

**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).