

## Employment Status of Men and Women in 2006

### Overview



The provision of greater opportunities for both women and men is a continuing concern for the Philippines in its efforts to promote gender equality. The greater challenge primarily lies in expanding better work opportunities for women who comprised a substantial proportion of the labor market. More women are actively joining the world of work in their desire to gain freedom and financial independence.

This issue of the LABSTAT Updates looks into the current status of men and women in the labor market. Specifically, it focuses on the employment

situation and the characteristics of the existing labor force. Data presented herein are average of the results of the four survey rounds of the Labor Force Survey conducted by the National Statistics Office.

### The Working Age Population

In 2006, about 55.6 million of the household population are of working age (15 years old and over). Women accounted for one-half of the total (50.2% or 27.9 million) while 49.8% or 27.7 million were men. *Table 1*

### The Labor Force

It refers to the economically active population 15 years old and over who are employed and unemployed.

TABLE 1 - Employment Status by Sex, Philippines: 2006  
(In thousands except percent)

Indicator	Both Sexes	Men		Women	
		Number	% Share	Number	% Share
Household Population 15 Years Old and Over	55,629	27,731	49.8	27,899	50.2
Labor Force	35,786	21,953	61.3	13,833	38.7
Employed	32,962	20,156	61.1	12,806	38.9
Underemployed	7,466	5,143	68.9	2,323	31.1
Visibly Underemployed	4,592	3,070	66.9	1,522	33.1
Unemployed	2,824	1,797	63.6	1,027	36.4
Labor Force Participation Rate	64.3	79.2		49.6	
Employment Rate	92.1	91.8		92.6	
Underemployment Rate	22.7	25.5		18.1	
Visible Underemployment Rate	13.9	15.2		11.9	
Unemployment Rate	7.9	8.2		7.4	

Source of data: National Statistics Office, Labor Force Survey.

Survey results showed that the country had a total labor force of 35.786 million. Distribution by gender revealed that men made up 61.3% (21.953 million) and women 38.7% (13.833 million). *Table 1*

The labor force participation rate of 49.6% among women and 79.2% among men, indicate that 1 out of 2 women (13.8 million) was economically active, compared to 4 out of 5 among men (22.0 million).

The following are the characteristics of men and women in the labor force:

#### *Age Group*

Half of those in the labor force were in ages 25-44 years. Specifically, 46.5 percent of women 15-34 years old were active part of the labor market. It is slightly higher among men at 50.2 percent. However, it can be observed that as women grow older, they are likely to share in the burden of providing for the family needs. Such is evident in the larger proportion of women, ages 35 years and over, who are economically active (53.4%) compared to men (49.7%). *Table 2*

#### *Highest Grade Completed*

About 2 out of 3 women (64.5%) in the labor market had either elementary or high school education. The ratio is higher among men with 3 out of 4 (74.5%). *Table 2*

A larger proportion of women attained higher education. Of the total women labor force, 1 out of 3 had college education compared with only 1 out of 4 among men. This may indicate that more women are using their educational qualification as leverage with their male counterparts in the labor market.

#### *Region*

The three developed regions in Luzon (NCR, Region III and Region IV-A) collectively accounted for more than one-third of the total men (34.6%) and women (37.3%) in the labor force. *Table 2*

The two regions in Visayas (Region VI and Region VII) followed with combined shares of men and women at 15.3% and 16.1%, respectively. The rest of the regions had shares ranging from 1.9% to 5.9% of men and 2.1% to 5.6% of the women labor force.

In proportion to respective regional shares, women predominated in the labor force in NCR (15.4% vs. 12.5%), Region IV-A (12.8% vs. 11.8%), Region VII (7.7% vs. 7.1%), Region VI (8.4% vs. 8.2%), Region X (5.6% vs. 5.0%) and CAR (2.1% vs. 1.9%).

#### *Marital Status*

Six out of 10 economically active men (64.7%) and women (59.7%) were married while 1 out of every 3 men (32.4%) and women (30.2%) were still single. Among the divorced or separated, there were more women than men joining the labor market. *Table 2*

#### *The Employed*

These are men and women in the labor force who are reported either at work or with a job or business although not at work during the reference week.

An average of 32.962 million men and women were employed in 2006. Similarly with the labor force, the bulk (61.1% or 20.156 million) of the employed were men while the remaining 38.9% (12.806 million)

were women. This indicates that 2 out of 5 employed were women. *Table 1*

However, relative to their respective total number in the labor force, women posted a higher employment rate of 92.6% compared with their men counterpart at 91.8 percent.

### The Underemployed

These are men and women who desire to have additional hours of work in their present job or in an additional job, or to have a new job with longer working hours.

The number of underemployed totaled to 7.466 million. Of these, less than one-third (31.1% or 2.323 million) were women while more than two-thirds (68.9% or 5.143 million) were men. In proportion to respective total employment, women recorded a lower underemployment rate than men (18.1% vs. 25.5%). *Table 1*

The visibly underemployed (men and women who work for less than 40 hours during the reference week and still want additional hours

of work) was reported at 4.592 million. Men likewise, predominated the ranks of the visibly underemployed (3.07 million), while only 1.522 million were women.

In proportion to respective total employed, men posted higher visible underemployment rate than women (15.2% vs. 11.9%).

### The Unemployed

These are men and women in the labor force who did not work or had no job/business during the reference week and were reported looking and available for work.

In 2006, an average of 2.824 million persons want a job but were not able to find one. Of the total, 1.797 million were men and 1.027 million were women or about 4 out of 11 unemployed were women. Unemployment rate of women stood at 7.4%, slightly lower compared to men at 8.2%. *Table 1*

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#### FOR INQUIRIES:

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 website at <http://www.manila-online.net/bles> or <http://www.bles.dole.gov.ph> for other statistical  
 information

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TABLE 2 - Summary Statistics on Labor Force by Sex, Philippines: 2006  
(In thousands except percent)

Indicator	Both Sexes	Men	% Distribution	Women	% Distribution
TOTAL	35,786	21,953	100.0	13,833	100.0
Age Group					
15 – 19 Years	3,247	2,039	9.3	1,209	8.7
20 - 24 Years	4,553	2,819	12.8	1,734	12.5
25 - 34 Years	9,664	6,170	28.1	3,494	25.3
35 - 44 Years	7,959	4,830	22.0	3,129	22.6
45 - 54 Years	5,716	3,362	15.3	2,354	17.0
55 - 64 Years	3,166	1,852	8.4	1,314	9.5
65 Years & Over	1,480	881	4.0	599	4.3
Not Reported	1	1	0.0	*	-
Highest Grade Completed					
No Grade Completed	673	420	1.9	253	1.8
Elementary	11,505	7,614	34.7	3,890	28.1
Undergraduate	5,758	3,975	18.1	1,783	12.9
Graduate	5,747	3,639	16.6	2,108	15.2
High School	13,772	8,740	39.8	5,032	36.4
Undergraduate	4,935	3,249	14.8	1,686	12.2
Graduate	8,838	5,491	25.0	3,347	24.2
College	9,836	5,179	23.6	4,658	33.7
Undergraduate	4,719	2,900	13.2	1,819	13.1
Graduate and Higher	5,118	2,279	10.4	2,839	20.5
Region					
National Capital Region	4,860	2,736	12.5	2,125	15.4
Cordillera Administrative Region	695	407	1.9	288	2.1
Region I - Ilocos Region	1,833	1,200	5.5	634	4.6
Region II - Cagayan Valley	1,391	888	4.0	504	3.6
Region III - Central Luzon	3,532	2,268	10.3	1,265	9.1
Region IV-A - CALABARZON	4,371	2,596	11.8	1,776	12.8
Region IV-B - MIMAROPA	1,059	648	3.0	410	3.0
Region V - Bicol Region	2,068	1,300	5.9	768	5.6
Region VI - Western Visayas	2,976	1,811	8.2	1,166	8.4
Region VII - Central Visayas	2,617	1,558	7.1	1,059	7.7
Region VIII - Eastern Visayas	1,735	1,065	4.9	669	4.8
Region IX - Zamboanga Peninsula	1,345	854	3.9	491	3.5
Region X - Northern Mindanao	1,873	1,094	5.0	780	5.6
Region XI - Davao Region	1,815	1,139	5.2	676	4.9
Region XII - SOCCSKSARGEN	1,605	1,032	4.7	573	4.1
Caraga	1,045	647	2.9	397	2.9
Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao	968	714	3.3	254	1.8
Marital Status					
Single	11,277	7,104	32.4	4,173	30.2
Married	22,462	14,201	64.7	8,260	59.7
Widowed	1,442	402	1.8	1,041	7.5
Divorced/Separated	599	244	1.1	355	2.6
Not Reported	7	3	0.0	4	0.0

\* Less than 500.

Source of data: National Statistics Office, Labor Force Survey.