

Demand of Labour

The government job placement department indicates the number of job vacancies in various enterprises is increasing for almost every education level. Table 5 shows the number of job vacancies during year 2003 and 2004, Classified by level of education attainment. In year 2004, number job vacancies that required primary school level or lower is reduced for 25.60 percent compared to year 2003. Similarly, number of job vacancies for bachelor degree attainment is also declined to 1.19 percent.

The remarkable increases are those with secondary school and with vocational school and with vocational school levels, which are accounted to 5.08 percent and 3.96 percent, respectively. The sectors that have high demand for labour are manufacturing, which expanded for 5.08 percent, followed by wholesale, and retail that expanded for 15.94 percent. Hotel and restaurant businesses are increased for 34.11 percent

Number of Job Applications

The ratio of job vacancies to job seekers is 1.73: 1, with implicit that there are more job vacancies than job seekers. However, the qualified job seekers who can be placed by employers are only 29,862 percent or 22 percent of total applicants. The number of employment people with secondary education level increases at the rat of 39.5 percent, while vocational and bachelor degree level raise to 38.86 and 29.10 percent, respectively (see Table 5 and Table 6).

Table 5 Number of Job Application Classified by Education Attainment

Unit: person

Education Level	2003				2004
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Total	96,079	108,730	73,129	56,866	136,739
Primary and lower	8,509	7,382	10,555	6,417	7,582
Secondary	19,035	34,422	21,203	16,325	31,695
Vocational	30,912	34,477	27,939	17,734	52,473
Bachelor and Above	37,623	42,449	23,432	16,390	44,719

Source: Employment Services Department, Ministry of Labour, 2004

Table 6 Number of Job Placement Classified Education Attainment

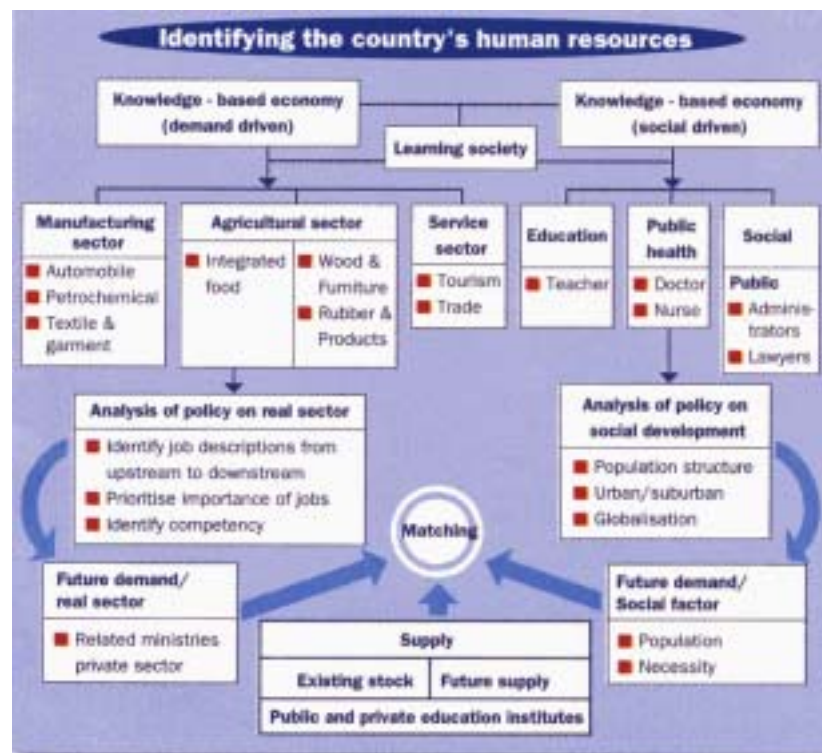
Unit: person

Education Level	2003				2004
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Total	24,198	28,615	30,595	20,737	29,862
Primary and lower	4,751	4,406	5,503	2,680	3,427
Secondary	7,312	8,537	8,969	6,803	10,200
Vocational	5,829	7,719	7,621	5,545	8,094
Bachelor and	6,306	7,953	8,502	5,709	8,141

Above

Source: Employment Services Department, Ministry of Labour, 2004

Such indicators illustrate that the unemployment of youth in Thailand is predominantly due to the mismatching of demand for labour and the supply of labour. The National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB)'s framework, which takes into account the country's goal of becoming a knowledge-based economy, uses a demand-driven approach to indicate human resources requirements in 12 targets industries, then matches them with existing and future supply.



IV Introduction and Vocational Training for Young People

As the above mentioned gap of demand for labour and supply of labour, policies aimed at

matching demand in private sector labour markets with supply from schools, colleges, and universities have been introduced. Nevertheless, since most programmes run from two to four years, it is unlikely that in the short-term at least, co-operation between the public and private sectors could exist on a scale large enough to train any significant number of the workforce of new graduates equipped with the modern, up-to-date skills urgently required by the economy.

The NESDB, in year 2003 launched an action plan for the nation's human resources development. The specified sectors are automobile manufacturing, fashion, food, software, tourism, jewellery, wooden furniture, rubber, ceramics, and electrical and electronic goods. Apart from that, mould-and-die making, petrochemicals and steel are classified as supporting industries.

Curriculum improvements with vocational school extra training to provide appropriate and relevant skills for youth in the modern pattern. Besides for continuous learning, to serve young people outside the education system, a system of informal training centers is to be established that would allow ordinary working people a venue to upgrade their skills.

V Evaluation of the Policies for Young People

It is believed that Thailand's policies for development its human resources and the policies for young people are on the right track. However, implementation will take some time as the board (NESDB) is just in the process of brainstorming.

The greatest weakness of the Thai education system is its lack of market-oriented training policies. In other words, graduates are produced regardless of whether there might be employment opportunities for Thai young people.