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Lao Labour Market Indicators 2001-2003

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Bounkham Syhalad, Sengmany Keolangsy, Somchid Aminthalad and Neramit Dhanasakdi
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Lao Labour Market Indicators 2001-2003

Boukham Syhalad

**Head of Employment Promotion Division, Labour Department
Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare**

Sengmany Keolangsy

**Head of Data Collection System
National Statistics Centre**

Somchid Aminthalad

**Technical Officer, Labour Department
Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare**

Neramit Dhanasakdi

**National Statistical Office
Thailand**

**Estimates and paper prepared with support of the
Labour Market Indicators Library (LMIL)
project of the ILO Subregional Office for East Asia**

Key Indicators for Labour and Employment in the Lao People's Democratic Republic

Preface

Statistics and analysis of labour markets and employment issues are essential in formulating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating policy. For this purpose the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare worked with the National Statistics Centre in an effort to produce key indicators for labour and employment for the Lao People's Democratic Republic covering the period 2001-2003. The collaboration for this project stretched across national borders with technical assistance offered by the National Statistical Office of Thailand.

We would like to thank the authors for working together to produce statistical indicators and an analytical report that we hope will be useful for future policies in Lao PDR. These include Bounkham Syhalad who is Head of Employment Promotion Division in the Labour Department of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Sengmany Keolangsy who is Head of the Data Collection System of the National Statistics Centre and Somchid Aminthalad who is a Technical Officer in the Labour Department of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. Special thanks go to Neramit Dhanasakdi from the National Statistical Office of Thailand who not only helped to coordinate the work of the other authors, but also organized a training workshop on labour market information in Vientiane.

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Christine Evans-Klock

**Director
Subregional Office for East Asia
Bangkok**

Introduction

The long term development goals of the Lao People's Democratic Republic are outlined in its National Development Framework while the National Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy (NGPES) sets out actions and reforms to further its development agenda. Lao PDR aims to lift the country from least developed country status by 2020.

Creating more and better jobs is essential for reducing poverty. Lao PDR aims to promote sustainable growth, equitable distribution and social development through a process that safeguards its national heritage. The foundation has been laid for moving toward a market-oriented economy, building national infrastructure and improving the well-being of women and men through food security, social services and environmental conservation. At the same time, Lao PDR aims to enhance the spiritual life and cultural identity of its multi-ethnic population.

Lao PDR has performed well in recent years. Over the 1990s average real GDP growth was over 6 per cent. During 2001 to 2003 average rates were just under 6 per cent. However, growth is not enough. Employment is the principal route out of poverty. It ensures that the benefits of growth are allocated to the people who contribute to production. In order to formulate, implement, monitor and evaluate policies for employment promotion, it is necessary to have pertinent, timely and accurate labour market information. As part of the process the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare working with the National Statistical Centre have developed some key indicators for the labour market.

Data sources

Despite the urgent need for labour market information, the current statistics in Lao PDR are very limited. Two urban labour force surveys were conducted during 1992 and 1994. The 1995 population census contains useful data for employment and unemployment but these statistics were collected ten years ago. It is also possible to obtain information from the Lao Expenditure and Consumptions Surveys of 1992-1993, 1997-1998 and 2002-2003. These surveys do not follow international standards for collecting labour statistics. There have also been a Survey of Industrial Establishments in 1999 and an Agricultural Census in 1998-1999. However, various sources use different definitions making it difficult to paint a picture over time.

In spite of these difficulties, a small team of officials from the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and the National Statistical Centre have worked together to develop some official estimates for the labour force in Lao PDR covering the period 2001-2003. It is hoped that this exercise will create interest in introducing an annual labour force survey or multipurpose household survey following international standards for labour statistics.

Summary findings

According to the official estimates compiled by the MOLSW and NSC, the total population of Lao PDR was 5.7 million in 2003 of which 49 per cent were men and 51 per cent were women. Of these 3.2 million were aged 15 years and over. This means the 44 per cent of the population was below working age. Employment and unemployment are not defined according to international standards for either “usual status” or “current status” but reflect the observations of those providing the information.¹

¹ Usual status generally refers to main activities over the preceding twelve months with 183 days sometimes used as the measure of whether a person was usually employed, for example. Current status is determined by the principal activity during a short period. According to international standards, a person is counted as employed if he or she engaged in economic activity in the production of goods and services for at least one hour during the seven day reference period.

Table 1: Employed and unemployed population aged 15+ years, Lao PDR, 2001-2003

	2001		2002		2003	
	Number	(%)	Number	(%)	Number	(%)
<i>Employed 15+</i>						
Male	1,173,000	48.0	1,194,000	48.0	1,217,000	48.0
Female	1,272,000	52.0	1,296,000	52.0	1,320,000	52.0
Total	2,445,000	100.0	2,490,000	100.0	2,537,000	100.0
<i>Unemployed 15+</i>						
Male	54,700	42.7	56,400	42.7	58,100	42.8
Female	73,300	57.3	75,600	57.3	77,800	57.2
Total	128,000	100.0	132,000	100.0	135,900	100.0

Source: Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and National Statistical Centre:
Official estimates, Vientiane, 2005.

The data for 2003 show that more women than men were counted as employed (1,320,000 or 52 per cent) and unemployed (77,800 or 57 per cent). It is therefore not surprising that there are more women in the labour force defined as the employed plus the unemployed.

Table 2: Labour force aged 15+ years, Lao PDR, 2001-2003

	2001		2002		2003	
	Number	(%)	Number	(%)	Number	(%)
Male	1,227,700	47.7	1,250,400	47.4	1,275,100	47.7
Female	1,345,300	52.3	1,371,600	52.3	1,397,800	52.3
Total	2,573,000	100.0	2,622,000	100.0	2,672,900	100.0

Source: Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and National Statistical Centre:
Official estimates, Vientiane, 2005.

These data can be used to calculate a number of different rates and ratios that are useful in monitoring changes over time. First, the employment-to-population ratio gives a measure of the extent that the working-age population is actually engaged in the production of goods and services. It is an indication of the capacity of the economy to employ its workforce. Four-fifths (80 per cent) of the population aged 15 years and older were employed during 2003. There has been little change over the past few years.

Table 3: Employment-to-population ratios, labour force participation rates, unemployment rates and inactivity rates for Lao PDR, 2001-2003

	2001	2002	2003
<i>Labour force participation rates 15+</i>			
Male	82.9	84.1	83.4
Female	86.6	86.0	85.3
Total	84.8	85.1	84.4
<i>Employment-to-population ratios 15+</i>			
Male	79.3	80.3	79.6
Female	81.9	81.3	80.5
Total	80.6	80.8	80.1
<i>Unemployment rates 15+</i>			
Male	4.5	4.5	4.6
Female	5.4	5.5	5.6
Total	5.0	5.0	5.1
<i>Inactivity rates 15+</i>			
Male	17.1	15.9	16.6
Female	13.4	14.0	14.7
Total	15.2	14.9	15.6

Source: Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and National Statistical Centre: *Official estimates*, Vientiane, 2005.

The labour force participation rate shows the proportion of the working-age population that is either working or seeking work. It measures the supply of human resources available for productive activity. The labour force participation rate is useful for predicting training needs and social security. For the most part it is directly related to agricultural activities and inversely related to school attendance. This rate was 84 per cent in 2003. Given the fact that more women than men are economically active, it is not surprising that the labour force participation rate is slightly higher for women (85 per cent) than for men (83 per cent).

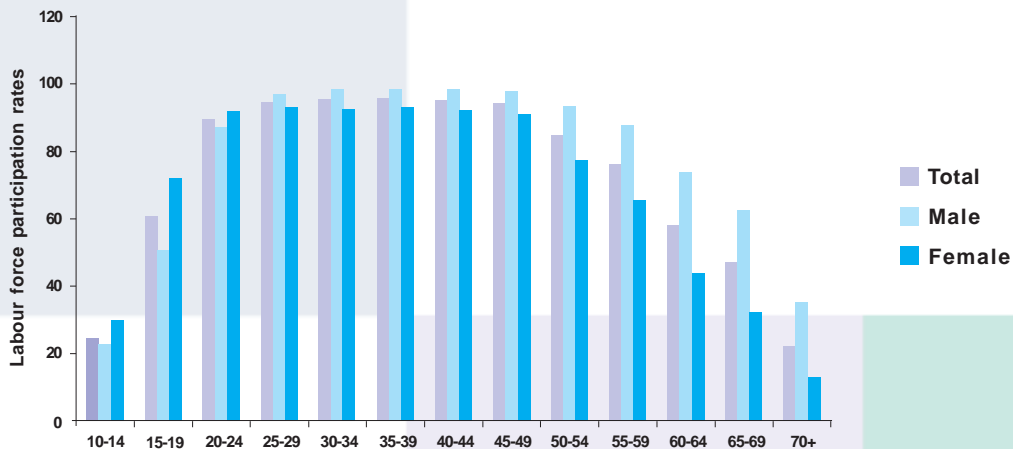
Table 4: Age-specific labour force participation rates by urban and rural, Lao PDR, 1995

Age	Total			Urban			Rural		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
10-14	24.3	22.8	29.7	5.5	4.2	6.9	28.0	21.6	34.7
15-19	60.6	50.7	72.1	37.2	27.6	46.8	66.4	53.7	78.6
20-24	89.7	87.2	92.0	73.6	70.3	76.6	94.2	91.9	96.1
25-29	94.8	96.9	92.8	83.8	91.4	76.8	97.5	98.3	96.7
30-34	95.5	98.3	92.7	85.8	95.8	76.0	97.8	98.9	96.7
35-39	95.9	98.5	93.2	86.7	96.5	76.1	97.9	98.9	96.9
40-44	95.4	98.4	92.3	85.7	96.6	73.5	97.4	98.7	96.2
45-49	94.3	97.8	91.1	83.5	95.2	70.6	96.4	98.2	94.7
50-54	84.8	93.6	77.2	73.9	89.5	58.3	86.6	94.1	80.6
55-59	76.3	87.8	65.3	62.9	79.6	46.1	78.8	88.9	69.4
60-64	58.1	73.9	43.8	45.2	61.7	29.4	60.4	75.1	47.0
65-69	47.1	62.8	32.1	33.2	47.8	18.8	49.8	63.8	35.6
70+	22.0	35.0	12.9	12.5	20.3	6.2	24.0	34.4	14.8
No classified	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.4	0	2.4

Source: National Statistical Centre: *Results from the Population Census 1995*, Vientiane, April 1997.

The latest statistics that we have for age-specific labour force participation rates are from the 1995 population census. These data measure “usual status” over the past twelve months. On the basis of the 15+ age group of working age, the labour force participation rate for the whole country was 81 per cent in 1995. At that time the labour force participation rates were virtually the same for women and men. For Lao PDR as a whole the female labour force participation rates were higher than male labour force participation rates for children and youth as shown in Figure 1. In rural areas children aged 10-14 were more likely to be economically active than in urban areas.

Figure 1: Age-specific labour force participation rates, Lao PDR, 1995



Source: National Statistical Centre: *Results from the Population Census 1995*, Vientiane, April 1997.

The inactivity rate is just the mirror image of the labour force participation.² However, it is often presented in addition to the labour force participation rate to show the proportion of the working-age population that is not available for the production of goods and services. In Lao PDR women and men who were not economically active represented 16 per cent of the population in 2003. According to official estimates, 64 per cent of those not economically active were students in 2004. Another 17 per cent were retired, sick or too old to work. Just 12 per cent were occupied with household duties.

The unemployment rate is one of the most commonly used indicators of the labour market. It shows the proportion of people who are available for work but are not currently employed. It is calculated by dividing the unemployed population by the labour force.³ The unemploy-

² The inactivity rate = 1 – LFPR.

³ The unemployment rate = U/LF*100 for the same age groups.

ment rate for Lao PDR was 5.1 per cent in 2003. This represented a relative small number of people (135,900) who were not able to find jobs – 58,100 men and 77,800 women. Most people of working age in Lao PDR cannot afford the luxury of looking for work. In the absence of unemployment benefits or family savings those without employment are often under pressure to accept whatever job is available in order to eke out a living. Many workers end up underemployed but we do not currently have adequate statistics in Lao PDR to measure time-related underemployment. This is defined as working less than a certain number of hours per week and available and seeking additional work. Nor is it possible to measure with existing statistics inadequate employment measured in terms of, for example, skills and income. High underemployment and seasonal employment is linked to low productivity and low incomes in both agricultural production and non-agricultural activities in Lao PDR.

The 1995 population census shows that the highest rates of unemployment are for young people aged 15-24 in urban areas. Unemployment rates for Lao PDR in 2003 were lower than average for Southeast Asia as shown in Table 5.

Table 5: Unemployment rates by region and sex, 2001-2003

	2001			2002			2003		
	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male
World	6.1	6.3	6.0	6.3	6.5	6.2	6.2	6.4	6.1
Industrialized economies	6.1	6.4	5.9	6.8	7.0	6.7	6.8	7.0	6.7
Transition economies	9.5	9.4	9.5	9.4	9.3	9.5	9.2	9.2	9.2
East Asia	3.3	2.7	3.8	3.1	2.6	3.6	3.3	2.7	3.7
Southeast Asia	6.1	6.7	5.7	7.1	7.8	6.5	6.3	6.9	5.9
South Asia	4.7	6.0	4.1	4.8	6.1	4.2	4.8	6.2	4.3
Latin American and the Caribbean	9.0	11.3	7.6	9.0	11.2	7.6	8.0	10.1	6.7
Middle East and North Africa	12.0	16.3	10.5	11.9	16.2	10.4	12.2	16.5	10.6
Sub-Saharan Africa	10.6	9.3	11.6	10.8	9.5	11.8	10.9	9.6	11.8

Source: International Labour Office: *Key Indicators of the Labour Market (KILM)*, 3rd Edition, CD-ROM, Geneva, 2003.

According to the official estimates produced for the labour market, most of the unemployed in Lao PDR are in the south (60 per cent) with 32 per cent in the north and 8 per cent in the central region of the country. The distribution by educational attainment points to a mismatch

between the education and training of job seekers and the opportunities that are available. It is especially difficult for young people entering the labour market without appropriate skills since they lack work experience as well. While it is not possible to calculate unemployment rates for youth (15-24 years) and adults (25 years and older) based on the data that are available for recent years, there are indications that unemployment rates are still highest among educated youth in urban areas. In 2003 19 per cent of the unemployed had at least some lower secondary schooling. The highest level of education for one-fourth was some upper secondary school. Another 14 per cent had vocational training at the post-secondary or tertiary level while less than one per cent had some university education or a higher degree.

Table 6: Unemployed population by educational attainment, Lao PDR, 2001-2003

	2001		2002		2003	
	Number	(%)	Number	(%)	Number	(%)
No education or less than primary	15,400	12.0	15,800	12.0	16,300	12.0
Primary	23,200	18.1	23,900	18.1	24,600	18.1
Lower secondary	24,200	18.9	24,900	18.9	25,700	18.9
Upper secondary	32,200	25.2	33,300	25.2	34,300	25.2
Vocational – post-secondary and tertiary	17,400	13.6	18,000	13.6	18,500	13.6
University – undergraduate and graduate	400	0.3	400	0.3	400	0.3
Short courses	5,900	4.6	6,100	4.6	6,300	4.6
Other	9,300	7.3	9,600	7.3	9,900	7.3
Total	128,000	100.0	132,000	100.0	136,000	100.0

Source: National Statistical Centre: *Results from the Population Census 1995*, Vientiane, April 1997.

The formal education system in Lao PDR consists of primary (5 years), lower secondary (3 years) and upper secondary (3 years). There are also opportunities for post-secondary technical and vocational education and training as well as academic studies at the tertiary level. The Lao Expenditure and Consumption Survey for 2002-2003 shows considerable improvement in educational attainments since the 1995 population census. The proportion of the population aged 6 years and older with no school declined from 43 per cent to 23 per cent. Those who completed elementary school increased from 11 per cent to 15 per cent, lower secondary school from 4 per cent to 7 per cent and upper secondary school from 2 per cent

to 6 per cent.⁴ While enrolments increased for both sexes, the participation of girls continues to lag far behind that for boys. For the period 2002-2003 31 per cent of girls 6 years and older had no schooling.

Table 7: Percentage distribution for educational attainment of population 6+ years by sex, Lao PDR, 1995 and 2002-2003

	1995			2002-2003		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
None	43	33	52	23	15	31
Completed primary school	11	13	9	15	17	14
Completed lower secondary school	4	5	3	7	9	6
Completed upper secondary school	2	3	2	6	4	2

Source: National Statistical Centre: *Social and Economic Indicators: Lao Expenditure and Consumption Survey 2002-2003 (LECS 3)*, Vientiane, March 2004.

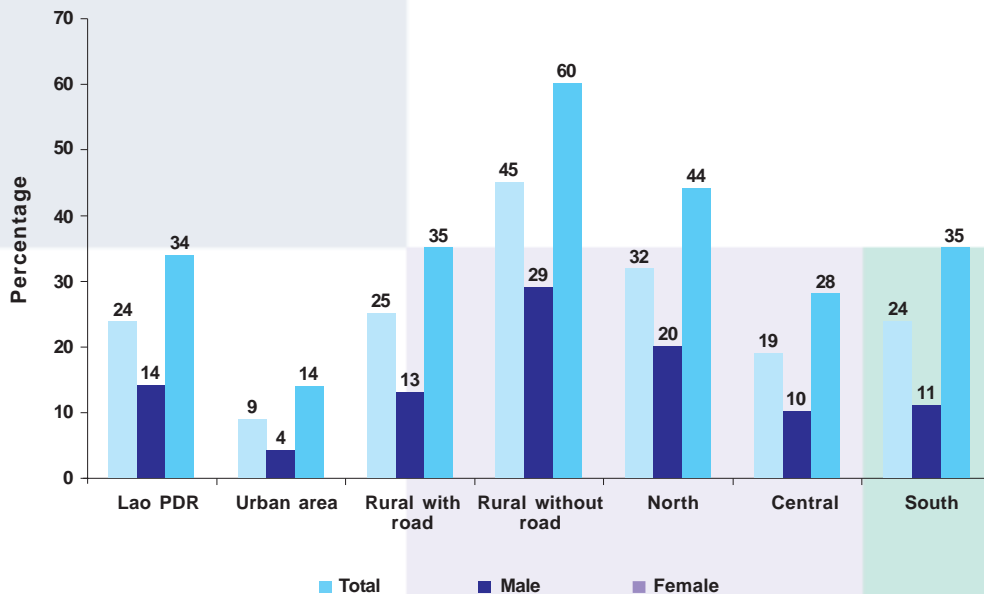
The quality of the workforce in terms of education, training and experience will remain an important challenge for Lao PDR for years to come. Basic indicators show progress but the country is behind its neighbours. According to data from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization the gross enrolment rate for secondary school was 61 per cent for Asia compared to 44 per cent for Lao PDR during 2002-2003.⁵ Illiteracy remains high with almost one-fourth (24 per cent) of the population unable to read and write according to the Lao Expenditure and Consumption Survey 2002-2003 (14 per cent of men and 34 per cent of women).⁶ Furthermore, there is considerable diversity across groups as indicated in Figure 2. The highest proportions of the population aged 15+ that cannot read and write are found in rural areas without roads (45 per cent) and in the north of the country (32 per cent). The rates for females are especially high in these areas with 60 per cent and 40 per cent, respectively, without basic literacy.

⁴ National Statistical Centre: *Social and Economic Indicators: Lao Expenditure and Consumption Survey 2002-2003 (LECS 3)*, Vientiane, March 2004.

⁵ Web site at <http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=52>.

⁶ National Statistical Centre: *Social and Economic Indicators: Lao Expenditure and Consumption Survey 2002-2003 (LECS 3)*, Vientiane, March 2004.

Figure 2: Proportion of the population aged 15+ that cannot read or write by residence and sex, 2002-2003



Source: National Statistical Centre: *Social and Economic Indicators: Lao Expenditure and Consumption Survey 2002-2003 (LECS 3)*, Vientiane, March 2004.

Indicators for Lao PDR also show that eight out of ten employed persons were working in agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing during 2003. This did not change very much over the three years. However, the percentage in 2003 (82 per cent) was lower than in 1995 (85 per cent). These data do not indicate significant differences between men and women. The proportion of persons employed in industry was almost the same as in services at around 9 per cent in 2003. The numbers of people employed in industry and services increased slightly over the three years.

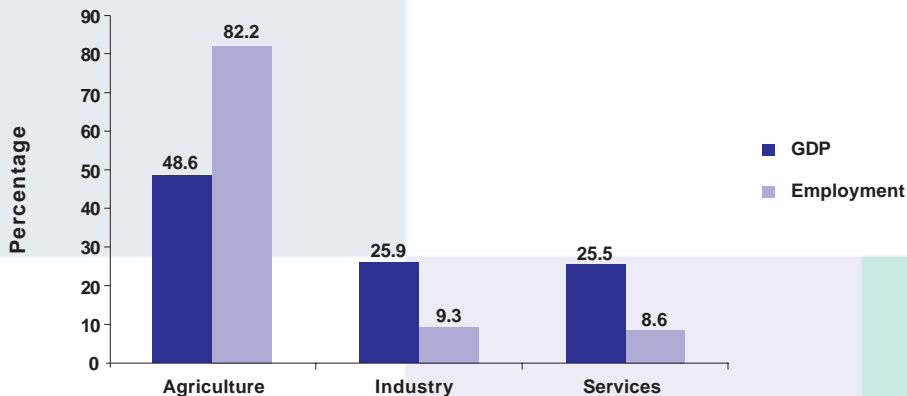
Table 8: Employment by sector, Lao PDR, 2001-2003

	2001		2002		2003	
	Number	(%)	Number	(%)	Number	(%)
<i>Both sexes</i>						
Agriculture	2,021,000	82.7	2,053,000	82.4	2,085,000	82.2
Industry	213,000	8.7	224,000	9.0	235,000	9.3
Services	211,000	8.6	213,000	8.6	217,000	8.6
Total	2,445,000	100.0	2,490,000	100.0	2,537,000	100.0
<i>Male</i>						
Agriculture	970,000	82.7	985,000	82.5	1,001,000	82.3
Industry	102,000	8.7	107,000	9.0	113,000	9.3
Services	101,000	8.6	102,000	8.5	103,000	8.5
Total	1,173,000	100.0	1,194,000	100.0	1,217,000	100.0
<i>Female</i>						
Agriculture	1,051,000	82.6	1,068,000	82.4	1,084,000	82.1
Industry	111,000	8.7	117,000	9.0	122,000	9.2
Services	110,000	8.6	111,000	8.6	114,000	8.6
Total	1,272,000	100.0	1,296,000	100.0	1,320,000	100.0

Source: Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and National Statistical Centre: *Official estimates*, Vientiane, 2005.

Figure 3 shows the percentage distributions of GDP and employment by sector in 2003. The agricultural sector accounts for 49 of the GDP compared to 82 per cent of the employed population. The result is low productivity and low incomes placing a large number of the employed population among the working poor.

Figure 3: Distribution of GDP and employment, Lao PDR, 2003



Source: Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and National Statistical Centre: *Official estimates*, Vientiane, 2005 and Asian Development Bank: *Key Indicators of Developing Asian and Pacific Countries*.

Data for that year show an annual growth rate of 2.2 per cent for agriculture. Most farmers depend on subsistence rice production with just below 37 per cent of agricultural products sold in the market according to the Lao Expenditure and Consumption Survey 2002-2003. Aside from crops (51 per cent) agricultural households produce vegetables and fruits (11 per cent), meat (15 per cent), poultry (5 per cent), fish (12 per cent), forestry products (1 per cent) and other products (5 per cent). Cash crops include coffee, tobacco, soybeans and cotton. Given the limited use of irrigation, most cultivation is rain-fed production. Few farmers use purchased inputs of improved seeds, fertilizer and pesticides. Inadequacy of infrastructure – roads, transport, water, electricity, schools and hospitals – is often cited as an obstacle to development. Information and credit are also mentioned. Other difficulties relate to technical knowledge, linguistic differences, cultural barriers, land ownership, natural disasters and live-stock disease.

The data for the proportion of the employed in agriculture are somewhat misleading since many workers classified as employed in agriculture have secondary jobs in off-farm activities such as household businesses. According to the Lao Expenditure and Consumption Survey 2002-2003, 17 per cent of rural households operate a business. Agricultural processing creates both backward and forward linkages in rural communities. Many rural households produce textiles for sale. Industrial production including manufacturing, mining, construction and utilities grew at an annual rate of 11.3 per cent in 2003 accounting for 26 per cent of GDP and 9 per cent of employment. Manufacturing as well as agriculture is characterized by low levels of productivity. Most production is small scale and many activities are in rural areas. Estimates from the 1994 urban labour force survey suggest that two-fifths of urban employment is in the informal sector.⁷ Much of the production is textiles and garments, food processing, wood processing and construction materials. Textiles and garments are produced not only by household enterprises and micro enterprises but also by larger firms. These have benefited from the Multi-Fibre Agreement quotas. Production, exports and employment may suffer with the phasing out of quotas that attracted foreign investment. Services including trade, transport and tourism grew at an annual rate of 7.4 per cent representing 26 per cent of GDP and 9 per cent of employment in 2003.

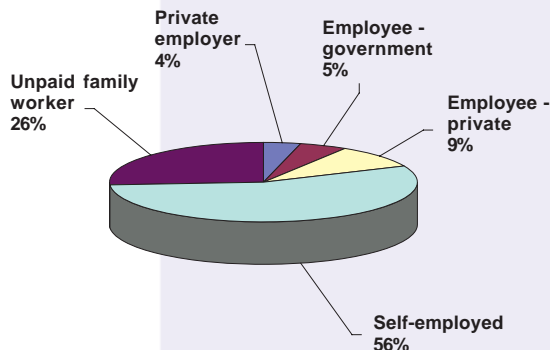
According to the official estimates, over one-half (56 per cent) of the employed population was self-employed and another one-fourth (26 per cent) was classified as an unpaid family worker in 2003. Many people work on family farms and in the informal economy. Together, self-employed workers and contributing family members accounted for 82 per cent of the employed population. Official estimates for 2003 show that only 14 per cent were in paid employment. A much smaller percentage (4 per cent) was classified as a private employer according to the estimates.

⁷ Based on the 15th International Conference of Labour Statisticians in 1993, the informal sector was defined for practical purposes as a private non-agricultural business which is household-operated and which has a total of at most five paid employees. See Asian Development Bank: *Labour Market Issues: Lao People's Democratic Republic*, 1997.

Table 9: Employed population by status in employment, Lao PDR, 2001-2003

	2001		2002		2003	
	Number	(%)	Number	(%)	Number	(%)
Private employer	88,000	3.6	92,200	3.7	96,400	3.8
Employee – government	132,000	5.4	132,000	5.3	131,900	5.2
Employee – private	202,900	8.3	216,700	8.7	233,400	9.2
Self-employed	1,352,100	55.3	1,382,500	55.5	1,413,100	55.7
Unpaid family worker	670,000	27.4	667,600	26.8	662,200	26.1
Total	2,445,000	100.0	2,491,000	100.0	2,537,000	100.0

Source: Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and National Statistical Centre: *Official estimates*, Vientiane, 2005.

Figure 4: Status in employment, Lao PDR, 2003

Using a different approach, the Lao Expenditure and Consumption Survey conducted in 2002-2003 collected data for percentage of working hours spent in paid employment, self employment and on owner-operated farms. For the country as a whole, 71 per cent of working hours were spent on owner-operated farms. Another 24 per cent was allocated to other self-employment in non-farm activities. Only 6 per cent was in paid employment – 2 per cent in rural areas as 17 per cent in urban areas.

According to the labour market indicators prepared for 2001-2003, two-thirds of the employed persons in Lao PDR work at least 40 hours per week. Very few (4 per cent) worked fewer than 20 hours in 2003. Altogether 15 per cent worked fewer than 30 hours per week.

Table 10: Hours of work per week, Lao PDR, 2001-2003

	2001		2002		2003	
	Number	(%)	Number	(%)	Number	(%)
Less than 20 hours	100,300	4.1	102,100	4.1	104,000	4.1
20-29 hours	273,800	11.2	279,000	11.2	284,200	11.2
30-39 hours	449,900	18.4	458,400	18.4	466,800	18.4
40 hours and over	1,621,000	66.3	1,651,500	66.3	1,682,200	66.3
Total	2,445,000	100.0	2,491,000	100.0	2,537,000	100.0

Source: Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and National Statistical Centre: *Official estimates*, Vientiane, 2005.

Comparative statistics indicate that Lao PDR has high rates of labour force participation and a high proportion of the population in employment compared with other countries in South-east Asia. This is consistent with the large numbers of working poor in the agricultural sector and informal employment. The unemployment rate is lower than in the Philippines and Indonesia but higher than in other countries of the subregion with data for this indicator.

Table 11: Comparative labour market indicators, Southeast Asia, 2003

	Labour force participation rates			Employment-to-population ratio	Share of employment in agriculture	Unemployment rate
	Total	Male	Female			
Brunei	66.0	83.3	46.7	na	2.0	na
Cambodia	83.3	85.1	73.4	70.4	na	1.8
Timor Leste	82.6	89.3	76.3	na	na	na
Indonesia	68.6	na	na	62.9	43.8	6.1
Lao PDR	84.4	83.4	85.3	80.1	82.2	5.1
Malaysia	66.5	83.3	46.7	63.5	18.4	3.9
Myanmar	77.1	88.4	66.0	na	62.7	na
Philippines	67.5	82.3	52.8	59.6	37.4	9.8
Singapore	68.6	81.1	55.5	65.5	0.3	3.4
Thailand	72.7	80.6	64.9	67.7	48.8	2.4
Viet Nam	71.9	76.0	66.2	74.3	69.1	2.3

Source: Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and National Statistical Centre: *Official estimates*, Vientiane, 2005 and International Labour Office: *Key Indicators of the Labour Market (KILM)*, 3rd Edition, CD-ROM, Geneva, 2003.

Lao Labour Market Indicators, 2001-2003

	2001		2002		2003	
	Number	(%)	Number	(%)	Number	(%)
<i>Structure of output (% GDP at current factor prices) a/</i>						
Agriculture		51.2		50.4		48.6
Industry		23.7		24.7		25.9
Services		25.1		25.0		25.5
Total		100.0		100.0		100.0
<i>Growth of output (annual % change) a/</i>						
Agriculture		3.8		4.0		2.2
Industry		10.1		10.3		11.3
Services		5.7		5.7		7.4
Total		5.8		5.9		5.8
<i>Consumer price index (1999=100) a/</i>						
		116.8		129.3		149.3
<i>Gross enrolment ratio in primary schools b/</i>						
Male		121		123		124
Female		104		106		108
Total		113		115		116
<i>Gross enrolment ratio in secondary schools b/</i>						
Male		44		47		50
Female		31		34		37
Total		38		41		44
<i>Enrolment in tertiary education b/</i>						
Male	10,628		17,993		18,064	
Female	6,117		10,547		10,053	
Total	16,745		28,540		28,117	
<i>Population</i>						
Male	2,657,400	49.4	2,730,800	49.4	2,806,400	49.4
Female	2,719,600	50.6	2,795,100	50.6	2,872,600	50.6
Total	5,377,000	100.0	5,525,900	100.0	5,679,000	100.0
<i>Population aged 15+</i>						
Male	1,480,100	48.8	1,487,300	48.3	1,528,500	48.3
Female	1,552,900	51.2	1,594,700	51.7	1,638,800	51.7
Total	3,033,100	100.0	3,082,000	100.0	3,167,300	100.0
<i>Population aged < 15</i>						
Male	1,177,300	50.2	1,243,500	50.9	1,277,900	50.9
Female	1,166,700	49.8	1,200,400	49.1	1,233,800	49.1
Total	2,343,900	100.0	2,443,900	100.0	2,511,700	100.0
<i>Employed 15+</i>						
Male	1,173,000	48.0	1,194,000	48.0	1,217,000	48.0
Female	1,272,000	52.0	1,296,000	52.0	1,320,000	52.0
Total	2,445,000	100.0	2,490,000	100.0	2,537,000	100.0

	2001		2002		2003	
	Number	(%)	Number	(%)	Number	(%)
<i>Unemployed 15+</i>						
Male	54,700	42.7	56,400	42.7	58,100	42.8
Female	73,300	57.3	75,600	57.3	77,800	57.2
Total	128,000	100.0	132,000	100.0	135,900	100.0
<i>Economically active population 15+</i>						
Male	1,227,700	47.7	1,250,400	47.7	1,275,100	47.7
Female	1,345,300	52.3	1,371,600	52.3	1,397,800	52.3
Total	2,573,000	100.0	2,622,000	100.0	2,672,900	100.0
<i>Economically inactive population 15+</i>						
Male	252,400	54.9	236,900	51.5	253,400	51.3
Female	207,600	45.1	223,100	48.5	241,000	48.7
Total	460,000	100.0	460,000	100.0	494,400	100.0
<i>Labour force participation rate 15+</i>						
Male		82.9		84.1		83.4
Female		86.6		86.0		85.3
Total		84.8		85.1		84.4
<i>Employment-to-population ratio 15+</i>						
Male		79.3		80.3		79.6
Female		81.9		81.3		80.5
Total		80.6		80.8		80.1
<i>Unemployment rates 15+</i>						
Male		4.5		4.5		4.6
Female		5.4		5.5		5.6
Total		5.0		5.0		5.1
<i>Inactivity rate 15+</i>						
Male		17.1		15.9		16.6
Female		13.4		14.0		14.7
Total		15.2		14.9		15.6
<i>Employment by agriculture and non-agriculture</i>						
<i>Both sexes</i>						
Agriculture	2,021,000	82.6	2,053,000	82.4	2,085,000	82.2
Non-agriculture	424,000	17.4	437,000	17.6	452,000	17.8
Total	2,445,000	100.0	2,490,000	100.0	2,537,000	100.0
<i>Male</i>						
Agriculture	970,000	82.7	985,000	82.5	1,001,000	82.3
Non-agriculture	203,000	17.3	209,000	17.5	216,000	17.7
Total	1,173,000	100.0	1,194,000	100.0	1,217,000	100.0
<i>Female</i>						
Agriculture	1,051,000	82.6	1,068,000	82.4	1,084,000	82.1
Non-agriculture	221,000	17.4	228,000	17.6	236,000	17.9
Total	1,272,000	100.0	1,296,000	100.0	1,320,000	100.0

	2001		2002		2003	
	Number	(%)	Number	(%)	Number	(%)
<i>Employment by major sector</i>						
<i>Both sexes</i>						
Agriculture	2,021,000	82.7	2,053,000	82.4	2,085,000	82.2
Industry	213,000	8.7	224,000	9.0	235,000	9.3
Services	211,000	8.6	213,000	8.6	217,000	8.6
Total	2,445,000	100.0	2,490,000	100.0	2,537,000	100.0
<i>Male</i>						
Agriculture	970,000	82.7	985,000	82.5	1,001,000	82.3
Industry	102,000	8.7	107,000	9.0	113,000	9.3
Services	101,000	8.6	102,000	8.5	103,000	8.5
Total	1,173,000	100.0	1,194,000	100.0	1,217,000	100.0
<i>Female</i>						
Agriculture	1,051,000	82.6	1,068,000	82.4	1,084,000	82.1
Industry	111,000	8.7	117,000	9.0	122,000	9.2
Services	110,000	8.6	111,000	8.6	114,000	8.6
Total	1,272,000	100.0	1,296,000	100.0	1,320,000	100.0
<i>Status in employment</i>						
Private employer	88,000	3.6	92,200	3.7	96,400	3.8
Employee – government	132,000	5.4	132,000	5.3	131,900	5.2
Employee – private	202,900	8.3	216,700	8.7	233,400	9.2
Self-employed	1,352,100	55.3	1,382,500	55.5	1,413,100	55.7
Unpaid family worker	670,000	27.4	667,600	26.8	662,200	26.1
Total	2,445,000	100.0	2,491,000	100.0	2,537,000	100.0
<i>Employment by hours of work per week</i>						
Less than 20 hours	100,300	4.1	102,100	4.1	104,000	4.1
20-29 hours	273,800	11.2	279,000	11.2	284,200	11.2
30-39 hours	449,900	18.4	458,400	18.4	466,800	18.4
40 hours and over	1,621,000	66.3	1,651,500	66.3	1,682,000	66.3
Total	2,445,000	100.0	2,491,000	100.0	2,537,000	100.0
<i>Unemployed population 15+</i>						
<i>Both sexes</i>						
Central	10,200	8.0	10,600	8.0	10,900	8.0
North	41,200	32.2	42,500	32.2	43,800	32.2
South	76,400	59.7	78,800	59.7	81,200	59.7
Total	128,000	100.0	131,900	100.0	135,900	100.0
<i>Male</i>						
Central	4,300	7.9	4,600	8.1	4,700	8.1
North	17,600	32.2	18,200	32.2	18,700	32.2
South	32,600	59.6	33,700	59.6	34,700	59.7
Total	54,700	100.0	56,500	100.0	58,100	100.0

	2001		2002		2003	
	Number	(%)	Number	(%)	Number	(%)
<i>Female</i>						
Central	5,900	8.0	6,000	8.0	6,200	8.0
North	23,600	32.2	24,300	32.2	25,100	32.3
South	43,800	59.8	45,100	59.8	46,500	59.8
Total	73,300	100.0	75,400	100.0	77,800	100.0
<i>Unemployment by educational attainment</i>						
No education or less than primary	15,400	12.0	15,800	12.0	16,300	12.0
Primary	23,200	18.1	23,900	18.1	24,600	18.1
Lower secondary	24,200	18.9	24,900	18.9	25,700	18.9
Upper secondary	32,200	25.2	33,300	25.2	34,300	25.2
Vocational – post-secondary and tertiary	17,400	13.6	18,000	13.6	18,500	13.6
University – undergraduate and graduate	400	0.3	400	0.3	400	0.3
Short courses	5,900	4.6	6,100	4.6	6,300	4.6
Other	9,300	7.3	9,600	7.3	9,900	7.3
Total	128,000	100.0	132,000	100.0	136,000	100.0
<i>Economically inactive population 15+</i>						
Household duties	55,700	12.1	55,660	12.1	59,800	12.1
Students	294,900	64.1	294,860	64.1	316,900	64.1
Retired, sick or too old to work	76,800	16.7	76,820	16.7	82,600	16.7
Others	32,700	7.10	32,660	7.1	35,100	7.1
Total	460,100	100.00	460,000	100.0	494,400	100.0

a/ Asian Development Bank: *Key Indicators of Developing Asian and Pacific Countries*

b/ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization web sites:

<http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=45>

<http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=51>

<http://stats.uis.unesco.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx?ReportId=52>

c/ MOLSW and NSC: Official estimates, 2005.

