

# PRESS RELEASE

## Employment Rate in July 2023 was Estimated at 95.2 Percent

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**Table A-1. Key Labor and Employment Indicators  
2019<sup>f</sup>-July 2023<sup>P</sup>**

Philippines	Labor Force Participation Rate (%)	Employment Rate (%)	Underemployment Rate (%)	Unemployment Rate (%)
2019 <sup>f</sup>	61.3	94.9	13.8	5.1
2020 <sup>f</sup>	59.5	89.7	16.2	10.3
2021 <sup>f</sup>	63.3	92.2	15.9	7.8
2022 <sup>P</sup>	64.7	94.6	14.2	5.4
January <sup>f</sup>	60.5	93.6	14.9	6.4
February <sup>f</sup>	63.8	93.6	14.0	6.4
March <sup>f</sup>	65.4	94.2	15.8	5.8
April <sup>f</sup>	63.4	94.3	14.0	5.7
May <sup>f</sup>	64.0	94.0	14.5	6.0
June <sup>f</sup>	64.8	94.0	12.6	6.0
July <sup>f</sup>	65.2	94.8	13.8	5.2
August <sup>P</sup>	66.1	94.7	14.7	5.3
September <sup>P</sup>	65.2	95.0	15.4	5.0
October <sup>P</sup>	64.2	95.5	14.2	4.5
November <sup>P</sup>	67.5	95.8	14.4	4.2
December <sup>P</sup>	66.4	95.7	12.6	4.3
2023 <sup>P</sup>	64.8	95.4	12.9	4.6
January <sup>P</sup>	64.5	95.2	14.1	4.8
February <sup>P</sup>	66.6	95.2	12.9	4.8
March <sup>P</sup>	66.0	95.3	11.2	4.7
April <sup>P</sup>	65.1	95.5	12.9	4.5
May <sup>P</sup>	65.3	95.7	11.7	4.3
June <sup>P</sup>	66.1	95.5	12.0	4.5
July <sup>P</sup>	60.1	95.2	15.9	4.8

**Notes:**

<sup>f</sup> Estimates are final

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

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, Labor Force Survey

## Highlights of the July 2023 Labor Force Survey

1. In July 2023, the country's unemployment rate decreased to 4.8 percent from 5.2 percent in the same month last year. Unemployment rate was posted at 4.5 percent in April 2023. (Tables A and A-1)

In terms of level, the number of unemployed in July 2023 was estimated at 2.27 million, posting a decline of 329 thousand from the 2.60 million reported in July 2022. (Table A)

2. Employment rate in July 2023 was registered at 95.2 percent. This was higher than the reported rate in July 2022 at 94.8 percent, but lower than the estimate in April 2023 at 95.5 percent. (Tables A and A-1)
3. The country's Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR) in July 2023 decreased to 60.1 percent from 65.2 percent in July 2022 and 65.1 percent in April 2023. This LFPR translates to 46.90 million who were either employed or unemployed. (Tables A and A-1)
4. The number of underemployed persons or employed persons who expressed the desire to have additional hours of work in their present job or to have an additional, or to have a new job with longer hours of work was registered at 7.10 million translating to an underemployment rate of 15.9 percent. This was higher than the reported rate in July 2022 (13.8%) and April 2023 (12.9%). (Table A)
5. On average, employed persons worked 42.3 hours per week, which was higher than the average hours worked in a week in July 2022 at 40.5 hours and in April 2023 at 36.9 hours. (Tables A and 2)
6. By broad industry group, the services sector consistently dominated the employment hub accounting for 59.4 percent of the total employed persons in July 2023. The agriculture and the industry sectors accounted for 21.5 percent and 19.0 percent, respectively. (Table 1)

The year-on-year changes in the number of employed persons in July 2023 showed the following top five sub-sectors with their annual increments:

- a. Transportation and storage (337 thousand);
- b. Administrative and support service activities (243 thousand);
- c. Professional, scientific and technical activities (162 thousand);
- d. Information and communication (117 thousand); and
- e. Manufacturing (75 thousand).

On the other hand, the following were the top five subsectors that posted the highest decline in the number of employed persons from July 2022 to July 2023:

- a. Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (-1.97 million);
- b. Agriculture and Forestry (-1.58 million);
- c. Public administration and defense; compulsory social security (-271 thousand);
- d. Arts, entertainment and recreation (-44 thousand); and
- e. Real estate activities (-32 thousand);

(Table B)

For the quarter-on-quarter changes in the number of employed persons in July 2023, the top five subsectors with the largest increase were the following:

- a. Construction (195 thousand);
- b. Professional, scientific and technical activities (124 thousand);
- c. Manufacturing (116 thousand);
- d. Fishing and aquaculture (97 thousand); and
- e. Information and communication (50 thousand).

In contrast, the top five subsectors with the largest drop in the number of employed persons from April 2023 to July 2023 were the following:

- a. Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (-2.06 million);
- b. Agriculture and Forestry (-1.03 million);
- c. Public administration and defense; compulsory social security (-263 thousand);
- d. Education (-212 thousand); and
- e. Accommodation and food service activities (-151 thousand);

(Table B)

7. Wage and salary workers continued to account for the largest share of employed persons with 67.2 percent of the total employed persons in July 2023. This was followed by self-employed persons without any paid employee at 25.2 percent and unpaid family workers at 4.5 percent. Employer in own family-operated farm or business had the lowest share of 3.1 percent.

Among wage and salary workers, employed persons in private establishments made up 53.4 percent of the total employed, followed by employed in government or government-controlled corporations with 9.1 percent share. (Table 1)

8. Across regions, Region II or Cagayan Valley posted the highest employment rate of 96.7 percent in July 2023. This was followed by Region XI or Davao Region (96.5%) and Region XII or SOCCSKSARGEN (96.4%). (Table 4)

9. Unemployment rate at the regional level showed that seven of the 17 regions posted an unemployment rate higher than the national rate of 4.8 percent in July 2023. These were Region V or Bicol Region (6.2%), Region IV-A or CALABARZON (5.9%), Region VII or Central Visayas (5.5%), Region X or Northern Mindanao (5.4%), Region VIII or Eastern Visayas (5.1%), Region XIII or Caraga (5.1%) and National Capital Region (4.9%). (Table 4)
10. Youth LFPR was placed at 29.6 percent in July 2023, which was lower than the reported youth LFPR in July 2022 (37.1%) and April 2023 (34.7%). Employment rate among youth decreased to 86.0 percent from 88.1 percent in the same month last year and 90.0 percent in April 2023. (Table A)

The proportion of youth not in education, employment or training (NEET) in July 2023 increased to 14.7 percent from 12.9 percent in July last year and 10.3 percent in April 2023. (Table A)

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**Attachments:**

1. *Table A - Key Employment Indicators with Measures of Precision, Philippines: July 2022<sup>f</sup>, January 2023<sup>p</sup>, February 2023<sup>p</sup>, March 2023<sup>p</sup>, April 2023<sup>p</sup>, May 2023<sup>p</sup>, June 2023<sup>p</sup> and July 2023<sup>p</sup> (In Thousands Except Rates)*
2. *Table B - Employment by Major Industry Group and Total Hours Worked, Philippines: July 2022<sup>f</sup>, January 2023<sup>p</sup>, February 2023<sup>p</sup>, March 2023<sup>p</sup>, April 2023<sup>p</sup>, May 2023<sup>p</sup>, June 2023<sup>p</sup> and July 2023<sup>p</sup> (In Thousands Except Rates)*
3. *Table C - Reasons for Working Less Than 40 Hours, Working More than 48 Hours, and with Job but not at Work, Philippines: July 2022<sup>f</sup>, January 2023<sup>p</sup>, February 2023<sup>p</sup>, March 2023<sup>p</sup>, April 2023<sup>p</sup>, May 2023<sup>p</sup>, June 2023<sup>p</sup> and July 2023<sup>p</sup> (In Percent)*
4. *Table D - Key Employment Indicators by Sex with Measures of Precision, Philippines: July 2022<sup>f</sup>, January 2023<sup>p</sup>, February 2023<sup>p</sup>, March 2023<sup>p</sup>, April 2023<sup>p</sup>, May 2023<sup>p</sup>, June 2023<sup>p</sup> and July 2023<sup>p</sup> (In Thousands Except Rates)*
5. *Table 1 - Employed Persons by Sector, Occupation and Class of Worker with Measures of Precision, Philippines: July 2022<sup>f</sup>, January 2023<sup>p</sup>, February 2023<sup>p</sup>, March 2023<sup>p</sup>, April 2023<sup>p</sup>, May 2023<sup>p</sup>, June 2023<sup>p</sup> and July 2023<sup>p</sup> (In Percent)*
6. *Table 2 - Employed Persons by Sector, Subsector, and Hours Worked with Measures of Precision, Philippines: July 2022<sup>f</sup>, January 2023<sup>p</sup>, February 2023<sup>p</sup>, March 2023<sup>p</sup>, April 2023<sup>p</sup>, May 2023<sup>p</sup>, June 2023<sup>p</sup> and July 2023<sup>p</sup> (In Percent)*
7. *Table 3 - Underemployed Persons by Hours Worked and Sector, and Unemployed Persons by Age Group, Sex and Highest Grade Completed with Measures of Precision: July 2022<sup>f</sup>, January 2023<sup>p</sup>, February 2023<sup>p</sup>, March 2023<sup>p</sup>, April 2023<sup>p</sup>, May 2023<sup>p</sup>, June 2023<sup>p</sup> and July 2023<sup>p</sup> (In Percent)*
8. *Table 4 - Total Population 15 Years Old and Over and Number of Labor Force, Employed, Unemployed and Underemployed, by Region: July 2022<sup>f</sup>, October 2022<sup>p</sup>, January 2023<sup>p</sup>, April 2023<sup>p</sup>, and July 2023<sup>p</sup> (In Thousands Except Rates)*
9. *Technical Notes*