

Ramrad Chumsuvan 2009: Unemployment Insurance and Factors Effecting the Unemployment Duration of Thai Labors. Master of Economics, Major Field: Economics, Department of Economics. Thesis Advisor: Miss Wallapak Polasub, Ph.D. 146 pages.

The objective of this paper is to study general characteristics of the unemployment insurance scheme, job-seeking behaviors and factors effecting the unemployment duration of labors in manufacturing industrial sector. The data of 220 unemployed insured individuals is extracted from a survey conducted by the Thailand Research Fund and Kasetsart University. The statistics used for the analyses are frequency, percentage, mean, chi-square. The study of factors influencing the unemployment duration employs the t – test and F – test for the normal distribution data, while the Mann – Whitney U test and Kruskal – Wallis H test are used for the non-normal distribution data. The level of statistical significance is set at 0.10, 0.05 and 0.01 respectively.

The results in this study show that 51.5 – 63.3 per cent of the unemployment insurance benefit recipients are those who voluntarily resign. In fact, these people do not face real unemployment risk. The most important factor for job-seekers is salary. On the other hand, the main obstacle of job searching is the distance between home and work place. The Department of Employment plays a limited role as a source of information on job vacancies. Moreover, the study finds that 71.7 per cent of the benefit recipients are self-employed or part time employees. The significant factors effecting the unemployment duration are gender categorized by marital status, gender categorized by the number of pre-school children, unemployment benefits, job search method, and the difference between wage from the new job and the reservation wage. However, age, educational level, and the average number of job applications per month are not statistically significant.

The policy suggestions from this study include: the improvement of the database on the variety and updated information of job vacancies by the Department of Employment, the promotion of self-employment for women labors and workers who are over 35 years old, and the reduction in unemployment benefits for recipients who are self-employed to prevent the recipients from taking advantage of the social security fund.

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Thesis Advisor's signature

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