

# **Seasonality in time use and time poverty in Kenya**

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Seasonality Revisited  
IDS Sussex, Brighton, UK

# Introduction

- Importance of time poverty well recognised (Vickery (1977)
  - “Time poverty” no enough time for rest and leisure
- Empirical investigation and measurement remains scarce
- For rain-fed dependent livelihoods, time poverty would have a seasonal dimension

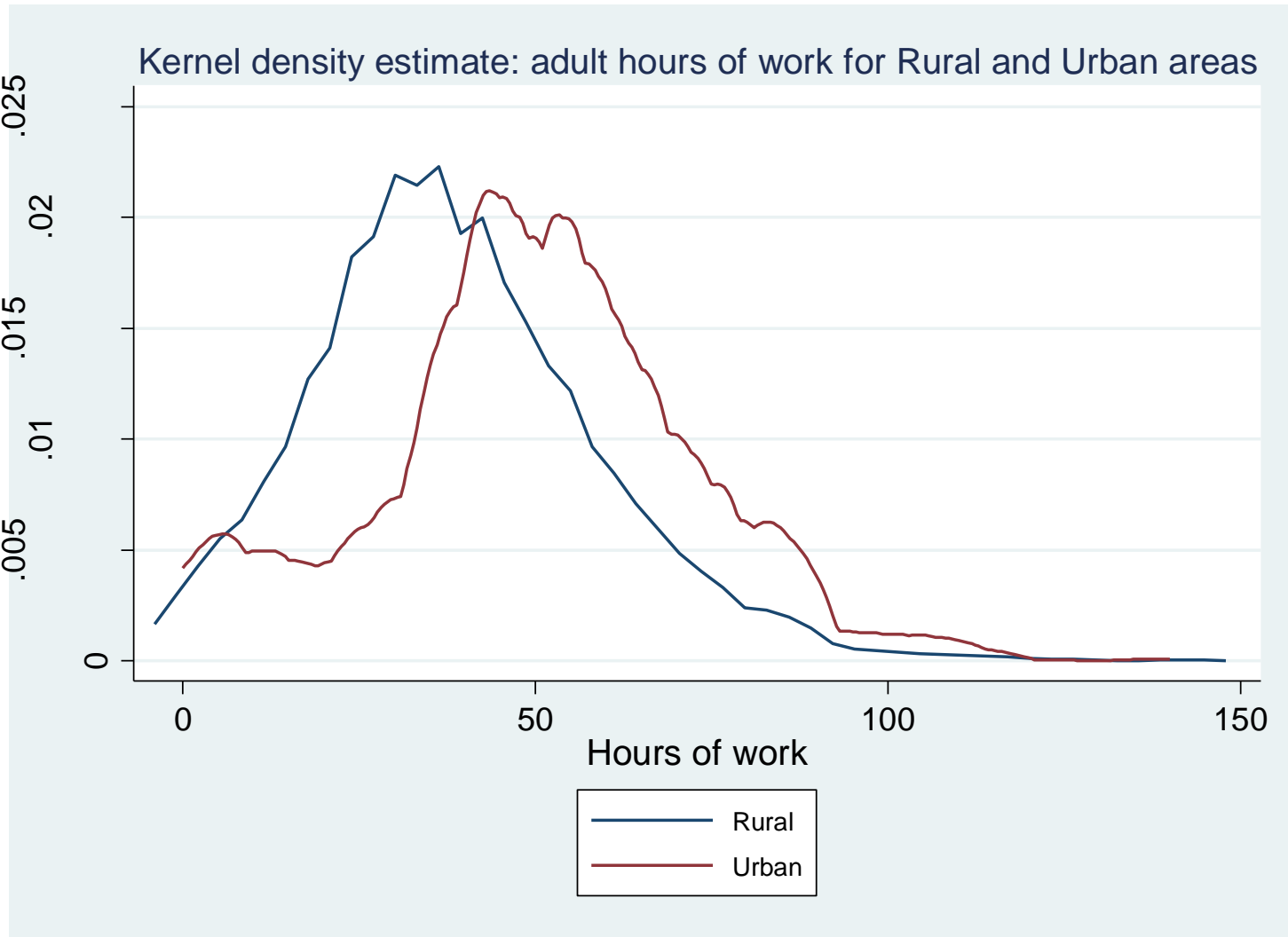
# Policy issue

- High unemployment (13%) and working poor; but seasonal peaks in labour demand
- Investments in unemployment prog
  - Limited resources
  - timing important

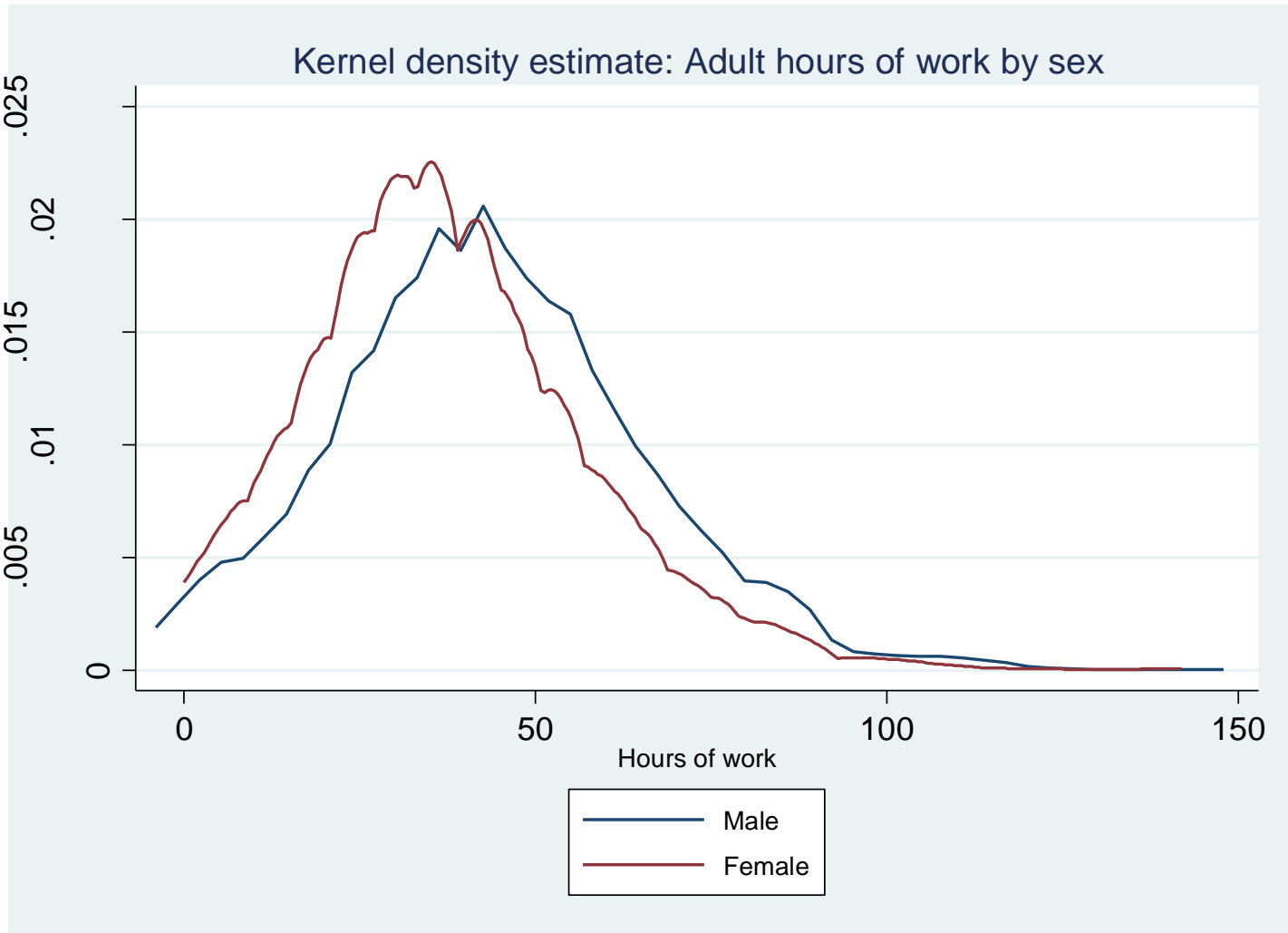
## Methods

- Foster, Greer and Thorbecke (1984)
- Unlike consumption poverty no established practices in measuring time poverty
- A multiple of median (e.g. 1.5, or 2)
- Data: KIHBS (2005/06)
- 17 cycles of 21 days between May05-Apr 06
- Shortcoming: SNA focus lacks reproductive activities

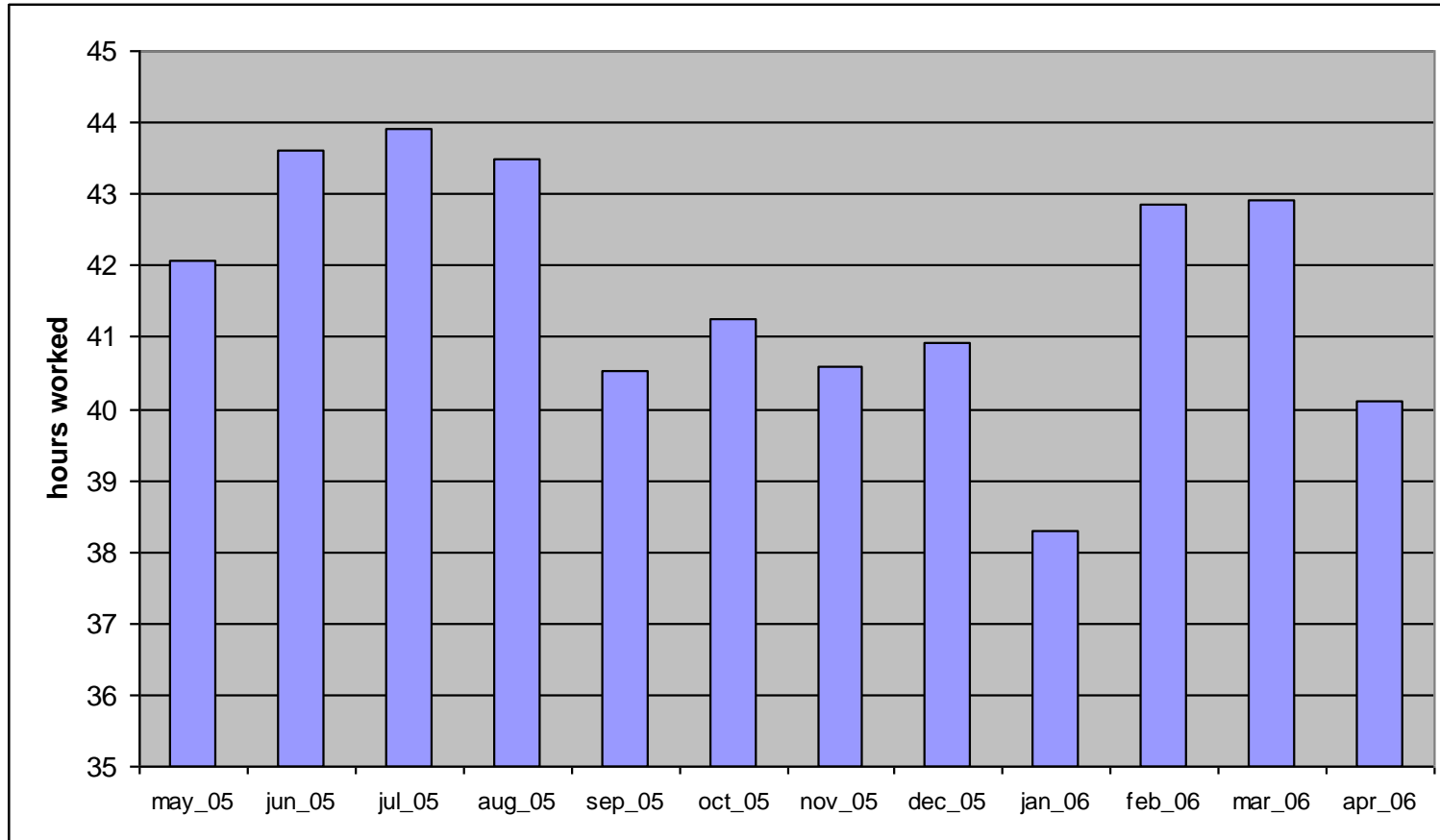
# Results



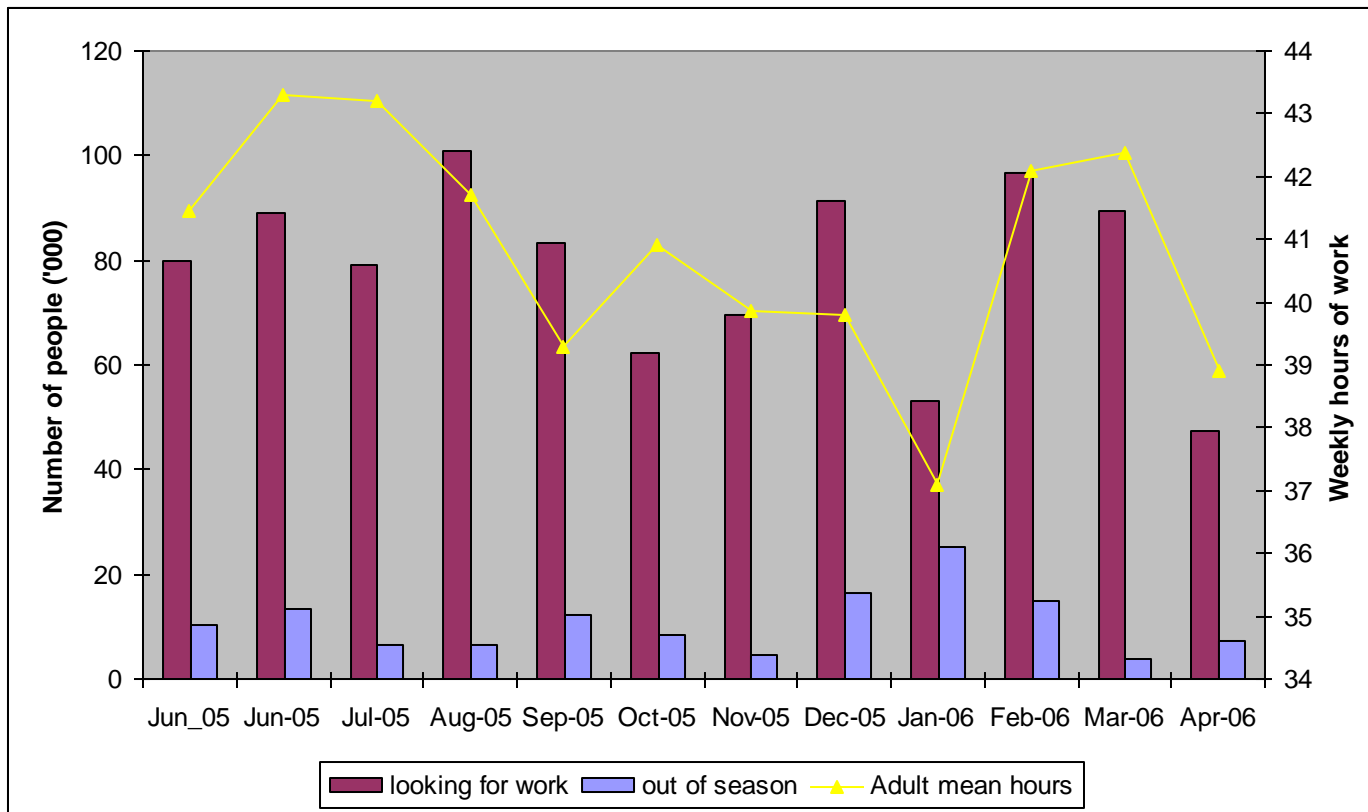
# Results



# Seasonal variation adult hours



# Number looking for work and hours work



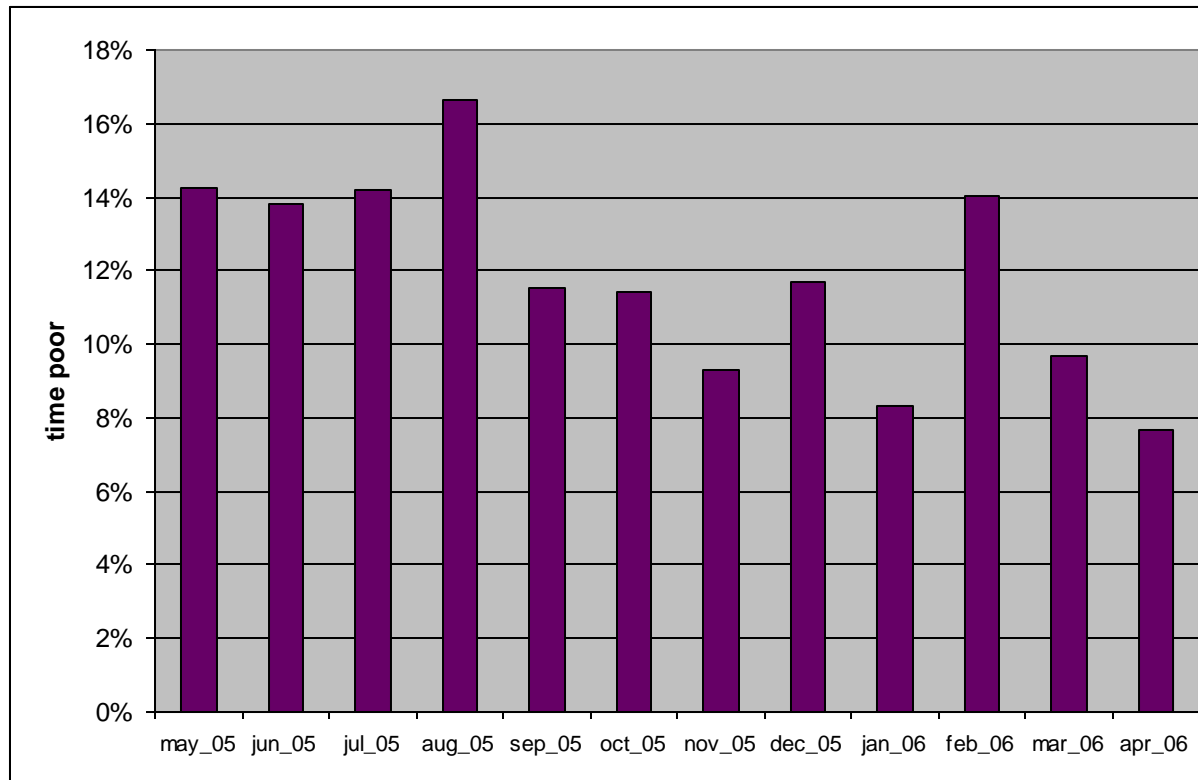




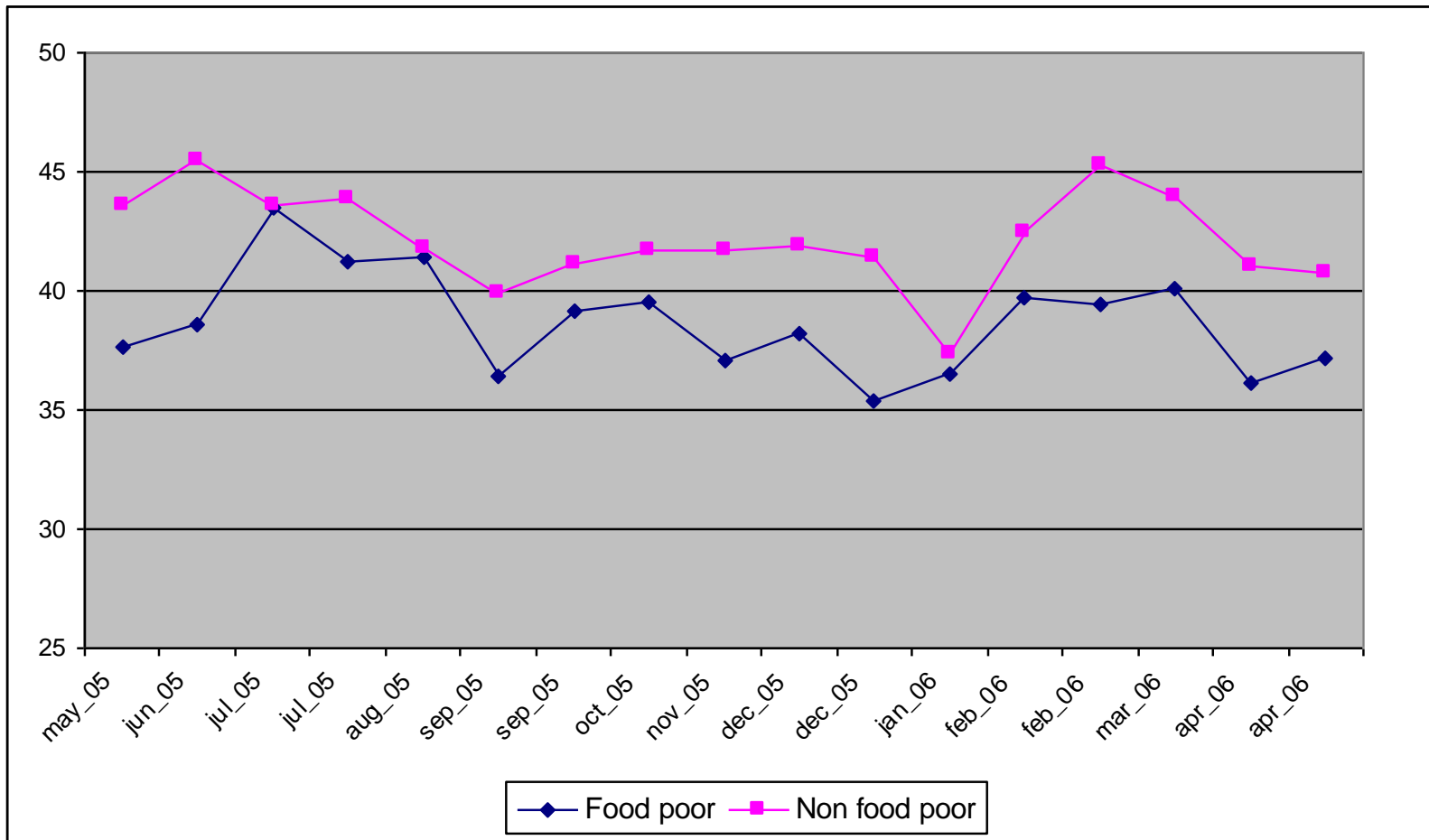
# Unemployment rate and hours of work



# Seasonality in time poverty

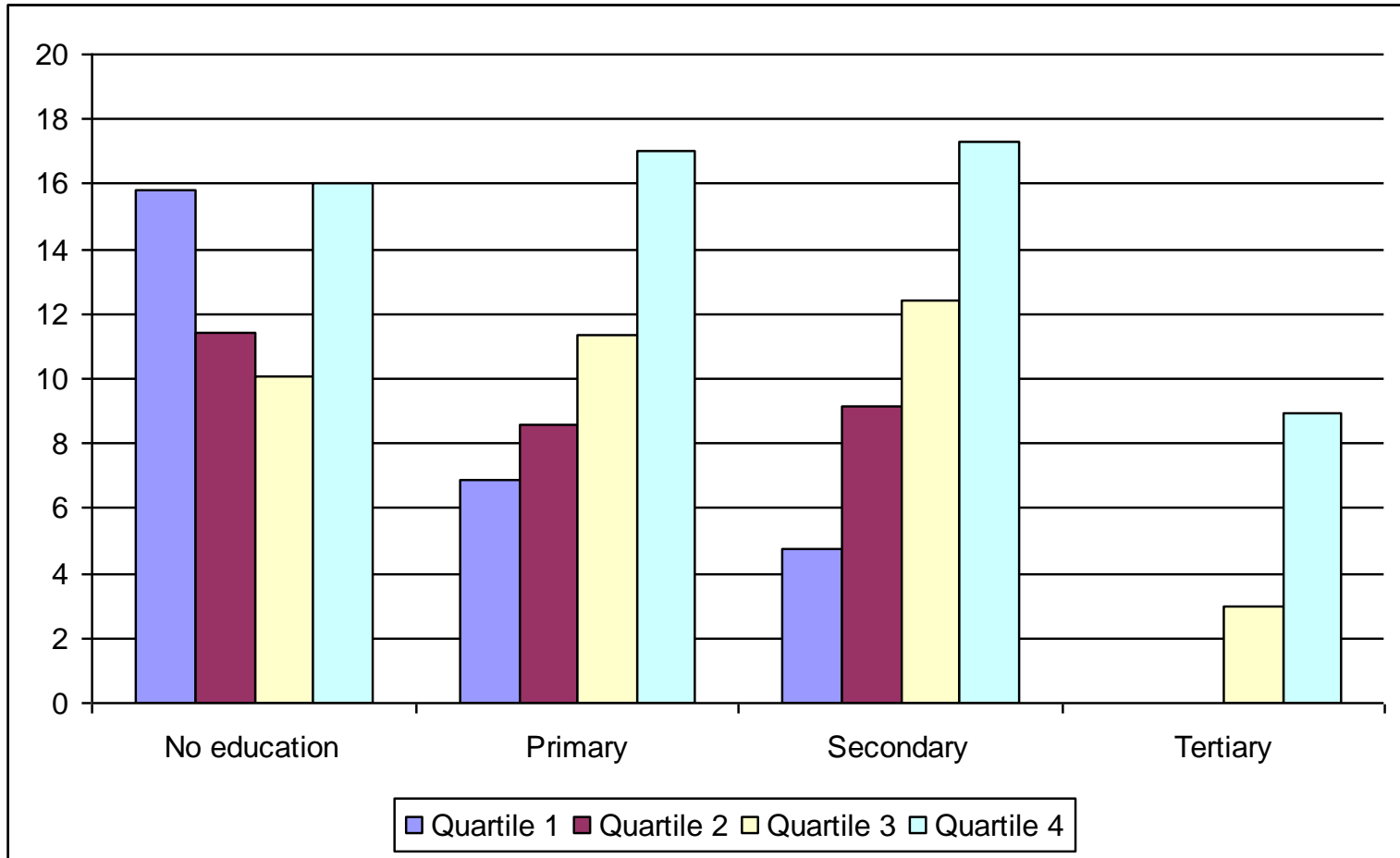


# Hours of work by food poverty status

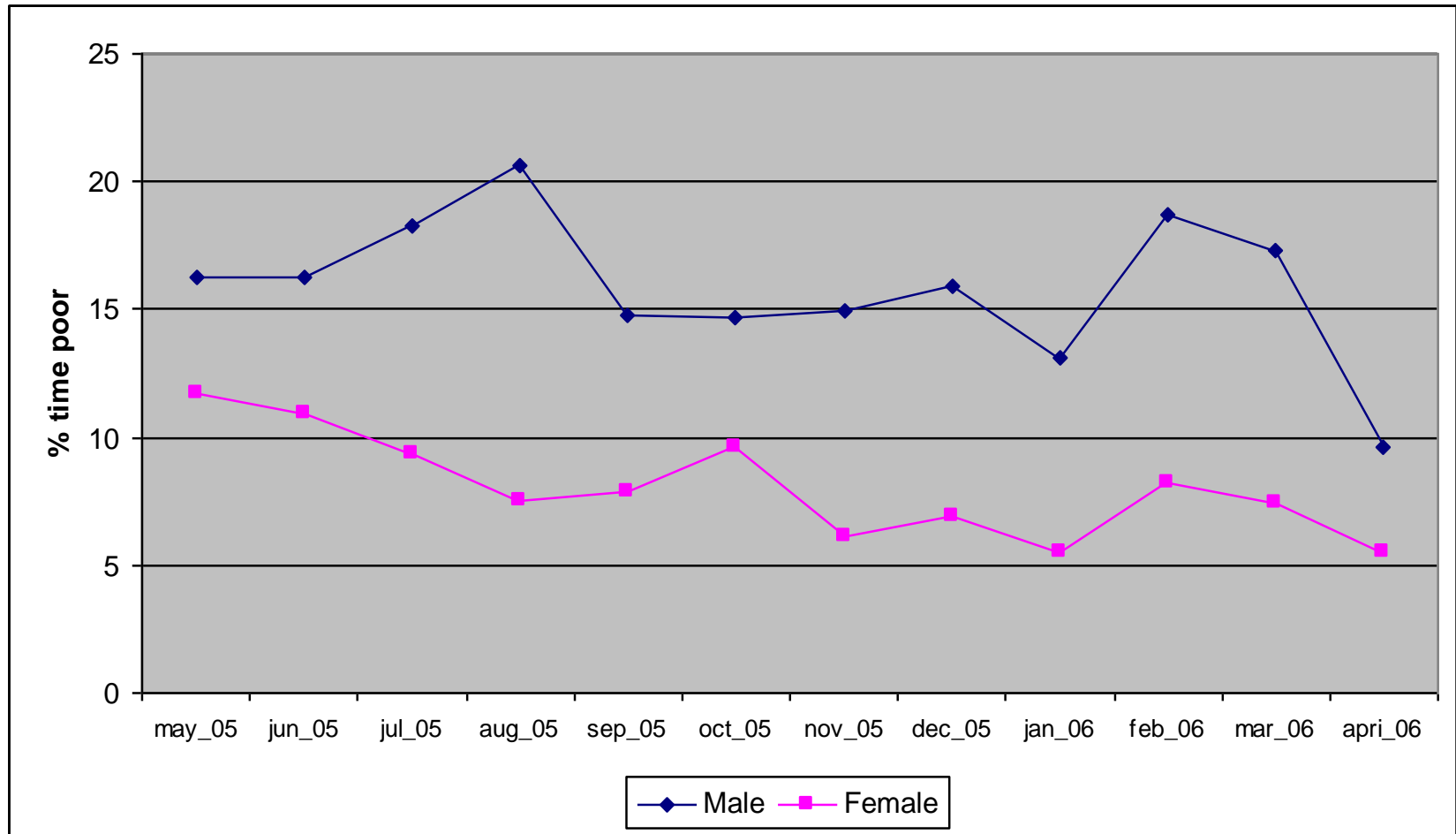




# Education, food consumption and time poverty



# Male and female seasonal time poverty



## Conclusion and recom.

- Job creation even at same wages would reduce poverty
  - 8/12 mths food poor work hours < median compared to 1 mth for non-food poor
- Men more time-poor? definition of “work”
  - Need for data that accounts for domestic and care giving work
- Need for comparison of poverty reduction gains from increases in productivity that raises wages across seasons and job creation at same wage

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