

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE APRIL 2008 LABOR FORCE SURVEY



Overview

The April 2008 Labor Force Survey (LFS) presented mixed results for the country's labor market. Employment level fell, though slightly (-0.5%), as a consequence of spiraling fuel and food prices that dampened economic growth during the first part of the year. Little growth in employment was observed in agriculture sector (0.4%) and services sector (0.2%) while employment was down in the industry sector (-4.6%). Unemployment rate was up by 0.6 percentage point to 8.0% and underemployment rate by 0.9 percentage point to 19.8%.

The quality of employment, however, improved during the period. The number of persons in full-time employment rose strongly (10.9%) and this was accompanied by a decline (-15.0%) in part-time employment. Moreover, employment grew among persons in wage and salary employment (2.7%) and among employers (20.3%). With more persons in full-time employment, the average hours of work per week rose (5.0%) accordingly. In addition, time-related underemployment (visible underemployment) eased during the period. Meanwhile, the drop in the volume of employment occurred instead among the self-employed persons (-6.4%) and unpaid family workers (-4.8%) which experienced an unusual increase during the height of election campaign period last year.

Labor Force

The country's household population 15 years old and over grew year-on-year in April 2008 by 2.3% or 1.289 million. But because of the less favorable economic environment, the majority of them (1.235 million) opted to stay out of the labor market. For this reason, the number of persons in the labor force hardly moved - increasing by a marginal 0.1% or 54,000 to reach 36.450 million from last year.

As a consequence, labor force participation rate (LFPR) in April dropped by 1.3 percentage points to a record low of 63.2%.

**Table 1 - KEY EMPLOYMENT INDICATORS
PHILIPPINES: April 2007-2008
(in thousands except rates)**

Indicator	April 2008 ^p	April 2007	Year-on-Year Change
Household Population 15 Years Old and Over	57,700	56,411	1,289
Labor Force	36,450	36,396	54
– Employed Persons	33,536	33,704	-168
– Unemployed Persons	2,914	2,692	222
Underemployed Persons	6,626	6,378	248
– Visibly underemployed	3,813	4,165	-352
Not in the Labor Force	21,250	20,015	1,235
LFPR (%)	63.2	64.5	
Employment Growth (%)	-0.5	3.1	
Mean Hours of Work	41.6	39.6	
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.0	7.4	
Underemployment Rate (%)	19.8	18.9	
– Visible Under-employment Rate (%)	11.4	12.4	

^p Preliminary.

Source: National Statistics Office, Labor Force Survey.

Employment

Employment level dipped slightly by 0.5% (-168,000) as total employed persons declined to 33.536 million from 33.704 million a year ago. The slump in employment reflects the adverse effect of the US led-global economic slowdown and soaring fuel and food prices on the domestic labor market.

- Total employment in agriculture, fishery and forestry sector was of little change from last year (0.4% or +46,000). Employment in agriculture, hunting and forestry sub-sector grew by 1.6% (+164,000) but this gain was negated by employment losses (-119,000) in the fishery sub-sector. In particular, small fishermen were among those hit hardest by the energy crisis as many of them can hardly cope with the uptrend in the cost of diesel oil.
- Service sector employment was essentially unchanged from last year – increasing by just 0.2% (+30,000). The results were mixed across sub-sectors. Growth occurred in seven sub-sectors led by public administration and defense, compulsory social security (+112,000), hotels and restaurants (+56,000) and real estate, renting and business activities (+46,000). These were offset by the decline in employment in wholesale and retail trade (-119,000), other community, social and personal service activities (-87,000) and private households with employed persons (-70,000).
- Workers in the industry sector bore the brunt of the current economic difficulties. Employment in this sector fell by 4.6% (-244,000) from a year earlier. Employment losses cut across

sub-sectors with manufacturing absorbing the largest decline (-183,000).

- On the positive note, the quality of employment improved considerably as the number of persons in full-time employment grew by a robust 10.9% (+2.040 million). This was accompanied by a notable 15.0% decline (-2.118 million) in part-time employment. As a consequence, the average (mean) hours of work per week rose from 39.6 to 41.6 over the period.
- In addition, the number of persons in wage and salary employment was up by 2.7% (+465,000) and employers by 20.3% (+263,000) compared last year.
- It should be noted that the decline in employment occurred mostly among persons in vulnerable type of employment – i.e., self-employed workers (-685,000) and unpaid family workers (-211,000) most of them engaged in informal economic activities.

Underemployment

The number of underemployed persons who want or expressed the desire for additional hours of work increased by 248,000 – from 6.378 million to 6.626 million. This corresponds to underemployment rate of 19.8%, up slightly from 18.9% a year before.

- Of interest, the number of persons who worked less than 40 hours a week and still wanting additional hours of work (time-related or visibly underemployment) was down by 352,000 – from 4.165 million to 3.813 million.

Unemployment

Unemployment rose both in terms of rate (from 7.4% to 8.0%) and number (from 2.692 million to 2.914 million).

- Of interest, the number of persons who worked less than 40 hours a week and still wanting additional hours of work (time-related or visibly underemployment) was down by 352,000 – from 4.165 million to 3.813 million.
- One in every two unemployed were young persons 15 to 24 years old as they comprised more than half (51.2% or 1.491 million) of the total unemployed. Youth unemployment rate at 18.6% was more than twice the national rate of 8.0%.
- Nearly two in every three unemployed were male (62.5% or 1.820 million).
- A notable proportion of the unemployed were college graduates or undergraduates. Their share to total unemployed had gone up to 40.0% from 38.2% in 2006.
- Six (6) regions recorded unemployment rate significantly higher than last year, namely: Region VII (5.7% to 7.7%), NCR (12.5% to 13.8%), Region V (5.2% to 6.5%), CAR (3.7% to 4.9%), Region XI (5.1% to 6.3%) and Region IV-A (9.3% to 10.3%).

In contrast, notable reduction in unemployment rate was observed in ARMM (3.8% to 3.0%), Regions X (5.5% to 5.0%) and VIII (5.3% to 4.9%). The rates in other regions were of little change from a year earlier.

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**Table 1 - KEY LABOR FORCE INDICATORS
PHILIPPINES: April 2006, 2007, 2008
(In thousands except rates)**

Key Indicators	April 2008 ^p	April 2007	April 2006	Increment		Percent Change (%)	
				2007-2008	2006-2007	2007-2008	2006-2007
Population 15 Years Old and Over	57,700	56,411	54,976	1,289	1,435	2.3	2.6
Labor Force	36,450	36,396	35,633	54	763	0.1	2.1
Employed Persons	33,536	33,704	32,699	-168	1,005	-0.5	3.1
Unemployed Persons	2,914	2,692	2,935	222	-243	8.2	-8.3
Underemployed Persons	6,626	6,378	8,309	248	-1,931	3.9	-23.2
- Visibly underemployed	3,813	4,165	4,839	-352	-674	-8.5	-13.9
Full-time Employment	20,746	18,706	18,590	2,040	116	10.9	0.6
Part-time Employment	11,956	14,074	13,335	-2,118	739	-15.0	5.5
Did Not Work	834	924	774	-90	150	-9.7	19.4
Wage and Salary Workers	17,697	17,232	16,544	465	688	2.7	4.2
Self-employed Workers	10,082	10,767	10,934	-685	-167	-6.4	-1.5
Employers	1,558	1,295	1,319	263	-24	20.3	-1.8
Unpaid Family Workers	4,199	4,410	3,902	-211	508	-4.8	13.0
Summary Indicators (%)							
Labor force participation rate (LFPR)	63.2	64.5	64.8				
Employment Growth rate	(0.5)	3.1					
Mean hours worked	41.6	39.6	40.2				
Unemployment rate	8.0	7.4	8.2				
Underemployment rate	19.8	18.9	25.4				
- Visible underemployment rate	11.4	12.4	14.8				

^p Preliminary.

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

Table 2 - SUMMARY STATISTICS ON EMPLOYMENT
PHILIPPINES: April 2006, 2007, 2008
(In thousands except rates)

INDICATOR	2008 ^p	2007	2006	Increment		Year-on-Year Growth Rate (%)	
				2007-2008	2006-2007	2007-2008	2006-2007
EMPLOYED PERSONS	33,536	33,704	32,699	-168	1,005	-0.5	3.1
SECTOR							
Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry	11,899	11,853	11,281	46	572	0.4	5.1
Agriculture, Hunting and Forestry	10,451	10,287	9,843	164	444	1.6	4.5
Fishing	1,447	1,566	1,438	-119	128	-7.6	8.9
Industry	5,004	5,248	5,227	-244	21	-4.6	0.4
Mining and Quarrying	149	177	172	-28	5	-15.8	2.9
Manufacturing	2,890	3,073	3,172	-183	-99	-6.0	-3.1
Electricity, Gas and Water	123	134	144	-11	-10	-8.2	-6.9
Construction	1,841	1,863	1,739	-22	124	-1.2	7.1
Services	16,634	16,604	16,191	30	413	0.2	2.6
Wholesale and Retail Trade	6,331	6,450	6,427	-119	23	-1.8	0.4
Hotels and Restaurants	925	869	914	56	-45	6.4	-4.9
Transport, Storage & Communications	2,572	2,553	2,470	19	83	0.7	3.4
Financial Intermediation	363	343	332	20	11	5.8	3.3
Real Estate, Renting & Business Activities	953	907	798	46	109	5.1	13.7
Public Administration & Defense, Compulsory Social Security	1,661	1,549	1,491	112	58	7.2	3.9
Education	1,024	998	1,017	26	-19	2.6	-1.9
Health and Social Work	382	356	364	26	-8	7.3	-2.2
Other Community, Social & Personal Service Activities	849	936	856	-87	80	-9.3	9.3
Private Households with Employed Persons	1,570	1,640	1,519	-70	121	-4.3	8.0
Extra-Territorial Organizations	3	2	3	1	-1	50.0	-33.3
STATUS OF EMPLOYMENT							
Wage and Salary Workers	17,697	17,232	16,544	465	688	2.7	4.2
Self-employed Workers	10,082	10,767	10,934	-685	-167	-6.4	-1.5
Employers	1,558	1,295	1,319	263	-24	20.3	-1.8
Unpaid Family Workers	4,199	4,410	3,902	-211	508	-4.8	13.0
HOURS OF WORK							
Less than 40 Hours (Part-Time Employment)	11,956	14,074	13,335	-2,118	739	-15.0	5.5
40 Hours and Over (Full-Time Employment)	20,746	18,706	18,590	2,040	116	10.9	0.6
Did Not Work	834	924	774	-90	150	-9.7	19.4
REGION							
NCR	4,005	3,989	3,897	16	92	0.4	2.4
CAR	647	676	666	-29	10	-4.3	1.5
Region I	1,702	1,734	1,729	-32	5	-1.8	0.3
Region II	1,350	1,367	1,311	-17	56	-1.2	4.3
Region III	3,426	3,432	3,241	-6	191	-0.2	5.9
Region IV-A	4,008	4,073	3,948	-65	125	-1.6	3.2
Region IV-B	1,128	1,129	1,085	-1	44	-0.1	4.1
Region V	2,019	1,997	1,953	22	44	1.1	2.3
Region VI	2,734	2,710	2,721	24	-11	0.9	-0.4
Region VII	2,568	2,627	2,522	-59	105	-2.2	4.2
Region VIII	1,604	1,605	1,622	-1	-17	-0.1	-1.0
Region IX	1,305	1,313	1,218	-8	95	-0.6	7.8
Region X	1,765	1,796	1,712	-31	84	-1.7	4.9
Region XI	1,676	1,648	1,637	28	11	1.7	0.7
Region XII	1,547	1,516	1,432	31	84	2.0	5.9
Caraga	968	959	919	9	40	0.9	4.4
ARMM	1,084	1,132	1,085	-48	47	-4.2	4.3

Note: Details may not add to totals due to rounding of figures.

p Preliminary.

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

Table 3 - SUMMARY STATISTICS ON UNDEREMPLOYMENT
PHILIPPINES: April 2006, 2007, 2008
 (in thousands except percent)

INDICATOR	2008 ^p	2007	2006	Increment	
				2007-2008	2006-2007
UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS	6,626	6,378	8,309	248	-1,931
Hours Worked					
- Worked less than 40 hours/week	3,813	4,165	5,056	-352	-891
- Worked more than 40 hours/week	2,598	1,989	3,252	609	-1,263
- With a job but not at work	214	224	217	-10	7
INDUSTRY					
- Agriculture	3,047	3,083	3,437	-36	-354
- Industry	1,030	1,050	1,472	-20	-422
- Services	2,549	2,245	3,399	304	-1,154
Underemployment rate (%)	19.8	18.9	25.4		
Visible underemployment rate (%)	11.4	12.4	14.8		

Notes: 1. Details may not add to totals due to rounding of figures.

2. Estimates based on the revised population benchmark using the 1995 Census of Population results.

^p Preliminary.

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

Table 4 - SUMMARY STATISTICS ON UNEMPLOYMENT
PHILIPPINES: April 2006, 2007, 2008
(in thousands except percent)

INDICATOR	Total Unemployed Persons			Percent Share (%)			Unemployment Rate (%)		
	2008 ^p	2007	2006	2008 ^p	2007	2006	2008 ^p	2007	2006
TOTAL	2,914	2,692	2,935	100.0	100.0	100.0	8.0	7.4	8.2
Sex									
Male	1,820	1,730	1,888	62.5	64.3	64.3	8.1	7.7	8.7
Female	1,094	962	1,046	37.5	35.7	35.6	7.9	6.9	7.6
Age Group									
15-24 years old	1,491	1,362	1,450	51.2	50.6	49.4	18.6	16.4	17.4
25-54 years old	1,324	1,240	1,372	45.4	46.1	46.7	5.5	5.3	5.9
55 years old and over	98	89	112	3.4	3.3	3.8	2.2	2.0	2.6
Not Reported	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Highest Grade Completed									
No Grade Completed	18	16	25	0.6	0.6	0.9			
Elementary	409	388	470	14.0	14.4	16.0			
Undergraduate	184	168	219	6.3	6.2	7.5			
Graduate	225	220	251	7.7	8.2	8.5			
High School	1,320	1,238	1,318	45.3	46.0	44.9			
Undergraduate	388	343	407	13.3	12.7	13.9			
Graduate	932	895	911	32.0	33.2	31.1			
College	1,166	1,051	1,121	40.0	39.0	38.2			
Undergraduate	614	547	584	21.1	20.3	19.9			
Graduate	552	504	537	18.9	18.7	18.3			

Notes: 1. Based on the new official unemployment definition (NSCB Resolution No. 15 s 2004).

2. Estimates based on the revised population benchmark using the 1995 Census of Population results.

p Preliminary.

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

**Table 5 - RATES OF LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT
BY REGION: APRIL 2008
(in Percent)**

Region	Labor Force Participation Rate			Employment Rate			Unemployment Rate			Underemployment		
	2008 ^p	2007	2006	2008 ^p	2007	2006	2008 ^p	2007	2006	2008 ^p	2007	2006
Philippines	63.2	64.5	64.8	92.0	92.6	91.8	8.0	7.4	8.2	19.8	18.9	25.4
NCR	61.2	61.5	62.4	86.2	87.5	85.9	13.8	12.5	14.1	13.5	11.9	18.8
CAR	65.7	68.5	70.9	95.1	96.3	94.9	4.9	3.7	5.1	20.5	14.0	23.1
Region I	58.7	60.7	61.3	90.8	90.7	91.7	9.2	9.3	8.3	17.5	15.6	28.4
Region II	65.9	68.2	67.4	96.2	97.0	96.8	3.8	3.0	3.2	17.4	16.5	23.0
Region III	59.3	61.0	60.1	90.0	89.8	88.6	10.0	10.2	11.4	8.7	8.3	19.1
Region IV-A	60.9	62.7	63.2	89.7	90.7	89.6	10.3	9.3	10.4	15.5	14.8	21.6
Region IV-B	69.4	70.1	70.4	95.5	95.8	94.3	4.5	4.2	5.7	29.2	21.9	30.6
Region V	66.2	66.2	67.1	93.5	94.8	93.9	6.5	5.2	6.1	38.7	36.5	38.7
Region VI	63.6	64.2	65.3	91.4	92.1	92.8	8.6	7.9	7.2	21.2	25.5	28.1
Region VII	64.0	64.7	64.3	92.3	94.3	92.9	7.7	5.7	7.1	15.9	16.0	21.1
Region VIII	65.0	66.8	69.4	95.1	94.7	95.5	4.9	5.3	4.5	29.3	26.4	31.6
Region IX	65.0	67.1	65.2	96.6	96.9	95.8	3.4	3.1	4.2	20.2	22.6	31.4
Region X	69.6	74.1	72.6	95.0	94.5	93.8	5.0	5.5	6.2	26.7	27.3	33.7
Region XI	66.5	65.6	68.5	93.7	94.9	91.8	6.3	5.1	8.2	24.4	18.6	30.1
Region XII	67.2	67.4	66.6	95.1	94.8	94.1	4.9	5.2	5.9	23.8	25.6	27.3
ARMM	56.4	60.7	60.4	97.0	96.2	95.4	3.0	3.8	4.6	11.3	16.6	16.2
Caraga	66.5	68.3	67.2	94.5	94.1	94.5	5.5	5.9	5.5	29.8	25.6	26.4

Notes: Based on the new official unemployment definition (NSCB Resolution No. 15 s 2004).

p Preliminary.

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