Summary of the labor force survey in Thailand: February 2017

Structure of the Labor force

The results of Labor Force Survey in February 2017 showed that there are population, aged 15 years and over, of about 55.83 million persons. Of these 38.38 million were in the labor force or available for work (37.68 million were employed, 430 thousand were unemployed and 267 thousand were seasonally inactive labor force), while 17.45 million were not in the labor force or not available for work, such as housewives, students or elderly.

Employed of the Labor force

There were 37.68 million employed persons, which 10.69 and 26.99 million were in agriculture and non-agriculture sectors, respectively. Comparing with February in 2016, it was shown that the number of employed persons in agriculture sector decreased by 0.50 million and non-agriculture sector increased by 0.31 million (from 26.68 million to 26.99 million). This increment was found in various industries e.g. 0.13 million in accommodation and food service activities, 90 thousand in manufacturing, 80 thousand in human health and social work activities and other service activities, 60 thousand in public administration defence and compulsory social security and 20 thousand in financial and insurance activities. However, a decrease in some other industries was found e.g., 0.20 million in construction, 40 thousand in education and the rest shared in the other industries.

Underemployment workers

Considering the number of underemployed workers and available for additional work, there were 206 thousand or 0.5% of the total employed persons.

![Figure A Comparison of number and rate of underemployment in 2016 and 2017](image-url)

Remark: Underemployment worker is a worker who working less than 35 hours per week and available for additional work.
Considered underemployment rate by sex, it was shown that the overall underemployment rate of male was higher than female.

In February 2017, number of underemployment of male was higher than female (128 thousand and 78 thousand respectively).

And underemployment rate of male was 0.6% and female was 0.4%.

Unemployment

-Number and Rate of unemployment

In February 2017, the total number of unemployed persons were 430 thousand or 1.1% of the total labor force and increased of 95 thousand (from 335 thousand to 430 thousand) comparing to the same period as in 2016. And, showed a decreased of 19 thousand (from 449 thousand to 430 thousand) in January 2017.

Comparing to the unemployment rate to the same period as in 2016 increased from 0.9% to 1.1% and decreased from 1.2% to 1.1% comparing to January in 2017.

Unemployment rate by sex

Considered unemployment rate by sex in February 2017, it was found that, unemployment rate of male was higher than female (1.2% and 1.0% respectively).
Regarding the unemployment rates by age groups, there were 5.3% in a youth group (aged 15-24 years) and 0.6% in adults group (age 25 years and over).

The unemployment rate in the youth group increased from 4.0% to 5.3% comparing to the same period as in 2016, and increased from 5.2% to 5.3% comparing to January in 2017. In adults group decreased from 0.7% to 0.6% comparing to January in 2017.

For level of educational attainment of unemployed persons in February 2017, it was found that most of them had higher level (151 thousand or 1.8%), followed by those with upper secondary level (111 thousand or 1.8%), primary level (86 thousand or 1.0%), lower secondary level (63 thousand or 1.0%) and no schooling and incomplete primary level (18 thousand or 0.2%).

Comparing to the same period in 2016, the result showed that the number of unemployed persons with upper secondary level increased of 50 thousand, primary level of 34 thousand, lower secondary level of 7 thousand, no schooling and incomplete primary level of 3 thousand and higher level did not change.

Out of 430 thousand, there were 183 thousand having never worked (100 thousand were female and 83 thousand were male) and 247 thousand had ever, among these, the number of unemployed persons who ever worked increased by 57 thousand (from 190 thousand to 247 thousand), comparing to the same period as in 2016. It was found that 247 thousand distributed in 3 sectors i.e. 104 thousand in services and trade, 101 thousand in manufacturing and 42 thousand in agriculture.
The number of unemployed persons who never worked 183 thousand, it was found that most of them had higher level of 106 thousand, followed by those with upper secondary level of 35 thousand, lower secondary level of 26 thousand, primary level of 10 thousand and no schooling and incomplete primary level of 6 thousand.

The number of unemployed persons who ever worked 247 thousand, it was found that most of them had upper secondary level and primary level of 76 thousand, followed by those with higher level of 45 thousand, lower secondary level of 37 thousand and no schooling and incomplete primary level of 12 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 (170 thousand or 1.8%), followed by the Central (85 thousand or 0.7%), the South (70 thousand or 1.3%), Bangkok (57 thousand or 1.1%) and the North (48 thousand or 0.7%).

Comparing to the same period as in 2016, the unemployment of the whole kingdom increased of 95 thousand. However, concerning by region, it increases in the Northeast, Bangkok and the South but decrease in the North and the Central.

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**Table 3 Number of unemployed and level educational attainment in February 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level education attainment</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Ever worked</th>
<th>Never worked</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4.30</td>
<td>2.47</td>
<td>1.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. No schooling/Incomplete primary</td>
<td>0.18</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Primary</td>
<td>0.86</td>
<td>0.76</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Lower secondary</td>
<td>0.63</td>
<td>0.33</td>
<td>0.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Upper secondary</td>
<td>1.11</td>
<td>0.76</td>
<td>0.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Higher level</td>
<td>1.51</td>
<td>0.45</td>
<td>1.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- academic</td>
<td>0.96</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>0.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- vocational</td>
<td>0.38</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>0.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- academic studies</td>
<td>0.17</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Others</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure H Comparing of number of unemployed and unemployment rate by region in February 2016 and 2017**

- Region
  - Northeast: 0.70 (1.8) / 0.69 (1.3)
  - South: 0.69 (1.3) / 0.70 (1.3)
  - North: 0.61 (0.9) / 0.48 (0.7)
  - Central: 0.44 (0.8) / 0.05 (0.7)
  - Bangkok: 0.57 (1.1) / 0.44 (0.8)

- Number in parentheses: 2016 / 2017