

## **S. Korea's job growth slows on sluggish economy**

SEOUL, June 12 (Xinhua) -- Job creation in South Korea slowed last month as the manufacturing industry added fewer jobs, reflecting the sluggish economy, a government report showed Wednesday. The total number of people employed increased 265,000 from a year earlier to 25,398,000 in May after growing 345,000 in the prior month, according to the Statistics Korea. From a month before, the reading reduced 25,000. Fewer employment among manufacturers led the overall weakness in the labor market. The manufacturing sector created 105,000 jobs in May after adding 165,000 workers in the previous month. The service industry employed 189,000 workers last month, slightly up from a rise of 184,000 employees in the prior month. Despite the slight increase, the Ministry of Strategy and Finance said in a statement that job growth in the sector trended down recently. Reflecting the lower job growth, hiring rate fell 0.1 percentage points from a year earlier to 60.4 percent in May. The employment rate measures the percentage of working people to the working age population, or those aged 15 and over. It is used as an alternative to the jobless rate for assessing labor market conditions.