EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
LABOR FORCE SURVEY IN THE 1st QUARTER OF 2016

Some major findings from the 1st Quarter of the 2016 Labor Force Survey showed that there were 55.5 million people, aged 15 years and over, of these, 38.3 million were in the labor force (37.7 million were employed, 0.37 million were unemployed and 0.26 million were seasonally inactive labor force) and 17.2 million were not in the labor force (5.0 million were household work, 4.4 million were students and 7.8 million were others).

Comparing to the same period of 2015, the number of persons employed decreased by 0.1 million (from 37.7 million to 37.6 million) or 0.3%. It was found that the number of employed persons in non-agriculture sector increased by 0.4 million (from 26.1 million to 26.5 million). This increment was found in various industry, such as Wholesale and retail about 0.2 million, Construction and Transport increased by 0.1 million. Those in agriculture sector decreased by 0.3 million (from 11.5 million to 11.2 million).

Comparing level of educational attainment of the employed persons to the same period of 2015, it was found that the number of employed persons with lower secondary level, upper secondary level and higher level increased by 0.2 million. However, no schooling and with incomplete primary decreased by 0.2 million, primary level decreased by 0.1 million.
If the operation is not fully considered or function below the level of the working hours (defined as working less than 35 hours per week and available for additional work) in the first quarter 2016, showed that the number of people who work less than half a million of 2.4 held that those who work in this group, even if it is working, but it is not working at full capacity. Because they also have more time to work on their own. If the rate was lower when compared with the total number of 0.6%.

However, when compared with the reaction time of the year 2015, the number of underemployment worker increased by 31 thousand (from 0.5% to 0.6%).

In the 1st quarter 2016, there were 0.37 million or 1.0% of unemployed persons. Comparing to the same period of last year, the number of unemployed persons increased by 10 thousand (from 0.36 million to 0.37 million). Considering by age group, it is noticeable that there were 0.19 million or 4.6% found in a teenager group (15-24 years old) and 0.18 million or 0.5% in adult group (25 years and over). Comparing to the same period of 2015, the rate of unemployed persons increased from 4.3% to 4.6% in the teenagers’. The adult group did not change (0.5%).
Concerning work experience of unemployed persons, about 160 thousand out of 370 thousand, had no experience in work, with these 120 thousand were from the teenager group, and 39 thousand from the adult group, about 210 thousand of unemployed persons have ever worked. Looking at the distribution of unemployed persons, about 100 thousand, were from the trade and service sector, 70 thousand were from manufacturing and the least of about 33 thousand were from agriculture sector.

Data in the 1st Quarter 2016, showed that the higher level of education attainment, the higher number of unemployed, it is clearly seen that 120 thousand with the highest level of educational attainment were unemployed, followed by 80 thousand with lower secondary and upper secondary, and primary 50 thousand, with no schooling/incomplete primary 30 thousand.

Comparing the number of unemployment by region with the same period of last year, it showed that the number of unemployed persons in the whole Kingdom increased by 10 thousand, the North and the Northeast increased by 10 thousand. However, Bangkok decreased by 20 thousand. The unemployment persons did not change in the Central and the South.

In sum, the results of the 1st Quarter in the 2016, Labor Force Survey revealed that the overall unemployment rates increased from 0.9% to 1.0% comparing to the same period as in 2015. And, an decrease appeared in Bangkok by 0.4 (from 1.1% to 0.7%), while a increase in the North by 0.2 (from 0.8% to 1.0%), the Northeast by 0.1 (from 0.8% to 0.9%) and the South by 0.1 (from 1.1% to 1.2%). The unemployment rates did not change in the Central.