



THE SCALE, THE LEVEL AND THE MOVEMENT OF LABOR STRUCTURE IN THE EASTERN ECONOMIC ZONE OF TIEN GIANG PROVINCE

*Huynh Pham Dung Phat**, *Kim Hai Van*

Faculty of Geography - Ho Chi Minh City University of Education

Received: 03/01/2018; Revised: 21/02/2018; Accepted: 23/02/2018

ABSTRACT

In recent years, the labor in the Eastern economic zone of Tien Giang province has made positive changes. The scale of labor has increased; the level of labor has greatly advanced; the labor structure according to economic sectors, economic components, educational level and technical qualification has suitably shifted towards progress for the social – economic development orientation of the area. This article introduces the scale, the level and the movement of labor structure in the Eastern economic zone of Tien Giang province during the period 2011 – 2015, and thereby proposes some measures to promote the quality of labor in the area.

Keywords: labor, the Eastern economic zone, Tien Giang province.

TÓM TẮT

Quy mô, trình độ và chuyển dịch cơ cấu lao động khu vực kinh tế phía Đông tỉnh Tiền Giang

Những năm gần đây, lao động của khu vực kinh tế phía Đông tỉnh Tiền Giang đã có những thay đổi theo hướng tích cực như quy mô lao động tăng, trình độ lao động ngày càng nâng cao, cơ cấu lao động theo các ngành kinh tế, thành phần kinh tế, trình độ văn hóa và trình độ chuyên môn kỹ thuật có sự chuyển dịch tiến bộ phù hợp với định hướng phát triển kinh tế - xã hội của khu vực. Bài viết giới thiệu về quy mô, trình độ và chuyển dịch cơ cấu lao động khu vực kinh tế phía Đông tỉnh Tiền Giang giai đoạn 2011-2015, qua đó đề xuất một số giải pháp thúc đẩy chất lượng lao động của khu vực.

Từ khóa: lao động, khu vực kinh tế phía Đông, tỉnh Tiền Giang.

1. Introduction

Labor is one of indispensable resources of production and economic development. Government of every country really pay attention to labor issues, especially the scale, the level and the movement of labor structure these factors effect to economic– social development directly. In 2009, Prime Minister approved “Economic and social development plan” in Tien Giang namely, Eastern economic zone (EEZ) placed in coastal area including following districts: Go Cong Dong, Go Cong Tay, Tan Phu Dong và Go Cong county town – nuclear urban of area (Prime Minister, 2009). This area has population

* Email: hpdphat@hcmue.edu.vn

of 409.487 people in 2015, in period 2011 - 2015, the average yearly growth was about 1.782 people and working age population increased about 2.600 people yearly. It shows this area is relative abundant labor resource.

This article used secondary data collected from the Department of Labor - Invalids and Social Affairs of Tien Giang province to analyze and provide an objective assessment about the scale, the level and the movement of labor structure in the Eastern economic zone of Tien Giang province.

2. Content

2.1. The scale of labor

In terms of scale, working – age population (from 15 to 60 years old as provisions of the Labor Law) of Eastern economic zone in particular as well as Tien Giang in general increased in period 2011-2015. Of this, Eastern economic zone increased 10.399 people, it shares is nearly quarter of total increased labors in Tien Giang (Tien Giang increased 43.442 people) and average yearly growth about 2600 people, ranking third after Western economic zone (4.489 people/year) and Center Economic Zone (3.772 people/year). Of this, the highest increase was Go Cong Tay district with 3064 people and the lowest was Tan Phu Dong district with 1.490 people. The number of labor increases will be an additional labor source to meet the labor demand of economic activity. However, in the years from 2011 to 2015 Eastern economic zone has a low labor increases, this has limited the socio – economic development so the area need have solutions to increase number of labor.

The number of people in working age, there is difference between administrative units. Of this, Go Cong Dong district and Go Cong Tay district have the largest number of labor in 2015, over 70 thousand people in each district, accounting for over 30% total labors in the area. Tan Phu Dong district is the region with the smallest scale, about 20 thousand people, accounting for 1/10 of labor in the whole region because Tan Phu Dong established in 2008 with difficult socio-economic conditions.

Table 1. Number of labor in the Eastern economic zone (EEZ) period 2011 – 2015

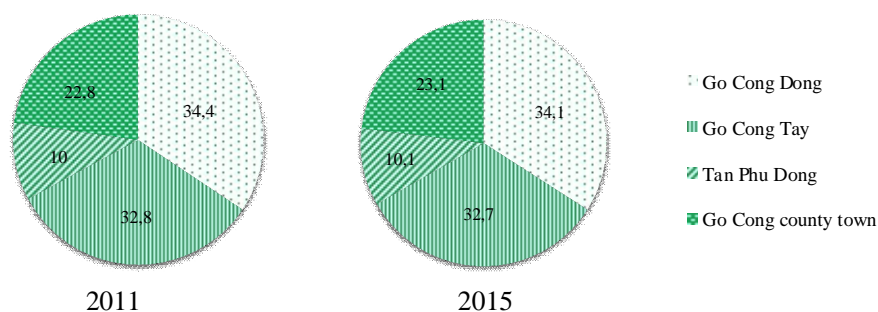
Administrative unit	Number of labor (person)		Growth rate (%)
	2011	2015	
Go Cong Dong	75.132	78.046	3,9
Go Cong Tay	71.748	74.812	4,2
Tan Phu Dong	21.856	23.346	6,8
Go Cong county town	49.923	52.854	5,9
EEZ	218.659	229.058	4,8

Processing from (Department of Labor - Invalids and Social Affairs of Tien Giang province, 2011-2015)

In terms of proportion, there are changes in the different trends between administrative units in the area. In period 2011 – 2015, Go Cong Dong and Go Cong Tay had working – age labor rate reduction but it increased in Tan Phu Dong and Go Cong county town. For detail, that rate in Go Cong Dong reduction from 34.4% to 34.1% (decreased by 0,3%), Go Cong Tay reduction from 32,8% to 32,7% (decreased by 0,1%), Tan Phu Dong increased 0,1% and Go Cong county town increased 0,3%. However, this change is insignificant only increasing or decreasing from 0,1% to 0,3%.

Chart 1. The labor structure in the Eastern economic zone, period 2011 - 2015

Unit:%



Data processing from (Department of Labor - Invalids and Social Affairs of Tien Giang province, 2011-2015)

2.2. The level of labor

The level of labor in the Eastern economic zone is reflected through educational level and technical qualification.

2.2.1. Educational level

In period 2011 - 2015, Eastern economic zone in particular and Tien Giang in general, intensified investment, education and training development. There are scholarships, free vocational training for disadvantaged people have also contributed to improving and enhancing the education level of labor in the area, this is reflected through number and structure of labor by educational level (Table 2 and Chart 2).

Table 2. Number of labor by educational level in the Eastern economic zone period 2011 – 2015

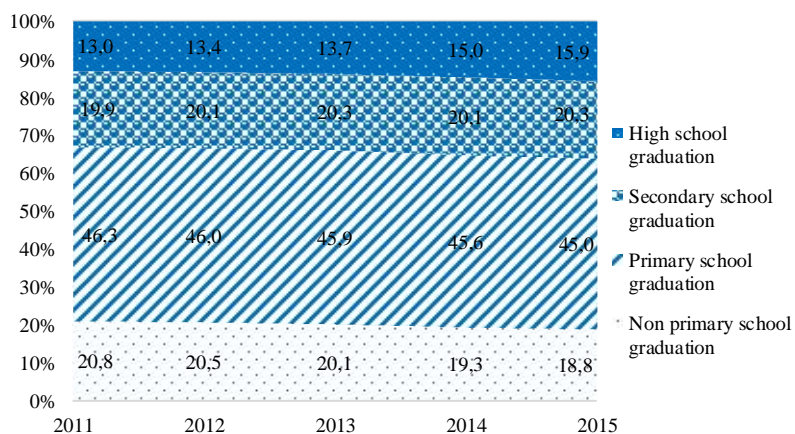
Unit: Person

Administrative unit	Non primary school graduation		Primary school graduation		Secondary school graduation		High school graduation	
	2011	2015	2011	2015	2011	2015	2011	2015
Go Cong Dong	19.445	18.334	35.028	35.818	12.657	13.563	8.002	10.331
Go Cong Tay	11.325	10.333	33.704	33.597	16.701	17.586	10.018	13.296
Tan Phu Dong	5.654	5.658	10.979	11.528	3.661	4.084	1.562	2.076
Go Cong county town	9.108	8.731	21.519	22.038	10.547	1.286	8.749	10.799
EEZ	45.532	43.056	101.230	102.981	43.566	46.519	28.331	36.502

(Department of Labor - Invalids and Social Affairs of Tien Giang province, 2011-2015)

From 2011 to 2015, number of labor non primary school graduation reduce substantially from 45.532 people to 43.056 people (decrease by 2.476 people) and ascending workforce of primary, secondary and high school. Detail, labor force of high school most increase by 8.171 people, average annual is 2.043 people, labor force of secondary school increase from 43.566 to 46.519 people and labor force of high school increase from 101.230 people to 102.981 people. However, labor force of primary school still get high rate and even higher than average rate in Tien Giang (45% in 2015 but Tien Giang is only 42,5%). Workforce of primary school and lower level (this level make difficulty on vocational training) rate of Eastern economic zone is 63,8%, higher than Tien Giang 6,3%. Therefore, education of labor of this area is still low.

Chart 2. Labor structure by educational level in the Eastern economic zone period 2011 - 2015



Data processing from (Department of Labor - Invalids and Social Affairs of Tien Giang province, 2011-2015)

2.2.2. Technical qualification

Technical qualification is the most important factor to evaluate labor quality. In period 2011 - 2015, Eastern economic zone and Tien Giang intensified vocational training. All vocation school, colleges and university also increase their annual admissions criteria to response vocational training demand and supply professional labor resource for all industrial zone in inner and outer of province. The results from these efforts is technical qualification labor reduction, from 195.764 people in 2011 down to 192.626 people in 2015 (in Tien Giang, this rate reduce from 776.685 people to 766.874 people). Professional trained workforce with primary level all increase, most is primary level, increase from 6676 people to 15.745 people, by 9069 people (Table 3)

Table 3. Number of labor by technical qualification in the Eastern economic zone period 2011 - 2015

Unit: Person

Administrative unit	Non technical qualification		Primary level		Secondary level		College		University and upper	
	2011	2015	2011	2015	2011	2015	2011	2015	2011	2015
Go Cong Dong	69.732	69.083	1.011	3.303	1.978	2.536	927	1.259	1.484	1.865
Go Công Tay	63.025	61.658	3.205	5.855	2.662	3.141	1.140	1.814	1.716	2.344
Tan Phu Dong	20.770	18.854	327	3.428	391	480	154	304	214	280
Go Cong county town	42.327	43.031	2.133	3.159	2.483	2.800	949	1.235	2.121	2.629
EEZ	195.764	192.626	6.676	15.745	7.514	8.957	3.170	4.612	5.535	7.118

Data processing from (Department of Labor - Invalids and Social Affairs of Tien Giang province, 2011-2015)

In period 2011 - 2015, rate of labor force who has non technical qualification decrease from 89,6% down to 84,1%, ascending for labor has technical qualification, especially secondary level has increase fastest from 3,1% up to 6,9% and university level increasing from 2,5% to 3,1%.

As general situation in Tien Giang, quality labor of Eastern economic zone is still low, mostly lack of high professional skill labor force. According to the assessment of the quality labor in Tien Giang province in 2015, many enterprises said that their labor only achieve to average level, more than 60% of enterprises have to train their labor by themselves to meet their request in work (Portal of Tien Giang province, 2016). It shows reality in vocational training for labors which hasn't unified between vocation schools and enterprises. Vocation schools haven't got suitable training program which can response to request from enterprises, opposite, enterprises haven't inform schools necessary information about their demand in labors (about scale, branch structure, training level, professional skill...).

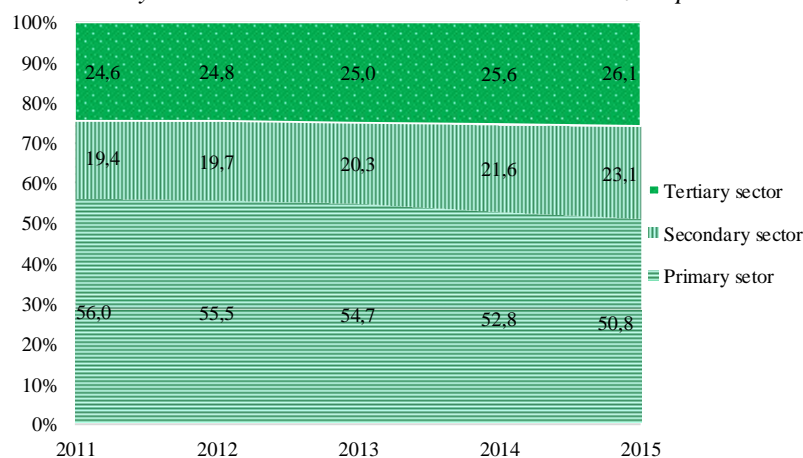
2.3. The movement of labor structure

Shiftment of labor restructuring in progressive or not progressive, fast or slow pace will reflect level of success in both of economic and social. This article will focus on analysis processing of labor restructuring in the Eastern economic zone in period 2011 - 2015 according to labor restructuring in economic sector and composition.

2.3.1. The movement of labor structure by economic sector

Labor restructuring leads to restructuring in economic sector. In period 2011 - 2015, labor structure in the Eastern economic zone has change according to rate reduction in primary sector and rate increase in secondary and tertiary sector. Specifically, rate in primary sector decrease from 62,2% down to 54,6%, rate in secondary sector increase from 17% to 20% and tertiary sector increase from 20,8% to 25,4%. Chart 2 shows, labor restructuring in Eastern economic zone is shifting industrially and modernly. From 2011 to 2015, labor rate in primary sector decrease from 56% down to 50,8%, but comparing to average rate in Tien Giang (48,8% in 2015), this rate is still high, rate in secondary sector increase from 19,4% to 23,1% and tertiary sector increase from 24,6% to 26,1% (this rate in Tien Giang is 29,2%). This information reflects although Eastern economic zone has progressive labor restructuring in economic sector but still lower than whole province. Labors in this area still attached mainly to agriculture, especially economic strength is aquaculture and fishing. Meanwhile, nonagriculture isn't really break through but at same time labor hasn't responed to request about technical qualification, up to 85% labor has non technical qualification in 2015.

Chart 3. Labor structure by economic sector in the Eastern economic zone period 2011 – 2015



Data processing from (Department of Labor - Invalids and Social Affairs of Tien Giang province, 2011-2015)

2.3.2. The movement of labor structure by economic composition

Base on economic composition, labor structure in the Eastern economic zone doesn't change too much in period 2011 - 2015. Labor rate in public sector slightly increase from 5.9% to 6.2%. Since public sector still decisive role of local industry, is the important financial resource, the essential tool for Government to orient and regulate the economy in the difficult areas. In addition, the separation of administrative units in this area also contribute to increase in the quantity of civil servants in this region.

Table 4. Labor structure by economic composition in the Eastern economic zone period 2011-2015

	Unit: %				
Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
State	5,9	6,0	6,1	6,2	6,2
Non - state	93,0	92,9	92,9	92,7	92,5
Foreign investment	1,1	1,1	1,0	1,1	1,3

Data processing from (Department of Labor - Invalids and Social Affairs of Tien Giang province, 2011-2015)

Foreign investment sector slowly increase from 1.1% to 1.3%. Urbanization has contributed to improve infrastructure, then able to attract projects from foreign investment but this process is still slow moreover changing the way of capital contribution lead to conversion is not as expected. Private sector slightly decrease but still occupy quite high rate in structure, from 93.0% down to 92.5%. Foreign investment is important motivation for local economy, help to solve unemployment issue.

2.4. Solutions for labor development in the Eastern economic zone of Tien Giang

We have to continue investing in school system development, how to achieve National standard for all public high school in area as following high schools: Thanh Nhut, Phu Thanh, Binh An, Vam Lang, Tran Van Hoai... especially pay more attention to deep lying area. Simultaneously, we have to approach socialization, private investment to private school system or international schools at all level in this area's urban Go Cong. Ensure how to make education system in this area must be at least equal to the center area.

Training and standardizing contingent of teachers, raising the professional skills for teachers and administrators. To promote information technology application in management, teaching and learning. At same time, response demands about orientation of career in future for this are.

Rasing the quality of training of Go Cong Vocational school and upgrading school into colleges after 2020. We invite the investos to buid a non-public vocational training center in each district in association with training attached to the address of Soai Rap Industrial Park.

To attach special impotance to vocational training for rural labor, to build and promote the operation efficiency of vocational training centers; to enhance cooperation on labor training with other localities nationwide and internationally. Particular attention should be paid to the training of trades suitable to local economic advantages such as seafood processing, agricultural product processing, cultivation and aquaculture.

To develop the treatment regime for the whole region and continue implementing the current regime for Tan Phu Dong district in order to encourage laborers with high technical qualifications to work.

Planing and investing in urban development, high-quality resort tourism in the south of the region, connecting the south of Ho Chi Minh City and Southeast region.

3. Conclusion

The scale of labor in the Eastern economic zone period 2011 – 2015 tends to increase and the labor structure shifted in the right direction, in line with the socio-economic development orientation of the region in the past industrialization and modernization. However, the pace of change is slow, not reaching the target. The structure of labor in primary sector still accounting for over 50% though it is shifted to secondary sector and tertiary sector. Labor structure by economic composition increases the proportion of state and foreign investment, reduce the proportion of non-state labor but not significantly. The educational level of labor has been improved, increasing the proportion of labor with junior and senior secondary education, to reduce the proportion of labor who hasn't yet completed primary and primary education. According to the technical qualification, the structure of labor has changed remarkably with the gradual reduction of the proportion of labor without technical qualifications.

The labor of the Eastern economic zone hasn't yet developed strongly, it isn't really a motive force for socio-economic development. This indicates the need for more investment to improve the quality of labor to meet the demand of social. In investment solutions for education to improve the level of labor such as opening vocational training classes, vocational schools to improve technical qualifications contribute to improve the skills of workers is a direction long-term sustainability needs to be carefully considered by the province.

❖ **Conflict of Interest:** Authors have no conflict of interest to declare.

REFERENCES

- Portal of Tien Giang province. (05/10/2016). *Human resources Tien Giang: Transfer to quality*. Tapping from <http://tiengiang.gov.vn/vPortal/4/625/1199/97083/Kinh-te/Nguon-nhan-luc-Tien-Giang--Chuyen-luong-sang-chat.aspx>
- Department of Labor - Invalids and Social Affairs of Tien Giang province (2012 -2016). Data on labor supply survey period 2011 -2015. Tien Giang.
- The prime minister. (2009). Decision No.17/2009/QĐ-TTg approving the master plan for socio-economic development of Tien Giang province up to 2020. Ha Noi.

CÁC SỐ TẠP CHÍ KHOA HỌC SẮP TỚI:

- Tập 15, Số 3 (2018): *Khoa học tự nhiên và công nghệ*
- Tập 15, Số 4 (2018): *Khoa học giáo dục*
- Tập 15, Số 5 (2018): *Khoa học xã hội và nhân văn.*

Ban biên tập Tạp chí Khoa học rất mong nhận được sự trao đổi thông tin của các đơn vị bạn và được bạn đọc thường xuyên cộng tác bài vở, góp ý xây dựng.