

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Labor Force Survey has been conducted by the National Statistical Office Ministry of Information and Communication Technology since 1963. At that time 2 rounds were conducted each year by the first round representing the non-agricultural season, and the second round representing the agricultural season. In 1984-1997 three rounds of the survey were conducted, the addition survey were in May representing the new labor from the graduate students. Since 1998 The Labor Force Survey has been conducted four round by the additional of the fourth round of the survey in November representing the harvest season.

This report represent the information on the employment and unemployment status of the Thai population of first round Labor Force Survey conducted during 1st-12th of each month during January-March 2007 by interviewing household members of the sampling households. The total sampling households were 79,560, where 50,040 households were in municipal area, and 29,520 households were in non-municipal area.

SUMMARY RESULTS

1. Structure of the labor force

The total population was 65.6 million, out of which 36.1 million were in the total labor force. Of the total labor force 35.2 million were employed, 0.59 million were unemployed and 0.28 million were seasonally inactive labor force. About 14.7 million were not in the labor force and about 14.7 million were persons under 15 years old.

2. Labor force participation

The labor force participation rates which was defined as the percentage of the population in the total labor force to the population 15 years of age and over was 71.1 per cent, and it shows that persons in non-municipal areas had higher participation rates than the municipal areas (71.6 per cent compared with 69.9 per cent).

Considering sex differentials, it is found that males participated in the labor force more than females (80.4 and 62.3 per cent respectively). It was true in both areas and every region.

3. Employed labor force

3.1 Industry

When considering employed person by industry, about 36.2 per cent of the total employed persons worked in agricultural sector and about 63.8 per cent in non-agricultural sector. The highest proportions of the employed persons was in the manufacturing and wholesale and retail trade which show nearly the same rate, 16.4 per cent and 16.2 per cent respectively. The next was construction 6.9 per cent, hotel and restaurants 6.7 per cent, public administration 3.5 per cent , transport storage and communication 3.1 per cent and education 2.9 per cent. The rest shared in the other industries.

3.2 Work status

The total employed person 35.2 million. The highest proportion of the total employed person was employees or about 47.3 per cent (38.5 per cent were employed in private sector and 8.8 per cent were employed in government sector), followed by own account workers 31.8 per cent. The unpaid family workers and employer which accounted for 17.8 and 3.1 per cent of the total employed. While the percentage of members of producers' cooperatives was very less about 0.2 per cent of the total employed persons.

3.3 Occupation

The distribution of employed persons by occupation, skilled agricultural and fishery workers constituted the bulk of the employed labor force (31.1 per cent). The occupation group with the next largest number of workers was service workers and shop and market sales workers which accounted for 14.8 per cent, elementary occupations workers about 13.7 per cent, craftsmen and related trades workers about 12.5 per cent, and the rest were other occupations.

3.4 Education

The distribution of employed persons by level of educational attainment illustrated that of the employed people, vast majority had low level of education, 58.3 per cent only held some elementary level or none at all, while 27.1 per cent in secondary level, 14.1 per cent in higher level and the rest were others.

4. Unemployment

The total unemployed persons was estimated at 0.59 million, where 0.37 million unemployed persons were male and 0.22 million were female. Of these unemployed persons, about 0.23 million were elementary and less than elementary level, about 0.22 million were secondary level and about 0.14 million were in the higher level.

When considering 1.6 per cent unemployment rate, it was 1.9 per cent was male and 1.3 per cent was female. The Northeast had the highest percentage of 2.2 per cent, followed by the North of 1.6 per cent, the South of 1.4 per cent, the Bangkok and the Central was the lowest of 1.2 per cent.

5. Hours worked

About 33.3 per cent of the employed persons worked 50 hours or more per week. About 44.5 per cent of employed persons worked 35-49 hours per week. On the other word, about 77.8 per cent of employed person worked 35 hours or more per week and they might be classified as fully employed. About 19.6 per cent, thus worked less than 35 hours per week and may be regarded as under-employed. For employed persons who did not work during the survey week (0 hours) but had regular job, which accounted only 2.6 per cent.

6. Wages and salaries

On the whole, about 43.3 per cent of 16.6 million employees had monthly wage or salary of Baht 2,501-5,500, around 26.8 per cent had monthly wage or salary of Baht 5,501-10,000, about 17.3 had over Baht 10,000 per month and about 11.7 per cent received less than Baht 2,501 per month.