# CHAPTER 4 LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

The economy of Bhutan is characterized by the predominance of people engaged in self- employment, particularly those working on their own land. There is also a good deal of small cottage industry often undertaken in the home. The number of persons working for wages is relatively small.

Statistics on human resources are designed to measure the involvement of people in economic activities. Economic activities refer to the production of economic goods and services and include people who are self-employed (e.g. farmers operating their own land) as well as persons who work for wages (i.e. employees). Broadly, statistics for human resources should cover topics such as size and characteristics of the labor force, employment, wage rate and conditions of work.

The National Statistics Bureau conducted two consecutive Labor Force Surveys in 1998 and 2000. The Department of Employment and Labour (DEL) under Ministry of Labour and Human Resources (MoLHR) conducted the Labor Force Survey from 2001 onwards, since its creation in 2000. Labour statistics presented in this chapter are from sample surveys like Bhutan Living Standard Survey (BLSS) 2007.

Although share of primary sector in GDP is gradually decreasing, agriculture is still the predominant sector providing employment to around 66.6% of the labour force. The private sector is emerging as the important sector generating employment opportunities for the rapidly increasing labour market.

The employed persons comprise of all those who had worked at least for one hour during the last seven days prior to interview. Out of the total extrapolated population of 630,000, 285,000 were found employed and 10,600 were found to be unemployed. While the unemployment rate at the national level is found to be 3.7% as per the BLSS 2007.

