

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JANUARY 2008 LABOR FORCE SURVEY



Overview

The country's employment situation in January 2008 improved slightly compared to the same period last year. Gains in employment occurred mainly in the combined agriculture, fishery and forestry sector (1.3%) with industry sector employment remaining unchanged (0.1%) and service sector employment posting a small decline (-0.1%). The quality of employment was mixed. More people found full-time employment but wage and salary employment fell (-2.7%) over the period.

On the bright note, unemployment rate fell to 7.4% from 7.8% a year ago. Moreover, the incidence of underemployment eases considerably to 18.9% from 21.5% last year. Labor force participation rate (LFPR) declined over the period, i.e., from 64.8% to 63.4%.

Starting with January 2007 Labor Force Survey (LFS), the population projections based on the 2000 Census of Population was adopted to generate the labor force statistics. This is in compliance with NSCB Resolution No. 1 series 2005 "Adoption of the Methodology Used in Generating the 2000 Census of Population and Housing-Based National Population Projections."

Labor Force

The country's household population 15 years old and over grew by 2.2% (+1.244 million) in January 2008 compared with the same period last year. This was accompanied by a slight decline in the labor force which contracted by 0.1% (-25,000) to reach 36.370 million.

This occurred as more people in January stayed out of the labor force which resulted to the increase in the number of "persons not in the labor force" by 1.269 million - from 19.750 million to 21.019 million.

As a consequence, labor force participation rate (LFPR) in January dropped by 1.4 percentage points to 63.4%. This is the lowest participation rate ever recorded for the month of January since 2005.

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

Indicator	Jan. 2008 ^p	Jan. 2007	Year-on-Year Change
Household Population 15 Years Old and Over	57,389	56,145	1,244
Labor Force	36,370	36,395	-25
- Employed Persons	33,695	33,545	150
- Unemployed Persons	2,675	2,850	-175
Underemployed Persons	6,370	7,214	-844
- Visibly underemployed	3,897	4,165	-268
Not in the Labor Force	21,019	19,750	1,269
LFPR (%)	63.4	64.8	
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.4	7.8	
Underemployment Rate (%)	18.9	21.5	
- Visible Under-employment Rate (%)	11.6	12.9	

^p Preliminary.

Source: National Statistics Office, Labor Force Survey.

Employment

Employment level grew by 0.4% (+150,000) as total employed persons increased from 33.545 million to 33.695 million. The modest growth was expected as it came from a higher base last year. It should be noted that employment in January last year expanded by a robust 4.7% (+1.514 million) – the highest of the four LFS survey rounds conducted in 2007.

- Employment growth originated mainly from the agricultural sector which increased by 1.3% (+156,000). This is a turnaround from last year's slump of 0.3% (-39,000).
- Industry sector employment was about unchanged growing by just 0.1% (+4,000). Growth occurred in construction (+73,000), mining and quarrying (+8,000) and electricity, gas and water supply (+2,000). These gains were negated by the fall in manufacturing employment (-78,000) due to the weak value of dollar and higher prices of oil products.
- Service sector employment fell slightly by 0.1% (-11,000). Employment reduction was caused by the slump in three sub-sectors, namely: private households with employed persons (-122,000), wholesale and retail trade (-84,000) and other community, social and personal activities (-12,000). The decline can be attributed to the continuing appreciation of the Philippine peso and higher prices of consumer products which dampened demand for goods and services.

Meanwhile, employment gains were noted in five (5) sub-sectors led by public administration and

defense; compulsory social security (+72,000); transport, storage and communications (+68,000) and education (+51,000).

- Persons in full-time employment rose by 1.6% (+329,000) while those in part-time employment fell by 1.4% (-167,000).
- By class of worker, the gainers were self-employed workers (+685,000) and unpaid family workers (+242,000). On the other hand, the losers were wage and salary workers (-490,000) and employers (-288,000).

Underemployment

The number of underemployed persons who wanted or expressed the desire for additional hours of work declined sharply by 844,000 – from 7.214 million to 6.370 million. This corresponds to underemployment rate of 18.9%, down from 21.5% a year before.

- Time-related underemployment (i.e., total number of persons who worked less than 40 hours a week and still wanting additional hours of work) also declined by 268,000 – from 4.165 million to 3.897 million.

Unemployment

Unemployment fell both in terms of rate (from 7.8% to 7.4%) and number (from 2.850 million to 2.675 million).

- The unemployed workforce were dominated by young persons 15 to 25 years old which comprised nearly half (46.6% or 1.328 million) of the total unemployed. Persons in the prime working age 25 to 54 years old ranked close second (43.7% or 1.245 million)

and the rest (3.6% or 102,000) by those 55 years old and over.

- Nearly two in every three unemployed were men (61.1% or 1.741).
- The majority (43.4% or 1.238 million) were high school graduates or undergraduates.

Equally large were college undergraduates and graduates (36.2% or 1.031 million). Only a small proportion were elementary educated (13.9% or 396,000) or without formal school training (0.4% or 10,000).

FOR INQUIRIES:

Regarding this report contact **EMPLOYMENT AND MANPOWER STATISTICS DIVISION** at 527-3000 loc.312/313
Regarding other statistics and technical services contact **BLES DATABANK** at 527-3000 loc. 317
Or Write to BLES c/o **Databank, 3/F DOLE Bldg. Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila, 1002**
FAX **527-93-24** E-mail: bles_dole@yahoo.com or blesemsd@yahoo.com
Or visit our website at <http://www.bles.dole.gov.ph>

Table 1 - KEY EMPLOYMENT INDICATORS
PHILIPPINES: January 2006, 2007 and 2008
(in thousands except rates)

INDICATOR	Jan. 2008 ^P	Jan. 2007	Jan. 2006	Increment		Growth Rate	
				2007- 2008	2006- 2007	2007- 2008	2006- 2007
Population 15 Years Old and Over	57,389	56,145	54,829	1,244	1,316	2.2	2.4
Labor Force	36,370	36,395	34,868	-25	1,527	-0.1	4.4
- Employed	33,695	33,545	32,031	150	1,514	0.4	4.7
- Unemployed	2,675	2,850	2,837	-175	13	-6.1	0.5
Underemployed	6,370	7,214	6,774	-844	440	-11.7	6.5
- Visibly underemployment	3,897	4,165	4,102	-268	63	-6.4	1.5
Not in the Labor Force	21,019	19,750	19,961	1,269	-211	6.4	-1.1
Labor Force Participation Rate (%)	63.4	64.8	63.6				
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.4	7.8	8.1				
Underemployment Rate (%)	18.9	21.5	21.1				
Visible Underemployment Rate (%)	11.6	12.9	12.8				

^P Preliminary.

Source: National Statistics Office, Labor Force Survey.

**Table 2 - SUMMARY STATISTICS ON EMPLOYMENT
PHILIPPINES: January 2006, 2007 and 2008**

(in thousands except rates)

INDICATOR	2008 ^p	2007	2006	Increment		Year-on-Year Growth Rate (%)	
EMPLOYED PERSONS	33,695	33,545	32,031	150	1,514	0.4	4.7
SECTOR							
Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry	11,795	11,639	11,678	156	-39	1.3	-0.3
Agriculture, Hunting and Forestry	10,412	10,211	10,263	201	-52	2.0	-0.5
Fishing	1,384	1,428	1,415	-44	13	-3.1	0.9
Industry	4,981	4,977	4,874	4	103	0.1	2.1
Mining and Quarrying	152	144	119	8	25	5.6	21.0
Manufacturing	2,963	3,041	2,971	-78	70	-2.6	2.4
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	126	124	133	2	-9	1.6	-6.8
Construction	1,741	1,668	1,651	73	17	4.4	1.0
Services	16,918	16,929	15,479	-11	1,450	-0.1	9.4
Wholesale and Retail Trade	6,334	6,418	5,913	-84	505	-1.3	8.5
Hotels and Restaurants	963	964	861	-1	103	-0.1	12.0
Transport, Storage & Communications	2,672	2,604	2,539	68	65	2.6	2.6
Financial Intermediation	364	344	336	20	8	5.8	2.4
Real Estate, Renting & Bus. Activities	904	910	741	-6	169	-0.7	22.8
Public Administration & Defense, Compulsory Social Security	1,613	1,541	1,418	72	123	4.7	8.7
Education	1,083	1,032	1,002	51	30	4.9	3.0
Health and Social Work	390	388	345	2	43	0.5	12.5
Other Community, Social & Personal Activities	846	858	768	-12	90	-1.4	11.7
Private Households w/ Employed Persons	1,747	1,869	1,555	-122	314	-6.5	20.2
Extra-Territorial Organizations	2	2	1	-	1	-	100.0
STATUS OF EMPLOYMENT							
Wage and Salary Workers	17,421	17,911	16,086	-490	1,825	-2.7	11.3
Self-employed Workers	10,879	10,194	10,465	685	-271	6.7	-2.6
Employers	1,282	1,570	1,434	-288	136	-18.3	9.5
Unpaid Family Workers	4,112	3,870	4,046	242	-176	6.3	-4.3
HOURS OF WORK							
Less than 40 Hours (Part-Time Employment)	11,879	12,046	11,762	-167	284	-1.4	2.4
40 Hours and Over (Full-Time Employment)	21,406	21,077	19,856	329	1,221	1.6	6.1
Did Not Work	410	422	413	-12	9	-2.8	2.2
REGION							
NCR	4,097	4,098	3,875	-1	223	-0.0	5.8
CAR	678	659	601	19	58	2.9	9.7
Region I	1,793	1,731	1,693	62	38	3.6	2.2
Region II	1,343	1,353	1,292	-10	61	-0.7	4.7
Region III	3,447	3,477	3,264	-30	213	-0.9	6.5
Region IV-A	4,171	4,181	3,992	-10	189	-0.2	4.7
Region IV-B	1,121	1,097	1,034	24	63	2.2	6.1
Region V	1,921	1,953	1,871	-32	82	-1.6	4.4
Region VI	2,789	2,893	2,675	-104	218	-3.6	8.1
Region VII	2,582	2,525	2,414	57	111	2.3	4.6
Region VIII	1,568	1,587	1,521	-19	66	-1.2	4.3
Region IX	1,242	1,260	1,188	-18	72	-1.4	6.1
Region X	1,719	1,678	1,697	41	-19	2.4	-1.1
Region XI	1,691	1,599	1,593	92	6	5.8	0.4
Region XII	1,504	1,484	1,424	20	60	1.3	4.2
Caraga	652	877	890	-225	-13	-25.7	-1.5
ARMM	1,078	1,094	1,008	-16	86	-1.5	8.5

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

^p Preliminary.

* Less than 500.

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

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

INDICATOR	2008 ^p	2007 ^p	2006	Increment	
				2007-2008	2006-2007
UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS	6,370	7,214	6,774	-844	440
Hours Work					
- Worked less than 40 hours/week	3,897	4,165	4,102	-268	63
- Worked more than 40 hours/week	2,345	2,894	2,514	-549	380
- With a job but not at work	128	154	159	-26	-5
INDUSTRY					
- Agriculture	3,139	3,301	3,187	-162	114
- Industry	952	1,084	1,024	-132	60
- Services	2,279	2,829	2,562	-550	267
Underemployment rate (%)	18.9	21.5	21.1	-2.6	0.4
Visible underemployment rate (%)	11.6	12.9	12.8	-1.3	0.1

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

p Preliminary.

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

Table 4 - SUMMARY STATISTICS ON UNEMPLOYMENT
PHILIPPINES: January 2006, 2007 and 2008

(in thousands except percent)

INDICATOR	Total Unemployed Persons		Percent Share (%)		Unemployment Rate (%)		Increment 2007-2008
	2008 ^p	2007	2008 ^p	2007	2008 ^p	2007	
TOTAL	2,675	2,850	100.0	100.0	7.4	7.8	-175
Sex							
Male	1,741	1,794	65.1	62.9	7.8	8.1	-53
Female	934	1,055	34.9	37.0	6.7	7.4	-121
Age Group							
15-24 years old	1,328	1,391	49.6	48.8	16.9	17.3	-63
25-54 years old	1,245	1,332	46.5	46.7	5.2	5.6	-87
55 years old and over	102	127	3.8	4.5	2.2	2.8	-25
Not Reported	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Highest Grade Completed							
No Grade Completed	10	19	0.4	0.7			-9
Elementary	396	504	14.8	17.7			-108
Undergraduate	180	238	6.7	8.4			-58
Graduate	215	266	8.0	9.3			-51
High School	1,238	1,324	46.3	46.5			-86
Undergraduate	343	385	12.8	13.5			-42
Graduate	895	939	33.5	32.9			-44
College	1,031	1,002	38.5	35.2			29
Undergraduate	551	539	20.6	18.9			12
Graduate	481	463	18.0	16.2			18

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.