Structure of the Labor force

The results of Labor Force Survey in January 2017 showed that there are population, aged 15 years and over, of about 55.80 million persons. Of these 37.94 million were in the labor force or available for work (37.21 million were employed, 449 thousand were unemployed and 275 thousand were seasonally inactive labor force), while 17.86 million were not in the labor force or not available for work, such as housewives, students or elderly.

Employed of the Labor force

Employed persons

There were 37.21 million employed persons, which 10.63 and 26.58 million were in agriculture and non-agriculture sectors, respectively. Comparing with January in 2016, it was shown that the number of employed persons in agriculture sector decreased by 0.19 million and non-agriculture sector decreased by 0.18 million (from 26.76 million to 26.58 million). This decrement was found in various industries e.g. 0.37 million in manufacturing, 0.21 million in construction, 80 thousand in human health and social work activities, 30 thousand in transportation and storage and 20 thousand in public administration defence and compulsory social security. However, an increase in some other industries was found e.g., 0.35 million in wholesale and retail trade repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, 0.16 million in accommodation and food service activities, 60 thousand in education and other service activities, 50 thousand in real estate activities and the rest shared in the other industries.

Underemployment workers

Considering the number of underemployed workers and available for additional work, there were 312 thousand or 0.8% of the total employed persons.
Considered underemployment rate by sex, it was shown that the overall underemployment rate of male was higher than female.

In January 2017, number of underemployment of male was higher than female (201 thousand and 111 thousand respectively).

And underemployment rate of male was 1.0% and female was 0.7%.

Unemployment

-Number and Rate of unemployment

In January 2017, the total number of unemployed persons were 449 thousand or 1.2% of the total labor force and increased of 1 0 2 thousand (from 3 4 7 thousand to 4 4 9 thousand) comparing to the same period as in 2016. And, showed a increased of 1 4 6 thousand (from 3 0 3 thousand to 4 4 9 thousand) in December 2016.

Comparing to the unemployment rate to the same period as in 2016 increased from 0.9% to 1.2% and increased from 0.8% to 1.2% comparing to December in 2016.

Unemployment rate by sex

Considered unemployment rate by sex in January 2017, it was found that, unemployment rate of male and female to 1.2%
Regarding the unemployment rates by age groups, there were 5.2% 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 4.3% to 5.2% comparing to the same period as in 2016, and increased from 3.5% to 5.2% comparing to December in 2016. In adults group increased from 0.5% to 0.7% comparing to the same period as in 2016.

For level of educational attainment of unemployed persons in January 2017, it was found that most of them had higher level (160 thousand or 1.9%), followed by those with upper secondary level (93 thousand or 1.5%), lower secondary level (92 thousand or 1.5%), primary level (73 thousand or 0.9%) and no schooling and incomplete primary level (31 thousand or 0.4%). Comparing to the same period in 2016, the result showed that the number of unemployed persons with higher level increased of 57 thousand, lower secondary level of 21 thousand, upper secondary level of 14 thousand, primary level of 12 thousand and no schooling and incomplete primary level of 1 thousand.

Out of 449 thousand, there were 190 thousand having never worked (102 thousand were female and 88 thousand were male) and 259 thousand had ever, among these, the number of unemployed persons who ever worked increased by 59 thousand (from 200 thousand to 259 thousand), comparing to the same period as in 2016. It was found that 259 thousand distributed in 3 sectors i.e. 108 thousand in manufacturing, 103 thousand in services and trade and 48 thousand in agriculture.
The number of unemployed persons who never worked 190 thousand, it was found that most of them had higher level of 106 thousand, followed by those with lower secondary level of 35 thousand, upper secondary level of 32 thousand, primary level of 14 thousand and no schooling and incomplete primary level of 3 thousand.

The number of unemployed persons who ever worked 259 thousand, it was found that most of them had upper secondary level of 61 thousand, followed by those with primary level of 59 thousand, lower secondary level of 57 thousand, higher level of 54 thousand and no schooling and incomplete primary level of 28 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 Central was the highest with (1.36 thousand or 1.2%), followed by the Northeast (1.23 thousand or 1.3%), the South (0.86 thousand or 1.7%), the North (0.70 thousand or 1.1%) and Bangkok (0.35 thousand or 0.7%).

Comparing to the same period as in 2016, the unemployment of the whole kingdom increased of 102 thousand. However, concerning by region, it increases in the Northeast, the Central, the South and the North but decrease in Bangkok.