



# PRESS RELEASE

**Unemployment rate in January 2021 is estimated at 8.7 percent**

Date of Release: 09 March 2021

Reference No. 2021-107

**Table A-1. Results from the January 2021 Labor Force Survey (LFS)**

Philippines	January 2021 <sup>P</sup>	October 2020 <sup>P</sup>	July 2020 <sup>P</sup>	April 2020 <sup>f</sup>	January 2020 <sup>f</sup>
Population 15 years old and over (in 000)	74,733	74,307	74,061	73,722	72,841
Labor Force Participation Rate (%)	60.5	58.7	61.9	55.7	61.7
Employment Rate (%)	91.3	91.3	90.0	82.4	94.7
Underemployment Rate (%)	16.0	14.4	17.3	18.9	14.8
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.7	8.7	10.0	17.6	5.3

Notes:

<sup>P</sup> Estimates are preliminary and may change

<sup>f</sup> Final

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, Labor Force Survey

## Highlights of the January 2021 Labor Force Survey (LFS)

- In the Philippines, unemployment rate in January 2021 remained the same as the October 2020 rate of 8.7 percent. This is the lowest since April 2020 but higher than the January 2020 rate of 5.3 percent. (Table A-1)
- In terms of magnitude, around 4.0 million Filipinos 15 years old and over were unemployed in January 2021 compared to 2.4 million in January 2020. (Table A)
- Labor force participation rate (LFPR) in January 2021 was placed at 60.5 percent accounting for 45.2 million Filipinos 15 years and over who were in the labor force. This is lower than the LFPR in the same period a year ago at 61.7 percent but higher than the previous quarter's 58.7 percent. (Table A)
- Employment rate in January 2021 stood at 91.3 percent, which is the same as the October 2020 rate. This means that 41.2 million Filipinos were employed out of 45.2 million Filipinos in the labor force in January 2021. This estimated rate is lower than the reported 94.7 percent in January 2020. (Table A).

*COF*



- e. Underemployed persons or employed persons who expressed their desire to have additional hours of work in their present job or to have additional job, or to have a new job with longer hours of work was estimated at 6.6 million or 16.0 percent of the total employed persons in January 2021. This underemployment rate is higher than the October 2020 rate of 14.4 percent, and the January 2020 rate of 14.8 percent. (Table A)
- f. The average weekly hours of work of an employed person decreased in January 2021 at 39.3 hours from an average of 41.3 hours in January 2020. This is also lower than the average weekly hours of work in October 2020 at 40.8 hours. (Table A)
- g. By region, unemployment rates in seven (7) areas of the country were reportedly higher than the national estimate of 8.7 percent in January 2021. Two of these regions, CALABARZON, and Bicol Region, reported double-digit unemployment rates of 13.1 percent, and 11.3 percent, respectively. Equivalently, these regions were reported to have more than ten unemployed persons for every 100 persons in the labor force. (Table 4A)
- h. Among men and women, labor force participation rate in January 2021 was higher for men (73.9%) than for women (46.9%). On the other hand, employment rate for men was registered at 91.3 percent while 91.2 percent for women. Men also reported higher underemployment rate at 17.6 percent compared to underemployment rate for women at 13.4 percent. (Table D)
- i. By industry group, the services sector remained dominant with 57.2 percent share to the total employed persons, followed by the agriculture sector with 24.4 percent share, and the industry sector with 18.4 percent which accounted for the smallest share. (Table 1A)

The top three (3) sub-sectors that bounced back in terms of employment level from October 2020 to January 2021 were as follows: arts, entertainment, and recreation under the services sector (25.7%); mining and quarrying under the industry sector (14.1%); and real estate activities (11.3%). On the other hand, the fishing and aquaculture sub-sector registered the lowest drop in employment by -16.1 percent from October 2020 to January 2021. (Table B)

In terms of year-on-year employment growth rates, two sub-sectors reported the biggest decline in employment, namely, electricity, gas, steam and air-conditioning supply at -34.7 percent; and arts, entertainment and recreation at -31.8 percent. On the other hand, information and communication had the highest year-on-year employment growth rate (25.0%) followed by human health and social work activities (11.9%). (Table B)

- j. Youth LFPR was placed at 34.7 percent in January 2021, 33.9 percent in October 2020, and 37.4 percent in January 2020. Youth employment rate was lowest in January 2021 at 80.2 percent compared to the rates in October 2020 and in January 2020 at 80.6 percent and 86.4 percent, respectively. Underemployed youth was estimated at 826 thousand out of the 5.6 million 15 to 24 years old individuals reported as employed in January 2021. Youth unemployment rate was higher at 19.8 percent accounting for around 1.4 million youth with no job or business in January 2021. (Table A)



**DENNIS S. MAPA, Ph.D.**

Undersecretary

National Statistician and Civil Registrar General

WAG/MMV/MCG

*Attachments:*

1. *Table A - Key Employment Indicators, Philippines: January 2021<sup>P</sup>, October 2020<sup>P</sup>, and January 2020*
2. *Table B - Employment by Major Industry Group and Total Hours Worked, Philippines: January 2021<sup>P</sup>, October 2020<sup>P</sup>, and January 2020*
3. *Table C - Reasons for Working Less Than 40 Hours, Working More than 48 Hours, and with Job but not at Work: January 2021<sup>P</sup>, October 2020<sup>P</sup>, and January 2020*
4. *Table D - Key Employment Indicators by Sex, Philippines: January 2021<sup>P</sup>, October 2020, and January 2020*
5. *Table 1 - Employed Persons by Sector, Occupation and Class of Worker, Philippines: January 2021<sup>P</sup>, October 2020<sup>P</sup>, and January 2020*
6. *Table 1a - Employed Persons by Sector, Occupation and Class of Worker, Philippines: January 202<sup>P</sup>, October 2020<sup>P</sup>, and January 2020 (rates)*
7. *Table 2 - Employed Persons by Sector, Subsector, and Hours Worked, Philippines: January 2021<sup>P</sup>, October 2020<sup>P</sup>, and January 2020*
8. *Table 2a - Employed Persons by Sector, Subsector, and Hours Worked, Philippines: January 2021<sup>P</sup>, October 2020<sup>P</sup>, and January 2020 (rates)*
9. *Table 3 - Underemployed Persons by Hours Worked and Sector, and Unemployed Persons by Age Group, Sex and Highest Grade Completed: January 2021<sup>P</sup>, October 2020<sup>P</sup>, and January 2020*
10. *Table 3a - Underemployed Persons by Hours Worked and Sector, and Unemployed Persons by Age Group, Sex and Highest Grade Completed: January 2021<sup>P</sup>, October 2020<sup>P</sup>, and January 2020 (rates)*
11. *Table 4 - Total Population 15 Years Old and Over, and Rates of Labor Force Participation, Employment, Unemployment, and Underemployment: by Region: January 2021<sup>P</sup>, October 2020<sup>P</sup>, and January 2020*
12. *Table 4a - Total Population 15 Years Old and Over, and Rates of Labor Force Participation, Employment, Unemployment, and Underemployment: by Region: January 2021<sup>P</sup>, October 2020<sup>P</sup>, and January 2020 (rates)*
13. *Technical Notes*