# OCCUPATIONAL SHORTAGES and SURPLUSES: 2015-2016 ...STATISTICS ON JOB VACANCIES 

(Fourth of a series)
This LABSTAT Updates is the fourth in a series of reports that presents the highlights of the results of the 2015/2016 Integrated Survey on Labor and Employment (ISLE) module entitled Occupational Shortages and Surpluses. Conducted every two years, the ISLE is a nationwide sample survey covering agricultural and non-agricultural establishments with 20 or more workers. The latest survey, 2015/2016 ISLE, covered 12,926 establishments.

The indicator for employment by occupation comprises statistics on job vacancies classified according to major groups as defined in the 2012 Philippine Standard Occupational Classification (PSOC). This version of the PSOC distinguishes 10 major groups: (1) Managers; (2) Professionals; (3) Technicians and associate professionals; (4) Clerical support workers; (5) Service and sales workers; (6) Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers; (7) Craft and related trade workers; (8) Plant and machine operators and assemblers; (9) Elementary occupations; and (10) Armed forces occupations. This issue presents statistics on job openings or vacancies that were made available for placements by establishments during the 18-month period covering January 2015 to June 2016 specifically for Technicians and associate professionals.

## Job vacancies specific for technicians and associate professionals

The number of vacant positions specific for technicians and associate professionals was estimated at 83,340 or 11.93 percent of the total job vacancies posted for all occupations $(698,683)$ from January 2015 to June 2016.

By sector, about two-thirds of the total job vacancies were recorded in the services sector (66.8\%) during the period. Industry sector had 32.8 percent while agriculture, forestry and fishing
took the remaining 0.4 percent of the total job openings. (Figure 1)


Across major industry group, manufacturing posted the largest number of vacancies at 29.4 percent, followed by administrative support services
activities and wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles with a share of 28.2 and 17.0 percent, respectively. For the remaining industries, each had less than 10 percent share of the total vacancies for technicians and associate professionals. (Table 1 and Figure 2)


Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2015/2016 ISLE.
By major group of occupations, job openings were most observed in business and administration associate professionals at 39 percent of the total vacancies during the period. This was followed by science and engineering associate professionals (34\%); and information and communication technicians (18\%).

## More job openings for

 Commercial Sales RepresentativesAs for the specific occupations, half of the total vacancies for the group of technicians and associate professionals were comprised of
commercial sales representatives (19.6\%); and information and communications technology user support technicians (17.4\%). All other notable job openings in various occupations in this group had less than 10 percent share each (Table 2).

## Job seekers mostly vied for vacancies in the services sector

With regard to the number of applicants, a total of 3,824,983 sought for jobs for all occupations, of which 965,584 or 25.24 percent were job seekers for technicians and associate professional positions. (Table 1)

Eighty-nine percent (89\%) of the total applicants in this group looked for any jobs in the services sector. (Figure 3)


Bulk of the applicants applied for technician and associate positions offered by the establishments engaged in administrative and support service activities (69.2\%). The rest of the industries had only
less than 10 percent share of applicants applied for their job openings. (Table 1 and Figure 4)


Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2015/2016 ISLE.

## Most sought occupations are IT-related

Meanwhile, among occupations, majority of the total jobseekers applied for the vacancies for information and communications technology user support technicians, commercial sales representatives, and accounting associate professionals with nearly 75 percent share to the total job aspirants, collectively. (Table 2)

## Twelve applicants for every vacant technicians and associate professional positions

For all industries, the ratio of total applicants to the total vacancies was 11.6. This implied that for every vacant position, there were about 12 applicants vied for the positions available for placement. (Table 1)

## Occupational Surpluses

Occupational surplus happens if there are excess or more than ten (10) applicants per vacancy.

Across industries, those vacant positions reported in the administrative and support service activities had remarkable surplus with a ratio of about 29 applicants per job vacancy. Occupations under real estate activities were placed far second with a ratio of 10 to 11 applicants per vacancy.

## A surplus of ICT user support technicians

As to specific occupations, the highest applicant per vacancy ratio was recorded by information and communications technology user support technicians with about 48 applicants per vacancy.

A distant second was veterinary technicians and assistants (30) followed by trade brokers (25.7); legal secretaries (20.8) and conference and event planners (19.1). Other occupations with substantial number of applicants were buyers; employment agents and contractors; chemical processing plant controllers; civil engineering technicians; and legal and related associate professionals with more than 10 applicants per vacancy. (Table 3 and Figure 5)


Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2015/2016 ISLE.

## Occupational Shortages

On the other hand, occupational shortages for technician and associate professionals job vacancy were reported in some industries. This happens when there is insufficiency of applicants to fill up job vacancies.

Among industries, human health and social work activities; Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities; agriculture, forestry and fishing; and other service activities reported lack of applicants with 3 or less applicants applied for every job vacancy they offered. (Table 1)

At the bottom list of specific occupations with reported shortages of applicants were: life science technicians (excluding medical); Police inspectors and detectives; and air traffic safety electronics technicians with only one (1) applicant per vacancy. Also included in the least applicant/vacancy ratio were: power production plant operators (1.3); midwifery associate professionals (1.4); air traffic controllers (1.4); community health workers (1.7); ambulance workers (1.8); fitness and recreation instructors and program leaders (1.9); and sports coaches, instructors and officials (2.1). (Table 3 and Figure 6)


Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2015/2016 ISLE.

## Definition of Terms

Technicians and associate professionals perform mostly technical and related tasks connected with research and the application of scientific or artistic concepts and operational methods, and government or business regulations. Most occupations in this major group require skills at the third ISCO skill level. Tasks performed by technicians and associate professionals usually include: undertaking and carrying out technical work connected with research and the application of concepts and operational methods in the fields of physical sciences including engineering and technology, life sciences including the medical profession, and social sciences and humanities; initiating and carrying out various technical services related to trade, finance, administration, including administration of government laws and regulations, and to social work; providing technical support for the arts and entertainment; participating in sporting activities; executing some religious tasks. Supervision of other workers may be included.

Source: 2012 Philippine Standard Occupational Classification (PSOC)

## For Inquiries

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TABLE 1 - Number of Vacancies and Applicants for Technicians and Associate Professionals by Major Industry Group, Philippines: January 2015 to June 2016

|  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  | Vacancies | Applicants |
|  |  |  |

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2015/2016 ISLE.

TABLE 2 - Number of Vacancies and Applicants for the Top Technicians and Associate Professional Positions in Establishments with 20 or More Workers by Occupation, Philippines: January 2015 to June 2016

| OCCUPATION TITLE | Vacancies |  | Applicants |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Number | Percent to Total | Number | Percent to Total |
| ALL OCCUPATIONS | 698,683 |  | 3,824,983 |  |
| Technicians and Associate Professionals | 83,340 | 11.9 | 965,584 | 25.2 |
| 1 Commercial Sales Representatives | 16,369 | 19.6 | 69,437 | 7.2 |
| 2 Information and Communications Technology User Support Technicians | 12,062 | 14.5 | 575,107 | 59.6 |
| 3 Accounting Associate Professionals | 6,669 | 8.0 | 64,376 | 6.7 |
| 4 Mechanical Engineering Technicians | 2,758 | 3.3 | 14,274 | 1.5 |
| 5 Information and Communications Technology Operations Technicians | 2,451 | 2.9 | 8,191 | 0.8 |
| 6 Manufacturing Supervisors | 2,369 | 2.8 | 11,047 | 1.1 |
| 7 Credit and Loans Officers | 2,331 | 2.8 | 12,877 | 1.3 |
| 8 Environmental and Occupational Health Inspectors and Associates | 2,137 | 2.6 | 13,641 | 1.4 |
| 9 Electronics Engineering Technicians | 2,119 | 2.5 | 7,860 | 0.8 |
| 10 Power Production Plant Operators | 1,824 | 2.2 | 2,413 | 0.2 |
| 11 Pharmaceutical Technicians and Assistants | 1,578 | 1.9 | 5,699 | 0.6 |
| 12 Electrical Engineering Technicians | 1,429 | 1.7 | 6,341 | 0.7 |
| 13 Office Supervisors | 1,393 | 1.7 | 14,512 | 1.5 |
| 14 Medical Imaging and Therapeutic Equipment Technicians | 1,281 | 1.5 | 4,954 | 0.5 |
| 15 Buyers | 1,072 | 1.3 | 18,629 | 1.9 |
| 16 Administrative and Executive Secretaries | 792 | 1.0 | 8,298 | 0.9 |
| 17 Draughtspersons | 585 | 0.7 | 2,997 | 0.3 |
| 18 Medical and Pathology Laboratory Technicians | 508 | 0.6 | 1,126 | 0.1 |
| 19 Customs and Border Inspectors | 489 | 0.6 | 1,775 | 0.2 |
| 20 Real Estate Agents and Property Managers | 438 | 0.5 | 2,507 | 0.3 |

[^0]TABLE 3 - Number of Applicants per Vacancy for Technicians and Associate Professional Positions by Occupation, Philippines: January 2015 to June 2016

| OCCUPATION TITLE | Applicants per <br> Vacancy |
| :--- | :---: |
| Information and Communications Technology User Support Technicians | 47.7 |
| Veterinary Technicians and Assistants | 30.0 |
| Trade Brokers | 25.7 |
| Legal Secretaries | 20.8 |
| Conference and Event Planners | 19.1 |
| Buyers | 17.4 |
| Employment Agents and Contractors | 17.3 |
| Chemical Processing Plant Controllers | 13.2 |
| Civil Engineering Technicians | 12.5 |
| Legal and Related Associate Professionals | 11.0 |
| Administrative and Executive Secretaries | 10.5 |
| Office Supervisors | 10.4 |
| Accounting Associate Professionals | 9.7 |
| Dental Assistants and Therapists | 9.5 |
| Ships' Deck Officers and Pilots | 9.0 |
| Web Technicians | 8.6 |
| Government Social Benefits Officials | 8.1 |
| Telecommunications Engineering Technicians | 8.1 |
| Clearing and Forwarding Agents | 7.9 |
| Medical Secretaries | 7.1 |
| Interior Designers and Decorators | 7.0 |
| Mining Supervisors | 6.9 |
| Regulatory Government Associate Professionals Not Elsewhere Classified | 6.8 |
| Valuers and Loss Assessors | 6.8 |
| Gallery, Museum and Library Technicians | 6.6 |
| Environmental and Occupational Health Inspectors and Associates | 6.4 |
| Insurance Representatives | 6.3 |
| Petroleum and Natural Gas Refining Plant Operators | 5.9 |
| Artistic and Cultural Associate Professionals Not Elsewhere Classified | 5.9 |
| Business Services Agents Not Elsewhere Classified | 5.8 |
| Construction Supervisors | 5.7 |
| Real Estate Agents and Property Managers | 5.7 |
| Credit and Loans Officers | 5.5 |
| Agricultural Technicians | 5.3 |
| Government Tax and Excise Officials | a |

TABLE 3 - Number of Applicants per Vacancy for Technicians and Associate Professional Positions by Occupation, Philippines: January 2015 to June 2016 (Continued)

| OCCUPATION TITLE | Applicants per Vacancy |
| :---: | :---: |
| Mechanical Engineering Technicians | 5.2 |
| Statistical, Mathematical and Related Associate Professionals | 5.2 |
| Draughtspersons | 5.1 |
| Process Control Technicians | 4.8 |
| Manufacturing Supervisors | 4.7 |
| Broadcasting and Audio-visual Technicians | 4.6 |
| Physical and Engineering Science Technicians Not Elsewhere Classified | 4.5 |
| Electrical Engineering Technicians | 4.4 |
| Chefs | 4.4 |
| Health Associate Professionals Not Elsewhere Classified | 4.3 |
| Commercial Sales Representatives | 4.2 |
| Medical Assistants | 4.1 |
| Ships' Deck Officers and Pilots | 4.0 |
| Ships' Engineers | 4.0 |
| Chemical and Physical Science Technicians | 4.0 |
| Medical Imaging and Therapeutic Equipment Technicians | 3.9 |
| Electronics Engineering Technicians | 3.7 |
| Medical Records and Health Information Technicians | 3.7 |
| Chemical Engineering Technicians | 3.7 |
| Computer Network and Systems Technicians | 3.7 |
| Customs and Border Inspectors | 3.6 |
| Pharmaceutical Technicians and Assistants | 3.6 |
| Medical and Dental Prosthetic Technicians | 3.5 |
| Social Work Associate Professionals | 3.4 |
| Nursing Associate Professionals | 3.4 |
| Information and Communications Technology Operations Technicians | 3.3 |
| Government Licensing Officials | 3.2 |
| Mining and Metallurgical Technicians | 2.9 |
| Securities and Finance Dealers and Brokers | 2.7 |
| Physiotherapy Technicians and Assistants | 2.6 |
| Incinerator and Water Treatment Plant Operators | 2.5 |
| Photographers | 2.5 |
| Metal Production Process Controllers | 2.3 |
| Religious Associate Professionals | 2.3 |
| Medical and Pathology Laboratory Technicians | 2.2 |
| Sports Coaches, Instructors and Officials | 2.1 |
| Fitness and Recreation Instructors and Program Leaders | 1.9 |

TABLE 3 - Number of Applicants per Vacancy for Technicians and Associate Professional Positions by Occupation, Philippines: January 2015 to June 2016 (Concluded)

| OCCUPATION TITLE | Applicants per <br> Vacancy |
| :--- | :---: |
|  |  |
| Ambulance Workers | 1.8 |
| Community Health Workers | 1.7 |
| Air Traffic Controllers | 1.4 |
| Midwifery Associate Professionals | 1.4 |
| Power Production Plant Operators | 1.3 |
| Air Traffic Safety Electronics Technicians | 1.0 |
| Police Inspectors and Detectives | 1.0 |
| Life Science Technicians (excluding medical) | 1.0 |

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2015/2016 ISLE.


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