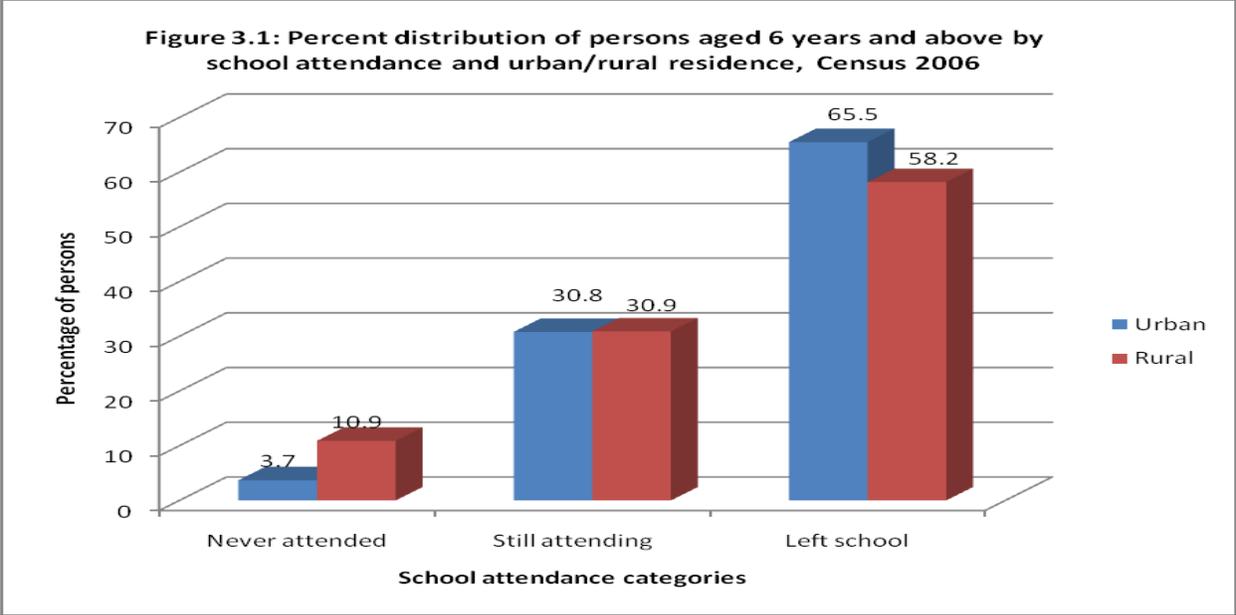
Table 3.1 also shows that over 90 percent of children who were still attending school were aged from 9 to 13 years and at age 6, 8 and 14 there were over 80 percent of children who were still attending school. The table further shows that 14 percent of children who were aged 6 years had never attended school in 2006. Contrary to expectation, a high 19.3 percent of children aged 7 were reported to have left school in 2006 as against on 1.8 percent of such cases in 1996. A similar trend was observed among children aged 8 or 9 years. This trend is strange, and probably is largely a reflection of one of the adverse effects orphanhood as discussed in the chapter on orphanhood in volume IIIA of the Census Analytical Report. The proportion that had left school steadily increased with age from age 13 years, reaching 88 percent among those aged 24 years.

These significant improvements in school attendance could be attributed to the implementation of free primary education in the year 2000. The implementation of free primary education increased the primary school enrolment in huge numbers because even the persons who were over 13 years enrolled in primary schools. For an example,

according to the Ministry of Education and Training, annual census enrolment for primary schools was 369,515 in 1998, it declined to 364,951 and in 2000 it increased to 410,745.

Age	Percent Never attended (1996)	Percent Never attended (2006)	Percent Still attending (1996)	Percent Still attending (2006)	Percent Left school (1996)	Percent Left school (2006)
6	69.3	14.0	29.4	84.9	1.3	1.0
7	47.9	5.8	50.3	74.9	1.8	19.3
8	34.0	3.8	63.6	88.1	2.3	8.1
9	25.2	2.9	71.6	92.2	3.2	5.0
10	18.3	2.9	77.4	93.7	4.3	3.8
11	14.4	2.2	80.2	93.9	5.4	3.9
12	13.8	2.5	79.6	93.0	6.6	4.4
13	11.7	2.6	80.0	91.5	8.3	5.9
14	11.1	2.6	76.8	86.8	12.1	10.6
15	13.0	3.2	68.4	78.0	18.6	18.7
16	11.1	3.5	62.1	66.7	26.9	27.8
17	10.4	4.0	51.7	52.6	37.9	43.5
18	11.0	4.5	41.3	40.3	47.7	55.2
19	10.8	5.1	31.9	29.7	57.3	65.2
20	11.9	5.7	21.5	21.6	66.6	72.8
21	11.4	5.8	16.0	15.5	72.6	78.6
22	11.2	6.3	11.1	10.7	77.7	83.0
23	11.8	6.7	7.9	7.6	80.3	85.7
24	11.9	6.9	6.0	5.2	82.1	88.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>52.3</b>	<b>60.0</b>	<b>28.4</b>	<b>35.3</b>

Analysis of school attendance by urban and rural residence shows that the percentage of those who left school was high in both the urban and rural areas. However, the percentage of those who left school is higher in urban compared to rural areas as can be seen in the Figure 3.1. This might be explained by the fact that people who have dropped out of schools and those who have completed schooling usually migrate from the rural areas to the urban areas in search of job opportunities. The proportion of those still attending school is the same in both urban and rural areas. However, for every one person who never attended school in the urban areas there are three in the rural areas. The percentage who never attended school is small compared with those who are either still attending or have left school, regardless of place of residence.



**3.2.1 Never attended school**

Disaggregating the data by sex, shows that in both rural and urban areas, the percentages of males aged 6 to 24 that were reported to have never attended school were higher than the ones for females. It was 78 percent of males in the rural and 63.3 percent in the urban areas while females constitute 22 and 36.7 percent in the rural and urban areas respectively (see Table 3.2).

The table further shows that at all the ages, the percentage of rural males who never attended school exceeded the percentage of their urban counterparts. The reason for this might partly be the fact that typically, rearing of animals is more common in the rural areas, so most of the rural boys usually herd animals, and some may end up never attending school compared with their urban counterparts. The case for females is different. That is, there were more females of the school going age who were living in the urban areas that were reported to have never attended school as compared to their rural female counterparts. This could also be attributed to the fact that there are more job opportunities in the urban areas, so the vulnerable and orphaned girls move from the rural areas to the urban for domestic work.

<b>Table 3.2: Percentage distribution of people aged 6 to 24 years</b>						
Percentage distribution of people aged 6 to 24 years who never attended School by sex and urban/rural place of residence, Census 2006						
Age	Lesotho		Urban		Rural	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
6	54.0	46.0	51.0	49.0	54.3	45.7
7	61.6	38.4	57.4	42.6	61.9	38.1
8	65.9	34.1	60.2	39.8	66.3	33.7
9	69.7	30.3	57.0	43.0	70.8	29.2
10	77.1	22.9	55.1	44.9	79.2	20.8
11	78.1	21.9	65.6	34.4	79.0	21.0
12	78.9	21.1	60.6	39.4	80.1	19.9
13	81.7	18.3	59.5	40.5	83.3	16.7
14	83.4	16.6	52.6	47.4	84.9	15.1
15	85.8	14.2	64.8	35.2	87.2	12.8
16	84.7	15.3	60.9	39.1	86.2	13.8
17	86.0	14.0	67.5	32.5	87.3	12.7
18	86.0	14.0	66.9	33.1	87.1	12.9
19	85.6	14.4	64.4	35.6	87.1	12.9
20	84.1	15.9	73.2	26.8	84.8	15.2
21	85.4	14.6	70.0	30.0	86.6	13.4
22	85.3	14.7	70.4	29.6	86.8	13.2
23	84.8	15.2	76.3	23.7	85.7	14.3
24	85.2	14.8	68.3	31.7	86.9	13.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>76.9</b>	<b>23.1</b>	<b>63.3</b>	<b>36.7</b>	<b>78.0</b>	<b>22.0</b>

### 3.2.2 Still attending

Table 3.3 presents the distribution of the population aged 6 to 24 years that is still attending school. Out of the total school population aged 6 to 24 years, 53.7 percent constitute the potential in primary school population, 34.7 percent are expected to be in secondary and 12 percent in tertiary if they had started schooling at the official primary school entry age of 6 and it is assumed that they did not repeat a class. Table 3.3 shows that about 48 and 52 percent of the people still attending school were males and females respectively. This implies that girls still have advantage over boys in school attendance in Lesotho as it was almost the same in 1996 when 48 percent of boys and 52 percent of girls were still attending school.

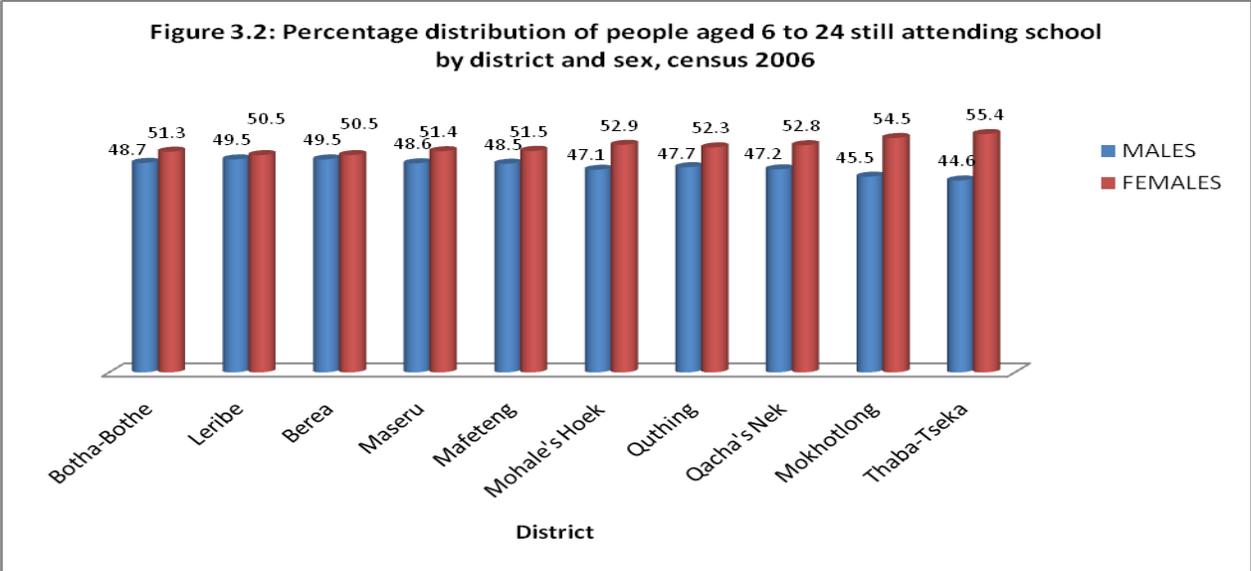
The percentages of males in 2006 who were still attending school at age groups 6 to 12 and 13 to 17 years have shown some improvement as compared to the ones for 1996 whereas for the age group 18 to 24 years the percentage of males still attending declined from 50.9 in 1996 to 48.9 percent in 2006.

The 2006 census data shows that in rural areas children of primary school ages constitute about 56 percent, while in urban areas they constitute 47 percent. This could be a reflection of past higher rural than urban fertility. The proportion of the expected to be in the secondary level of education is the same in urban as in rural areas. On the other hand, the percentage of the school going population in urban areas expected to be in tertiary institutions is almost double the corresponding proportion in rural areas.

Table 3.3 further shows that in both urban and rural place of residence, the percentage of the females in school going population exceeded the corresponding population of males for all levels of education. In the urban areas, the percentage gap is least for the primary level whereas it is least at tertiary level in rural areas.

<b>Table 3.3: Distribution of persons 6 to 24 years</b>						
Distribution of persons 6 to 24 years by age groups for primary, secondary and tertiary levels, urban/rural residence and sex, census 2006						
Age	Total		Males		Females	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
6	36,532	7.3	18,192	49.8	18,340	50.2
7	31,770	6.4	15,137	47.6	16,633	52.4
8	36,729	7.4	17,819	48.5	18,910	51.5
9	39,060	7.9	19,164	49.1	19,896	50.9
10	41,040	7.9	20,114	49.0	20,926	51.0
11	40,464	8.1	19,761	48.8	20,703	51.2
12	41,426	8.3	20,227	48.8	21,199	51.2
13	40,726	8.2	19,454	47.8	21,272	52.2
14	39,544	8.0	18,550	46.9	20,994	53.1
15	36,580	7.4	17,173	46.9	19,407	53.1
16	30,689	6.2	14,182	46.2	16,507	53.8
17	25,030	5.0	11,705	46.8	13,325	53.2
18	18,423	3.7	8,706	47.3	9,717	52.7
19	13,137	2.6	6,423	48.9	6,714	51.1
20	9,861	2.0	4,947	50.2	4,914	49.8
21	6,611	1.3	3,302	49.9	3,309	50.1
22	4,405	0.9	2,209	50.1	2,196	49.9
23	3,176	0.6	1,593	50.2	1,583	49.8
24	1,907	0.4	959	50.3	948	49.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>497,110</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>239,617</b>	<b>48.2</b>	<b>257,493</b>	<b>51.8</b>
6-12	267,021	53.7	130,414	48.8	136,607	51.2
13-17	172,569	34.7	81,064	47.0	91,505	53.0
18-24	57,520	11.6	28,139	48.9	29,381	51.1
<b>Urban</b>						
6-12	53,780	47.3	26,514	49.3	27,266	50.7
13-17	39,249	34.5	18,780	47.8	20,469	52.2
18-24	20,601	18.1	10,051	48.8	10,550	51.2
<b>Rural</b>						
6-12	213,241	55.5	103,900	48.7	109,341	51.3
13-17	133,320	34.7	62,284	46.7	71,036	53.3
18-24	37,934	9.9	18,619	49.1	19,315	50.9

Data on persons who were still attending school in the year 2006 was also disaggregated by district and sex in Figure 3.2. The results show that Leribe and Bera had equal percentages of males and females still attending school while in Botha-Bothe, Maseru and Mafeteng the gap between males and females range from 2.6 to 3.0 percent in favour of females. The rest of the districts, Thaba-Tseka and Mokhotlong have wider percentage gaps of 10.8 and 9.0 between males and females. This probably arises from the traditional role of animal rearing assigned to boys in the mountainous districts.



**3.2.3 Left school**

Persons who left school were defined as persons who had either completed schooling or had dropped out of school according to the 2006 census. Normally, the proportions of people who left school should be very small at the official age of entry into primary school and they should be increasing as some drop out due to various reasons or as some completed a given level of education.

About 0.2 percent of children aged 6 years were reported to have left school. The percentage rose to 2.8 at age 7 which seems abnormal. Although given the free primary education programme being implemented, that these young children could still go back to school, the large proportion of children that have left school at age 7 deserves to be investigated.

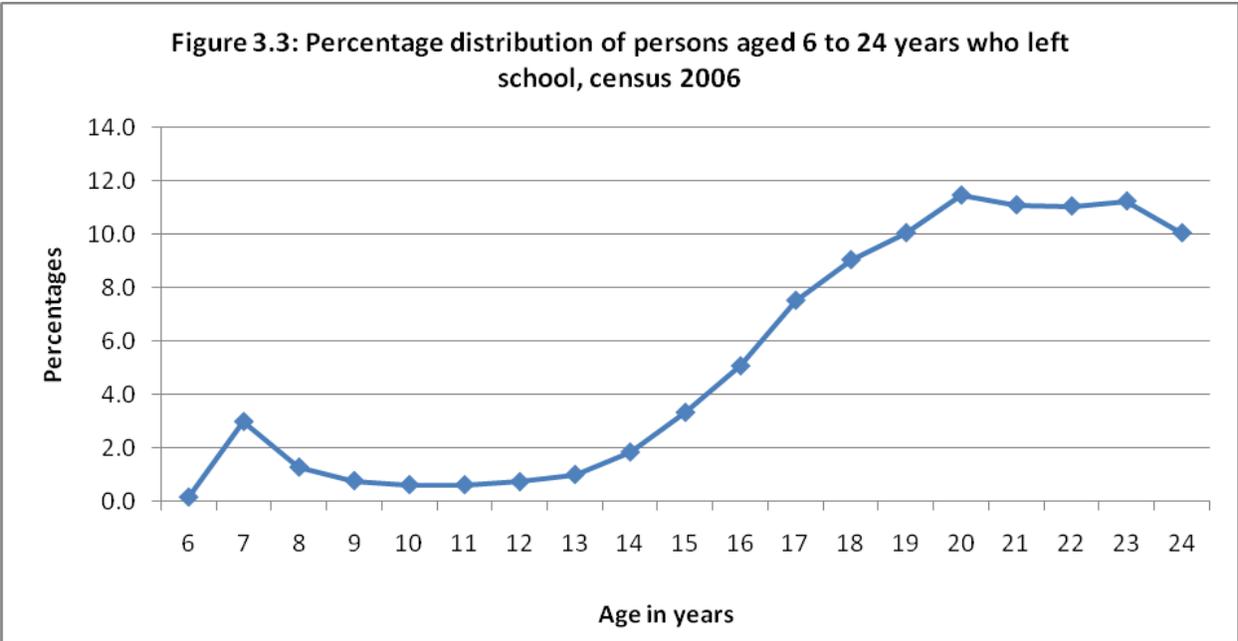
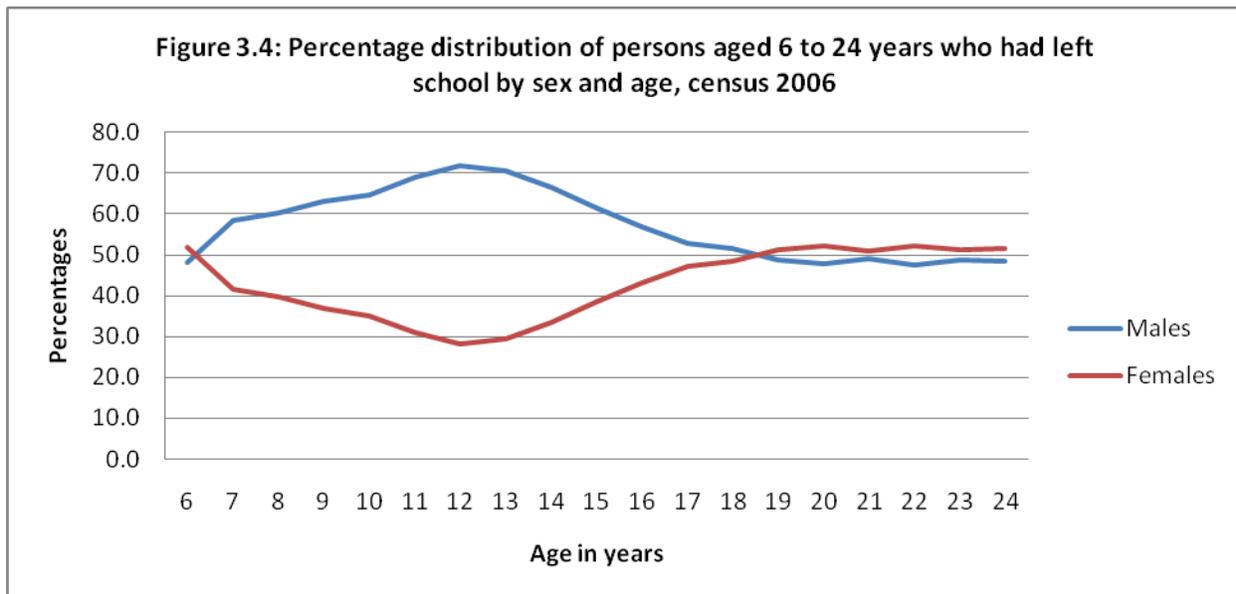
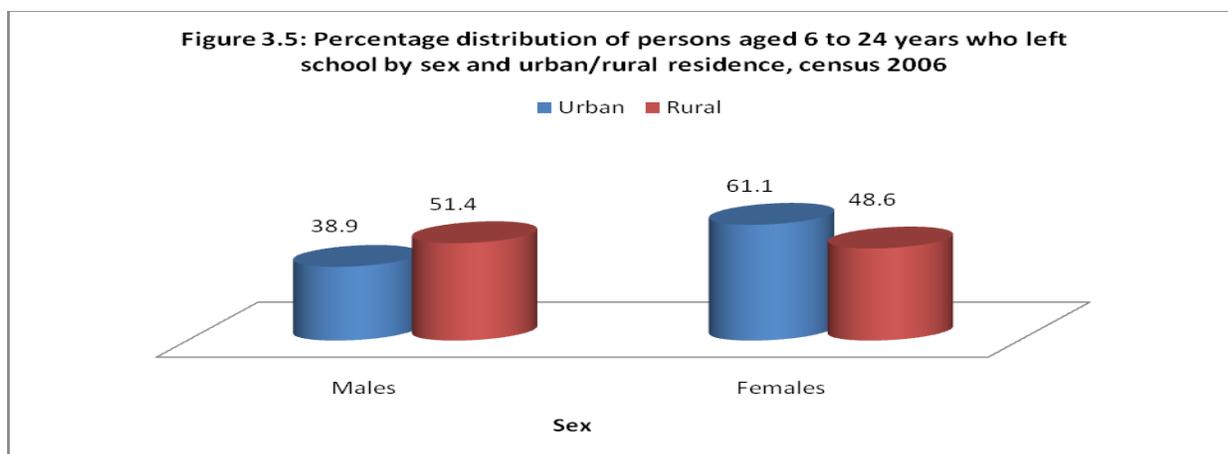


Figure 3.4 shows the percentage distribution of persons aged 6 to 24 years who left school by sex. From the graph it can be seen that the percentages for males and females who left school at the primary school entry age were equal. Immediately beyond that age, the percentages of boys that left school steadily went up while the ones for females took the opposite direction. At age 12 that was when males reached the peak at 70 percent while their female counterparts reached a minimum of 30 percent and afterwards the percentages for males steadily decreased while those of the females steadily increased until they met again between age 18 and 19 years. This further stresses the higher prevalence amongst girls in attending school as compared to the boys in Lesotho.

However, beyond age 19 years, the percentages of females were a little bit higher than the ones for males supposedly because at those ages females are much more engaged in activities like childbearing, taking care of and supporting the kids, the old and the sick.



As mentioned earlier, the poor girls migrate from the rural to the urban areas for employment opportunities. The figure below shows that among those that have left school in the urban areas, about 61 percent were females while 39 percent were males. In contrast, in the rural areas, more males than their female counterparts had left school in 2006.



### 3.3 Educational attainment

The 2006 population and housing census collected information on the highest level of education completed. Since the level of education completed depends on age, a good way of understanding data on the highest level of education completed is to remove younger children who were aged below 15 years. According to Lesotho Demographic Survey, age 15 is also used as the lower cut-off point to allow for international comparison of the data on adult literacy. An analysis in this section as a result will focus on the educational attainment of persons aged 15 years and over.

The Table below shows the percentage distribution of persons aged 15 years and over by educational attainment and sex. It can be seen from the table that the percentages of males exceeded the ones for females only under the categories “Standard 1 to 6” and “none”, whereas the percentages for graduate are equal and the least for both males and females.

The table further portrays that in the younger ages, the percentages of females under the category “Standard 1 to 6” were lower than the ones for males. From age group 40 to 44 years there were more females than males who completed standard 1 to 6. With those that had completed standard 7 and vocational or diploma after primary, the case was almost the same with the standard 1 to 6 category except that the change started from age group 35 to 39 years in this case. Although the gaps between males and females that had graduate level of education were not that broad, the percentages of females exceeded the percentages for males in age groups 20 - 24 to 30 - 34 years and afterwards they fluctuated.

**Table 3.3a: Number and percentage distribution of persons aged 15 years**

Number and percentage distribution of persons aged 15 years and over by educational attainment and sex Census 2006

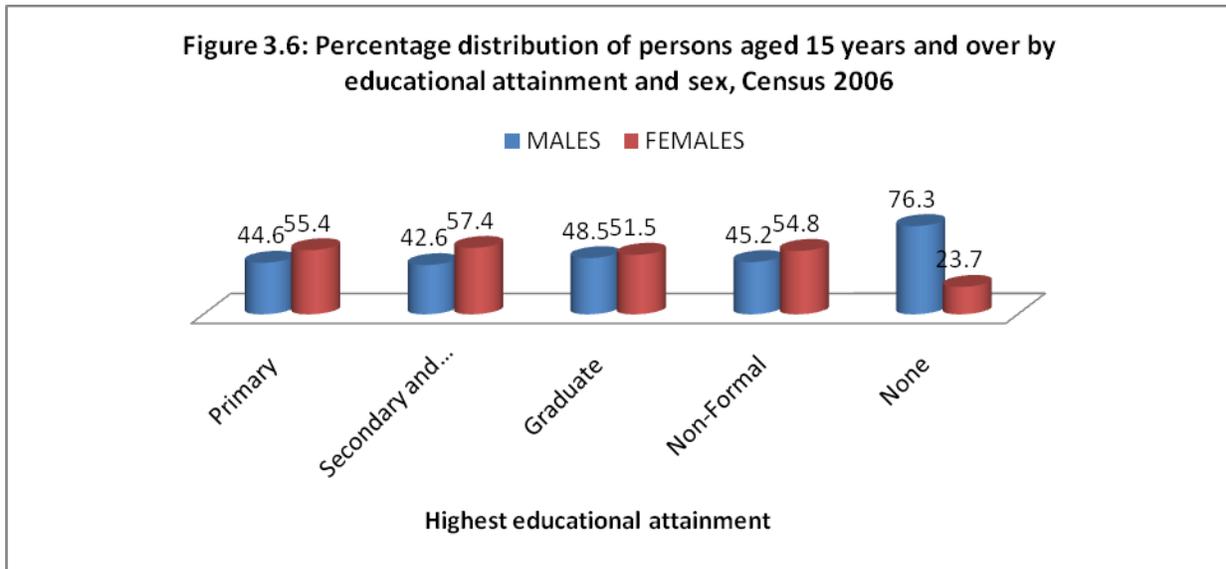
Age group	Number	Std 1-6	Vocational/Diploma After primary	Non-Graduate	Graduate	Non Formal	None
<b>Total</b>	<b>584,527</b>	<b>35.8</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>29.5</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18.5</b>
15-19	114,738	18.4	20.8	28.6	0	10.1	8.2
20-24	101,103	16.3	19.7	21.4	16.2	28.1	10.9
25-29	81,676	12.6	15.7	16.5	18.1	7.9	11
30-34	59,795	9.9	11.2	10.4	15.7	8.4	9.4
35-39	45,693	7.5	8.5	7.6	12.6	4.5	7.9
40-44	39,629	7	6.7	5.6	10.5	3.9	8.1
45-49	34,126	6.3	5.7	3.9	8.2	6.7	8.1
50-54	28,739	5.7	4	2.5	6.4	6.2	8
55-59	23,245	5	2.7	1.5	4.8	5.6	6.9
60-64	16,736	3.6	1.6	0.8	3.7	5.1	5.6
65-69	13,377	2.8	1.3	0.5	1.7	6.7	4.8
70-74	13,393	2.5	1	0.4	1.2	4.5	6
75-79	6,332	1.3	0.6	0.2	0.5	0.6	2.6
80+	5,945	1.2	0.5	0.2	0.4	1.7	2.5

**Table 3.3b: Number and percentage distribution of persons aged 15 years**

Number and percentage distribution of persons aged 15 years and over by educational attainment and sex Census 2006

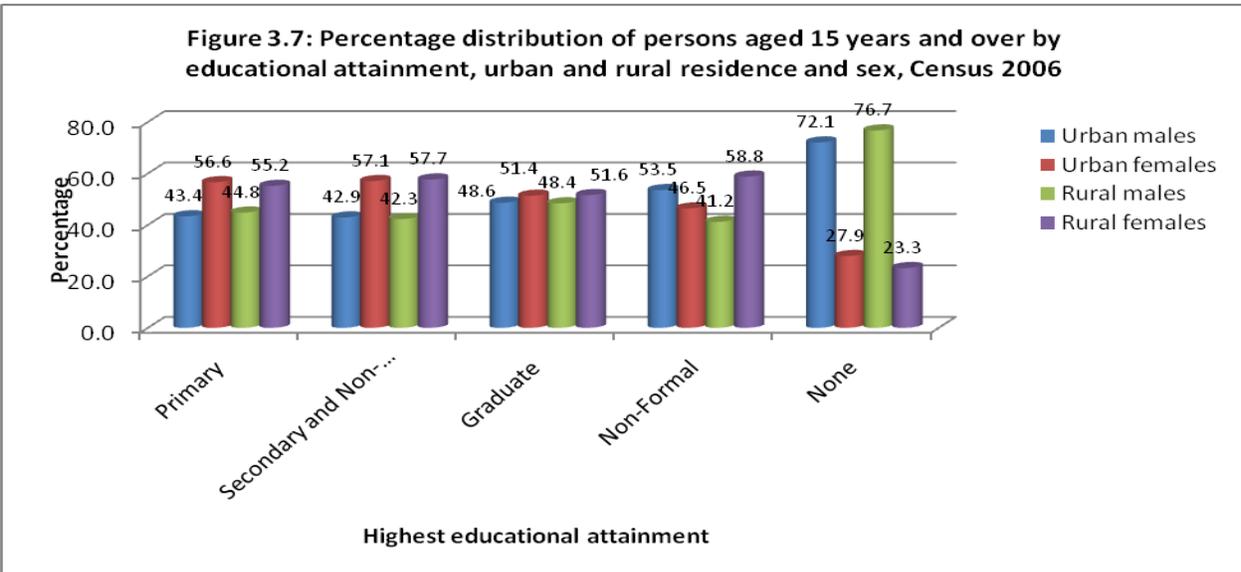
Age group	Number	Std 1-6	Vocational/Diploma After primary	Non-Graduate	Graduate	Non Formal	None
Total	643063	33	24.3	36.2	1.2	0	5.2
15-19	115,071	11.2	16.9	27.2	0	6.5	4.8
20-24	105,674	10.8	17.4	22.3	17.6	25.5	6.6
25-29	82,404	8	14.6	16.8	19	8.8	5.6
30-34	59,218	6.3	11.6	10.7	16.6	3.7	4.4
35-39	47,950	5.6	9.2	8.3	12.3	4.6	4
40-44	43,781	6.9	8.2	6	9.7	1.9	5.3
45-49	38,589	7.5	7	3.8	8.9	8.3	6.2
50-54	34,404	8.5	5	2.2	7	7.9	7.8
55-59	26,971	7.9	3.1	1.2	4.7	11.1	6.1
60-64	21,033	6.5	2.1	0.6	2	5.6	6.7
65-69	18,722	5.9	1.8	0.4	1.1	3.7	7.3
70-74	22,287	6.7	1.5	0.3	0.7	6.5	15.1
75-79	11,838	3.7	0.8	0.1	0.2	4.6	7.2
80+	15,121	4.4	0.8	0.1	0.2	1.4	12.8

Figure 3.6 shows that there were far more males than females who reported to have no education, whereas there were more females than males that fell under primary, secondary and non-graduate and non-formal education categories. The gap between the males and females who had graduate level was only 3 percent in favour of females.



### 3.3.1 Educational attainment by urban/rural place of residence and sex

Disaggregation of data by highest educational attainment by urban/rural place of residence and sex shows that in both urban and rural areas male constitute over 70 of population 15 years and above that have no education, while females constitute less than 30 percent. For primary, secondary and non-graduate categories, the percentages of urban females and rural females exceeded the ones for the males by 13.2 and 10.4 percentage points respectively for primary and secondary and non-graduate levels of education. Whereas at graduate level the percentages for males and females residing in the rural and urban areas were almost equal. For those with non-formal education, the highest percentage was for rural females followed by urban males.

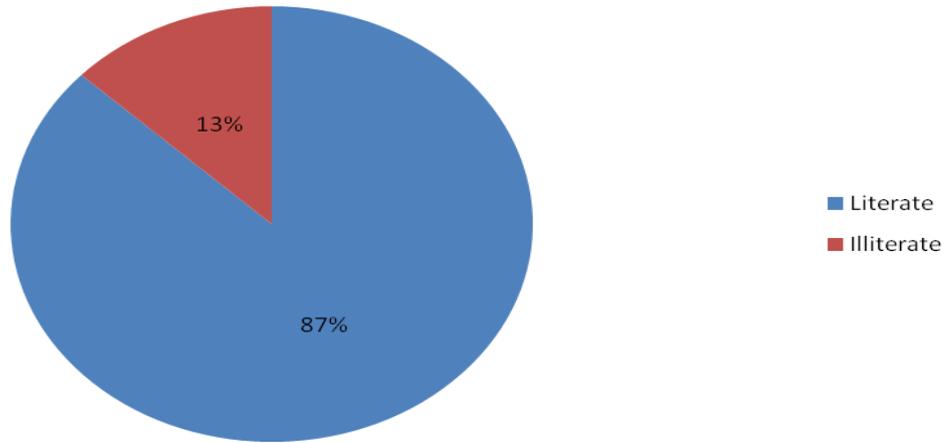


**3.4. Literacy**

Literacy was assessed in the 2006 Lesotho population and housing census by the ability of eligible respondents who had reported that their highest level of education is standard 1 to 7, non-formal or no education at all to read literacy a card (either written in Sesotho or English). Anyone with a level of education higher than the ones mentioned above was considered to be literate. In censuses and surveys prior to the 2006 population census, the respondent were asked whether they could read or write implying that the respondents self-reported themselves.

Age 15 is used as the lower cut-off point to allow international comparison of adult literacy. Figure 3.8 shows the percentage distribution of persons aged 15 years and over by literacy status. It can be observed that literacy rate for Lesotho was estimated at 87 percent. This rate indicates an increase when compared with the rates from other censuses and surveys which preceded the 2006 census which is expected. But the difference rather stemmed from the different methods of measurement that were used. Besides, the ability to read a literacy card used in the 2006 census limited literacy to the ability to read only in Sesotho or English. By failing to capture those who could read any other language other than Sesotho and English the method used invariably will bring about a literacy rate which is declining. Besides the ability to write in any language was also not tested. Clearly, the literacy estimated in the 2006 census is not comparable with those derived from previous censuses or surveys.

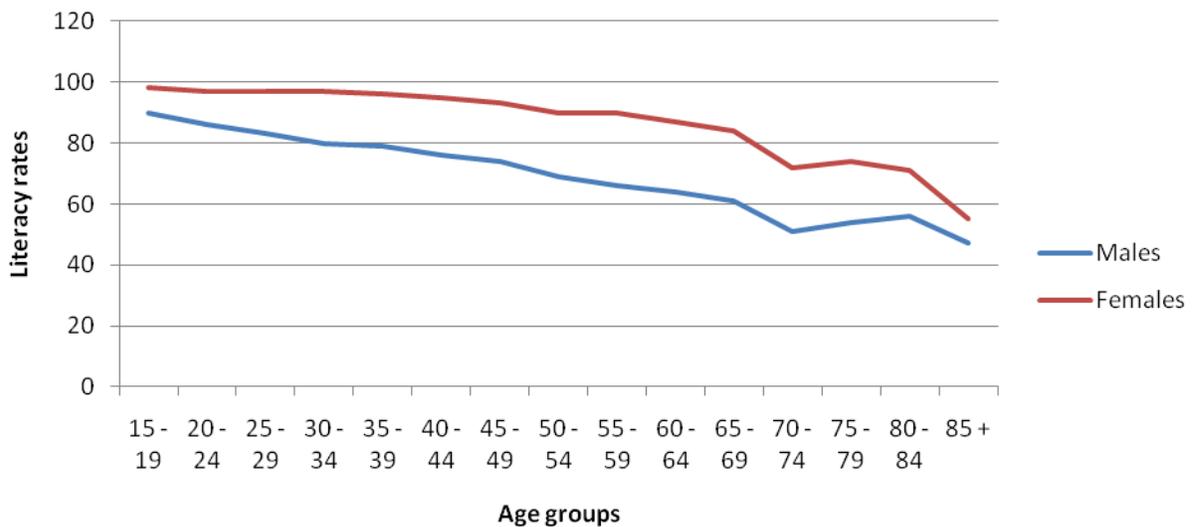
**Figure 3.8: Percentage distribution of persons aged 15 years and over by literacy status, 2006 Census**



### 3.4.1 Literacy by age and sex

The following graph shows the percentage distribution of people aged 15 years and over by literacy rate, sex and age groups. It can be observed from the graph that literacy rate was higher in age group 15 to 19 years for both males and females. It then started to steadily decline with increase in age until it was below 60 percent at old ages. This might be due to the problems encountered by ageing for instance memory lapse, deteriorating eye sight etc. Above this, there are more schools nowadays as compared to the past ten or more years.

**Figure 3.9: Percentage distribution of persons aged 15 years and over by age groups, sex and literacy rates, 2006 Census**



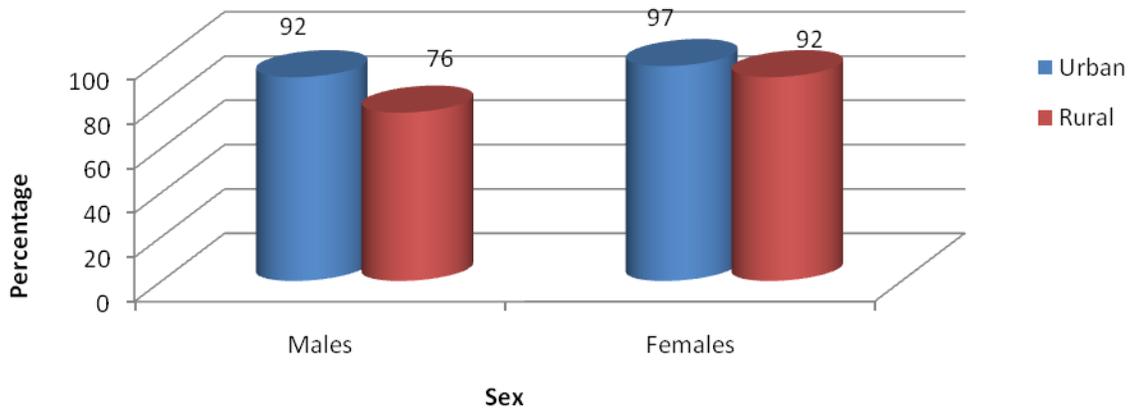
The table below further disaggregates the literacy rates by sex. It can be seen that generally literacy rate for males was lower than the literacy rate for females by about 13 percent. Literacy rates for females were higher than the literacy rates for males in all the age groups.

Age group	Number Literate	Percentage of literate males	Percentage of literate females
TOTAL	230617	80	93
15-19	207953	90	98
20-24	165378	86	97
25-29	119780	83	97
30-34	93643	80	97
35-39	83410	79	96
40-44	72715	76	95
45-49	63144	74	93
50-54	50216	69	90
55-59	37769	66	90
60-64	32099	64	87
65-69	35680	61	84
70-74	18171	51	72
75-79	10526	54	74
80+	10540	52	63

### 3.4.2 Literacy by sex and urban/rural residence

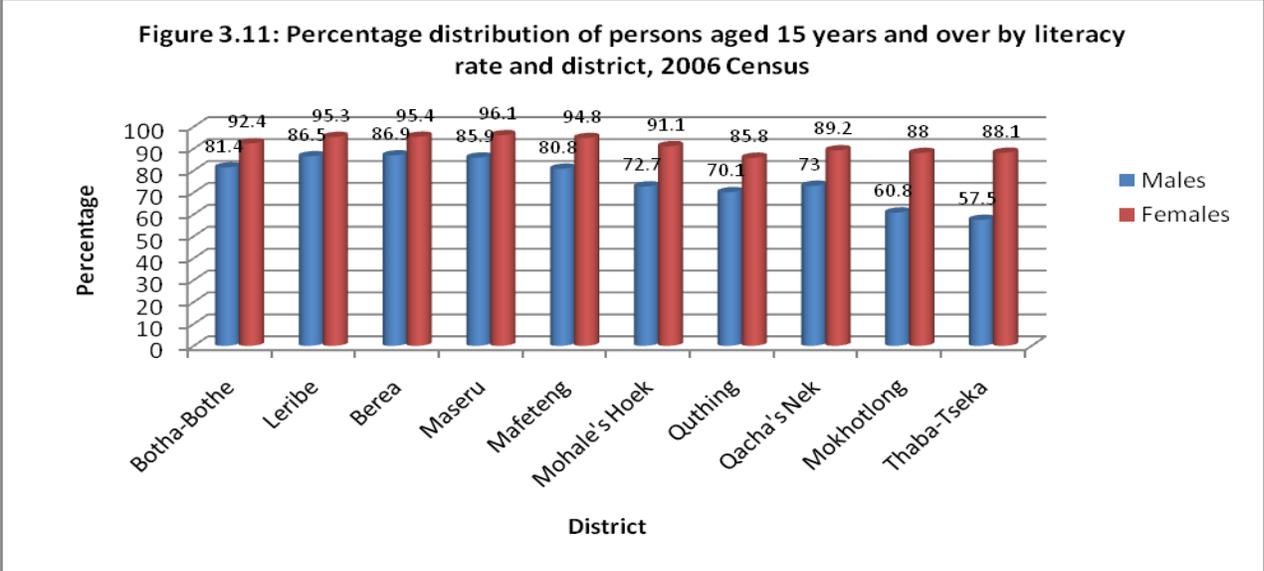
Literacy data was also disaggregated by sex and urban or rural place of residence, and it was found that literacy rate for males living in the urban areas was higher than the one for males who resided in the rural areas (the gap was 16 percent); while among the females, the gap was not that broad as it was only 5 percent, the urban females being on the higher side. The figure below further portrays that generally the literacy rate for females was higher than the one for their male counterparts (84 and 95 percent).

**Figure 3.10: Percentage distribution of persons aged 15 years and over by urban/rural place of residence, literacy rates and sex, 2006 Census**



### 3.4.3 Literacy by district

According to Figure 3.11 below, the literacy rates for females residing in Botha-Bothe, Leribe, Berea, Maseru, Mafeteng and Mohale's Hoek were above 90 percent and they exceeded the ones for the females residing in mountainous and far southern parts of the country. From Botha-Bothe to Mafeteng, the literacy rates for males exceeded 80 percent. The literacy rates for males residing in the mountainous and southern parts of the country ranged from a minimum of 57.5 in Thaba-Tseka to 73.0 percent in Qacha's Nek. In these parts of the country, Qacha's Nek also had the highest literacy rates for females.



**3.5 Summary**

In summary the analysis of data showed that 60 percent of the population aged 6 to 24 years, was still attending school, while 35 percent had left school and only 5 percent had never attended school. Maseru, Leribe, Berea and Mafeteng in that order had higher percentages of persons aged 6 to 24 years who were still attending school as compared to the rest of the districts.

Amongst the population aged 15 years and over during the 2006 population census, 36 percent of males and 33 percent of females had completed standard 1 to 6 while those who completed full primary education constituted 15 and 24 percent for males and females respectively.

According to the 2006 population and housing census, the national literacy rate increased to 87 percent from around 80 percent estimated in the 2001 Demographic survey. Literacy rate was higher for females compared to males and it declines with increasing age.

## **CHAPTER 4: ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE POPULATION<sup>4</sup>**

### **4.1 Introduction**

The objective of this chapter is to present an analysis of the economic characteristics of the population using mainly the data collected from the 2006 census. Additional information will be drawn from previous censuses and labour force survey reports and other relevant sources so as to appreciate trends in the size and growth of the labour force and related variables over-time.

#### **4.1.1 Data, uses, limitations**

The statistics collected on population's economic characteristics provides baseline data on the size and volume of the labour force, its structural composition and distribution, activity status categories, the number of people by occupation, industry and employment sector, as well as its classification by socioeconomic background variables like educational attainment and marital status. Such data in turn provides comprehensive picture of the available human resource and its utilization by employment sector. Also, and more importantly; data on economic characteristics of the population better informs national development planners on comprehensive policy formulation issues, sectoral- planning, monitoring and evaluation and their appraisal; as well as the integration of related data on overall national development plans as guided by both local and international programmes like the Millennium Development Goals (MDG`s), Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) and Smart Partnership.

The chapter is divided into nine sections as follows: Section 4.1 outlines the objectives of the chapter and defines the concepts used in the analysis. Section 4.2 focuses on the analysis of the size and growth of the labour force while section 4.3 analyses the structure of the labour force. The analysis of the labour force by various background characteristics is presented in section 4.4. Section 4.5 discusses the occupational characteristics of the labour force while section 4.6 discusses its industrial characteristics. Section 4.7 presents the analysis of the employed and unemployed labour force and the analysis of the inactive population is presented in section 4.8. Section 4.9 presents a summary of the findings regarding the economic characteristics of the population.

#### **4.1.2 Sources of data**

Lesotho's census data on economic characteristics of the population dates as far back as 1966. In the 2006 census, data on economic characteristics is drawn from responses emanating from questions drawn from Section E of the questionnaire. In this section, the minimum age of entry into the labour force had been set at age ten, which is in line with the international recommendations of Labour Statistics set by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Conferences of Labour Statistics (ICLS).

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<sup>4</sup> This Chapter was prepared by Moseli Khoeli, Motseoa Molahlehi and 'M'alitsabako Molise

Aside from the national population and housing censuses, national labour force surveys including inter-censal demographic surveys; usually rank second as vital sources of information on economic characteristics of the population. In Lesotho, such surveys have been conducted for the periods 1978/79, 1985/86, 1997 and 2008 respectively, with the most recent inter-censal demographic survey having been conducted in 2001.

A comparative overview of the trends in the volume of the labour force from these sources highlighted will be discussed in subsequent sections of this chapter. Although useful as additional sources of information on population's economic characteristics, data collected from these sources often pose problems for analysis. The main compounding problem relates to the fact that these sources differ in methodologies relating to their respective questionnaire designs, data collection, and scope of coverage of variables for inquiry as well as the depth of analysis. As a result, utmost care in the interpretation of the data from these sources is necessary.

#### 4.1.3 Definition of economic concepts and terms

The following economic concepts and definitions, which are in accordance with the ILO recommendations, have been used throughout the analysis of the various sections of this chapter.

**Economically active population/Labour force** The two terms are synchronous economic concepts which are used to identify all persons within a specified age group who supply (i.e. employed population) as well as those who are willing to supply (the unemployed job seekers) their labour for the production of marketable goods and services during the period under reference. The reference period for the 2006 census was a week preceding the date of enumeration. It is important to note that the 2006 census inquiry on population's economic activity status focused mainly on peoples' current rather than their usual economic activity (**Pitiyage Wilson, 1975**).

**Employed population** The employed population comprised of all persons above the age of ten years who during the reference week either worked for pay or profit, or had a job but were not currently at work for various reasons; or were unpaid family workers who assist in the operation of either a farm or a family business usually run by the household head for at least a third of the normal working hours given the reference period duration.

**Unemployed population** The unemployed population comprised of all persons above the age of ten years who during the reference period were not only currently without a job but were actively seeking job and had declared their availability and willingness to work for pay or profit given the availability of the job including all persons who were currently either temporarily or indefinitely laid off from work.

**Occupation:** It refers to the type of work done in a job by the person employed (or the type of work done previously, (if the person is currently unemployed)

irrespective of the industry or the employment status. Type of work done is described by the main tasks and duties of the work. See International Standards Classification of Occupations (ISCO)

**Industry:** The term refers to the kind of production or activity of the establishment or similar unit in which the jobs of the economically active person was located during the reference period. See the International Standard Industrial Classification of all economic activities (ISIC) fourth edition.

**Labour force participation rates:** It is the proportion of persons of a particular age-group who were in the labour force. It measures the extent to which a particular age-group and/sex involved in economic activities.

**Economic dependency ratio:** Measures the extent to which the economically inactive population is dependent on the economically active population. Therefore, the economic dependency ratio is the economically inactive population divided by the economically active population.

**Employment status:** it refers to whether a worker is an employer, employee, self-employed or an unpaid family worker.

#### 4.2 The Size and Growth of the Labour force

At any given point in time, the size of the labour force depends on the size of the total population particularly on the number of people at working ages. More importantly, its composition and growth are in turn determined by demographic factors like age and sex and socio-economic and cultural factors such as education, marital status as well as the residential status of the population. The major problem is that the impact of some of these factors is not measurable, and moreover, their degree of importance is likely to vary to a great extent by age and sex. As a result only those factors likely to portray meaningful results will be incorporated in the subsequent analysis.

Table 4.1 shows the trends in the size and growth for the total enumerated population aged 10 years and above and the total labour force. The Table shows that the total population size by census date suggests net increases (at a decreasing rate), as indicated by inter-censal percentage declines from 28.6 percent (1976-86) to 21.6 percent (1986-96) followed by a drastic drop to 4.0 percent for the most recent inter-censal period (1996-06). A similar trend in the size and growth of the labour force is observed with the respective declines in labour force size from 18.9 percent in the interval between 1976 and 1986 to 13.7 percent between 1986 and 1996 and are followed by a drastic drop to a low value of -3.7 percent between 1996 and 2006.

**Table 4.1: Population aged 10 years and above by census date and net-inter-censal additions into the labour force**

Total Population	Census dates				Net inter-censal additions		
	1976	1986	1996	2006	1976-86	1986-96	1996-06
Enumerated	890,949	114,5714	1,392,724	1,448,918	254,765 (28.6%)	247,010 (21.6%)	56,194 4.00%
Labour Force	423,882	504,121	573,064	551,989	80,239 (18.9%)	68,943 (13.7%)	-21,075(- 3.7%)

The percent distribution of the population in the labour force by sex and date is shown in Table 4.2. The Table shows that the size of male population in the labour force has decreased continuously from 1976 to 2006. As can be seen from the Table, in 1976 and 1986 respectively, male labour force constituted between 66.0 percent and nearly 68.0 percent of the total population aged 10 years and above. However, in 1996 the percentage of males in the labour force had dropped to 56.7 percent and it declined further to 49.8 percent in 2006.

The proportion of females in the labour force initially dropped from 29.3 percent in 1976 to nearly 23.0 percent in 1986 but increased again to 26.6 percent in 1996 and further to 27.2 percent in 2006. Although the proportion of females in the labour force is showing an upward trend, it remains comparatively lower than that observed in 1976. Despite the observed decrease in labour force size by dates, the percentage of males in the labour force remains comparatively higher than that of females for all the census dates shown. The net effect of the continual decrease in male proportions especially; has been to equally depress the percentage values for the totals in the labour force for each date, thereby showing a decreasing trend in the most recent census dates.

The observed continual decline in the size of the male labour force is probably resulting from increasing mortality among males who are in their prime working ages. Also, continual retrenchment of male migrant workers from the South African mining industries could as well be a likely push factor for increased proportions of females in the labour force with their main objective being to seek work so as to compensate the household income lost by their spouses due to retrenchment.

<b>Table 4.2: Trends in the sex distribution of the sizes of the population aged 10+ years and of the labour force</b>			
Census dates	Population aged 10 years and above		Both sexes
	Males	Females	
<b>1976</b>			
Total	424,691	466,258	890,949
Labour force	286,961 (67.6%)	136,713 (29.3%)	423,882 (47.6%)
<b>1986</b>			
Total	552,314	593,400	1,145,714
Labour force	367,973 (66.6%)	136,148 (22.9%)	504,121(44.0%)
<b>1996</b>			
Total	672,635	720,089	1,392,724
Labour force	381,298 (56.7%)	191,766 (26.6%)	573,064 (41.1%)
2006			
<b>Total</b>	696,300	752,618	1,448,918
<b>Labour force</b>	347,000 (49.8%)	204,989 (27.2%)	551,989 (38.1%)

An analysis of the trends in the size and growth of labour force size according to whether or not the population resides in Lesotho is shown in Table 4.3. The data shows that not only is the volume of the labour force inside the country much higher than that outside the country for all the years, but also that the corresponding proportion continues to increase in recent times. The percentage of the labour force inside the country increased from 71.7 percent in 1976 to the respective values of 76.9 percent and 82.4 percent in 1996 and 2006. By contrast, the total size of the labour force outside the country shows a decreasing trend. In 1976, 140,212 people constituting 28.3 percent of the total labour force; resided outside Lesotho. However, by 1996 this number had dropped to 132,609 (23.1 percent) and declined further 90,291 of 17.6 percent in 2006.

The observed increase of the size of labour force inside the country which is accompanied by a decline in percent of those who are active but reside outside Lesotho may result from the continuing retrenchment of male migrant workers from South African mining industries, who upon their return; are confronted with alternatives for seeking employment locally in order to support their families. The other likely explanation is the increase in number of service industries locally which largely favour female employment.

<b>Table 4.3: Trend in the size and growth of the labour force inside and outside Lesotho: 1986 – 2006</b>						
Residential Status	1986		1996		2006	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Inside the country	354,421	71.7	440,455	76.9	421,952	82.4
Outside the country	140,212	28.3	132,609	23.1	90,291	17.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>494,633</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>573,064</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>512,243</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 4.4 shows the total population aged 10+ years and the labour force size by sex and residential status for 2006 census. From the table, females constitute a slightly bigger share (51.9 percent) of the total population than males. By contrast, there are more males (62.9 percent) than females (37.1percent) in the labour force although overall only 38.1 percent of the total population is active.

A similar pattern is observed when urban and rural comparison of the data is made. Thus, whereas females totals continue to present higher proportions in both urban and rural areas (i.e. 54.8 and 51.1 percent for urban and rural areas respectively in contrast to 45.2 and 48.9 percent for urban and rural male totals respectively); active males present comparatively higher proportions regardless of their urban/rural residential background. For the urban areas, the percent active for males is 51.0 percent while the corresponding proportion for the urban females is 49.0 percent. Likewise, 67.9 percent of males are active in the rural areas while the female proportion is only 32.1

<b>Table 4.4: Population aged 10+ years and the labour force population by total, urban/rural residence and sex: 2006</b>		
<b>Residential status and sex</b>	<b>Population aged 10 years and above</b>	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Population in the labour force</b>
<b>Lesotho</b>	<b>1,448,918 (100%)</b>	<b>551,989 (38.1%)</b>
Males	48.1%	62.9%
Females	51.9%	37.1
<b>Urban</b>		
Total urban	<b>341,863 (23.6%)</b>	<b>164,366 (29.8%)</b>
Males	45.2 %	51.0%
Females	54.8%	49.0%
<b>Rural</b>		
Rural total	<b>1,108,883 (76.5%)</b>	<b>387,623 (70.2%)</b>
Males	48.9%	67.9%
Females	51.1%	32.1%

Labour force surveys conducted at the national level also provide valuable information on size and trends of the labour force over time. Table 4.5 provides a documentation of statistical data collected from such surveys conducted in Lesotho by survey dates. However, in an effort to appreciate the trends in the size and growth of the labour force population as has been done with the census data, utmost care in both the analysis and interpretation as well as comparison of the labour force survey data with that relevant from other sources (particularly from the national censuses) should be taken. This is because these sources differ in approaches to methodologies relating to their respective questionnaire designs, reference period for inquiry on variables for investigation as well as and their depth of coverage; including the minimum age of inquiry of the respondents from whom the information is sought.

Therefore, in view of problems of data comparability discussed above, data presented Table 4.5 are useful only in as far as highlighting of the trends in the growth of the size of the labour force exclusively from surveys and cannot be compared with that collected from the censuses.

**Table 4.5: Total population and the size of the labour force from labour force surveys by status in employment, date, sex and minimum age of entry into the labour force**

Activity Status	Date, minimum age of entry in to the labour force and sex									
	1977/78 (14+)		1985/86 (12+)		1997(10+)		1999 (10+)		2008 (6+)	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Total population	310,807	281,034	534,826	588,686	583,287	644,775	593,437	674,846	903,497	972,448
Total labour force	149,324 (48.0%)	270,598 (96.3%)	408,672 (76.4%)	214,713 (36.5%)	382,401 (65.6%)	319,596 (49.6%)	437,537 (73.7%)	411,771 (61.0%)	784,429 86.8	852,593 87.6
Employed	97.0	97.6	78.3	74.9	75.8	53.8	79.2	65.8	78.8	75.4
Unemployed	3.0	2.4	21.7	25.1	24.2	46.2	20.8	34.2	21.2	24.6

[Bureau of Statistics, 1985/86 Labour Force Survey report](#)  
[Bureau of Statistics, 1997 Labour Force Survey report](#)  
[Bureau of Statistics, 1999 Labour Force Survey report](#)  
[Bureau of Statistics, 2008 Integrated Labour Force Survey report](#)

### 4.3 Labour force Characteristics

#### 4.3.1 Demographic Characteristics

Data on the structure of the labour force helps to inform policy makers and planners on human resources' important characteristics such as age and sex. The 2006 census data on the structure of the labour force are shown in Table 4.6 and corresponding figure 1. Data from the Table shows a distinct pattern, which is similar for both males and females. The size of the labour force increases with age, reaching maximum level in the age group 25-29, and thereafter, decreases with increasing age. For instance, while only 6,896 people representing 1.2 percent of the total labour force are active in the age group 10-14, the number increases sharply in subsequent ages reaching a peak of 93,831(17.0 percent) in the age group 25-29. Thereafter, the attrition out of the labour force as indicated by a continuous decline in percentage of active population as age increases is clearly discerned.

The data on sex differentials in the age structure of the labour force present a similar pattern to that observed for totals. In addition, it shows female percentage values to be consistently higher than those corresponding to their male counterparts in almost all the age groups except in the younger age groups 10-14 and 15-19, where male percentage levels are 1.7 and 8.2 compared 0.4 and 6.4 levels respectively for females in the same age groups. The age groups 30-34, 55-59 and 60-64 respectively, present near equal proportional shares of people in the labour force by sex.

**Table 4.6: Total labour force population by age and sex: 2006**

Age Groups	Total	Percent	Males	Percent	Females	Percent
10-14	6,899	1.2	6,017	1.7	882	0.4
15-19	41,737	7.6	28,525	8.2	13,212	6.4
20-24	85,690	15.5	53,011	15.3	32,679	15.9
25-29	93,886	17.0	57,819	16.7	36,067	17.6
30-34	73,157	13.3	46,040	13.3	27,117	13.2
35-39	57,752	10.5	35,922	10.4	21,830	10.6
40-44	50,129	9.1	31,048	8.9	19,081	9.3
45-49	41,898	7.6	25,981	7.5	15,917	7.8
50-54	33,824	6.1	20,673	6.0	13,151	6.4
55-59	23,971	4.3	15,039	4.3	8,932	4.4
60-64	15,582	2.8	9,838	2.8	5,744	2.8
65+	27,464	5.0	17,087	4.9	10,377	5.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>551,989</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>347,000</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>204,989</b>	<b>100.0</b>

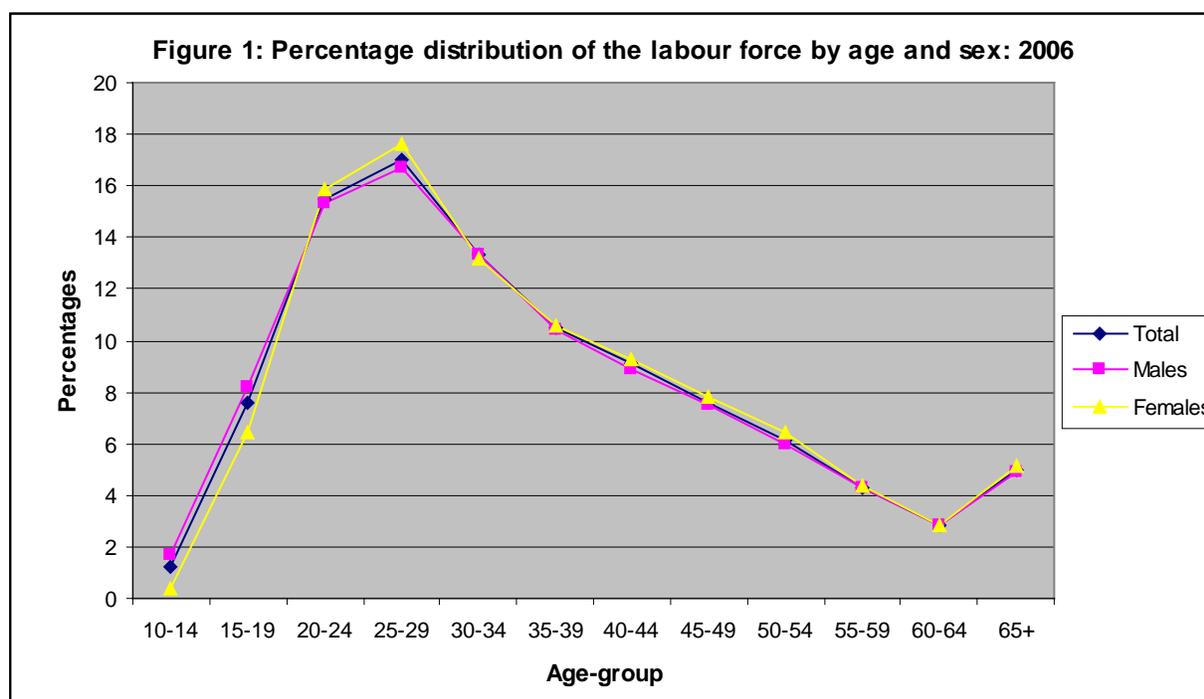
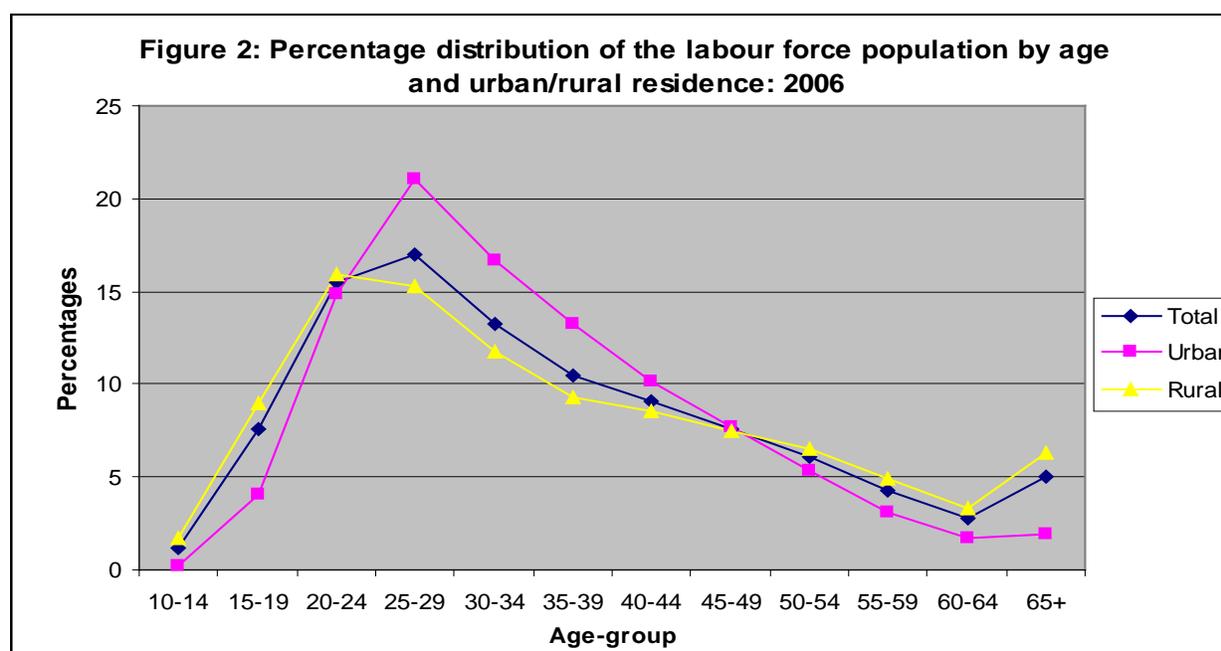


Table 4.7 and Figure 2 respectively display age structure of the labour by rural- urban residential status. According to the Table, the percentage of the population in the labour force is higher in rural areas than in the urban areas for the first three younger age groups but the pattern changes for the subsequent five higher age groups. For instance, urban percentages in the labour force are 21.0, 16.7, 13.3, 10.2, and 7.7 respectively for ages 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44 and 45-49 while for the rural population in the labour force, comparative percentage values are 15.3, 11.8, 9.3, 8.6 and 7.5 respectively for the same age groups.

**Table 4.7: Percentage distribution of the labour force population by age and urban/rural residence: 2006**

Age Groups	Total	Percent	Urban	Percent	Rural	Percent
10-14	6,899	1.2	391	0.2	6,508	1.7
15-19	41,737	7.6	6,722	4.1	35,015	9.0
20-24	85,690	15.5	24,250	14.8	61,440	15.9
25-29	93,886	17.0	34,539	21.0	59,347	15.3
30-34	73,157	13.3	27,471	16.7	45,686	11.8
35-39	57,752	10.5	21,639	13.2	36,113	9.3
40-44	50,129	9.1	16,781	10.2	33,348	8.6
45-49	41,898	7.6	12,727	7.7	29,171	7.5
50-54	33,824	6.1	8,701	5.3	25,123	6.5
55-59	23,971	4.3	5,170	3.1	18,801	4.9
60-64	15,582	2.8	2,815	1.7	12,767	3.3
65+	27,464	5.0	3,160	1.9	24,304	6.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>551,989</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>164,366</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>387,623</b>	<b>100.0</b>



#### 4.3.2 Social characteristics

Table 4.8 displays the distribution of economically active population by sex, age and educational attainment. The table shows that for all age groups, majority of the active males and females are concentrated in the first two educational categories although for the no education category; the male proportions are comparatively higher than females in all age groups. For instance, in the age group 15-19, together the no education and primary educational categories constitute 91.4 and 73.8 percent of the active males and females respectively. Likewise, the rest of the age groups have collective proportions of at least sixty percent in the two stated educational categories. The other observation is that the extreme age groups have comparatively more of the active males than the intermediate age groups in the same educational categories. As

can be seen from the table, the broad age groups 10-19 and 55-65+ have 95.4 and 86.6 percentage shares of total active males respectively while the corresponding proportions in the intermediate broad age group 20-54 range between 62.9 and 79.2 percent.

The two categories of secondary education together present a slightly different pattern from that observed for the no education and primary educational categories. In these categories, more of the active males are in the age range 20-44 with the age group 25-29 showing a comparatively highest proportion (31.9 percent) while the age group 45-49 presents the lowest proportion (18.9 percent). As with the secondary education, the tertiary and graduate educational categories also have higher (though comparatively smaller in magnitude) proportions in the broad age group 25-49 than the adjacent ones, although less variation are observed between age groups. The non-formal educational category have least proportional share of the totals in each age group ranging between the minimum and maximum values of 0.2 and 1.2 percent respectively.

The distribution of economically active females by age and educational attainment presented a different pattern from that observed for males. Except for the extreme age groups 10-14 and 65+, where the no education and primary educational categories together have the highest percentage share of the total of 96.0 percent and 93.0 percent respectively, majority of active females, regardless of age have attained primary education and are seconded in order of significance by those with secondary (both upper and lower) educational categories with comparatively higher percentages observed in the lower secondary (29.1 percent) compared to the upper secondary equivalent (19.5 percent) in the age group 25-29. Unlike the active male population, no specific pattern of distribution by age can be drawn for active female population by age.

**Table 4.8: Economically active population by sex, educational attainment and age: 2006**

	10-14	15 - 19	20 - 24	25 - 29	30 - 34	35 -39	40 -44	45 -49	50 - 54	55 - 59	60 - 64	65+
<b>Males</b>												
No education	42.4	20.1	15.8	14.7	15.9	16.7	19.9	22.9	27.2	30.2	33.6	42.2
Primary	56.9	71.3	58.1	48.2	48.6	48.7	49.7	51.7	52.0	53.9	53.7	49.5
Lower Secondary	0.3	7.0	15.6	18.3	16.9	17.0	15.3	12.3	10.3	7.7	5.2	4.2
Upper Secondary	0.0	1.3	8.8	13.6	11.9	10.8	8.9	6.6	4.3	2.8	2.0	1.1
Tertiary - Non graduates	0.0	0.0	1.1	3.1	4.0	3.9	3.2	3.1	2.7	2.4	2.3	1.2
Tertiary - Graduates	0.0	0.0	0.5	1.9	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.0	2.0	0.7
Non formal	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.6	1.1	1.2	1.0	1.2	1.0
Totals	5828	26262	46403	52012	42737	34093	29814	25178	20191	14744	9720	17013
<b>Females</b>												
No education	20.9	2.3	1.8	1.5	1.7	1.9	2.7	3.7	5.5	5.8	8.7	18.2
Primary	75.1	71.5	48.9	41.1	44.1	44.8	51.0	58.6	66.2	72.4	76.0	75.8
Lower Secondary	4.0	21.0	29.1	29.1	27.9	28.1	24.9	19.3	13.1	9.5	6.8	3.9
Upper Secondary	0.0	5.1	16.4	19.5	16.0	14.1	10.6	7.2	4.4	2.8	1.5	0.5
Tertiary - Non graduates	0.0	0.2	2.4	5.7	6.4	7.1	7.1	7.0	6.8	5.9	4.8	1.0
Tertiary - Graduates	0.0	0.0	1.3	3.1	4.0	4.0	3.6	4.0	3.8	3.2	1.9	0.4
Non formal	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.2
Totals	799	11369	28517	33472	26078	21647	19393	16292	13647	9364	6109	10988

#### 4.4 Labour force participation

The distribution of the population aged 10 years and above by activity status (Table 4.9) shows that majority of the population (62.0 percent) is inactive with more of the inactive females (nearly 73.0 percent) than males (50.2 percent). While only 38.0 percent is active. Majority (35.3 percent) of the active population is currently employed while only 2.7 percent comprises of the categories of unemployed job seekers. By contrast, more males, constituting close to 50.0 percent of all males; than females, representing slightly over half of all active males (27.1 percent) are active. A breakdown of active population by sex and activity status shows a similar pattern to that observed for totals. That is, majority of both males and females are employed, although as expected more males 46.3 percent than females (25.2 percent) are currently employed. Relatively very few of the active population: 3.5 percent of the males and 1.9 percent of the females respectively belong to the category of job seekers.

**Table 4.9: Population aged 10 years and above by activity status and sex: 2006**

Work status	Population		Sex			
	Number	Percent	Male		Female	
			Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Employed	513,016	35.3	322,470	46.3	190,546	25.2
Job seekers	21,361	1.5	13,114	1.9	8,247	1.1
First time job seekers	17,612	1.2	11,416	1.6	6,196	0.8
Inactive population	900,951	62.0	350,225	50.2	550,355	72.9
Total ages 10+	1,452,940	100.0	697,225	48.0	755,355	52.0

In the absence of detailed age structural distribution of the active population, the crude economic activity rate can give a rough picture of how a country fares in terms

of distributing resources to its population members. Its economic significance is that the higher the rate, the higher is the assumed level of income per head that can be achieved under given conditions of productivity and the extent of employment of the labour force. Its limitation however, lies from the fact that it is affected by the age structural distribution of the population. The advantage of the refined crude activity rate over the crude rate is that it is free from distortions produced by the presence, in varying proportions in the population, of children too young to be classified as economically active as well as people too old to be active.

Table 4.10 shows both the crude and refined measures of the active labour force population by sex and urban/rural residential statuses. Three things can be observed from the data. Firstly, crude activity rates are lower in value when compared to the refined rates. For instance, the crude activity rate at national level is 29.6 while the refined activity rate equivalent is 38.1. Likewise, urban and rural crude rates are 39.0 and 26.9 respectively while their refined rate equivalents are 48.1 and 35.0. This similarity is also observed by sex. Secondly, for both crude and refined activity rates; male rates are higher than those for females regardless of where people live. For instance, a male crude rate of 43.1 is observed in comparison to a female crude rate of 35.5 in the urban area, while the corresponding refined activity rates at urban level are 54.2 for males and 43.0 for females respectively. Thirdly, urban rates are again higher than rural for both the national total and for each sex.

The observed high levels of the refined crude activity rates relative to the crude activity rates by different background variables shown conform to the expected pattern characteristic of most national populations worldwide.

<b>Table 4.10: Crude and refined activity rates by urban/rural residence and sex: 2006</b>			
<b>Lesotho</b>	<b>Both sexes</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>
CAR	29.6	38.4	21.4
RAR	38.1	49.8	27.2
<b>Urban</b>			
CAR	39.0	43.1	35.5
RAR	48.1	54.2	43.0
<b>Rural</b>			
CAR	26.9	37.1	17.0
RAR	35.0	48.6	22.0

**Notes: CAR means Crude Activity Rate while RAR means Refined Activity Rate**

Quite naturally, economic activity is not distributed evenly within either males or females of potentially active or employable ages. As a result, the proportions of the economically active persons differs in different ages and activity status categories of the population; often ranging in value from nearly 100.0 percent in some age and sex categories to zero percent in others. The demographic assessment of these variations is better achieved through the analysis of age and sex specific activity or labour force participation rates presented in Table 4.11 for Lesotho's 2006 population census.

Table 4.11 shows age and sex specific labour force participation rates for five-year age groups for 2006 census. The Table shows that the labour force participation rates for males and females rise from low levels of 5.4 and 0.8 percent respectively in the age

group 10-14 to maximum levels of 78.7 percent for males in the age group 35-39 and 45.6 percent for females in the broad age group 30-39. The same pattern is observed for totals by census date (Table 4.12).

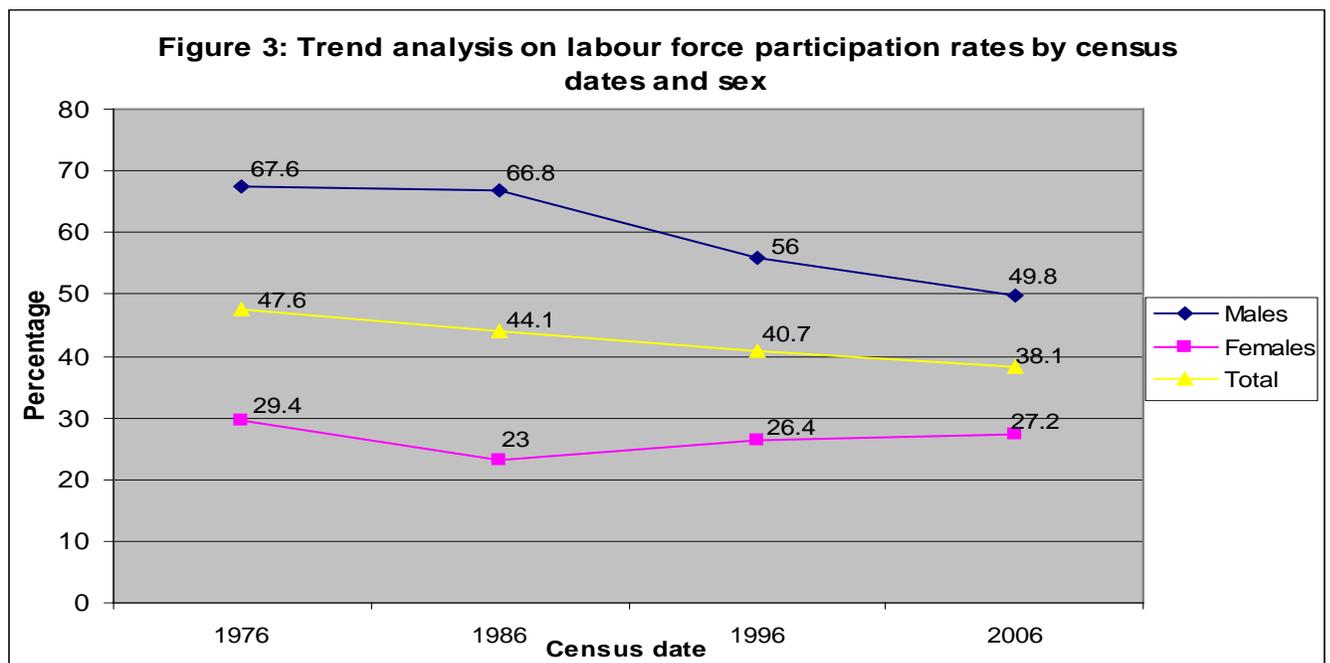
<b>Age group</b>	<b>Total males</b>	<b>Active males</b>	<b>Male LFPR</b>	<b>Total females</b>	<b>Active females</b>	<b>Female LFPR</b>
10 -14	110,778	6,017	5.4	110,160	882	0.8
15 - 19	114,800	28,525	24.8	114,589	13,212	11.5
20 - 24	101,385	53,011	52.3	105,677	32,679	30.9
25 - 29	82,202	57,819	70.3	82,665	36,067	43.6
30 - 34	60,107	46,040	76.6	59,423	27,117	45.6
35 - 39	45,645	35,922	78.7	47,845	21,830	45.6
40 - 44	39,596	31,048	78.4	43,703	19,081	43.7
45 - 49	34,102	25,981	76.2	38,519	15,917	41.3
50 - 54	28,723	20,673	72.0	34,361	13,151	38.3
55 - 59	23,225	15,039	64.8	26,923	8,932	33.2
60 - 64	16,724	9,838	58.8	20,975	5,744	27.4
65+	39,013	17,087	43.8	67,778	10,377	15.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>696,300</b>	<b>347,000</b>	<b>49.8</b>	<b>752,618</b>	<b>204,989</b>	<b>27.2</b>

The trends in age and sex specific labour force participation rates for five-year age groups for the period 1976-06 are presented in Table 4.12 along with figure 3 which displays only the sex specific activity rates for totals for different census dates. Both Table 4.12 and Figure 3 show that for the entire census dates shown, male participation rates are higher than female participation rates. The observed pattern also conforms to a pattern common to most national populations' labour force where participation rates increase steadily with age regardless of the sex. Participation rates are often low in the initial ages of entry into the labour force, usually set at ages 10-14, rising to peak levels in the age range 30-39 sometimes extending to ages 40-44 and followed by their decrease as ages increase.

Two other distinct observations from Table 4.12 are (a) that there is a clear downward trend in both the total and age specific labour force participation rates among males and females for the most recent census dates including that for 2006. (b) Patterns of decrease differ especially for totals, between males and females. Thus, whereas male labour force participation rates show clear and continuous decrease from a high level of 67.6 percent in 1976 to 66.8 percent in 1986 and further declines to 56.0 percent and 49.8 percent respectively in 1996 and 2006; females portray a different picture. The female pattern is characterized by an initial decline in overall labour force participation rates from 29.2 percent to 23.0 percent from 1976 to 1986 with subsequent dates however, pointing towards a rise in levels to 26.4 and 27.2 percent respectively in 1996 and 2006. Figure 4.3 captures fully well the above description.

**Table 4.12: Labour force participation rates by age-group, census dates and sex: 1976 – 2006**

Age-group	1976			1986			1996			2006		
	Males	Female	Total									
<b>Total</b>	<b>67.6</b>	<b>29.4</b>	<b>47.6</b>	<b>66.8</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>44.1</b>	<b>56.0</b>	<b>26.4</b>	<b>40.7</b>	<b>49.8</b>	<b>27.2</b>	<b>38.10</b>
10-14	17.6	3.1	10.2	19.6	3.8	11.7	13.4	4.2	8.8	5.4	0.8	3.12
15-19	44.5	23.3	33.2	40.8	20.7	30.5	32.2	20.7	26.4	24.8	11.5	18.19
20-24	82.8	37.5	58.7	76.9	33.2	53.5	65.2	39.1	51.5	52.3	30.9	41.38
25-29	89.7	38.9	63.8	90.9	32.3	60.1	81.9	42.4	61.5	70.3	43.6	56.95
30-34	90.7	39.5	64.4	92.9	31.7	61.5	86.0	40.1	62.0	76.6	45.6	61.20
35-39	90.2	40.0	65.4	93.0	31.9	62.9	87.1	38.0	61.5	78.7	45.6	61.77
40-44	89.5	39.1	63.4	92.1	30.4	61.3	85.6	35.8	60.0	78.4	43.7	60.18
45-49	88.0	39.0	63.4	91.4	28.9	61.1	83.7	34.0	59.2	76.2	41.3	57.69
50-54	86.0	38.3	61.2	88.0	25.4	55.7	78.6	29.6	53.4	72.0	38.3	53.62
55-59	83.4	35.8	58.6	84.1	24.1	53.6	71.8	25.7	48.4	64.8	33.2	47.80
60-64	80.1	34.1	54.2	79.8	20.5	48.4	59.8	19.8	37.6	58.8	27.4	41.33
65+	72.2	35.5	46.4	65.5	14.7	35.7	46.0	13.2	26.5	43.8	15.3	25.72



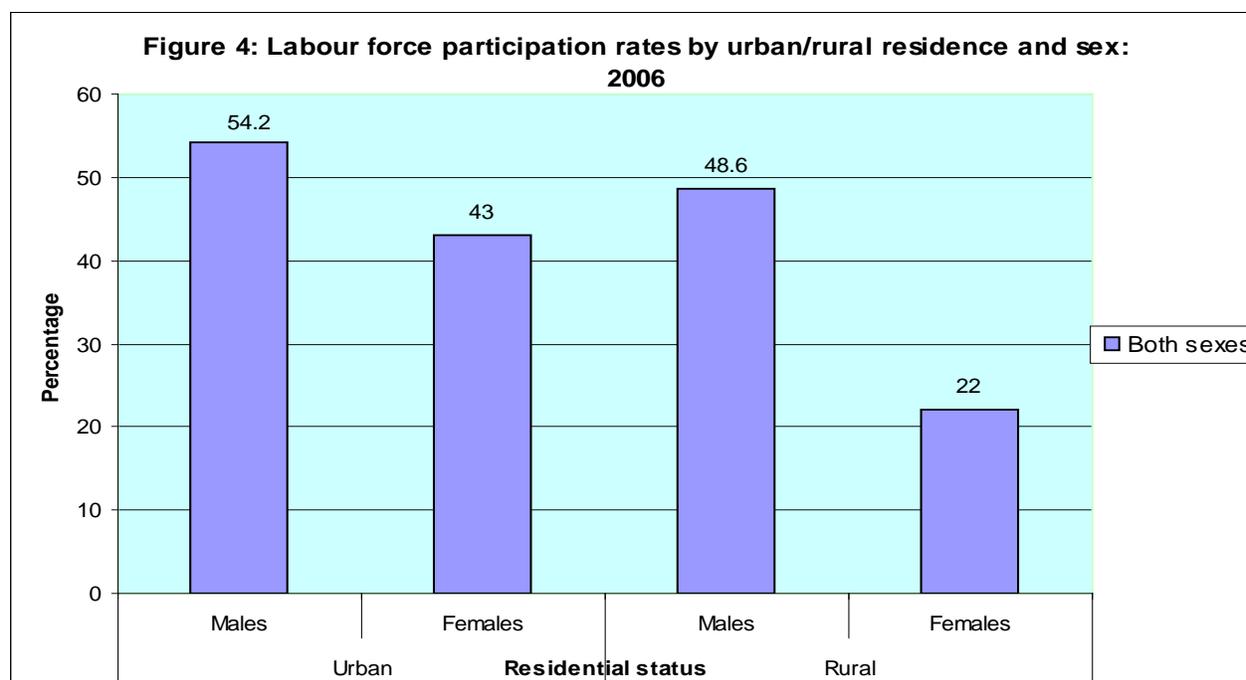
Participation in income generating economic activity is influenced by an individuals' residential background as can be observed in tables 4.13 and 4.14 respectively. Generally, data from the tables shows the same age and sex pattern of activity rates as that displayed for totals (table 4.13). However the tempo and the propensity to participate in income generating activities differ not only by sex, but also between urban and rural areas. Thus, rural male labour force participation rates are comparatively higher (6.4, 28.0 and 53.4 percent respectively in the age groups 10-14, 15-19 and 20-24 compared to urban levels of 1.0, 11.4 and 48.1 percent respectively in the same age groups). Beyond age group 20-24, urban participation rates supersede the rural rates in magnitude and reach their highest level of 86.5 percent in the age group 35-39. By contrast urban female labour force participation rates are in all age groups when compared to those observed in the rural areas.

The variations between the urban and rural labour force participation rates are to a large extent influenced by the differences in the age structures of the two populations. Tables 4.13 and 4.14 together with figure 4 respectively display the urban and rural labour force participation rates by age and sex in 2006. Generally, the tables show the same age and sex pattern of activity rates as that displayed for totals (Table 4.12). However the tempo and the propensity to participate in income generating activities differ not only by sex, but also between urban and rural areas. Thus, rural male labour force participation rates are comparatively higher (6.4, 28.0 and 53.4 percent respectively in the age groups 10-14, 15-19 and 20-24 compared to urban levels of 1.0, 11.4 and 48.1 percent respectively in the same age groups). Beyond age group 20-24, urban participation rates supersede the rural rates in magnitude and reach their highest level of 86.5 percent in the age group 35-39. By contrast urban female labour force participation rates are higher in all age groups when compared to those observed in the rural areas.

<b>Table 4.13: Urban labour force participation rates by age and sex: 2006</b>						
<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Total Males</b>	<b>Active males</b>	<b>Participation rates</b>	<b>Total female</b>	<b>Active females</b>	<b>Participation rates</b>
10 - 14	20,751	216	1.0	21,795	175	0.8
15 - 19	21,971	2,508	11.4	26,812	4,214	15.7
20 - 24	21,394	10,296	48.1	30,632	13,954	45.6
25 - 29	21,948	16,981	77.4	27,848	17,558	63.0
30 - 34	17,327	14,706	84.9	19,381	12,765	65.9
35 - 39	13,639	11,804	86.5	14,966	9,835	65.7
40 - 44	10,805	9,250	85.6	11,937	7,531	63.1
45 - 49	8,461	6,991	82.6	9,321	5,736	61.5
50 - 54	6,037	4,683	77.6	7,116	4,018	56.5
55 - 59	4,266	2,849	66.8	5,101	2,321	45.5
60 - 64	2,851	1,608	56.4	3,474	1,207	34.7
65+	4,992	1,890	37.9	8,827	1,270	14.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>154,442</b>	<b>83,782</b>	<b>54.2</b>	<b>187,210</b>	<b>80,584</b>	<b>43.0</b>

**Table 4.14: Rural labour force participation rates by age and sex: 2006**

Age-Group	Male	Active male	Participation rate	Female	Active female	Participation rate
10 - 14	90,027	5,801	6.4	88,365	707	0.8
15 - 19	92,829	26,017	28.0	87,777	8,998	10.3
20 - 24	79,991	42,715	53.4	75,045	18,725	25.0
25 - 29	60,254	40,838	67.8	54,817	18,509	33.8
30 - 34	42,780	31,334	73.2	40,042	14,352	35.8
35 - 39	32,006	24,118	75.4	32,879	11,995	36.5
40 - 44	28,791	21,798	75.7	31,766	11,550	36.4
45 - 49	25,641	18,990	74.1	29,198	10,181	34.9
50 - 54	22,686	15,990	70.5	27,245	9,133	33.5
55 - 59	18,959	12,190	64.3	21,822	6,611	30.3
60 - 64	13,873	8,230	59.3	17,501	4,537	25.9
65+	34,021	15,197	44.7	58,951	9,107	15.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>541,858</b>	<b>263,218</b>	<b>48.6</b>	<b>565,408</b>	<b>124,405</b>	<b>22.0</b>



#### 4.5 Occupational Characteristics

The occupational distribution of the population constitutes a major component of a country's labour market information: a term that defines an imaginary marketplace where labour is bought and sold. Other things being normal, and given availability of data; changes in the populations' occupational distribution from one census to the next also reflect the changes which take place in the economic and social structural setting of the country's population overtime.

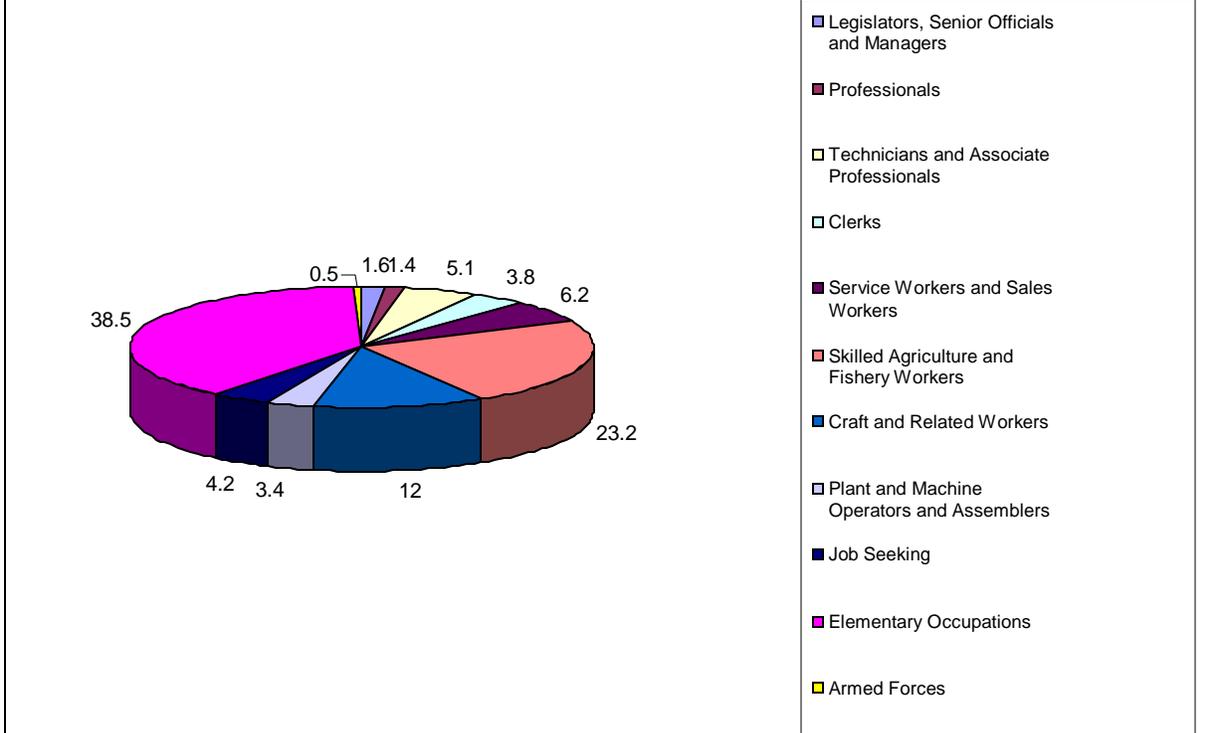
Table 4.15 shows the distribution (in percent) of economically active population inside Lesotho by major occupations for 2006, while figure 5 displays the graphical presentation of the same data for column totals only. Both data sets show that Elementary Occupations' category has the highest percentage share (38.5 percent) of the total active population. It is seconded by the category of the Skilled Agriculture and Fishery Workers with a proportional share of 23.2 percent while the Craft and Related workers follow third in order of importance with a 12.0 percent share. The categories of Legislators, Senior Officials and Managers, Professionals, and Armed Forces respectively comprise comparatively very few people with a minimum proportion of 0.5 percent observed for the Armed Forces.

The sex distribution of the people by occupation show comparatively higher male than female proportions in Elementary (40.4 percent), Skilled Agricultural and Fishery Workers (26.3 percent), Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers (5.2 percent), Technicians and Associate Professionals (3.2 percent), Legislators, Senior Officials and Managers (1.7 percent) and Armed forces (0.7 percent) occupational categories respectively. By contrast, more females than males are found in the Craft related occupations (16.1 percent), Service and Sales Workers (6.9 percent), Clerical works (5.9 percent), and Professionals (1.8 percent) respectively. Only the category of Job Seekers presents equal proportional shares of 4.2 percent for males and females.

<b>Table 4.15: Economically active population inside Lesotho by major occupation and sex: 2006</b>			
<b>Major occupation</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>
Legislators, Senior Officials and Managers	1.6	1.7	1.4
Professionals	1.4	1.1	1.8
Technicians and Associate Professionals	5.1	3.2	8.0
Clerks	3.8	2.4	5.9
Service Workers and Sales Workers	6.2	5.6	6.9
Skilled Agriculture and Fishery Workers	23.2	26.3	18.8
Craft and Related Workers	12.0	9.1	16.1
Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers	3.4	5.2	0.9
Job Seeking	4.2	4.2	4.2
Elementary Occupations	38.5	40.4	35.8
Armed Forces	0.5	0.7	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>450050</b>	<b>265297</b>	<b>184753</b>

**Note.** The rest of the labour force population outside Lesotho is not disaggregated by occupation and therefore not included in table 4.15

**Figure 5: Economically active population by major occupation**



The marital status composition of the population particularly for females plays an important role in influencing their distribution among the various occupations available nationwide. This might probably result from the cultural disposition which dictates that majority of women (housewives and homemakers) devote a large part of their time participating in household related activities including the promotion of lineage through child bearing; to the extent that comparatively very few of them participate in economic activities. Current trends may perhaps point towards a changing pattern although there is no statistical evidence to support this observation.

Table 4.16 shows the percent distribution of economically active males and females by major occupation and marital status. The table shows that overwhelming majority (61.1 percent) of the never married males are engaged in Elementary Occupations and that the remaining occupations together constitute close to thirty-nine percent (38.9 percent) of the never married males; with only the Skilled Agriculture and Fishery Workers occupational category having more than ten percent (13.3 percent) of males who have never married, while the rest of occupations have proportional shares of between 0.4 and 6.6 percent.

A slightly different pattern of occupational distribution is displayed for the never married females. It shows that although majority of females also work in Elementary occupations (45.6 percent), there is a shift in rank order of occupational preferences. For them, the second occupation with more females is the Craft and related workers

with a proportional share of 17.5 percent of all females and; is followed in decreasing order of significance by the Service /Sales workers, Clerks, Job Seekers and Technical and Associates workers categories each having proportions of 7.6, 7.4, 7.2 and 6.2 percent respectively; while the remaining occupational groups show comparatively low proportions. Overall, the proportions for the never married females are higher than those for males in all occupations except the Elementary, Skilled Agriculture and Fisheries, Plant and Machine Operators and the Armed Forces.

Very distinct patterns of the proportional share of occupations by sex are seen for those who are either currently married or have been married previously (divorced or separated). In these marital status categories, the largest proportions of males work in Skilled Agriculture and Fisheries (36.6 and 32.7 percent respectively for the previously married and the currently married men). The category of Elementary occupations follows second in order of significance with the respective shares of 32.8 percent for the previously married males and 29.1 percent for males who are currently married. Besides showing an irregular pattern, the other occupational categories in these two marital status categories also present comparatively small proportions for men which range between 0.9 and 3.7 percent.

A pattern of the distribution of occupations, different from that observed for males in the same marital status categories is seen for females. That is, whereas as with males, majority of female workers are in the Elementary and Skilled Agriculture and Fishery occupations; there is a shift in rank order of occupations with the Elementary occupations now assuming the lead position of 36.0 percent for the previously married women and 30.7 percent for those who are currently married; followed by the Skilled Agricultural and Fishery workers with proportional shares of 27.3 percent for the previously married women and 21.9 percent for those who are currently married. Overall, both males and females who are currently married show consistently higher percentages than those previously married in all occupations with a few exceptions.

Main occupation	Total	Males			Females		
		Never married	Currently married	Previously married	Never married	Currently married	Previously Married
Legislators senior officials & managers	7118	0.6	2.3	1.8	0.9	1.6	1.6
Professionals	6220	0.8	1.3	0.7	1.8	2.1	1.2
Technicians & associate professionals	23176	2.3	3.7	2.9	6.2	9.4	6.9
Clerks	17317	2.3	2.6	1.7	7.4	5.9	4.5
Service workers and sales workers	27752	4.3	6.5	4.8	7.6	6.9	6.4
Skill agriculture and fishery workers	104618	13.3	32.7	36.6	4.9	21.9	27.3
Craft and related workers	53920	6.6	10.5	9.8	17.5	17.0	12.6
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	15358	3.0	6.5	4.4	1.0	0.9	0.8
Job seeking	19034	5.2	3.7	4.1	7.2	3.5	2.7
Elementary occupations	173350	61.1	29.1	32.8	45.6	30.7	36.0
Armed forces	2187	0.4	0.9	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>450050</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

#### 4.6. Industrial characteristics

Statistical inquiries on industrial characteristics of national populations have attracted less attention than those pertaining to occupational characteristics although the inclusion of the coverage of industry as a topic has featured in several census rounds in many countries.

Industry is a key classifying variable for most employer and establishment-based employment and wage surveys. However, most of these types of surveys cover only larger and formal employers. Therefore, the national population and housing census is usually the only statistical tool that has been used to obtain comprehensive and detailed statistics of all the employed population by industry in any given country.

The census statistics on population's industrial characteristics thus forms a major basis for the provision of economic planning of populations of most countries as well as for their labour market and social statistics. To facilitate data comparability, it is essential that the industrial classification used in the census be consistent with that used in other relevant surveys. In previous censuses, many countries have used the International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities, Revision 2, approved in 1968, and ISIC, Revision 3, approved in 1989. It is hoped that all countries will have changed to a classification compatible with ISIC, Revision 4, by the time of the 2010 round of censuses.

Table 4.17 along with figure 6 show the percentage distribution of economically active population by industry and sex. The table shows that more than 40 percent of the economically active population is mainly engaged in agriculture. Further, the sex distribution shows that more than 50 percent of males and 26 percent of females respectively are engaged in Agricultural industry. The other category in which females seem to have contributed more than their male counterparts is in Manufacturing/Processing industry with all most 23 percent, while males contributed by just over five (5.1) percent.

However, the second leading category after Agriculture, in which both males and females have contributed more, is Manufacturing/Processing industry with 12 percent.

The category in which both sexes have contributed least when compared to other industrial categories is Fishing and Extra Territorial Organizations with 0.1 percent of males and 0.2 percent of females respectively.

**Table 4.17: Percentage distribution of economically active population by industry and sex: 2006**

<b>Industry</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Agriculture	177,550	42.1	131,883	52.3	45,667	26.9
Fishing	293	0.1	189	0.1	104	0.1
Mining/Quarrying	12,730	3.0	12,084	4.8	646	0.4
Manufacturing/Processing	51,827	12.3	12,924	5.1	38,903	22.9
Electricity	2,012	0.5	1,716	0.7	296	0.2
Construction	24,444	5.8	22,470	8.9	1,974	1.2
Wholesale & Retail, Repair of Motor Vehicles & Personal and Household goods	25,249	6.0	13,800	5.5	11,449	6.7
Hotels and Restaurants	3,850	0.9	1,239	0.5	2,611	1.5
Transport, Storage and Communication	14,336	3.4	12,882	5.1	1,454	0.9
Financial Intermediation	3,365	0.8	1,360	0.5	2,005	1.2
Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities	3,900	0.9	1,890	0.7	2,010	1.2
Public Administration, Defense, Comp, Social Service	20,885	4.9	14,739	5.8	6,146	3.6
Education	19,104	4.5	5,805	2.3	13,299	7.8
Health and Social work	6,355	1.5	2,336	0.9	4,019	2.4
Other Community, Social and Personal Services	17,704	4.2	8,040	3.2	9,664	5.7
Private Household	37,606	8.9	8,349	3.3	29,257	17.2
Extra territorial organizations bodies	742	0.2	391	0.2	351	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>421,952</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>252,097</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>169,855</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Figure 6: Percentage distribution of economically active population by industry: 2006**

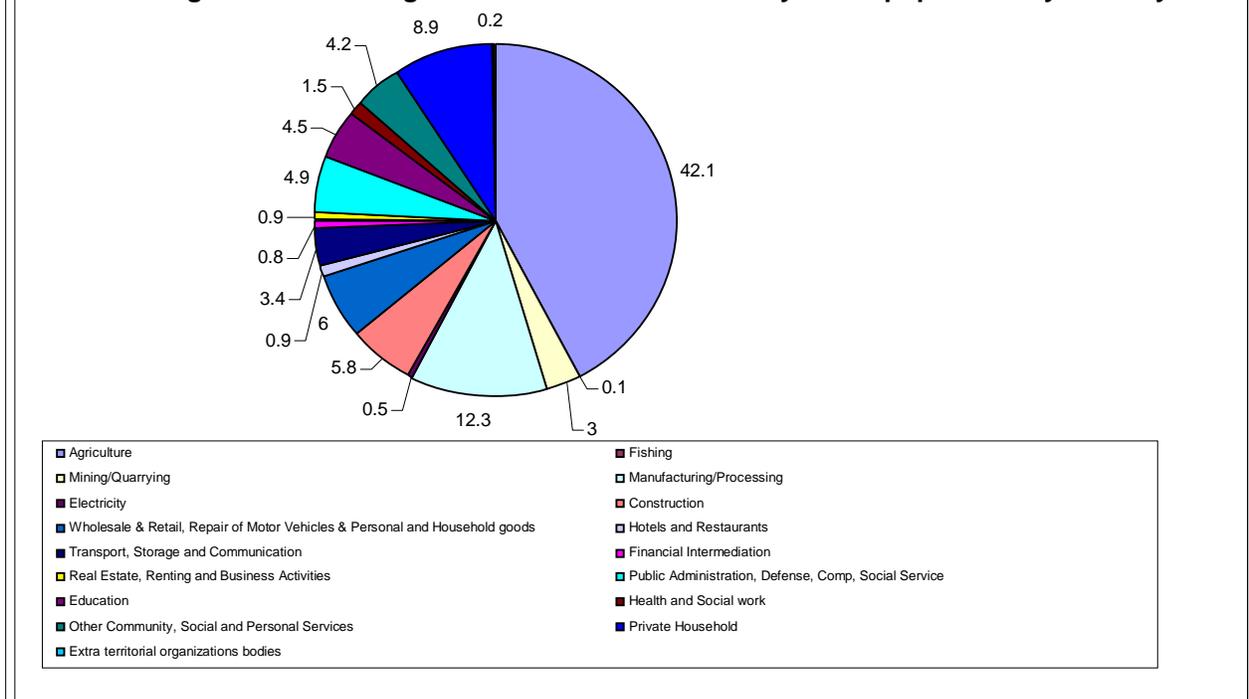


Table 4.18 presents the percentage distribution of economically active population by industry and urban/rural residential statuses. This table shows that the largest proportion of the rural population (57.9 percent) is engaged in the Agricultural industry while Fishing, Extra Territorial Organizations Bodies as well as Health and Social work related industries have the lowest proportions ranging between 0.1 percent (e. g. Fishing, Extra Territorial Organizations Bodies as well as Health and Social work related industries) and; are followed by Electricity with 0.2 percent and Financial Intermediation with 0.3 percent respectively.

By contrast, the urban industry with the highest proportion of people (26.2 percent) is Manufacturing and; is followed by Wholesale & Retail, Repair of Motor Vehicles & Personal and Household with 10.1 percent. The other urban industries viz. Private Household, Public Administration, Defense, Comp/ Social service have respective proportions of between 9.0 and close to ten (9.9) percent while only two industries: Fishing and Extra Territorial Organizational Bodies have proportions below 1.0 percent. As has been observed, the industry that harbors the largest proportion of Lesotho’s population is agriculture.

**Table 4.18: Percentage distribution of economically active population by industry and residential status: 2006**

<b>Industry</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Urban</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Rural</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Agriculture	177,550	42.1	12,251	9.0	165,299	57.9
Fishing	293	0.1	45	0.03	248	0.1
Mining/Quarrying	12,730	3.0	2,770	2.0	9,960	3.5
Manufacturing/Processing	51,827	12.3	35,811	26.2	16,016	5.6
Electricity	2,012	0.5	1,410	1.0	602	0.2
Construction	24,444	5.8	7,982	5.8	16,462	5.8
Wholesale & Retail, Repair of Motor Vehicles & Personal and Household goods	25,249	6.0	13,754	10.1	11,495	4.0
Hotels and Restaurants	3,850	0.9	2,247	1.6	1,603	0.6
Transport, Storage and Communication	14,336	3.4	7,755	5.7	6,581	2.3
Financial Intermediation	3,365	0.8	2,551	1.9	814	0.3
Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities	3,900	0.9	2,127	1.6	1,773	0.6
Public Administration, Defence, Comp, Social Service	20,885	4.9	13,438	9.8	7,447	2.6
Education	19,104	4.5	7,729	5.7	11,375	4.0
Health and Social work	6,355	1.5	3,361	2.5	2,994	1.0
Other Community, Social and Personal Services	17,704	4.2	9,386	6.9	8,318	2.9
Private Household	37,606	8.9	13,496	9.9	24,110	8.5
Extra territorial organizations bodies	742	0.2	526	0.4	216	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>421,952</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>136,639</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>285,313</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 4.19 shows the percentage distribution of economically active population by industry and whether or not the population resides inside the country. This table indicates that the industry that has majority (42.1 percent) of Lesotho's population resident inside the country is Agriculture. The other important local industries are Manufacturing/Processing and Private Household with respective proportional shares of 12.3 and 8.9 percent. By contrast, a significant proportion (46.5 percent) of Basotho who reside outside Lesotho are engaged in the Mining and Quarrying industries;

presumably those belonging to the South Africa. The other popular industries for the people working outside the country seem to be the Construction, Private Household and Agriculture again with proportional shares of 15.6, 13.2 and 9.4 percent respectively.

On the other hand, industries like Fishing, Extra Territorial Organizations bodies, Electricity, Real Estate/Renting and those business related, and Hotels and Restaurants are the least popular and have proportions of between 0.1 and 0.9 percent overall. This feature is common to all the economically active regardless of their residential location.

<b>Industry</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Inside the country</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Outside the country</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Agriculture	186,030	36.3	177,550	42.1	8,480	9.4
Fishing	399	0.1	293	0.1	106	0.1
Mining/Quarrying	54,712	10.7	12,730	3.0	41,982	46.5
Manufacturing/Processing	55,407	10.8	51,827	12.3	3,580	4.0
Electricity	2,333	0.5	2,012	0.5	321	0.4
Construction	38,502	7.5	24,444	5.8	14,058	15.6
Wholesale & Retail, Repair of Motor Vehicles & Personal and Household goods	28,576	5.6	25,249	6.0	3,327	3.7
Hotels and Restaurants	4,634	0.9	3,850	0.9	784	0.9
Transport, Storage and Communication	15,923	3.1	14,336	3.4	1,587	1.8
Financial Intermediation	3,526	0.7	3,365	0.8	161	0.2
Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities	4,323	0.8	3,900	0.9	423	0.5
Public Administration, Defence,Comp, Social Service	21,562	4.2	20,885	4.9	677	0.7
Education	1,9546	3.8	19,104	4.5	442	0.5
Health and Social work	6,862	1.3	6,355	1.5	507	0.6
Other Community, Social and Personal Services	19,558	3.8	17,704	4.2	1,854	2.1
Private Household	49,552	9.7	37,606	8.9	11,946	13.2
Extra territorial organizations bodies	798	0.2	742	0.2	56	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>512243</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>421952</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>90291</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## 4.7 Employment and unemployment characteristics of the labour force

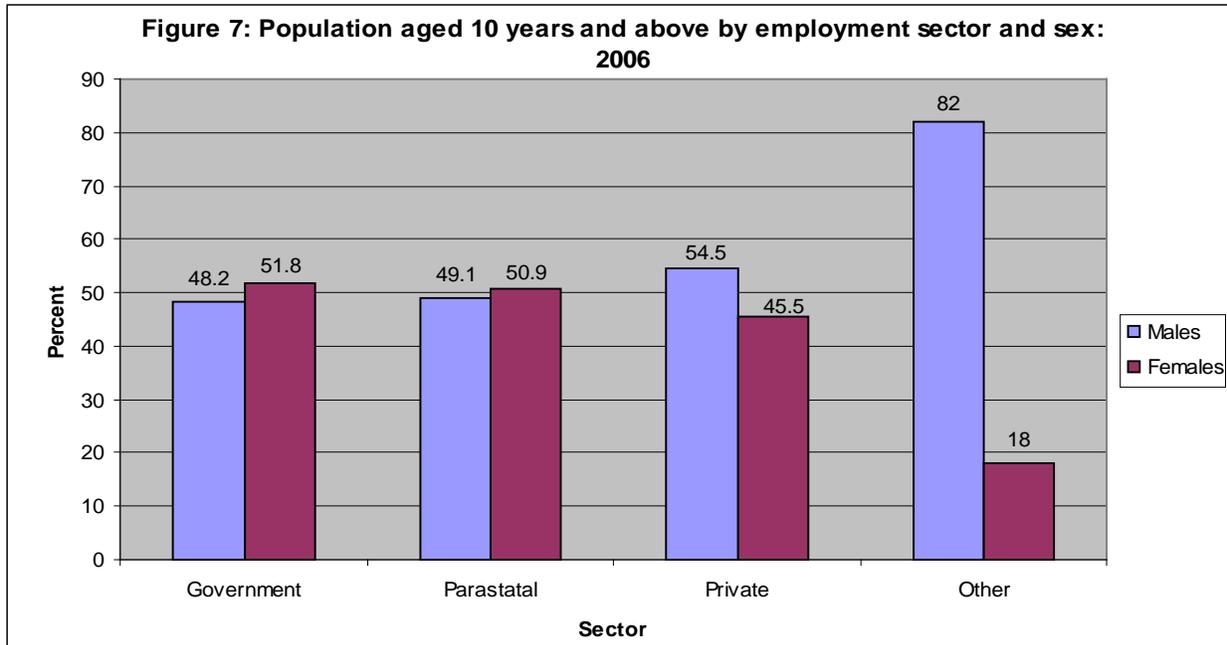
### 4.7.1 Employment characteristics

Table 4.20 and figure 7 show the distribution of employed population by employment sector. Data from both sources show the Private Sector to have the highest number of employees (55.7 percent) while the sector hitherto referred to as Other, and which

comprises largely of persons working in South African Mining, Quarrying as well as the Construction industries; rank second in order of significance with 27.2 percent share of the total number of the employed population. The Government employees follow third with 13.3 percent while the Para-statal employment category has the lowest percentage value of 3.8 percent.

The sex distribution of the employed population by the employment sector shows that more males than females are employed in the Other and Private sectors respectively with a significantly higher proportion (82.0 percent) of male employees found in the Other sector when compared to the Private sector which has 54.5 percent of the male employees. The comparative figures for females employed in the same sectors are 18.0 and 45.5 percent for the Other and Private sectors respectively. On the other hand, more females (51.8 percent) than males (48.2 percent) are employed in the Government Sector. In a like manner, the Para-statal sector encompasses 49.1 percent of the male employees while their female counterparts show a comparatively higher proportion of 50.9 percent.

<b>Table 4.20: Lesotho citizens aged 10 years and above employed for wages/salaries by employment sector and sex: 2006</b>						
<b>Sectors</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>percent</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>percent</b>
Government	42,705	13.3	20,600	48.2	22,105	51.8
Parastatal	1,2154	3.8	5,971	49.1	6,183	50.9
Private	178,692	55.7	97,407	54.5	81,285	45.5
Other	87,158	27.2	71,465	82.0	15,693	18.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>320,709</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>195,443</b>	<b>60.9</b>	<b>125,266</b>	<b>39.1</b>



The distribution of employed population by age and status in employment is shown in table 4.21 and figure 8. Overall, Own Account Workers dominate all other statuses in employment with 69 percent. The next category is Casual Workers with 17 percent and, is followed by Wages/Salary Earners with 13 percent. The Employer sector has the least number of employees, which constitute only 1 percent.

Table 4.21 shows the distribution of the employed population by age and status in employment. Data from the table shows that more than fifty percent (56.3 percent) of the total employed population falls within the broad age group 20-39, with the age group 25-29 presenting a higher percentage value (17.0 percent) when compared to all other age groups.

Almost near similar patterns of the age distributions of employed population is observed when analysis is made by various statuses in employment. For instance, with the exception of the Own Account Worker and Unpaid Family Worker, all other employment status categories continue to enjoy proportion of over fifty percent in the age range 20-39. Also, the age group 25-29 continues to retain the highest proportions for all the different employment status groups with the exception of the Unpaid Family Worker and the Job Seekers employment categories where the highest percentage values (28.3 for the Unpaid Family Worker and 29.1 percent for the Job seekers respectively) occur in the age group 20-24.

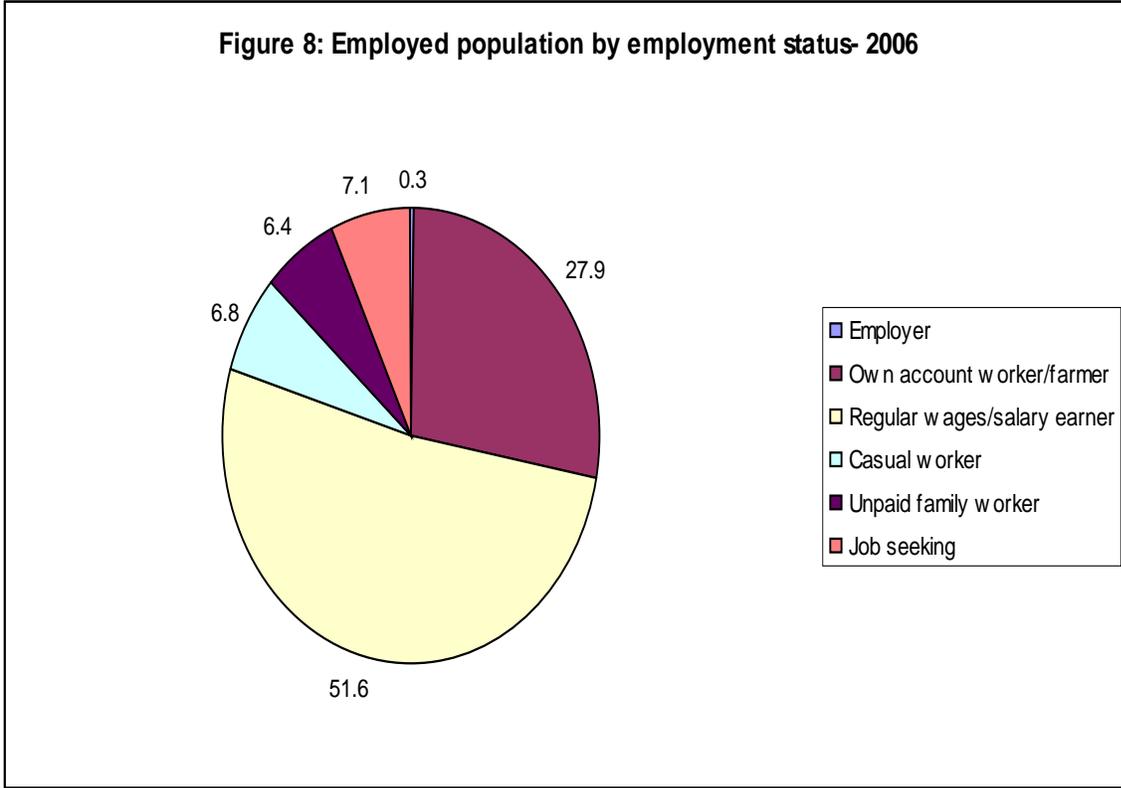
Variations also exist in patterns of age distributions of the employed between different statuses of employment. For instance, the Job Seekers have the largest proportion (73.0 percent) of people in the age group 25-49 and is seconded by the Regular Wage/Salary Earners and Casual workers with respective proportions of 62.1 and 61.8 percent while Own Account Workers and Unpaid Family Workers employment

status group have comparative percentage values of below fifty percent in the same age range.

Figure 8 shows that overall the employment status category with most people (51.6 percent) is that which constitutes Regular Wage/Salary Earners and, is followed by that comprising of Own Account workers with 27.9 percent. The categories of Job Seekers, Casual Workers and, Unpaid Family Workers have each proportions of between 6.4 and 7.1 percent with the Job Seekers retaining the highest percentage while the Employer category has the least number of people (0.3 percent).

<b>Table 4.21: Percentage distribution of employed population by age and status in employment: 2006</b>							
Age-group	Total	Employer	Own account worker /farmer	Regular wages/salary earner	Casual worker	Unpaid family worker	Job seeking
10 -14	1.2	0.0	0.4	1.1	0.5	7.6	0.7
15 - 19	7.6	1.0	3.6	6.6	5.4	31.8	11.1
20 - 24	15.5	5.8	9.2	15.3	17.5	28.3	29.1
25 - 29	17.0	12.5	11.7	19.3	19.4	12.3	23.5
30 - 34	13.3	15.3	11.0	15.3	14.1	5.5	13.4
35 - 39	10.5	17.0	9.5	12.2	10.8	3.1	7.8
40 - 44	9.1	15.1	9.1	10.4	8.6	2.5	5.3
45 - 49	7.6	13.1	8.7	8.3	7.0	1.9	3.7
50 - 54	6.1	8.5	8.7	5.8	5.7	1.7	2.2
55 - 59	4.3	5.7	8.0	3.1	4.3	1.5	1.5
60 - 64	2.8	2.5	6.4	1.4	3.0	1.1	0.8
65+	5.0	3.6	13.7	1.3	3.6	2.5	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>551989</b>	<b>1455</b>	<b>154082</b>	<b>284829</b>	<b>37542</b>	<b>35108</b>	<b>38973</b>

**Figure 8: Employed population by employment status- 2006**



#### 4.7.2 Unemployment characteristics

Table 4.22 presents the percentage distribution of unemployed population by urban/rural residence, job seeking status and sex. As can be seen from the table, unemployment level is high in the rural areas compared to the urban areas. Thus 38.2 percent of the population in the urban areas is unemployed while the comparative figure in the rural areas is much higher (61.8 percent). This observation holds regardless of whether or not an individual is seeking employment for the first time.

The sex distribution of job seekers shows more female job seekers (53.2 percent) in the urban areas than males (37.4 percent). However, the rural figures present a totally different scenario showing more male job seekers (62.6 percent) in the rural areas than females who present 46.8 percent comparatively. Similar pattern of differentials by urban and rural residential background is observed for males and females who are first time job seekers. As can be observed, rural males who are seeking jobs for the first time constitute 73.0 percent while a comparative figure for females in the same job status category is 59.6 percent.

**Table 4.22: Unemployed population aged 10 years by urban/rural residence and activity status: 2006**

Residential Status	Total	Job seeking				Job seeking for the first time				
		%	Male	%	Female	%	Male	%	Female	%
Urban	14,874	38.2	4,904	37.4	4,385	53.2	3,080	27.0	2,505	40.4
Rural	24,099	61.8	8,210	62.6	3,862	46.8	8,336	73.0	3,691	59.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,973</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>13,114</b>	100	<b>8,247</b>	100.0	<b>11,416</b>	100.0	<b>6,196</b>	100.0

The next table (Table 4.23), together with figure 9; shows the distribution of the unemployed population by their marital status categories. Data from the table shows that almost half (49.8 percent) of the total unemployed population constitutes the unmarried males and females. Another significant proportion (41.7 percent) of the unemployed population consists of males and females who are currently married; while a less significant proportion (8.5 percent) comprises of the ever married category of people who assume either one of the widowed, divorced or separated marital status categories.

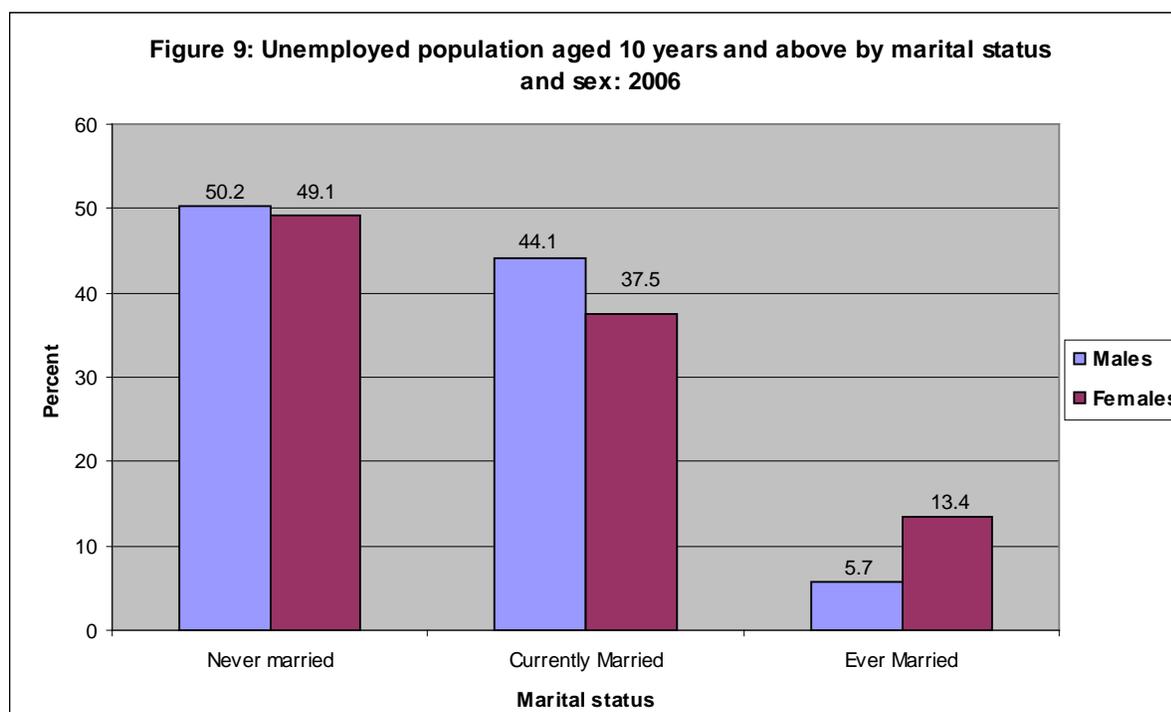
The sex distribution of the unemployed population by marital status conforms to a pattern observed for the totals, which shows that regardless of the sex; majority of the unemployed have never married. One peculiar observation though, is that the percentages of unemployed males are higher relative to those for females in all marital status categories with the exception of those who have encountered different types of marital dissolutions. For instance, 50.2 percent of never married males are unemployed, while the comparative figure for unmarried females is 49.1 percent.

For the currently married population, which include both monogamously and polygamously and living together, unemployed males constitute 44.1 percent of the total male population whereas the comparative figure for females is 37.5 percent. As in the preceding analysis, the category of the previously married population, which consists of divorced, separated and widowed, a small percentage (5.7 percent) of males are not employed while their females' counterparts show a comparatively higher percentage value of 13.4 percent.

The results indicates that never married population are the people who are mostly in need of employment followed by currently married population with figures which vary by small percentages as compared to the married population. The ever-married population seems to be the marriage category that presents the highest rate of employment.

**Table 4.23: Unemployed population aged 10 years and above by marital status and sex: 2006**

Marital Status	Total	Percent	Male	Percent	Female	Percent
Never married	19,406	49.8	12,317	50.2	7,089	49.1
Currently Married	16,236	41.7	10,819	44.1	5,417	37.5
Ever Married	3,331	8.5	1,394	5.7	1,937	13.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,973</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>24,530</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>14,443</b>	<b>100.0</b>



## 4.8. Inactive Population Characteristics

### 4.8.1: The age and sex structure of the inactive population

The size of the inactive population at any given point sheds some light on the burden of economic dependency that is endured by the currently active population. On a positive note however, its age and sex structural distribution serves to inform policy makers on (a) the potential size of the future labour force (b) the identification of the human resource skills currently available, as well as (c) the drawing of a road map to be adopted in order to enhance and appraise the existing training and educational programmes and to pave the way for the new and relevant ones for the future development and economic progress of the nation.

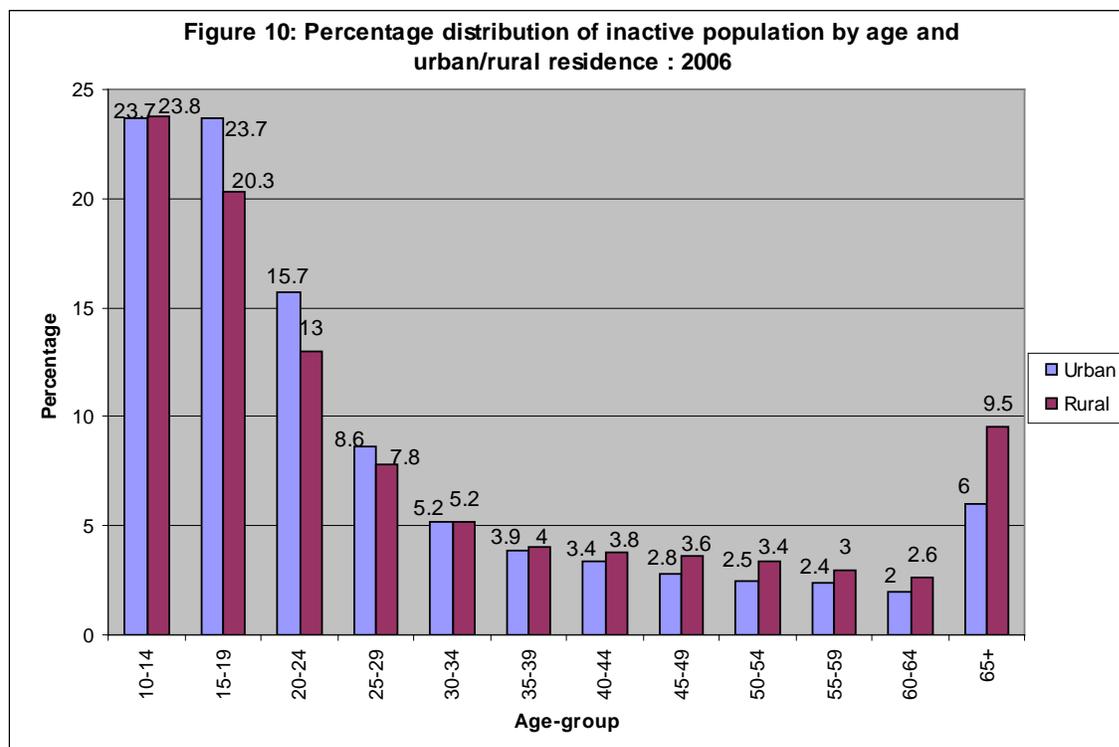
The 2006 age and sex structural distribution of Lesotho's inactive population is shown in Table 4.24. Data from the table shows that overall, 66.3 percent of the inactive population consists of young people aged 29 years and below and that the proportions of inactive population decrease as age increases. The sex distribution presents higher proportion of inactive males (75.6 percent) than females (60.4) percent in the same age range. The pattern of the distribution of inactive population changes, however; beyond age 29, this time reflecting higher percentage values for females relative to those for males. This may reflect a reference period during which majority of women get married and assume family responsibilities which also include child bearing. Overall, a clear pattern common to both males and females; is observed which reflects a continuous decrease in percent inactive as age increases.

The urban/rural differentials in percent inactive (Table 4.25 and Figure 10) portray a similar pattern to that observed for the total inactive population. Further, the percent inactive for the young adult population aged 29 years and below is higher in the urban area (71.7 percent) compared to that observed for the rural population (64.9 percent). Beyond age 29 however, rural percentage distribution for the inactive population reflects higher values than those observed for urban areas although the marginal differences are comparatively small.

<b>Age Groups</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Percent</b>
10-14	214,573	23.8	104,942	30.0	109,631	19.9
15-19	188,836	21.0	86,646	24.7	102,190	18.6
20-24	122,191	13.6	48,571	13.9	73,620	13.4
25-29	71,427	7.9	24,491	7.0	46,936	8.5
30-34	46,567	5.2	14,099	4.0	32,468	5.9
35-39	35,839	4.0	9,732	2.8	26,107	4.7
40-44	33,245	3.7	8,564	2.4	24,681	4.5
45-49	30,790	3.4	8,128	2.3	22,662	4.1
50-54	29,298	3.3	8,054	2.3	21,244	3.9
55-59	26,219	2.9	8,189	2.3	18,030	3.3
60-64	22,177	2.5	6,891	2.0	15,286	2.8
65+	79,429	8.8	21,918	6.3	57,511	10.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>900,591</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>350,225</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>550,366</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 4.25: Total number of inactive population by age and urban/rural residence: 2006**

<b>Age groups</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Urban</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Rural</b>	<b>Percent</b>
10-14	214,573	23.8	42,221	23.7	172,352	23.8
15-19	188,836	21.0	42,213	23.7	146,623	20.3
20-24	122,191	13.6	27,950	15.7	94,241	13.0
25-29	71,427	7.9	15,322	8.6	56,105	7.8
30-34	46,567	5.2	9,276	5.2	37,291	5.2
35-39	35,839	4.0	6,991	3.9	28,848	4.0
40-44	33,245	3.7	5,984	3.4	27,261	3.8
45-49	30,790	3.4	5,069	2.8	25,721	3.6
50-54	29,298	3.3	4,459	2.5	24,839	3.4
55-59	26,219	2.9	4,208	2.4	22,011	3.0
60-64	22,177	2.5	3,526	2.0	18,651	2.6
65+	79,429	8.8	10,702	6.0	68,727	9.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>900,591</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>177,921</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>722,670</b>	<b>100.0</b>



#### 4.9 Summary of the findings

The main objective of this chapter was to analyze and discuss the broad aspects of the economic characteristics of Lesotho's population using the data collected from 2006 Lesotho population and housing census. These characteristics are analyzed by section as shown in the introduction and as such, the summarization of the main findings follows the sectional analysis of the chapter as shown below.

#### Section 4.2: The size and growth of the labour force

The findings are:

- Both the total size of Lesotho's population aged 10 years and above and the corresponding labour force population in the same age range have decreased over time. Total population size declined in percent from 28.6 to 21.6 and further to 4.0 percent in the inter-censal periods 1976-86, 1986-96 and 1996-06 respectively while the size labour force declined by 18.9, 13.7, and -3.7 percent respectively in the same inter censal reference periods.
- Sex differentials in patterns of decline in labour force size exist. Male proportions declined continuously from 67.6 to 49.8 percent between 1976 and 2006, while female proportions fluctuated in the same reference period: an initial drop from 29.3 to nearly 23.0 percent between 1976 and 1986 followed by increases to 26.6 and 27.2 percent respectively in the inter-

censal periods 1986-96 and 1996-06; although to levels still comparatively lower than that for 1976.

- Majority of the active labour force reside inside the country. More importantly data suggest a rising trend in proportions inside the country from 71.7 percent in 1976 to 82.4 percent in 2006.
- The sex composition of 2006 labour force shows more males (62.9 percent) than females (37.1 percent) to be active. The urban and rural comparisons conform to the pattern observed for totals with more males than females (51.0 percent of males versus 49.0 percent of females) active in the urban areas while the comparative figures for the rural areas are 67.9 percent for males and 32.1 percent for females.

#### **Section 4.3: The characteristics of the economically active population.**

The summary of the findings from demographic perspective: age and sex distribution of the economically active population are:

- The percentage distribution of the active increases with age, rising to respective maximum levels of 17.0 percent for totals, 16.7 for males and 17.6 percent for females in the age group 25-29 and decreasing with increasing age thereafter.
- The sex differentials in the age structure of the labour force show that female proportions are persistently higher than those for males in almost all ages except in the first two younger age groups. Urban and rural areas differentials demonstrates a peculiar pattern reflecting higher rural proportions in the first three age groups, followed by comparatively higher percentages observed in the urban areas for the subsequent higher age groups.

Regarding the educational characteristics of the economically active population, the specific findings are:

- Majority of the active males and females have attained primary or lower educational level with the picture more glaring for the extreme age groups.
- For both the Upper and Lower Secondary levels of educational attainment, highest proportions of active males and females are in age group 25-29. Tertiary educational levels also present a similar pattern although the figures are comparatively lower in all ages.

#### **Section 4.4: Labour force participation**

Findings from this section are:

- That the crude economic activity rate for 2006 is 29.6 percent while its refined rate equivalent is 38.1 percent. The observed high levels of reined economic rates conform to the general pattern characteristic of most national populations worldwide.
- Urban rates are higher (39.0 percent crude and 48.1 percent refined) rates respectively are higher than rural rates (26.9 crude and 35.0 percent refined).

- Male rates, whether crude or refined are comparatively higher than female rates.

Findings from the analysis of the age and sex specific labour force participation rates are that:

- For 2006 population census, generally, and regardless of the sex; the participation rates rise with age and reach maximum levels of 78.7 percent in age group 35-39 for males and 45.6 percent for females in the broad age group 30-39. Thereafter, the participation rates decrease with increasing age. This pattern is also found when the trend analysis of age and sex specific activity rates is extended to the previous census dates although variation exist in respect of the peak age as well as the rapidity with which the rates increase.
- Overall, the age and sex specific labour force participation rates show a clear downward trend for the most recent census dates including that for 2006 although patterns of decrease differ especially for totals, by sex. Thus, whereas male labour force participation rates show clear and continuous decrease from a high level of 67.6 percent in 1976 to 66.8 percent in 1986 and further declines to 56.0 percent and 49.8 percent respectively in 1996 and 2006, females portray a different pattern which is characterized by an initial decline in overall labour force participation rates from 29.2 percent to 23.0 percent from 1976 to 1986 with subsequent dates however, pointing towards a rise in levels to 26.4 and 27.2 percent respectively in 1996 and 2006.
- Residential differentials in labour force participation rates by age and sex point to the finding that the tempo and the propensity to participate in economic activities differ not only by sex, but also between urban and rural areas. Thus, rural male labour force participation rates are comparatively higher (6.4, 28.0 and 53.4 percent respectively in the age groups 10-14, 15-19 and 20-24 compared to urban levels of 1.0, 11.4 and 48.1 percent respectively in the same age groups). Beyond age group 20-24, urban participation rates supersede the rural rates in magnitude and reach their highest level of 86.5 percent in the age group 35-39. By contrast urban female labour force participation rates are higher in all age groups when compared to those observed in the rural areas.

#### **Section 4.5: Occupational Characteristics**

The findings from this section are:

- Over seventy percent (73.7) of the working labour force population is in elementary, skilled agriculture/fisheries and craft related occupations with their respective shares of significance being 38.5, 23.2, and 12.0 percent.
- The Legislators, Senior Officials and Managers, Professionals and Armed Forces have minimal proportional shares of all occupations with levels ranging between 1.4 and 0.5 percent while the other occupational categories have intermediate percentage values of between 3.4 percent (Plant and machine operators) and 6.2

percent (Service workers and Sales workers). Same scenario is observed when comparisons are made between males and females.

- The distribution of occupations by sex and marital status show that elementary occupation takes the largest share of the working population with the never married males having the largest proportional share of 61.1 percent while the comparative figure for females is 45.6 percent

#### **Section 4.6: Industrial Characteristics**

The main findings are:

- Agriculture continues to enjoy the lead as the popular industry with more than forty percent (42.1 percent) of the population residing in Lesotho. The second important industry is Manufacturing and Processing with a 12.3 percent share and, is followed by Private Household and Wholesale and Retail, and Construction industries with respective proportions of 8.9, 6.0, and 5.8 percent. 46.5 percent of Lesotho's active labour force works in the Mining and Quarrying industries of South Africa.
- Variations by sex in percent distribution of the population within industries exist. For instance, whereas more males (52.3 and 8.9 percent) than females (26.9 and 1.2 percent) are engaged in the Agricultural and Construction industries, fewer men (5.1 and 3.3 percent) than women (22.9 and 17.2 percent) work in the manufacturing and processing and Private Household industries.
- The industrial categories with least number of people are Fishing, Extra Territorial Organizations, Electricity and Financial Intermediation bodies with values of between 0.1 and 0.5 percent each while the rest of the industries have proportions ranging between 1 and 6 percent.
- Variations also exist in pattern of the distribution of active population within industry by urban and rural residence. For instance, close to sixty percent (57.9 percent) of people in the rural areas is engaged in the Agricultural sector while the comparative figure for the urban area is only 9.0. By contrast, a large proportion of the active urban population are engaged in the Manufacturing /Processing (26.2 percent), Wholesale and Retail (10.1 percent, Private Household (9.9 percent) and Public Admin/Defense. (9.8 percent) industries. The rural comparative proportions are lower for the same industrial categories.

#### **Section 4.7 Employment and Unemployment Characteristics**

The main findings on Employment are:

- Overall, the Private Sector has the highest proportion (55.7 percent) of employees and, is followed by the sector of "other" people (Mostly comprising of Basotho males and females who work in South African

Mining industries) with a share of 27.2 percent. The proportion of Government employees is 13.3 percent while the private sector is the least represented with only 3.8 percent of all employees.

- The sex distribution of employees by sector shows that more females than males are employed in the Government (51.8 percent males versus 48.2 percent females) and Parastatal (50.9 males versus 49.1 females percent) sectors. Contrarily, both the “Other” and the Private (54.5 percent) and sectors have comparatively more males than females with the respective proportions of 82.0 percent and 54.5 percent for males while for females employed in the same sectors they are 18.0 percent and 45.5 percent respectively.
- 
- More than fifty percent (56.3 percent) of the total employed population falls within the broad age group 20-39, with the age group 25-29 presenting a higher percentage value (17.0 percent) when compared to all other age groups.
- The distribution of the working population by status in employment shows that majority (51.6 percent) of them are wage earners. The next important employment status group is that comprising of Own Account Workers who constitute 27.9 percent while the Employers category has the least number of people (0.3 percent).

**Findings from the characteristics of the Unemployed Population are:**

- The percent unemployed is higher in rural (61.8 percent) than urban (38.2 percent) areas.
- The sex distribution of job seekers shows that there are more female than male job seekers (e.g. 53.2 percent for females versus 37.4 percent for males) in the urban areas. The rural population presents a different perspective showing comparatively higher percentage for males (62.6 percent) than females (46.8 percent). The pattern is the same irrespective of whether or not individuals are seeking the job for the first time.
- Close to fifty percent (49.8 percent) of the total unemployed population consists of the never married population while 41.7 percent comprises of those who are currently married and only 8.5 percent is either divorce or separated. Proportions of unemployed males are comparatively higher than those for females in all the marital status categories (e.g. 50.2 percent for males versus 49.1 percent for females who have never-married) except that for the ever-married females whose proportion is 13.4 percent while that for males is 5.7 percent.

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#### **Section 4.8 The characteristics of the Inactive Population are:**

- Overall, a larger proportion (61.1 percent) of inactive population is females, with the remaining proportion (38.9 percent) constituting males.
- The age distribution of the inactive population shows that 58.4 percent of them consists of young people aged below 25 years. The sex distribution shows a similar pattern with more males (68.6 percent) than females (51.9 percent) in the same age range. Beyond age 25 the pattern of percent distribution changes, this time reflecting comparatively higher values for females than for males in all the subsequent higher age groups.
- The percent distribution of the inactive population by urban and rural residence show a similar pattern to that observed for the total.
- Further, the urban/rural age differentials show population aged below 29 years is higher in the urban areas

## **CHAPTER 5: YOUTH<sup>5</sup>**

### **5.1 Introduction**

This chapter presents the analysis of data on the Youth in Lesotho. The period when a person is seen as young may be considered as the formative stage changing from a dependant childhood to independent adulthood. Young people make up the next generation of parents, workers and leaders. Their well being influences not only their lives, but also the societies which they are expected to develop and maintain, therefore their ability depends on the support from their communities and in particular the government. Meeting the needs of youth is a major continuing public policy challenge which calls for constant re-thinking of policies, re-assessment of priorities, commitment of adequate financial resources and effective implementation of programmes.

In 1986 Census report there was a chapter on women, children and youth, but in 1996 census the chapter was not included at all. In the 1986 report, children and youth were analyzed together. Unlike in 1986, this report covers the Youth only. This is the first effort to compile data and statistics in order to give a picture of the situation of young people in Lesotho. The 2006 census results will be compared with comparable estimates derived from the 1996 census. The chapter provides data and analysis on the different stages of young people by underlying demographic, economic and social background. It is anticipated that the information will contribute to sound policy development and decisions appropriate for the needs of youth.

There is no clear-cut definition of youth in Lesotho as different organizations use different definitions. For instance, the National Youth Policy, UNAIDS, and WHO define youth as population between 10 to 24 years of age; the United Nations uses the age range 15 to 25 years, while the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Recreation uses the age range 10 to 35. This chapter adopts the United Nations definition of the age group 15 to 24 in order to allow for international comparison. For the purpose of this chapter the age group will further be split into two broad age groups as follows: 15 to 19 which represents adolescents and 20 to 24 which represents the older young population.

### **5.2 Population size, age, sex and distribution of young people**

Figures from the 2006 population census indicate that about 438,569 people aged between 15 and 24 reside in Lesotho. A total of 230,617 youth are between 15 and 19 years of age, slightly more than the population of the other age group (20-24), which recorded a total of 207,952. In terms of share of the population total, youth represents about a quarter (23.5 percent) of the total, and this share has increased from 22.3 percent level observed in 1996. The proportion of young people aged between 15 and 19 is 12.3 percent, slightly higher than the share of young people aged 20-24 by 11.1 percent. The share of youth aged between 15 and 24 in the total population at the

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<sup>5</sup> This chapter was prepared by Makhale Makhalanyaane

district level ranges between 21.3 percent and 24.6 percent with Mafeteng district taking the upper extreme, while Thaba-Tseka takes the lower extreme, as shown in Table 5.1.

The table further presents distribution of population aged 15 to 24 years by sex within districts. In general, there are more female young persons (youth) in Lesotho than their male counterparts, constituting 50.6 percent and 49.4 percent respectively. Among the districts, males are dominating in Botha-Bothe, Mafeteng, Mohale's Hoek and Quthing and Mokhotlong with 50.3 percent, 52.0 percent, 51.3 percent, 50.1 percent and 50.6 percent respectively. Maseru has the lowest sex ratio of 88 males per 100 females. Mafeteng had the highest sex ratio of 108.2 males per 100 females. The possible reason for this high sex ratio is that there is high outmigration of females aged 15 to 24 in Lesotho from other districts to mostly to Maseru because of industries in Maseru which seem to hire more females. The overall sex ratio of young persons is about 98 males per 100 females which is above national sex ratio.

<b>Table 5.1: Population aged 15 to 24 years by district and sex</b>				
Percentage share of young persons to the total population by sex, sex ratio and district, Census 2006				
District	Percent share	Male	Female	Sex ratio
Total	23.5	49.4	50.6	97.8
Botha-Bothe	23.8	50.3	49.7	101.0
Leribe	23.7	49.8	50.2	99.2
Berea	23.8	49.4	50.6	97.6
Maseru	24.1	46.7	53.3	87.7
Mafeteng	24.6	52.0	48.0	108.2
Mohale's Hoek	23.5	51.3	48.7	105.3
Quthing	23.1	50.1	49.9	100.5
Qacha's Nek	23.0	48.7	51.3	95.0
Mokhotlong	21.7	50.6	49.4	102.3
Thaba-Tseka	21.0	49.7	50.3	99.0

Table 5.2 presents the distribution of youth by four ecological zones. As the table shows most of the youth (58.5 percent) were from the lowlands and a small proportion are from Senqu River Valley (9.8 percent). The table further shows that only the Lowlands have more females than males, with sex ratio of 93.8 males per 100 females.

<b>Table 5.2: Population aged 15 to 24 years by ecological zones</b>				
Proportions of young persons by ecological zone and sex, Census 2006				
Ecological Zone	Both sexes	Male	Female	Sex ratio
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	98.0
Lowlands	58.5	57.3	59.8	93.8
Foothills	12.9	13.5	12.2	108.9
Mountains	18.8	19.3	18.4	102.9
Senqu River Valley	9.8	9.9	9.7	100.7

### 5.3 Household arrangement

This section assesses the living arrangements of young population. Here the major focus is to study the variations in the relationship of young to the head of the household. As can be seen from Table 5.3, most (55.1 percent) of the young population are reported as the children of the head of the household. In all the districts, young people were largely reported as children of the head of household, with comparatively higher proportions observed in the Northern districts than in the Central and Southern districts. In particular, Botha-Bothe had the highest proportion (59.4 percent) of child of head of household, while Maseru has the lowest. Headship status of the youth shows Maseru district as having the highest proportion of youth who are heads of household, while Qacha's Nek has the lowest. When looking at those who reported themselves as being spouse to the head, Thaba-Tseka has the highest proportion (8.8 percent) while Quthing has lowest (4.1 percent).

**Table 5.3: Household arrangements**  
Proportions of young population by district and relationship to head, Census 2006

	Head	Spouse	Child	Son/daughter-In-law	Grandchild/great grand child	Other relative	No relationship
Total	5.3	6.7	55.1	5.2	9.8	12.8	5.2
Botha- Bothe	3.6	5.9	59.4	7.0	10.1	10.5	3.5
Leribe	4.4	6.7	58.7	5.0	9.6	11.6	3.9
Berea	4.1	6.3	58.1	4.4	9.6	12.6	4.9
Maseru	8.9	8.1	50.3	3.5	8.1	15.1	6.0
Mafeteng	4.8	5.6	54.9	6.1	10.3	12.2	6.0
Mohale's Hoek	3.8	5.2	54.8	6.8	11.6	12.7	5.1
Quthing	3.7	4.1	56.8	6.6	12.2	12.7	3.8
Qacha's Nek	3.5	5.0	56.1	6.5	11.5	13.3	4.0
Mokhotlong	5.0	8.6	52.4	4.9	9.3	11.8	7.9
Thaba- Tseka	3.9	8.8	53.8	6.2	10.0	10.5	6.7

### 5.4 Literacy and Education

This section assesses the educational attainment and literacy of youth in Lesotho. Results from 2006 census reveal that 75.7 percent of youth is literate, with the proportion literate being higher among females relative to males, 85 percent and 66.2 percent respectively. The ratio of literate women to men aged 15 to 24 (Literacy Parity index) is 131, indicating that out of 100 literate males there are 131 literate females.. Figure 5.1 shows young persons by level of educational attainment and sex. As the figure demonstrates, there are more young females than their male counterparts, except in the category of no education where males outnumber females. In fact, the result indicates that males are five times as likely as females not have any education. The likely reason for the large educational disadvantage among male youth relative to their female counterparts is that in Lesotho, most boys are herdboys and are therefore less likely to go to school. However, the recent implementation of the policy of free and compulsory education is expected to redress this situation.

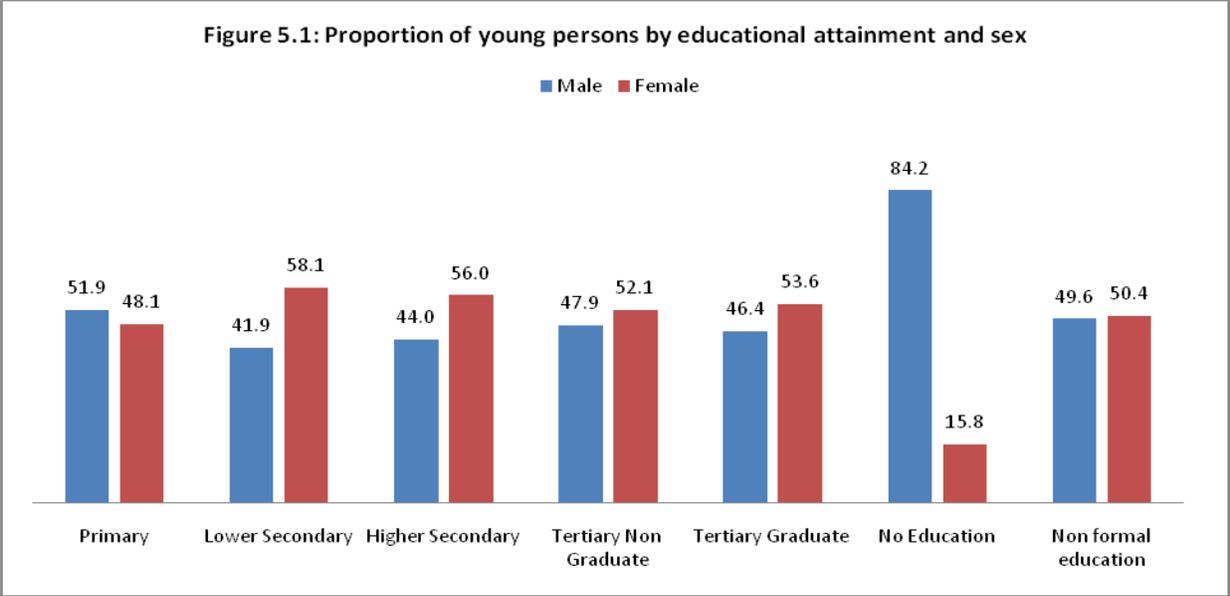


Table 5.4 presents educational attainment of young people disaggregated by district. As the table demonstrates most (47.4 percent) of the young population have attained primary level and very few have no formal education. Thaba-Tseka has the highest proportion (58.2 percent) of young persons who attained primary level education and Maseru has the lowest (40.0 percent). Overall, and with the exception of Qacha’s Nek; the mountain districts including those falling largely within the southern belt, exhibit higher proportions of youth who attained primary level of education compared with other districts. Considering lower secondary level of educational attainment, Leribe has the highest proportion (33.1 percent), followed closely by Maseru (31.8 percent), Botha-Bothe (30.8 percent), and Berea(30.7 percent). The lowest proportion was observed for Thaba Tseka district (20.2 percent). Maseru dominates in the higher secondary, tertiary non graduate and tertiary graduate educational attainment categories with 19.7 percent, 3.9 percent and 1.1 percent respectively. Most of the young persons with no education reside in Mokhotlong (14.3 percent) and Thaba Tseka (13.9 percent), while those with no formal education were mostly found in Mohale’s Hoek (0.08 percent).

**Table 5.4: Young population by district and education**  
**Proportions of young persons by district and educational attainment, Census 2006**

District	Educational Attainment							
	Total	Primary	Lower Secondary	Higher Secondary	Tertiary Non Graduate	Tertiary Graduate	No Education	Non formal education
Total	100.0	47.4	29.2	14.8	2.3	0.6	5.6	0.03
Botha-Bothe	100.0	47.2	30.8	15.8	1.9	0.3	4.0	0.01
Leribe	100.0	45.7	33.1	15.6	2.1	0.6	2.8	0.04
Berea	100.0	45.9	30.7	16.8	3.0	0.8	2.7	0.06
Maseru	100.0	40.0	31.8	19.7	3.9	1.1	3.6	0.01
Mafeteng	100.0	51.4	29.6	12.4	1.3	0.5	4.9	0.01
Mohale's Hoek	100.0	52.1	26.1	11.5	1.4	0.4	8.5	0.08
Quthing	100.0	52.7	25.0	11.7	1.6	0.2	8.9	0.01
Qacha's Nek	100.0	49.4	27.7	13.2	1.9	0.2	7.7	0.03
Mokhotlong	100.0	53.8	21.8	8.9	1.0	0.3	14.3	0.01
Thaba-Tseka	100.0	58.2	20.2	7.0	0.6	0.2	13.9	0.04

## 5.5 Marital Status

One important proximate determinant of fertility is marriage. In Lesotho marriage is largely universal, and most child births occur within marriage. Therefore it is important to study the marital status of the youth as they constitute the future generations of parents. The 2006 census results show that majority of young persons (78.3 percent) in Lesotho are currently never married while 20.3 percent were currently married, and 1.4 percent have previously been married. This pattern of the marital status composition of the youth is observed in all the districts as depicted in Table 5.5. The percentage of young married persons has decreased by 1.4 percentage points from 21.7 percent observed in 1996 census (Bureau of Statistics, 1998).

**Table 5.5: Young population by marital status**

Proportions of young population aged between 15 and 24 years by district and marital status, Census 2006

District	Total	Never married	Currently Married	Previously married
Total	100	78.3	20.3	1.4
Botha-Bothe	100	77.0	22.0	1.1
Leribe	100	79.1	19.5	1.3
Berea	100	79.8	18.9	1.3
Maseru	100	79.9	18.7	1.4
Mafeteng	100	78.2	20.3	1.5
Mohale's Hoek	100	77.6	20.8	1.7
Quthing	100	78.3	20.0	1.7
Qacha's Nek	100	76.4	21.8	1.8
Mokhotlong	100	76.0	22.7	1.3
Thaba-Tseka	100	72.8	26.0	1.2

## 5.6. Economic Activity

Despite the fact that the current young people are smaller in number and better educated than their previous generation, difficulties remain with respect to their

prospects for entering the labour market. Many of those who have already gained employment often hold unstable jobs often not related to their training. There are several reasons for this, including the mismatch between the educational training/ skills acquired, the labour market requirements, as well as the persistently high prevalence of unemployment rates witnessed in the country today. In financially difficult times, companies often tend to downsize their recruitment requirements, despite the fact that there may be more qualified experts available in the job market.

According to the 2006 census returns, the percentage share of young people in the labour force is 39.4 percent. The overall participation rate of young population in the labour force is 29.3 percent with males having higher participation rate (37.8 percent) than females who exhibited 21.1 percent level of participation in the labour force. Figure 5.2 presents trends in labour force participation rates between census years by two age groups. As the figure depicts, the participation rate is higher for the age group 20 to 24 when compared with the age group 15 to 19. The figure further reveals that young peoples' labour force participation has generally been declining regardless of the age group in the period 1976 to 2006. This may in part be explained by young peoples' participation in education as current school attendance seems to be increasing as shown in Figure 5.2. The possibility of high prevalence of hidden or disguised unemployment can also not be ruled out

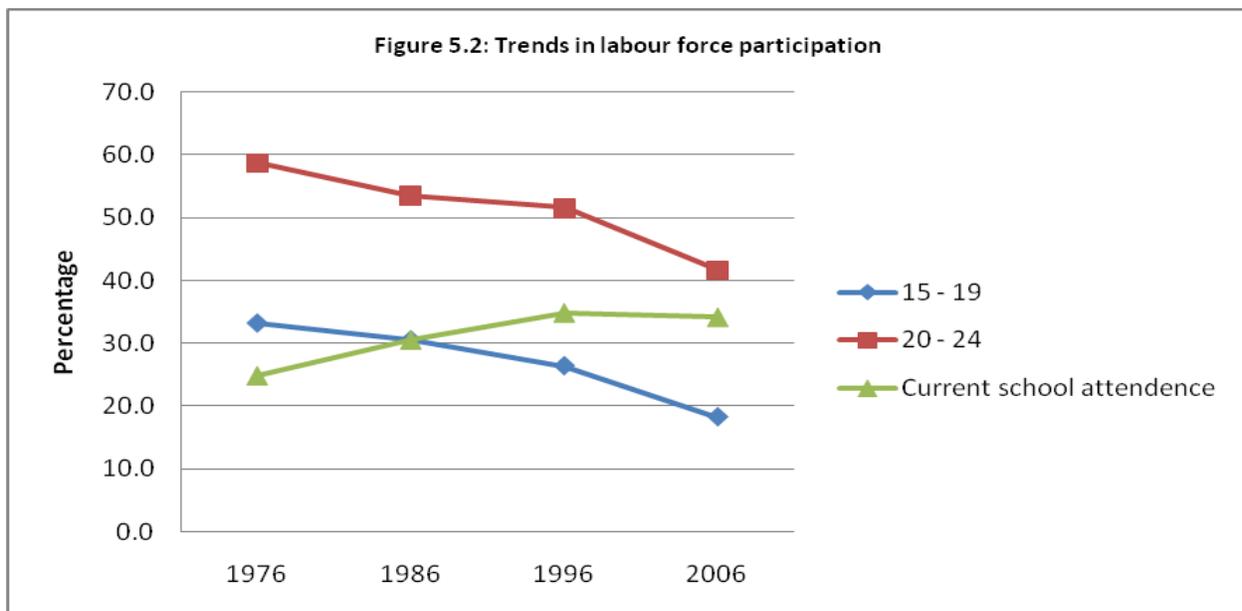
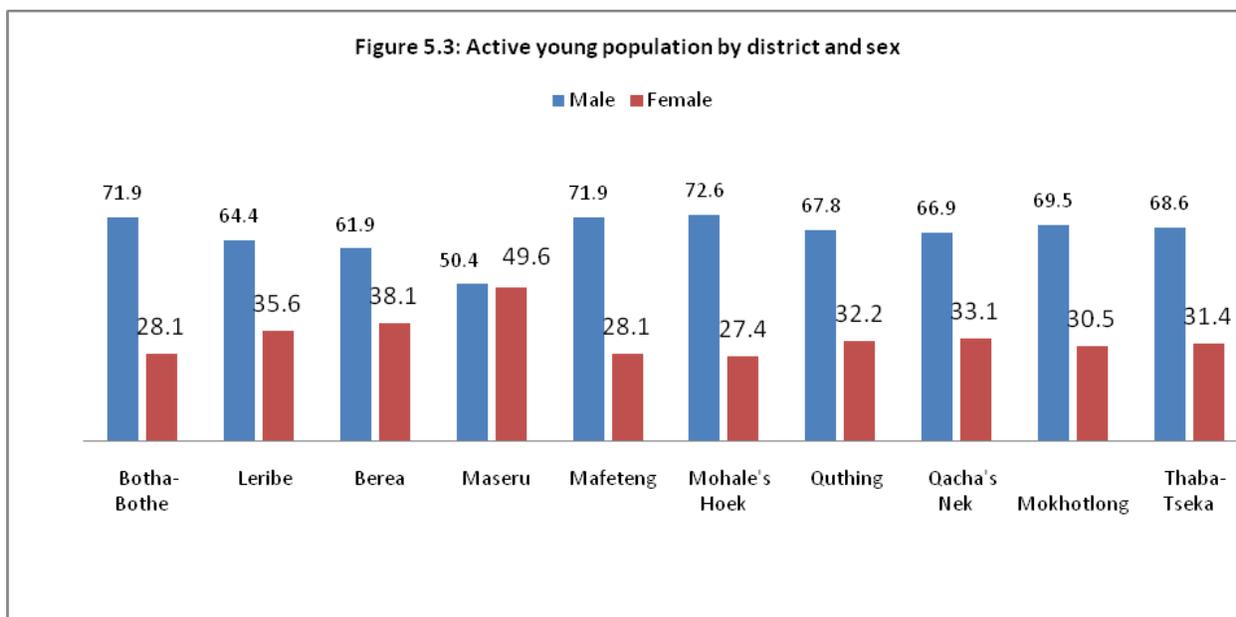


Figure 5.3 presents the economically active young people by district and sex. The figure reveals that in all the districts, the proportions of active young males are higher than that those for females, however, difference is very small in Maseru district perhaps due to the predominance of females in the manufacturing and service industries which are likely to employ young people, especially females.



### 5.6.1: Employment Status

Majority (62.6 percent) of young persons, most of whom have attained primary education (66.8 percent) with very few having tertiary education, reported their occupation as elementary. At least half (52 percent) of those who attained tertiary graduate work as professionals. The industries which hire most of the young persons include agriculture, fishing, mining and quarrying.

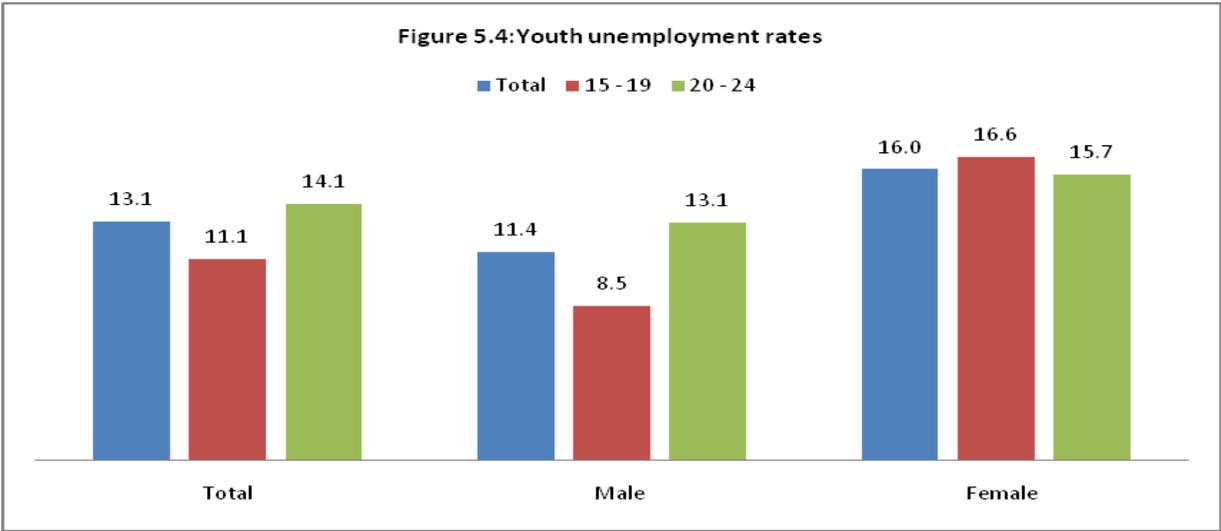
Table 5.6 presents employment status of all young persons aged 15-24 years by sex. As the table shows, 60.1 percent of unpaid workers are those aged 15-24, while only 6.7 percent of employers are those aged 15-24. There are more males than females in all employment status categories.

<b>Table 5.6: Young population by employment status</b>			
Proportion of young persons by employment status and sex, Census 2006			
	Proportion Young	Male	Female
Total	23.3	63.7	36.3
Employer	6.7	63.3	36.7
Own account worker/farmer	12.8	68.1	31.9
Regular wages/salary earner	21.8	58.2	41.8
Casual worker	22.9	70.8	29.2
Unpaid family worker	60.1	79.3	20.7

### 5.6.2 Unemployment rates

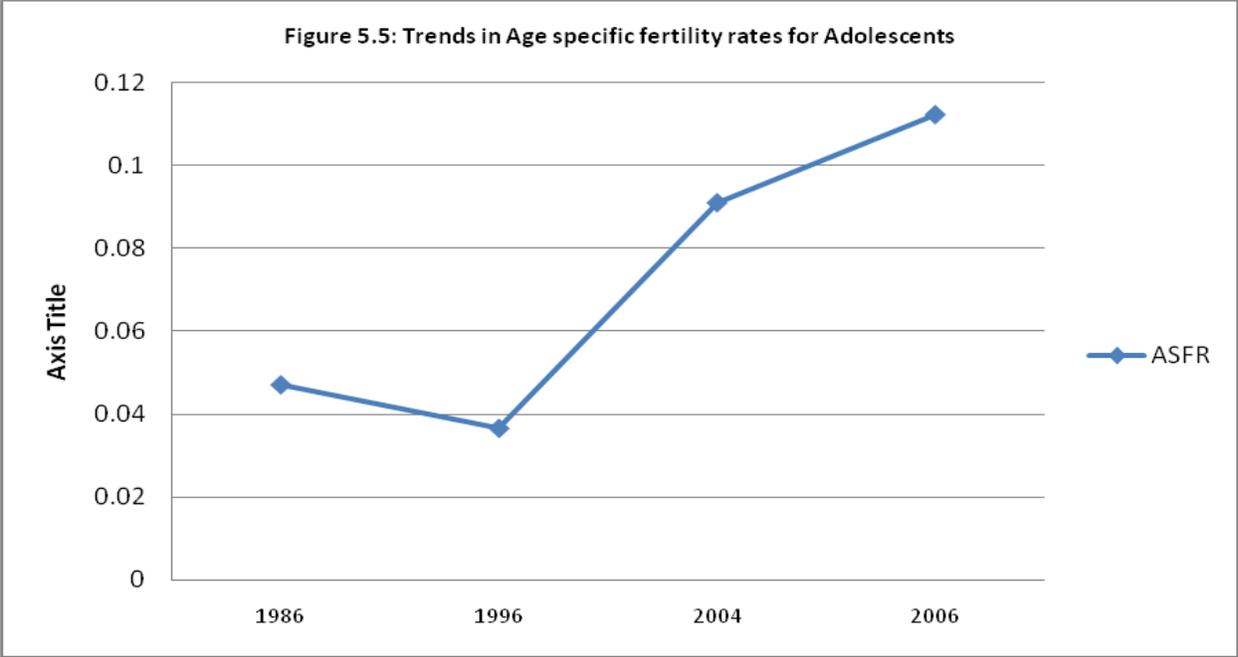
Figure 5.4 shows unemployment rates of young persons by sex. The figure demonstrates that total unemployment rate among youth is 13.1 percent and that unemployment for the adolescents (15-24) is lower than that of those aged 20-24. Among females unemployment rate is slightly higher those aged 15-19 compared with

those aged 20-24, but the reverse is true among males. In general, unemployment rate is higher among females than males.

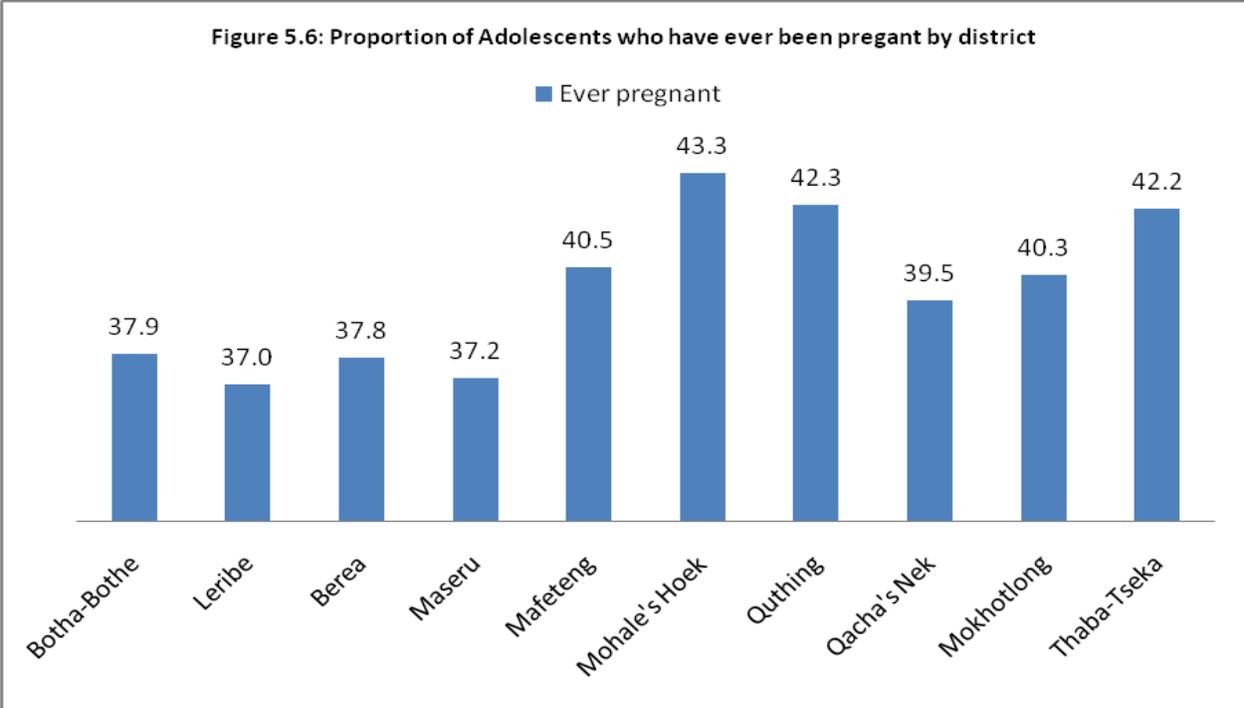


### 5.7 Teenage Childbearing

This section analyzes the fertility and pregnancy experience of adolescents in Lesotho. In communities where early age of childbearing is common and HIV prevalence is high, adolescent boys and girls are more likely to place themselves at risk of HIV infection through unplanned pregnancy and the resulting childbearing. Figure 5.5 presents the trends in age specific fertility rates among adolescents from 1986 to 2006. The figure shows an initial decline in adolescent fertility between 1986 and 1996, then followed by an increase between 1996 and 2006. The observed increase in adolescent fertility suggests that they (adolescents) are not abstaining from pre-marital sex, and are engaging in unsafe sex, thereby putting themselves to the risk of HIV infection. Furthermore the mortality pattern of the country has changed, Lesotho used to experience high mortality at ages 0 to 5 and low at ages 6 to 60 and high again at older ages. But now mortality seems to have increased from around ages 25 to 55 due to HIV/AIDs, implying that people are infected by HIV at early ages, probably 15 to 19.



Analysis of the proportion of adolescents who have ever been pregnant by district is shown in figure 5.6. The figure shows that Mohale’s hoek district has the highest proportion (43.3 percent) of adolescents who have ever been pregnant and is followed by the district of Quthing with 42.3 percent while the lowest propotion [37.0 percent]is observed in the Leribe district.



## 5.7 Summary

In the total population there are 438569 (23.5 percent share) people aged between 15 and 24. The share has increased from 22.3 percent to 23.5 percent. About 75.7 percent of young persons are literate and literacy parity index is 131 per hundred males indicating that more females are literate than males. Most of young persons have attained primary level of education. The percentage of young married has decreased by 1.4 percentage points from 21.7 in 1996 to 20.3 percent in 2006. Although there is decline in the proportion married, there is an increase in teenage fertility indicating that young people are bearing children out of marriage. Most of young people are children to head of the household.

The percentage share of young people in the labour force population is 39.4 percent. The country is experiencing a decline in the proportion of young people participating in the labour force as well as declining school attendance among young people, implying that young people might be engaged in other activities other than economic activities or education. Participation of young females in the labour force is still low except in Maseru, but it cannot be concluded that Maseru is better because migration of young females is high in to Maseru. Furthermore high levels of young persons employed in elementary occupations and majority having attained primary level calls for policy makers to may be extend free education beyond primary education.

## **CHAPTER 6- DISABILITY<sup>6</sup>**

### **6.1 Introduction**

The past censuses did not collect data on disability, and the first attempt to measure disability started with the 2001 Lesotho Demographic Survey (2001 LDS). In the 2006 Lesotho Population and Housing census, attempts were made to incorporate questions on disability in the census questionnaire. Most of the questions were modifications from those asked during the 2001 LDS.

This chapter presents the analysis of data on disability by type, causes and duration.

### **6.2. Definition of disability**

Disability is a very broad terminology which in some cases is used interchangeably with the status of being impaired or handicapped. Although these three statuses are related, their definitions are to some extent different.

A general definition of persons with disabilities as defined in the Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities is: “Persons with disabilities include those who have long- term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others”

Impairment on the contrary, is defined by the United Nations (1996) as reduced function of an organ or body part that may be attributed to disease, accidents, violence, ageing or genetics. A handicap is the social, economic and cultural circumstances that place persons with impairment or disability at a disadvantage relative to their peers.

### **6.3. Types of disabilities**

In the 2006 census, the disability status of each household member was ascertained. For those reported as disabled, information on the type of disability was collected through a check list of eleven types of disability. The types of disabilities are classified as follows:

- Amputation of fingers
- Amputation of arms
- Amputation of hands
- Amputation of toes
- Amputation of feed/legs
- Lame/paralyses/limbs
- Blind (total/partial)
- Deaf (total/partial)
- Speech problem
- Mental illness
- Mental retardation

According to Table 6.1, about 3.7 percent of the population in households was reported as having one form of disability or the other. Among the male population 4.2

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<sup>6</sup> This chapter was prepared by ‘M’atsotang Tsietsi

percent was disabled compared with 3.1 percent of the females. These results indicate slightly lower level of disability in Lesotho compared with the figures of 4.2 percent for both sexes, 4.8 percent for males and 3.6 percent for females reported in the 2001 Lesotho Demographic Survey. The most prevalent type of disability is blindness (19.3 percent of all disabled persons), with prevalence slightly higher among females than among males. The other more common disabilities among males include Amputation of foot or leg, Deafness, and Lameness/paralysis of the limb, in that order. Among females other more prevalent types of disabilities include Lameness/paralysis of the limb, deafness and Amputation of foot or leg.

<b>Table 6.1: Type of disability by sex</b>						
Percent distribution of the population by sex and type of disability, Census 2006						
Type of disability	Total		Male		Female	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	1,862,860	100	904,392	100	958,468	100
Not disabled	1,794,460	96.3	866,099	95.8	928,361	96.9
Amputation of fingers	3,423	0.2	2,632	0.3	791	0.1
Amputation of arms	2,829	0.2	1,700	0.2	1,129	0.1
Amputation of hands	3,045	0.2	1,839	0.2	1,206	0.1
Amputation of toes	1,036	0.1	661	0.1	375	0.0
Amputation of foot/leg	9,784	0.5	5,939	0.7	3,845	0.4
Lameness/paralysed limb	9,510	0.5	5,114	0.6	4,396	0.5
Blind (total/partial)	13,213	0.7	5,977	0.7	7,236	0.8
Deaf	9,644	0.5	5,545	0.6	4,099	0.4
Speech problem	2,743	0.1	1,511	0.2	1,232	0.1
Mental illness	5,077	0.3	2,904	0.3	2,173	0.2
Mental retardation	6,129	0.3	3,456	0.4	2,673	0.3
Other	1,967	0.1	1,015	0.1	952	0.1

The differentials in disability prevalence are examined in terms of disability rate per 1,000 population, to take care of situations where there were only few cases reported. Table 6.2 presents disability rates disaggregated by sex for urban-rural residence, ecological zone, and district. The overall disability rate was about 37 per 1,000 population. The rate was higher (42 per 1,000 population) for males than for females (31 per 1,000 population). The prevalence of disability was higher in rural areas compared with urban areas, regardless of sex. In the urban areas, disability rate was 33 percent higher relative to the female disability rate. This compares with excess risk of disability of 34 percent for males relative to females in the rural areas.

Among the ecological zones, disability rate was lowest in the Lowlands (33 per 1,000 population) and highest in Senqu River Valley (43 per 1,000 population). The difference in disability prevalence by sex was widest in the Lowland with about 38 percent risk of disability for males relative to risk of disability for females. The difference was narrowest in the Senqu River valley, with about 27 percent excess risk of disability for males relative to the risk of disability for females.

**Table 6.2: Disability rate by selected characteristics**

Disability rate per 1,000 population by sex, place of residence, ecological zone and District, Census 2006

Location	Total		Male		Female	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
<b>Lesotho</b>	1,862,860	36.72	904,392	42.34	958,468	31.41
<b>Place of residence</b>						
Urban	421,105	27.37	194,097	31.58	227,008	23.77
Rural	1,441,755	39.45	710,295	45.28	731,460	33.78
<b>Ecological zone</b>						
Lowlands	1,054,580	33.24	506,944	38.88	547,636	28.03
Foothills	242,130	39.54	120,340	45.43	121,790	33.73
Mountains	381,337	41.66	187,798	47.10	193,539	36.38
Senqu River Vally	184,813	42.64	89,310	47.84	95,503	37.77
<b>District</b>						
Botha-Bothe	109,907	30.04	54,221	34.34	55,686	25.86
Leribe	291,610	30.14	142,226	35.05	149,384	25.46
Berea	248,945	34.73	120,846	40.57	128,099	29.21
Maseru	426,521	34.59	202,213	40.02	224,308	29.70
Mafeteng	191,608	42.16	94,958	48.99	96,650	35.45
Mohale's Hoek	175,404	47.04	85,928	53.56	89,476	40.78
Quthing	123,437	36.77	59,884	41.70	63,553	32.13
Qacha's Nek	69,613	40.22	33,228	44.60	36,385	36.22
Mokhotlong	96,920	40.29	47,664	45.09	49,256	35.65
Thaba Tseka	128,895	41.40	63,224	48.54	65,671	34.52

Differentials in disability rate by district show the highest prevalence of disability for Mohale's Hoek (47 per 1,000 population) and the lowest (30 per 1,000 population) in Botha-Bothe. In terms of sex differentials, the excess risk of disability for males relative to females was highest in Thaba-Tseka (41 percent), followed by Berea (39 percent), Leribe and Mafeteng (38 percent apiece) and lowest in Qacha's Nek (23 percent).

Table 6.3 presents the distribution of persons with disability by types and five year age groups. The leading types of disability in 2006 were Blindness, Amputation of foot/leg, Deafness, Lame/paralyzed limb, Mental retardation, and Mental illness, in that order. Blindness is more pronounced in the age range 45 and above, as well as in the age range 00-20. Amputation of toes on the other hand is predominant in the age range 30-74 years. Deafness seems to be more prevalent among the older population aged 60 years and above, and the younger population in the age range 00-24 years than those in other age groups. Lameness/paralyses of the limb seem to be a problem

affecting all the ages relatively equally. Mental retardation and Mental illness are more pronounced in the age range 00-44 years than at other ages.

Table 6.3: Distribution of disabled population by type of disability and age group  
Percentage distribution of persons with disability by type of disability and age group, Census 2006

Age	Amputation of fingers	Amputation of arms	Amputation of hands	Amputation of toes	Amputation of foot/leg	Lame/paralysed limb	Blind (total/partial)	Deaf	Speech problem	Mental illness	Mental retardation	Other	Total	
													Percent	Number
Total	5.0	4.1	4.5	1.5	14.3	13.9	19.3	14.1	4.0	7.4	9.0	2.9	100	68400
0 - 4	5.1	2.7	4.7	2.6	11.2	18.6	15.7	11.0	11.6	2.1	9.4	5.3	100	1365
5_9	2.7	3.8	4.4	1.6	8.7	12.4	16.0	19.4	11.9	3.3	12.9	3.0	100	3218
10_14	2.6	4.6	4.0	0.8	7.5	10.3	16.7	19.9	7.8	5.4	17.3	3.3	100	4353
15_19	3.1	4.2	5.0	1.2	9.3	11.4	16.1	15.3	6.4	6.2	18.8	2.9	100	4330
20_24	3.8	5.4	5.5	1.4	11.3	11.3	13.6	10.6	6.2	10.3	17.4	3.2	100	4025
25_29	4.5	4.9	5.2	1.2	12.5	13.1	12.4	9.6	5.0	12.5	16.1	3.0	100	4060
30_34	4.7	4.7	4.3	1.5	16.4	13.9	12.4	9.7	4.1	12.1	13.1	3.0	100	3872
35_39	6.1	4.6	5.0	1.4	16.5	13.8	13.1	9.3	4.2	11.7	10.8	3.5	100	3704
40_44	6.5	4.6	5.2	1.6	17.7	15.0	12.0	9.8	3.3	11.3	9.9	3.1	100	4023
45_49	7.4	5.0	4.6	1.9	18.3	15.3	15.1	10.3	2.6	9.1	7.6	2.9	100	4422
50_54	8.0	4.5	5.0	2.2	18.9	15.5	16.0	11.5	2.1	8.3	5.1	2.8	100	4599
55_59	7.4	4.3	4.9	1.6	18.7	16.4	17.2	12.9	2.0	7.6	4.0	2.9	100	4653
60_64	6.9	4.3	5.1	2.2	17.8	16.7	18.4	14.4	1.8	5.9	3.8	2.8	100	4037
65_69	5.1	4.5	4.4	2.0	17.7	15.8	21.0	15.5	1.9	5.5	3.5	2.9	100	4074
70_74	4.8	3.3	4.0	1.3	15.7	14.4	27.8	16.5	1.9	4.5	3.2	2.6	100	5403
75_79	3.5	2.4	2.9	1.3	12.2	13.8	35.3	18.8	1.6	4.5	1.9	1.8	100	3333
80_84	2.6	2.3	2.4	0.8	9.4	13.1	40.1	21.3	1.3	3.2	1.4	2.1	100	2234
85+	1.9	1.5	1.7	0.7	9.4	10.1	44.0	23.1	1.6	3.3	1.4	1.3	100	2695

#### 6.4. Educational attainment and type of disability

Government of Lesotho, in its pursuit for education for all by 2015, introduced the free primary education Policy in 2000. In addition, the educational system has an institutionalized special education program, which has facilitated enrolment of persons with disability.

Table 6.4 presents the distribution of population aged 15 year and above by the level of education attained and disability status. The results show that regardless of the disability status, majority of the population has primary level of education, but the proportion with primary education was higher among those with disability compared with those without disability. However, it seems that beyond primary education, disability reduces the chances of acquiring higher levels of education. Thus, while 12.2 percent of males with disability had secondary education, the corresponding percentage among males without disability was 28.1. Regardless of the disability status, the proportion of the population that attained any given level of education was higher among females than the case with males. The fact that disability reduces the chances of participation in the educational system was further reflected in the substantially higher proportion among the disabled population who had no education. The proportion was twice as high among the male disabled population compared with the case among males without disability. Among females without disability only 4.7 percent had no education compared with 16.9 percent among those with disability.

Level of Education	Total		With disability		Without disability	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
None	18.2	5.2	35.0	16.9	17.2	4.7
Primary	50.6	57.0	51.3	67.3	50.6	56.6
Secondary	27.2	33.7	12.2	13.7	28.1	34.5
Post Secondary	4.0	4.1	1.5	2.1	4.1	4.2
Total	100	100.0	100.0	100	100	100
Number	580,764	639,812	32,845	26,114	547,919	613,698

As Table 6.5 shows, in each levels of education, Blindness (total/partial) is the most predominant disability. For example, of those who attained Standard 1-7 level of education, 19.9 percent were Blind (total/partial). The percentages are higher among those who have attained higher levels of education. For example, of those with Diploma after High school, persons who were Blind/total/partial constitute 39.7 percent. Also 38.8 of those with Graduate and Post graduate degree were blind. Lameness/paralysis and Amputation of foot also constitute major types of disability among people in each level of education. The proportion of those with Amputation of toes who attained in each level of education was lowest (less than 2.0 percent for all the levels of education), except for those with Diploma after Primary with 2.2 percent.

Type of disability	Educational attainment										
	None	STD 1-7	Form 1-5	Dip/ after Primary	Voca/ After Primary	Dip/ after Sec	Voca/ Ater Sec	Dip/ after Hihg School	Voca/ after Hihg School	Gradu/ Post Gradu	Other
Amp. of Fingers	5.4	4.9	5.1	2.2	6.7	6.3	4.7	1.9	1.2	1.7	2.0
Amp. of arms	3.6	4.4	4.2	2.2	1.7	4.5	3.5	3.8	0.0	2.4	2.0
Amp. of hands	3.9	4.5	5.4	2.2	4.2	1.8	2.4	3.8	6.2	3.8	0.0
Amp. of toes	1.5	1.5	1.5	2.2	1.7	0.9	2.4	0.8	1.2	0.0	0.0
Amp. of foot	13.4	14.5	15.8	15.4	15.1	18.8	14.1	17.8	13.6	18.2	10.2
Lame/paralysed limb	12.5	14.1	15.0	5.9	11.8	16.1	28.2	14.9	22.2	19.6	12.2
Blind (total/partial)	16.1	19.9	22.4	36.8	20.2	26.8	22.4	39.7	35.8	38.8	32.7
Deaf (total/Partial)	14.4	14.8	11.1	16.2	16.0	8.0	7.1	7.6	7.4	3.4	10.2
Speech problem	6.9	2.9	1.7	1.5	6.7	0.9	2.4	1.1	1.2	1.0	8.2
Mental illness	6.5	7.8	8.9	8.1	3.4	8.0	7.1	5.3	6.2	4.5	6.1
Mental retardation	13.5	7.6	5.5	3.7	11.8	5.4	2.4	2.3	2.5	2.1	16.3
Other	2.1	3.1	3.4	3.7	0.8	2.7	3.5	2.8	2.5	4.5	0.0
Total percentages	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	101.9	100.0	100.0	100

NB: Amp = amputation  
 Gradu = Graduate

Voca. = Vocational  
 Dip. = Diploma

When examining the type of disability by the level of educational attainment and place of residence (Table 6.6), it was observed that a large proportion (46 percent) of persons with Speech problem had no formal education, while about 49 percent had Primary level of education. In fact, regardless of the type of disability considered, majority of the disabled persons had Primary level of education, while about one in every four had no formal education.

The distribution of persons with disability by the level of education attained follows largely a similar pattern in the rural areas. In the urban areas the distribution was slightly different. Although majority of the disabled persons in urban areas have primary level of education, almost one in every five have secondary education.

**Table 6.6: Distribution by type and educational attainment**

Percentage distribution of persons with disability by type of disability, educational attainment and residence, Census 2006

Type of disability	Educational attainment				
	None	Primary	Secondary	Post Second	Other
<b>Total Lesotho</b>					
Amputation of fingers	30.5	59.3	9.3	0.8	0.0
Amputation of arms	24.2	65.2	9.6	0.9	0.0
Amputation of hands	24.7	62.6	11.3	1.4	0.0
Amputation of toes	28.3	60.9	10.0	0.9	0.0
Amputation of foot/leg	26.0	61.9	10.0	2.0	0.1
Lame/paralyzed limb	24.1	63.6	10.0	2.2	0.1
Blind (total/partial)	23.0	63.4	10.3	3.1	0.1
Deaf	28.2	62.9	8.1	0.8	0.0
Speech problem	46.0	48.5	4.9	0.6	0.1
Mental illness	24.2	64.0	10.5	1.2	0.1
Mental retardation	41.2	51.9	6.3	0.5	0.1
Other	19.7	67.3	11.0	2.0	0.0
<b>Urban</b>					
Type					
Amputation of fingers	16.3	60.7	20.1	2.9	0.0
Amputation of arms	13.7	64.4	19.0	2.9	0.0
Amputation of hands	14.1	58.9	22.1	4.9	0.0
Amputation of toes	13.7	64.4	19.0	2.9	0.0
Amputation of foot/leg	15.2	59.6	19.9	5.3	0.0
Lame/paralyzed limb	15.4	60.1	18.4	6.2	0.0
Blind (total/partial)	9.6	57.2	22.7	10.4	0.1
Deaf	18.5	61.5	17.1	2.8	0.1
Speech problem	37.1	50.5	9.7	2.2	0.6
Mental illness	12.7	64.1	19.2	3.6	0.4
Mental retardation	30.5	56.8	10.7	1.4	0.6
Other	9.1	65.1	19.3	6.5	0.0
<b>Rural</b>					
Amputation of fingers	32.9	59.1	7.5	0.5	0.0
Amputation of arms	26.3	65.4	7.7	0.6	0.0
Amputation of hands	26.5	63.2	9.5	0.8	0.0
Amputation of toes	30.9	60.1	8.6	0.5	0.0
Amputation of foot/leg	28.2	62.4	8.0	1.3	0.1
Lame/paralyzed limb	25.8	64.3	8.4	1.4	0.1
Blind (total/partial)	25.9	64.7	7.6	1.6	0.1
Deaf	29.7	63.1	6.7	0.5	0.0
Speech problem	47.5	48.1	4.0	0.3	0.1
Mental illness	26.3	64.0	9.0	0.8	0.0
Mental retardation	43.3	50.9	5.4	0.3	0.0
Other	21.7	67.7	9.4	1.1	0.0

## 6.6. Marital status and disability

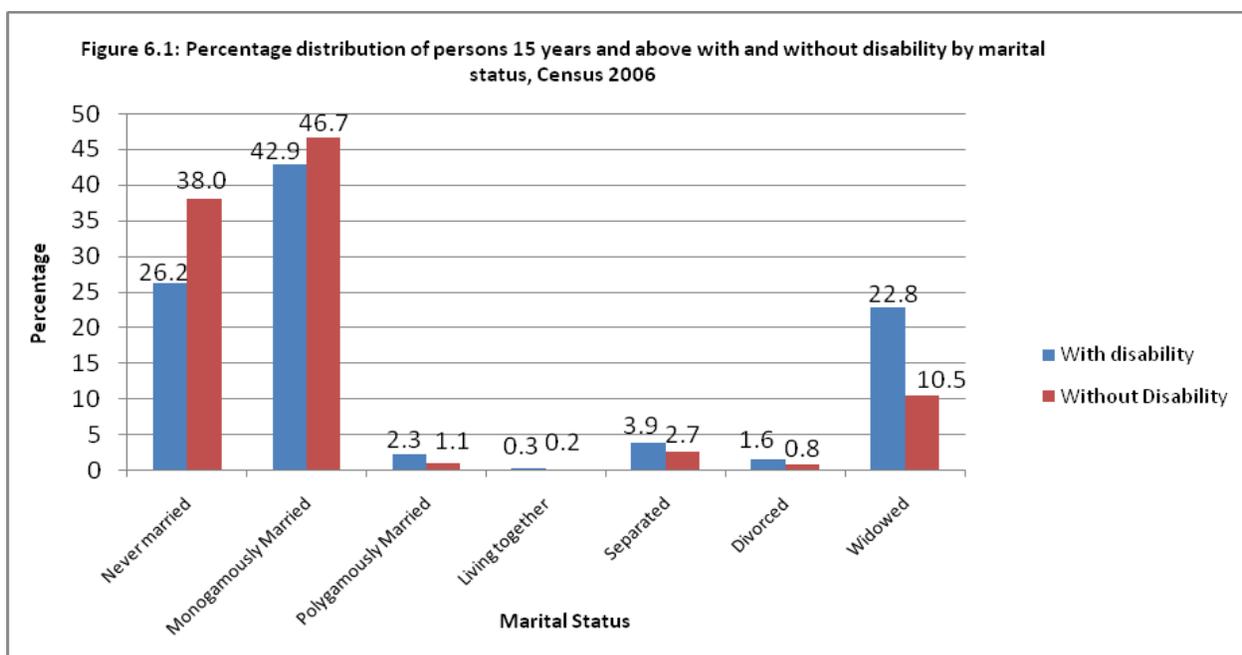
The importance of marriage in reproduction and upbringing of children in the way the society defines and guides its members cannot be over-emphasized. Figure 6.1 compares the distribution of persons with disability and those without disability by marital status. The figure indicates that among the population aged 15 years and above with disability, the proportion that had ever married was higher (73.8 percent) than the corresponding proportion among the population without disability (62.0

percent). Consequently, while only about one in every four of disabled persons aged 15 years and above had never married, almost two in every five of their counterparts without disability had never married.

There is almost a four percentage point difference in the proportion monogamously married between the population without disability (46.7 percent) and those with (42.9 percent). However, the proportion currently in union (i.e. monogamously or polygamously married or living together) is higher by barely 2.5 percent among the population without disability compared with the proportion among the population without disability.

It is also pertinent to note that rate of marital dissolution, particularly through death, is about twice as high among the population with disability as among their counterparts without disability.

Table 6.7 presents the distributions of the population with disability and the population without disability disaggregated by sex and marital status. Among the



male population with disability, 71.4 percent had ever married. About 15.4 percent out of those ever married had experienced marital dissolution either through separation (4.5 percent), divorce (1.1percent) or death (9.8 percent). Among the male population without disability, only 54.8 percent had ever married. About 6.7 percent of these had experienced marital dissolution. These figures show that while the prevalence of marriage was higher among the male population with disability, compared with the prevalence among males without disability, the rate of marital dissolution was twice as high among those disabled as among those without disability.

Among the female population, the prevalence of marriage among those with disability compared with those without disability was similar with the pattern observed among their male counterparts. However, the proportion ever married among the female population was substantially higher than the proportion among the male population; and the prevalence of marital dissolution through death was four times as high among the females with disability (39.4 percent) compared with males with disability (9.8 percent).

Examination of the data by district (see Table 6.8) reveals that in each district, the proportion of the ever-married among persons with disability was more than the proportion ever-married among those without disability. However, the higher rate of marital dissolution observed earlier among persons with disability compared with those without disability is true in each district.

In sum, the results show that while disability does not undermine the chances of marriage among the population with disability, it clearly undermines the stability of their marriage through an elevated rate of marital dissolution mainly through the death of their spouse.

<b>Table 6.7: Distribution of Population Disability Status and marital Status</b>				
Percentage distribution of population aged 15 years and above by sex, disability status and marital status, Census 2006				
Marital status	Male		Female	
	With disability	Without disability	With disability	Without disability
Never married	28.6	45.2	23.1	31.6
Monogamously Married	52.1	46.0	31.2	47.3
Polygamously Married	3.6	1.8	0.7	0.4
Living together	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2
Separated	4.5	2.2	3.2	3
Divorced	1.1	0.5	2.2	1.2
Widowed	9.8	4.0	39.4	16.3
Total (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	33,211	552,311	26,253	616,205

<b>Table 6.8: Distribution of persons aged 15 years and above by district</b>									
Percentage distribution of persons aged 15 years and above by district, disability status and marital status, Census 2006									
District	Never married	Monogamously Married	Polygamously Married	Living together	Separated	Divorced	Widowed	Total	
Population without disability								Percent	Number
Total	38.0	46.7	1.1	0.2	2.7	0.8	10.5	100	1,168,516
Botha-Bothe	36.6	49.3	1.1	0.2	2.3	0.9	9.6	100	69,568
Leribe	37.4	47.2	1.0	0.2	2.6	0.8	10.8	100	185,053
Berea	38.8	46.1	1.1	0.2	2.6	0.8	10.4	100	158,173
Maseru	39.7	46.3	0.9	0.3	2.8	0.9	9.2	100	281,012
Mafeteng	38.3	45.6	0.9	0.1	3.1	0.8	11.2	100	121,007
Mohale's Hoek	38.2	44.7	1.4	0.2	2.7	1.0	11.8	100	107,462
Quthing	40.4	42.5	0.9	0.2	3.4	0.9	11.7	100	76,311
Qacha's Nek	37.4	45.3	1.6	0.2	3.5	0.6	11.5	100	41,762
Mokhotlong	35.2	50.0	1.2	0.2	1.9	0.8	10.8	100	55,233
Thaba-Tseka	32.4	52.9	1.3	0.2	1.7	0.6	10.8	100	72,935
Population with disability								Percent	Number
Total	26.2	42.9	2.3	0.3	3.9	1.6	22.8	100	59,464
Botha-Bothe	27.7	42.8	2.4	0.2	3.9	2.5	20.5	100	2,838
Leribe	27.6	41.7	1.8	0.2	3.8	1.6	23.2	100	7,708
Berea	26.5	41.0	3.1	0.3	3.5	1.6	24.0	100	7,520
Maseru	26.9	44.1	2.2	0.4	3.8	1.5	21.2	100	12,960
Mafeteng	26.8	42.6	2.0	0.2	4.9	1.4	22.1	100	7,176
Mohale's Hoek	25.1	41.1	2.8	0.3	4.0	1.8	24.5	100	7,176
Quthing	29.7	38.1	1.6	0.2	4.9	1.8	23.7	100	3,886
Qacha's Nek	22.5	42.7	3.0	0.2	4.7	1.0	26.0	100	2,440
Mokhotlong	24.2	43.3	2.5	0.4	3.2	1.7	24.7	100	3,284
Thaba-Tseka	21.2	51.5	2.2	0.4	2.5	1.1	21.1	100	4,476

### 6.7. Economic status of the disabled persons

Persons with disability are also expected to participate actively in the labour force and to contribute to the economy of a country unlike some of those who are handicapped, and whose disability prevents them from working, or those who are impaired; whose disability status hinders their participation in the labour market at all. Therefore questions related to the economic status of the population were asked to all eligible persons 10 years and above within the household, irrespective of their disability status.

As shown in Table 6.9, the majority of persons in the age group 10-14 regardless of disability status are students. Among the male population without disability, students represent 90.4 percent of total male population without disability aged 10 years and above, while the corresponding percentage among females is 96.4. In the case of the population with disability, the corresponding proportions are slightly lower, 78.5 percent among males and 85.1 percent among females. Among the male population

without disability aged 15-64, salary earners constitute 31 percent, this contrasts with a corresponding percentage of only 16.9 among their counterparts with disability. In the case of females in age range 15-64 years, about half of them were reported as housewives; among those without disability, the proportion was 49 percent, while the proportion was 53.7 percent among the female population with disability.

Majority of the female population aged 65 years and above were classified as housewives regardless of the disability status. Among those without disability, 74.8 percent of the female population fell into this category, compared with 66.3 percent among those with disability. Among the male population in this age group, a significant proportion fell into the category of own account worker/farmer irrespective of the disability status. Interestingly, regardless of sex or disability status, only between 7 and 8 percent of the population aged 65 years and over were classified as retired.

**Table 6.9: Distribution of population by disability status and employment status**

Percentage distribution of population aged 10 years and above by sex, disability status and employment status, Census 2006

Employment Status	10_14		15_64		65+		All Ages	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Without Disability								
Employer	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.1
Own account worker/farmer	0.5	0.1	15.1	8.4	36.0	12.3	13.7	7.5
Regular wages/salary earner	2.5	0.3	31.0	19.7	6.2	2.4	25.2	15.4
Casual worker	0.1	0.0	4.5	2.0	2.2	0.8	3.7	1.6
Unpaid family worker	2.2	0.2	4.5	1.3	1.5	0.5	3.9	1.1
Job seeking	0.0	0.0	2.4	1.4	0.7	0.2	1.9	1.1
Job seeking for the first time	0.1	0.0	2.1	1.1	0.0	0.0	1.7	0.8
Homemaker	0.0	0.0	0.3	1.1	0.5	1.2	0.3	1.0
Housewife	4.2	2.8	23.4	49.0	44.2	74.8	21.3	44.2
Retired	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.1	8.0	7.4	0.6	0.7
Student	90.4	96.4	16.0	15.8	0.6	0.3	27.5	26.6
Disabled	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Not applicable	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Total (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	108,227	108,207	520,323	558,398	31,352	57,442	659,902	724,047
With Disability								
Employer	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0
Own account worker/farmer	0.8	0.4	19.3	8.9	25.9	7.3	19.4	7.8
Regular wages/salary earner	1.4	0.1	16.9	10.5	2.7	1.2	12.9	6.5
Casual worker	0.1	0.1	4.1	1.9	1.6	0.5	3.3	1.3
Unpaid family worker	2.5	0.4	3.6	1.3	1.2	0.6	3.0	1.0
Job seeking	0.1	0.0	1.5	1.0	0.5	0.2	1.2	0.7
Job seeking for the first time	0.4	0.0	1.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.4
Homemaker	0.0	0.1	0.4	1.5	0.4	0.7	0.4	1.1
Housewife	10.6	9.7	32.8	53.7	45.3	66.3	33.9	55.3
Retired	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.4	6.8	7.3	2.0	2.9
Student	78.5	85.1	6.2	8.5	0.2	0.3	9.9	10.6
Disabled	5.6	4.3	13.2	11.5	15.2	15.3	13.1	12.4
Not applicable	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
Total (%)	100.00	100.00	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,493	1,899	26,186	16,282	7,661	10,336	36,340	28,517

Table 6.10 shows the percentage distribution of the disabled persons by type of disability and main activity of place of work. The data indicates that most of the disabled persons working in Agriculture/ Fishing /Mining/Quarrying have been disabled through Mine accidents, as they represent a high percentage of 34.8 of the total disabled persons engaged in this category of activities. This is also the case with disabled males working in Agriculture/ Fishing /Mining/Quarrying as those disabled through Mine accidents represent 42.0 percent. Females on the other hand who have been disabled through Illness are mostly in Social Services and represent 25.1 percent of the total disabled females under this activity category.

<b>Table 6.10: Distribution by main economic activity</b>										
Percentage distribution of the disabled persons by main activity of place of work by sex and cause of disability, Census 2006										
Main Activity both sexes	Cause of disability								Total	
	Born disabled	Illness	Traffic accidents	Domestic accident	Mine accident	Other work/farming accident	Fight/Assault	Playing/Sport		
Agriculture/Fishing /Mining/Quarrying	10.6	23.5	7.4	5.6	34.8	4.7	9.7	3.6	100	
Utilities	10.0	22.5	17.5	5.0	17.5	12.5	12.5	2.5	100	
Construction	10.4	22.0	11.3	9.4	18.8	7.7	16.4	4.2	100	
Wholesale & retail hotels	11.2	31.8	15.4	8.0	10.7	6.3	10.6	6.0	100	
Transport storage & communication	12.4	17.0	28.8	5.5	14.8	5.2	11.5	4.8	100	
Finance & Real Estate	10.9	36.4	22.3	4.3	11.4	2.7	8.2	3.8	100	
Social services	9.6	36.8	16.2	7.7	11.3	5.3	9.3	3.8	100	
Other	18.0	30.9	12.2	8.8	10.1	5.8	8.8	5.3	100	
<b>Male</b>										
Agriculture Fishing Mining/Quarrying	9.9	18.0	6.6	4.4	42.0	4.5	10.9	3.7	100	
Utilities	8.6	17.1	17.1	5.7	20.0	14.3	14.3	2.9	100	
Construction	10.1	20.7	11.1	9.5	19.8	7.9	16.9	4.2	100	
Wholesale & retail hotels	10.5	19.5	14.8	6.1	18.0	8.2	15.7	7.3	100	
Transport storage & communication	10.9	14.5	30.3	5.3	16.1	5.6	12.5	4.9	100	
Finance & Real Estate	11.8	23.6	20.9	4.5	18.2	3.6	11.8	5.5	100	
Social services	8.2	25.1	16.5	5.9	19.9	6.2	13.0	5.1	100	
Other	16.1	18.4	10.1	5.6	22.6	6.8	13.7	6.6	100	
<b>Female</b>										
Agriculture Fishing Mining/Quarrying	13.8	48.8	11.1	11.2	1.5	5.9	4.2	3.5	100	
Utilities	20.0	60.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100	
Construction	16.0	44.0	14.0	8.0	2.0	4.0	8.0	4.0	100	
Wholesale & retail hotels	12.3	49.4	16.2	10.7	0.3	3.6	3.2	4.2	100	
Transport storage & communication	30.8	46.2	11.5	7.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.8	100	
Finance & Real Estate	15.3	69.5	21.5	13.4	0.6	5.8	6.4	2.7	100	
Social services	11.3	51.4	15.9	9.9	0.4	4.3	4.7	2.0	100	
Other	19.5	40.5	13.8	11.3	0.6	5.1	5.0	4.3	100	

On the overall, as indicated in Table 6.11, disabled males outnumber their female counterparts in most categories of employment, with their percentages ranging from 81.8 percent among Employers, to the least of 54.2 percent among those reported as Students. Females however, outnumber their male counterparts in the employment status of Homemakers with 68.7 percent as opposed to 31.3 percent males. They also tend to be more of the Housewives, retired or engaged in other economic activities with significant percentages of 56.7, 52.7 and 66.8 percent respectively.

The disparity by sex and place of residence shows that females in the urban area slightly outnumber their male counterparts among those who are Homemakers,

representing 76.3 percent of persons with disability under this economic category. They also tend to be Housewives than males, constituting 58.4 percent. The rural areas has also shown a different pattern from that of the urban areas in that, more females in rural areas than males belong to the economic activity categories of Homemakers, Housewives, and retired, where they constitute 66.2 percent, 55.8 percent, and 55.0 percent of the disabled persons in these employment status categories respectively.

Employment Status	Total		Urban		Rural	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Employer	81.8	18.2	85.7	14.3	78.9	21.1
Own account worker/farmer	76.1	23.9	66.0	34.0	77.4	22.6
Regular wages/salary earner	71.7	28.3	60.4	39.6	77.0	23.0
Casual worker	76.1	23.9	74.5	25.5	76.7	23.3
Unpaid family worker	79.8	20.2	72.5	27.5	80.3	19.7
Job seeking	69.6	30.4	62.0	38.0	75.2	24.8
Job seeking for the first time	72.6	27.4	61.6	38.4	78.0	22.0
Homemaker	31.3	68.7	23.7	76.3	33.8	66.2
Housewife	43.8	56.2	41.6	58.4	44.2	55.8
Retired	47.3	52.7	56.0	44.0	45.0	55.0
Student	54.2	45.8	52.3	47.7	54.7	45.3
Disabled	56.4	43.6	55.4	44.6	56.5	43.5
Other	43.2	56.8	50.0	50.0	41.7	58.3

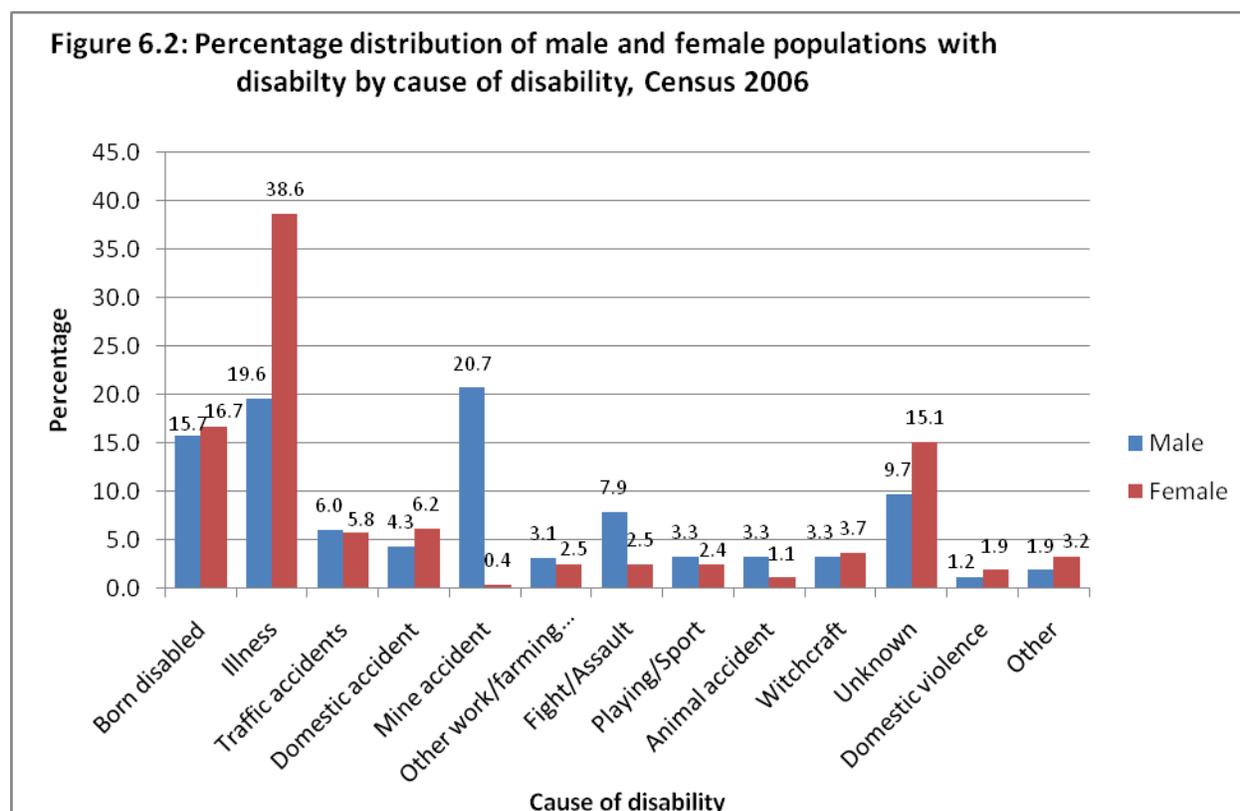
### 6.8: Causes of disability:

In the 2006 Census, questions on causes of disability include:

- Born disabled
- Illness
- Traffic accident
- Domestic accidents
- Mine accidents
- Other work/farming accidents
- Animal accidents
- Witchcraft
- Unknown
- Domestic violence

Usually, at birth there are more male babies than females, but from about age 10 and above females outnumber their male counterparts. The risk of mortality seems to be higher for males than for females as age increases. This is partly because of the type of games males play, the type of activities they engage in, and other indulgences that put them more at the risk of being disabled than it is the case with females. This is also reflected in the cause of disability such as mine accidents, fighting/assault, playing/sport, and animal accidents which seems to be more prevalent among males than among females.

As portrayed by Figure 6.2, mine accidents (20.7 percent), illness (19.6 percent), congenital disorder (born disabled-15.7 percent) and fighting/Assault (7.9 percent) are the major causes of disability among males. Among females, the major causes of disability are illness (38.6 percent), congenital disorder (born disabled – 16.7 percent), and domestic accident (6.2 percent). Although illness is a major cause of disability among both sexes, it seems twice as likely to cause disability among females as among males.



In Lesotho the majority of the population in the rural areas depends more on agriculture and animal husbandry, and males are the ones more directly involved in these activities, as a result, they are more at the risk of being injured during interaction with the animals than females. Males who are disabled through animal accident represent 79.0 percent, and females constitute 21.0 percent. On the other hand, when it comes to domestic violence and domestic accident, females whose disabilities resulted from these two causes outnumber their male counterparts, as they represent 55.1 percent and 52.8 percent of the disabled persons in these causes of disabilities respectively.

Table 6.12 presents the causes of disability among males across all the districts. The table indicates that the main causes of disability seem to be mine accidents, illness and congenital disorder (born disabled). This is consistent with the fact that the mining industry in the Republic of South Africa attracts a significant number of the unskilled Basotho males. These mine workers work under high risks of being injured

or killed through mining accidents, however, their number is recently decreasing with the high retrenchments. The highest percentage due to this cause is recorded for the disabled males in Mafeteng district, as they represent 26.6 percent of the disabled males in this district. Those in Botha-Bothe and Mohale's Hoek districts represent 22.2 percent of the disabled males in each of these two districts. The lowest percentage of disability due to mine accident (15.9 percent) is observed among males in Mokhotlong district.

Disability among men through illness is more pronounced in the three districts of Quthing (22.5 percent), Leribe (20.2 percent) and Maseru (20.0 percent). The prevalence of disability through illness in other districts are slightly lower than that at around 19.0 percent, and the lowest is Mafeteng with 18.1 percent of males with disability due to illness. The highest proportions of males who reported to have been born disabled were observed in Quthing districts (21.0 percent), Mokhotlong (17.1 percent) and Botha-Bothe (16.7 percent). The lowest percentages were observed for Qacha's Nek (13.8 percent) and Thaba-Tseka (13.4 percent).

Cause of disability	Disability by District									
	Both-Bothe	Leribe	Berea	Maseru	Mafeteng	Mohale's Hoek	Quthing	Qacha's Nek	Mokhotlong	Thaba-Tseka
Born disabled	16.7	15.9	16.4	15.3	14.4	14.8	21.0	13.8	17.1	13.4
Illness	19.3	20.2	18.9	20.0	18.1	19.1	22.5	19.1	19.7	19.8
Traffic accidents	4.9	7.1	6.4	7.6	5.8	4.8	4.9	6.7	3.9	3.8
Domestic accident	4.3	3.9	4.4	4.4	3.1	4.6	3.5	5.8	5.1	5.9
Mine accident	22.2	21.0	19.5	19.8	26.6	22.2	19.2	18.1	15.9	18.0
Other work/farming accident	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.4	2.3	3.2	3.3	3.8	2.9	3.5
Fight/Assault	6.7	6.8	8.3	8.2	8.9	7.5	6.8	7.6	6.6	9.4
Playing/Sport	1.8	3.0	3.4	3.5	2.7	3.4	3.6	3.1	4.0	4.2
Animal accident	2.8	2.5	2.4	3.0	2.0	3.7	2.7	4.1	8.1	5.8
Witchcraft	5.3	3.9	3.9	2.9	3.2	2.8	1.5	2.9	3.2	3.8
Unknown	10.0	9.2	10.0	8.5	10.4	10.9	8.6	11.5	10.8	9.8
Domestic violence	0.8	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.3	0.9	0.8	1.1	1.1	1.0
Other	2.3	2.2	1.8	2.0	1.4	2.0	1.6	2.4	1.7	1.6

In Table 6.13, the major causes of disability among female are shown to be illness, and congenital disorder (i.e. born disabled), especially in Leribe (40.0 percent) and Quthing (40.9 percent). The percentage of disability through illness, in other districts ranged from 34.2 percent in Thaba-Tseka to 39.9 percent in Berea.

In the same way as with males with disability, congenital causes represent the second major cause of disability among females. The high proportions of females who reported to have been born disabled were observed in Quthing (21.5 percent), Thaba-Tseka (19.7 percent), Botha-Bothe (17.2 percent) and Leribe (17.1 percent). The lowest proportion of females with disability due to illness was recorded for Mafeteng (15.1 percent).

On the overall, illness is observed to be a major cause of disability among both males and females in all the districts. More research is needed to unravel the type of illnesses that is responsible for such a high prevalence of disability in the country.

<b>Table 6.13: Distribution by cause and district</b>										
Percentage distribution of disabled females by cause of disability and district, Census 2006										
Disability by District										
Cause of disability	Botha Bothe	Leribe	Bere a	Maseru	Mafeteng	Mohale' Hoek	Quthing	Qacha' Nek	Mokhotlong	Thaba-Tseka
Born disabled	17.2	17.1	16.3	15.5	15.1	16.0	21.5	15.9	16.4	19.7
Illness	37.8	40.0	39.9	39.8	39.5	37.0	40.9	34.6	36.8	34.2
Traffic accidents	5.0	6.6	6.3	7.5	4.8	4.3	3.8	6.8	4.5	5.0
Domestic accident	4.1	6.4	5.3	5.7	6.0	6.2	7.4	11.0	6.1	6.6
Mine accident	0.7	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.4
Other work/farming accident	2.5	2.3	2.6	2.3	2.2	2.5	2.5	2.2	3.0	3.7
Fight/Assault	1.9	2.3	2.5	2.6	3.1	2.7	1.7	3.0	2.2	2.1
Playing/Sport	2.0	1.9	1.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.0	2.3	3.1
Animal accident	0.9	0.7	0.8	1.1	1.0	1.6	0.7	1.4	1.8	2.0
Witchcraft	5.4	4.4	3.8	3.4	3.5	3.1	2.0	2.3	5.1	5.1
Unknown	15.6	13.0	15.1	13.8	17.0	18.0	12.7	16.9	16.8	14.1
Domestic violence	1.7	1.7	2.5	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.9	1.1	2.4	1.7
Other	5.3	3.4	3.0	3.3	3.2	4.0	2.1	2.1	2.6	2.2

It is important to also in this analysis the type of disability by the cause. This is to identify the major causes of disability, so as to inform appropriate interventions to prevent or at least reduce the incidence of such disabilities. Table 6.14 indicates that among those with Amputation of foot/leg, the major cause of this type of disability is illness (19.5 percent), mine accidents (18.1 percent), traffic accident (14.8 percent) and domestic accident (10.3 percent). The major causes of Lameness /Paralyzed limb are illness (27.3 percent) and congenital disorder (16.6 percent). Illness is found to be the cause of 47.1 percent of blindness, 33.9 percent of deafness, and about 51.8 percent of all mental related disabilities. Congenital causes are responsible for most mental retardation (65.1 percent), a significant proportion of deafness (21.3 percent), lameness/paralyzed limb (16.6 percent), and blindness (11.2 per cent).

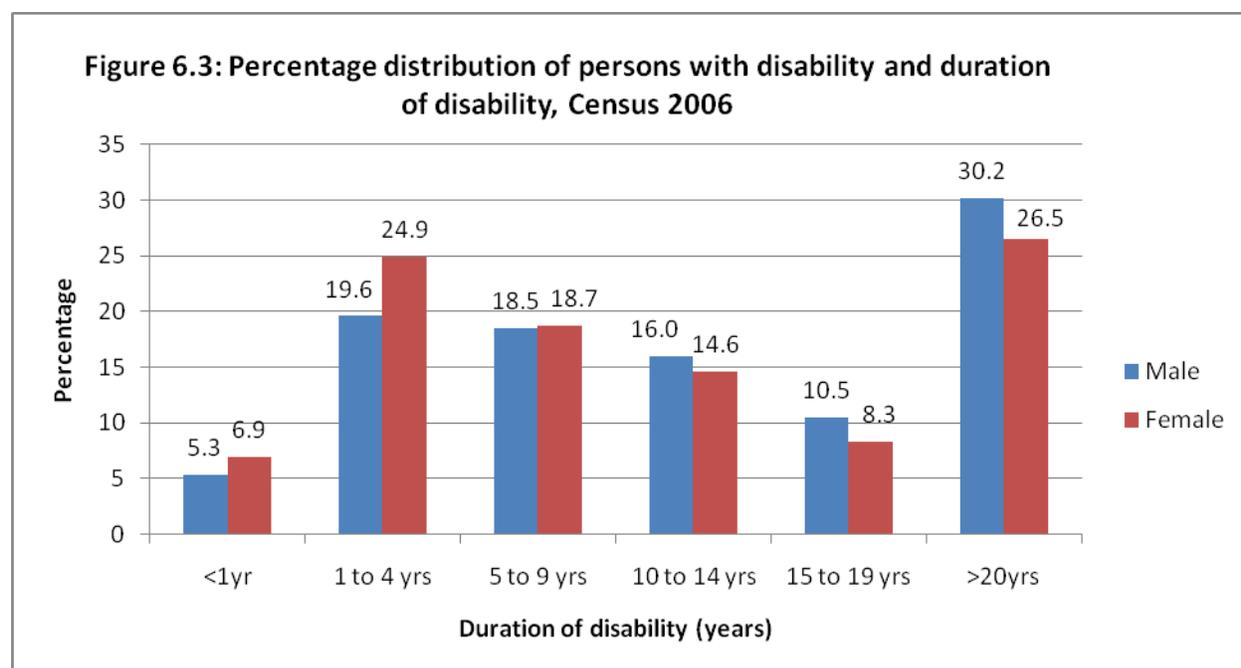
**Table 6.14: Distribution by cause and type**

Percentage distribution of population by cause and type of disability, Census 2006

Cause of disability	Type of disability					
	Amputation of foot/leg	Lame/paralyzed limb	Blind (total/partial)	Deaf	Mental Illness	Mental Retardation
Born disabled	0.0	16.6	11.2	21.3	0.0	65.1
Illness	19.5	27.3	47.1	33.9	39.8	12.0
Traffic accidents	14.8	8.9	1.3	1.1	3.8	1.7
Domestic accident	10.3	5.7	2.7	1.3	2.0	1.0
Mine accident	18.1	8.8	6.1	19.7	1.8	0.7
Other work/farming accident	5.2	3.4	2.0	1.6	0.6	0.2
Fight/Assault	6.3	6.4	5.3	2.2	5.4	2.4
Playing/Sport	5.3	3.0	1.9	0.7	0.6	0.5
Animal accident	4.8	2.9	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.4
Witchcraft	3.8	3.6	1.7	1.3	13.2	3.9
Unknown	8.4	8.8	16.5	13.6	25.5	10.3
Domestic violence	1.5	1.5	1.2	0.8	3.1	1.1
Other	2.2	3.0	2.4	2.0	3.5	0.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

### 6.8. Duration of disability

According to Figure 6.3, about 30.2 percent of the disabled male population had been disabled for at least 20 years, this compares with 26.5 percent of their female counterparts who have been disabled for the same duration. The proportion of those whose disability have lasted for a duration of 1 to 4 years is the second highest both among males as well as among females. The proportion of males whose disability have lasted for less five years is higher than the proportion among their female counterparts. On the contrary, the proportion of females whose disability have lasted for ten years and above is higher than the proportion among their female counterparts.



In terms of duration of disability by place of residence, as presented in Table 6:15 indicates that the proportion of urban males with disability is higher than those of their female counterparts for all durations of disability except 1-4 years. In the rural areas, the proportion of disabled males in each of the durations of disability, except the less than one year duration, is higher than the proportion among their female counterparts.

Duration	Total		Urban		Rural	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Less than 1	49.4	50.6	52.1	48.9	49.0	51.0
1- 4 years	49.9	50.1	49.3	50.7	50.1	49.9
5 - 9 years	55.6	44.4	52.5	47.5	56.3	43.7
10-14 years	58.1	41.9	56.3	43.7	58.4	41.6

On the overall, females with disability are more likely to have been disabled for less than one year or 1-4 years than males, as they represent 50.6 percent and 50.1 percent of persons with disability under these two durations. Males on the other hand have reported to have been disabled for a longer period of 5- 14 years as they have represented 55.6 percent and 58.1 percent of the total disabled persons under these two durations.

Type of disability	Total	Duration of disability						Total percentage
		Less than 1 yr	1 to 4 yrs	5 to 9 yrs	10 to 14 yrs	15 to 19 yrs	20 or more yrs	
Total	68,536	6.0	22.0	18.6	15.4	9.5	28.6	100.0
Amputation of fingers	3,429	5.3	16.5	15.3	14.3	10.8	37.8	100.0
Amputation of arms	2,831	8.2	25.0	19.5	14.0	8.0	25.3	100.0
Amputation of hands	3,052	8.6	23.9	19.7	15.5	8.6	23.9	100.0
Amputation of toes	1,037	6.8	21.0	16.8	13.2	10.1	32.0	100.0
Amputation of foot/leg	9,800	6.7	21.0	19.1	14.8	9.0	29.4	100.0
Lame/paralyzed limb	9,528	6.8	23.7	19.2	14.0	8.7	27.6	100.0
Blind (total/partial)	13,246	6.5	29.9	20.6	15.0	7.8	20.3	100.0
Deaf	9,655	5.3	21.7	18.1	16.9	9.8	28.1	100.0
Speech problem	2,752	3.7	14.2	17.4	15.1	10.7	39.0	100.0
Mental illness	5,089	5.5	19.9	20.2	18.8	10.6	25.0	100.0
Mental retardation	6,146	2.7	8.7	12.9	15.9	13.7	46.0	100.0
Other	1,971	7.1	26.0	21.1	15.4	9.5	20.9	100.0

Table 6.16 shows the percentage distribution of persons with disability by type and duration of disability. On the overall, about 28.6 percent of the total persons with these types of disabilities have been disabled for more than 20 years.

The observation concerning individual type of disability shows that, the almost half (46.0 percent) of persons with Mental retardation have been disabled for more than 20 years, while only 2.7 percent of them have been disabled for a period Less than one year. Those with speech problem and Amputation of fingers have also shown higher prevalence at duration more than 20 years as they constitute 39.0 percent and 37.8 percent of the total persons in these types of disabilities.

The majority of persons with blind have suffered blindness for a period 1-4 years, as they represent 29.9 percent, while 20.6 percent have been blind for a period 5-9 years.

The sex differentials as depicted by Table 6.17 indicate that for those who have been disabled for a longer period of more than 20 years, among males for example have Amputation of foot/leg, as they represent 16.1 percent of males with this kind of disability during this period. On the overall, for all the duration categories specified in this table, males who are disabled have shown higher prevalence for Amputation of foot/leg, Blind/total/partial and Deaf, with higher prevalence for Blindness for a period 1-4 years as they represent 20.9 percent of males with disability for this duration, Those who are Deaf, have also shown a higher prevalence for a period 10-14 years and they represent 15.9 percent of males.

Females on the other hand have shown higher disability prevalence in the categories of Amputation of foot/leg, Lame/ paralyzed/limb and Blind/total/partial. Mental retardation seems to have higher prevalence at the duration more than 20 years as females with this type of disability represent 13.4 percent of females. For those who have been Blind for 1-4 years have also represented the majority as they constitute 31.7 percent of females with this type of disability under this duration. Blindness however, on the overall, seems to have higher prevalence for both sexes under durations specified in this table.

<b>Table 6.17: Distribution by duration and sex</b>							
Percentage distribution of persons with disability by sex, duration of disability and type, Census 2006							
Duration of disability	Type of disability						Total Percentage
	Amputation of foot/leg	Lame/ Paralyzed/ limb	Blind (total/partial)	Deaf	Mental illness	Mental retardation	
<b>Male</b>							
Total Male	15.5	13.4	15.6	14.5	7.6	9.0	100.0
Less than 1 yr	16.7	15.4	16.7	12.0	7.0	4.5	100.0
1 to 4 yrs	15.0	14.6	20.9	14.1	7.9	4.2	100.0
5 to 9 yrs	15.4	13.4	17.4	14.7	8.8	6.6	100.0
10 to 14 yrs	15.0	12.5	15.8	15.9	8.9	9.3	100.0
15 to 19 yrs	15.2	12.3	13.0	15.0	8.3	11.8	100.0
20 or more yrs	16.1	13.0	11.7	14.1	5.9	13.4	100.0
<b>Female</b>							
Total female	12.8	14.6	24.0	13.6	7.2	8.9	100.0
Less than 1 yr	15.2	16.1	25.0	13.1	6.7	3.6	100.0
1 to 4 yrs	12.4	15.4	31.7	13.8	5.6	3.0	100.0
5 to 9 yrs	13.7	15.6	26.3	12.5	7.2	5.7	100.0
10 to 14 yrs	12.1	12.8	22.9	14.9	9.3	9.2	100.0
15 to 19 yrs	10.9	13.3	20.2	13.9	8.3	14.7	100.0
20 or more yrs	12.8	14.1	16.7	13.5	7.4	16.1	100.0
15 to 19 yrs	10.9	13.3	20.2	13.9	8.3	14.7	100.0
20 or more yrs	12.8	14.1	16.7	13.5	7.4	16.1	100.0

## 6.12: Summary

The 2006 Population and Housing census results showed 3.7 percent of the population in households is disabled. The prevalence of disability is higher among males (4.5 percent) than among females (3.1 percent).

Specifically, the proportion among males disabled due to traffic accidents, mine accidents, fight/assault, animal accidents, was higher than the corresponding proportion among females. On the other hand, the proportion among females disabled through domestic violence and domestic accidents was higher than the corresponding proportion among males.

For both males and females, the most common types of disabilities are, Amputation of foot/leg, Blindness, Lame/paralyzed limb, Speech problem, Deaf, Mental illness and Mental retardation. When type of disability was cross classified by educational status of the population, it was observed that blindness, when compared with other types of disability does not necessarily pose a unique challenge to school attendance, or attainment of any level of education.

The proportion of ever-married persons among persons with disability was more than the proportion ever-married among those without disability. However, higher rate of marital dissolution was observed among persons with disability compared with those without disability, and this was true in each district. Thus, while disability does not undermine the chances of marriage among the population with disability, it clearly undermines marital stability through an elevated rate of marital dissolution mainly through death.

Concerning the duration of disability, more females have reported to have been disabled for a short period of less than one year or 1-4 years, compared with their male counterparts. By contrast, males tend to have been disabled for a longer period of 5 – 14 years. The other observation is that, the percentages for the disabled males begin at younger ages than for females. The overall figures for both males and females have shown that disability increases with age.

Analysis of data on causes of disability revealed that illness accounts for the largest share of disability than other causes both among females and males. This was true for all the districts.

These findings call for in-depth research to understand what illness are responsible for the high prevalence of disability, especially blindness and mental illness in order to institute appropriate interventions to check such illnesses.

*Indicators - Lesotho Population Census, 2006*

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>
<b>Lesotho</b>	<i>Total population</i>	<b>1,876,633</b>	<b>912,798</b>	<b>963,835</b>
<b>Growth</b>	Population growth rate (percent)	0.08		
<b>Dependency</b>	Age-dependency ratio (percent)	66.2	--	--
<b>Life Expectancy</b>	Expectation of life at birth (2006)	41.2	39.7	42.9
	Expectation of life at birth (1996)	59.0	58.6	60.2
<b>Mortality</b>	Infant mortality rate	94.0	102.5	83.9
	Child mortality rate	23.7	26.5	21.1
<i>Marriage</i>	Percentage of currently married persons in polygynous marriages	--	1.9	0.4
<i>Fertility</i>	Mean no. of children ever born to women aged 45-49 years (all women)	--	--	4.4
	Total fertility rate (1986)	--	--	5.3
	Total fertility rate (1996)	--	--	4.1
	Total fertility rate (2006)	--	--	3.5
	Median age at childbearing (1986)	--	--	27.8
	Median age at childbearing (1996)	--	--	28.9
	Median age at childbearing (2006)	--	--	25.8
<b>Education</b>	Percent of population aged 6-24 years that had never attended school	4.7	--	--
	Percent of school age population (6-24 years) still attending school	60.0	--	--
	Percent of school age population (6-24 years) have left school	35.3	--	--
	Percentage that completed standard 7, Vocational and Diploma after primary	--	14.9	24.3
	Percentage that completed secondary and non-graduate	--	29.5	36.2
	Percentage of graduates	--	1.3	1.2
<b>Literacy</b>	Percent literate	87.0	79.7	93.6

<b>Employment</b>	Crude economic activity rates (percent)	29.6	38.4	21.4
	Labour force participation rates (percent) – General econ. activity	38.1	49.8	27.2
	Employed labour force participation rates (percent)	38.1	49.8	27.2
<b>Household</b>	Average number of persons per household	4.4	--	--
	Proportion of Nuclear Households	48.2	--	--
	Proportion of Extended Households	40.4	--	--
	Proportion of Mixed Households	11.4	--	--
	Proportion of Male Headed Households	64.9	--	--
	Proportion of Female Headed Households	35.1	--	--
<b>Orphanhood</b>	Number of orphans aged 0-17 years (2006)	221,403	11,729	110,674
	Number of orphans aged 0-17 years (1996)	130,245	--	--
	Percent of children aged 0-17 years whose natural father is dead	63.0	--	--
	Percent of children aged 0-17 years whose natural mother is dead	16.6	--	--
	Percent of paternal orphans cared for by a person other than own father or mother	43.3	--	--
	Percent of maternal orphans cared for by a person other than own father or mother	54.2	--	--
	Percent of paternal orphans who are heads of household	0.3	--	--
	Percent of maternal orphans who are heads of household	0.4	--	--
	Ratio of the percentage for orphans to the percentage for non-orphans attending school who are aged 10 – 14 years	--	0.96	0.98
<b>Internal Migration</b>	Percent of Lesotho-born population that were lifetime migrants	--	47.0	53.0
	Percent of total emigrants who resides in the RSA	99.7	--	--
<b>International Migration</b>	Median duration of time spent in South Africa (years)	1 - 4	--	--
	Net migration rate	-62.1	-44.2	-17.9
<b>Population</b>	Density of population (2006)	61	--	--
<b>Distribution</b>	Density of population (1996)	61	--	--
	Density of population on arable land (2006)	658	--	--
	Density of population on arable land (1996)	588	--	--
<b>Disability</b>	Percentage of Population with disability (Lesotho)	3.7	2.1	1.6
	Percentage of Population without disability (Lesotho)	96.3	--	--
	Percentage of Population with disability, Born Disabled (Lesotho)	16.1	15.7	16.7

	Percentage of persons disabled for < 1 year	6.0	5.3	6.9
	Percentage of persons disabled for 20 years and above	28.6	30.2	26.5
	Percentage of persons disabled for <1 year in urban areas	6.8	6.6	7.1
	Percentage of persons disabled for 20 years and above in Urban areas	26.0	26.7	25.2
	Percentage of persons disabled for <1 year in Rural areas	5.8	5.0	6.8
	Percentage of persons disabled for 20 years and above in Rural areas	29.1	30.8	26.8
<b>Youth</b>	Percentage share of youth to the total population (15-24)	23.6	24.1	23.1
	Percentage of youth's share of the total Labour Force Population	39.4	19.5	19.9
	Ratio of Literate females to males (Literacy Parity index)	131.0	--	--
	Unemployment rates (15-24)	13.1	11.4	16.0
<b>Housing</b>	Percent of residential dwellings built on land acquired free from chiefs	67.0	--	--
	Percent of residential dwellings built on purchased land	7.0	--	--
	Percent of residential dwellings built on inherited land	20.0	--	--
	Average number of persons per room	1.7	--	--
	Percent of dwellings with walls built of stone	38.7	--	--
	Percent of dwellings with walls built of cement bricks	45.5	--	--
	Percent of dwellings with walls made of burnt bricks	4.2	--	--
	Percent of dwellings with walls made of mud bricks and mud/sticks	6.9	--	--
	Percent of dwellings with cement floors	32.7	--	--
	Percent of dwellings with floors made of mud and dung	35.2	--	--
	Percent of dwellings with roofs made of thatch/straw	28.3	--	--
	Percent of dwellings with roofs made of corrugated iron	68.3	--	--
<b>Household amenities</b>	Percent of dwellings that used electricity as the main fuel for lighting	9.7	--	--
	Percent of dwellings that used candles as the main fuel for lighting	28.5	--	--
	Percent of dwellings that used paraffin as the main fuel for lighting	60.5	--	--
	Percent of dwellings that used electricity as the main fuel for	2.8	--	--

	cooking			
	Percent of dwellings that used gas as the main fuel for cooking	24.8	--	--
	Percent of dwellings that used paraffin as the main fuel for cooking	15.7	--	--
	Percent of dwellings that used wood as the main fuel for cooking	52.5	--	--
	Percent of households that used gas as the main fuel for heating	2.1	--	--
	Percent of households that used paraffin as the main fuel for heating	34.3	--	--
	Percent of households that used coal as the main fuel for heating	2.5	--	--
	Percent of households that used wood as the main fuel for heating	51.4	--	--
	Percent of households that used cow dung as the main fuel for heating	5.4	--	--
<b>Sanitation</b>	Percent of households with piped water on the premises	17.0	--	--
	Percent of households with source as piped water community supply	39.9	--	--
	Percent of households without toilets	42.0	--	--
	Percent of households with pit latrines	32.0	--	--
	Percent of households with V.I.P toilets	23.0	--	--
	Percent of households with sewage system	2.0	--	--
	Percent of households with septic tanks	1.0	--	--
	Percent of households that disposed of household refuse on communal refuse dump	6.3	--	--
	Percent of households that disposed of household refuse on the household's own refuse dump	87.8	--	--
	Percent of households where household refuse is regularly collected	1.5	--	--

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