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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JANUARY 2012 LABOR FORCE SURVEY



Overview

Employment in January 2012 returned to the growth path (3.0%) after posting a slowdown (0.8%) in the same period last year, latest results of the Labor Force Survey indicates. Growth occurred in all three broad sectors - led by industry (4.8%), services (3.3%) and agriculture, fishery and forestry (1.9%). Employment recovery was accompanied by the decline in both unemployment rate (7.2% from 7.4%) and underemployment rate (18.8% from 19.4%) – despite the rise in labor force participation (64.3% from 63.7%).

However, the quality of employment was mixed growth with part-time employment (+4.2%) exceeding that of full-time employment (+2.6%). Likewise, the proportion of self-employed and unpaid family workers to total employment was about unchanged from last year (41.6% from 41.7%) while the mean hours worked a week grew marginally (41.1 from 41.0) over the period.

Labor Force

The country's labor force grew by 2.8% (+1.106 million) to reach 40.316 million in January 2012 – a marked increase from a year ago growth of 1.0% (+382,000). This figure corresponds to labor force participation rate (LFPR) of 64.3% - an increase of 0.6 percentage point from 63.7% a year earlier.

Participation rates were up for both men and women and also across age groups but the increases were most notable among women (50.0% from 49.1%) and among age cohorts 15-24 years old (45.8% from 45.0%) and 35-44 years old (79.2% from 78.4%).

**TABLE 1 - Key Employment Indicators
Philippines: January 2011-2012
(In thousands except rates)**

| Indicator | Jan. 2012 ^p | Jan. 2011 | Year-on-Year Change |
|--|------------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| Household Population 15 Years Old and Over | 62,689 | 61,531 | 1,158 |
| Labor Force | 40,316 | 39,210 | 1,106 |
| – Employed Persons | 37,394 | 36,293 | 1,101 |
| – Unemployed Persons | 2,922 | 2,917 | 5 |
| Underemployed Persons | 7,030 | 7,050 | -20 |
| – Visibly underemployed | 4,301 | 4,443 | -142 |
| Not in the Labor Force | 22,374 | 22,321 | 53 |
| LFPR (%) | 64.3 | 63.7 | |
| Unemployment Rate (%) | 7.2 | 7.4 | |
| Underemployment Rate (%) | 18.8 | 19.4 | |
| – Visible Under-employment Rate (%) | 11.5 | 12.2 | |
| Mean Hours of Work | 41.1 | 41.0 | |

^p Preliminary.

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

Employment

Employment level grew by 3.0% in January 2012. Total employed persons increased to 37.394 million from 36.293 million a year ago - this represents an employment generation of 1.101 million. The latest growth figure represents a marked improvement from last year's growth rate of less than one percent (0.8% or +292,000).

- The services sector posted a year-on-year growth rate of 3.3% (+620,000) -- a three-fold increase from last year's growth figure of 1.1% (+201,000). *(Table 2)*
- Industry employment grew by a robust 4.8% (+251,000) -- a recovery from the year ago slump of 1.1% (-58,000).
- Employment in agriculture, hunting and forestry sector expanded by a moderate 1.9% (+233,000) -- about the same pace last year at 1.2% (+146,000).
- Total wage and salary employment recorded a turn-around growth of 3.3% (+657,000) compared with the decline of 1.2% of previous year. In particular, those in private establishments registered a 4.6% increase.
- The quality of employment was mixed. After posting declines last year, recovery occurred among persons in full-time employment (2.6% or +595,000) and wage and salary employment (3.3% or +657,000).
- These gains, however, were accompanied by the expansion in part-time employment (4.2% or +559,000); a marginal increase

in mean hours worked a week (41.1 from 41.0); and a little improvement (41.6% from 41.7%) in the proportion of self-employed and unpaid-family workers to total employment - a Millennium Development Goal indicator.

- Employment gains were recorded in all regions except Region VI (-53,000). The biggest gainer was Region VII (+186,000), followed by Region III (+151,000), Region IV-A (+129,000) and ARMM (+116,000).

Underemployment

- Compared with last year, underemployment declined both in terms of rate (18.8% from 19.4%) and magnitude (7.030 million from 7.050 million). *(Table 3)*
- For the same period, visible underemployment rate was down to 11.5% from 12.2%. Their number fell by 142,000 to 4.301 million. Visible underemployment refers to persons who worked less than 40 hours a week and wanting additional hours of work.

Unemployment

Unemployment rate eased to 7.2% in January 2012 from 7.4% a year ago. In absolute terms, however, the total number of unemployed persons was up by 5,000 to reach 2.922 million. This occurred as more persons joined the labor force this period as mentioned earlier in the report.

- Nearly half (48.9% or 1.430 million) of the total unemployed workforce were young workers (*aged 15 to 24 years old*). Youth unemployment rate at 16.6% was more than twice the national

average. This percentage was lower than last year's unemployment rate of 17.2%. (Table 4)

- About three in every five unemployed were men (63.5% or 1.855 million). The unemployment rate of men remained unchanged (7.6%) while the rate for women went down by 0.4 percent to 6.8%.
- Most of them (45.9% or 1.342 million) were high school graduates or undergraduates. Equally large were college undergraduates and graduates (31.1% or 0.910 million).
- Five regions posted unemployment rates higher than the national rate: NCR (12.2%), Region III (9.7%), Region I (8.9%), Region IV-A (8.5%) and Region VII (7.5%). (Table 5)
- Compared with last year, increases in unemployment rates occurred in Region III (+1.8 percentage points), Region XII (+0.8 percentage point), Region XI (+0.4 percentage point), Region IX (+0.3 percentage point) and NCR (+0.1 percentage point) while notable reductions occurred in Region I and Caraga (-1.1 percentage points each), and Region IV-A, Region IV-B and ARMM (-0.9 percentage point each).

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: blesemsd@yahoo.com or visit our website at <http://www.bles.dole.gov.ph>

TABLE 1a - Key Employment Indicators
Philippines: January 2010, 2011 and 2012
(In thousands except rates)

| INDICATOR | January 2012 ^p | January 2011 | January 2010 | Increment | | Growth Rate | |
|--|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| | | | | 2011-2012 | 2010-2011 | 2011-2012 | 2010-2011 |
| Population 15 Years Old and Over | 62,689 | 61,531 | 60,208 | 1,158 | 1,323 | 1.9 | 2.2 |
| Labor Force | 40,316 | 39,210 | 38,828 | 1,106 | 382 | 2.8 | 1.0 |
| - Employed | 37,394 | 36,293 | 36,001 | 1,101 | 292 | 3.0 | 0.8 |
| - Unemployed | 2,922 | 2,917 | 2,827 | 5 | 90 | 0.2 | 3.2 |
| Underemployed | 7,030 | 7,050 | 7,107 | -20 | -57 | -0.3 | -0.8 |
| - Visible underemployment ¹ | 4,301 | 4,443 | 4,174 | -142 | 269 | -3.2 | 6.4 |
| Not in the Labor Force | 22,374 | 22,321 | 21,380 | 53 | 941 | 0.2 | 4.4 |
| Labor Force Participation Rate (%) | 64.3 | 63.7 | 64.5 | | | | |
| Employment Rate (%) | 92.8 | 92.6 | 92.7 | | | | |
| Unemployment Rate (%) | 7.2 | 7.4 | 7.3 | | | | |
| Underemployment Rate (%) | 18.8 | 19.4 | 19.7 | | | | |
| Visible Underemployment Rate (%) | 11.5 | 12.2 | 11.6 | | | | |
| Mean Hours of Work | 41.1 | 41.0 | 42.3 | | | | |

^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 2 - Summary Statistics on Employment
Philippines: January 2010, 2011 and 2012
(In thousands except rates)

| INDICATOR | 2012 ^p | 2011 | 2010 | Increment | | Year-on-Year Growth Rate (%) | |
|--|-------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|------------|------------------------------|------------|
| | | | | 2011-2012 | 2010-2011 | 2011-2012 | 2010-2011 |
| EMPLOYED PERSONS SECTOR | 37,394 | 36,293 | 36,001 | 1,101 | 292 | 3.0 | 0.8 |
| Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry | 12,185 | 11,952 | 11,806 | 233 | 146 | 1.9 | 1.2 |
| Industry | 5,515 | 5,264 | 5,322 | 251 | -58 | 4.8 | -1.1 |
| Services | 19,694 | 19,074 | 18,873 | 620 | 201 | 3.3 | 1.1 |
| CLASS OF WORKER | | | | | | | |
| Wage and salary workers | 20,506 | 19,849 | 20,082 | 657 | -233 | 3.3 | -1.2 |
| - In private establishments | 15,540 | 14,855 | 14,898 | 685 | -43 | 4.6 | -0.3 |
| Employers in own family-operated farm or business | 1,336 | 1,318 | 1,522 | 18 | -204 | 1.4 | -13.4 |
| Self-employed workers | 11,254 | 11,030 | 10,573 | 224 | 457 | 2.0 | 4.3 |
| Worked without pay in own family-operated farm or business | 4,298 | 4,096 | 3,824 | 202 | 272 | 4.9 | 7.1 |
| HOURS OF WORK | | | | | | | |
| Less than 40 Hours (Part-Time Employment) | 13,726 | 13,167 | 12,309 | 559 | 858 | 4.2 | 7.0 |
| 40 Hours and Over (Full-Time Employment) | 23,231 | 22,636 | 23,252 | 595 | -616 | 2.6 | -2.6 |
| Did Not Work | 437 | 490 | 440 | -53 | 50 | -10.8 | 11.4 |
| Mean Hours of Work | 41.1 | 41.0 | 42.3 | | | | |
| REGION | | | | | | | |
| NCR | 4,429 | 4,412 | 4,398 | 17 | 14 | 0.4 | 0.3 |
| CAR | 745 | 706 | 701 | 39 | 5 | 5.5 | 0.7 |
| Region I | 1,964 | 1,907 | 1,882 | 57 | 25 | 3.0 | 1.3 |
| Region II | 1,471 | 1,418 | 1,402 | 53 | 16 | 3.7 | 1.1 |
| Region III | 3,903 | 3,752 | 3,729 | 151 | 23 | 4.0 | 0.6 |
| Region IV-A | 4,702 | 4,573 | 4,490 | 129 | 83 | 2.8 | 1.8 |
| Region IV-B | 1,304 | 1,238 | 1,173 | 66 | 65 | 5.3 | 5.5 |
| Region V | 2,144 | 2,051 | 2,073 | 93 | -22 | 4.5 | -1.1 |
| Region VI | 3,010 | 3,063 | 3,026 | -53 | 37 | -1.7 | 1.2 |
| Region VII | 2,891 | 2,705 | 2,728 | 186 | -23 | 6.9 | -0.8 |
| Region VIII | 1,712 | 1,681 | 1,650 | 31 | 31 | 1.8 | 1.9 |
| Region IX | 1,480 | 1,423 | 1,397 | 57 | 26 | 4.0 | 1.9 |
| Region X | 1,918 | 1,850 | 1,837 | 68 | 13 | 3.7 | 0.7 |
| Region XI | 1,829 | 1,791 | 1,721 | 38 | 70 | 2.1 | 4.1 |
| Region XII | 1,668 | 1,647 | 1,626 | 21 | 21 | 1.3 | 1.3 |
| Caraga | 1,011 | 981 | 958 | 30 | 23 | 3.1 | 2.4 |
| ARMM | 1,212 | 1,096 | 1,207 | 116 | -111 | 10.6 | -9.2 |

Notes: 1. Due to the adoption of the 2009 Philippine Standard Industrial Classification (PSIC) starting January 2012 LFS, historical data between subsectors not strictly comparable. As such, data are presented at the sectoral levels only;

2. 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: January 2011 and 2012**
(In thousands except rates)

| INDICATOR | 2012 ^p | 2011 | Increment |
|---|-------------------|--------------|------------|
| | | | 2011-2012 |
| UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS | 7,030 | 7,050 | -20 |
| Hours Worked | | | |
| - Worked less than 40 hours/week ¹ | 4,301 | 4,443 | -142 |
| - Worked more than 40 hours/week | 2,730 | 2,607 | 123 |
| Industry | | | |
| - Agriculture | 3,079 | 3,158 | -79 |
| - Industry | 1,102 | 1,041 | 61 |
| - Services | 2,850 | 2,850 | 0 |
| Underemployment rate (%) | 18.8 | 19.4 | -0.6 |
| Visible underemployment rate (%) ¹ | 11.5 | 12.2 | -0.7 |

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

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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: January 2010, 2011 and 2012
(In thousands except rates/percent)

| INDICATOR | Total Unemployed Persons | | | Percent Share (%) | | | Unemployment Rate (%) | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|------------|------------|
| | 2012 ^P | 2011 | 2010 | 2012 ^P | 2011 | 2010 | 2012 ^P | 2011 | 2010 |
| TOTAL | 2,922 | 2,917 | 2,827 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 7.2 | 7.4 | 7.3 |
| Sex | | | | | | | | | |
| Men | 1,855 | 1,828 | 1,828 | 63.5 | 62.7 | 64.7 | 7.6 | 7.6 | 7.8 |
| Women | 1,067 | 1,089 | 999 | 36.5 | 37.3 | 35.3 | 6.8 | 7.2 | 6.5 |
| Age Group | | | | | | | | | |
| 15-24 years old | 1,430 | 1,426 | 1,456 | 48.9 | 48.9 | 51.5 | 16.6 | 17.2 | 17.8 |
| 25-54 years old | 1,368 | 1,384 | 1,255 | 46.8 | 47.4 | 44.4 | 5.2 | 5.4 | 4.9 |
| 55 years old and over | 124 | 106 | 117 | 4.2 | 3.6 | 4.1 | 2.4 | 2.1 | 2.3 |
| Not reported | * | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Highest Grade Completed | | | | | | | | | |
| No Grade Completed | 12 | 8 | 19 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.7 | | | |
| Elementary | 393 | 397 | 419 | 13.4 | 13.6 | 14.8 | | | |
| Undergraduate | 173 | 180 | 208 | 5.9 | 6.2 | 7.4 | | | |
| Graduate | 220 | 217 | 211 | 7.5 | 7.4 | 7.5 | | | |
| High School | 1,342 | 1,373 | 1,321 | 45.9 | 47.1 | 46.7 | | | |
| Undergraduate | 356 | 349 | 386 | 12.2 | 12.0 | 13.7 | | | |
| Graduate | 986 | 1,023 | 935 | 33.7 | 35.1 | 33.1 | | | |
| Post Secondary | 262 | - | - | 9.0 | - | - | | | |
| Undergraduate | 87 | - | - | 3.0 | - | - | | | |
| Graduate | 175 | - | - | 6.0 | - | - | | | |
| College | 910 | 1,140* | 1,068* | 31.1 | 39.1* | 37.8* | | | |
| Undergraduate | 394 | 576 | 547 | 13.5 | 19.7 | 19.3 | | | |
| Graduate | 516 | 564 | 521 | 17.7 | 19.3 | 18.4 | | | |
| Post baccalaureate | 4 | - | - | 0.1 | - | - | | | |

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

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* Includes post secondary.

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

TABLE 4a - Summary Statistics on Household Population 15 Years Old and Over and Labor Force, Philippines: January 2011 and 2012
(In thousands except rates/percent)

| INDICATOR | Total Population 15 Years Old and Over | | | Labor Force | | | Labor Force Participation Rate (%) | | |
|-----------------------|--|--------|-----------|-------------------|--------|-----------|------------------------------------|------|-----------|
| | 2012 ^p | 2011 | Increment | 2012 ^p | 2011 | Increment | 2012 ^p | 2011 | Increment |
| TOTAL | 62,689 | 61,531 | 1,158 | 40,316 | 39,210 | 1,106 | 64.3 | 63.7 | 0.6 |
| Sex | | | | | | | | | |
| Men | 31,188 | 30,592 | 596 | 24,550 | 24,021 | 529 | 78.7 | 78.5 | 0.2 |
| Women | 31,501 | 30,939 | 562 | 15,766 | 15,190 | 576 | 50.0 | 49.1 | 1.0 |
| Age Group | | | | | | | | | |
| 15-24 years old | 18,806 | 18,455 | 351 | 8,614 | 8,309 | 305 | 45.8 | 45.0 | 0.8 |
| 25-34 years old | 14,473 | 14,195 | 278 | 10,777 | 10,496 | 281 | 74.5 | 73.9 | 0.5 |
| 35-44 years old | 11,205 | 11,023 | 182 | 8,876 | 8,637 | 239 | 79.2 | 78.4 | 0.9 |
| 45-54 years old | 8,611 | 8,435 | 176 | 6,804 | 6,622 | 182 | 79.0 | 78.5 | 0.5 |
| 55-64 years old | 5,422 | 5,329 | 93 | 3,703 | 3,619 | 84 | 68.3 | 67.9 | 0.4 |
| 65 years old and over | 4,169 | 4,092 | 77 | 1,542 | 1,527 | 15 | 37.0 | 37.3 | -0.3 |
| Not reported | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 33.3 | 50.0 | -16.7 |

^p Preliminary.

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

**TABLE 5 - Labor Force, Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment
by Region, Philippines: January 2011 and 2012**
(In thousands except rates)

| REGION | Labor Force | | | | Employment | | | | Unemployment | | | | Underemployment | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|-------------------|------------|--------------|------------|-------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| | 2012 ^P | | 2011 | | 2012 ^P | | 2011 | | 2012 ^P | | 2011 | | 2012 ^P | | 2011 | |
| | No. | LFPR (%) | No. | LFPR (%) | No. | Rate (%) | No. | Rate (%) | No. | Rate (%) | No. | Rate (%) | No. | Rate (%) | No. | Rate (%) |
| PHILIPPINES | 40,316 | 64.3 | 39,210 | 63.7 | 37,394 | 92.8 | 36,293 | 92.6 | 2,922 | 7.2 | 2,917 | 7.4 | 7,030 | 18.8 | 7,050 | 19.4 |
| NCR | 5,043 | 62.8 | 5,017 | 62.9 | 4,429 | 87.8 | 4,412 | 87.9 | 614 | 12.2 | 605 | 12.1 | 638 | 14.4 | 636 | 14.4 |
| CAR | 789 | 69.2 | 748 | 66.7 | 745 | 94.4 | 706 | 94.4 | 44 | 5.6 | 42 | 5.6 | 129 | 17.4 | 105 | 14.9 |
| Region I | 2,155 | 61.0 | 2,118 | 61.7 | 1,964 | 91.1 | 1,907 | 90.0 | 191 | 8.9 | 211 | 10.0 | 266 | 13.6 | 345 | 18.1 |
| Region II | 1,507 | 66.9 | 1,464 | 66.0 | 1,471 | 97.6 | 1,418 | 96.9 | 36 | 2.4 | 46 | 3.1 | 163 | 11.1 | 248 | 17.5 |
| Region III | 4,320 | 62.3 | 4,074 | 60.0 | 3,903 | 90.3 | 3,752 | 92.1 | 417 | 9.7 | 322 | 7.9 | 451 | 11.5 | 365 | 9.7 |
| Region IV-A | 5,139 | 64.0 | 5,050 | 64.6 | 4,702 | 91.5 | 4,573 | 90.6 | 436 | 8.5 | 477 | 9.4 | 838 | 17.8 | 884 | 19.3 |
| Region IV-B | 1,350 | 70.4 | 1,293 | 70.0 | 1,304 | 96.6 | 1,238 | 95.7 | 46 | 3.4 | 55 | 4.3 | 280 | 21.5 | 303 | 24.5 |
| Region V | 2,300 | 64.6 | 2,208 | 63.3 | 2,144 | 93.2 | 2,051 | 92.9 | 156 | 6.8 | 157 | 7.1 | 747 | 34.8 | 727 | 35.4 |
| Region VI | 3,213 | 63.0 | 3,278 | 64.1 | 3,010 | 93.7 | 3,063 | 93.4 | 203 | 6.3 | 215 | 6.6 | 644 | 21.4 | 686 | 22.4 |
| Region VII | 3,124 | 65.9 | 2,948 | 63.8 | 2,891 | 92.5 | 2,705 | 91.8 | 233 | 7.5 | 243 | 8.2 | 592 | 20.5 | 426 | 15.7 |
| Region VIII | 1,822 | 63.7 | 1,795 | 64.0 | 1,712 | 94.0 | 1,681 | 93.6 | 110 | 6.0 | 114 | 6.4 | 374 | 21.9 | 410 | 24.4 |
| Region IX | 1,533 | 67.4 | 1,468 | 64.8 | 1,480 | 96.6 | 1,423 | 96.9 | 53 | 3.4 | 45 | 3.1 | 392 | 26.5 | 295 | 20.7 |
| Region X | 2,003 | 69.2 | 1,945 | 68.5 | 1,918 | 95.7 | 1,850 | 95.1 | 85 | 4.3 | 95 | 4.9 | 509 | 26.6 | 524 | 28.3 |
| Region XI | 1,951 | 66.7 | 1,901 | 65.9 | 1,829 | 93.8 | 1,791 | 94.2 | 122 | 6.2 | 111 | 5.8 | 276 | 15.1 | 283 | 15.8 |
| Region XII | 1,737 | 64.9 | 1,702 | 64.3 | 1,668 | 96.0 | 1,647 | 96.8 | 69 | 4.0 | 55 | 3.2 | 358 | 21.5 | 364 | 22.1 |
| Caraga | 1,080 | 65.3 | 1,062 | 65.8 | 1,011 | 93.6 | 981 | 92.4 | 69 | 6.4 | 80 | 7.5 | 222 | 22.0 | 247 | 25.2 |
| ARMM | 1,249 | 57.8 | 1,141 | 55.7 | 1,212 | 97.0 | 1,096 | 96.1 | 37 | 3.0 | 45 | 3.9 | 152 | 12.5 | 202 | 18.4 |

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

p Preliminary.

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