



Ministry of Labor – Invalids  
and Social Affairs

# VIETNAM LABOR MARKET UPDATE NEWSLETTER

No 16, quarter 4, 2017



General Statistics  
Office

## SECTION 1. SOME INDICATORS OF THE LABOR MARKET

### 1. Some main indicators

Table 1. Some main indicators of the economy and labor market

Indicator	2016		2017		
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1. GDP growth rate(%)	6.7	5.1	6.3	7.5	7.7
2. Export turnover growth (% compared to the same period last year)	8.6*	12.8	18.9**	19.8***	21.1*
3. Total capital investment per GDP (%)	33.0*	33.5	32.8**	33.9***	33.3*
4. Consumer Price index (% compared to the same period last year)	2.66*	4.96	4.15**	3.79***	3.53*
5. Labor force (million people)	54.56	54.51	54.52	54.88	55.16
6. Labor force participant rate (%)	76.82	76.55	76.45	76.75	76.90
7. Rate of trained laborers with diplomas/certificates (%)	21.39	21.52	21.60	21.99	21.80
8. Employment (million people )	53.41	53.36	53.40	53.77	54.05
9. Rate of salaried workers in total employed laborers (%)	41.62	42.16	42.77	42.62	43.44
10. Rate of jobs in agriculture,forestry and fisheries industry in total employment(%)	41.54	40.50	40.44	40.35	39.75
11. Monthly average income of salaried workers (million dong)	5.08	5.40	5.20	5.36	5.41
12. Number of unemployed people at working age (thousand people)	1110.0	1101.7	1081.6	1074.8	1071.2
13. Unemployment rate at working age(%)	2.31	2.30	2.26	2.23	2.21
13.1. Urban unemployment rate(%)	3.24	3.24	3.19	3.14	3.13
13.2. Youth unemployment rate (aged 15- 24) (%)	7.28	7.29	7.67	7.80	7.07

Source: GSO (2016, 2017), Quarterly Labor-Employment Survey and Statistical Data.

GSO (2017), Report on Socio-economic Status in 2017

(\*) all-year data; (\*\*) data of the first 6 months; (\*\*\*) data of the first 9 months.

The economy in quarter 4/2017 continued to thrive with the highest GDP growth rate of 7.7% over the past years, which has been mainly attributable to the growth in the industry and service sectors, especially the manufacturing industry (14.4%). The rise in number of newly- established and operating enterprises contributed to increasing employment and reducing unemployment.

## 2. Population aged 15 and over and the labor force

In quarter 4/2017, the number of people aged from 15 and over was 72.20 million people, increasing by 0.86% compared to quarter 4/2016. Of which, the rate of female labor rose 0.4%; the rate in urban area increased 0.44%.

The size of labor force aged 15 and over reached 55.16 million people, increasing by 1.11% compared to quarter 4/2016; the female rate rose 0.15%; it increased by 1.11% in urban area.

**Table 2. Size and labor force participation rate of population aged 15 and over**

	2016		2017		
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>1. Population aged 15 and over (million people)</b>					
<b>General</b>	<b>71.58</b>	<b>71.71</b>	<b>71.85</b>	<b>72.04</b>	<b>72.20</b>
Male	34.81	34.94	35.04	35.09	35.29
Female	36.76	36.77	36.80	36.95	36.91
Urban areas	25.12	25.13	25.09	25.25	25.23
Rural areas	46.46	46.58	46.75	46.79	46.97
<b>2. Labor force (million people)</b>					
<b>General</b>	<b>54.56</b>	<b>54.51</b>	<b>54.52</b>	<b>54.88</b>	<b>55.16</b>
Male	28.14	28.30	28.33	28.46	28.71
Female	26.41	26.21	26.20	26.42	26.45
Urban areas	17.55	17.52	17.53	17.68	17.75
Rural areas	37.01	36.98	37.00	37.20	37.41
<b>3. Labor force participation rate* (%)</b>					
	<b>76.82</b>	<b>76.55</b>	<b>76.45</b>	<b>76.75</b>	<b>76.90</b>

Source: GSO (2016, 2017). Quarterly Labor Force Survey.

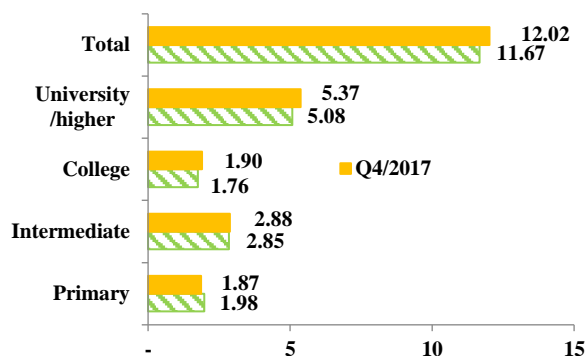
\* Only take into account those who are currently working in Vietnam

The labor force participation rate of the population aged 15 and over in quarter 4/2017 was 76.9%, slightly increased in comparison with quarter 3/2017 and the same period last year.

*In terms of size, there was a quicker increase in the group of college and university compared to quarter 4/2016*

**Figure 1. Number of workers by technical expertise**

Unit: million people



Source: GSO (2016, 2017), Quarterly Labor Force Survey.

In quarter 4/2017, the number of trained workers aged 15 and over who have certificate was 12.02 million people, going up by 351 million people (3.01%) compared to quarter 4/2016. Of which, a significant increase was observed in the group of college (7.93%), followed by the group of university and postgraduate (5.73%) and the group of intermediate vocational training (1.08%) while the group of primary vocational training decreased dramatically (-5.53%).

The proportion of trained workers with certificates / degrees in quarter 4/2017 occupied 21.8% of total labor force, a slightly increase of 0.4 percentage point over the same period last year. In the total labor force, the rate of workers graduating from university or higher was 9.74%; the figure for college, intermediate and primary vocational training level was 3.44%, 5.23% and 3.39% respectively.

## 3. Employment

*In quarter 4/2017, the number of employed people increased, labor restructuring by sector saw a positive change.*

In quarter 4/2017, the figure for employed people was 54.05 million, increasing by 282.8 thousand people (0.53%) compared to quarter 3/2017 and by 646.6 thousand people (1.21%) compared to the same period last year. Although the proportion of salaried workers in quarter 4/2017 was higher than that of quarter 3/2017 (43.44% compared to 42.64%); the labor force participation in the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries sector decreased from 41.54% (Q4/2016) to 39.75% (Q4/2017).

**Table 3. Number and structure of employment**

	2016		2017		
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>1. Number (million people)</b>	53.41	53.36	53.40	53.77	54.05
<b>2. Ratio</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>a. Gender</b>					
Male	51.55	51.77	51.82	51.82	51.94
Female	48.45	48.23	48.18	48.18	48.06
<b>b. Urban/rural Areas</b>					
Urban areas	31.84	31.82	31.82	31.90	31.86
Rural areas	68.16	68.18	68.18	68.10	68.14
<b>c. Economic industries</b>					
AFF	41.54	40.50	40.44	40.35	39.75
Industry- Construction	25.05	25.49	25.59	25.67	26.12
Service	33.41	34.01	33.97	33.98	34.13
<b>d. Employment status</b>					
Owner	2.82	2.24	2.11	1.97	1.88
Self-employed	39.28	39.85	39.38	39.38	39.51
Household labor	16.20	15.72	15.71	16.01	15.15
Salaried workers	41.62	42.16	42.77	42.62	43.44
Cooperative members	0.08	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02

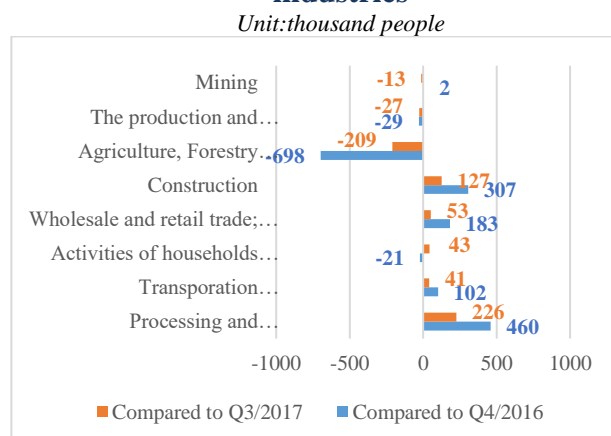
Source: GSO (2016, 2017), Quarterly Labor Force Survey.

In quarter 4/2017, the number of workers working in “processing and manufacturing industry” continued to increase compared to other sectors, going up by 226 thousand people compared to the last quarter and 460 thousand people compared to the same period last year. Following by “the construction industry” with an increase of 127 thousand people and 307 thousand people respectively; “transportation and warehousing” (41 thousand and 102 thousand people); “wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles” (53 thousand and 183 thousand people)

In comparison to the last period and the same period last year, the agro-forestry-fishery sector in this quarter saw the highest level of decrease in the number of laborers (a drop of 209 thousand and 698 thousand people respectively); followed by the “production and distribution of electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning” with a decline of 27 thousand and 29 thousand people respectively; “mining” decreased by 27 thousand people compared to

the previous quarter but increased by 2 thousand people over the same period in 2016.

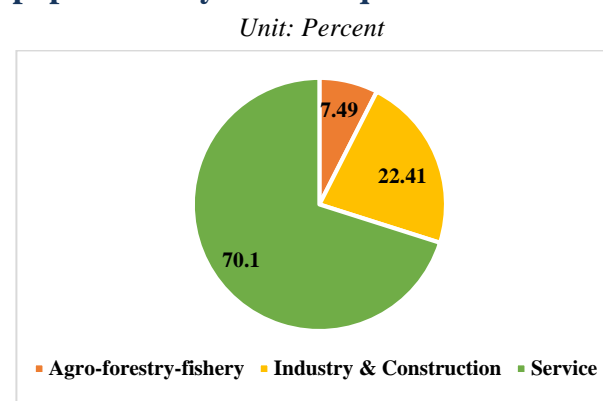
**Figure 2. Changes in employment by industries**



Source: GSO (2016, 2017), Quarterly Labor Force Survey.

There were 11.6 million people with diplomas/certificates at work nationwide (accounting for 21.5% of the working population). Of which, the service sector had nearly 8.2 million people (70.1%), while this figure was 870 thousand people (7.49%) in the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and 2.6 million people in the construction industry (22.41%).

**Figure 3. The structure of working population by sectoral qualifications**



Source: GSO (2016, 2017), Quarterly Labor Force Survey.

#### 4. Income of salaried workers<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Only nominal income from the main job is taken into account

*The average monthly income of salaried workers rised slightly compared to quarter 3/2017 but failed to reach the economic growth level of the same period.*

In quarter 4/2017, the average monthly income from the main job of salaried workers was 5.41 million dong (accounted for 98.4% of total income), an increase of 45 thousand dong (0.8%) compared to quarter 3/2017 and 329 thousand dong (6.5%) compared to the same period in 2016. In comparison with quarter 3/2017, the average monthly income of female workers remained lower than that of male (5.07 million and 5.66 million dong respectively). However, the growth rate of income of female workers was higher than that of male (1.3% and 0.5%)

The average monthly income in the rural areas was 4.73 million dong, an increase of 10.01% which was relatively higher than that of urban areas (6.3 million dong,4.4%)...

The cooperative sector had the lowest income (4.19 million dong) but the highest growth rate (10%), thus reducing the income gap of labor force in it and the state-owned enterprise sector, which had the highest income (7.35 million dong), down to 1.76 times from 1.86 times (Q3/2017).

**Table 4. Average monthly income of salaried workers**

*Unit: million dong*

	2016		2017		
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
General	5.08	5.40	5.20	5.36	5.41
Male	5.24	5.64	5.48	5.63	5.66
Female	4.85	5.08	4.82	5.00	5.07
Urban areas	6.03	6.11	6.08	6.20	6.30
Rural areas	4.30	4.58	4.53	4.72	4.73
Household/individual	4.16	4.16	4.34	4.54	4.55
Cooperative	3.66	3.79	3.83	3.81	4.19
Non-state owned enterprises	5.58	6.05	5.89	6.00	6.07
State-owned enterprises	6.56	7.45	6.84	7.09	7.35
Foreign invested enterprises	6.36	6.62	5.89	6.05	6.20

*Source: GSO (2016, 2017), Quarterly Labor Force Survey*

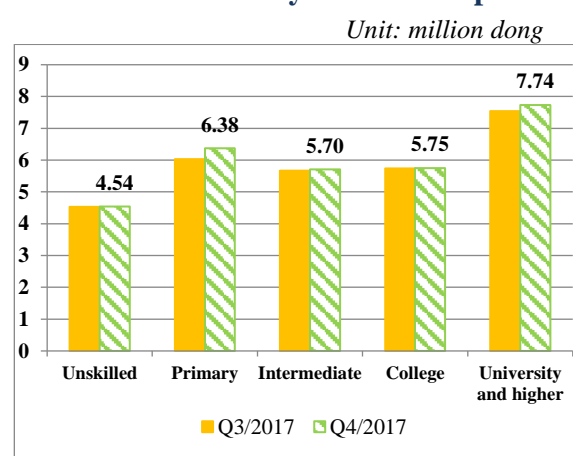
In quarter 4/2017, among trained laborers with certificates, workers with university degree and higher had the highest income

(7.74 million dong) while the lowest income belonged to workers at intermediate level (5.7 million dong).

The growth rate was highest in the group of primary level (351 thousand dong, 5.8%) whereas it was the lowest in the group of workers at the college level (5.75 million dong, 1.7%).

The income gap between the group with the highets income (university and higher level) and lowest income (intermediate level) increased from 1.33 times up to 1.36 times compared to quarter 3/2017

**Figure 4. Average monthly income of salaried workers by technical expertise**

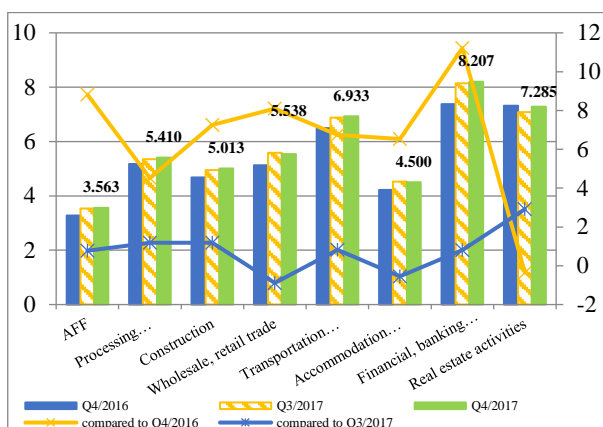


*Source: GSO (2016, 2017), Quarterly Labor Force Survey.*

The income of workers in most industries had increased slightly compared to quarter 3/2017 and the same period last year, except for some services such as wholesale, retail and accommodation and food services where the income decreased slightly. Laborers working in the processing and manufacturing saw a significant increase of 1.18% (5.14 million dong). The income of laborers in the financial and banking activities (which had the highest income) was 2.3 times higher than those working in the agriculture forestry fishery (which had the lowest income) sector.

**Figure 5. Changes in monthly income of salaried workers by sectors**

*Unit: million dong*



Source: GSO (2016, 2017), Quarterly Labor Force Survey.

In quarter 4/2017, there was a slight decrease in the percentage of salaried workers with low income (those salary was under 3.33 million dong/month)<sup>2</sup> compared to quarter 3/2017 (from 18.5% to 18.4%)

Among salaried workers in the low-income group, 84.5% of them were without certificates, increasing compared to quarter 3/2017 (82.4%).

## 5. Unemployment and underemployment

### a. Unemployment

*In quarter 4/2017, the unemployment fell down in both quantity and proportion; the unemployment rate in the group of youths and workers at university and higher level decreased dramatically compared to quarter 3/2017*

In quarter 4/2017, there were 1,071.2 thousand unemployed people at working age nationwide, decreasing by 3.6 thousand people compared to quarter 3/2017 and 38.8 thousand people compared to quarter 4/2016. The unemployment rate of people at working age reduced to 2.21%.

**Table 5. Number of unemployed people at working age by sex, areas and age group**

	2016		2017		
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>Quantity (thousand people)</b>					
<b>General</b>	<b>1,110.0</b>	<b>1,101.7</b>	<b>1,081.6</b>	<b>1,074.8</b>	<b>1,071.2</b>
Male	598.7	654.8	641.7	579.3	616.1

<sup>2</sup> It is the income level lower than 2/3 median income.

Female	511.3	446.9	439.9	495.5	455.1
Urban areas	520.3	518.3	510.5	505.0	507.1
Rural areas	589.7	583.4	571.1	569.9	564.0
<b>Youth (15-24)</b>	<b>586.7</b>	<b>548.5</b>	<b>575.1</b>	<b>610.9</b>	<b>545.9</b>
<b>Long-term unemployment structure in total unemployment (%)</b>					
Long-term unemployment (%)	31.6	21.9	24.5	27.4	24.8

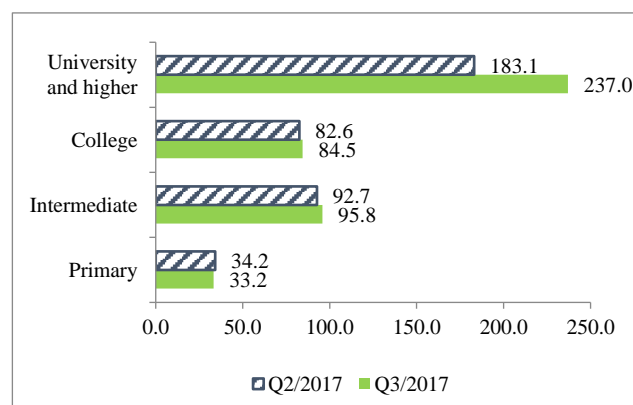
Source: GSO (2016, 2017). Quarterly Labor Force Survey;

In quarter 4/2017, the number of long-term unemployed workers accounted for 24.8% of total unemployed workers.

There were 215.3 thousand people at university and higher level were unemployed, decreasing by 21.7 thousand people compared to quarter 3/2017 and the unemployment rate of this group also declined (from 4.51% last quarter to 4.12%). The group of college level had 78.8 thousand unemployed people, dropping 6 thousand people (4.32%) but remained the highest level. The "intermediate" level saw the most considerable fall of 30.9 thousand in the number of unemployed people (from 95.5 thousand in quarter 3/2017 to 64.6%) and of 1.28% in the unemployment rate (from 3.77% in quarter 3/2017 to 2.49%)

**Figure 6. Number of unemployed people at working age by qualifications**

Unit: thousand people



Source: GSO (2017), Quarterly Labor Force Survey

In quarter 4/2017, there were 545.9 thousand unemployed youth people, decreasing by 65 thousand compared to quarter 3/2017, the unemployment rate fell down to 7.07%.

The highest unemployment rate was observed in the North Central Coast and Central

coastal region (2.69%, a slight increase compared to 2.43% of the last quarter); followed by the Mekong Delta River (2.66%); the lowest unemployment rate was in the Northern midland and mountainous region (0.86%) and Central Highlands (0.99%).

**Table 6. Unemployment rate of people at working age**

	2016		2017		
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>General</b>	<b>2.31</b>	<b>2.30</b>	<b>2.26</b>	<b>2.23</b>	<b>2.21</b>
Male	2.31	2.52	2.47	2.19	2.31
Female	2.31	2.04	2.01	2.22	2.04
Urban areas	3.24	3.24	3.19	3.14	3.13
Rural areas	1.84	1.83	1.79	1.75	1.73
Unskilled	1.78	2.01	1.88	1.70	1.82
Primary	2.17	2.12	1.90	1.75	2.04
Intermediate	2.74	3.08	3.50	3.77	2.49
College	7.38	6.00	4.96	4.88	4.32
University and higher	4.43	2.79	3.63	4.51	4.12
Youth (15-24)	7.28	7.29	7.67	7.80	7.07

Source: GSO (2016v 2017), *Quarterly Labor Force Survey*

### b. Underemployment

*The number of underemployed people at working age went up slightly in quantity and proportion compared to quarter 3/2017*

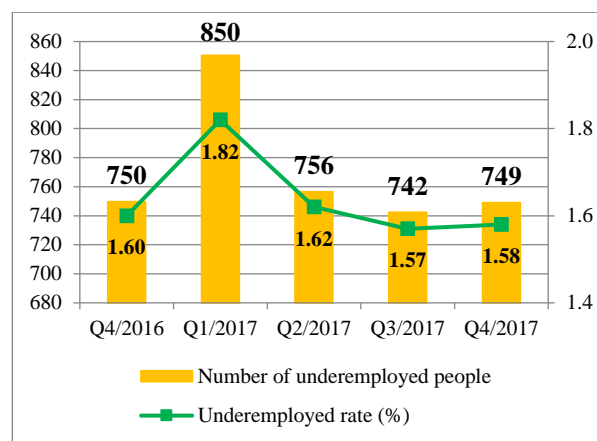
In quarter 4/2017, the whole country had 749 thousand underemployed people at working age<sup>3</sup>, increasing by 6.7 thousand people in comparison with quarter 3/2017 and equalling to that number of quarter 4/2016. Underemployment rate for working age people was 1.58%, approximately equivalent to the level of quarter 3/2017.

In the total of the underemployed people, there were 86% workers from rural areas. 76.5% workers working in agricultural, forestry and fishery sector.

<sup>3</sup>The underemployed people are those who have working time fewer than 35 hours in the surveyed week with desire and readiness to work.

The average number of working hours per week of underemployed workers was 22.1 hours, just as much as 49% of the total working hours of laborers nationwide (45.11 hours per week).

**Figure 7. Number and proportion of underemployed workers at working age**



Source: GSO (2016, 2017). *Quarterly Labor Force Survey*

## 6. Matching labor supply and demand

The information about the labor demand and supply from MOLISA's portal in Q4/2017 is as following:

### - Labor demand:

In quarter 4, there were 169.4 thousand job positions offered by enterprises for recruitment, an increase of 4.7 thousand people (2.9%) compared to quarter 3/2017.

The demand for female workers accounted for 53.0%, increasing by 0.4 percentage point compared to Q3/2017 (43.6%).

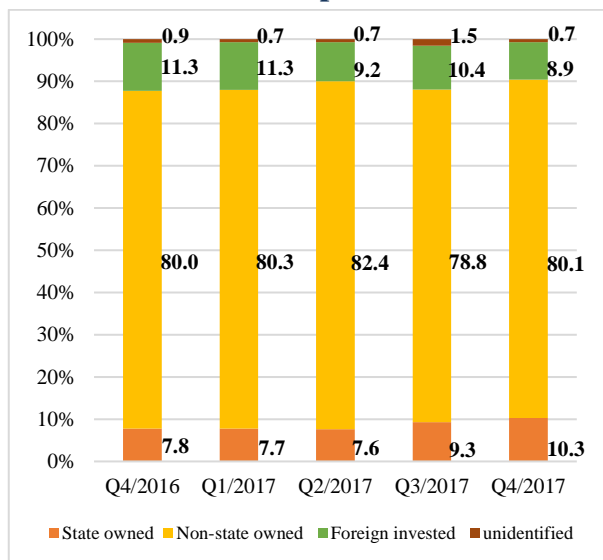
The demand for labor in non-state enterprises accounted for 80.1%, increasing by 2.3 percentage points compared to quarter 3/2017.

According to Navigos<sup>4</sup>, the demand for recruitment of middle-level and senior positions has continued to rise, led by construction, electricity-electronics and automation, consumer goods, retail, banking, financing and information technology; followed by food - beverages and fashion accessories; information

<sup>4</sup>VietnamWorks and Navigos Search are of Vietnam Navigos Group

technology (software and information technology services)

**Figure 8. The demand for labor by types of enterprises**



In quarter 4/2017, jobs had high demand of recruitment were those for “unskilled labor” (accounting for 67.7%, rising up by 9.0 percentage point compared Q3/2017); “garment and textile” (accounting for 17.1%, dropping by 1.5 percentage point compared to Q3/2017).

**- Labor supply:**

There were 48.1 thousand people seeking for jobs, increasing by 17.2% compared to Q3/2017. Of which, the number of female people was 21.6 thousand (accounting for 45.0%), increasing by 3.1 thousand people (16.8%) compared to Q3/2017.

Of which,

- The group of people with intermediate vocational training had the highest demand, accounted for 27.8%.
- The group of people with college level accounted for 20.2%.
- The group of people with university and higher level accounted for 18.3%.
- The group of people without certification occupied 22.1%.

In terms of occupation, “driving”, “accounting-auditing”, and “electricity and electronics” saw an increase in the number of job seekers compared to Q3/2017 (increasing by 0.7 thousand people, 0.6 thousand people and 0.5 thousand people respectively). By contrast,

there was a decrease in the number of job seekers in the group of “unskilled jobs” and “human resource” compared to quarter 3/2017 (dropping by 0.7 thousand and 0.1 thousand people respectively.)

**Table 7. The demand of workers for searching jobs in job portal**

**Unit: %**

	2016		2017		
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<i>By gender</i>					
Male	52.3	55.2	55.2	54.9	55.0
Female	47.7	44.8	44.8	45.1	45.0
<i>By technical expertise</i>					
Without qualification	18.7	19.1	17.2	19.0	22.1
Primary	13.3	13.3	13.8	11.8	11.6
Intermediate	30.0	30.4	29.9	29.4	27.8
College	20.3	21.3	21.0	21.2	20.2
University and higher	17.6	15.9	18.0	18.6	18.3

Source: ILSSA collected from MOLISA's portal

## SECTION 2. RESULTS OF IMPLEMENTING SOME LABOR MARKET POLICIES

### *Vocational education:*

Directorate of Vocational Education and Training estimated that by 2017, vocational enrollment would reach 2.2 million people. Of which, enrollment for colleges and intermediate level would be 540 thousand people and the figure for primary level and under 3 months training would be 1,660 thousand people. Support for 600 thousand rural laborers to join vocational training under the policy of Decision No. 1956/QD-TTg and for nearly 20 thousand disabled people to receive vocational training support.

After an agreement in state management of vocational education, it is estimated that in 2017, the number of graduates is 2,038,672 people (including 488,672 people at College and Intermediate level and about 1,550 people at primary level and under 3 months training)

### *Job introduction via job center of labor, invalids and social affairs (LISA) sector:*

In Q4/2017, 63 job introduction service centers (in total 98 centers nationwide) managed by LISA sector organized 339 job transactions, increasing by 25 transactions compared to Q3/2017 and increasing 3 transactions compared to the same period in 2016.

The number of people who had been advised and introduced jobs were 781,395 people turns (increasing 1,395 people turns compared to Q4/2016 and increasing 28,374 people turns compared to Q3/2017). Of which, 245,561 people turns received jobs (increasing 3,516 people turns compared to Q4/2016 and increases 6,742 people turns compared to quarter 3/2017).

### *Sending laborers to work overseas for a definite term contract:*

The number of enterprises authorized to send workers to work overseas by the end of 2017 reached 315 (including 61 State-owned enterprises, 210 joint-stock companies and 44 limited companies).

Total number of laborers who had been sent to work overseas in Q4/2017 was 42,080 workers (43.8% of them were female) mainly in Taiwan (19,787 workers, 47%) and Japan (18,254 workers, 43.4%).

To sum up, the total number of Vietnamese labours working abroad in 2017 were 134,751 people (39.6% female), increasing by 6.7% compared to 2016.

### *Unemployment Insurance:*

In Q4/2017, there were 151,222 people applying for benefiting unemployment insurance. reducing by 35,591 people (19.1%) compared to the last quarter but increasing by 16,578 people (12.3%) compared to the same period in 2016.

The reasons for being unemployed: 42.7% due to termination of labor contract, job contract or agreement between two parties; 32.4% due to unilateral termination of the labor contract by employees; 3.9% because enterprises were bankrupted, dissolved or changed their structure; 1.5% because employees had been disciplined and fired; and 19.5% due to other reasons.

Those applying for unemployment benefit are workers without qualifications/certificates accounted for 66.4%,+ 13.4% of them at university and higher level. Number of unemployed people in the sectors of garment and textile, leather shoes, dyeing and fashion design was the highest, about 30.9%.

**Table 8. The status of Unemployment insurance implementation**



Unit: person

	2016	2017			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Number of applications for unemployment insurance benefit	134.635	119.969	220.889	186.813	151.222
Number of people receiving the decision to benefit from monthly unemployment allowance	147.914	102.367	218.999	193.283	156.212
Number of people transferring to enjoy unemployment allowance	759	687	885	1.022	914
Number of unemployed people receiving job counselling and introduction	229.632	194.214	322.916	317.404	275.787
<i>Of which: Number of people receiving job introduction</i>	38.055	28.363	48.537	49.285	42.534
Number of employed people receiving the decision to be supported for vocational training	7.437	5.954	8.836	10.959	9.161

Source: Department of Employment. 2016, 2017

In quarter 4/2017, there were 156,212 people receiving decision to benefit from unemployment allowance. The proportion of female workers among those receiving the decision was 55.7% and the figure for workers aged 25-40 benefiting from unemployment allowance was 67.3%.

Number of people receiving job counselling and introduction was 275,789 people in quarter 3/2017. Of which, number of those received job introduction was 42,534 people (accounting for 27.3% of people receiving

decision to benefit from unemployment allowance).

Number of unemployed people receiving decision to be supported for vocational training in quarter 4/2017 was 9,161 people (accounting for 5.9% of people receiving decision to benefit from unemployment allowance). There were 132 people not eligible for unemployment allowance received support for vocational training in Q4/2017, equivalent to 1.4% of total unemployed people receiving the decision to be supported for vocational training.

## Social Insurance

### *Social insurance participation:*

In the third quarter of 2017, there were 193,283 people receiving decision to benefit from unemployment allowance. decreasing by 25,716 people (11.7%) compared to Q2/2017 and dropping by 64,086 people (24.9%) compared to the same period in 2016. The proportion of female workers among those receiving the decision was 56.2%. The proportion of workers aged 25-40 benefiting from unemployment allowance was 69%.

Number of people receiving job counselling and introduction was 317,404 people in quarter 3/2017. Of which, number of those who were introduced job was 49,285 people (accounted for 25.5% of people receiving decision to benefit from unemployment allowance).

Number of unemployed people receiving decision to be supported for vocational

training in quarter 3/2017 was 10,959 people (accounting for 5.7% of people receiving decision to benefit from unemployment allowance). 177 people who are not eligible for unemployment allowance received support for vocational training in Q3/2017, equalling to 1.6% of total unemployed people receiving the decision to be supported for vocational training.

### *Social Insurance:*

#### *Social insurance participation:*

By the end of 2017, total number of people participating in social insurance was 13,819 thousand people nationwide. Increasing 753,235 people (5.76%) compared to 2016. Of which, the number of compulsory social insurance participants was 13,591 thousand people (an increase of 5.67% compared to

2016) and number of voluntary social insurance participants was 227 thousand people, going up by 11.76% compared to 2016.

The proportion of social insurance participants to labor force was 25.05%, increased by 1.15 percentage point compared to the same period in 2016

#### *The status of receiving social insurance benefit:*

By the end of 2017, there were approximately 10,666,014 turns of people receiving social benefits nationwide. Of

which, 167,710 turns received monthly social insurance allowance; 810,018 turns receive lump-sum allowance; and 9,688,286 turns got allowance from sickness, maternity, healthcare scheme.

The estimated expenditure for social insurance in 2017 was 178,837 billion dong. Of which, social insurance spending from state budget was 44,896 billion dong and from social insurance fund was 133,941 billion dong.

**Table 9. Social Insurance participation**

Chỉ tiêu	Đơn vị	2016		2017		
		Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Total number of participants (thousand people)	Thousand people	13,065	13,335	13,411	13,477	13,819
The share of participants to labor force (%)	%	23.95	24.09	24.60	24.56	25.05
By types						
Compulsory	Thousand people	12,862	13,100	13,170	13,234	13,591
Voluntary	Thousand people	203	235	241	243	227

Source: Vietnam social insurance (2016, 2017)

### **SECTION 3: LABOR MARKET POTENTIAL**

In 2018, tasks and solutions will continue to be carried out to stabilize the macro-economy, improve the business environment, promote the national competitiveness and support for enterprises. GDP growth is expected to be 6.3% in the first quarter of 2018 and 6.8%<sup>5</sup> for the whole year, which will continuously have positive impact on the labor market.

In quarter 1/2018, total employment is forecasted to reach 54.20 million, increasing 150 thousand people compared to quarter 4/2017. Some sectors which are expected to have significant increase in the production indicators compared to the same period last year and to affect labor demand currently are: manufacturing electronic components, computers and optical products; mining of metal ores; metals production; furniture

manufacturing; activities of drainage and waste water treatment. A drop in workforce is forecasted in the sectors of mining; production of tobacco products; electricity distribution and agro-forestry-fishery.

<sup>5</sup>National Financial Supervisory Commission (2017), Report on economic situation in 2017 and potentials in 2018

