

INTRODUCTION

The present report is a result of studies on the labour market, employment and unemployment conducted in the Chair of Economic Policy at The University of Łódź. Its staff has been specializing in different aspects of employment for many years. The University of Łódź Publishers published three successive collective reports of the Chair of Economic Policy entitled *Labour Market and Unemployment* in the last few years. It is our opinion that the title of this publication reflects most accurately Poland's socio-economic situation at the present time and it is an interesting research contribution.

The scope of our studies has been restricted by available funds and the way in which they have been financed. The present third volume contains the findings of our research and it represents an individual achievement of the authors. The lack of funds did not allow us to carry out questionnaire surveys. That is why this research project had to be restricted to interviews carried in the local administration offices. Consequently, statistical data gathered by us are rather narrow and not always complete. The studies in question were conducted jointly by our staff members in the years 1992–1993. From the University of Łódź, we received quite modest funds earmarked for the so-called statutory activity of its organizational units. These modest resources, however, allowed us to continue joint researches.

We are presenting below different articles whose sequence makes a logical whole. We start with discussing general issues concerning the restructuring and segmentation of the labour market, problems of employment and unemployment. The research of these problems is continued by the Chair of Economic Policy. We can, thus, hope that the fourth volume under the same title will be ready for publication next year.

Łódź, October 1993

Halina Mortimer-Szymczak