Summary of the labor force survey in Thailand: May 2017

Structure of the Labor force
The results of Labor Force Survey in May 2017 showed that there are population, aged 15 years and over, of about 55.92 million persons. Of these 37.98 million were in the labor force or available for work (37.10 million were employed, 501 thousand were unemployed and 375 thousand were seasonally inactive labor force), while 17.94 million were not in the labor force or not available for work, such as housewives, students or elderly.

Labor Force Employment -Employment
There were 37.10 million employed persons, which 10.92 million were in agriculture and 26.18 million were in non-agriculture sectors, respectively. Comparing with May in 2016, it was showed that the number of employed persons in agriculture sector increased by 0.65 million (from 10.27 million to 10.92 million) but non-agriculture sector decreased by 0.36 million (from 26.54 million to 26.18 million). This decreased was found in various industries e.g. 0.36 million in construction, 0.15 million in accommodation and food services, 40 thousand in other service activities, 20 thousand in real estate activities, 10 thousand in transportation and storage, and financial and insurance activities and education. However, a increased in some other industries was found e.g., 90 thousand in manufacturing and wholesale and retail trade repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, 70 thousand in public administration defence and compulsory social security and the rest shared in the other industries.

Underemployment workers
Considering the number of underemployed workers and available for additional work, there were 287 thousand or 0.8% of the total employed persons.
When considered underemployment rate by sex, it was shown that the overall underemployment rate of male was higher than female.

In May 2017, number of underemployment of male was higher than female (157 thousand and 130 thousand respectively).

And underemployment rate of male was 0.8% and female was 0.8%.

Unemployment

-Number and Rate of unemployed

In May 2017, the total number of unemployed persons were 501 thousand or 1.3% of the total labor force and increased of about 48 thousand (from 453 thousand to 501 thousand), when comparing the same period as in 2016. And, showed a increased of 28 thousand (from 473 thousand to 501 thousand) in April 2017.

Comparing to the unemployment rate to the same period as in 2016 increased from 1.2% to 1.3% and increased from 1.2% to 1.3% comparing to April in 2017.

Unemployment rate by sex

Considered unemployment rate by sex in May 2017, it was found that unemployment rate of male was higher than female (1.4% and 1.2% respectively).
Unemployment rate by age group

Regarding the unemployment rates by age groups, there were 7.0% in a youth group (aged 15-24 years) and 0.7% in adults group (age 25 years and over).

The unemployment rate in the youth group increased from 6.4% to 7.0%, Comparing to the same period as in 2016, and increased from 6.9% to 7.0% comparing to April in 2017. In adults group increased from 0.6% to 0.7% comparing to April in 2017.

Number and Rate of unemployment by level educational attainment

For level of educational attainment of unemployed persons in May 2017, it was found that most of them had higher level (207 thousand or 2.5%), followed by those with lower secondary level (107 thousand or 1.7%), primary level (86 thousand or 1.0%), upper secondary level (80 thousand or 1.3%), and no schooling and incomplete primary level (20 thousand or 0.2%).

Comparing to the same period in 2016, the result showed that the number of unemployed persons with higher level increased of 58 thousand, primary level of 26 thousand, and upper secondary level decreased of 14 thousand, lower secondary level of 12 thousand, no schooling and incomplete primary level of 8 thousand.

Number of unemployed by experience

Out of 501 thousand, there were 250 thousand having never worked (133 thousand were female and 117 thousand were male) and 251 thousand had ever, among these, the number of unemployed persons who ever worked decreased by 2 thousand (from 271 thousand to 251 thousand), comparing to the same period as in 2016. It was found that 251 thousand distributed in 3 sectors i.e. 115 thousand in services and trade, 98 thousand in manufacturing and 38 thousand in agriculture.
The number of unemployed persons who never worked 250 thousand, it was found that most of them had higher level of 154 thousand, followed by those with upper secondary level of 38 thousand, lower secondary level and primary level of 27 thousand and no schooling and incomplete primary level of 3 thousand.

The number of unemployed persons who ever worked 251 thousand, it was found that most of them had lower secondary level of 80 thousand, primary level of 59 thousand, higher level of 53 thousand, upper secondary level of 42 thousand and no schooling and incomplete primary level of 17 thousand.

### Number of unemployed and unemployment rate by region

Concerning the number of unemployed and the unemployment rate by region, it was found that those in the Northeast was the highest with (145 thousand or 1.5%), followed by the Central (126 thousand or 1.1%), the South (79 thousand or 1.6%), the North (78 thousand or 1.2%) and Bangkok (73 thousand or 1.4%).

Comparing to the same period as in May 2016, the unemployment of the whole kingdom increased of 48 thousand. However, concerning by region, it increased in the North, the Northeast, and Bangkok but decreased in the Central and invariable in the South.