1. Name and address of the organisation responsible for the last census:
   Central Bureau of Statistics, P.O.B. 959, 2270 AZ Voorburg.

2. Population censuses conducted since 1945 (years):
   1947, 1960 and 1971. A population census was planned for 1981 but, due to adverse public opinion to a census in general, it was cancelled. Instead, a population enumeration has taken place based on the municipal population registers according to the situation on 1st January 1983, and two sample surveys were carried out, namely a Housing Demand Survey (Autumn of 1981) and a Labour Force Sample Survey (Spring of 1981). The sample size of the LFSS was increased to 5 per cent to obtain more reliable information at the regional level.

   The present description relates mainly to the special 1981 Labour Force Sample Survey but reference is also made to the 1971 population census and previous censuses (cf. para. 8) as well as to the Continuous Labour Force Survey, regularly conducted every month since 1987 (cf. para. 9).

3. Coverage of the census:
   (a) *Geographical scope:* Whole country.
   (b) *Persons covered:* All persons of all ages.

4. Reference period:
   The reference period used when asking questions on the economically active population, employment and unemployment is a short period, i.e. the week preceding the survey.

5. Main topics:
   (a) Total population, by sex and age: yes
   (b) Economically active population, by sex and age group: yes
   (c) Economically active population, by industry and by sex: yes
   (d) Economically active population, by occupation and by sex: yes
   (e) Economically active population, by status in employment and by sex: yes
   (f) Hours of work: yes
   (g) Other information collected relating to persons' economic activity: yes

   Re. (a) The age is defined in terms of year of birth.
   Re. (f) Hours of work relate to hours according to contract or, for self-employed, hours worked during the reference week.
   Re. (g) The survey also covers information on: income; frequency of travel to work and means of transport used; education; searching for another job; overwork; reason for leaving last job; spell of searching a job; reason for searching for a job.

6. Concepts and definitions:
   (a) *Economically active population:* It comprises all persons in the sample aged 14 years and over who, during the reference period, were either employed or unemployed, according to the definitions given below.
   (b) *Employment:* Considered as "employed" are all persons aged 14 years and over in the sample who, during the reference period, performed any full-time or part-time work of an economic value, at home or out of home. The questions used to determine if a person is to be counted as employed are "Please indicate to which group you belong" and only for respondents who indicated at this question they had no job "Do you have any professional job, even for a few hours per week or for a short period?". Also included are the following categories:
   (i) persons doing unpaid work in family firm or business;
(ii) employed persons, temporarily absent from work;
(iii) working students with a part time job;
(iv) seasonal or occasional workers;
(v) conscripts for military/civilian service;
(vi) multiple job holders;
(vii) apprentices and trainees.

Persons belonging to categories (i), (ii), (iii) and (v) can be identified separately.

(c) Unemployment: Considered as “unemployed” are all persons aged 14 years and over in the sample who, during the reference period, were without work and seeking work. Students seeking work are included in the economically active population but can also be identified separately. To determine if a person is to be counted as unemployed, the questions used, in addition to both questions asked under 6 (b) above, were “Are you now looking for a job?”; “How did you look for a job in the past four weeks?”; “If you could now find a suitable job, can you start within the next two weeks?”; “Do you receive any unemployment benefit?”; “Are you registered at a public employment exchange?”.

7. Classifications used:

Both employed persons and unemployed persons previously employed in the sample are classified by industry and by status in employment. Only the employed persons are classified by occupation.

(a) Industry: Specific questions are asked both of employed persons and unemployed persons previously employed in the sample to determine industry group. The questions relate to the exact name and address of workplace and nature of goods produced or services supplied, as well as to the person’s activity at workplace. Self-employed persons were asked to give information on the kind of activity performed by their own enterprise (farm, business, etc.). For coding industry, 275 groups were used. Links to the International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC-68, rev. 2) have been established to the group (4-digit) level.

(b) Occupation: Specific questions are asked of employed persons in the sample to determine occupation group. The questions relate mainly to the type of work performed: persons are requested to indicate the exact title of their job and to give a description of their main tasks and duties, as well as their level of responsibilities. Self-employed also are asked to describe their activity in their own firm or enterprise (e.g. administrator, director, etc.). For coding occupation 900 groups were used. Links to the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-68) have been established to the minor group level.

(c) Status in employment: Specific questions are asked both of employed persons and unemployed persons previously employed in the sample to determine their status in employment. For coding status in employment 6 groups were used, namely: own-account worker; employer; salaried employee; wage earner; unpaid family worker; other. Members of producers’ cooperatives do not represent a separate group of status in employment.

8. The previous population censuses:

(a) In the 1947, 1960 and 1971 censuses, as well as in the 1981 labour force sample survey, a “current activity” concept was used.

(b) In 1947, 1960 and 1971 no reference period was specified, whereas in 1981 a one-week reference period was used.

(c) The criteria of hours used to determine working persons were as follows: in 1947, no questions were asked about hours worked; in 1960, a division was made between 8 or more hours for teachers and 15 or more hours for other working persons; in 1971, all persons working one hour or more (15 or more hours for a person working unpaid in family firm or business) were considered as employed; in 1981, in fact no such criterion was used.

(d) To determine unemployed persons, the only criterion in 1947, 1960 and 1971 was an affirmative answer to the question “seeking work”. In 1981, the extra criteria for membership of the group “persons seeking a job” were “without work, seeking work and currently available for work”.

(e) In 1947, 1960 and 1971, essentially the same questions were used to determine and describe the economically active population and its components, i.e. “Is he/she engaged in economic
activity?". In 1981, there were different questions for working persons and persons seeking work (See also para. 6 (b) and 6 (c) above).

9. The next population census:

No population census will be carried out during the period 1989-95. However, a statistical programme has been developed as alternative for the 1991 census. It consists of a set of register-based enumerations, in particular from the municipal population registers, in combination with sample surveys: the above mentioned Housing Demand Survey (carried out every four year) and Continuous Labour Force Survey (carried out every month).

From 1990/1991 various changes will be introduced in question wording as well as in response categories to determine and describe the economically active population and its components.