

Country report :

Statistics on Informality :

**Informal economy, work and employment
in Thailand**

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Thailand

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- Questionnaires
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Thailand Country Reports

- **Status of labour force data and statistics**

The Thailand Labour Force Survey

- **Background and Improvement**

The Labour Force Survey provides important statistical data for the national development plans, since they are essential tools for policy makers and practitioners who want to identify the current situation of the country's labour market and to monitor the effectiveness of the plans or policies. At present, monthly information on employment and unemployment are presented to the cabinet and to general public.

The Labour Force Survey has been conducted by the National Statistical Office for the first time in 1963. Since 1971 two rounds of the survey had been conducted each year. In 1984 the survey was conducted into three rounds. The first round was in February coinciding with the non-agricultural season, the second round was in May where new labour who are newly graduated students are entering into the labour market, the third round was in August coinciding with the agricultural season.

Due to the need for more up to date, accurate and reliable on labour statistics, from January 2001 the Labour Force Survey has been carried out monthly instead of

quarterly. The contents of the questionnaire were also improved in order to collect better information.

➤ **Data Collection**

Labor force information for this survey quarterly which was conducted during the 1st-12th of every months was obtained through interviews head or member of households of 4,800 households in the Bangkok, 48,960 households in other municipal areas and 34,920 households in non-municipal areas or a total of 83,880 households throughout the kingdom. Fourty four enumerators with previous experience in survey operations were employed in the Bangkok, while in the other provinces (changwats), the field staff comprised 830 enumerators.

➤ **Methodology**

1. Sample design

A Stratified Two - Stage Sampling was adopted for the survey. Provinces were constituted strata. The primary and secondary sampling units were enumeration areas (EAs) for municipal areas and non - municipal areas and private households / persons in the collective households respectively.

Stratification

Provinces were constituted strata. There were altogether 77 strata. Each stratum was divided into two parts according to the type of local administration, namely municipal areas and non - municipal areas.

Selection of primary sampling unit

The sample selection of enumeration areas were performed separately and independently in each part by using probability proportional to size - total number of households. The total sample enumeration areas was 5,970 from 127,460 EAs.

The total number of sample enumeration areas selected for enumeration by region and type of local administration was as follows:

Region / Stratum	Total	Municipal Areas	Non - Municipal Areas
Bangkok Metropolis	300	300	-
Central (Excluding Bangkok Metropolis)	1,902	900	1,002
North	1,278	630	648
Northeast	1,476	732	744
South	1,014	498	516

Total	5,970	3,060	2,910
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Selection of secondary sampling unit

Private households were our ultimate sampling units. A new listing of private households were made for every sample enumeration areas to serve as the sampling frame. In each sample EAs, a systematic sample of private households were selected with the following sample size:

Municipal areas : 16 sample households per
EAs

Non - municipal areas : 12 sample households per
EAs

Before selecting sample private households in each sample EAs, the list of private households was rearranged by household's size - member of the households.

All collective households located within the sample areas were included in the sample and the persons in the collective household were systematically selected for the interviewing.

The total number of sample private households selected for enumeration by region and type of local administration was as follows:

Region / Stratum	Total	Municipal Areas	Non - Municipal Areas
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Bangkok Metropolis	4,800	4,800	-
Central (Excluding Bangkok Metropolis)	26,424	14,400	12,024
North	17,856	10,080	7,776
Northeast	20,640	11,712	8,928
South	14,160	7,968	6,192
Total	83,880	48,960	34,920

➤ Time series of Key Labour force indicators

FIGURE 1: Labour Force Participation Rate 2010 – 2014

FIGURE 2: Employment to population ratio 2010 - 2014

Employment to population ratio 2010 - 2014

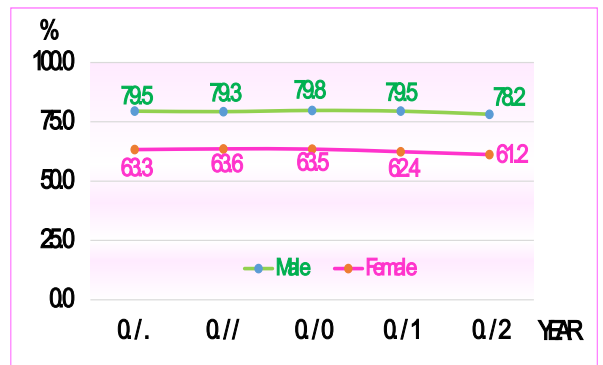
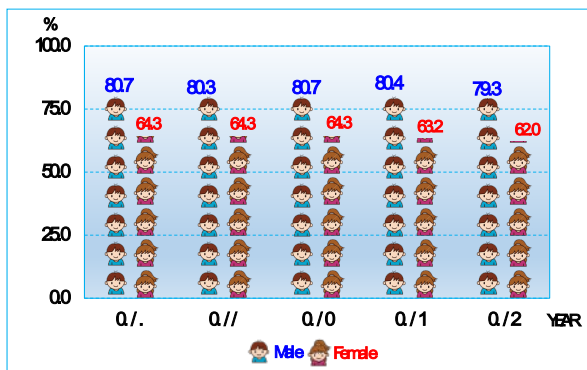


FIGURE 3: Work Status in employment 2010 – 2014

FIGURE 4: Employment by sector 2010 – 2014

Employment by sector 2010 – 2014

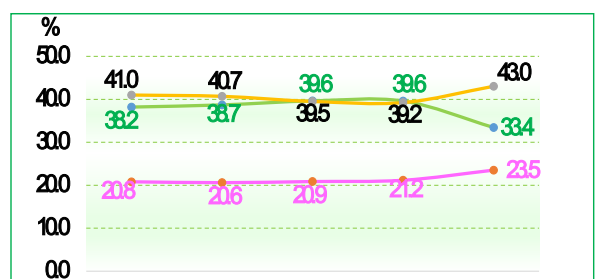
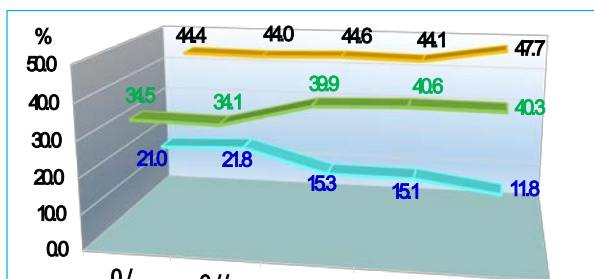


FIGURE 5: Part-time Worker Rate 2010 – 2014
Unemployment rate 2010 – 2014

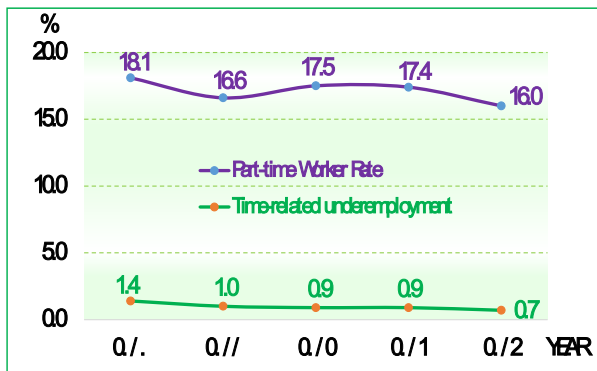


FIGURE 6:

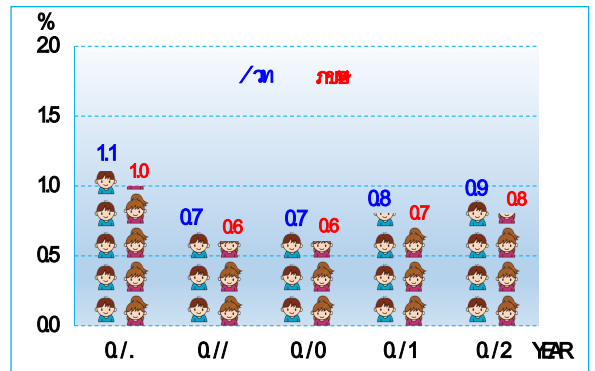
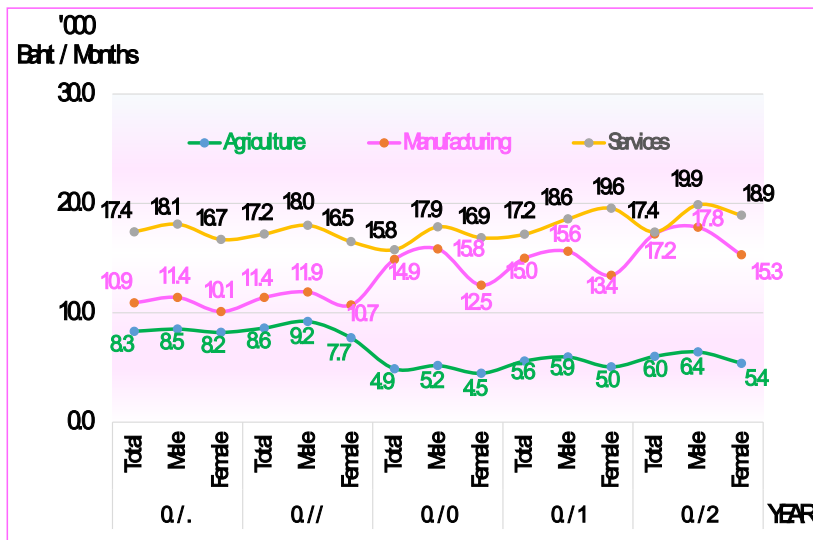


FIGURE 7: Wages 2010 – 2014



- **Country policies on the informal economy and status**

The policy has set for Informal economy by following essential element of administration and management for informal labour strategies.

1.A realization that informal economy directly create social strength and at the same time is and economic and social immunity for Thailand.

2.The growth of informal economic should be considered as “an Instrument” for promotion of quality of life of informal labour.

3.The administration and management for informal labour should start with apprehension of overall characteristics of workers which are diverse by nature before moving into specific groups ; to be able to consider clearly strategies for the whole and for specific targeted group.

4. The administration and management for informal labour should emphasize ‘protection’ ‘promotion’ ‘development’.

Based on the element of the administration and management that mentioned above ; government set policy as followed;

1. Knowledge promotion and potentialities development strategies underline general education upgrading for informal labour and creation of awareness among them toward immunity

building such as continuing education ,saving s, balancing life styles etc. Skill development should be matching with their needs and can generate sustaining income, taking into consideration appropriate occupation ,gender, age of informal worker.

2. Extension of employment opportunity strategies underline development of employment service which is more accessible to formal worker in various areas; dissemination of worker market information, sources of capital and opportunity for income generation through media that can speedily reach different group of informal labour

3. Extension of protection and security strategies underline extension of social security system to cover informal worker; support given to various organized agricultural groups to educate fellow agricultural worker on worker rights; promotion of occupational groups to enhance self – reliance, dissemination of knowledge on work safety, environment preservation and social responsibility through community, agricultural groups ,occupational groups and local administration organization; promotion of networking among occupational groups within and outside the community ; promotion of family savings ; and promotion of strong labour family institution.

4. Empowerment of administration and management capability strategies underline common understanding among operation personnel on the administration and management of informal worker and role of Ministry of worker; the establishment

of data base system on informal worker by compiling data administered by authoritative agencies and keeping them regularly up to date ; development of working machineries in cooperation with parties and inter – agency networks; development of machineries supporting the implementation and constant evaluation ; and development of capability of personal.

At present the policies above were implemented by Government Organization, Non Government Organization and network that to be participant as followed;

1. Extention Protection and Security by enacted labour Protection law in order to extended Protection to Home workers, Contract farming workers. For the social welfare, Another can obtain protection according to the social welfare Act 1991, clause 39 and 40. The clause 39 gives right to person who was join the social Security fund and used to be employee can preserve his/her membership status of social security Fund further in voluntary Social Security system. For self-employed workers, they can for membership in Social Security Fund according to cause 40 stating that self-employed workers can apply for security fund and receive the rights relating death benefits, disability benefits, injury and sickness benefits, old – age benefits; at present the number of informal labour who registered to be member of social security fund about 2.4 million. Beside; The Government enacted to protect the informal labour, when they are senescence, which Nation Saving fund Act, B.E. 2554.

Informal labour who participate in such funds would be protected during senescence. The Government is announcing that people can apply to be members of Saving Fund since July 2015

2. Empowerment of administration and management operated by development of working machineries in cooperation with parties and inter agency networks that there are three level. The first by The national Administration and Management for informal labour Committee, that The Prime minister get appointed to be a chairman by Cabinet, The Coordinating strategic plan for administration and management for informal labour Sub – committee and The Provincial administration and management for informal labour Sub - committee. Acts Beside ; The Provincial center of Coordination and Support Informal sector Network has set in the whole provinces (76 provinces) in order to protection promotion and development informal labour to be a Quality of Life in each area; at present The Provincial center of Coordination and Support Informal sector Network is collecting data of informal labour ; consist of name, age, sex, occupation, need and problems to create database for planning.

- **Status of statistics on informal employment, employment in the informal sector and contribution of the informal sector to the economy**

The Thailand Informal Survey

➤ **Background and objective**

As National Statistical Office (NSO) has realized the importance of informal employment data, the informal employment survey was conducted for the first time in 2005. In order to provide continuous data, the survey has been conducted annually. The survey has usually been conducted along with the labor force survey during the third quarter. The purposes of the survey include to serve information for the requirement of planning agencies and policy makers, as well as to create informal employment database, in order to extend social security coverage for all occupations. As a result, informal employed people will have access to social security and

protection from their work. The results of this survey could further contribute for an improvement of their quality of life.

The informal employment survey has been conducted for collecting data about the number and characteristics of the population who are out of the coverage and have no social security as well as not covered by the labor law. The data obtained from the survey include.

- 1) The number of formal and informal employment
- 2) The important demographic and social aspects of formal and informal employment such as age, sex, level of educational attainment, occupation, industry, and hours of work, etc.
- 3) Other data, for instance, informal employed persons who get hurt or accident from work, right to medical treatment and problem from work, etc.

➤ **Coverage**

Population reside in the private and group of employees household (worker's household).

➤ **Data collection**

The survey, along with the labor force survey which was conducted during the 1st -12th of July-September 2014 was obtained through interviews head or member of households of 4,800 households in the Bangkok, 48,960 households in other municipal areas and 34,920 households

in non-municipal areas or a total of 83,880 households throughout the kingdom. Enumerators with previous experience in survey operations were employed in the Bangkok and other provinces (Changwat).

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➤ **Statistics and indicators on the Informal economy**

Figure 1 Comparison percentage of formal and informal employment in 2009-2014

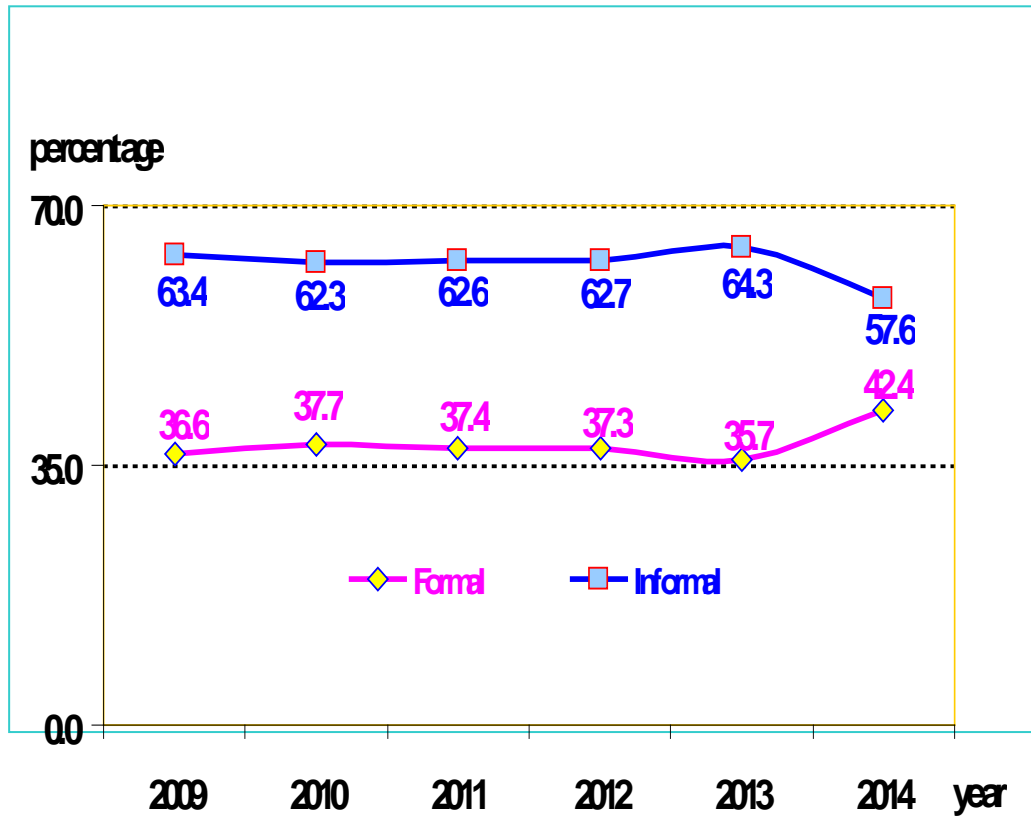


Figure 2 Comparison percentage of informal employment by level of educational attainment in 2009-2014

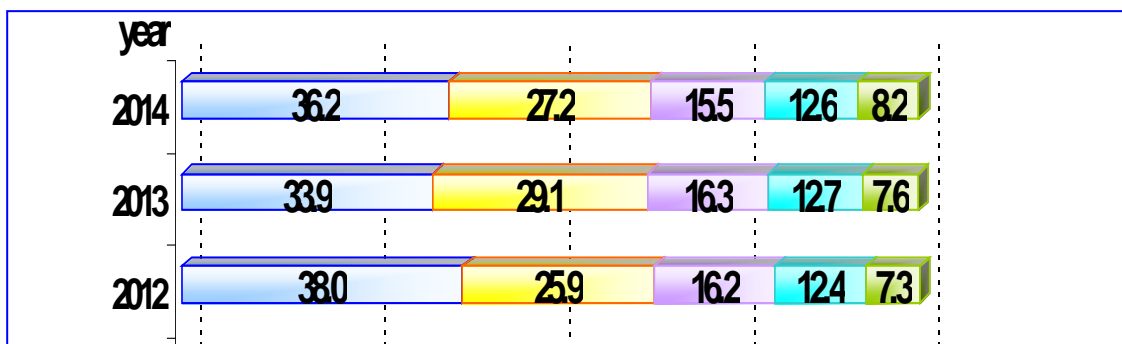
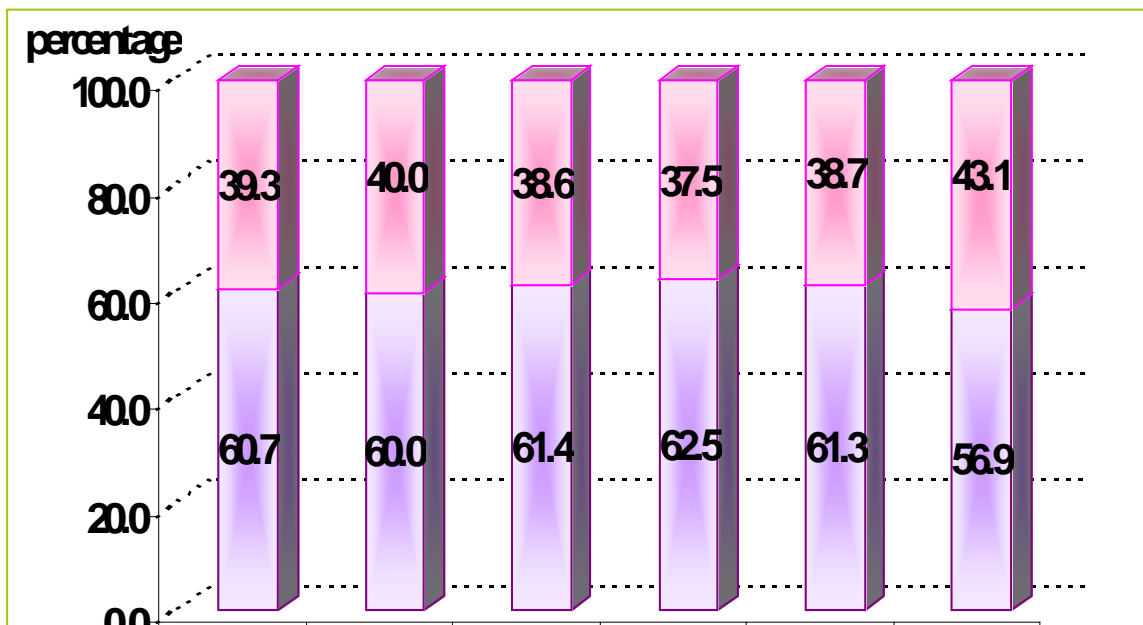


Figure 3 Comparison percentage of informal employment by agriculture and non-agriculture sector in 2009-2014



Annexs to Body of Report

➤ **Questionnaires**

- **Labour Force Survey** : Attachment 1
- **Informal Survey** : Attachment 2

➤ **List of publications and accessibility**

- **Report of Labour force survey**

http://web.nso.go.th/en/survey/lfs/data_lfs/2015_lf_Q1_FullReport.pdf

- **Report of Informal survey**

<http://service.nso.go.th/nso/nsopublish/themes/files/workerOutRep56.pdf>

- **List of analytical reports on informal economy** List of analytical reports on informal economy
- **Employment and income generation in the informal economy**
 - **Women workers in the informal economy**
http://www.wikigender.org/index.php/Informal_workers_in_Thailand
 - **Poverty and informal economy**
College of Population Studies at Chulalongkorn University. (2013) *Urban Poor: Living-cost Adjustments in Urban Low-income Persons* (in Thai). Bangkok