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**Country Profile on Economic Census
Thailand**

Wilailuck Chulewatanakul
Economic and Social Statistics Bureau
National Statistical Office
Ministry of Information and Communication Technology

ECONOMIC CENSUS IN THAILAND

1. Overview of Statistical system in Thailand

Currently, Thailand is practicing the decentralized statistical system, which means data is not stored at only one single government office. Rather, the National Statistical Office (NSO) acts as central agency collecting and coordinating statistical data from statistical units scattered in ministries, departments and state enterprises, who produce the data for purpose of their own administrative and management within their units. In administration of Thai Statistics, the NSO is authorized by Statistical Act of 2007, to compile basic statistics that reflect social and economic structure of the country as well as to collaborate with and participate in the coordination of the statistical work in the assembling, compilation and analysis of statistics. The National Statistical Office is the main organization to manage the statistical issues of the country and is the center of standardized statistics, which can support and enhance the country's administration efficiently as well as increase competent potential competition of the country.

2. Economic Census in Thailand

The National Statistical Office, which is solely responsible for conducting social and economic censuses of the country, has been conducting two independent economic censuses; namely, Industrial (manufacturing) Census and Business Trade and Services Census. The Industrial census was firstly conducted in 1964, followed by 1997 and the latest one was in 2007, the next one is scheduled in 2017. The latter one; the Business Trade and Services Census was firstly conducted in 1966, secondly in 1988, the latest one was in 2002 while the next round will be in 2012.

3. Legislation

According to the 2007 Statistical Acts, the NSO is the only organization that has authority to conduct censuses. All establishment censuses were, therefore, conducted by Thailand Statistical Law under this ordinance, a respondent is required to the questionnaire or cause it to be completed by some other authorized person to the best of the establishments knowledge and belief. The ordinance also stipulates that all information obtained will not be revealed on an individual basis, is to be kept results are presented for the country sight.

The provisions of B.E. 2550 (2007) Thailand Statistical Act, the National Statistical Office declares that all information obtained by this office, will be kept confidential and will not be disclosed to any individual establishment. The information will be compiled and aggregated at national level before it becomes a public information.

Section 15 : Personal information obtained under this act shall be strictly considered confidential. A person who performs his or her duty hereunder or a person who has the duty of maintaining such information cannot disclose in at anyone who doesn't have a duty hereunder except in the case that

(1) Such disclosure is for the purpose of any investigation or legal proceedings in a case relating to on offense hereunder.

(2) Such disclosure is for the use of agencies in the preparation, analysis or research of statistics provided that such disclosure does not cause damage to the information owner and does not identify or disclose the data owner.

4. The objectives of the Economic Censuses

The objectives of the Industrial Census and the Business Trade and Services Census are as follows:

1. To collect basic information on the structure and distribution of establishments engaged in economic activities, such manufacturing, wholesale trade, retail trade, some selected sectors of services i.e. and construction.
2. To compile the directory of establishments to be used as the master sampling frame for various sample surveys on those economic activities.
3. To develop statistical methodologies and setting up the data quality control.
4. To conduct Statistical Development Plan and Statistical Master Plan of the country.
5. To provide updated sampling frame of establishment.

5. Coverage of the Economic Census

These two censuses covered respective establishments engaged in manufacturing, wholesale, retail and some services sectors of the International Standard Industrial Classification, ISIC, Rev.3.

List of economic activity covered in the two censuses

- **Industrial (manufacturing) Census**

Division 15-37 Manufacturing

- **Business Trade and Services Census**

Division 50 Sale, maintenance and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles, retail sale of automotive fuel

Division 51 Wholesale trade and commission trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles

Division 52 Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles, repair of personal and household goods

Division 55	Hotels and restaurants
Division 70	Real estate activities
Division 72	Computer and related activities
Division 71, 73, 74	Renting of machinery and equipment without operator, research and development and other business activities
Division 92,93	Recreational and other service activities

- **To facilitate availability of the establishment sampling frame for NSO related establishment surveys, some following divisions were covered in the listing stage of both censuses**

Division 45	Construction
Division 60	Class 6021-6023, 6304 Other land transport and activities of Travel agencies
Division 85	Class 8511 Private hotel

5. Reporting unit: Establishments which are defined in consistent with the ISIC.

- **Description of the statistical unit**

For the statistical unit is the entity for which the required items of data are gathered, should ideally be the establishment or establishment-type unit. The establishment is defined as an economic unit which engaged, under the ownership or control of a single legal entity, in a kind of economic activity at a fixed location.

- **Report form**

There were two kinds of questionnaire form for collecting the data, Listing form was for basic information, such as name and address of the establishment, number of person engaged, type of activity and Enumeration form was for in-depth data of the establishment, such as receipt, expenditure, value of purchase of goods for sale, value of fixed asset etc.

6. Data Items

The censuses regarding the Industrial Census and the Business Trade and Services Census are divided into two stages; listing stage and enumeration stage. The data items are as follows:

1) Listing stage:

Industrial Census (Manufacturing) and Business Trade and Services Census

- Name, address and contact address of establishment
- Economic activities
- Type of legal and economic organization
- Total number of persons engaged and employees
- Proportion of foreign investment

2) Enumerating stage:

Industrial (Manufacturing) Census

- General information (e.g. name of establishment, address and contact address of establishments, type of industry, form of legal organization, form of economic organization, period of operation, authorized capital, foreign investment or share holding and the country investment or share holding, etc.)
- Number of persons engaged, number of employees and remuneration
- Cost of production and expenditure of establishment
- Sales of goods produced and other receipts of establishment
- Fixed assets of establishment
- Cost of research and development and laboratory

Business Trade and Services Census

- General information (e.g. name of establishment, address and contact address of establishments, type of business, form of legal organization, form of economic organization, period of operation, registered capital, foreign investment or share holding and the country investment or share holding, etc.)
- Number of persons engaged, number of employees and remuneration
- Expenditures of establishment
- Receipts and other receipts of establishment
- Value of stocks and value of fixed assets

7. Periodicity

The Economic Censuses were conducted every 10 years. The most recent Industrial Census (manufacturing) was in 2007 and the latest Business Trade and Services Census was in 2002. The National Statistical Office plans to conduct the 4th census of Business Trade and Services in 2012, aiming at updating the establishment sampling frame, as well as the changes of business operation.

8. Data collection

The face-to-face interviewing method was employed in data collection. The enumerators who are permanent and Government employees of the National Statistical Office were sent out to interview the owners or the entrepreneurs of the establishments. Sometimes questionnaires were left for the owner or the entrepreneurs of the establishments to be filled out later, because the respondents were not available at the time, or they have to wait for permission from those who have been authorized to provide their data.

The economic censuses have sometimes problems with respect to completeness in terms of coverage. In addition, some establishments did not provide good cooperation in the census.

Because of the high non-response rates, and the invalidity of the data obtained from the field-work, the information from the profit and loss statements and the balance sheets of the establishments are also used for editing and completing the questionnaires. However, the data from those business documents are believed unreliable in a view point of statistics, because those documents are also used for reporting. However, the Census can provide data with the same criteria and reference time period, and under uniform concept and definition concerning establishments.

9. Census operation and data processing

The filled-up questionnaires were primarily processed in the provincial offices. Basic tables for provincial level were also tabulated there. Provincial data sets were sent to the central office for merging to be regional and whole kingdom information. The main frames and PC are used for data processing. The software FoxPro, SAS, SPSS and Excel are used for data entry, tabulating and analyzing the data.

10. Data dissemination

- Preliminary report: 6 months after the field operation
 - National level
- Final report: 2 months after the preliminary report
 - National and Regional level, 6 regions and Bangkok
 - Provincial report, 75 volumes

11. Utilizations and the main users of Economic Census

The Utilization of Economic Census data

- Constructing the economic indicators
- A guideline for economic development in related sectors; manufacturing, business, construction, agriculture, real estate etc. in both macro and micro levels
- Formulating policies
- SMEs development
- Constructing the standard measurement in monitoring and evaluation
- A guidance in private decision making
- Economic analysis by academics, researchers and education institutes
- Database development for the economic and social warning system

The main users of Economic Census data

- National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB)
- Bank of Thailand (BOT)
- Ministry of Industry
- Ministry of Commerce
- Universities and Colleges
- Thailand Development and Research Institute (TDRI)
- International Organization and statistical units of other countries

12. Data products

The results of the census are disseminated through various channels. In addition to the published reports for preliminary report (regional level and the whole kingdom) and final report (provincial level, regional level and the whole kingdom), the electric media for faster and more convenience for dissemination, are on the web-site (<http://www.nso.go.th>), e-mail, diskette, and also CD-Rom.

13. Existing economic censuses/surveys

At present, there are seven censuses/surveys, as follows, presenting basic economic statistics in Thailand.

Censuses/Surveys	Scope and coverage
1) Industrial Census	In listing stage, basic information of all establishments engaged in categories D, G, H, K, O, P, F, I of ISIC Rev.3 were collected. In enumeration stage, detailed information of establishments with at least one person engaged only in manufacturing were enumerated.
2) Business Trade and Services Census	In listing stage, basic information of all establishments engaged in categories D, G, H, K, O, P, F, I of ISIC Rev.3 were listed. In enumeration stage, detailed information of establishments with at least one person engaged in wholesale trade, retail trade, restaurants and hotels and some sectors of services (categories: G, H,

	K,O) were enumerated.
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Censuses/Surveys	Scope and coverage
3) Business Trade and Service Survey	The establishments with at least one person, located throughout the country, engaged in wholesale trade, retail trade, restaurants and hotels and some sectors of services classified according to ISIC Rev.3
4) Hotels and Guest-house Survey	All hotels and guest houses which registered under the 2004 Decree of the hotel.
5) Construction Survey	The establishments with at least one person, located throughout the country, engaged in construction industry (category F of ISIC Rev.3)
6) Quarterly Retail Survey	The establishments, with at least one person, located throughout the country, engaged in retail trade, restaurants and hotels and some sectors of services.
7) Private Hospital Survey	All private hospitals or any health care centres where the inpatient service were available and registered under the 1998 Decree of the health care centre.