

## THE UNEMPLOYED PERSONS in 2011

The Labor Force Survey (LFS), conducted every January, April, July and October by the National Statistics Office, defines the unemployed as those persons 15 years old and over who are: i) without work or had no job/business; ii) looking or seeking work; and iii) currently available for work during the past reference week or within two weeks from the interview date. Also included as part of the unemployed are those who were without work and available for work but did not look for work due to what are considered as valid reasons: i) tired/believe no work was available; ii) awaiting results of previous job application; iii) temporary illness/ disability; iv) bad weather; and v) waiting for rehire/job recall.

This issue of LABSTAT Updates provides demographic and economic characteristics of unemployed persons in 2011.

In 2011, the size of the unemployed was estimated at 2.814 million. They accounted for 7.0% of the 40.006 million labor force.

### Demographic Characteristics

- Unemployed men made up more than three-fifths (63.0%) of the total 2.8 million. More than half (50.4%) were young persons aged 15-24 years old, almost all of whom were not currently attending school. On the other hand, 45.8% of the unemployed were in their prime age (25-54 years old) while a minimal share (3.8%) were elderly (55 and over). (Figure 1)
- More than two-thirds were single while more than one-fourth were married. Most of the unemployed were not heads of their households (86.7%).
- The unemployed were largely educated as 87.1% had reached high school or college. Combined together, high school graduates (33.5%) and college graduates (20.2%) totaled to more than half of the unemployed.
- More than 50.0% of the unemployed were located in the National Capital Region (20.1%), Regions III (12.7%) and IV-A (17.8%). These three posted unemployment rates of 11.3%, 8.5% and 9.7%, respectively, which were higher than the national average (7.0%). (Figure 2)

FIGURE 1 - Percent Distribution of Unemployed Persons by Age Group, Philippines: 2011

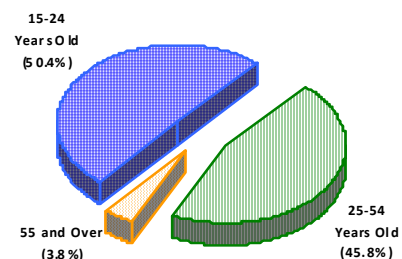
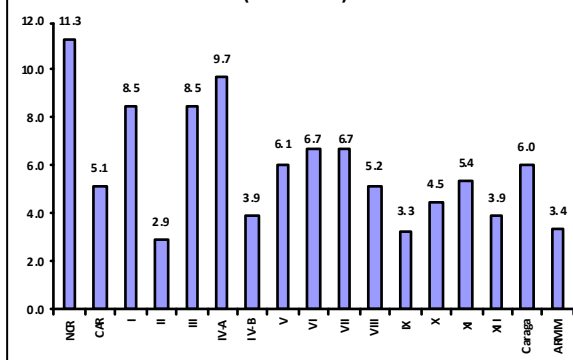
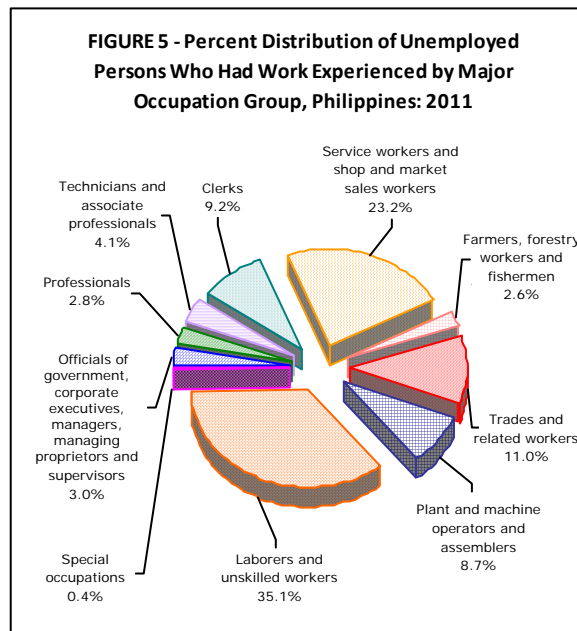
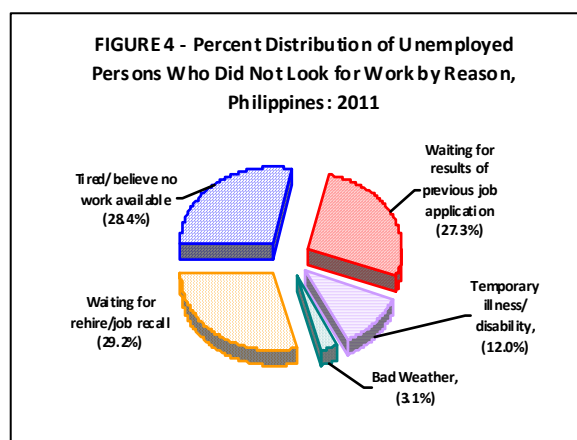
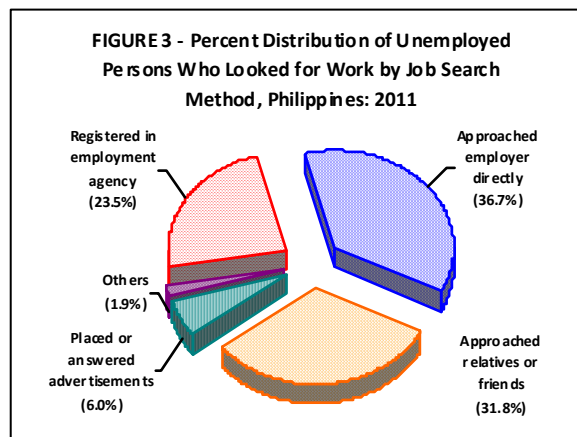


FIGURE 2 - Unemployment Rates by Region, Philippines: 2011 (In Percent)



**Economic Characteristics**

- About eight out of every 10 unemployed have been previously employed while 9.0% looked for work for the first time. These first time unemployed (252,000) together with those employed for the first time (576,000) comprised the 828,000 new entrants to the labor force in 2011.
- Of the total unemployed, almost the same proportions looked for work (49.3%) and did not look for work (50.7%).
- The leading job search methods of the 1.386 million who looked for work were: direct application to employer (36.7%), through relatives or friends (31.8%) and registration in public or private employment agencies (23.5%). Only 6.2% (86,000) went to public employment agencies. The average duration of job search was 5.1 weeks. (Figure 3)
- Those who believed that no work is available (28.4%), waiting for results of previous job application (27.3%) and waiting for rehire/job recall (29.2%) mostly comprised the 1.428 million who did not look for work. (Figure 4)
- There were 2.166 million unemployed who had work experience. Almost three-fifths of them used to be laborers and unskilled workers (35.1%) and service workers and shop and market sales workers (23.2%). (Figure 5)



**Overall Trend**

- Unemployment rates have remained at one-digit level since 2005. On an annual average, it went down from 8.0% in 2006 to its latest lowest point at 7.0% in 2011, which is within the 6.8-7.2% annual target of the 2011-2016 Philippine Development Plan.

**FOR INQUIRIES:**

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**TABLE 1 - Demographic and Economic Characteristics of the Unemployed Persons, Philippines: 2011**

INDICATOR	Number (in 000)	Percent Share
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,814</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS</b>		
<b>Sex</b>		
Men	1,772	63.0
Women	1,041	37.0
<b>Age</b>		
15 - 24 years old	1,417	50.4
<i>Currently attending school</i>	53	1.9
<i>Not currently attending school</i>	1,364	48.5
25 - 54 years old	1,290	45.8
55 years old and over	107	3.8
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Single	1,956	69.5
Married	756	26.9
Others	101	3.6
<b>Relationship to Household Head</b>		
Head of household	374	13.3
Non-head	2,440	86.7
<b>Educational Attainment</b>		
No grade completed	11	0.4
Elementary	354	12.6
High school	1,268	45.1
<i>Undergraduate</i>	323	11.5
<i>Graduate</i>	944	33.5
College	1,181	42.0
<i>Undergraduate</i>	613	21.8
<i>Graduate</i>	568	20.2
<b>Region</b>		
NCR	566	20.1
Region I	185	6.6
Region III	358	12.7
Region IV-A	502	17.8
Region VI	219	7.8
Region VII	208	7.4
Rest of the regions	778	27.6

**TABLE 1 - Demographic and Economic Characteristics of the Unemployed Persons, Philippines: 2011 (Continued)**

INDICATOR	Number (in 000)	Percent Share
<b>ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS</b>		
<b>Work Experience</b>		
Never worked before	648	23.0
<i>Looked for work for the first time</i>	252	9.0
Worked before (previously employed)	2,166	77.0
<b>Looked for Work by Job Search Method <sup>1</sup></b>		
Registered in employment agency	326	23.5
<i>Public</i>	86	6.2
<i>Private</i>	240	17.3
Approached employer directly	509	36.7
Approached relatives or friends	441	31.8
Placed or answered advertisements	83	6.0
Others	27	1.9
<i>Average duration of job search (weeks) <sup>2</sup></i>	5.1	
<b>Did Not Look for Work by Reason</b>		
Tired/believe no work available	406	28.4
Waiting for results of previous job application	390	27.3
Temporary illness/disability	171	12.0
Bad weather	44	3.1
Waiting for rehire/job recall	417	29.2
<b>Major Occupation of Previously Employed</b>		
Officials of government, corporate executives, managers, managing proprietors and supervisors	64	3.0
Professionals	60	2.8
Technicians and associate professionals	88	4.1
Clerks	199	9.2
Service workers and shop and market sales workers	503	23.2
Farmers, forestry workers and fishermen	57	2.6
Trades and related workers	238	11.0
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	189	8.7
Laborers and unskilled workers	761	35.1
Special occupations	8	0.4

Note: Details may not add up to totals due to rounding.

<sup>1</sup> If a person explored two or several methods simultaneously in the effort to seek employment, the method recorded for the interview is that which the individual considers as having the best chance of success.

<sup>2</sup> Refers to the number of weeks an individual looked for work. It is not the number of weeks it takes for a person to be employed.

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