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 person 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, a statistical system for human resources should cover topics such as size and characteristics of the labour force, employment, wage rate and conditions of work.

The National Statistics Bureau (NSB) conducted two consecutive Labour Force Surveys in 1998 and 2000. At present the Labour Market Information and Research Division (LMIRD) of the Department of Employment (DoE) under the Ministry of Labour and Human Resources (MoLHR) is conducting the Labour Force Surveys. Labour statistics presented in this chapter are mostly from Labour Force Survey (LFS) Report 2013 and Civil Service Statistics, December 2013, published by Royal Civil Service Commission (RCSC).

As per the findings from Labour Force Survey 2013, agriculture sector employs over 55 percent of the total employed persons. The employed persons comprise of all those who had performed some work, paid in cash or kind, during the reference period (past one week) for at least one hour or the person has a job or business formally attached but temporally absent from the work.

A total of 335,870 were employed and 9,916 were found to be unemployed out of total projected population of 745,939 in 2013, making unemployment rate at the national level by 2.9 percent as per the Labour Force Survey 2013.