EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

LABOR FORCE SURVEY IN THE 4th QUARTER OF 2009

Some major findings of Labor Force Survey in the fourth quarter of 2009, conducted by NSO showed that for people aged 15 years and over of 53.06 million persons, 38.73 million were in the labor force (38.25 million were employed, 0.38 million were unemployed and 0.10 million were seasonally inactive labor force) and 14.33 million were not in the labor force.

Comparing to the same period of 2008, the number of persons employed increased 0.70 million persons. (from 37.55 million to 38.25 million) or about 1.9%. Considering by industry, it was found that the number of employed persons in non-agriculture sector increased 1.06 million persons (from 21.74 million to 22.80 million). This increment was found in various industries, i.e. Wholesale and Retail trade about (0.31 million), Hotel and Restaurants about (0.27 million), Construction about (0.10 million) Public Administration and Transport with the same about (0.04 million) manufacturing sector about (0.01 million) the rest were in the other sectors. Those in agriculture sector decreased about 0.36 million persons (from 15.81 million to 15.45 million).

Regarding working hours per day of employed persons in the fourth quarter of 2009 showed that about 31.91 million persons or 83.4% of the total employed persons worked more than 35 hours per weeks. On the other word, about 6.34 million persons or 16.6% of total employed persons worked less than 35 hours per weeks.

Comparing to the same period of last year, the results revealed that the employed persons working more than 35 hours per weeks which considered as a full time worker of increased, about 0.6% and those working less than 35 hours per weeks or part time worker decreased, of about 0.6%
From the 4th quarter of 2009, there were 0.38 million unemployed persons or 1.0% of the unemployment rate. Comparing to the same period of last year, the number of unemployment decreased by 1.26 hundred thousand persons (from 5.07 hundred thousand persons to 3.81 hundred thousand persons). Considering by age group, there were 1.99 hundred thousand persons in a youth group (15 – 24 years old) or 3.9% of the unemployment rate and 1.82 hundred thousand persons in adult group (25 years and over) or 0.5% of the unemployment rate. Comparing to the same period of 2008 the Unemployed persons decreased 56 thousand or about 1.0% (from 2.55 hundred thousand persons to 1.99 hundred thousand persons) for a youth group and 70 thousand persons or 0.3% for adult group.

Concerning unemployed persons by experience in work, about 1.24 hundred thousand persons had never worked. With this number, 99 thousand persons were from the youth group and 25 thousand persons from the adult group. About 2.57 hundred thousand persons of unemployed persons had ever worked. They were unemployed from manufacturing 99 thousand persons, from service sector 1.06 hundred thousand persons and the least from the agriculture sector, of about 52 thousand persons.
For level of educational attainment of the unemployed persons, it showed that the highest number of unemployed persons was with higher level (1.16 hundred thousand), followed by the lower secondary level (97 thousand persons), elementary level (68 thousand persons) and upper secondary level (56 thousand persons). Unemployed persons with less than elementary and no education were about 43 thousand persons.

Comparing by region, it was found that the highest number of unemployment was in the Northeast which decreased by 41 thousand persons followed by the Central (34 thousand persons), the North and South with the same rate (18 thousand persons) and Bangkok (15 thousand persons).

Comparing with the same period of last year, it showed that the unemployment rates decreased of about 0.3%, Bangkok the Central and the South with the same rate (decreased 0.4%), the North and the Northeast with the same rate (decreased 0.3%).