

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE APRIL 2009 LABOR FORCE SURVEY



### Overview

The employment situation in April 2009 remained relatively upbeat despite of the economic slowdown registered in the first quarter of the year. Employment grew by 4.3% year-on-year and was broad-based – occurring in the three broad sectors and across regions of the country. The respectable growth in employment, however, was tempered by the decline in the “mean hours worked” and the corresponding increase in part-time employment and time-rated underemployment. Also, persons in self-employment and employment of unpaid family workers were on the rise during the period.

Meanwhile, unemployment rate was down to 7.5% in April 2009 from 8.0% a year earlier. This occurred despite the 0.8 percentage point rise in labor force participation rate (LFPR) to 64.0%.

### Labor Force

The country's labor force stood at 37.824 million in April 2009 – an increase of 3.8% (+1.374 million) from a year ago level. This figure corresponds to a labor force participation rate (LFPR) of 64.0%, upped by 0.8 percentage point from the same period in 2008. (Table 1)

### Employment

Total employed persons grew by a respectable 4.3% year-on-year, increasing from 33.535 million to 34.993 million. This indicates a net addition or new employment generation of more than a million (+1.458 million). This figure represents a recovery from last year's decline of 0.5% (-169,000). (Table 2)

**Table 1 - KEY EMPLOYMENT INDICATORS  
PHILIPPINES: April 2008-2009  
(in thousands except rates)**

Indicator	April 2009 <sup>p</sup>	April 2008	Year-on-Year Change
Household Population 15 Years Old and Over	59,074	57,700	1,374
Labor Force	37,824	36,450	1,374
– Employed Persons	34,993	33,535	1,458
– Unemployed Persons	2,830	2,914	-84
Underemployed Persons	6,622	6,625	-3
– Visibly underemployed	4,335	4,025	310
Not in the Labor Force	21,250	21,250	0
LFPR (%)	64.0	63.2	
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.5	8.0	
Underemployment Rate (%)	18.9	19.8	
– Visible Under-employment Rate (%)	12.4	12.0	

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary.

Source: National Statistics Office, Labor Force Survey.

- Employment growth was broad-based, growing in all sub-sectors except for manufacturing which contracted by 43,000 from last year. This is the third consecutive year that manufacturing employment has declined since 2006.
- Employment gains were registered strongest in agriculture, hunting and forestry (+390,000), wholesale and retail trade (+358,000), private households with employed persons (+146,000), public administration (+133,000) and construction (+108,000). Together, they accounted for more than three fourths (77.8% or 1.135 million) of total new employment created during the period.

Other notable gainers were real estate, renting and business activities (+70,000) and other community, social and personal services (+64,000).

- The pressure of the global crisis on the labor market was channeled in the form of the overall decline in mean or average hours of work, i.e., from 41.6 to 39.5.

This decline is reflected by the 19.9% (+2.377 million) rise in part-time employment and the corresponding reduction in full-time employment (-4.5% or -925,000) during the period.

- Furthermore, self-employment grew the most by class of workers (8.0% or +803,000) outpacing the growth in wage and salary employment (2.5% or +445,000). Growth also occurred among unpaid family workers (+394,000) but declined among employers (-184,000).

- Employment rose in all regions with the biggest gains posted in Regions IV-A (+246,000), VI (+177,000), I (+155,000), III (+144,000) and VIII (+106,000).

### Underemployment

- The number of underemployed persons (or employed persons who wanted or expressed the desire for additional hours of work) was placed at 6.622 million – a little change from last year's figure of 6.625 million. This number corresponds to 18.9% of total employed, down from 19.8% a year before. (*Table 3*)
- There was, however, a noticeable increase in time-rated or visible underemployment (persons who worked less than 40 hours during the reference week and wanting additional hours of work) during the period. Their number rose by 7.7% (+310,000), from 4.025 million to 4.335 million.

### Unemployment

The April 2009 unemployment rate was down to 7.5% from 8.0% a year ago. In absolute terms, the total number of unemployed stood at 2.830 million – a reduction of 2.9% or 84,000 from April last year. This occurred despite the rise in the labor force participation rate (LFPR) during the period as earlier noted.

- Young workers (*aged 15 to 24 years old*) comprised one-half (50.6% or 1.433 million) of the total unemployed workforce. Youth unemployment rate at 17.4% was more than twice the national average. This rate was lower compared with the 18.6% recorded last year. (*Table 4*)

- About two in every three unemployed were men (1.741 million or 61.5%). Men unemployment rate was placed at 7.5% - down from 8.1% last year. Also, women unemployment rate dropped to 7.4% from 7.9%.
- The majority (43.9% or 1.243 million) were high school graduates or undergraduates. Equally large were college undergraduates and graduates (43.0% or 1.216 million).
- Five (5) regions recorded unemployment rate higher than the national average figure of 7.5%: NCR (13.5%), Region IV-A (9.9%), Region III (8.5%), Region I (8.3%) and Region VI (7.9%). On the other hand, the lowest unemployment rate was noted in ARMM (1.5%) followed by Region II (2.8%) and Region IX (3.8%).
- Unemployment rate in all regions were about unchanged or lower compared with last year except for Regions VIII, IX and X.
- Notable declines in unemployment rates compared with last year were observed in Region III (from 10.1% to 8.5%), ARMM (3.9% to 1.5%) and Region II (3.8% to 2.8%). The rest of the regions posted marginal or no change in unemployment rates.

---

**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](mailto:bles_dole@yahoo.com) or [blesemsd@yahoo.com](mailto:blesemsd@yahoo.com)

Or visit our website at <http://www.bles.dole.gov.ph>

---

**Table 1A - KEY EMPLOYMENT INDICATORS**  
**PHILIPPINES: April 2007, 2008 and 2009**  
(in thousands except rates)

INDICATOR	April 2009 <sup>P</sup>	April 2008	April 2007	Increment		Growth Rate	
				2008-2009	2007-2008	2008-2009	2007-2008
Population 15 Years Old and Over	59,074	57,700	56,411	1,374	1,289	2.4	2.3
Labor Force	37,824	36,450	36,396	1,374	54	3.8	0.1
- Employed	34,993	33,535	33,704	1,458	-169	4.3	-0.5
- Unemployed	2,830	2,914	2,692	-84	222	-2.9	8.2
Underemployed	6,622	6,625	6,378	-3	247	0.0	3.9
- Visible underemployment <sup>1</sup>	4,335	4,025	4,389	310	-364	7.7	-8.3
Not in the Labor Force	21,250	21,250	20,015	0	1,235	0.0	6.2
Labor Force Participation Rate (%)	64.0	63.2	64.5				
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.5	8.0	7.4				
Underemployment Rate (%)	18.9	19.8	18.9				
Visible Underemployment Rate (%)	12.4	12.0	13.0				
Mean Hours of Work (%)	39.5	41.6	39.6				

<sup>P</sup>Preliminary.

<sup>1</sup> Includes number of underemployed persons who were with jobs but did not work during the reference period.

Source: National Statistics Office, Labor Force Survey.

**Table 2 - SUMMARY STATISTICS ON EMPLOYMENT**  
**PHILIPPINES: April 2007, 2008 and 2009**  
(in thousands except rates)

INDICATOR	2009 <sup>p</sup>	2008	2007	Increment (2008-2009)	Year-on-Year Growth Rate (%)
<b>EMPLOYED PERSONS</b>	<b>34,993</b>	<b>33,535</b>	<b>33,704</b>	<b>1,458</b>	<b>4.3</b>
<b>SECTOR</b>					
<b>Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry</b>	<b>12,313</b>	<b>11,905</b>	<b>11,853</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>3.4</b>
Agriculture, Hunting and Forestry	10,840	10,450	10,287	390	3.7
Fishing	1,473	1,454	1,566	19	1.3
<b>Industry</b>	<b>5,087</b>	<b>5,001</b>	<b>5,248</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>1.7</b>
Mining and Quarrying	166	151	177	15	9.9
Manufacturing	2,840	2,883	3,073	-43	-1.5
Electricity, Gas and Water	130	123	134	7	5.7
Construction	1,951	1,843	1,863	108	5.9
<b>Services</b>	<b>17,594</b>	<b>16,630</b>	<b>16,604</b>	<b>964</b>	<b>5.8</b>
Wholesale and Retail Trade	6,680	6,322	6,450	358	5.7
Hotels and Restaurants	977	924	869	53	5.7
Transport, Storage & Communications	2,628	2,575	2,553	53	2.1
Financial Intermediation	389	366	343	23	6.3
Real Estate, Renting & Bus. Activities	1,023	953	907	70	7.3
Public Administration & Defense, Compulsory Social Security	1,794	1,661	1,549	133	8.0
Education	1,068	1,028	998	40	3.9
Health and Social Work	408	384	356	24	6.3
Other Community, Social & Personal Service Activities	907	843	936	64	7.6
Private Households w/ Employed Persons	1,718	1,572	1,640	146	9.3
Extra-Territorial Organizations	3	3	2	0	0.0
<b>STATUS OF EMPLOYMENT</b>					
Wage and Salary Workers	18,169	17,724	17,232	445	2.5
Self-employed Workers	10,867	10,064	10,767	803	8.0
Employers	1,360	1,544	1,295	-184	-11.9
Unpaid Family Workers	4,597	4,203	4,410	394	9.4
<b>HOURS OF WORK</b>					
Less than 40 Hours (Part-Time Employment)	14,331	11,954	14,074	2,377	19.9
40 Hours and Over (Full-Time Employment)	19,823	20,748	18,706	-925	-4.5
Did Not Work	839	833	924	6	0.7
<b>REGION</b>					
NCR	4,043	4,005	3,989	38	0.9
CAR	685	647	676	38	5.9
Region I	1,858	1,703	1,734	155	9.1
Region II	1,447	1,350	1,367	97	7.2
Region III	3,570	3,426	3,432	144	4.2
Region IV-A	4,253	4,007	4,073	246	6.1
Region IV-B	1,193	1,128	1,129	65	5.8
Region V	2,042	2,019	1,997	23	1.1
Region VI	2,911	2,734	2,710	177	6.5
Region VII	2,639	2,568	2,627	71	2.8
Region VIII	1,710	1,604	1,605	106	6.6
Region IX	1,380	1,305	1,313	75	5.7
Region X	1,821	1,765	1,796	56	3.2
Region XI	1,708	1,675	1,648	33	2.0
Region XII	1,611	1,547	1,516	64	4.1
Caraga	996	968	959	28	2.9
ARMM	1,128	1,084	1,132	44	4.1

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

p Preliminary.

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

**Table 3 - SUMMARY STATISTICS ON UNDEREMPLOYMENT**  
**PHILIPPINES: April 2007, 2008 and 2009**  
(in thousands except percent)

INDICATOR	2009 <sup>p</sup>	2008	2007	Increment	
				2008-2009	2007-2008
<b>UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS</b>	<b>6,622</b>	<b>6,625</b>	<b>6,378</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>247</b>
<b>Hours Worked</b>					
- Worked less than 40 hours/week <sup>1</sup>	4,335	4,025	4,389	310	(364)
- Worked more than 40 hours/week	2,286	2,599	1,989	(313)	610
<b>Industry</b>					
- Agriculture	3,088	3,049	3,083	39	(34)
- Industry	961	1,029	1,050	(68)	(21)
- Services	2,573	2,547	2,245	26	302
Underemployment rate (%)	18.9	19.8	18.9	(0.9)	0.9
Visible underemployment rate (%) <sup>1</sup>	12.4	12.0	13.0	0.4	(1.0)

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

*p Preliminary.*

*1 Includes number of underemployed persons who were with jobs but did not work during the reference period.*

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

**Table 4 - SUMMARY STATISTICS ON UNEMPLOYMENT**  
**PHILIPPINES: April 2007, 2008 and 2009**  
(in thousands except percent)

INDICATOR	Total Unemployed Persons			Percent Share (%)			Unemployment Rate (%)			Increment	
	2009 <sup>P</sup>	2008	2007	2009 <sup>P</sup>	2008	2007	2009 <sup>P</sup>	2008	2007	2008-2009	2007-2008
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,830</b>	<b>2,914</b>	<b>2,692</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>-84</b>	<b>222</b>
<b>Sex</b>											
Male	1,741	1,820	1,730	61.5	62.5	64.3	7.5	8.1	7.7	-79	90
Female	1,090	1,094	962	38.5	37.5	35.7	7.4	7.9	6.9	-4	132
<b>Age Group</b>											
15-24 years old	1,433	1,491	1,362	50.6	51.2	50.6	17.4	18.6	16.4	-58	129
25-54 years old	1,287	1,324	1,240	45.5	45.4	46.1	5.2	5.5	5.3	-37	84
55 years old and over	110	99	89	3.9	3.4	3.3	2.3	2.2	2.0	11	10
<b>Highest Grade Completed</b>											
No Grade Completed	12	18	16	0.4	0.6	0.6				-6	2
Elementary	360	409	388	12.7	14.0	14.4				-49	21
Undergraduate	155	184	168	5.5	6.3	6.2				-29	16
Graduate	205	225	220	7.2	7.7	8.2				-20	5
High School	1,243	1,320	1,238	43.9	45.3	46.0				-77	82
Undergraduate	338	388	343	11.9	13.3	12.7				-50	45
Graduate	905	932	895	32.0	32.0	33.2				-27	37
College	1,216	1,166	1,051	43.0	40.0	39.0				50	115
Undergraduate	624	614	547	22.0	21.1	20.3				10	67
Graduate	592	552	504	20.9	18.9	18.7				40	48

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.

**Table 5 - LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT  
BY REGION, PHILIPPINES: April 2008 and 2009**  
(in thousands except percent)

Region	Labor Force				Employment		Unemployment				Underemployment			
	2009 <sup>P</sup>		2008		2009 <sup>P</sup>	2008	2009 <sup>P</sup>		2008		2009 <sup>P</sup>		2008	
	No.	LFPR (%)	No.	LFPR (%)	No.	No.	No.	Rate (%)	No.	Rate (%)	No.	Rate (%)	No.	Rate (%)
<b>Philippines</b>	<b>37,824</b>	<b>64.0</b>	<b>36,450</b>	<b>63.2</b>	<b>34,993</b>	<b>33,535</b>	<b>2,830</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>2,914</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>6,622</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>6,625</b>	<b>19.8</b>
NCR	4,674	60.9	4,649	61.2	4,043	4,005	631	13.5	643	13.8	500	12.4	542	13.5
CAR	715	67.4	680	65.7	685	647	30	4.2	33	4.9	123	17.9	133	20.6
Region I	2,027	61.0	1,875	58.7	1,858	1,703	169	8.3	172	9.2	290	15.6	298	16.4
Region II	1,489	69.0	1,403	65.9	1,447	1,350	42	2.8	53	3.8	242	16.7	235	17.4
Region III	3,903	59.8	3,808	59.3	3,570	3,426	333	8.5	383	10.0	192	5.4	299	10.1
Region IV-A	4,719	62.9	4,467	60.9	4,253	4,007	466	9.9	460	10.3	657	15.4	623	17.5
Region IV-B	1,249	70.9	1,181	69.4	1,193	1,128	56	4.5	53	4.5	304	25.4	330	29.3
Region V	2,185	65.4	2,159	66.2	2,042	2,019	143	6.5	140	6.5	752	36.8	781	38.7
Region VI	3,162	65.0	2,990	63.6	2,911	2,734	251	7.9	256	8.6	780	26.8	581	21.3
Region VII	2,845	63.5	2,783	64.0	2,639	2,568	206	7.3	215	7.7	333	12.6	409	15.9
Region VIII	1,799	67.7	1,688	65.0	1,710	1,604	90	5.0	83	4.9	490	28.7	470	29.3
Region IX	1,435	67.6	1,351	65.0	1,380	1,305	55	3.8	47	3.4	378	27.4	264	20.2
Region X	1,920	70.7	1,858	69.6	1,821	1,765	100	5.2	93	5.0	446	24.5	472	26.7
Region XI	1,821	65.7	1,787	66.4	1,708	1,675	113	6.2	113	6.3	400	23.4	408	24.4
Region XII	1,685	67.2	1,628	67.2	1,611	1,547	74	4.4	80	4.9	321	19.9	368	23.8
Caraga	1,050	67.2	1,024	66.5	996	968	54	5.1	56	5.5	267	26.8	289	29.9
ARMM	1,146	56.3	1,117	56.4	1,128	1,084	18	1.5	33	3.0	147	13.0	122	11.3

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

p Preliminary.

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