

Pimporn Bowonthanasan 2014: The Impact of Population on Economic Development of Thailand. Master of Economics, Major Field: Economics, Department of Economics. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Sumalee Santipolavut, Ph.D.
177 pages.

This research aims to analyze the impact of population which affects the economic development of Thailand and regional levels. Time series data of Thailand during 1972 - 2010 as a period of 39 years and the region during 1987 - 2010 as a period of 24 years. Multiple regression analysis and ordinary least squares method was utilized to analyze factors affecting economic growth and income inequality.

Thailand's population growth rate during 1987 – 2010 has declined because of the decreasing birth rate. For demographic structure, female population has been higher than male in the country and the region. Furthermore, for age structure, the proportion of child population has declined while labor and aging population have increased. This analysis of the impact of economic and demographic on the economic development of Thailand and regional levels indicates that Child and aged dependency rates have an effect on economic growth in almost all regions. However, only a few regions are affected by the inequality of income. A higher proportion of workers with low education and workers with higher education has more impact on the economic growth and income inequality in the central and northern of the country.

As a result of this analysis, the government should pay more attention to the quality of the population as well as encourage higher education throughout the country, as well as research development. Lastly, policies for elderly should be created in order to make a positive impact on Thailand's economy further.

Student's signature

Thesis Advisor's signature