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 third round Labor Force Survey conducted during 1st-12th of each month during October-December 2006 by interviewing household members of the sampling households. The total sampling households were 50,040, where 29,520 households were in municipal area, and 79,560 households were in non-municipal area.

SUMMARY RESULTS

1. Structure of the labor force

The total population was 65.5 million, out of which 36.8 million were in the total labor force. Of the total labor force 36.2 million were employed, 0.48 million were unemployed and 0.09 million were seasonally inactive labor force. About 13.9 million were not in the labor force and about 14.8 million were persons under 15 years old.
2. Employed labor force

2.1 Industry

When considering employed person by industry, about 42.1 per cent of the total employed persons worked in agricultural sector and about 57.9 per cent in non-agricultural sector. The highest proportions of the employed persons was in the wholesale and retail trade and manufacturing which show nearly the same rate, 15.0 per cent and 14.7 per cent respectively. The next was hotel and restaurants 6.4 per cent, construction 5.1 per cent, public administration 3.3 per cent, transport storage and communication 3.0 per cent and education 2.9 per cent. The rest shared in the other industries.

2.2 Work status

FIGURE 2  PERCENTAGE OF EMPLOYED PERSONS BY WORK STATUS AND REGION, QUARTER 4: 2006

When considering employed person by industry, about 42.1 per cent of the total employed persons worked in agricultural sector and about 57.9 per cent in non-agricultural sector. The highest proportions of the employed persons was in the wholesale and retail trade and manufacturing which show nearly the same rate, 15.0 per cent and 14.7 per cent respectively. The next was hotel and restaurants 6.4 per cent, construction 5.1 per cent, public administration 3.3 per cent, transport storage and communication 3.0 per cent and education 2.9 per cent. The rest shared in the other industries.
The total employed person 36.2 million. The highest proportion of the total employed person was employees or about 43.7 per cent and of these 4 in 5 were employed in private sector, followed by own account workers, unpaid family workers and employer which accounted for 31.8, 21.3 and 3.0 per cent respectively. While the percentage of members of producers’ cooperatives was very less about 0.1 per cent of the total employed persons.

3.Unemployment

The total unemployed persons was estimated at 0.48 million, where 0.29 million unemployed persons were male and 0.19 million were female. Of these unemployed persons, about 0.19 million were elementary and less than elementary level, about 0.18 million were secondary level and about 0.11 million were in the higher level.

When considering 1.3 per cent unemployment rate, it was 1.5 per cent was male and 1.1 per cent was female. The South had the highest percentage of 1.6 per cent, followed by the Northeast of 1.4 per cent, the North of 1.3 per cent, the Central of 1.2 per cent and the Bangkok was the lowest of 1.1 per cent.