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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE APRIL 2012 LABOR FORCE SURVEY



Overview

Employment continued its growth momentum in April 2012 with net employment generation exceeding the average one million target per year in the 2011-2016 Philippine Development Plan. All three broad sectors recorded employment gains - with industry posting the strongest growth (5.2%) followed by agriculture, fishery and forestry (2.6%) and services (2.2%). Furthermore, unemployment rate was down to 6.9% from 7.2% a year earlier.

However, the quality of employment remained an issue with little improvement in underemployment rate (19.3%) and lower mean hours worked compared last year. On the positive note, more people found wage and salary employment while the proportion of self-employed and unpaid family workers to total employed (a Millennium Development Indicator) fell marginally.

The Labor Force Survey (LFS) is conducted by the National Statistics Office every January, April, July and October. The preliminary results are released 45 days after the reference period.

Labor Force

The size of the country's labor force in April 2012 continued to expand (2.4% or +953,000) - but at slower pace compared with the same period last year (3.1% or +1.179 million). Specifically, the number of persons in the labor force increased to 40.644 million from 39.691 million. This corresponds to labor force participation rate (LFPR) of 64.7%, upped by 0.5 percentage point in 2012.

The LFS indicates a marked increase in the participation rate (+1.5 percentage points) among the youth (15-24 years old and over). In contrast, participation rates in other age cohorts were of little change.

Employment

Following a marked recovery last year (4.0% or +1.407 million), employment level grew by another

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

Indicator	April 2012 ^p	April 2011	Year-on-Year Change
Household Population 15 Years Old and Over	62,842	61,778	1,064
Labor Force	40,644	39,691	953
- Employed Persons	37,841	36,820	1,021
- Unemployed Persons	2,803	2,871	-68
Underemployed Persons	7,312	7,127	185
- Visibly underemployed	4,851	4,402	449
Not in the Labor Force	22,198	22,087	111
LFPR (%)	64.7	64.2	
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.9	7.2	
Underemployment Rate (%)	19.3	19.4	
- Visible Under-employment Rate (%)	12.8	12.0	
Mean Hours of Work	39.2	40.9	

^p Preliminary.

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

2.8% (+1.021 million) in April 2012. Over this period, total employed

persons increased to 37.841 million from 36.820 million which translates to net employment gains of more than a million. This figure represents a departure from the "boom and bust" pattern observed in the past. This pattern is characterized by a robust growth in one quarter and then followed by a slump in the same quarter of the succeeding year.

- Growth was broad-based occurring in all three sectors but was most pronounced in the industry sector which expanded by 5.2% (+294,000) - a substantial improvement from just 2.4% (+132,000) growth recorded a year ago. This occurred as the country's exports recovered from the previous year's slump. (Table 2)

Agriculture, fishery and forestry sector posted a lower growth (2.6% or +315,000) as compared with 2011 (5.6% or +643,000) - due in large part to the floods and continued rains in Mindanao.

Meanwhile, the services sector continued to absorb the bulk of the total employed workforce (51.4% or 19.457 million). For this period, employment in this sector grew by 2.2% (+412,000) - a slowdown from 3.4% (+631,000) in 2011.

- By class of worker, persons in wage and salary employment were the biggest gainer (3.7% or 748,000). Smaller gains were reported among self-employed persons (+167,000) and among persons who worked without pay in own family-operated farm or business (+142,000). In contrast, the number of employers in own family-operated farm or business fell by 2.9% (-38,000).

The proportion of self-employed persons and unpaid family workers to total employed was of little change - increasing marginally to 41.5% from 41.2%.

- The key setback for the period under review is the reduction in mean hours of work during the reference week which fell to 39.2 from 40.9 a year earlier. This is due to the rise in the proportion of those who worked less than 40 hours (part-time employment) to 42.8% from 37.1% a year ago.

The spike in part-time employment could be "voluntary" as this was not matched by a corresponding large increase in visible underemployment, i.e., persons wanting additional hours of work. Moreover, this phenomenon could be a "fluke" or temporary in nature and hence needs further validations in the next survey rounds to arrive at a conclusion.

- Employment growth was mixed across regions. Seven (7) regions recorded higher growth rates than the national average of 2.8%: Region IV-A (3.7%), Region V (9.7%), Region VII (3.2%), Region VIII (8.6%), Region XI (3.3%), Caraga (3.3%) and ARMM (6.0%).

In contrast, employment growth rates in three (3) big regions fell sharply to less than one percent, namely: NCR (3.5% to 0.6%), Region III (6.7% to 0.8%) and Region VI (4.4% to 0.9%). Meanwhile, employment growth was modest in CAR (1.7%), Region IX (1.6%) and down slightly in Region I (-0.2%).

Underemployment

- Underemployment rate in April 2012 was of little change – declining slightly to 19.3% from 19.4%. In terms of level, the number of underemployed persons rose by 185,000 to reach 7.312 million. The biggest increase occurred in the services sector (+96,000) followed by agriculture (+52,000) and industry (+37,000). (Table 3)
- Meanwhile, visible underemployment rate was up to 12.8% from 12.0% last year. This translates to 449,000 additional persons working less than 40 hours a week and wanting additional hours of work. This brings the total number of visibly underemployed persons to 4.851 million.

Unemployment

With the growth in employment (2.8% or +1.021 million) again outpacing the growth in labor force (2.4% or +0.953 million), the number of unemployed persons declined by 68,000 to 2.803 million in April 2012. This translates to a 0.3 percentage point reduction in unemployment rate, i.e., from 7.2% to 6.9%.

- Young workers (*aged 15 to 24 years old*) comprised a little more than one-half (51.7% or 1.450 million) of the total unemployed workforce. Youth unemployment

rate eased slightly to 16.0% from 16.6% a year ago. (Table 4)

- About five in every eight unemployed were men (1.746 million or 62.3%). Compared with last year, unemployment rate of men was down by 0.6 percentage point to 7.0% and was unchanged among women at 6.7%.
- The majority (44.5% or 1.247 million) were high school graduates or undergraduates. Equally large were college undergraduates and graduates (34.8% or 0.975 million). About 8.0% (225,000) were graduates or undergraduates of post secondary education, i.e., technical and vocational courses
- Six (6) regions have unemployment rates higher than the national rate of 6.9%: NCR (10.4%), Region I (8.0%), Region III (8.0%), Region IV-A (8.8%), Region VI (7.0%) and Region VII (7.2%). (Table 5)
- Compared with last year, reduction in unemployment rates occurred in eight (8) regions with the most notable in NCR (11.6% to 10.4%), Region I (9.8% to 8.0%) and Region IV-A (10.0% to 8.8%). Meanwhile, notable increases in unemployment rates were observed in Region VII (6.2% to 7.2%), Region XI (5.4% to 6.4%), Region IX (3.2 to 4.1%) and Region IV-B (3.9% to 4.7%).

FOR INQUIRIES

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

INDICATOR	April 2012 ^P	April 2011	April 2010	Increment		Growth Rate	
				2011-2012	2010-2011	2011-2012	2010-2011
Population 15 Years Old and Over	62,842	61,778	60,561	1,064	1,217	1.7	2.0
Labor Force	40,644	39,691	38,512	953	1,179	2.4	3.1
- Employed	37,841	36,820	35,413	1,021	1,407	2.8	4.0
- Unemployed	2,803	2,871	3,099	-68	-228	-2.4	-7.4
Underemployed	7,312	7,127	6,297	185	830	2.6	13.2
- Visible underemployment ¹	4,851	4,402	3,904	449	498	10.2	12.8
Not in the Labor Force	22,198	22,087	22,050	111	37	0.5	0.2
Labor Force Participation Rate (%)	64.7	64.2	63.6				
Employment Rate(%)	93.1	92.8	92.0				
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.9	7.2	8.0				
Underemployment Rate (%)	19.3	19.4	17.8				
Visible Underemployment Rate (%)	12.8	12.0	11.0				
Mean Hours of Work	39.2	40.9	41.2				

^PPreliminary.

¹ 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 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	37,841	36,820	35,413	1,021	1,407	2.8	4.0
SECTOR							
Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry	12,470	12,155	11,512	315	643	2.6	5.6
Industry	5,913	5,619	5,487	294	132	5.2	2.4
Services	19,457	19,045	18,414	412	631	2.2	3.4
CLASS OF WORKER							
Wage and salary workers	20,998	20,250	19,283	748	967	3.7	5.0
Employers in own family-operated farm or business	1,259	1,297	1,264	-38	33	-2.9	2.6
Self-employed workers	11,071	10,904	10,686	167	218	1.5	2.0
Worked without pay in own family-operated farm or business	4,511	4,369	4,179	142	190	3.3	4.5
HOURS OF WORK							
Less than 40 Hours (Part-Time Employment)	16,192	13,677	12,959	2,515	718	18.4	5.5
40 Hours and Over (Full-Time Employment)	20,836	22,480	21,715	-1,644	765	-7.3	3.5
Did Not Work	813	663	738	150	-75	22.6	-10.2
Mean Hours of Work	39.2	40.9	41.2				
REGION							
NCR	4,404	4,377	4,230	27	147	0.6	3.5
CAR	733	721	699	12	22	1.7	3.1
Region I	1,920	1,923	1,895	-3	28	-0.2	1.5
Region II	1,487	1,454	1,354	33	100	2.3	7.4
Region III	3,858	3,828	3,587	30	241	0.8	6.7
Region IV-A	4,807	4,637	4,345	170	292	3.7	6.7
Region IV-B	1,272	1,246	1,205	26	41	2.1	3.4
Region V	2,258	2,058	2,059	200	-1	9.7	a
Region VI	3,041	3,014	2,888	27	126	0.9	4.4
Region VII	3,011	2,918	2,792	93	126	3.2	4.5
Region VIII	1,831	1,686	1,677	145	9	8.6	0.5
Region IX	1,417	1,394	1,379	23	15	1.6	1.1
Region X	2,005	1,963	1,871	42	92	2.1	4.9
Region XI	1,848	1,789	1,689	59	100	3.3	5.9
Region XII	1,690	1,656	1,611	34	45	2.1	2.8
Caraga	1,047	1,014	981	33	33	3.3	3.4
ARMM	1,211	1,142	1,150	69	-8	6.0	-0.7

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.

^a Less than 0.1 percent.

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

TABLE 3 - Summary Statistics on Underemployment
Philippines: April 2011 and 2012
(In thousands except rates)

INDICATOR	2012 ^p	2011	Increment
			2011-2012
UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS	7,312	7,127	185
Hours Worked			
- Worked less than 40 hours/week ¹	4,851	4,402	449
- Worked more than 40 hours/week	2,461	2,725	-264
Industry			
- Agriculture	3,145	3,093	52
- Industry	1,229	1,192	37
- Services	2,938	2,842	96
Underemployment rate (%)	19.3	19.4	-0.1
Visible underemployment rate (%) ¹	12.8	12.0	0.8

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 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	2,803	2,871	3,099	100.0	100.0	100.0	6.9	7.2	8.0
Sex									
Men	1,746	1,837	1,936	62.3	64.0	62.5	7.0	7.6	8.2
Women	1,057	1,034	1,163	37.7	36.0	37.5	6.7	6.7	7.8
Age Group									
15-24 years old	1,450	1,436	1,584	51.7	50.0	51.1	16.0	16.6	18.8
25-54 years old	1,254	1,331	1,400	44.7	46.4	45.2	4.7	5.1	5.6
55 years old and over	98	105	114	3.5	3.7	3.7	1.9	2.1	2.3
Not reported	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Highest Grade Completed									
No Grade Completed	15	13	15	0.5	0.5	0.5			
Elementary	340	339	415	12.1	11.8	13.4			
Undergraduate	143	152	191	5.1	5.3	6.2			
Graduate	197	187	224	7.0	6.5	7.2			
High School	1,247	1,270	1,380	44.5	44.2	44.5			
Undergraduate	328	334	407	11.7	11.6	13.1			
Graduate	919	936	973	32.8	32.6	31.4			
Post Secondary	225	-	-	8.0	-	-			
Undergraduate	61	-	-	2.2	-	-			
Graduate	164	-	-	5.9	-	-			
College	975	1,249*	1,290*	34.8	43.5*	41.6*			
Undergraduate	386	663	682	13.8	23.1	22.0			
Graduate	589	586	608	21.0	20.4	19.6			
Post baccalaureate	-	-	-	-	-	-			

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

^p Preliminary.

* 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: April 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	62,842	61,778	1,064	40,644	39,691	953	64.7	64.2	0.5
Sex									
Men	31,266	30,741	525	24,783	24,220	563	79.3	78.8	0.5
Women	31,576	31,037	539	15,861	15,471	390	50.2	49.8	0.4
Age Group									
15-24 years old	18,887	18,559	328	9,061	8,636	425	48.0	46.5	1.5
25-34 years old	14,523	14,241	282	10,747	10,552	195	74.0	74.1	-0.1
35-44 years old	11,209	11,037	172	8,849	8,720	129	78.9	79.0	-0.1
45-54 years old	8,591	8,478	113	6,825	6,707	118	79.4	79.1	0.3
55-64 years old	5,445	5,350	95	3,657	3,611	46	67.2	67.5	-0.3
65 years old and over	4,185	4,111	74	1,504	1,465	39	35.9	35.6	0.3
Not reported	3	2	1	1	-	-	33.3	-	-

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 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	40,644	64.7	39,691	64.2	37,841	93.1	36,820	92.8	2,803	6.9	2,871	7.2	7,312	19.3	7,127	19.4
NCR	4,917	61.9	4,952	62.6	4,404	89.6	4,377	88.4	513	10.4	576	11.6	619	14.1	630	14.4
CAR	778	69.0	759	68.9	733	94.3	721	95.0	44	5.7	38	5.0	51	6.9	83	11.5
Region I	2,087	61.4	2,132	61.6	1,920	92.0	1,923	90.2	167	8.0	208	9.8	429	22.3	341	17.7
Region II	1,530	68.2	1,503	67.3	1,487	97.2	1,454	96.7	43	2.8	50	3.3	159	10.7	235	16.2
Region III	4,194	61.0	4,177	61.1	3,858	92.0	3,828	91.6	336	8.0	349	8.4	408	10.6	392	10.2
Region IV-A	5,269	65.1	5,153	64.7	4,807	91.2	4,637	90.0	462	8.8	516	10.0	726	15.1	829	17.9
Region IV-B	1,335	70.1	1,297	68.6	1,272	95.3	1,246	96.1	63	4.7	51	3.9	247	19.5	239	19.2
Region V	2,424	64.5	2,203	63.2	2,258	93.1	2,058	93.4	166	6.9	145	6.6	784	34.7	737	35.8
Region VI	3,270	64.7	3,263	64.7	3,041	93.0	3,014	92.4	229	7.0	249	7.6	764	25.1	704	23.4
Region VII	3,246	67.7	3,112	66.7	3,011	92.8	2,918	93.8	235	7.2	194	6.2	673	22.4	499	17.1
Region VIII	1,927	65.6	1,788	64.5	1,831	95.0	1,686	94.3	97	5.0	102	5.7	439	24.0	383	22.7
Region IX	1,478	68.1	1,440	63.6	1,417	95.9	1,394	96.8	61	4.1	46	3.2	367	25.9	297	21.3
Region X	2,094	71.1	2,044	70.6	2,005	95.8	1,963	96.0	89	4.2	81	4.0	535	26.7	683	34.8
Region XI	1,975	65.1	1,891	66.4	1,848	93.6	1,789	94.6	127	6.4	102	5.4	349	18.9	270	15.1
Region XII	1,770	67.1	1,724	65.5	1,690	95.5	1,656	96.1	80	4.5	69	4.0	358	21.2	349	21.1
Caraga	1,102	65.1	1,066	65.3	1,047	95.0	1,014	95.1	55	5.0	52	4.9	241	23.0	294	29.0
ARMM	1,247	55.9	1,186	55.7	1,211	97.1	1,142	96.3	36	2.9	44	3.7	162	13.4	162	14.2

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

^p Preliminary.

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