



ལས་གཞིལ་རྒྱན་ལག་

དཔལ་ལྷན་འབྲུག་གཞུང་།

Ministry of Labour and Human Resources
Royal Government of Bhutan



MoLHR/PPD-6/15-16/2737

25th May, 2016

Press Release 13th National Labour Force Survey 2015

The Ministry of Labour and Human Resources is pleased to release the findings of the 13th National Labour Force Survey conducted in December, 2015. The Survey was aimed at providing a quantitative information for the preparation of plans and programs pertaining to the employment and labour market.

The survey was conducted using the *Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI)*. The survey covered all 20 dzongkhags with the national representative sample of 6,000 households (4,500 households in urban areas and 1,500 households in rural areas). The methodology for the survey was adopted in consultation with the National Statistics Bureau (NSB) and was based on International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations System of National Accounts guidelines.

A moving reference period of past one week comprising of seven days preceding the date of the interview was taken as the reference period for the collection of the data.

The main findings of the survey are as follows:

- The total labour force, both employed and unemployed as on December, 2015 is estimated at **352,953**.
- The Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) has increased by 0.5 % from **62.6 %** in 2014 **63.1 %** in 2015 (with male LFPR at 71.2 % and female LFPR at 55.9 %.).
- The national unemployment rate has decreased by 0.1% from **2.6%** in 2014 to **2.5%** in 2015 thus achieving the Royal Government's goal of full employment. Both the female and male unemployment rates have decreased from **3.5%** in 2014 to **3.1%** in 2015 and from **1.9%** in 2014 to **1.8%** in 2015 respectively.
- The decline in the overall unemployment rate can be attributed to the increase in the employment growth rate which has been estimated to be about 1.4%. In absolute numbers, the number of employed persons have increased by 4,724 persons in 2015.
- The growth in GDP from 2.14% in 2014 to 5.46% in 2015 has helped the economy in generating more jobs.

However, the youth (15-24 years) unemployment rate has increased by 1.3% from **9.4%** in 2014 to **10.7%** in 2015. The youth unemployment rate segregated by gender indicates serious challenges in the labour market as enumerated below:

- Although the male youth unemployment rate has decreased from **8.6%** in 2014 to **8.2%** in 2015, the female youth unemployment rate has increased from **10.0%** in 2014 to **12.7%** in 2015.



ལས་གཞིལ་ལྷན་ཁག།

དཔལ་ལྷན་འབྲུག་གཞུང་།

Ministry of Labour and Human Resources
Royal Government of Bhutan



- The rural youth unemployment has decreased from **5.1%** in 2014 to **4.8%** in 2015 whereas the urban youth unemployment rate has increased from **24.0%** in 2014 to **28.0%** in 2015 indicating that youth unemployment is an urban phenomenon.
- The majority of the unemployed youths are with education qualification of middle secondary, higher secondary and general university degrees. Higher unemployment amongst youth with higher education can be attributed to the fact that youth with higher education qualifications aspires for more specific job choices or it may also be due to the mismatch between the qualification they possess and the available jobs in the market which reduces the prospects for educated youths to find job relevant to their qualifications.
- The female youth unemployment rate is higher compared to male youth mainly due to the fact that the female population is higher than male and most female jobseekers possess education qualification of Class X and XII. Females are much less mobile geographically than males when employment is concerned. At the same time, due to family responsibilities or child rearing responsibilities, female tend to choose mostly desk jobs which are scarce.

For further information, contact:

Ugyen Tenzin

Chief Statistical Officer

Labour Market Information and Research Division

Department of Employment, MoLHR

Contact # 326732

Email: utenzin@molhr.gov.bt