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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE OCTOBER 2013 LABOR FORCE SURVEY



### Overview

The labor market situation in October 2013 was of little change from a year ago. Employment growth was sluggish in the services sector (1.6%) and industry sector (1.0%) while employment was down in the agriculture sector (-2.6%). On a positive note, underemployment rate improved (19.0% to 17.9%) alongside unemployment rate (6.8% to 6.5%) while labor force participation rate (63.9%) was unchanged. The key drawback was the decline in full-time employment (-2.2%) that resulted to a marginal reduction in mean hours of work (41.9 to 41.0).

By class of worker, wage and salary workers from private establishments was the main gainer (2.3%) while notable decline occurred among workers with pay in own family-operated farm or business (-10.2%); workers in private households (-7.3%); and those who worked for government or government corporations (-2.6%). Gainers by major occupation group was led by plant and machine operators and assemblers (5.9%) followed by clerks (5.3%) while the main losers were technicians and associate professionals (-4.9%), laborers and unskilled workers (-2.7%) and farmers, forestry workers and fishermen (-2.6%).

The National Statistics Office noted that the October 2013 LFS results exclude Leyte province due to the damage of typhoon Yolanda on the LFS survey materials.

### Labor Force

Labor force participation rate (LFPR) in October 2013 at 63.9% was unchanged from last year. Hence, there were no discernible changes in the participation rates for both men and women and across age groups. (Table 5)

In absolute terms, the number of persons in the labor force fell slightly by 98,000 - from 40.433 million to 40.335 million over the period.

### Employment

Employment posted small gain in October 2013 - increasing by just 63,000 (0.2%) from the year ago level. This figure, however, represents a modest reversal from the steep decline recorded in the

**TABLE 1 - Key Employment Indicators  
Philippines: October 2012-2013  
(In thousands except rates)**

Indicator	October 2013 <sup>p</sup>	October 2012	Year-on-Year Change
Household Population 15 Years Old and Over	63,109	63,303	(194)
Labor Force	40,335	40,433	(98)
– Employed Persons	37,733	37,670	63
– Unemployed Persons	2,602	2,763	(161)
Underemployed Persons	6,773	7,160	(387)
– Visibly underemployed	4,327	4,138	189
Not in the Labor Force	22,774	22,870	(96)
LFPR (%)	63.9	63.9	
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.5	6.8	
Underemployment Rate (%)	17.9	19.0	
– Visible Under-employment Rate (%)	11.5	11.0	
Mean Hours of Work	41.0	41.9	

**Note:** Calculation of the October 2013 estimates excludes Leyte province.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary.

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

same period last year when employment level dipped by 2.3% (-880,000).

- Services sector employment grew by a modest 1.6% (+318,000). Growth occurred mainly in wholesale and retail trade (+191,000); and accommodation and food service activities (+129,000). These offset losses in private households with employed persons (-119,000); public administration and defense (-103,000); and information and communication (-16,000). (*Table 2*)
- Industry employment was mixed with gains in construction (+79,000) and water supply (+6,000) making up for the losses in mining and quarrying (-24,000) and manufacturing (-3,000).
- Agricultural employment was down (-313,000) this year following steep decline a year earlier (-705,000). The reduction was most pronounced in agriculture, hunting and forestry (-271,000) and then in fishing (-41,000).
- By major occupation group, the biggest increase was observed among service workers and shop and market sales workers (+185,000); clerks (+114,000); and plant machine operators and assemblers (+114,000). In contrast, reductions were most apparent among laborers and unskilled workers (-341,000) as well as among farmers, forestry workers and fishermen (-134,000).
- Workers from private establishments (+382,000) stood out as the only gainers across class of workers. The rest suffered declines notably among workers in private households

(-148,000) and in government (-77,000). Reductions also occurred among employers (-58,000), self-employed without paid employee (-1,000) and unpaid family workers (-23,000). (*Table 2a*)

- The decline in full-time employment was the key challenge in the October 2013 survey results. The number of persons in full-time employment was down by 2.2% (-524,000) year-on-year while persons in part-time employment grew correspondingly by 4.4% (+579,000). Despite this, full-time employment still comprised the biggest proportion of total employed at 62.7% or roughly two in every three employed persons.

### **Underemployment**

- On a positive note, the number of underemployed (persons who wanted or expressed the desire for additional hours of work) fell considerably by 387,000 to 6.773 million. This figure corresponds to underemployment rate of 17.9% - an improvement from 19.0% a year before. (*Table 3*)
- Meanwhile, persons who worked less than 40 hours during the reference week and wanting additional hours of work or the visibly underemployed persons was up by 189,000 to 4.327 million.

### **Unemployment**

Unemployment rate in October 2013 eased slightly to 6.5% from 6.8% last year – marking the first time that the figure breaches the downside of 7.0% in 2013. It can be recalled that unemployment rate was on the uptrend in the first three survey rounds of the LFS

exceeding the 7.0% mark: 7.1% in January, 7.5% in April and 7.3% in July.

Correspondingly, the number of unemployed persons fell to 2.602 million from 2.763 million a year ago. This figure is a vast improvement from the April and July 2013 survey rounds when the number of unemployed rose to around 3.0 million. Prior to this period, unemployment rate has stayed stagnant at around 2.8 million in many years.

- Nearly half (47.5% or 1.236 million) of the total unemployed workforce were young workers (*aged 15 to 24 years old*). Youth unemployment rate at 14.5% was more than twice the national average. This rate was lower than the 15.4% recorded last year. (*Table 4*)
- Nearly two in every three unemployed were men (64.4% or 1.675 million). Compared with last year, unemployment rate was down to 6.8% for men and 5.9% for women.
- The majority (44.7% or 1.162 million) were high school graduates or undergraduates. Equally large were college undergraduates and graduates (35.2% or 917,000). Meanwhile, less than ten percent (7.1% or 186,000) were post secondary undergraduates or graduates.
- Five (5) regions posted unemployment rates higher than the national rate: NCR (10.2%), Region I (7.6%), Region III (7.8%), Region IV-A (8.1%) and Region XI (6.6%). (*Table 6*)
- Compared with last year, ten regions registered reduction in unemployment rates – the biggest reduction occurred in CAR (-2.0 percentage points or ppts), Region III (-1.5 ppts) and Region VII (-1.6 ppts). On the other hand, increases in rates were observed in seven (7) regions most notably in Region V (+1.3 ppts) and Region XI (+1.8 ppts).

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**TABLE 1 - Key Employment Indicators, Philippines: October 2011, 2012 and 2013**  
(In thousands except rates)

INDICATOR	October 2013 <sup>P</sup>	October 2012	October 2011	Increment		Growth Rate	
				2013-2012	2012-2011	2013-2012	2012-2011
Population 15 Years Old and Over	63,109	63,303	62,164	(194)	1,139	(0.3)	1.8
Labor Force	40,335	40,433	41,194	(98)	(761)	(0.2)	(1.8)
- Employed	37,733	37,670	38,550	63	(880)	0.2	(2.3)
- Unemployed	2,602	2,763	2,644	(161)	119	(5.8)	4.5
Underemployed	6,773	7,160	7,381	(387)	(221)	(5.4)	(3.0)
- Visible Underemployment <sup>1</sup>	4,327	4,138	4,447	189	(309)	4.6	(6.9)
Not in the Labor Force	22,774	22,870	20,970	(96)	1,900	(0.4)	9.1
Labor Force Participation Rate (%)	63.9	63.9	66.3				
Employment Rate(%)	93.5	93.2	93.6				
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.5	6.8	6.4				
Underemployment Rate (%)	17.9	19.0	19.1				
Visible Underemployment Rate (%)	11.5	11.0	11.5				
Mean Hours of Work	41.0	41.9	40.8				

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

Estimates for October 2013 excludes the province of Leyte.

<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 - Employment by Major Industry Group and Major Occupation Group  
Philippines: October 2012 and 2013**

(In thousands except rates)

INDICATOR	2013 <sup>p</sup>	2012	Year-on-Year Change	
			Increment	Growth Rate
<b>EMPLOYED PERSONS</b>	<b>37,733</b>	<b>37,670</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>0.2</b>
<b>MAJOR INDUSTRY GROUP</b>				
<b>Agriculture</b>	<b>11,843</b>	<b>12,156</b>	<b>(313)</b>	<b>(2.6)</b>
Agriculture, hunting and forestry	10,475	10,746	(271)	(2.5)
Fishing	1,369	1,410	(41)	(2.9)
<b>Industry</b>	<b>5,750</b>	<b>5,692</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>1.0</b>
Mining and quarrying	222	246	(24)	(9.8)
Manufacturing	3,108	3,111	(3)	(0.1)
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning	96	95	1	1.1
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	56	50	6	12.0
Construction	2,268	2,189	79	3.6
<b>Services</b>	<b>20,140</b>	<b>19,822</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>1.6</b>
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	7,100	6,909	191	2.8
Transportation and storage	2,692	2,675	17	0.6
Accommodation and food service activities	1,645	1,516	129	8.5
Information and communication	332	348	(16)	(4.6)
Financial and insurance activities	484	457	27	5.9
Real estate activities	159	152	7	4.6
Professional, scientific and technical activities	201	197	4	2.0
Administrative and support service activities	1,059	969	90	9.3
Public administration and defense; compulsory social security	1,878	1,981	(103)	(5.2)
Education	1,227	1,200	27	2.3
Human health and social work activities	453	418	35	8.4
Arts, entertainment and recreation	309	293	16	5.5
Other service activities	2,115	2,105	10	0.5
Activities of households as employers, undifferentiated goods and services-producing activities of households for own use	482	601	(119)	(19.8)
Activities of extraterritorial organizations and bodies	3	-	3	-
<b>MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUP</b>				
Officials of government and special interest organizations, corporate executives, managers, managing proprietors, and supervisors	6,086	5,981	105	1.8
Professionals	1,904	1,828	76	4.2
Technicians and associate professionals	911	958	(47)	(4.9)
Clerks	2,258	2,144	114	5.3
Service workers and shop and market sales workers	4,679	4,494	185	4.1
Farmers, forestry workers, and fishermen	5,076	5,210	(134)	(2.6)
Trades and related workers	2,473	2,464	9	0.4
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	2,037	1,923	114	5.9
Laborers and unskilled workers	12,197	12,538	(341)	(2.7)
Special occupations	113	129	(16)	(12.4)

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

Estimates for October 2013 excludes the province of Leyte.

p Preliminary.

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

**TABLE 2a - Employment by Class of Worker, Hours of Work and Region**  
**Philippines: October 2012 and 2013**  
(in thousands except rates)

INDICATOR	2013 <sup>p</sup>	2012	Year-on-Year Change	
			Increment	Growth Rate
<b>EMPLOYED PERSONS</b>	<b>37,733</b>	<b>37,670</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>0.2</b>
<b>CLASS OF WORKER</b>				
Wage and salary workers	21,758	21,613	145	0.7
Worked for private household	1,891	2,039	(148)	(7.3)
Worked for private establishment	16,836	16,454	382	2.3
Worked for government or government corporation	2,925	3,002	(77)	(2.6)
Worked with pay in own family-operated farm or business	106	118	(12)	(10.2)
Employer in own family-operated farm or business	1,280	1,338	(58)	(4.3)
Self-employed without any paid employee	10,618	10,619	(1)	a
Worked without pay in own family-operated farm or business (unpaid family workers)	4,077	4,100	(23)	(0.6)
Proportion of self-employed and unpaid family workers in total employment (%) <sup>1</sup>	38.9	39.1		
<b>HOURS OF WORK</b>				
Less than 40 Hours (Part-Time Employment)	13,705	13,126	579	4.4
40 Hours and Over (Full-Time Employment)	23,661	24,185	(524)	(2.2)
Did Not Work	367	359	8	2.2
Mean Hours of Work	41.0	41.9		
<b>REGION</b>				
NCR	4,590	4,535	55	1.2
CAR	726	714	12	1.7
Region I	1,967	1,919	48	2.5
Region II	1,471	1,456	15	1.0
Region III	4,057	3,852	205	5.3
Region IV-A	5,000	4,772	228	4.8
Region IV-B	1,219	1,208	11	0.9
Region V	2,322	2,349	(27)	(1.1)
Region VI	3,018	2,999	19	0.6
Region VII	3,004	2,898	106	3.7
Region VIII	999	1,766	(767)	(43.4)
Region IX	1,382	1,389	(7)	(0.5)
Region X	1,967	1,924	43	2.2
Region XI	1,884	1,854	30	1.6
Region XII	1,726	1,708	18	1.1
Caraga	1,121	1,060	61	5.8
ARMM	1,279	1,267	12	0.9

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

Estimates for October 2013 excludes the province of Leyte.

p Preliminary.

a Less than 0.1 percent.

<sup>1</sup> MDG indicator on employment.

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

**TABLE 3 - Summary Statistics on Underemployment, Philippines: October 2012 and 2013**  
(In thousands except rates)

INDICATOR	2013 <sup>p</sup>	2012	Year-on-Year Change	
			Increment	Growth Rate
<b>UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS</b>	<b>6,773</b>	<b>7,160</b>	<b>(387)</b>	<b>(5.4)</b>
<b>HOURS WORKED</b>				
- Worked less than 40 hours/week <sup>1</sup>	4,327	4,138	189	4.6
- Worked more than 40 hours/week	2,446	3,022	(576)	(19.1)
<b>SECTOR</b>				
- Agriculture	3,060	3,177	(117)	(3.7)
- Industry	1,032	1,093	(61)	(5.6)
- Services	2,681	2,891	(210)	(7.3)
<b>CLASS OF WORKER</b>				
Wage and salary workers	3,696	3,897	(201)	(5.2)
Worked for private household	249	268	(19)	(7.1)
Worked for private establishment	3,096	3,219	(123)	(3.8)
Worked for government or government corp.	343	398	(55)	(13.8)
Worked with pay in own family-operated farm or business	9	13	(4)	(30.8)
Employer in own family-operated farm or business	183	202	(19)	(9.4)
Self-employed without any paid employee	2,182	2,274	(92)	(4.0)
Worked without pay in own family-operated farm or business (unpaid family workers)	711	787	(76)	(9.7)
Underemployment rate (%)	17.9	19.0		
Visible underemployment rate (%) <sup>1</sup>	11.5	11.0		

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

Estimates for October 2013 excludes the province of Leyte.

p Preliminary.

<sup>1</sup> 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: October 2011, 2012 and 2013**

(In thousands except rates/percent)

INDICATOR	Total Unemployed Persons			Percent Share			Labor Force			Unemployment Rate		
	2013 <sup>p</sup>	2012	2011	2013 <sup>p</sup>	2012	2011	2013 <sup>p</sup>	2012	2011	2013 <sup>p</sup>	2012	2011
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,602</b>	<b>2,763</b>	<b>2,644</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>40,335</b>	<b>40,433</b>	<b>41,194</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>6.4</b>
<b>Sex</b>												
Male	1,675	1,716	1,658	64.4	62.1	62.7	24,574	24,682	24,899	6.8	7.0	6.7
Female	927	1,048	986	35.6	37.9	37.3	15,761	15,752	16,295	5.9	6.7	6.1
<b>Age Group</b>												
15-24 years old	1,236	1,341	1,310	47.5	48.5	49.5	8,507	8,703	9,366	14.5	15.4	14.0
25-54 years old	1,264	1,299	1,226	48.6	47.0	46.4	26,621	26,511	26,460	4.7	4.9	4.6
55 years old and over	103	124	109	4.0	4.5	4.1	5,208	5,218	5,367	2.0	2.4	2.0
Not reported	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-
<b>Highest Grade Completed</b>												
No Grade Completed	12	17	14	0.5	0.6	0.5						
Elementary	326	355	317	12.5	12.8	12.0						
Undergraduate	158	160	140	6.1	5.8	5.3						
Graduate	168	195	177	6.5	7.1	6.7						
High School	1,162	1,255	1,182	44.7	45.4	44.7						
Undergraduate	290	332	311	11.1	12.0	11.8						
Graduate	872	923	871	33.5	33.4	32.9						
Post Secondary	186	234	-	7.1	8.5	-						
Undergraduate	32	47	-	1.2	1.7	-						
Graduate	153	187	-	5.9	6.8	-						
College	917	902	1,131*	35.2	32.6	42.8*						
Undergraduate	360	342	597	13.8	12.4	22.6						
Graduate	556	560	535	21.4	20.3	20.2						

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

Estimates for October 2013 excludes the province of Leyte.

p Preliminary.

\* Includes post secondary. The inquiry on post secondary educational attainment was included in the LFS questionnaire starting January 2012 survey round. This explains the drop in the figures on the college educated unemployed starting 2012.

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



**TABLE 5 - Summary Statistics on Household Population 15 years Old and Over  
and Labor Force, Philippines: October 2012 and 2013**

(In thousands except rates/percent)

INDICATOR	Total Population 15 Years Old and Over			Labor Force			Labor Force Participation Rate (%)		
	2013 <sup>p</sup>	2012	Increment	2013 <sup>p</sup>	2012	Increment	2013 <sup>p</sup>	2012	Increment
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>63,109</b>	<b>63,303</b>	<b>(194)</b>	40,335	40,433	<b>(98)</b>	<b>63.9</b>	<b>63.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Sex</b>									
Male	31,472	31,553	(81)	24,574	24,682	(108)	78.1	78.2	(0.1)
Female	31,637	31,750	(113)	15,761	15,752	9	49.8	49.6	0.2
<b>Age Group</b>									
15-24 years old	18,966	19,061	(95)	8,507	8,703	(196)	44.9	45.7	(0.8)
25-34 years old	14,424	14,497	(73)	10,765	10,737	28	74.6	74.1	0.6
35-44 years old	11,330	11,315	15	8,959	8,909	50	79.1	78.7	0.3
45-54 years old	8,700	8,707	(7)	6,897	6,866	31	79.3	78.9	0.4
55-64 years old	5,489	5,498	(9)	3,691	3,703	(12)	67.2	67.4	(0.1)
65 years old and over	4,201	4,222	(21)	1,517	1,515	2	36.1	35.9	0.2
Not reported	-	4	-	-	2	-	-	-	-

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

*Estimates for October 2013 excludes the province of Leyte.*

*p Preliminary.*

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

**TABLE 6 - Labor Force, Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment by Region, Philippines: October 2012 and 2013**  
(in thousands except rates)

Region	Total Population 15 Years Old and Over		Labor Force				Employment				Unemployment				Underemployment			
			2013 <sup>P</sup>		2012		2013 <sup>P</sup>		2012		2013 <sup>P</sup>		2012		2013 <sup>P</sup>		2012	
	2013 <sup>P</sup>	2012	No.	LFPR (%)	No.	LFPR (%)	No.	Rate (%)	No.	Rate (%)	No.	Rate (%)	No.	Rate (%)	No.	Rate (%)	No.	Rate (%)
<b>Philippines</b>	<b>63,109</b>	<b>63,303</b>	<b>40,335</b>	<b>63.9</b>	<b>40,433</b>	<b>63.9</b>	<b>37,733</b>	<b>93.5</b>	<b>37,670</b>	<b>93.2</b>	<b>2,602</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>2,763</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>6,773</b>	<b>17.9</b>	<b>7,160</b>	<b>19.0</b>
NCR	8,094	7,997	5,114	63.2	5,096	63.7	4,590	89.8	4,535	89.0	524	10.2	561	11.0	478	10.4	568	12.5
CAR	1,152	1,133	755	65.5	758	66.9	726	96.2	714	94.2	29	3.8	44	5.8	89	12.3	118	16.5
Region I	3,499	3,426	2,129	60.8	2,072	60.5	1,967	92.4	1,919	92.6	162	7.6	153	7.4	374	19.0	394	20.5
Region II	2,264	2,244	1,511	66.7	1,493	66.5	1,471	97.4	1,456	97.5	40	2.6	37	2.5	151	10.3	177	12.2
Region III	7,086	6,967	4,399	62.1	4,248	61.0	4,057	92.2	3,852	90.7	342	7.8	396	9.3	418	10.3	382	9.9
Region IV-A	8,303	8,145	5,441	65.5	5,253	64.5	5,000	91.9	4,772	90.8	441	8.1	481	9.2	946	18.9	835	17.5
Region IV-B	1,955	1,907	1,271	65.0	1,262	66.2	1,219	95.9	1,208	95.7	53	4.1	54	4.3	293	24.0	290	24.0
Region V	3,850	3,778	2,475	64.3	2,471	65.4	2,322	93.8	2,349	95.1	153	6.2	121	4.9	875	37.7	814	34.7
Region VI	5,186	5,094	3,219	62.1	3,207	63.0	3,018	93.8	2,999	93.5	201	6.2	208	6.5	676	22.4	565	18.8
Region VII	4,901	4,820	3,159	64.5	3,100	64.3	3,004	95.1	2,898	93.5	155	4.9	203	6.5	409	13.6	535	18.5
Region VIII	1,679	2,953	1,063	63.3	1,861	63.0	999	94.0	1,766	94.9	64	6.0	95	5.1	258	25.8	443	25.1
Region IX	2,229	2,185	1,425	63.9	1,438	65.8	1,382	97.0	1,389	96.6	42	3.0	49	3.4	280	20.3	384	27.6
Region X	3,029	2,960	2,083	68.8	2,028	68.5	1,967	94.4	1,924	94.9	115	5.6	103	5.1	429	21.8	600	31.2
Region XI	3,113	3,060	2,018	64.8	1,948	63.7	1,884	93.4	1,854	95.2	134	6.6	94	4.8	280	14.9	298	16.1
Region XII	2,710	2,653	1,780	65.7	1,779	67.1	1,726	97.0	1,708	96.0	54	3.0	71	4.0	421	24.4	378	22.1
Caraga	1,738	1,713	1,166	67.1	1,107	64.6	1,121	96.1	1,060	95.8	46	3.9	47	4.2	223	19.9	223	21.0
ARMM	2,322	2,269	1,327	57.1	1,313	57.9	1,279	96.4	1,267	96.5	48	3.6	46	3.5	175	13.7	157	12.4

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

Estimates for October 2013 excludes the province of Leyte.

p Preliminary.

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