

# **Measuring the Labor Force in Brazilian Rural Areas: Problems and Possibilities of IBGE's Statistics.**

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The aim of this work is to make a follow up of the statistics in Brazilian Geography and Statistics Institute, IBGE, that have a greater potential of use to elaborate labor force indicators in rural areas. Important methods, concepts and variables used on two surveys – PNAD (National Household Sample Survey) and Census of Agriculture are explored and discussed.

The distinction between urban and rural areas represents, more and more, a conceptual and operative problem to statistics production. However the permanence of this dichotomy not appropriated to deal with the complexity of territories in actuality has been justified because of the existence of governmental social and economic policies that are based on these two inadequate concepts.

The next Brazilian Census of Agriculture, that will occur in 2006 (with 2005 as the year of reference), brings important innovation towards to the qualification and quantification of labor force in farms, the measure unit adopted. Nevertheless, IBGE's agricultural surveys of smaller periodicity (LSPA – the monthly agricultural production survey, for example) that show differences in juncture still didn't incorporate the universe of labor. This is a urgent demand that is presented to the institution.