



Thongmuan Phansanga is a home-based worker in Bangkok.  
Photo credit: Chanakarn Laosarakham



# Employment in Thailand, 2019-2024: Crisis, Recovery and Informality

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## Overview of Employment

The COVID-19 restrictions led to a decrease in employment in Bangkok and in urban areas of Thailand between 2019 and 2021; however, in both geographic areas, women's employment increased while men's decreased.

This statistical brief describes employment in Thailand from 2019 to 2024, before, during and after the COVID-19 crisis.<sup>1</sup> The pandemic in Thailand began on January 13, 2020, when Thailand became the first country outside China to report a confirmed

case of COVID-19.<sup>2</sup> Thereafter, the Thai Government enacted a national lockdown and containment measures to manage COVID-19, including travel restrictions and quarantine, widespread business and school closures, and use of tracking applications.

1 The analysis utilizes the Informal Employment Survey (IES) collected by the National Statistical Office of Thailand. The IES is a combination of the third quarter Thai Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Informal Supplemental Survey. The LFS is a nationally representative survey that collects relevant information needed to calculate standard labour force statistics. The Informal Supplemental Survey makes it possible to identify workers in informal employment within the LFS and statistically analyze workers in informal employment in the Thai economy.

2 World Health Organization. 2020. Novel coronavirus – Thailand (Disease Outbreak News, 2020-DON234). <https://www.who.int/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news/item/2020-DON23>

**Table 1. Total employment by sex in Bangkok, urban Thailand and Thailand, third quarters, 2019 to 2024 (numbers and changes in thousands)**

Geographic areas	2019			2021			2022			2024		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
<b>Bangkok</b>	2,477.7	2,768.4	5,246.1	2,490.7	2,689.6	5,180.3	2,764.8	2,870.1	5,634.9	2,749.6	2,940.7	5,690.2
<b>Urban Thailand</b>	7,970.4	9,107.2	17,077.5	7,985.1	9,038.1	17,023.2	8,729.5	9,514.3	18,243.9	8,812.5	9,667.2	18,479.7
<b>Thailand</b>	17,017.2	20,465.4	37,482.5	17,250.1	20,453.6	37,703.6	18,361.9	21,201.5	39,563.4	18,603.9	21,434.1	40,038.1

Geographic areas	2019 to 2021			2021 to 2022			2022 to 2024		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
<b>Bangkok</b>	12.9	-78.7	-65.8	274.1	180.5	454.6	-15.2	70.5	55.4
<b>Urban Thailand</b>	14.7	-69.1	-54.3	744.5	476.3	1,220.7	83.0	152.9	235.9
<b>Thailand</b>	232.9	-11.8	221.1	1,111.8	747.9	1,859.8	242.0	232.6	474.7

The containment measures in addition to the dissemination of the COVID-19 vaccine in 2021 effectively curbed the spread of the virus. As COVID-19 cases declined in Q4 2021, the government eased nationwide restrictions in mid-December.<sup>3</sup>



*Lampeung Wattapanit, a home-based worker from the Kaew Pradap Community in Bangkok, belongs to a group that produces and sells chilli paste. Photo credit: Chanakarn Laosarakham*

<sup>3</sup> Tourism Authority of Thailand. 2021. Thailand increases “Blue Zone” destinations. Press Release. 16 November. <https://www.tatnews.org/2021/12/thailand-further-eases-covid-19-curbs-nationwide-allowing-new-year-countdown-festivities/>

In Q3 2019, Thailand's total employment was 37.5 million (17.0 million women and 20.5 million men) (**table 1**). Nationally, employment increased by over 221,000 between 2019 and 2021. Women accounted for the gain with an increase of 232,900 jobs, while men lost almost 11,800 jobs. Urban areas had an employed population of 17.1 million, of which 5.3 million were in Bangkok. The COVID-19 restrictions had a considerable impact on urban employment. Between 2019 and 2021, urban employment decreased by over 54,300 workers. Notably, the decline in urban employment was driven by men. For women, employment increased over the period. In urban areas, women gained 14,700 jobs while men lost 69,100 jobs. Bangkok lost 65,800 jobs overall, with men losing 78,700 jobs and women gaining 12,900 jobs. The increase in women's employment and decline in men's employment over the crisis period is consistent with the "added worker effect", which is characterized by secondary earners entering the workforce during times of crisis to offset reduced earnings of affected primary workers.

In contrast to the decline over the previous years, from Q3 2021 to Q3 2022, employment rebounded significantly in all regions. The total number of jobs increased by 1.9 million nationwide. Women led this recovery nationwide, gaining over 1.1 million jobs, compared to 747,900 for men. In urban areas, women gained 744,500 jobs while men gained 476,300 jobs. Bangkok shows the fastest proportional growth, adding 454,600 jobs, with women gaining 274,100 jobs compared to 180,500 jobs for men. With the post-pandemic reopening of the service, tourism and retail sectors where women hold a higher share of employment, women experienced stronger job recovery in most regions.

Following the recovery between Q3 2022 and Q3 2024, employment growth slowed but remained positive, with national gains of 474,700 jobs, including 235,900 jobs in urban areas. Men's employment grew significantly across various areas, while women in Bangkok experienced job losses of 15,200, suggesting

recovery momentum focused more on male-dominated sectors by this time.

Employment rates were relatively steady between Q3 2019 and Q3 2021 (**table 2**). Across all regions, the employment rate for men surpassed that of women. In Q3 2019, men's employment rates stood at 75 per cent nationwide, 74 per cent in urban areas, and 76 per cent in Bangkok, compared to women's rates of 58 per cent, 60 per cent, and 63 per cent, respectively.

Employment rates increased nationwide from 66 per cent in Q3 2021 to 68 per cent in Q3 2022. As the economy began to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, employment rates for both men and women continued to rise, particularly in Bangkok. Women's employment in Bangkok increased from 63 per cent to 67 per cent, while men's rose from 73 per cent to 77 per cent.

**Table 2. Employment and unemployment rates by sex in Bangkok, urban Thailand and Thailand, third quarters, 2019 to 2024 (per cent)**

Geographic areas	2019						2021						2022						2024					
	Women		Men		Total		Women		Men		Total		Women		Men		Total		Women		Men		Total	
	ER	UR	ER	UR	ER	UR	ER	UR	ER	UR	ER	UR	ER	UR	ER	UR	ER	UR	ER	UR	ER	UR	ER	UR
<b>Bangkok</b>	62.7	0.9	75.8	1.3	69.0	1.2	62.7	3.1	73.4	4.3	67.8	3.7	67.3	0.7	77.1	1.5	72.0	1.1	66.5	1.0	78.7	1.3	72.3	1.2
<b>Urban Thailand</b>	59.5	1.0	74.1	1.3	66.5	1.2	59.0	2.5	73.0	2.9	65.7	2.7	61.6	1.3	75.0	1.3	67.9	1.3	61.4	0.9	75.3	1.2	67.9	1.1
<b>Thailand</b>	58.3	1.0	75.1	1.1	66.4	1.0	58.6	2.2	74.5	2.3	66.3	2.3	60.2	1.3	76.0	1.1	67.7	1.2	60.3	1.0	76.2	1.1	67.9	1.0

Between Q3 2022 and Q3 2024, the national employment rate remained at around 68 per cent. For women, the employment rates were relatively stable across all areas, around 67 per cent in Bangkok, 61 per cent in urban areas, and 60 per cent nationwide. For men, the national employment rate remained high, with Bangkok reaching 79 per cent in Q3 2024, around 75 per cent in urban areas, and 76 per cent nationwide.

The pandemic's impact on unemployment was pronounced across geographic areas. Unemployment nationwide increased from 1 per cent in Q3 2019 to 2.3 per cent in Q3 2021. Men in Bangkok had the highest unemployment rate in the country. The unemployment rate for men sharply increased from 1.3 per cent to 4.3 per cent in Bangkok and to 2.9 per cent in urban areas. The unemployment rate increased nationally from 1 to 2.3 per cent. For women, the increase was smaller, from between 0.9 and 1 per cent pre-pandemic to between 2.2 and 3.1 per cent in Q3 2021, across the geographic areas.

The labour market had rebounded significantly by Q3 2022 and remained stable through Q3 2024, indicating a return to pre-pandemic conditions. By Q3 2024, the nationwide unemployment rate declined to around 1 per cent for both men and women, matching the pre-pandemic level of Q3 2019. This reflects the revival of economic activities, recovery of the tourism sector, and ongoing government stimulus measures.

Between Q3 2019 and Q3 2024, the primary reasons for job change/job loss in Thailand shifted in response to the pandemic and subsequent recovery (**table 3**). The number of people "fired or laid off" rose from 56,000 in Q3 2019 to 317,900 in Q3 2021, largely due to COVID-19 mitigation measures. The number of workers fired or laid off declined significantly in response to economic recovery between Q3 2022 and Q3 2024.

The pandemic hit men particularly hard with 195,700 fired or laid off in Q3 2021. During the same period, job losses due to resignations

and business closures were 43,800 and 29,800, respectively. The pattern for women was similar but with a smaller magnitude than for men. Approximately 122,200 women were fired or laid off in Q3 2021. During the same period, women's job losses due to resignations and own-business closures were 56,400 and 10,200, respectively.

Resignation cases were higher before the pandemic and fell during the pandemic. Resignations fell from 124,900 to 100,200 between Q3 2019 and Q3 2021. Resignations increased to pre-pandemic levels in Q3 2022 at 121,000 and remained similar in Q3 2024 at 116,200. By Q3 2024, a larger share of job changes and job losses were due to resignations rather than layoffs or closures, indicating an improvement in labour market conditions nationwide.

**Table 3. Job changes/losses by reason for change/loss and sex in Thailand, third quarters, 2019 to 2024 (absolute numbers in thousands)**

Unemployment Reason	2019			2021			2022			2024		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
<b>Fired or laid off</b>	16.5	39.4	56.0	122.2	195.7	317.9	36.0	38.5	74.5	18.8	32.8	51.6
<b>Resigned</b>	42.3	82.6	124.9	56.4	43.8	100.2	50.6	70.4	121.0	48.2	68.0	116.2
<b>Own business closure</b>	1.8	5.7	7.4	10.2	29.8	40.0	10.2	8.5	18.8	2.1	12.3	14.4
<b>Other or unknown</b>	0.8	1.5	2.3	51.0	68.0	119.0	9.0	12.1	21.1	0.8	3.4	4.2

## Informal and Formal Employment

While the majority of employment in 2024 was informal nationally (65 per cent), the majority was formal (59 per cent) in Bangkok.

Although informal employment has declined in Thailand over the last few decades, it continues to be a substantial share of employment (**table 4**). In Q3 2019, informal employment accounted for 70 per cent of total employment nationally; by Q3 2022 it had decreased to 65 per cent and remained at 65 per cent in Q3 2024. Informal employment was a lower share of employment in urban areas (59 per cent in Q3 2019). By contrast, in Bangkok the majority of total employment was formal at around 58 per cent and informal employment was 42 per cent in Q3 2019. Informal employment had decreased slightly to 41 per cent by Q3 2024.



Renu Develoa, a market trader, at her stall in Bangkok. Photo credit: Chanakarn Laosarakham

**Table 4. Formal and informal employment by sex in Bangkok, urban Thailand and Thailand, third quarters, 2019 to 2024 (numbers in thousands and per cent)**

Geographic areas	2019						2021						2022						2024					
	Women		Men		Total		Women		Men		Total		Women		Men		Total		Women		Men		Total	
	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%
<b>Bangkok</b>	<b>2,477.7</b>		<b>2,768.4</b>		<b>5,246.1</b>		<b>2,490.7</b>		<b>2,689.6</b>		<b>5,180.3</b>		<b>2,764.8</b>		<b>2,870.1</b>		<b>5,634.9</b>		<b>2,749.6</b>		<b>2,940.7</b>		<b>5,690.2</b>	
Formal Employment	1,484.7	59.9	1,537.5	55.5	3,022.3	57.6	1,484.2	59.6	1,586.1	59.0	3,070.4	59.3	1,632.0	59.0	1,600.7	55.8	3,232.7	57.4	1,697.6	61.7	1,645.3	56.0	3,343.0	58.8
Informal Employment	993.1	40.1	1,230.8	44.5	2,223.8	42.4	1,006.5	40.4	1,103.6	41.0	2,109.9	40.7	1,132.7	41.0	1,269.5	44.2	2,402.1	42.6	1,052.0	38.3	1,295.4	44.1	2,347.2	41.3
<b>Urban Thailand</b>	<b>7,970.4</b>		<b>9,107.2</b>		<b>17,077.5</b>		<b>7,985.1</b>		<b>9,038.1</b>		<b>17,023.2</b>		<b>8,729.5</b>		<b>9,514.3</b>		<b>18,243.9</b>		<b>8,812.5</b>		<b>9,667.2</b>		<b>18,479.7</b>	
Formal Employment	3,438.4	43.1	3,631.0	39.9	7,070.1	41.4	3,735.4	46.8	3,984.9	44.1	7,720.0	45.4	4,209.4	48.2	4,286.2	45.1	8,494.4	46.6	4,158.6	47.2	4,269.0	44.2	8,428.6	45.6
Informal Employment	4,532.0	56.9	5,476.1	60.1	10,007.4	58.6	4,249.7	53.2	5,053.2	55.9	9,303.2	54.7	4,520.2	51.8	5,228.1	55.0	9,749.5	53.4	4,653.9	52.8	5,398.2	55.8	10,051.1	54.4
<b>Thailand</b>	<b>17,017.2</b>		<b>20,465.4</b>		<b>37,482.5</b>		<b>17,250.1</b>		<b>20,453.6</b>		<b>37,703.6</b>		<b>18,361.9</b>		<b>21,201.5</b>		<b>39,563.4</b>		<b>18,603.9</b>		<b>21,434.1</b>		<b>40,038.1</b>	
Formal Employment	5,528.9	32.5	5,836.7	28.5	11,364.7	30.3	6,172.1	35.8	6,559.5	32.1	12,732.5	33.8	6,814.1	37.1	6,909.6	32.6	13,724.5	34.7	6,840.7	36.8	7,021.8	32.8	13,861.2	34.6
Informal Employment	11,488.3	67.5	14,628.6	71.5	26,117.8	69.7	11,078.0	64.2	13,894.1	67.9	24,971.1	66.2	11,547.8	62.9	14,291.9	67.4	25,838.9	65.3	11,763.3	63.2	14,412.3	67.2	26,176.9	65.4

Throughout the period, the share of women in informal employment was consistently lower than men in all geographic areas. However, informal employment remained a substantial, though generally declining, share of total employment for both women and men. Between Q3 2019 and Q3 2021, informal employment in Thailand declined for both women and men across all regions. Nationally, the share of women's informal employment fell from 68 per cent to 64 per cent (a decrease of about 0.5 million workers), while men's declined from 72 per cent to 68 per cent (a decrease of about 0.7 million workers). A similar downward trend was observed in urban areas, where the share of informal employment decreased from

57 per cent to 53 per cent for women and from 60 per cent to 56 per cent for men. However, in Bangkok, the decline was evident only among men, whose share dropped from 45 per cent to 41 per cent, while the share of women remained steady at around 40 per cent.

Informal employment declined during the COVID-19 period, especially in urban areas, reflecting the pandemic's disruption of economic activities. Government restrictions on mobility and the temporary closure of markets and street vending zones further limited opportunities for workers in informal employment. Since much of this work depends on physical proximity to customers, social

distancing measures severely disrupted these activities, leading to a significant decline in informal employment. By Q3 2024, as the economy began to recover from the impacts of COVID-19, informal employment continued to decline. The share of informal employment decreased slightly to 63 per cent for women and 67 per cent for men nationwide. In urban areas, the share remained around 53 per cent for women and 56 per cent for men, indicating stability following the earlier contraction. In Bangkok, women's informal employment declined slightly to 38 per cent, while men's increased marginally to 44 per cent. This pattern suggests a gradual stabilization of informal employment as economic activities resumed.

**Table 5. Absolute (in thousands) and per cent changes in formal and informal employment by sex in Bangkok, urban Thailand and Thailand (third quarters and year-on-year changes, 2019 to 2024)**

Geographic areas	2019 to 2021						2021 to 2022						2022 to 2024					
	Women		Men		Total		Women		Men		Total		Women		Men		Total	
	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%
<b>Bangkok</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>-78.7</b>	<b>-2.8</b>	<b>-65.8</b>	<b>-1.3</b>	<b>274.1</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>180.5</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>454.6</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>-15.2</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>70.5</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>55.4</b>	<b>1.0</b>
Formal Employment	-0.5	0.0	48.5	3.2	48.1	1.6	147.8	10.0	14.6	0.9	162.4	5.3	65.6	4.0	44.6	2.8	110.3	3.4
Informal Employment	13.4	1.3	-127.3	-10.3	-113.9	-5.1	126.2	12.5	165.9	15.0	292.2	13.8	-80.7	-7.1	25.9	2.0	-54.9	-2.3
<b>Urban Thailand</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>-69.1</b>	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>-54.3</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>744.5</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>476.3</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>1,220.7</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>83.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>152.9</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>235.9</b>	<b>1.3</b>
Formal Employment	297.0	8.6	353.9	9.7	649.9	9.2	474.0	12.7	301.3	7.6	774.3	10.0	-50.8	-1.2	-17.2	-0.4	-65.7	-0.8
Informal Employment	-282.3	-6.2	-422.9	-7.7	-704.3	-7.0	270.5	6.4	174.9	3.5	446.4	4.8	133.7	3.0	170.0	3.3	301.6	3.1
<b>Thailand</b>	<b>232.9</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>-11.8</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>221.1</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>1,111.8</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>747.9</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>1,859.8</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>242.0</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>232.6</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>474.7</b>	<b>1.2</b>
Formal Employment	643.2	11.6	722.7	12.4	1,367.8	12.0	642.0	10.4	350.1	5.3	992.0	7.8	26.6	0.4	112.3	1.6	136.6	1.0
Informal Employment	-410.3	-3.6	-734.5	-5.0	-1,146.7	-4.4	469.8	4.2	397.8	2.9	867.7	3.5	215.5	1.9	120.4	0.8	338.0	1.3

Between Q3 2019 and Q3 2021, during the COVID-19 crisis, Thailand experienced a slight increase in employment of just under 1 per cent, or 221,100 jobs (**table 5**). The increase in jobs was primarily in rural areas of the country, whereas both Bangkok and urban Thailand saw declines in employment. Notably, most job increases were in formal employment – 2 per cent in Bangkok, 9 per cent in urban areas, and 12 per cent nationwide.

In contrast, most job losses occurred in informal employment. Nationally, 1.1 million informal jobs were lost, with 704,300 losses in urban areas and 113,900 losses in Bangkok. Informal employment declined across all regions, with the sharpest drop of 7 per cent in urban areas, followed by 5 per cent in Bangkok and 4 per cent nationally. This decline was largely driven by the pandemic's containment measures, which had a particularly strong impact in urban areas.

Men in informal employment were especially affected by job loss compared to women during the COVID-19 crisis. Nationally, women saw a reduction of 410,300 informal jobs, while men saw a reduction of 734,500 informal jobs. In urban areas, women lost 282,300 informal jobs compared to 422,900 lost by men. Women in informal employment experienced lower job losses mainly because many worked from or near their homes, such as in home-based production and small-scale services, which allowed greater flexibility to continue working despite mobility restrictions. In formal employment, women gained fewer jobs than

men in urban Thailand and nationally. However, in Bangkok, women lost formal jobs overall, while men experienced a slight gain. This is largely because women are highly concentrated in the services sector, which was the sector most affected by pandemic restrictions.

Between Q3 2021 and Q3 2022, employment levels rebounded strongly in all regions, surpassing pre-pandemic levels and indicating a recovery across Thailand's labour market. Women's job gains outpaced men's across all contexts: nationally, women gained 1,111,800 jobs compared to 747,900 for men; in urban areas, women gained 744,500 jobs while men gained 476,300; and in Bangkok, women gained 274,100 jobs in comparison to men's 180,500. Across all regions, women experienced a more significant job recovery in formal employment than men. For example, in Bangkok women gained 147,800 jobs in formal employment compared to 14,600 for men. Women's job recovery in informal employment was also higher than men's except in Bangkok where women gained 126,200 jobs in comparison to men's 165,900 jobs.

Recovery continued from Q3 2022 to Q3 2024, with employment rising: women led national gains with 242,000 jobs compared to 232,600 jobs for men. Nationally, women's informal employment increased by 215,500 jobs while men's increased by 120,400. In contrast, Bangkok saw women lose 80,700 informal jobs while men gained 25,900 informal jobs.

In formal employment, the geographic areas differed markedly. Nationally, women's formal employment increased by 26,600 jobs while men gained 112,300 formal jobs between Q3 2022 and Q3 2024. Unlike national figures, Bangkok showed strong formal employment growth for both women and men, with women gaining significantly more jobs than men. Conversely, urban areas experienced a decline in formal employment for men and a greater decline for women.



A motorcycle driver in Bangkok. Photo credit: Pattarapon Virat

**Table 6. Informal employment by sex and industry in Bangkok, urban Thailand and Thailand, third quarters, 2019 to 2024 (absolute numbers in thousands and per cent distribution)**

Geographic areas	2019						2021						2022						2024					
	Women		Men		Total		Women		Men		Total		Women		Men		Total		Women		Men		Total	
	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%
<b>Bangkok</b>	<b>993.1</b>		<b>1230.8</b>		<b>2223.8</b>		<b>1006.5</b>		<b>1103.6</b>		<b>2109.9</b>		<b>1132.7</b>		<b>1269.5</b>		<b>2402.1</b>		<b>1052.0</b>		<b>1295.4</b>		<b>2347.2</b>	
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing	4.7	0.5	10.5	0.9	15.3	0.7	5.0	0.5	3.0	0.3	8.0	0.4	2.0	0.2	9.5	0.8	11.8	0.5	8.1	0.8	9.1	0.7	17.1	0.7
Manufacturing	144.8	14.6	182.5	14.8	327.3	14.7	148.4	14.7	120.5	10.9	267.8	12.7	156.2	13.8	126.2	9.9	281.1	11.7	115.8	11.0	107.5	8.3	222.0	9.5
Other industrial activities	32.9	3.3	147.8	12.0	183.9	8.3	33.9	3.4	119.0	10.8	155.3	7.4	30.2	2.7	145.1	11.4	178.5	7.4	37.8	3.6	157.9	12.2	199.3	8.5
Services	483.6	48.7	565.8	46.0	1048.5	47.2	487.9	48.5	555.1	50.3	1043.6	49.5	566.0	50.0	648.1	51.1	1214.5	50.6	559.7	53.2	701.8	54.2	1261.9	53.8
Trade	327.1	32.9	324.2	26.3	648.9	29.2	331.2	32.9	305.9	27.7	635.5	30.1	378.2	33.4	340.5	26.8	716.3	29.8	330.6	31.4	319.0	24.6	646.9	27.6
<b>Urban Thailand</b>	<b>4532.0</b>		<b>5476.1</b>		<b>10007.4</b>		<b>4249.7</b>		<b>5053.2</b>		<b>9303.2</b>		<b>4520.2</b>		<b>5228.1</b>		<b>9749.5</b>		<b>4653.9</b>		<b>5398.2</b>		<b>10051.1</b>	
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing	1017.0	22.4	1495.0	27.3	2514.9	25.1	1062.4	25.0	1532.6	30.3	2598.4	27.9	1017.5	22.5	1421.5	27.2	2442.3	25.1	957.3	20.6	1403.5	26.0	2365.0	23.5
Manufacturing	628.1	13.9	668.6	12.2	1296.0	13.0	470.0	11.1	431.5	8.5	899.6	9.7	470.5	10.4	417.7	8.0	887.2	9.1	459.8	9.9	427.0	7.9	885.5	8.8
Other industrial activities	105.6	2.3	640.2	11.7	751.6	7.5	106.7	2.5	585.7	11.6	697.7	7.5	104.9	2.3	610.6	11.7	721.5	7.4	121.5	2.6	654.3	12.1	782.0	7.8
Services	1589.4	35.1	1468.7	26.8	3053.3	30.5	1410.0	33.2	1315.3	26.0	2721.2	29.3	1637.7	36.2	1567.4	30.0	3201.7	32.8	1825.7	39.2	1753.3	32.5	3574.2	35.6
Trade	1191.4	26.3	1204.2	22.0	2392.8	23.9	1200.1	28.2	1188.0	23.5	2385.3	25.6	1289.6	28.5	1211.4	23.2	2497.8	25.6	1289.1	27.7	1159.5	21.5	2444.4	24.3
<b>Thailand</b>	<b>11488.3</b>		<b>14628.6</b>		<b>26117.8</b>		<b>11078.0</b>		<b>13894.1</b>		<b>24971.1</b>		<b>11547.8</b>		<b>14291.9</b>		<b>25838.9</b>		<b>11763.3</b>		<b>14412.3</b>		<b>26176.9</b>	
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing	5222.6	45.5	7383.1	50.5	12609.7	48.3	5321.9	48.0	7441.7	53.6	12767.7	51.1	5224.2	45.2	7296.0	51.1	12524.1	48.5	5080.6	43.2	7183.1	49.8	12271.7	46.9
Manufacturing	1227.0	10.7	1215.6	8.3	2439.4	9.3	956.0	8.6	826.7	6.0	1780.4	7.1	948.1	8.2	818.9	5.7	1764.8	6.8	938.7	8.0	784.0	5.4	1719.8	6.6
Other industrial activities	251.6	2.2	1508.2	10.3	1765.6	6.8	248.1	2.2	1432.5	10.3	1688.0	6.8	236.7	2.1	1479.2	10.4	1723.5	6.7	269.4	2.3	1514.7	10.5	1793.1	6.9
Services	2604.4	22.7	2343.5	16.0	4941.5	18.9	2297.6	20.7	2042.4	14.7	4335.0	17.4	2668.7	23.1	2399.6	16.8	5061.8	19.6	3078.4	26.2	2754.2	19.1	5827.0	22.3
Trade	2182.8	19.0	2179.7	14.9	4359.1	16.7	2254.4	20.4	2150.8	15.5	4402.4	17.6	2471.2	21.4	2298.1	16.1	4764.7	18.4	2396.2	20.4	2174.8	15.1	4565.3	17.4

**Note:** Other industrial activities include construction; mining and quarrying; and electricity, gas, steam, and air conditioning supply. The services category does not include trade.

## Industry Sectors of Informal Employment

**In Bangkok in 2024, trade and services comprised 81 per cent of informal employment, while nationally agriculture, forestry and fishing at 47 per cent of informal employment was the largest sector.**

The industry composition of informal employment varied across the three geographic areas (**table 6**). Bangkok's informal employment was increasingly led by services and trade, urban Thailand was led by a mix of services and agriculture, while nationally, agriculture remained dominant.

In Bangkok, most informal employment was concentrated in the trade and services sectors. In Q3 2019, services accounted for 47 per cent and trade for 29 per cent, together making up over 76 per cent of all informal employment. By Q3 2024, their combined share had risen to over 81 per cent, indicating a clear trend of growth, particularly in the services sector, which accounted for 54 per cent of all informal employment.

For women in Bangkok, services comprised between 49 and 53 per cent of informal employment, and trade between 31 and 33 per cent between Q3 2019 and Q3 2024. Women's shares in these sectors consistently exceeded men's. Together, manufacturing and other industrial activities for women fell from 18 to 15 per cent. For men, the services

sector increased from 46 to 54 per cent, while employment in trade slightly decreased from 26 to 25 per cent. Manufacturing and other industrial activities dropped from 27 to 21 per cent between Q3 2019 and Q3 2024.

In urban Thailand, the services sector led informal employment, increasing from 31 per cent in Q3 2019 to 36 per cent in Q3 2024. Agriculture, forestry and fishing held the second largest share, accounting for around 24 to 25 per cent and peaking at 28 per cent in 2021. Trade remained relatively stable at 24 to 26 per cent of informal employment, unlike in Bangkok where trade held a higher share.

Among urban women, services were the primary form of informal employment, comprising 35 per cent in Q3 2019 and rising to 39 per cent in Q3 2024. For urban men, agriculture led between Q3 2019 and Q3 2021 (27 and 30 per cent), but services became dominant in Q3 2024, growing to 33 per cent of informal employment compared to 26 per cent for agriculture. While women's share of informal employment in trade was higher than men's across all years, the trade sector overall remained steady at 24 to 28 per cent of informal employment. Together, manufacturing and other industrial activities as a share of informal employment declined from 16 to 13 per cent for women and from 24 to 20 per cent for men between Q3 2019 and Q3 2024.

Nationally, agriculture, forestry and fishing remained the largest sector, accounting for 47 to 48 per cent of total informal employment in Q3 2019 and Q3 2024 and rising to 51 per cent in 2021. The services sector ranked second, rising from 17 to 22 per cent, while trade followed closely at 17 to 18 per cent. Manufacturing and other industrial activities together accounted for 16 per cent of informal employment in Q3 2019 and remained steady at 14 per cent in Q3 2024.

The share of women in manufacturing was slightly higher than that of men across all years nationally, whereas men's participation in other industrial activities was substantially greater (10 per cent for men versus 2 per cent for women). Women's informal employment was concentrated in agriculture (around 43 to 48 per cent), followed by services and trade. Men, meanwhile, held larger shares in agriculture (around 50 to 54 per cent).

## Worker Groups

**The five worker groups of focus in this brief were 18 per cent of total employment in 2024 nationally, 22 per cent in urban Thailand and 23 per cent in Bangkok.**

The worker groups analyzed in this brief are domestic workers, home-based workers, market traders (both food and non-food), motorcycle drivers and street vendors (both food and non-food). The method for identifying workers in these occupations is explained in the annex.

**Table 7. Employment by worker groups and sex in Bangkok, urban Thailand and Thailand, third quarters, 2019 to 2024 (absolute numbers in thousands and percentage of total employment)**

Geographic areas	2019						2021						2022						2024					
	Women		Men		Total		Women		Men		Total		Women		Men		Total		Women		Men		Total	
	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%
<b>Bangkok</b>	<b>568.4</b>	<b>22.9</b>	<b>669.4</b>	<b>24.2</b>	<b>1,238.6</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>698.1</b>	<b>28.0</b>	<b>686.7</b>	<b>25.5</b>	<b>1,384.7</b>	<b>26.7</b>	<b>701.1</b>	<b>25.4</b>	<b>738.8</b>	<b>25.7</b>	<b>1,440.3</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>615.4</b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>670.5</b>	<b>22.8</b>	<b>1,284.9</b>	<b>22.6</b>
Domestic workers	83.3	3.4	28.2	1.0	111.7	2.1	91.9	3.7	22.3	0.8	114.5	2.2	98.4	3.6	31.0	1.1	129.6	2.3	100.9	3.7	27.9	1.0	128.6	2.3
Home-based workers	309.5	12.5	296.5	10.7	605.9	11.6	377.6	15.2	279.7	10.4	657.4	12.7	381.8	13.8	272.1	9.5	653.6	11.6	298.6	10.9	228.5	7.8	526.9	9.3
Market traders	95.9	3.9	74.5	2.7	170.5	3.3	140.2	5.6	90.9	3.4	230.5	4.5	137.4	5.0	98.4	3.4	236.1	4.2	116.0	4.2	61.8	2.1	177.5	3.1
Market traders (food)	61.9	2.5	42.9	1.6	104.9	2.0	114.3	4.6	68.9	2.6	182.9	3.5	107.3	3.9	68.0	2.4	175.2	3.1	96.8	3.5	49.7	1.7	146.2	2.6
Market traders (non-food)	33.9	1.4	31.6	1.1	65.6	1.3	25.9	1.0	22.1	0.8	47.7	0.9	30.1	1.1	30.4	1.1	60.9	1.1	19.2	0.7	12.1	0.4	31.3	0.6
Motorcycle drivers	8.4	0.3	199.0	7.2	207.7	4.0	9.0	0.4	208.4	7.8	217.6	4.2	17.1	0.6	274.4	9.6	291.9	5.2	15.1	0.6	276.4	9.4	291.3	5.1
Street vendors	71.4	2.9	71.1	2.6	142.7	2.7	79.5	3.2	85.3	3.2	164.7	3.2	66.4	2.4	62.9	2.2	129.0	2.3	84.7	3.1	75.9	2.6	160.5	2.8
Street vendors (food)	58.7	2.4	43.5	1.6	102.3	2.0	56.0	2.3	55.4	2.1	111.4	2.2	41.7	1.5	35.6	1.2	77.2	1.4	64.9	2.4	52.9	1.8	117.8	2.1
Street vendors (non-food)	12.6	0.5	27.7	1.0	40.4	0.8	23.4	0.9	29.9	1.1	53.4	1.0	24.6	0.9	27.3	1.0	51.8	0.9	19.8	0.7	22.9	0.8	42.7	0.8
<b>Urban Thailand</b>	<b>2,018.1</b>	<b>25.3</b>	<b>1,865.1</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>3,883.4</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>2,197.5</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>1,946.8</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>4,146.8</b>	<b>24.4</b>	<b>2,233.9</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>1,979.9</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>4,212.5</b>	<b>23.1</b>	<b>2,146.7</b>	<b>24.4</b>	<b>1,858.0</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>4,004.6</b>	<b>21.7</b>
Domestic workers	155.4	2.0	57.4	0.6	211.8	1.2	166.1	2.1	46.1	0.5	212.8	1.3	181.6	2.1	56.1	0.6	237.2	1.3	194.8	2.2	61.9	0.6	256.9	1.4
Home-based workers	1,232.2	15.5	1,021.8	11.2	2,254.2	13.2	1,336.7	16.7	1,064.7	11.8	2,402.0	14.1	1,361.8	15.6	1,022.8	10.8	2,384.5	13.1	1,230.2	14.0	908.7	9.4	2,138.1	11.6
Market traders	368.2	4.6	247.7	2.7	616.5	3.6	452.8	5.7	280.2	3.1	732.0	4.3	449.6	5.2	282.6	3.0	731.6	4.0	427.4	4.9	227.2	2.4	656.0	3.6
Market traders (food)	295.7	3.7	184.9	2.0	479.9	2.8	388.1	4.9	218.7	2.4	606.0	3.6	390.2	4.5	221.7	2.3	611.2	3.4	369.2	4.2	189.5	2.0	559.9	3.0
Market traders (non-food)	72.5	0.9	62.8	0.7	136.6	0.8	64.7	0.8	61.5	0.7	126.0	0.7	59.4	0.7	60.9	0.6	120.4	0.7	58.2	0.7	37.7	0.4	96.1	0.5
Motorcycle drivers	14.3	0.2	324.2	3.6	338.1	2.0	17.6	0.2	340.7	3.8	359.2	2.1	28.8	0.3	432.9	4.6	461.6	2.5	32.6	0.4	458.2	4.7	489.7	2.7
Street vendors	247.9	3.1	214.0	2.4	462.8	2.7	224.4	2.8	215.1	2.4	440.9	2.6	212.1	2.4	185.5	2.0	397.7	2.2	261.7	3.0	202.0	2.1	463.8	2.5
Street vendors (food)	160.2	2.0	107.5	1.2	268.1	1.6	136.5	1.7	107.6	1.2	245.1	1.4	122.2	1.4	93.2	1.0	215.3	1.2	178.0	2.0	115.0	1.2	293.8	1.6
Street vendors (non-food)	87.7	1.1	106.6	1.2	194.7	1.1	87.8	1.1	107.6	1.2	195.8	1.2	89.9	1.0	92.3	1.0	182.4	1.0	83.7	1.0	87.0	0.9	170.0	0.9
<b>Thailand</b>	<b>3,721.0</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>3,227.4</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>6,945.5</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>3,996.8</b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>3,246.0</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>7,242.9</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>4,160.8</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>3,434.6</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>7,600.1</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>3,949.6</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>3,120.8</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>7,062.7</b>	<b>17.6</b>
Domestic workers	217.8	1.3	94.1	0.5	311.1	0.8	236.3	1.4	79.8	0.4	316.7	0.8	260.7	1.4	97.5	0.5	360.0	0.9	271.6	1.5	113.6	0.5	384.4	1.0
Home-based workers	2,385.8	14.0	1,954.4	9.6	4,340.5	11.6	2,559.9	14.8	1,934.9	9.5	4,494.3	11.9	2,693.7	14.7	2,041.7	9.6	4,735.7	12.0	2,409.2	13.0	1,721.2	8.0	4,127.9	10.3
Market traders	668.8	3.9	411.4	2.0	1,079.5	2.9	765.9	4.4	443.8	2.2	1,210.3	3.2	763.9	4.2	438.9	2.1	1,206.7	3.1	786.9	4.2	390.1	1.8	1,173.1	2.9
Market traders (food)	573.5	3.4	325.4	1.6	899.6	2.4	679.7	3.9	353.8	1.7	1,033.1	2.7	677.6	3.7	356.2	1.7	1,036.6	2.6	699.5	3.8	323.7	1.5	1,021.0	2.6
Market traders (non-food)	95.3	0.6	86.0	0.4	179.9	0.5	86.3	0.5	90.0	0.4	177.2	0.5	86.3	0.5	82.7	0.4	170.1	0.4	87.4	0.5	66.4	0.3	152.1	0.4
Motorcycle drivers	16.3	0.1	384.7	1.9	401.1	1.1	22.4	0.1	413.2	2.0	437.4	1.2	34.9	0.2	500.4	2.4	534.1	1.4	40.9	0.2	557.3	2.6	596.6	1.5
Street vendors	432.2	2.5	382.7	1.9	813.4	2.2	412.3	2.4	374.3	1.8	784.2	2.1	407.6	2.2	356.2	1.7	763.6	1.9	440.9	2.4	338.7	1.6	780.7	2.0
Street vendors (food)	238.2	1.4	159.6	0.8	397.3	1.1	207.0	1.2	155.4	0.8	362.0	1.0	194.6	1.1	133.6	0.6	328.4	0.8	251.2	1.4	152.2	0.7	404.4	1.0
Street vendors (non-food)	194.0	1.1	223.1	1.1	416.1	1.1	205.3	1.2	218.9	1.1	422.3	1.1	213.0	1.2	222.6	1.1	435.2	1.1	189.8	1.0	186.5	0.9	376.4	0.9

Between Q3 2019 and Q3 2024, workers in these five groups accounted for between 18 and 19 per cent of total employment nationwide. Workers in these five groups were more prevalent in urban areas, comprising 22 to 24 per cent of urban workers and 23 to 27 per cent of Bangkok workers.

Domestic work accounted for a small share of total employment nationally at only 1 per cent. In Bangkok, however, it represented a larger share of women's employment at around 4 per cent between Q3 2019 and Q3 2024. The number of women in domestic work increased slightly over the years, while men continued to represent only a very small proportion of domestic workers across all geographic areas.

Nationally, home-based workers represented a significant worker group, comprising around 10 to 12 per cent of total employment across all years. Between Q3 2019 and Q3 2022, the number of home-based workers increased from about 4.3 million to 4.7 million, before declining to 4.1 million in 2024. Home-based workers consistently represented around 13 to 15 per cent of women's employment nationally. Across years and regions, women continued to comprise over half of all home-based workers. Home-based work remains a key and enduring source of employment for women.

Motorcycle driving (taxis and delivery) is one of the most common occupations for men in Bangkok and other urban areas of Thailand. Between Q3 2019 and Q3 2024, the number

of men motorcycle drivers in Bangkok increased significantly from 199,000 to 276,400, while the number of women motorcycle drivers nearly doubled, rising from 8,400 in Q3 2019 to 15,100 in Q3 2024. Men account for approximately 95 per cent of all motorcycle drivers, a proportion that is consistent across other areas.

Additionally, both market trade and street vending were important occupations, particularly in urban areas. Women were more likely to work as market traders, especially in the food sector across all areas. In Q3 2024, Thailand had 786,900 women market traders compared with 390,100 men market traders. In contrast, street vending was more gender balanced. For example, Bangkok had 75,900 men and 84,700 women working as street vendors.

**Table 8** illustrates changes in the prevalence of each occupation over the COVID-19 crisis. Home-based work became more prevalent during the pandemic and then declined in 2024. Between 2019 and 2021, the number of home-based workers nationwide and in Bangkok, especially among women, increased sharply, suggesting that the pandemic's lockdowns and mobility restrictions pushed more women into home-based work. In contrast, from 2022 to 2024, there was a significant decline, especially among women, indicating that this group of workers tended to return to in-person jobs in the labour market.

There was also significant growth in market trading in urban areas during the COVID-19 crisis. This occupation may have a low barrier to entry and could tap into growing platform delivery services, which could help absorb job losses in affected sectors (e.g., tourism and hospitality) or for women who were "added workers" due to their spouse's job loss or reduced working hours. However, there were significant declines between 2022 and 2024, which can be attributed to the COVID-19 recovery, highlighting a return to normal employment patterns.

Street vendors saw the opposite pattern. There was a significant decline during the pandemic and a subsequent rebound. Between 2019 and 2021, the number of street vendors, especially food vendors, dropped dramatically due to COVID-19 lockdown measures and gradually stabilized between 2021 and 2022. However, there was a strong rebound from 2022 to 2024, largely due to the removal of restrictions and rebound of tourism, especially in Bangkok and urban areas. For example, in 2024, the number of women street vendors selling food increased by 46 per cent in urban areas and by 55 per cent in Bangkok.

**Table 8. Absolute (thousands) and relative (per cent) changes in worker groups in Bangkok, urban Thailand and Thailand, third quarters and year-on-year changes, 2019 to 2024**

Geographic areas	2019 to 2021						2021 to 2022						2022 to 2024					
	Women		Men		Total		Women		Men		Total		Women		Men		Total	
	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%
<b>Bangkok</b>	<b>129.7</b>	<b>22.8</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>146.1</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>52.1</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>55.6</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>-85.8</b>	<b>-12.2</b>	<b>-68.3</b>	<b>-9.2</b>	<b>-155.4</b>	<b>-10.8</b>
Domestic workers	8.7	10.4	-5.9	-20.9	2.7	2.5	6.5	7.1	8.7	38.9	15.1	13.2	2.5	2.5	-3.1	-9.9	-1.0	-0.8
Home-based workers	68.1	22.0	-16.8	-5.7	51.5	8.5	4.2	1.1	-7.6	-2.7	-3.7	-0.6	-83.2	-21.8	-43.6	-16.0	-126.7	-19.4
Market traders	44.3	46.2	16.4	22.1	60.0	35.2	-2.8	-2.0	7.5	8.3	5.6	2.4	-21.4	-15.6	-36.7	-37.3	-58.6	-24.8
Market traders (food)	52.4	84.6	25.9	60.5	77.9	74.3	-7.0	-6.2	-0.8	-1.2	-7.6	-4.2	-10.5	-9.8	-18.3	-26.9	-29.0	-16.6
Market traders (non-food)	-8.0	-23.7	-9.5	-30.1	-17.9	-27.3	4.2	16.3	8.4	37.9	13.2	27.7	-10.9	-36.1	-18.4	-60.4	-29.6	-48.6
Motorcycle drivers	0.5	6.4	9.4	4.7	9.8	4.7	8.2	91.2	65.9	31.6	74.3	34.2	-2.0	-11.8	2.0	0.7	-0.5	-0.2
Street vendors	8.1	11.3	14.1	19.8	22.0	15.4	-13.1	-16.5	-22.4	-26.3	-35.7	-21.7	18.3	27.6	13.0	20.7	31.4	24.4
Street vendors (food)	-2.7	-4.6	11.9	27.5	9.1	8.9	-14.3	-25.5	-19.8	-35.8	-34.2	-30.7	23.1	55.4	17.3	48.7	40.6	52.6
Street vendors (non-food)	10.8	85.3	2.2	7.8	13.0	32.1	1.2	5.1	-2.6	-8.7	-1.5	-2.8	-4.8	-19.5	-4.3	-15.9	-9.2	-17.7
<b>Urban Thailand</b>	<b>179.4</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>81.7</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>263.4</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>36.4</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>33.1</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>65.7</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>-87.2</b>	<b>-3.9</b>	<b>-121.9</b>	<b>-6.2</b>	<b>-208.0</b>	<b>-4.9</b>
Domestic workers	10.7	6.9	-11.3	-19.7	1.0	0.5	15.5	9.3	10.0	21.8	24.4	11.5	13.2	7.3	5.7	10.2	19.7	8.3
Home-based workers	104.5	8.5	42.9	4.2	147.7	6.6	25.1	1.9	-41.9	-3.9	-17.5	-0.7	-131.6	-9.7	-114.1	-11.2	-246.4	-10.3
Market traders	84.5	23.0	32.5	13.1	115.5	18.7	-3.2	-0.7	2.4	0.9	-0.4	-0.1	-22.2	-4.9	-55.4	-19.6	-75.5	-10.3
Market traders (food)	92.4	31.2	33.8	18.3	126.1	26.3	2.1	0.6	3.0	1.4	5.1	0.8	-21.0	-5.4	-32.2	-14.5	-51.2	-8.4
Market traders (non-food)	-7.9	-10.8	-1.4	-2.2	-10.6	-7.8	-5.3	-8.2	-0.6	-0.9	-5.6	-4.4	-1.2	-2.0	-23.2	-38.1	-24.3	-20.2
Motorcycle drivers	3.2	22.4	16.5	5.1	21.1	6.2	11.2	64.0	92.2	27.0	102.4	28.5	3.8	13.2	25.3	5.8	28.1	6.1
Street vendors	-23.5	-9.5	1.1	0.5	-21.9	-4.7	-12.3	-5.5	-29.6	-13.7	-43.2	-9.8	49.6	23.4	16.5	8.9	66.1	16.6
Street vendors (food)	-23.7	-14.8	0.1	0.1	-23.0	-8.6	-14.3	-10.5	-14.3	-13.3	-29.9	-12.2	55.8	45.7	21.8	23.4	78.6	36.5
Street vendors (non-food)	0.2	0.2	1.0	0.9	1.1	0.6	2.1	2.4	-15.3	-14.2	-13.3	-6.8	-6.2	-6.9	-5.3	-5.7	-12.4	-6.8
<b>Thailand</b>	<b>275.9</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>18.6</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>297.4</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>164.0</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>188.7</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>357.3</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>-211.2</b>	<b>-5.1</b>	<b>-313.8</b>	<b>-9.1</b>	<b>-537.4</b>	<b>-7.1</b>
Domestic workers	18.5	8.5	-14.4	-15.3	5.6	1.8	24.4	10.3	17.8	22.3	43.3	13.7	10.9	4.2	16.1	16.5	24.3	6.8
Home-based workers	174.1	7.3	-19.5	-1.0	153.8	3.5	133.8	5.2	106.8	5.5	241.5	5.4	-284.5	-10.6	-320.5	-15.7	-607.8	-12.8
Market traders	97.1	14.5	32.5	7.9	130.8	12.1	-2.0	-0.3	-5.0	-1.1	-3.6	-0.3	23.1	3.0	-48.8	-11.1	-33.6	-2.8
Market traders (food)	106.2	18.5	28.4	8.7	133.5	14.8	-2.1	-0.3	2.3	0.7	3.5	0.3	22.0	3.2	-32.5	-9.1	-15.6	-1.5
Market traders (non-food)	-9.0	-9.5	4.0	4.7	-2.7	-1.5	0.1	0.1	-7.3	-8.1	-7.1	-4.0	1.1	1.3	-16.2	-19.6	-18.0	-10.6
Motorcycle drivers	6.1	37.3	28.4	7.4	36.3	9.1	12.5	55.6	87.2	21.1	96.7	22.1	6.0	17.3	56.9	11.4	62.5	11.7
Street vendors	-20.0	-4.6	-8.4	-2.2	-29.1	-3.6	-4.6	-1.1	-18.1	-4.8	-20.7	-2.6	33.3	8.2	-17.5	-4.9	17.2	2.2
Street vendors (food)	-31.2	-13.1	-4.2	-2.6	-35.4	-8.9	-12.4	-6.0	-21.9	-14.1	-33.6	-9.3	56.5	29.0	18.6	13.9	76.0	23.1
Street vendors (non-food)	11.3	5.8	-4.2	-1.9	6.2	1.5	7.7	3.8	3.8	1.7	12.9	3.1	-23.2	-10.9	-36.1	-16.2	-58.8	-13.5

Motorcycle drivers also experienced significant growth during the COVID-19 crisis with the substantial increase in demand for delivery services in response to restrictions on retail and restaurants. Between 2019 and 2021, the number of motorcycle drivers increased significantly and continued to rise through 2022. Since the demand for delivery services remained high after the pandemic, there has been continued growth in motorcycle driver employment. From 2022 to 2024, motorcycle driving continued increasing in urban areas and nationally, indicating a long-term transformation of the service economy in the country.

## Industry Sectors of Home-Based Workers

In 2024, trade was the largest sector for home-based work across the three geographic areas, comprising 42 to 44 per cent of home-based work, while manufacturing was 19 to 21 per cent across the areas.

Between Q3 2019 and Q3 2024, the industry composition of home-based workers remained consistent, with trade and services dominating every year and location (**table 9**). In Bangkok, from Q3 2019 to Q3 2024, trade accounted for around 33 to 42 per cent of home-based work (largely shopkeeping and sales), while services consistently contributed around 35 to 38 per cent during this period. Manufacturing is a shrinking home-based sector in Bangkok, declining from approximately 28 to 22 per cent. In urban areas over the same timeframe, trade



Street vendor Chaninporn Duangnguen sells fried chicken in Bangkok.  
Photo credit: Chanakarn Laosarakham

and services each contributed around 34 to 43 per cent and manufacturing's share was around 19 to 24 per cent. Other industrial activities accounted for the smallest share at around 1 per cent.

Nationally, between Q3 2019 and Q3 2024, the industry composition of home-based work was similar to the other two geographic areas. Trade was the largest share (around 37 to 44 per cent), followed by services (27 to 30 per cent). The share in manufacturing dropped from 24 to 21 per cent during these years. Other industrial activities accounted for only 1 per cent.

**Table 9. Industry sectors of home-based workers by sex in Bangkok, urban Thailand and Thailand, third quarters, 2019 to 2024 (numbers in thousands and per cent distribution)**

Geographic areas	2019						2021						2022						2024					
	Women		Men		Total		Women		Men		Total		Women		Men		Total		Women		Men		Total	
	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%
<b>Bangkok</b>	<b>309.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>296.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>606.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>377.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>279.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>657.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>381.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>272.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>653.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>298.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>228.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>527.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing	0.0	0.0	2.1	0.7	2.1	0.4	4.7	1.3	1.2	0.4	5.9	0.9	0.0	0.0	1.4	0.5	1.4	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Manufacturing	74.5	24.1	92.0	31.0	166.5	27.5	97.4	25.8	72.6	26.0	170.0	25.9	107.3	28.1	67.4	24.8	174.7	26.7	65.8	22.0	49.4	21.6	115.2	21.9
Other industrial activities	0.0	0.0	7.4	2.5	7.4	1.2	3.2	0.9	2.2	0.8	5.4	0.8	1.9	0.5	3.3	1.2	5.3	0.8	1.9	0.6	3.4	1.5	5.4	1.0
Services	143.0	46.2	88.5	29.8	231.5	38.2	142.4	37.7	96.4	34.4	238.8	36.3	128.9	33.8	107.3	39.4	236.1	36.1	109.7	36.7	75.0	32.8	184.7	35.0
Trade	92.0	29.7	106.5	35.9	198.5	32.8	129.8	34.4	107.4	38.4	237.2	36.1	143.6	37.6	92.7	34.1	236.2	36.1	121.1	40.6	100.6	44.1	221.8	42.1
<b>Urban Thailand</b>	<b>1,232.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,021.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,254.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,336.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,064.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,401.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,362.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,022.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,385.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,229.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>909.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,138.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing	38.1	3.1	68.1	6.7	106.2	4.7	19.2	1.4	31.5	3.0	50.8	2.1	23.6	1.7	48.2	4.7	71.7	3.0	12.8	1.0	24.7	2.7	37.5	1.8
Manufacturing	293.3	23.8	238.4	23.3	531.8	23.6	296.8	22.2	208.8	19.6	505.6	21.1	285.5	21.0	186.4	18.2	471.9	19.8	243.3	19.8	168.7	18.6	412.0	19.3
Other industrial activities	2.1	0.2	23.9	2.3	26.0	1.2	3.9	0.3	7.1	0.7	11.0	0.5	6.3	0.5	15.9	1.6	22.1	0.9	4.2	0.3	16.0	1.8	20.2	0.9
Services	466.6	37.9	291.6	28.5	758.2	33.6	487.9	36.5	319.5	30.0	807.4	33.6	501.0	36.8	340.1	33.3	841.1	35.3	466.4	37.9	291.9	32.1	758.3	35.5
Trade	432.3	35.1	399.6	39.1	831.9	36.9	529.0	39.6	497.5	46.7	1,026.4	42.7	545.6	40.1	432.4	42.3	978.0	41.0	503.3	40.9	407.7	44.9	911.0	42.6
<b>Thailand</b>	<b>2,385.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,955.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4,341.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,559.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,934.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4,493.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,693.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,042.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4,735.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,409.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,720.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4,129.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing	192.3	8.1	307.4	15.7	499.7	11.5	86.5	3.4	137.1	7.1	223.6	5.0	167.5	6.2	271.7	13.3	439.2	9.3	67.2	2.8	103.4	6.0	170.6	4.1
Manufacturing	611.5	25.6	427.5	21.9	1,038.9	23.9	625.9	24.5	377.5	19.5	1,003.4	22.3	590.9	21.9	375.4	18.4	966.3	20.4	539.7	22.4	316.6	18.4	856.3	20.7
Other industrial activities	4.3	0.2	40.1	2.1	44.4	1.0	9.0	0.4	12.2	0.6	21.1	0.5	10.2	0.4	22.3	1.1	32.5	0.7	12.5	0.5	28.0	1.6	40.6	1.0
Services	721.2	30.2	445.5	22.8	1,166.7	26.9	769.5	30.1	484.7	25.1	1,254.1	27.9	817.6	30.4	520.1	25.5	1,337.7	28.2	785.9	32.6	467.7	27.2	1,253.5	30.4
Trade	856.5	35.9	735.1	37.6	1,591.5	36.7	1,069.0	41.8	922.5	47.7	1,991.5	44.3	1,106.9	41.1	853.2	41.8	1,960.1	41.4	1,003.9	41.7	804.9	46.8	1,808.8	43.8

**Note:** Other industrial activities include construction; mining and quarrying; electricity, gas, steam, and air conditioning supply; water supply; and sewage, waste management and remediation activities.

## Informal Employment of the Worker Groups

Nationally, the rate of informal employment of the five worker groups was much higher than the national average for all employed – 83 to 100 per cent in comparison to 65 per cent.

The bold numbers in **table 10** report baseline numbers and rates of informality among all employed across each of the geographic regions in Thailand. Compared to the baseline figures, informal employment was highly prevalent among the five worker groups. Nationally, the informal employment rate stood at 65 per cent, 54 per cent in urban areas, and 41 per cent in Bangkok. The comparatively high rates of informality in the five occupational groups (between 74 and 100 per cent across all groups and regions) indicate that informality remains concentrated in service-oriented and self-employed occupations. Across all regions, informality among home-based workers, market traders and street vendors was over 96 per cent.

**Table 10. Informality of all employed and the worker groups by sex in Bangkok, urban Thailand and Thailand, third quarter, 2024 (absolute numbers in thousands and percentage of group)**

Geographic areas	2024					
	Women		Men		Total	
	Absolute	%	Absolute	%	Absolute	%
<b>Bangkok (all empl.)</b>	<b>1,052.0</b>	<b>38.3</b>	<b>1,295.4</b>	<b>44.1</b>	<b>2,347.2</b>	<b>41.3</b>
Domestic workers	95.9	95.2	20.6	73.6	116.5	90.5
Home-based workers	292.2	97.9	216.7	94.9	508.9	96.6
Market traders	116.0	100.0	61.9	100.0	177.9	100.0
Market traders (food)	96.7	100.0	49.7	100.0	146.4	100.0
Market traders (non-food)	19.3	100.0	12.1	100.0	31.5	100.0
Motorcycle drivers	13.2	86.5	224.9	81.4	238.0	81.7
Street vendors	82.6	97.4	75.8	100.0	158.4	98.6
Street vendors (food)	64.2	98.8	52.8	100.0	117.0	99.3
Street vendors (non-food)	18.4	92.9	23.0	100.0	41.4	96.7
<b>Urban Thailand (all empl.)</b>	<b>4,653.9</b>	<b>52.8</b>	<b>5,398.2</b>	<b>55.8</b>	<b>10,051.1</b>	<b>54.4</b>
Domestic workers	182.5	77.5	47.8	93.7	230.3	89.8
Home-based workers	1,208.9	98.3	867.8	95.5	2,076.7	97.1
Market traders	424.4	99.3	227.8	100.0	652.2	99.5
Market traders (food)	366.3	99.2	189.8	100.0	556.1	99.5
Market traders (non-food)	58.1	100.0	38.0	100.0	96.1	100.0
Motorcycle drivers	26.9	83.6	386.0	84.3	412.9	84.2
Street vendors	258.0	98.6	198.1	98.3	456.1	98.4
Street vendors (food)	177.6	99.5	114.3	99.7	291.8	99.6
Street vendors (non-food)	80.5	96.5	83.8	96.5	164.3	96.5
<b>Thailand (all empl.)</b>	<b>11,763.3</b>	<b>63.2</b>	<b>14,412.3</b>	<b>67.2</b>	<b>26,176.9</b>	<b>65.4</b>
Domestic workers	257.0	94.6	95.4	83.4	352.5	91.3
Home-based workers	2,371.3	98.4	1,648.9	95.8	4,020.2	97.3
Market traders	782.8	99.6	387.5	99.8	1,170.2	99.6
Market traders (food)	695.5	99.5	321.9	99.8	1,017.3	99.6
Market traders (non-food)	87.3	100.0	65.6	100.0	152.9	100.0
Motorcycle drivers	34.1	82.5	459.8	82.6	493.8	82.6
Street vendors	435.1	98.7	335.2	98.8	770.2	98.7
Street vendors (food)	250.6	99.6	152.8	99.7	403.4	99.6
Street vendors (non-food)	184.5	97.5	182.4	98.0	366.9	97.7



Netnapa, a home-based worker in Thailand, sews clothes at her home to support her seven children.  
Photo credit: Chanakarn Laosarakham

## Status in Employment of the Worker Groups

For all employed in all geographic regions, “employees” were the largest group. In contrast, around two-thirds and even more of workers in four of the five occupational groups – market traders, street vendors, motorcycle drivers, and home-based workers – were own-account workers.

The numbers in bold in **table 11** indicate the distribution of status in employment across all workers and geographic areas in Thailand. For all employed in Bangkok and urban Thailand, “employees” were the largest group and just under half were employees nationally. In contrast, around two-thirds and even more of workers in four of the five occupational groups – home-based workers, market traders, street vendors, and motorcycle drivers –

were own-account workers, ranging from 65 per cent to 82 per cent. Most domestic workers (95 per cent) were employees. Both men and women in domestic work were largely employees across all geographic areas.

Among both men and women, most market traders (food and non-food) and street vendors (food and non-food) were own-account workers. For example, among market traders (food), 64 to 70 per cent of women and 54 to 57 per cent of men were own-account workers across all geographic areas. Among motorcycle drivers, the majority were own-account workers, including 81 to 95 per cent of women and 79 to 82 per cent of men. Similarly, among home-based workers, most were own-account workers, with 68 to 70 per cent of women and 63 to 70 per cent of men.

Contributing family workers accounted for a substantial number of home-based workers, market traders, and street vendors across all geographic areas. Nationally, 25 per cent of home-based workers, 26 per cent of market traders, and 24 per cent of street vendors were contributing family workers. The percentage of women in contributing family work was slightly higher than that for men across all worker groups and the three geographic areas.

Table 11. Status in employment of all employed and the worker groups by sex in Bangkok, urban Thailand and Thailand, third quarter, 2024 (per cent distribution)

Geographic areas	Women				Men				Total			
	Employer	Own-account worker	Contributing family worker	Employee	Employer	Own-account worker	Contributing family worker	Employee	Employer	Own-account worker	Contributing family worker	Employee
<b>Bangkok (all empl.)</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>73.2</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>25.5</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>66.4</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>69.7</b>
Domestic workers	0.0	5.0	0.0	95.0	0.0	8.1	0.0	91.9	0.0	5.7	0.0	94.3
Home-based workers	3.3	69.5	23.5	3.7	9.9	69.8	16.9	3.5	6.2	69.6	20.6	3.6
Market traders	6.2	61.2	23.0	9.6	1.8	64.0	20.3	14.0	4.6	62.2	22.1	11.1
Market traders (food)	4.6	64.0	23.0	8.4	2.2	57.1	25.3	15.4	3.8	61.7	23.8	10.8
Market traders (non-food)	14.0	47.2	23.0	15.8	0.0	91.9	0.0	8.1	8.6	64.5	14.1	12.8
Motorcycle drivers	0.0	94.7	0.0	5.3	0.0	81.6	0.0	18.4	0.0	82.3	0.0	17.7
Street vendors	0.0	65.3	28.0	6.7	0.0	84.8	13.2	2.0	0.0	74.5	21.0	4.5
Street vendors (food)	0.0	71.5	21.9	6.6	0.0	78.1	19.0	2.9	0.0	74.5	20.6	5.0
Street vendors (non-food)	0.0	45.0	47.8	7.1	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	74.6	22.1	3.3
<b>Urban Thailand (all empl.)</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>24.8</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>60.0</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>30.2</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>58.0</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>27.6</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>59.0</b>
Domestic workers	0.0	3.7	0.0	96.3	0.0	4.8	0.1	95.1	0.0	4.0	0.0	96.0
Home-based workers	4.0	67.8	24.8	3.4	9.6	64.7	23.2	2.6	6.4	66.5	24.1	3.0
Market traders	2.2	63.8	25.4	8.6	0.9	59.1	32.5	7.6	1.7	62.2	27.9	8.2
Market traders (food)	1.7	64.2	25.3	8.7	1.0	54.3	36.3	8.4	1.5	60.9	29.0	8.6
Market traders (non-food)	4.9	61.1	26.0	8.0	0.1	82.9	13.6	3.4	3.0	69.7	21.1	6.2
Motorcycle drivers	0.0	89.3	0.0	10.7	0.0	80.6	0.0	19.4	0.0	81.2	0.0	18.8
Street vendors	0.1	68.9	27.8	3.2	0.5	81.4	15.5	2.6	0.3	74.4	22.4	2.9
Street vendors (food)	0.2	72.8	24.4	2.6	0.0	81.5	16.6	1.9	0.1	76.2	21.4	2.3
Street vendors (non-food)	0.0	60.7	34.9	4.4	1.1	81.4	14.0	3.6	0.6	71.3	24.2	4.0
<b>Thailand (all empl.)</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>29.3</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>48.8</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>37.7</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>47.1</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>33.8</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>47.9</b>
Domestic workers	0.0	3.5	0.0	96.5	0.0	8.7	0.1	91.3	0.0	5.0	0.0	95.0
Home-based workers	3.2	69.2	24.3	3.4	8.4	62.7	25.4	3.5	5.4	66.5	24.7	3.4
Market traders	1.2	69.5	22.3	7.0	0.9	58.5	33.9	6.7	1.1	65.8	26.2	6.9
Market traders (food)	1.0	70.4	21.9	6.7	1.1	53.9	37.5	7.5	1.0	65.2	26.8	7.0
Market traders (non-food)	3.3	62.0	25.7	9.1	0.1	81.0	16.2	2.8	1.9	70.1	21.6	6.4
Motorcycle drivers	0.0	81.3	0.0	18.7	0.0	78.7	0.1	21.2	0.0	78.8	0.1	21.1
Street vendors	0.2	69.3	27.6	2.9	0.7	76.8	18.8	3.8	0.4	72.6	23.7	3.3
Street vendors (food)	0.1	75.2	22.4	2.2	0.8	77.6	19.7	2.0	0.4	76.1	21.4	2.1
Street vendors (non-food)	0.3	61.4	34.4	3.9	0.6	76.1	18.0	5.3	0.4	68.7	26.3	4.6

## Hours per Week of Employment for the Worker Groups

The vast majority of workers in these groups worked 40 to 48 hours per week and a substantial share of workers worked even longer hours.

The numbers in bold (**table 12**) show the distribution of hours worked among all employed in each geographic region as a benchmark for comparison. The overall pattern shows that the vast majority of workers worked 40 to 48 hours per week and a substantial share of workers worked even longer hours. Approximately 89 per cent of all employed in



*A child's hijab sewn by a home-based worker in Thailand.  
Photo credit: Chanakarn Laosarakham*

Bangkok, 81 per cent of all workers in urban areas, and 70 per cent of all workers in Thailand worked 40 or more hours per week. In all three geographic areas, men and women were as likely to work over 40 hours per week. In Bangkok, 89 per cent of both men and women workers worked 40 or more hours per week, whereas 81 per cent of men and women workers worked more than 40 hours per week in urban areas. In Thailand nationally, 73 per cent of men and 72 per cent of women workers worked 40 or more hours per week. In contrast, relatively few workers worked fewer than 15 hours per week, with less than 1 per cent of women and men workers in Bangkok and urban areas falling into this category. Nationwide, just 2 per cent of workers worked fewer than 15 hours per week. This suggests that time-based underemployment is relatively low among Thailand's workers across the country.

The number of work hours for the worker groups is similar to the baseline figures for each geographic region. However, for some groups an even larger share worked more than 40 hours per week. The proportion of domestic workers working more than 40 hours per week is 92 per cent in Bangkok, which is higher than the baseline of 89 per cent. The same is true for urban areas where 88 per cent of women and 87 per cent of men domestic workers worked 40 hours or more per week compared to 81 per cent for all urban workers. Nationwide, 83 and 84 per cent of men and women domestic workers, respectively, worked 40 or more hours per week.

A large proportion of home-based workers also worked 40 or more hours a week: 85 per cent in Bangkok, 84 per cent in urban areas, and 82 per cent nationally. Compared to all workers in urban areas and nationally, home-based workers are more likely to work 40 or more hours per week.

Another group that stands out is motorcycle drivers. In almost all geographic regions, 92 to 93 per cent of motorcycle drivers worked 40 or more hours per week. Women were slightly less likely to work 40 or more hours per week than men motorcycle drivers, but the proportion is significantly higher than for all women workers in each geographic area.

The proportion of market traders selling food working 40 or more hours per week is substantially higher than for those selling non-food items: 79 to 89 per cent across the geographic areas in comparison to 66 to 70 per cent. This contrasts with the hours worked for street vendors selling food and non-food items. In Bangkok, 100 per cent of non-food street vendors worked 40 or more hours per week, while fewer street food vendors (83 per cent) worked such long hours. In urban areas, non-food street vendors were more likely to work longer hours than food vendors: 87 per cent compared to 83 per cent. However, nationally around 80 per cent of both food vendors and non-food vendors worked long hours.

Table 12. Hours of work per week for all employed and the worker groups by sex in Bangkok, urban Thailand and Thailand, third quarter, 2024 (per cent distribution)

Geographic areas	Women					Men					Total				
	Less than 15 hours	15 to 34 hours	35 to 39 hours	40 to 48	More than 48 hours	Less than 15 hours	15 to 34 hours	35 to 39 hours	40 to 48	More than 48 hours	Less than 15 hours	15 to 34 hours	35 to 39 hours	40 to 48	More than 48 hours
<b>Bangkok (all empl.)</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>69.6</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>66.2</b>	<b>22.6</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>67.9</b>	<b>20.9</b>
Domestic workers	0.9	4.1	1.2	46.9	46.9	0.0	8.1	8.1	56.7	27.2	0.7	5.0	2.7	49.1	42.6
Home-based workers	0.9	8.8	5.0	43.4	41.9	1.0	9.2	4.2	45.0	40.6	0.9	9.0	4.7	44.1	41.3
Market traders	0.0	7.3	8.5	42.3	41.9	0.0	6.0	8.2	28.7	57.0	0.0	6.9	8.4	37.6	47.2
Market traders (food)	0.0	6.0	6.4	42.4	45.2	0.0	3.5	5.7	29.1	61.7	0.0	5.1	6.2	37.9	50.8
Market traders (non-food)	0.0	14.1	18.7	41.8	25.4	0.0	16.5	18.7	27.2	37.6	0.0	15.0	18.7	36.2	30.1
Motorcycle drivers	0.0	8.2	0.0	61.9	29.9	0.3	2.2	4.7	42.3	50.5	0.3	2.5	4.5	43.3	49.4
Street vendors	0.0	10.6	1.9	38.1	49.4	0.0	9.0	3.0	43.1	44.9	0.0	9.9	2.4	40.4	47.3
Street vendors (food)	0.0	13.9	2.5	33.9	49.7	0.0	12.9	4.3	41.6	41.2	0.0	13.4	3.3	37.4	45.9
Street vendors (non-food)	0.0	0.0	0.0	51.6	48.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	46.6	53.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	48.9	51.1
<b>Urban Thailand (all empl.)</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>60.6</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>60.2</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>60.4</b>	<b>20.7</b>
Domestic workers	1.3	7.9	3.0	57.1	30.8	1.1	7.0	5.2	63.5	23.1	1.2	7.7	3.5	58.6	28.9
Home-based workers	1.2	7.1	8.0	43.4	40.4	1.2	7.2	6.8	48.5	36.3	1.2	7.2	7.5	45.6	38.6
Market traders	0.6	7.6	11.3	49.7	30.9	0.7	9.1	11.5	45.0	33.7	0.6	8.1	11.4	48.0	31.8
Market traders (food)	0.5	7.1	10.3	49.4	32.8	0.7	8.1	10.5	44.5	36.2	0.6	7.5	10.4	47.7	33.9
Market traders (non-food)	1.3	10.6	17.9	51.6	18.6	0.7	14.2	16.3	47.5	21.3	1.1	12.1	17.3	50.0	19.7
Motorcycle drivers	0.8	8.6	3.5	55.9	31.2	0.9	2.7	4.5	45.3	46.6	0.9	3.1	4.5	46.0	45.6
Street vendors	0.4	10.8	6.0	47.1	35.7	0.4	7.8	5.0	45.8	41.0	0.4	9.5	5.6	46.6	38.0
Street vendors (food)	0.4	12.7	6.7	46.4	33.8	0.3	8.3	4.1	46.5	40.8	0.4	11.0	5.7	46.4	36.5
Street vendors (non-food)	0.2	6.6	4.7	48.8	39.7	0.4	7.2	6.2	44.8	41.4	0.3	6.9	5.5	46.8	40.6
<b>Thailand (all empl.)</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>52.7</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>53.1</b>	<b>20.2</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>15.1</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>51.4</b>	<b>18.5</b>
Domestic workers	1.7	11.2	3.7	57.1	26.3	1.4	8.1	4.5	67.6	18.4	1.6	10.3	4.0	60.2	23.9
Home-based workers	1.1	8.2	8.6	40.3	41.9	0.9	8.3	9.5	44.5	36.8	1.0	8.2	9.0	42.0	39.8
Market traders	0.8	9.0	11.5	48.7	29.9	1.2	9.4	12.4	45.4	31.6	1.0	9.1	11.8	47.6	30.5
Market traders (food)	0.7	8.8	10.7	48.3	31.5	1.4	8.8	11.4	44.8	33.6	1.0	8.8	10.9	47.2	32.1
Market traders (non-food)	1.6	10.2	18.6	52.0	17.6	0.4	12.2	17.4	48.2	21.7	1.1	11.1	18.1	50.3	19.4
Motorcycle drivers	0.6	7.1	2.7	55.9	33.7	0.7	2.8	4.0	47.8	44.7	0.7	3.1	3.9	48.4	43.9
Street vendors	0.7	11.4	9.5	46.1	32.4	0.6	7.6	8.9	41.8	41.1	0.7	9.7	9.2	44.3	36.2
Street vendors (food)	0.9	12.8	9.0	46.8	30.5	0.5	7.4	7.2	45.7	39.3	0.7	10.7	8.3	46.4	33.9
Street vendors (non-food)	0.4	9.5	10.1	45.2	34.8	0.8	7.8	10.2	38.7	42.5	0.6	8.6	10.2	42.0	38.7

## Hourly Earnings of the Worker Groups

Home-based workers as well as market traders and street vendors selling food had higher hourly earnings than the average for all employed in each of the geographic areas. The earnings of domestic workers and motorcycle drivers were lower than the average.

In 2024, hourly wages in Bangkok were generally higher than those in urban areas or the national average (**table 13**). The average hourly earnings of all workers were 121 baht in Bangkok, 100 baht in urban areas, and 87 baht nationwide. Women's hourly earnings were slightly higher than men's in both urban areas and nationally, but in Bangkok women earned slightly less than men. On average, women earned 120 baht in Bangkok, compared to 122 baht for men. In urban areas, women earned on average 100 baht and men earned 99 baht per hour, while nationally women earned on average 89 baht and men earned 86 baht per hour.

Among the worker groups, street vendors selling food had the highest earnings in Bangkok, while in urban areas and nationwide, market traders selling food earned the most. Market trade and street vending can be very lucrative in Thailand. High earners' income pushed up the average for both groups. In urban areas among women, the highest earners were market traders selling food, averaging 128 baht per hour.

However, men earned more, averaging 161 baht per hour. In both Bangkok and at the national level, the top-earning category for women was street vendors selling non-food items, with women in Bangkok earning 171 baht and men 118 baht per hour and nationally women earning 117 baht and men 123 baht.

**Note:** 1 US\$ was equal to approximately 35 Thai baht in 2024.  
<https://www.bot.or.th/en/statistics/exchange-rate.html>.

**Table 13. Hourly earnings (baht) of all employed and worker groups by sex in Bangkok, urban Thailand and Thailand, third quarter, 2024**

Geographic areas	Women	Men	Total
<b>Bangkok (all empl.)</b>	<b>119.8</b>	<b>122.4</b>	<b>121.2</b>
Domestic workers	55.4	64.9	57.5
Home-based workers	118.5	187.2	148.5
Market traders	129.4	144.5	135.1
Market traders (food)	135.9	64.9	143.3
Market traders (non-food)	92.8	187.2	99.5
Motorcycle drivers	84.0	80.8	80.9
Street vendors	141.7	163.2	152.9
Street vendors (food)	136.6	186.6	159.5
Street vendors (non-food)	171.4	117.6	132.8
<b>Urban Thailand (all empl.)</b>	<b>100.2</b>	<b>99.4</b>	<b>99.8</b>
Domestic workers	51.6	58.6	53.3
Home-based workers	116.5	150.6	130.5
Market traders	125.4	160.7	136.9
Market traders (food)	128.1	170.4	141.0
Market traders (non-food)	107.0	125.4	115.3
Motorcycle drivers	81.7	79.4	79.6
Street vendors	109.7	140.0	124.1
Street vendors (food)	112.2	153.0	127.2
Street vendors (non-food)	97.8	122.8	118.4
<b>Thailand (all empl.)</b>	<b>88.8</b>	<b>86.1</b>	<b>87.3</b>
Domestic workers	49.3	50.5	49.6
Home-based workers	101.8	128.7	112.4
Market traders	114.0	142.2	122.3
Market traders (food)	115.0	149.4	124.2
Market traders (non-food)	105.3	116.5	110.6
Motorcycle drivers	76.4	76.7	76.7
Street vendors	112.3	133.3	122.0
Street vendors (food)	109.1	145.8	123.2
Street vendors (non-food)	117.6	123.2	120.6

Home-based workers also had relatively high earnings compared to the average earnings in each geographic area. While women who are home-based workers in Bangkok earned approximately the average for all women workers in Bangkok, women home-based workers in urban areas and nationally earned 15 to 16 per cent more than the average for the geographic area. For men, home-based workers made substantially more than the average in each geographic area, largely driven by particularly successful shopkeepers.

Groups that earned significantly less than the average in each geographic area include domestic workers and motorcycle drivers. Domestic workers earned about half the hourly earnings of all workers in Bangkok and urban areas. Nationwide, domestic worker hourly earnings were about 57 per cent of the national average hourly earnings. Motorcycle drivers earned about two-thirds of the average hourly wage in Bangkok, 80 per cent in urban areas, and 89 per cent across Thailand. There was little difference between women's and men's hourly earnings for motorcycle drivers.



At her sewing machine in Thailand is home-based worker Thongmuan Phansanga. Photo credit: Chanakarn Laosarakham

## Education of the Worker Groups

**Although women on average have higher levels of education than men in Thailand, for most worker groups in this study across all geographic areas, men tended to have higher levels of education (upper secondary or above) than women. Motorcycle drivers were the exception.**

The numbers in bold (**table 14**) show the distribution of completed education among all workers in each geographic region. Bangkok has the highest education levels: 64 per cent of women and 57 per cent of men had completed upper secondary or some higher education, while only 7 per cent of women and 6 per cent of men had less than primary education. In urban areas, over 50 per cent of women and men had an upper secondary or higher education, and 11 per cent of women and 10 per cent of men had completed less than primary school. Nationally, 48 per cent of women and 42 per cent of men had attained upper secondary or more, but low education levels were more widespread: 15 per cent of women and 14 per cent of men had not completed primary school.

Although women on average have higher levels of education than men in Thailand, among the worker groups in this study across all geographic areas, men tended to have higher levels of education (upper secondary or above) than women. The exception was motorcycle drivers, where 58 to 69 per cent of women drivers

had completed upper secondary or university education, compared with 37 to 40 per cent of men. The group of motorcycle drivers also included a significant proportion of individuals with low education levels, demonstrating this occupation's varied composition: nationally, 2 per cent of women and 6 per cent of men who drive motorcycles had completed less than primary school, while 18 per cent of women and 23 per cent of men had attained only primary education.

Home-based workers generally had higher levels of education than other worker groups in the study. Approximately half of home-based workers had upper secondary or higher education in all areas. In Bangkok, 53 per cent of women and 63 per cent of men home-based workers had this level of education.

Domestic workers had the lowest levels of completed education among the worker groups considered. The share of domestic workers with less than primary education was 30 per cent of women and 15 per cent of men in Bangkok, 36 per cent of women and 18 per cent of men in urban areas, and 31 per cent of women and 20 per cent of men nationally. However, a substantial number of domestic workers, especially men, had attained upper secondary or higher education: in Bangkok 17 per cent of women and 40 per cent of men; in urban areas 15 per cent of women and 34 per cent of men; and nationally, 16 per cent of women and 29 per cent of men.

A large share of street vendors also had less than primary education: 20 to 22 per cent of women and 11 to 15 per cent of men across the geographic areas. At the same time, this group also had a greater share of completed education at the upper secondary level or higher: 20 to 28 per cent of women and 32 to 34 per cent of men across the geographic areas.

Market traders tended to have more education than street vendors across the geographic areas. Across the areas, 15 to 17 per cent of women and 12 to 17 per cent of men had less than primary education, while 36 to 40 per cent of women and men had completed upper secondary education and higher.

Table 14. Educational attainment of all workers and worker groups in Bangkok, urban Thailand and Thailand, third quarter, 2024 (percentage distribution)

Geographic areas	Women				Men				Total			
	Less than primary	Primary	Lower secondary (compulsory)	Upper secondary and higher	Less than primary	Primary	Lower secondary (compulsory)	Upper secondary and higher	Less than primary	Primary	Lower secondary (compulsory)	Upper secondary and higher
<b>Bangkok (all empl.)</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>15.1</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>63.5</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>18.4</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>57.1</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>60.2</b>
Domestic workers	29.8	41.0	12.4	16.9	15.4	18.4	26.1	40.1	26.6	36.0	15.4	22.0
Home-based workers	10.4	21.3	15.2	53.1	7.0	14.9	15.4	62.7	8.9	18.6	15.3	57.3
Market traders	16.5	27.7	20.3	35.5	17.1	30.5	16.2	36.1	16.7	28.7	18.9	35.7
Market traders (food)	17.3	30.7	15.8	36.1	19.6	33.6	15.7	31.1	18.1	31.7	15.8	34.4
Market traders (non-food)	11.7	10.5	46.1	31.8	7.0	18.2	18.1	56.7	9.7	13.7	34.3	42.3
Motorcycle drivers	0.0	11.1	19.9	69.0	3.4	24.6	32.5	39.5	3.3	23.9	31.8	41.0
Street vendors	22.3	32.8	25.3	19.6	10.8	34.2	21.6	33.5	16.8	33.4	23.6	26.2
Street vendors (food)	23.1	35.7	25.1	16.1	11.0	25.8	25.0	38.2	17.7	31.2	25.1	26.1
Street vendors (non-food)	19.4	22.6	26.3	31.8	10.3	53.9	13.5	22.4	14.4	39.8	19.2	26.6
<b>Urban Thailand (all empl.)</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>17.8</b>	<b>15.4</b>	<b>55.6</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>20.1</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>50.3</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>52.8</b>
Domestic workers	35.5	35.0	14.8	14.6	18.1	25.2	23.2	33.5	31.3	32.6	16.9	19.2
Home-based workers	16.0	19.5	14.8	49.7	10.4	15.2	15.6	58.7	13.6	17.7	15.2	53.5
Market traders	15.5	26.3	21.2	37.1	13.1	24.9	21.9	40.0	14.7	25.8	21.4	38.1
Market traders (food)	16.6	27.3	20.7	35.4	14.6	26.6	22.3	36.5	15.9	27.1	21.2	35.8
Market traders (non-food)	8.1	19.6	24.4	48.0	5.9	16.3	20.4	57.4	7.2	18.3	22.7	51.9
Motorcycle drivers	2.2	21.4	15.5	60.8	6.4	23.7	33.1	36.8	6.1	23.5	32.0	38.4
Street vendors	19.5	33.6	21.5	25.5	12.9	28.3	24.6	34.3	18.9	30.1	20.6	30.3
Street vendors (food)	21.0	36.1	19.6	23.3	12.6	25.7	29.3	32.3	17.7	32.0	23.5	26.9
Street vendors (non-food)	16.3	28.2	25.4	30.1	13.2	31.8	18.2	36.8	14.7	30.0	21.7	33.5
<b>Thailand (all empl.)</b>	<b>15.1</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>48.1</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>24.1</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>41.5</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>44.6</b>
Domestic workers	31.0	32.9	20.6	15.6	19.5	26.3	25.6	28.6	27.5	30.9	22.1	19.5
Home-based workers	18.7	20.4	14.4	46.6	12.5	17.3	17.8	52.3	16.1	19.1	15.8	49.0
Market traders	14.8	23.8	21.5	39.9	12.0	24.7	23.8	39.4	13.9	24.1	22.3	39.7
Market traders (food)	15.4	24.3	21.2	39.1	13.3	25.9	24.6	36.2	14.8	24.8	22.3	38.2
Market traders (non-food)	9.2	19.4	24.5	46.9	6.0	18.9	20.1	55.0	7.8	19.2	22.6	50.4
Motorcycle drivers	1.9	17.7	22.7	57.7	6.2	23.0	33.6	37.3	5.9	22.6	32.8	38.7
Street vendors	20.2	31.1	21.0	27.6	14.7	31.7	21.7	31.9	17.8	31.4	21.3	29.5
Street vendors (food)	20.3	32.3	20.5	26.9	13.9	27.6	26.7	31.7	17.9	30.5	22.9	28.7
Street vendors (non-food)	20.1	29.5	21.7	28.7	15.3	35.1	17.6	32.0	17.7	32.3	19.7	30.3

Note: Primary school ends in grade 6, lower secondary in grade 9, and upper secondary in grade 12. Compulsory schooling in Thailand is nine years.

## Ages of Worker Groups

Domestic workers had a notable share of young workers aged 15 to 24, with 12 to 13 per cent of women in all geographic areas, and 10 to 19 per cent of men aged 15 to 24 in urban Thailand and national areas.

In Q3 2024, between 86 and 91 per cent of women employed were aged 25 to 64 across the geographic areas (**table 15**). For men, this core working age range covered 84 to 92 per cent across the geographic areas. Between 5 and 8 per cent of women and 6 and 9 per cent of men were youth workers aged 15 to 24. Among both women and men, 3 to 7 per cent were 65 or older.

Domestic workers had a notable share of young workers aged 15 to 24: 12 to 13 per cent of women in all geographic areas, and 10 to 19 per cent of men in urban Thailand and nationally, although there were no young men domestic workers in Bangkok. Women motorcycle drivers exhibited a different age distribution with those aged 35 to 54 years comprising 66 to 76 per cent across all geographic areas. For men motorcycle drivers, between 51 and 56 per cent were in the 35 to 54 years age group.

Home-based workers, market traders and street vendors had a notable share aged 35 to 54 years. For example, 44 to 51 per cent of both men and women home-based workers and market traders across all regions were in the 35 to 54 age group. A total of 49 to 51 per cent of women and 51 to 57 per cent of men street vendors across all regions were also in this age group.



Malee Soblerk is a domestic worker in Thailand. Photo credit: Chanakarn Laosarakham

Table 15. All employed and worker groups by age and sex in Bangkok, urban Thailand and Thailand, third quarter, 2024 (per cent distribution)

Geographic areas	Women					Men					Total				
	15-24	25-34	35-54	55-64	65+	15-24	25-34	35-54	55-64	65+	15-24	25-34	35-54	55-64	65+
<b>Bangkok (all empl.)</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>23.8</b>	<b>55.0</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>23.1</b>	<b>55.3</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>23.4</b>	<b>55.1</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>3.1</b>
Domestic workers	13.1	18.0	43.5	18.3	7.1	0.0	16.1	71.8	10.0	2.1	10.2	17.6	49.7	16.5	6.0
Home-based workers	1.3	11.4	49.2	25.1	13.1	2.2	11.5	50.6	25.9	9.7	1.7	11.5	49.8	25.4	11.6
Market traders	5.6	12.8	51.0	24.6	6.0	5.5	14.8	50.2	20.6	8.9	5.6	13.5	50.7	23.2	7.0
Market traders (food)	4.6	12.1	53.3	23.5	6.5	4.9	15.9	50.2	20.8	8.3	4.7	13.4	52.2	22.6	7.1
Market traders (non-food)	10.2	16.2	39.6	30.0	3.9	8.1	10.2	50.2	19.9	11.6	9.4	13.9	43.7	26.1	6.9
Motorcycle drivers	0.0	14.9	76.2	8.9	0.0	4.6	22.2	56.1	15.5	1.6	4.3	21.8	57.2	15.2	1.5
Street vendors	1.2	12.9	51.0	28.6	6.3	4.4	11.8	56.9	21.0	5.9	2.7	12.4	53.8	25.0	6.1
Street vendors (food)	0.6	13.0	46.3	33.0	7.2	6.3	12.9	51.8	24.0	5.0	3.2	12.9	48.8	29.0	6.2
Street vendors (non-food)	3.1	12.8	66.5	14.2	3.4	0.0	9.4	68.5	13.9	8.2	1.4	11.0	67.6	14.1	6.0
<b>Urban Thailand (all empl.)</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>24.1</b>	<b>48.6</b>	<b>15.3</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>23.5</b>	<b>48.1</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>23.8</b>	<b>48.4</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>4.9</b>
Domestic workers	11.5	13.6	46.8	20.8	7.4	9.6	14.8	61.3	10.6	3.7	11.0	13.9	50.3	18.3	6.5
Home-based workers	2.8	13.2	46.1	24.3	13.6	4.2	15.5	45.1	23.3	11.9	3.4	14.2	45.7	23.9	12.9
Market traders	6.3	18.4	47.0	19.8	8.4	5.7	19.5	46.7	21.9	6.2	6.1	18.8	46.9	20.5	7.7
Market traders (food)	6.3	17.1	47.6	19.9	9.1	5.9	18.6	46.6	23.1	5.8	6.2	17.6	47.2	21.0	8.0
Market traders (non-food)	6.2	26.8	43.7	19.3	4.0	4.5	23.8	47.3	16.0	8.4	5.5	25.6	45.2	18.0	5.7
Motorcycle drivers	4.8	13.6	72.9	8.3	0.4	6.2	21.0	52.3	17.0	3.5	6.1	20.5	53.7	16.5	3.3
Street vendors	3.2	15.5	49.4	23.9	8.0	4.7	17.0	51.4	22.1	4.8	3.8	16.1	50.3	23.2	6.6
Street vendors (food)	3.7	15.9	47.5	25.0	8.0	6.3	15.9	50.3	23.5	4.0	4.7	15.9	48.6	24.4	6.4
Street vendors (non-food)	2.0	14.8	53.7	21.6	8.0	2.6	18.3	52.9	20.4	5.8	2.3	16.6	53.3	21.0	6.9
<b>Thailand (all empl.)</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>46.1</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>22.6</b>	<b>44.1</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>22.1</b>	<b>46.0</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>6.0</b>
Domestic workers	11.9	13.1	46.6	21.8	6.6	19.2	16.8	47.5	11.3	5.3	14.1	14.2	46.8	18.7	6.2
Home-based workers	5.0	14.5	44.3	23.1	13.1	5.3	17.1	43.9	22.2	11.6	5.2	15.6	44.1	22.7	12.5
Market traders	9.5	19.8	45.2	17.9	7.6	6.5	20.0	48.1	20.1	5.4	8.5	19.8	46.2	18.7	6.9
Market traders (food)	9.9	19.2	45.2	17.7	7.9	6.9	19.5	47.9	20.6	5.2	9.0	19.3	46.1	18.6	7.1
Market traders (non-food)	5.5	24.3	45.1	19.6	5.4	4.5	22.2	49.4	17.9	6.1	5.1	23.4	47.0	18.9	5.7
Motorcycle drivers	7.5	19.3	66.3	6.5	0.5	7.9	21.5	50.8	15.9	3.9	7.9	21.4	51.8	15.3	3.7
Street vendors	3.0	16.1	49.7	22.7	8.5	4.6	15.1	52.1	22.6	5.6	3.7	15.7	50.8	22.7	7.3
Street vendors (food)	3.3	16.6	48.9	23.0	8.3	6.4	15.6	50.4	24.0	3.5	4.5	16.3	49.5	23.4	6.4
Street vendors (non-food)	2.6	15.3	50.9	22.4	8.9	3.0	14.7	53.5	21.4	7.4	2.8	15.0	52.2	21.9	8.1



Burmese domestic worker Kyan Par works in Thailand. Photo credit: Chanakarn Laosarakham

## Worker Groups Reporting Unsafe Working Conditions

Nationally, 10 per cent of men and 8 per cent of women reported working in unsafe conditions; however, workers in these groups were less likely than all workers to report working in unsafe conditions.

In Bangkok, 5 per cent of all employed reported having problems with workplace safety (3 per cent of women and 7 per cent of men) (**table 16**). Among men, only motorcycle drivers reported higher levels of safety problems (8 per cent) than the average across all employed. For women in Bangkok, slightly higher rates of safety issues were reported than the average among market traders (both food and non-food), and street vendors (both food and non-food), and especially motorcycle drivers, with 12 per cent of women motorcycle drivers reporting safety issues. Domestic workers showed a relatively low incidence of safety issues (2 per cent) compared to the average.

In urban Thailand, the reported overall rate of workplace safety issues was slightly higher at 6 per cent. Motorcycle drivers stood at 7 per cent, followed by street vendors (non-food) and home-based workers. Domestic workers and market traders (food) remained at the lower end at 2 per cent.

At the national level, the percentage of workers reporting workplace safety issues was 8 per cent – which is higher than for both Bangkok and urban Thailand – with 10 per cent of men and 6 per cent of women affected. Consistent with previous patterns, motorcycle drivers reported the highest rate of unsafe working conditions at 7 per cent, followed by street vendors (non-food) and home-based workers. Nationally, domestic workers reported low rates of workplace safety issues at under 3 per cent.

**Table 16. Percentages of all employed and worker groups working in unsafe conditions by sex in Bangkok, urban Thailand and Thailand, pooled third quarter, 2019 to 2024**

Geographic areas	Women	Men	Total
<b>Bangkok (all empl.)</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>5.1</b>
Domestic workers	1.2	5.1	2.0
Home-based workers	2.5	2.9	2.7
Market traders	3.8	3.4	3.6
Market traders (food)	3.5	2.8	3.2
Market traders (non-food)	4.8	5.0	4.9
Motorcycle drivers	12.2	7.5	7.7
Street vendors	4.5	4.1	4.3
Street vendors (food)	4.0	4.1	4.0
Street vendors (non-food)	5.8	4.2	4.8
<b>Urban Thailand (all empl.)</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>5.8</b>
Domestic workers	1.2	4.9	2.0
Home-based workers	2.5	4.0	3.2
Market traders	2.2	2.0	2.1
Market traders (food)	2.1	1.8	2.0
Market traders (non-food)	3.1	2.5	2.8
Motorcycle drivers	7.2	6.8	6.8
Street vendors	2.9	3.0	3.0
Street vendors (food)	2.5	2.8	2.6
Street vendors (non-food)	3.5	3.3	3.4
<b>Thailand (all empl.)</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>8.1</b>
Domestic workers	1.4	5.7	2.6
Home-based workers	2.8	5.0	3.8
Market traders	1.9	1.9	1.9
Market traders (food)	1.9	1.8	1.8
Market traders (non-food)	2.2	2.2	2.2
Motorcycle drivers	7.3	6.7	6.7
Street vendors	3.1	3.6	3.3
Street vendors (food)	2.6	2.8	2.7
Street vendors (non-food)	3.6	4.2	3.9

**Note:** The workplace safety issues reported in this table are a pooled estimate based on responses to the specific safety issues in the questionnaire: exposure to chemicals, working with dangerous machinery, risks to the eyes and ears, working at heights, underwater or underground, and working in conflict zones.

## Annex

### Identifying formal and informal employment

For this brief, formal employees are defined as workers, including government employees, state enterprise employees, private firm workers, contributing family workers, and cooperative workers, who have employer-provided social protection, such as SSA Section 33, Civil Servant Welfare Fund, Private Education Fund, or other. By law, employers with employer-provided social protection are also covered under the Labour Protection Act. An employee is classified as an informal employee if they are in an employer-employee relationship and do not have employer-provided social protection. Employers/own-account workers are counted as formal if their enterprise is incorporated. Employers/own-account workers with unincorporated enterprises are considered informal. All contributing family workers are classified as informal workers.

### Identifying groups of mainly informal workers

The worker groups are identified through a combination of ISIC Revision 4 industry codes, ISCO-08 occupation codes, and the place of work. Workers are classified as **domestic workers** if they meet three criteria: the industry is classified as ISIC 97000 (Activities of households as employers of domestic personnel), the occupation is classified as ISCO 5152, 9111, 9112, 9122, 9123, or 9129, and the place of work is in the employer's home. **Home-based workers** are defined as individuals working in their own homes or in a structure attached to their homes, corresponding to workplace category 5. **Market traders selling food and beverages** are identified using ISIC industry codes 47811, 47812, 56102, or 56303, while **market traders selling non-food items** are identified using ISIC codes 47813, 47821, 47822, 47891, 47892, 47893, 47894, 47895, 47896, 47897, or 47899. **Street vendors selling food** are classified based on ISCO-08 occupation codes and ISIC industry codes, specifically ISCO 5212 or 5243 and ISIC codes within the 10000s, 11000s, 46102, 47219, 47221, 47222, or 56302. **Street vendors selling non-food items** are identified using ISCO-08 occupation codes and ISIC codes, falling under either ISCO 5243 with ISIC industry codes excluding 10000s, 11000s, 46102, 47219, 47221, 47222, and 56302, or ISCO 9520. **Motorcycle drivers** transporting goods, materials, or passengers are identified by ISCO-08 occupation code 8321. Steps were taken to ensure there was no double counting of respondents when multiple classifications were used to identify the group.



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