



PHILIPPINE
STATISTICS
AUTHORITY

Manila, Philippines

LABSTAT

Updates

Vol. 18 No. 7

March 2014

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JANUARY 2014 LABOR FORCE SURVEY



Overview

The labor market situation in January 2014 was essentially unchanged from last year. Employment level hardly grew (0.8%) due to the absence of growth in service sector (0.1%) and the modest expansions in agriculture (1.5%) and industry (1.9%) sectors. This was accompanied by the decline in full-time employment (-4.7%) and wage and salary employment (-4.5%) - which could be partly attributed to "base effect" coming from large and unusual expansion last year.

On a positive note, underemployment rate eased slightly to 19.5% from 20.7% in 2013. Moreover, unemployment rate at 7.5% was not statistically different from last year's figure of 7.1% with the number of unemployed persons remaining stagnant at below three million. Meanwhile, the labor force participation rate (LFPR) was down to 63.8% from 64.1%.

The January 2014 Labor Force Survey (LFS) results and comparative figures for January 2013 exclude Region VIII which was not covered in the recent LFS survey round due to disruptions brought about by typhoon Yolanda.

Labor Force

Labor force participation rate (LFPR) in January 2014 fell marginally to 63.8% from 64.1% a year earlier. The decline was most pronounced among women (50.6% to 49.8%) and persons in age group 55 years old and over (54.1% to 53.2%). (Table 5)

This notwithstanding, the number of persons in the labor force rose by 1.2% (+476,000) increasing to 39.389 million from 38.913 million over the period - along with the 1.034 million increase in household population 15 years old and over which now stood at 61.775 million.

Employment

Employment in January 2014 was of little change from a year ago as sluggish employment growth prevailed across broad sectors. The slowdown was most pronounced in the services sector which has been

Key Employment Indicators, Philippines: January 2013-2014 (In thousands except rates)

Indicator	Jan. 2014 ^p	Jan. 2013	Year-on-Year Change
Household Population 15 Years Old and Over	61,775	60,741	1,034
Labor Force	39,389	38,913	476
– Employed Persons	36,420	36,137	283
– Unemployed Persons	2,969	2,776	193
Underemployed Persons	7,101	7,464	(363)
– Visibly underemployed	4,357	4,192	165
Not in the Labor Force	22,387	21,828	559
LFPR (%)	63.8	64.1	
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.5	7.1	
Underemployment Rate (%)	19.5	20.7	
– Visible Under-employment Rate (%)	11.5	11.3	
Mean Hours of Work	41.0	42.4	

^p Preliminary.

Estimates exclude Region VIII data.

Source of data: Philippine Statistics Authority, Labor Force Survey.

the key driver in employment creation in recent years. This pulled down the overall employment growth to less

than one percent (0.8%) bringing the total employed persons to 36.420 million from 36.137 million in the same period last year - this represents an employment creation of just 283,000.

- Industry employment continued to expand though at modest pace (1.9% or +105,000) this period. Construction was the biggest gainer (+139,000) with manufacturing (+13,000) trailing far behind. These gains negate the losses in mining and quarrying (-27,000); electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply (-7,000); and water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (-14,000). (*Table 2*)
- Employment in agriculture sector managed to post a slight recovery (+1.5% or +159,000) from the sharp decline (-4.9% or -555,000)* in 2013 due to destructive typhoons that occurred in Mindanao in the last quarter of the previous year.
- The services sector which for many years has been the constant source of growth in employment registered a marked slowdown this period with a near zero growth rate (+0.1% or +18,000). This is the lowest in all January LFS growth estimates* for this sector since 2007.

This was largely due to the combined losses in five sub-sectors, namely, other service activities (-177,000); arts, entertainment and recreation (-44,000); public administration (-43,000); real estate activities (-38,000); and transportation and storage (-5,000).

This was accompanied by the absence of growth in two key industries with large employment base, namely: wholesale and retail trade (0.1% or +5,000) and accommodation and food services activities (0.1% or +1,000).

Meanwhile, employment continued to grow in high-end industries led by administrative and support service activities (+97,000) - which included the business processing industries (BPO); financial and insurance activities (+67,000); education (+62,000); professional, scientific and technical activities (+38,000); and human health and social work activities (+32,000).

- Strong "base effect" was observed for full-time employment and wage and salary employment which suffered large losses this year (-1.120 million and -990,000, respectively). Both indicators recorded substantial gains last year. (*Table 2a*)

On the other hand, employment level was up for the following categories of workers: persons in part-time employment (+1.199 million), self-employed without any paid employee (+782,000), and unpaid family workers (+526,000).

Correspondingly, the proportion of self-employed and unpaid family workers to total employed (a Millennium Development Goal indicator) rose to 39.1% from 35.8% over the period. This figure is still below the 40.0% mark observed since July 2012.

- By occupation group, major gainers were farmers, forestry workers and fishermen (+527,000); executives, managers, managing proprietors, and supervisors (+186,000); and clerks (+175,000).
- The main losers were laborers and unskilled workers (-393,000) and service workers and shop and market sales workers (-162,000). The magnitudes of the former group of workers have been on the decline since July 2012.
- Employment gains were reported mainly in Region IV-A (+221,000), ARMM (+53,000), Region VII

* Exclude Region VIII data.

(+52,000) and Region II (+51,000). Losses were recorded in eight (8) regions led by NCR (-69,000), followed by Region IX (-54,000) and Region VI (-38,000). (Table 2a)

Underemployment

- On a brighter note, lesser number of employed persons wanted or expressed the desire for additional job or hours of work.

For this period, the number of underemployed persons fell by 363,000 to 7.101 million. This figure corresponds to 19.5% of total employed, down from 20.7% a year before. (Table 3)

- The reduction was most apparent among workers in the services and agriculture sectors (-257,000 and -121,000, respectively) and among wage and salary workers in private establishments (-394,000).

The same observation can be seen in 11 out of the 17 administrative regions of the country. The biggest reductions occurred in Region III (-229,000), Region IX (-124,000) and Region XII (-122,000). (Table 6)

Region V was the only region which experienced a steep increase in underemployment rate (35.0% to 44.0%) and corresponding increase in number of underemployed persons (+197,000) during the review period.

Unemployment

The January 2014 unemployment rate at 7.5% was up marginally by 0.4 percentage point from last year. This figure is not statistically different from the rate

recorded in January 2013 at 7.1%. In absolute terms, the total number of unemployed persons stood at 2.969 million – upped by 193,000 from last year. The magnitude of unemployed persons has remained stagnant at less than three million since 2006.

- The bulk of the rise in unemployment occurred among the male workforce (+135,000); persons in the prime working age group 25 to 54 years old (+112,000); and among college graduates (+121,000). These are indications of increasing optimism among the working age population resulting to more people looking for work. (Table 4)

- Across regions, the National Capital Region registered the most significant rise in unemployment both in terms of level (+90,000) and rate (9.5% to 11.2%). Notable increases also occurred in Region V (+43,000), Region I (+40,000), Region X (+30,000) and Region IV-A (+21,000). With the exception of Region IV-A, all these regions posted decline in employment which resulted in higher unemployment rates. (Table 6)

- The proportion of unemployed persons who actively looked for work rose sharply in January 2014 to 51.1% (1.516 million) from 43.3% (1.202 million) along with the decline in the proportion of discouraged workers to 12.3% (364,000) from 15.2% (421,000). These could further imply increasing optimism among job seekers on the prospects of finding jobs on the back of the booming economy. (Table 4a)

FOR INQUIRIES

Regarding this report, contact **EMPLOYMENT AND MANPOWER STATISTICS DIVISION** at 527-3000 loc. 313/312
 Regarding other statistics and technical services, contact **BLES DATABANK** at 527-9311
 Or Write to BLES c/o **Databank**, 3/F DOLE Bldg. Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila, 1002
 FAX 527-9324 E mail: bles_emsd@dole.gov.ph Website: <http://www.bles.dole.gov.ph>

TABLE 1 - Key Employment Indicators, Philippines: January 2013 and 2014
(In Thousands Except Rates)

INDICATOR	2014 ^P	2013	Increment	Growth Rate (%)
Population 15 Years Old and Over	61,775	60,741	1,034	1.7
Labor Force	39,389	38,913	476	1.2
- Employed	36,420	36,137	283	0.8
- Unemployed	2,969	2,776	193	7.0
Underemployed	7,101	7,464	(363)	(4.9)
- Visible Underemployment ¹	4,357	4,192	165	3.9
Not in the Labor Force	22,387	21,828	559	2.6
Labor Force Participation Rate (%)	63.8	64.1		
Employment Rate(%)	92.5	92.9		
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.5	7.1		
Underemployment Rate (%)	19.5	20.7		
Visible Underemployment Rate (%)	12.0	11.6		
Mean Hours of Work	41.0	42.4		

Notes: Details may not add up to totals due to rounding.

Estimates exclude Region VIII data.

^p Preliminary.

¹ Includes number of underemployed persons who were with jobs but did not work during the reference period.

Source of data: Philippine Statistics Authority, Labor Force Survey.

TABLE 2 - Employment by Major Industry Group and Major Occupation Group
Philippines: January 2013 and 2014
(In Thousands Except Rates)

INDICATOR	2014 ^p	2013	Increment	Growth Rate (%)
EMPLOYED PERSONS	36,420	36,137	283	0.8
MAJOR INDUSTRY GROUP				
Agriculture	10,949	10,790	159	1.5
Agriculture, hunting and forestry	9,701	9,590	111	1.2
Fishing	1,248	1,200	48	4.0
Industry	5,779	5,674	105	1.9
Mining and quarrying	222	249	(27)	(10.8)
Manufacturing	3,079	3,066	13	0.4
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning	83	90	(7)	(7.8)
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	51	65	(14)	(21.5)
Construction	2,343	2,204	139	6.3
Services	19,691	19,673	18	0.1
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	6,798	6,793	5	0.1
Transportation and storage	2,588	2,593	(5)	(0.2)
Accommodation and food service activities	1,540	1,539	1	0.1
Information and communication	360	351	9	2.6
Financial and insurance activities	492	425	67	15.8
Real estate activities	177	215	(38)	(17.7)
Professional, scientific and technical activities	211	173	38	22.0
Administrative and support service activities	1,040	943	97	10.3
Public administration and defense; compulsory social security	1,814	1,857	(43)	(2.3)
Education	1,213	1,151	62	5.4
Human health and social work activities	482	450	32	7.1
Arts, entertainment and recreation	353	397	(44)	(11.1)
Other service activities	2,049	2,226	(177)	(8.0)
Activities of households as employers, undifferentiated goods and services-producing activities of households for own use	575	558	17	3.0
Activities of extraterritorial organizations and bodies	-	2	(2)	(100.0)
MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUP				
Officials of government and special interest organizations, corporate executives, managers, managing proprietors, and supervisors	5,998	5,812	186	3.2
Professionals	1,847	1,799	48	2.7
Technicians and associate professionals	955	1,017	(62)	(6.1)
Clerks	2,280	2,105	175	8.3
Service workers and shop and market sales workers	4,425	4,587	(162)	(3.5)
Farmers, forestry workers, and fishermen	5,009	4,482	527	11.8
Trades and related workers	2,465	2,496	(31)	(1.2)
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	1,922	1,958	(36)	(1.8)
Laborers and unskilled workers	11,399	11,792	(393)	(3.3)
Special occupations	119	88	31	35.2

Notes: Details may not add up to totals due to rounding.

Estimates exclude Region VIII data.

^p Preliminary.

Source of data: Philippine Statistics Authority, Labor Force Survey.

TABLE 2a - Employment by Class of Worker, Hours of Work and Region
Philippines: January 2013 and 2014
(In Thousands Except Rates)

INDICATOR	2014 ^P	2013	Increment	Growth Rate (%)
EMPLOYED PERSONS	36,420	36,137	283	0.8
CLASS OF WORKER				
Wage and salary workers	20,931	21,921	(990)	(4.5)
Worked for private household	1,875	2,024	(149)	(7.4)
Worked for private establishment	16,073	16,883	(810)	(4.8)
Worked for government or government corporation	2,865	2,860	5	0.2
Worked with pay in own family-operated farm or business	118	154	(36)	(23.4)
Employer in own family-operated farm or business	1,248	1,283	(35)	(2.7)
Self-employed without any paid employee	10,379	9,597	782	8.1
Worked without pay in own family-operated farm or business (unpaid family workers)	3,862	3,336	526	15.8
Proportion of self-employed and unpaid family workers in total employment (%) ¹	39.1	35.8		
HOURS OF WORK				
Less than 40 Hours (Part-Time Employment)	13,219	12,020	1,199	10.0
40 Hours and Over (Full-Time Employment)	22,653	23,773	(1,120)	(4.7)
Did Not Work	548	344	204	59.3
Mean Hours of Work	41.0	42.4		
REGION				
NCR	4,577	4,646	(69)	(1.5)
CAR	707	724	(17)	(2.3)
Region I	1,975	1,979	(4)	(0.2)
Region II	1,473	1,422	51	3.6
Region III	3,966	3,931	35	0.9
Region IV-A	5,001	4,780	221	4.6
Region IV-B	1,244	1,259	(15)	(1.2)
Region V	2,245	2,259	(14)	(0.6)
Region VI	3,083	3,121	(38)	(1.2)
Region VII	2,959	2,907	52	1.8
Region VIII	-	-	-	-
Region IX	1,339	1,393	(54)	(3.9)
Region X	1,918	1,929	(11)	(0.6)
Region XI	1,890	1,855	35	1.9
Region XII	1,717	1,684	33	2.0
Caraga	1,041	1,017	24	2.4
ARMM	1,285	1,232	53	4.3

Notes: Details may not add to totals due to rounding of figures.

Estimates exclude Region VIII data.

^p Preliminary.

¹ MDG indicator on employment.

Source of data: Philippine Statistics Authority, Labor Force Survey.

TABLE 3 - Summary Statistics on Underemployment, Philippines: January 2013 and 2014
(In Thousands Except Rates)

INDICATOR	2014 ^P	2013	Increment	Growth Rate (%)
UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS	7,101	7,464	(363)	(4.9)
HOURS WORKED				
- Worked less than 40 hours/week ¹	4,357	4,192	165	3.9
- Worked more than 40 hours/week	2,745	3,272	(527)	(16.1)
SECTOR				
- Agriculture	2,961	3,082	(121)	(3.9)
- Industry	1,221	1,206	15	1.2
- Services	2,919	3,176	(257)	(8.1)
CLASS OF WORKER				
Wage and salary workers	3,869	4,361	(492)	(11.3)
Worked for private household	255	313	(58)	(18.5)
Worked for private establishment	3,204	3,598	(394)	(11.0)
Worked for government or government corp.	393	421	(28)	(6.7)
Worked with pay in own family-operated farm or business	17	28	(11)	(39.3)
Employer in own family-operated farm or business	188	228	(40)	(17.5)
Self-employed without any paid employee	2,298	2,184	114	5.2
Worked without pay in own family-operated farm or business (unpaid family workers)	747	690	57	8.3
Underemployment rate (%)	19.5	20.7		
Visible underemployment rate (%) ¹	11.5	11.3		

Notes: Details may not add to totals due to rounding of figures.

Estimates exclude Region VIII data.

^p Preliminary.

¹ Includes number of underemployed persons who were with jobs but did not work during the reference period.

Source of data: Philippine Statistics Authority, Labor Force Survey.

TABLE 4 - Summary Statistics on Unemployment, Philippines: January 2013 and 2014
(In Thousands Except Rates/Percent)

INDICATOR	Total Unemployed Persons		Percent Share		Labor Force		Unemployment Rate (%)	
	2014 ^P	2013	2014 ^P	2013	2014 ^P	2013	2014 ^P	2013
TOTAL	2,969	2,776	100.0	100.0	39,389	38,913	7.5	7.1
Sex								
Male	1,899	1,764	64.0	63.5	23,944	23,465	7.9	7.5
Female	1,070	1,012	36.0	36.5	15,444	15,448	6.9	6.6
Age Group								
15-24 years old	1,432	1,368	48.2	49.3	8,274	8,122	17.3	16.8
25-54 years old	1,405	1,293	47.3	46.6	26,098	25,782	5.4	5.0
55 years old and over	132	114	4.4	4.1	5,017	5,008	2.6	2.3
Not reported	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Highest Grade Completed								
No Grade Completed	11	14	0.4	0.5				
Elementary	392	407	13.2	14.7				
Undergraduate	174	182	5.9	6.6				
Graduate	218	226	7.3	8.1				
High School	1,347	1,304	45.4	47.0				
Undergraduate	337	356	11.4	12.8				
Graduate	1,010	948	34.0	34.1				
Post Secondary	236	218	7.9	7.9				
Undergraduate	38	63	1.3	2.3				
Graduate	198	154	6.7	5.5				
College	983	833	33.1	30.0				
Undergraduate	396	367	13.3	13.2				
Graduate	587	466	19.8	16.8				

Notes: Details may not add to totals due to rounding of figures.

Estimates exclude Region VIII data.

^p Preliminary.

Source of data: Philippine Statistics Authority, Labor Force Survey.

**TABLE 4a - Unemployed Persons by Number of Weeks Looking for Work
and Unemployed Persons Not Looking for Work by Reason
Philippines: January 2013 and 2014
(In Thousands Except Percent)**

INDICATOR	Total Unemployed Persons		Percent Share (%)	
	2014 ^P	2013	2014 ^P	2013
TOTAL	2,969	2,776	100.0	100.0
Looked for Work	1,516	1,202	51.1	43.3
Did not Look for Work Due to Valid Reasons	1,453	1,574	48.9	56.7
Tired/Believe no work available	364	421	12.3	15.2
Awaiting results of previous job application	385	416	13.0	15.0
Temporary illness/disability	164	193	5.5	7.0
Bad weather	95	45	3.2	1.6
Waiting for rehire/job recall	444	499	15.0	18.0

Notes: Details may not add to totals due to rounding of figures.

Estimates exclude Region VIII data.

p Preliminary.

Source of data: Philippine Statistics Authority, Labor Force Survey.

**TABLE 5 - Summary Statistics on Household Population 15 years Old and Over
and Labor Force, Philippines: January 2013 and 2014**
(In Thousands Except Rates/Percent)

INDICATOR	Total Population 15 Years Old and Over			Labor Force			Labor Force Participation Rate (%)		
	2014 ^p	2013	Increment	2014 ^p	2013	Increment	2014 ^p	2013	Increment
TOTAL	61,775	60,741	1,034	39,389	38,913	476	63.8	64.1	(0.3)
Sex									
Male	30,758	30,238	520	23,944	23,465	479	77.8	77.6	0.2
Female	31,017	30,503	514	15,444	15,448	(4)	49.8	50.6	(0.9)
Age Group									
15-24 years old	18,484	18,160	324	8,274	8,122	152	44.8	44.7	0.1
25-54 years old	33,852	33,316	536	26,098	25,783	315	77.1	77.4	(0.3)
55 years old and over	9,437	9,261	176	5,017	5,008	9	53.2	54.1	(0.9)
Not reported	2	4	(2)	-	-	-	-	-	-

Notes: Details may not add to totals due to rounding of figures.

Estimates exclude Region VIII data.

p Preliminary.

Source of data: Philippine Statistics Authority, Labor Force Surveys

TABLE 6 - Labor Force, Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment by Region, Philippines: January 2013 and 2014

(In Thousands Except Rates)

Region	Total Population 15 Years Old and Over		Labor Force				Employment				Unemployment				Underemployment			
			2014 ^P		2013		2014 ^P		2013		2014 ^P		2013		2014 ^P		2013	
	2014 ^P	2013	No.	LFPR (%)	No.	LFPR (%)	No.	Rate (%)	No.	Rate (%)	No.	Rate (%)	No.	Rate (%)	No.	Rate (%)	No.	Rate (%)
Philippines	61,775	60,741	39,389	63.8	38,913	64.1	36,420	92.5	36,137	92.9	2,969	7.5	2,776	7.1	7,101	19.5	7,464	20.7
NCR	8,115	8,048	5,151	63.5	5,130	63.7	4,577	88.9	4,646	90.6	575	11.2	485	9.5	552	12.1	623	13.4
CAR	1,163	1,145	757	65.1	765	66.8	707	93.4	724	94.6	49	6.5	41	5.4	99	14.0	133	18.4
Region I	3,524	3,449	2,177	61.8	2,141	62.1	1,975	90.7	1,979	92.4	202	9.3	162	7.6	355	18.0	383	19.4
Region II	2,305	2,267	1,531	66.4	1,471	64.9	1,473	96.2	1,422	96.7	58	3.8	49	3.3	149	10.1	222	15.6
Region III	7,097	6,960	4,349	61.3	4,325	62.1	3,966	91.2	3,931	90.9	383	8.8	394	9.1	447	11.3	676	17.2
Region IV-A	8,362	8,200	5,487	65.6	5,246	64.0	5,001	91.1	4,780	91.1	486	8.9	465	8.9	957	19.1	894	18.7
Region IV-B	1,987	1,938	1,311	66.0	1,313	67.8	1,244	94.9	1,259	95.9	67	5.1	54	4.1	285	22.9	349	27.7
Region V	3,863	3,815	2,426	62.8	2,397	62.8	2,245	92.5	2,259	94.2	181	7.5	138	5.8	987	44.0	790	35.0
Region VI	5,203	5,123	3,301	63.4	3,319	64.8	3,083	93.4	3,121	94.0	218	6.6	198	6.0	707	22.9	682	21.9
Region VII	4,945	4,846	3,168	64.1	3,138	64.8	2,959	93.4	2,907	92.6	209	6.6	231	7.4	619	20.9	563	19.4
Region VIII	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Region IX	2,240	2,201	1,398	62.4	1,441	65.5	1,339	95.8	1,393	96.7	59	4.2	48	3.3	254	19.0	378	27.1
Region X	3,040	2,989	2,062	67.8	2,044	68.4	1,918	93.0	1,929	94.4	145	7.0	115	5.6	556	29.0	475	24.6
Region XI	3,121	3,074	2,020	64.7	1,979	64.4	1,890	93.6	1,855	93.7	130	6.4	125	6.3	372	19.7	392	21.1
Region XII	2,734	2,681	1,789	65.4	1,769	66.0	1,717	96.0	1,684	95.2	72	4.0	85	4.8	342	19.9	464	27.6
Caraga	1,748	1,721	1,126	64.4	1,109	64.4	1,041	92.5	1,017	91.7	85	7.5	92	8.3	269	25.8	274	26.9
ARMM	2,331	2,285	1,336	57.3	1,324	57.9	1,285	96.2	1,232	93.1	51	3.8	93	7.0	151	11.8	165	13.4

Notes: Details may not add to totals due to rounding of figures.

Estimates exclude Region VIII data.

p Preliminary.

Source of data: Philippine Statistics Authority, Labor Force Survey.