

## PROFILE OF DOMESTIC HELPERS

### *The kasambahay... everyday workers in our households*

Domestic helpers are left at home not only to do everyday household chores like cleaning the house, cooking the meals, washing the clothes but also attending to the needs of their employers' children or elderly relatives. Relieved from the day to day operations of the households, employers of domestic helpers are able to fully pursue their own economic and social activities. The important role that these workers play in the household and even in family life makes them not only workers of their employers but also "companions at home" or "kasambahay".

The Labor Force Survey (LFS) conducted quarterly by the National Statistics Office provides the magnitude of this household workforce. Counted as a member of the household (an aggregate of persons generally but not necessarily bound by ties of kinship, who sleep in the same dwelling unit and have common arrangements for the preparation and consumption of food), a resident individual rendering domestic work is determined through asking his/her relationship to the household head, e.g., domestic helper.

Other household service workers employed by private households who are not enumerated as household members as they live outside the households of their employers are not considered in this report. The discussion on the demographic characteristics of domestic helpers covers those aged 10 years old while that on economic characteristics covers those 15 years old and over.

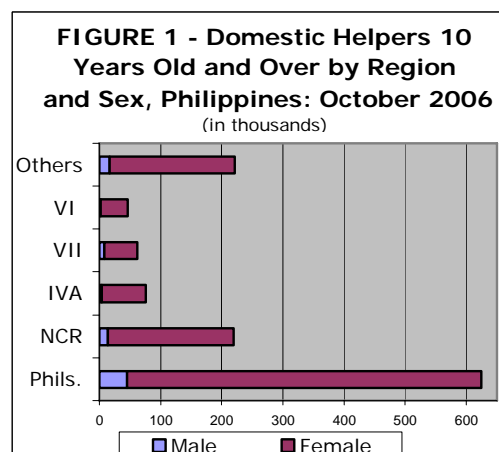
According to the October 2006 round of the LFS, there were 624,000 domestic helpers aged at least 10 years old. About one-third of these workers were found in the National Capital Region and more than 90% of them were females.

### Domestic helpers largely found in Metro Manila

The October 2006 round of the Labor Force Survey estimated that the country's working population<sup>1</sup> 10 years old and over was 33.8 million. Of this, 624,000 or 1.8% were reported as domestic helpers in private households. (Table 1)

More than one third (35.0% or 218,000) of these workers were found in the National Capital Region (NCR). Lesser proportions were noted in Region IVA-CALABARZON (12.1% or 76,000), Region VII-Central Visayas (9.8% or 61,000) and Region VI-Western Visayas (7.3% or 45,000). The rest of the household helpers were spread

throughout the remaining 13 regions of the country (35.8% or 224,000).



Source of data: National Statistics Office,  
Labor Force Survey-  
Public Use File.

<sup>1</sup> This is to be distinguished from the employed population whose cut-off age is 15 years old per official definition of employment.

Female domestic helpers (579,000) outnumbered their male counterparts (45,000) at nine out of every 10 workers. This observation holds true in all the regions of the country. NCR and Region IVA-CALABARZON collectively recorded the

biggest share of female domestic helpers (47.8% or 277,000). On the other hand, NCR and Region VII-Central Visayas accounted for also close to half (47.2% or 22,000) of male domestic helpers.

### One out of five domestic helpers were working children



On the average, male household workers were younger (25 years old) than the female workers (27 years old). Nevertheless, about 60% (58.2% or 363,000) belonged to age group 15-24 years old.

The survey also showed that there were working children (10-17

years old) which numbered to 123,000 or 19.6% of total domestic helpers 10 years old and over. (Table 2)

Most of the domestic helpers were single (82.1% or 512,000) and only 12.3% (77,000) were married.

A little over 20% (22.1% or 138,000) have reached high school while 41.8% (261,000) have completed secondary education.

### Around 80% of domestic helpers in permanent employment

About 503,000 (out of 613,000) or 82% of the domestic helpers 15 years old and over<sup>2</sup> were employed on a

permanent basis. The rest were on short-term capacity. (Table 3)

### Domestic helpers worked about 66 hours a week

Domestic helpers in private households worked longer hours than employees in private establishments. While private sector employees worked 43.8 hours during the survey week in October 2006, domestic helpers

rendered 65.6 hours or a normal work day of 10.2 hours. Female workers worked slightly longer at 65.8 hours (10.2 hours a day) than their male counterparts at 63.2 hours (9.8 hours a day). (Table 4)

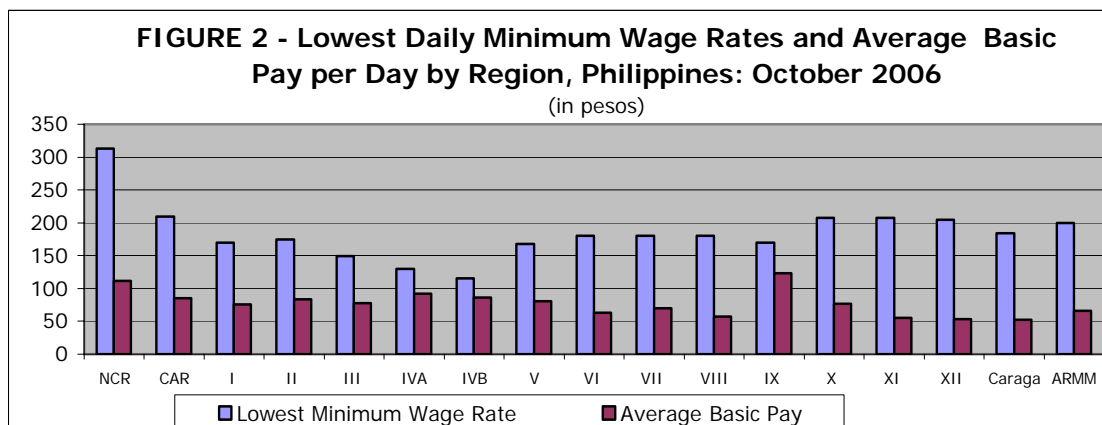
### On the average, domestic helpers paid a daily basic pay of ₱ 89

Across all regions, domestic helpers received an average daily basic pay<sup>3</sup> of ₱ 88.57. Private households in Region IX-Zamboanga Peninsula paid the highest average basic pay at ₱ 122.80, followed by those in the NCR at ₱ 111.84. Least paid among domestic helpers were those workers in Caraga Region at ₱ 52.64. (Table 5)

Female workers were paid slightly higher, ₱ 88.64, than their male counterparts, ₱ 87.60. Female domestic workers in NCR, Region IVB-MIMAROPA, Region V-Bicol, Region XII-SOCCSKSARGEN, and Caraga had basic pay relatively higher than those of the male workers.

<sup>2</sup> From this point onwards, the discussion will focus on domestic helpers 15 years old and over since the Labor Force Survey (LFS) inquiry on economic characteristics covers this age group only.

<sup>3</sup> LFS inquiry on basic pay asks for the daily rate. Rates other than this are converted to their daily equivalent.



Sources of data: *National Statistics Office, Labor Force Survey-Public Use File*  
*National Wages and Productivity Commission.*

The average basic pay of domestic helpers in Region IVA-CALABARZON, Region IVB-MIMAROPA and Region IX-Zamboanga Peninsula were more than 70% of the corresponding lowest minimum wage rates in these regions. The proportions for the rest of the regions ranged from 26.0% (Region XII-SOCCSKSARGEN) to 52.3% (Region III-Central Luzon).

Househelpers are excluded from coverage of wage orders issued by the Regional Tripartite and Wage

Productivity Boards. Their minimum wages are set under Section 1 of Republic Act 7655 "An Act Increasing the Minimum Wage of Househelpers, Amending for the Purpose Article 143 of Presidential Decree No. 442, As Amended. (P.D. 442 is otherwise known as the Labor Code of the Philippines.) They must be paid the following minimum wage rates: ₱ 800 a month in Metro Manila and in highly urbanized cities, ₱ 650 in other chartered cities and first class municipalities and ₱ 500 for other municipalities.

### Low number of domestic worker-enrollees in social security

R.A 7655 also mandated the social security coverage of househelpers who are receiving at least ₱ 1,000 monthly salary. However, records of the Social Security System (SSS) which has been implementing this provision since 1993 showed that only about 109,000 were enrolled as of September 2006.

About three-fifths (66,000) of these members were in NCR (including province of Rizal). Regions IVA and IVB together were a far second with only 14,000 (12.9%). Least number of enrollees was observed in Mindanao at less than 4,000 or 3.6% of total.

Total	109,084
NCR incl. Rizal	66,131
Luzon North	4,365
Luzon Central	6,818
Luzon South	14,086
Bicol	3,090
Visayas Central	1,887
Visayas West	8,747
Mindanao North	637
Mindanao South	2,723
Mindanao West	600

In 2005, househelper-members numbered about 106,000, of which 18.9% (20,000) were paying their premium-contributions.

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**TABLE 1 - Working Population and Domestic Helpers 10 Years Old and Over by Region and Sex,  
Philippines: October 2006**  
(in thousands except percent)

Region	Working Population <sup>1</sup>			Domestic Helpers					
				Number			Percent		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
<b>Philippines</b>	<b>33,797</b>	<b>20,814</b>	<b>12,983</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
National Capital Region	4,177	2,343	1,833	218	14	205	35.0	30.1	35.4
Cordillera Administrative Region	672	401	271	10	1	9	1.6	1.8	1.6
Region I - Ilocos Region	1,686	1,109	577	9	1	8	1.5	1.8	1.4
Region II - Cagayan Valley	1,406	894	512	7	-	7	1.1	-	1.2
Region III - Central Luzon	3,221	2,083	1,138	29	4	25	4.6	9.2	4.3
Region IVA - CALABARZON	4,026	2,354	1,672	76	4	72	12.1	9.1	12.4
Region IVB - MIMAROPA	1,044	633	411	8	a	8	1.4	0.6	1.4
Region V- Bicol	1,988	1,284	704	25	2	22	4.0	5.1	3.9
Region VI - Western Visayas	2,759	1,702	1,056	45	2	44	7.3	3.4	7.6
Region VII - Central Visayas	2,499	1,469	1,030	61	8	54	9.8	17.1	9.3
Region VIII - Eastern Visayas	1,679	1,057	622	15	1	14	2.5	1.8	2.5
Region IX - Zamboanga Peninsula	1,380	872	508	20	3	17	3.2	6.6	3.0
Region X - Northern Mindanao	1,961	1,147	813	33	3	30	5.3	6.8	5.2
Region XI - Davao	1,711	1,084	627	31	2	30	5.0	3.3	5.1
Region XII - SOCCSKSARGEN	1,577	1,024	554	17	a	16	2.7	1.0	2.8
Region XIII - Caraga	1,087	664	423	16	1	15	2.6	2.1	2.7
Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao	924	692	232	2	-	2	0.3	-	0.3

*Note: Details may not add up to total due to rounding. Percent distribution based on actual levels and not on the rounded up figures.*

*a Less than 500.*

*<sup>1</sup> This is to be distinguished from the employed population whose cut-off age is 15 years old per official definition of employment.*

*Source of data: National Statistics Office, Labor Force Survey-Public Use File.*

**TABLE 2 - Selected Demographic Characteristics of Domestic Helpers 10 Years Old and Over  
by Sex, Philippines: October 2006**

(in thousands except percent and average age)

Age Group, Marital Status and Highest Grade Completed	Number			Percent		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
<b>Philippines</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Age Group</b>						
10-14	11	2	9	1.7	3.7	1.5
15-24	363	25	339	58.2	54.7	58.5
15-17	112	6	106	17.9	12.9	18.3
25-34	120	13	107	19.2	28.1	18.5
35-44	61	4	57	9.8	8.7	9.9
45-54	46	2	43	7.3	4.7	7.5
55-64	18	-	18	3.0	-	3.2
65 and Over	5	-	5	0.8	-	0.8
Average Age	27	25	27			
<b>Marital Status</b>						
Single	512	40	473	82.1	87.9	81.6
Married	77	5	72	12.3	10.8	12.4
Widowed	22	a	22	3.5	0.5	3.8
Divorce/Separated	13	a	12	2.0	0.8	2.1
Unknown	1	-	1	0.1	-	0.1
<b>Highest Grade Completed</b>						
No Grade Completed	7	1	6	1.1	3.1	1.0
Elementary Undergraduate	53	5	48	8.5	11.5	8.3
Elementary Graduate	122	5	117	19.6	11.3	20.2
Highschool Undergraduate	138	11	126	22.1	25.0	21.8
Highschool Graduate	261	16	245	41.8	35.5	42.3
College Undergraduate	37	4	33	5.9	7.9	5.7
College Graduate or Higher	6	3	3	1.0	5.7	0.6

*Note: Details may not add up to total due to rounding. Percent distribution based on actual levels and not on the rounded up figures.*

*a Less than 500.*

*Source of data: National Statistics Office, Labor Force Survey-Public Use File.*

**TABLE 3 - Domestic Helpers 15 Years Old and Over by Nature of Employment and Sex, Philippines: October 2006**  
(in thousands except percent)

Nature of Employment	Number			Percent		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
<b>Philippines</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Permanent Job	503	36	467	82.0	83.5	81.9
Short-term	111	7	103	18.0	16.5	18.1

*Note: Details may not add up to total due to rounding. Percent distribution based on actual levels and not on the rounded up figures.*

*Source of data: National Statistics Office, Labor Force Survey-Public Use File.*

**TABLE 4 - Domestic Helpers 15 Years Old and Over by Hours Worked and Sex, Philippines: October 2006**  
(in thousands except percent and average hours)

Hours Worked	Number			Percent		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
<b>Philippines</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Normal Working Hours for the Day</b>						
1-4	6	1	5	1.0	2.5	0.9
5-8	110	9	101	18.0	21.3	17.7
9-12	456	31	425	74.4	71.8	74.6
13-16	41	2	39	6.6	4.5	6.8
Average for the Day	10.2	9.8	10.2			
<b>Hours Worked During the Week</b>						
Under 20	2	1	1	0.3	1.4	0.2
20-29	5	a	5	0.8	1.0	0.8
30-39	13	1	12	2.2	3.3	2.1
40-48	70	6	64	11.5	13.9	11.3
49 and over	523	35	488	85.2	80.4	85.6
Did Not Work	a	-	a	0.1	0.0	0.1
Average for the Week	65.6	63.2	65.8			

*Note: Details may not add up to total due to rounding. Percent distribution based on actual levels and not on the rounded up figures.*

*a Less than 500.*

*Source of data: National Statistics Office, Labor Force Survey-Public Use File.*

**TABLE 5 - Average Basic Pay Per Day of Domestic Helpers 15 Years Old and Over by Region and Sex, Philippines: October 2006**  
(in pesos except percent)

Region	Average Basic Pay per Day			Daily Minimum Wage Rate <sup>1</sup>	Basic Pay as % of Minimum Wage Rate
	Total	Male	Female		
<b>Philippines</b>	<b>88.57</b>	<b>87.60</b>	<b>88.64</b>		
National Capital Region	111.84	92.31	113.14	313.00	35.7
Cordillera Administrative Region	84.94	112.35	82.63	209.00	40.6
Region I - Ilocos Region	75.14	76.54	75.01	170.00	44.2
Region II - Cagayan Valley	83.33	a	83.33	175.00	47.6
Region III - Central Luzon	77.92	83.57	76.98	149.00	52.3
Region IVA - CALABARZON	91.95	98.13	91.60	130.00	70.7
Region IVB - MIMAROPA	86.46	57.95	87.40	115.00	75.2
Region V- Bicol	80.30	70.44	81.17	168.00	47.8
Region VI - Western Visayas	62.61	81.15	61.94	180.00	34.8
Region VII - Central Visayas	69.86	70.03	69.84	180.00	38.8
Region VIII - Eastern Visayas	57.37	59.92	57.22	180.50	31.8
Region IX - Zamboanga Peninsula	122.80	130.78	121.35	170.00	72.2
Region X - Northern Mindanao	76.59	105.25	74.33	207.00	37.0
Region XI - Davao	54.86	71.14	54.04	207.00	26.5
Region XII - SOCCSKSARGEN	53.20	37.97	53.64	205.00	26.0
Region XIII - Caraga	52.64	50.52	52.77	184.00	28.6
Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao	65.92	a	65.92	200.00	33.0

a No domestic helpers reported.

1 Lowest in the region.

Sources of data: National Statistics Office, Labor Force Survey-Public Use File  
National Wages and Productivity Commission.