

Table 3.17. Rural/Urban Distribution of Population and Employment, China 1952–95
(000s at end year)

| | Rural Population | Urban Population | Agricultural Employment | Rural Non- Agricultural Employment | Urban Employment | Total Employment |
|------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1952 | 503 190 | 71 630 | 173 170 | 9 500 | 24 620 | 207 290 |
| 1957 | 547 040 | 99 490 | 193 090 | 13 690 | 30 930 | 237 710 |
| 1958 | 552 730 | 107 210 | 154 900 | 60 040 | 51 060 | 266 000 |
| 1959 | 548 360 | 123 710 | 162 710 | 48 030 | 51 000 | 261 740 |
| 1960 | 531 340 | 130 730 | 170 160 | 31 690 | 56 960 | 258 810 |
| 1962 | 556 360 | 116 590 | 212 760 | 4 550 | 41 790 | 259 100 |
| 1970 | 685 680 | 144 240 | 278 110 | 8 750 | 57 460 | 344 320 |
| 1977 | 783 050 | 166 690 | 293 400 | 17 320 | 83 050 | 393 770 |
| 1978 | 790 140 | 172 450 | 283 730 | 31 510 | 86 280 | 401 520 |
| 1987 | 816 260 | 276 740 | 308 700 | 81 304 | 137 826 | 527 830 |
| 1994 | 855 490 | 343 010 | 326 903 | 119 639 | 167 316 | 613 858 |
| 1995 | 859 470 | 351 740 | 323 345 | 127 074 | 173 461 | 623 880 |

Source: Rural/urban population from SSB *China Statistical Yearbooks*, 1988 ed., p. 75, 1995 ed., p. 59, and 1996 ed., p. 69. In general the population is categorised by place of permanent residence. Urban population refers to residents of cities and towns. The above figures appear to refer to the 1964 definition of a town, i.e. a place with 3 000 or more inhabitants, of whom 75 per cent or more were working outside agriculture, or 2 000 and more inhabitants of whom 85 per cent were non agricultural. Total employment 1952–77 from *China Statistical Yearbook 1993*, p. 78, 1978–95 from 1996 *Yearbook*, p. 92. Agricultural employment and rural non-agricultural employment 1952–78 from Wu (1992), 1987–95 from *China Statistical Yearbook 1996*, p. 354. Urban employment was derived as a residual. It should be noted that there is a small amount of agricultural employment which is classified as urban (about 6.8 million in 1995); the number of people involved can be seen by comparing the total number engaged in agriculture, forestry and fishery on p. 92 of the 1996 *Yearbook*, with the figures on p. 354 for the rural social labour force. The above figures probably exclude military personnel (about 3 million throughout).