

Demographic Characteristics of the Population

4.0. Introduction

Demographic information is important in every survey undertaking as it provides a basis for the analysis of population characteristics and their relationship with other determinants of population change. Specifically demographic information allows us to determine the thresholds for defining the working-age population as well as the Labour force. Further Labour Force analysis becomes interesting when analysed by age, sex, marital status and geographic administrative units, which in this case include province, district, constituency and wards. The importance of information that provide some distribution of the population can not be over-emphasized for effectively targeting resources, which are usually very meager.

This chapter provides information from the 2005 Labour force survey on Population Size, Age, Sex, Relationship to Household Head and Marital Status by location and province.

4.1. Population Size and Distribution

Table 4.1 and Figure 3.1 show the percentage distribution of population by location and Province. The total population of Zambia was estimated at 11,470,234, of which females constituted 50 percent. Of the total population, 65 percent resided in rural areas, while the remaining 35 percent in urban areas.

Lusaka province, with 81 percent of its population residing in urban areas was the most urbanized province, followed by Copperbelt province with 79 percent, Central province with 25 percent and Southern province with 21 percent of their population residing in urban areas, respectively.

The least urbanized was Eastern province with only 9 percent of its population residing in urban areas, followed by Western (11 percent) and North Western province (13 percent).

Table 4.1: Population Distribution by Province, Rural and Urban, Zambia, 2005

Province	Total Population	Percent Distribution		
		Rural	Urban	Total
Zambia	11,470,234	65	35	100
Central	1,195,127	75	25	100
Copperbelt	1,830,959	21	79	100
Eastern	1,512,577	91	9	100
Luapula	899,703	85	15	100
Lusaka	1,569,587	19	81	100
Northern	1,513,882	84	16	100
North Western	682,377	87	13	100
Southern	1,405,210	79	21	100
Western	860,812	89	11	100

Figure 4.1 shows that the provinces with the largest share of the national population were Copperbelt with 16 percent followed by Lusaka, at 14 percent, Eastern and Northern, at 13 percent respectively and Southern province, at 12 percent. The province with the least

percentage share of the national population was North Western with 6 percent of the national population, followed by Western and Luapula provinces, at 8 percent a piece.

Figure 4.1: Percentage Share of the Population by Province, 2005

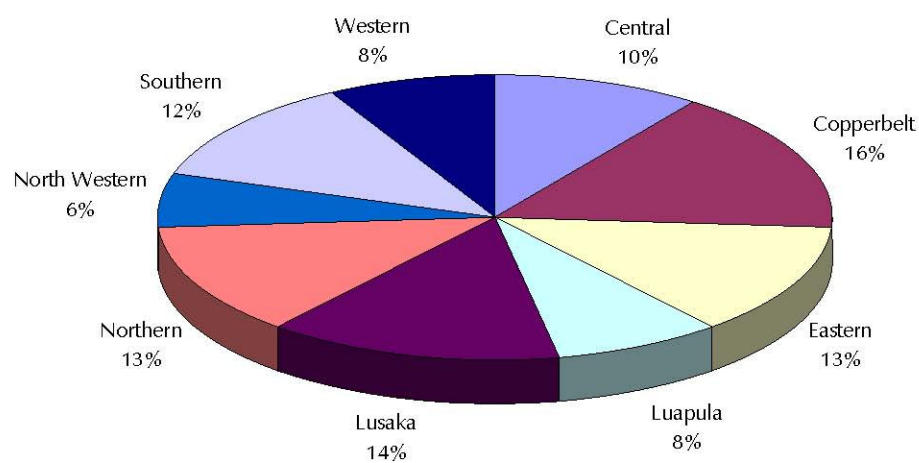


Table 4.2 and figure 4.2 show the percentage Further analysis of the population reveals an equal distribution of the population by sex, province and distribution of the population between sex in central, location. The country’s percentage distribution of the Copperbelt, Eastern and Luapula provinces. Notably, population by sex shows that 50 percent of the Western, North Western and Southern Provinces population is female while the remainder is male. This recorded the highest percentage of females, at 53 represents a sex ratio of 100. No differences were percent, 53 percent and 51 percent, respectively. observed in terms of the sex ratios of the rural and Conversely, Lusaka and Northern provinces had urban population. proportionately more males than females, at 51

percent alike.

Table 4.2: Percentage Distribution of the Population by Sex, Province, Rural and Urban, Zambia, 2002-2003

Province/Residence	Male	Female	Total	Total Population
Zambia	50	50	100	11,470,234
Rural	50	50	100	7,473,391
Urban	50	50	100	3,996,843
Central	50	50	100	1,195,127
Copperbelt	50	50	100	1,830,959
Eastern	50	50	100	1,512,577
Luapula	50	50	100	899,703
Lusaka	51	49	100	1,569,587
Northern	51	49	100	1,513,882
North Western	47	53	100	682,377
Southern	49	51	100	1,405,210
Western	47	53	100	860,812

Figure 4.2: Percentage Distribution of the Population by Location and Province, 2005

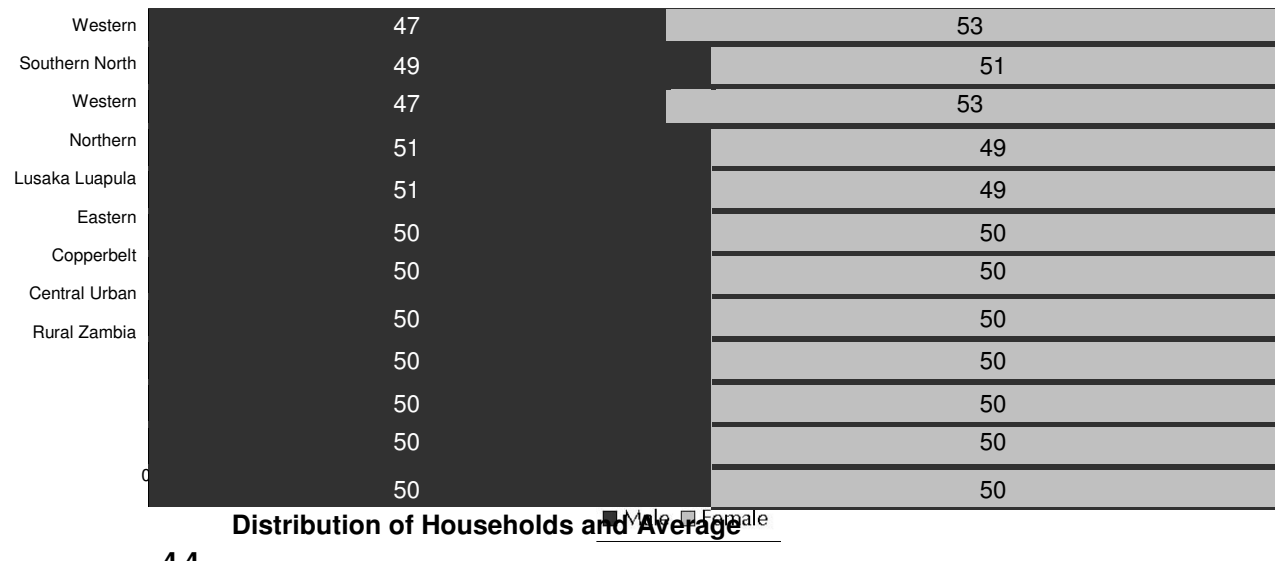
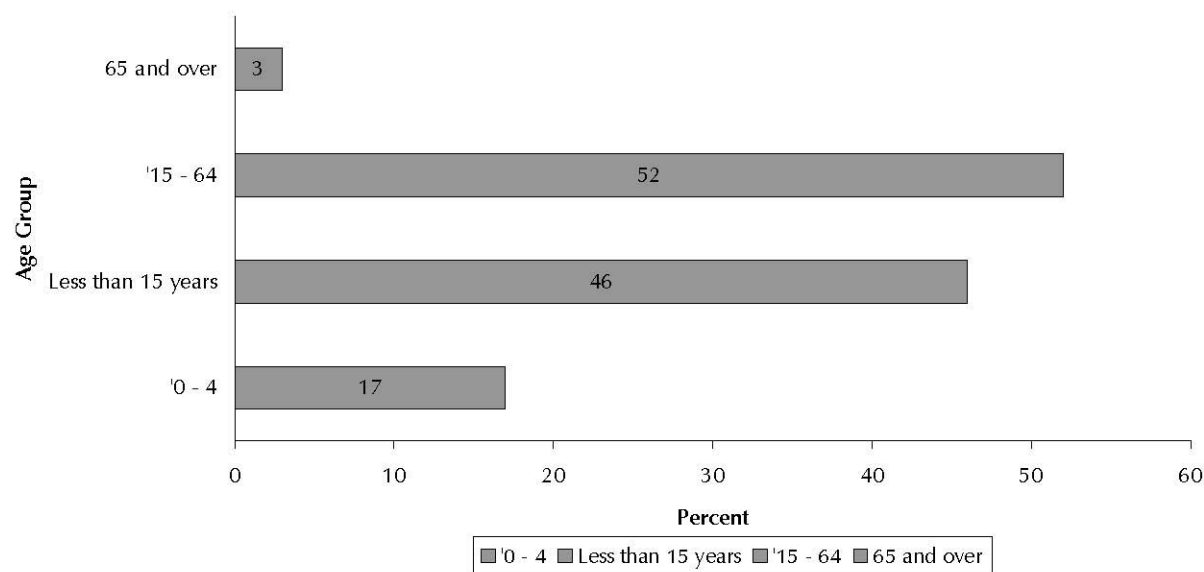


Table 4.3 shows the population distribution by age how broad based and young the Zambian population and sex. Results from the table show that 46 percent is (Refer to figure 4.3). of the population was below the age of 15 years, while only 3 percent was above the age of 64 years. The Furthermore, the population distribution by age and youth population aged 15-24, constituted 22 percent sex shows that there are proportionately more females of the population. Females of reproductive age 15-49 than males from among the 20-29 year olds. The age made up accounted for nearly half (48 percent) of the distribution beyond the age of 29 years is identical for total female population. These results clearly shows both the males and females.

Table 4.3: Population Distribution by Age and Sex, Zambia, 2005

Age group	Male	Female	Total	Population
0-4	18	17	17	2,000,572
5-9	15	14	15	1,668,077
10-14	14	14	14	1,588,852
15-19	12	12	12	1331,743
20-24	9	10	10	1,099,967
25-29	8	9	8	966,607
30-34	6	6	6	716,683
35-39	4	5	5	517,278
40-44	3	3	3	392,898
45-49	3	3	3	332,263
50-54	2	2	2	235,717
55-59	2	2	2	185,121
60-64	1	1	1	141,460
65+	3	3	3	292,996
Total	100	100	100	11,470,234

Figure 4.3: Distribution of the Population by Selected Age Groups, 2005



4.2. Marital Status

Information on marital status is important in the analysis of fertility levels and trends in a population. Marital dissolution through separation, divorce or widowhood has a negative impact on fertility and population growth in general. Furthermore, marriage dissolution provides a fertile environment for the spread of HIV/AIDS. The extent of dissolutions can also be used to gauge the levels of infidelity in a society.

Table 4.4 and figure 4.4 show the distribution of the population aged 12 years and above by marital status, Sex and age group. Results from the 2005 Labour Force survey show that 54 percent of the population aged 12 years and above was married while 34 percent had never married. The widowed, divorced and separated accounted for 6 percent, 4 percent and 2 percent of the total population aged 12 years and above.

Disaggregation of the results by sex shows that higher proportion of females than males were widowed, at 10 and 2 percent, divorced at 6 and 2 percent and Separated at 2 and 1 percent, respectively. Nationally, there were proportionately more males than females that had never married, at 41 and 27 percent respectively.

Analysis by Age and Sex show that early marriages were still common in Zambia especially among females, with 19 percent of females aged 15-19 years being married compared to a paltry 2 percent of males of the same age. Moreover, only 27 percent of the males aged 20 – 24 years were married compared to 60 percent of their female counterpart. Notably, there were proportionately more males than females aged 30 years and over that were in marriage. This is as a result of the tendency of men to remarry regardless of their age, which may not be always the case with their female counterpart.

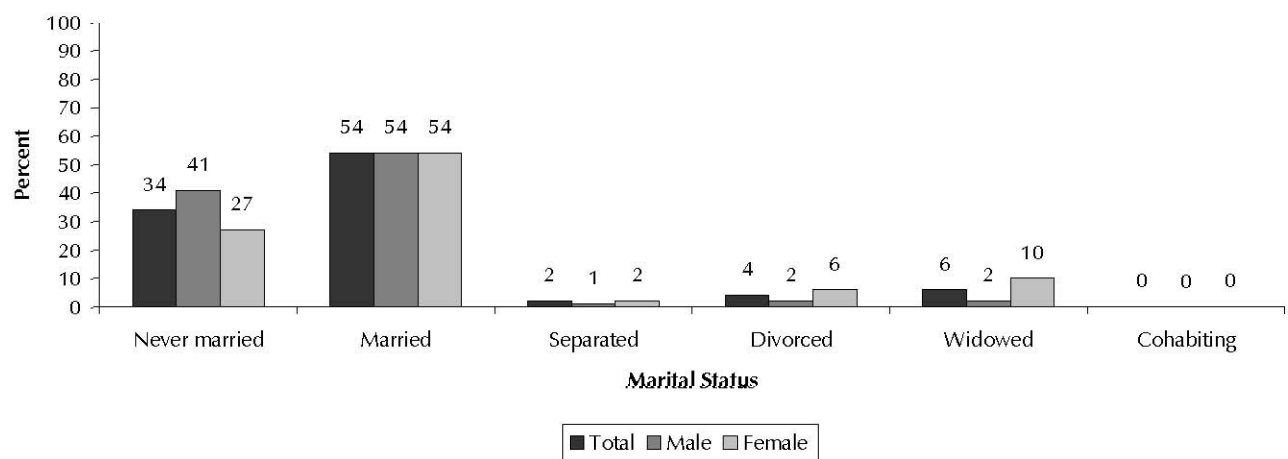
Widowhood was also high among females, with 12 percent of females aged 30-49 years being widowed compared to 2 percent of males of the same age. The lower rate of widowhood among males could be as a result of the tendency by males to quickly remarry upon divorce or death of a spouse.

Further, divorce rate was also higher among females aged 25 years and over compared to males of the same age group.

Table 4.4: Percentage Distribution of the Population Aged 12 years and Above by Rural/Urban and Marital Status, Zambia, 2005

Sex and Age Group	Marital Status							Persons 12 years and above
	Never Married	Married	Separated	Divorced	Widowed	Cohabiting	Total	
Total	34	54	2	4	6	0	100	6,203,374
Sex								
Male	41	54	1	2	2	0	100	3,021,399
Female	27	54	2	6	10	0	100	3,181,975
Age Group								
12 – 14	91	-	-	-	-	9	100	1,641
15 – 19	88	11	0	0	0	0	100	1,328,402
20 – 24	51	45	2	2	1	0	100	1,098,252
25 – 29	25	65	2	5	2	0	100	965,060
30 – 49	6	78	2	7	7	0	100	1,954,725
50+	1	64	2	7	26	0	100	855,294
Male								
12 – 14	88	-	-	-	-	12	100	1,196
15 – 19	97	2	0	0	0	0	100	660,161
20 – 24	71	27	1	1	0	0	100	502,662
25 – 29	33	63	1	2	0	0	100	463,874
30 – 49	8	85	2	4	2	0	100	973,876
50+	1	85	2	4	8	0	100	419,630
Female								
12 – 14	100	-	-	-	-	-	100	445
15 – 19	79	19	1	1	0	0	100	668,241
20 – 24	34	60	2	3	1	0	100	595,590
25 – 29	18	68	4	8	3	0	100	501,186
30 – 49	4	71	3	9	12	0	100	980,849
50+	1	44	2	10	44	0	100	435,664

Figure 4.4: Distribution of the Population Aged 12 Years and Above by Marital Status and Sex, Zambia, 2005



4.3. Relationship to Household Head

Table 4.5 shows the percentage distribution of the population by relationship to the head of the household. Information on the relationship to the head was collected for all usual members of the household. A household head was defined as a usual member of the household that all members looked up to and made most of the day to day decisions regarding the running of the household welfare. Nearly half of the population constituted own born children of the household head, at 49 percent. After

own born children, the next largest percentage was made up of household-heads, at 20 percent, followed by Spouses, at 14 percent, Grand Children at 7 percent and other relatives and Non-relatives, at 6 percent alike.

The least common relationships to the head of households included adopted children, Own Parents and Grand Parents.

Table 4.5: Percentage Distribution by Relationship to Household Head, Zambia, 2005

Relation to Household Head	Percentage of Household Members	Total Population
Head	20	2, 290, 461
Spouse	14	1, 578, 541
Own Child	49	5, 627, 942
Brother/Sister	3	338, 972
Adopted Child	0	20, 215
Grand Child	7	784, 332
Step Child	1	98, 434
Child in-law	0	52, 600
In-Laws	1	106, 226
Parents	0	46, 733
Grand Parents	0	28, 845
Other Relative	4	456, 464
Non-Relatives	6	40, 469
Total	100	11, 470, 234

Female-headed households on average had smaller household (4.9 members) compared to male-headed households (5.3 members).

The provinces with the largest Average household size were Northern, Central and Copperbelt provinces with 5.3 members per household while the provinces with the least Average household size were Eastern province (4.7 members), followed by Western and Lusaka, at 4.8 members each.

was slightly higher in urban areas at 5.1 household members compared to an average household size of 5.0 members in rural areas. With the exception of Copperbelt province, all the highly urbanized provinces (Lusaka, Central and Southern provinces) were associated with smaller urban families compared to the rural households.

Table 4.6: Percentage Distribution of Households and Average Household Size by Sex of Head, Rural/Urban and Province, Zambia, 2005

Province	Percent Distribution			Average Household Size by sex of Head		Average Household Size by Location			Total Households
	Total	Rural	Urban	Male	Female	Total	Rural	Urban	
Zambia	100	66	34	5.3	4.3	5.0	5.0	5.1	2,284,036
Central	100	73	27	5.5	4.6	5.3	5.4	4.8	227,596
Copperbelt	100	22	78	5.5	4.6	5.3	5.0	5.4	346,732
Eastern	100	92	8	5.0	3.9	4.7	4.7	5.2	319,592
Luapula	100	87	13	5.3	4.4	5.1	5.0	5.9	175,857
Lusaka	100	17	83	5.0	4.5	4.8	5.5	4.7	324,040
Northern	100	87	13	5.2	4.1	4.9	4.8	5.8	307,320
North Western	100	88	12	5.4	3.7	5.0	4.9	5.7	136,986
Southern	100	77	23	5.5	4.4	5.3	5.4	4.7	267,756
Western	100	90	10	5.2	4.3	4.8	4.8	5.1	178,157

4.5. Age of Household Head

Information on households by age of household head show that child headed households were not common in Zambia with only 1 percent of households being headed by individuals aged below 20 years. However, it is worth noting that 8 percent of the households were headed by the youths (persons aged 15 to 24 years). In the Zambian context, this age group is expected to be attending tertiary education and largely constitute dependants for those in employment. Youth

Demographic Characteristics of the Population

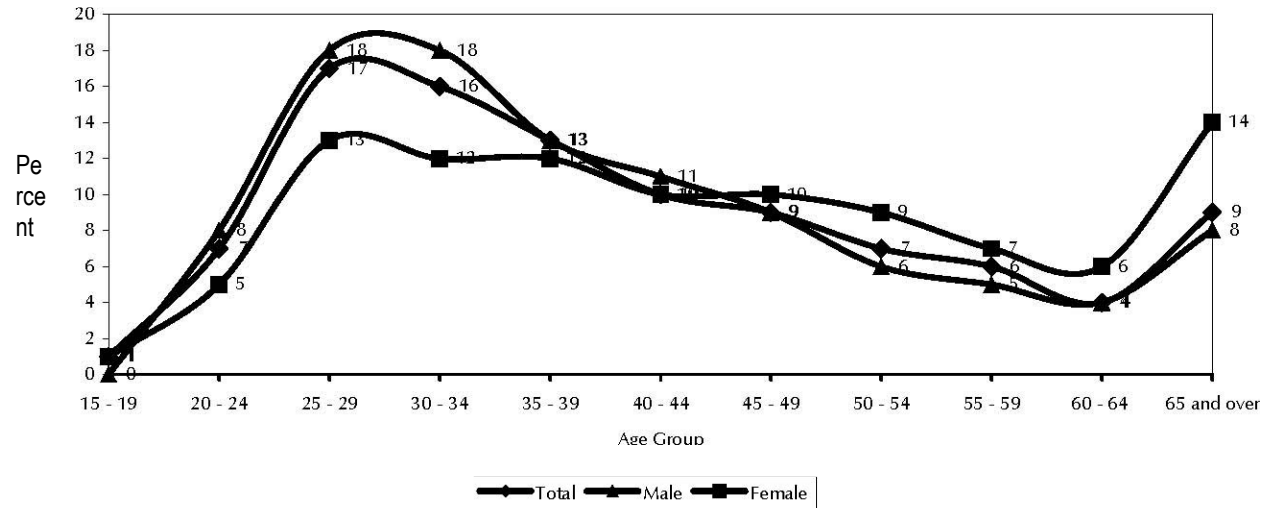
headship was more common among the Males than the Females. It is also important to note that nearly one in every 10 households are headed by the aged i.e. headed by individuals over the age of 64 years.

Further analysis of household headship by age reveals that males are more likely to attain headship much earlier in their lives than females. However, as age catches up, there are proportionately more females heading households than their male counterpart.

Table 4.7: Percentage Distribution of Households by Age of Household Head, Zambia, 2002-2003

Age group	Male	Female	Percentage Share of Households	Total Number of Households
15-19	0	1	1	14, 059
20-24	8	5	7	163,312
25-29	18	13	17	389, 003
30-34	18	12	16	374, 111
35-39	13	12	13	296, 812
40-44	11	10	10	239, 586
45-49	9	10	9	209, 397
50-54	6	9	7	160, 411
55-59	5	7	6	127, 727
60-64	4	6	4	100, 698
65+	8	14	9	208, 653
Total	100	100	100	2, 284, 036

Figure 4.5: Percentage Distribution of Household Heads by Sex and Age Group, Zambia, 2005



4.6. Female Headed Households

Table 4.8 shows the proportion of female-headed households by province and Location. The table shows that 25 percent of Households in Zambia at the time of the Labour Force survey were female-headed households. Western province had the highest percentage of female-headed households with almost 39 percent of households in the province being headed by females. The lowest percentage of female-headed households was found in Copperbelt province

(22 percent), followed by Lusaka and Northern provinces at 23 percent, respectively.

With the exception of Central, Lusaka and Northern provinces, there were proportionately more female-headed households in the urban parts of the remaining provinces than in the rural areas. The incidence of female headship was more prevalent in both the rural and urban parts of Western province.

Table 4.8: Proportion of Female Headed Households by Province, Rural and Urban, Zambia, 2005

Province	Percentage Share			Total Households
	Total	Rural	Urban	
Zambia	25	26	23	2, 284, 036
Central	26	25	26	227, 596
Copperbelt	22	24	21	346, 732
Eastern	25	26	17	319, 592
Luapula	24	24	23	175, 857
Lusaka	23	17	24	324, 040
Northern	23	24	24	307, 320
North Western	26	27	21	136, 986
Southern	25	25	22	267, 756
Western	39	40	29	178, 157