

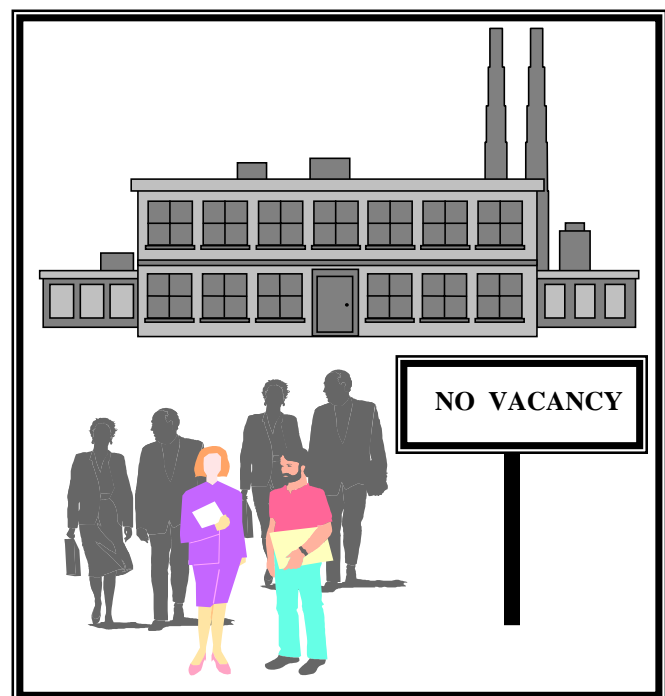


THE JOBLESS MEN AND WOMEN IN 1997

Overview

The number of unemployed persons increased by 3.7 percent in 1997 from previous year's level of 2.546 million. This represents an additional 94,000 persons without jobs nationwide.

Disaggregated by sex, the level of unemployed women went up by 2.6 percent (+28,000) to 1.110 million in 1997. Compared to men, a much higher number was noted this year as the figure grew by 4.5 percent to 1.530 million (+66,000). The 1996 level stood at 1.464 million. It appears that the men were more affected by the slump in employment brought about by the prolonged drought affecting the agricultural sector and the Asian financial crisis that hit the country's economy during the second half of 1997. Results of the Labor Force Survey (LFS) showed that agricultural employment posted negative growth for both men (-210,000) and women (-121,000).

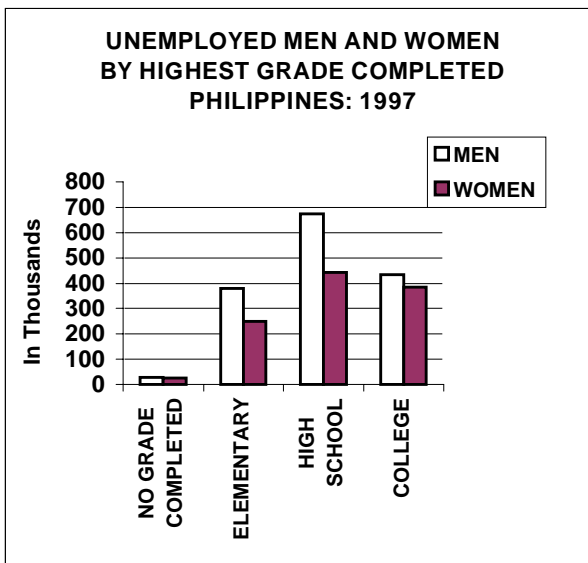


Highest Grade Completed

Figures show that 44.1 percent (674,000) of the unemployed men and 40.0 percent (444,000) of the unemployed women were with

secondary education in 1997. This indicates that an additional 35,000 men and 7,000 women who had reached this level of education were without jobs. Unemployed men and women with college education accounted for 28.4 percent (434,000) and 34.6 percent (384,000), respectively in 1997. These figures posted increments of 9,000 and 7,000 jobless men and women, respectively over the 1996 level.

Apparently, men and women with high school and college education found it hard to get employment. The situation may be explained partly by the mismatch of educational attainment/skills to the emerging demands of industries and to the choosy attitude of persons particularly college graduates to accept low or semi-skilled jobs.



Those with elementary education, the number of unemployed men and women likewise registered increases of 21,000 and 13,000 from 1996 level of 360,000 and 236,000, respectively.

Area

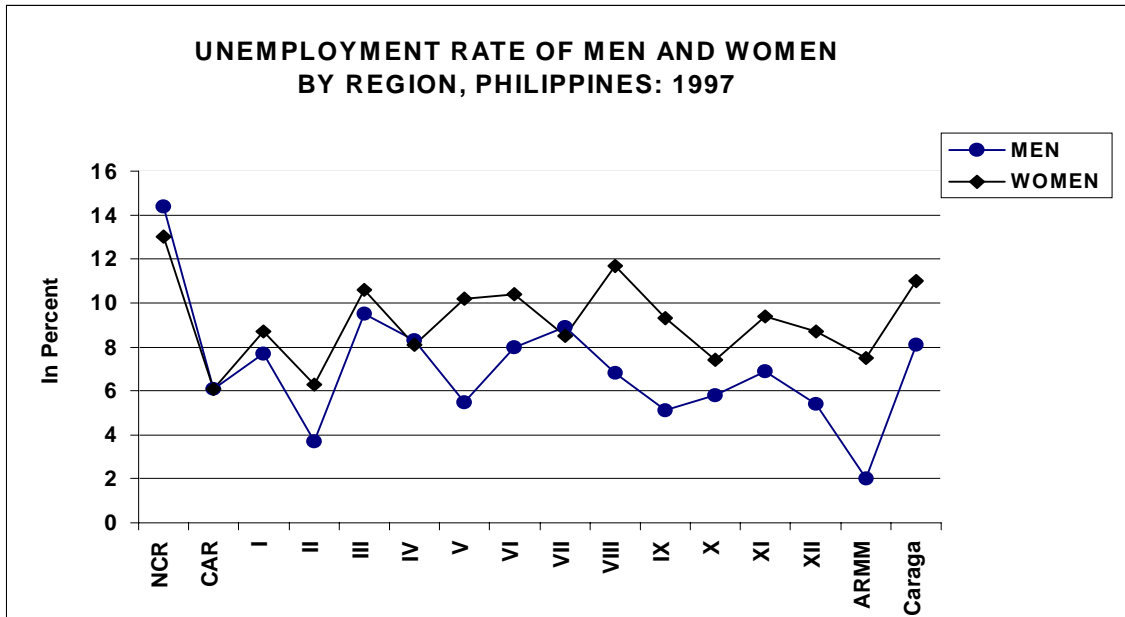
The number of unemployed men and women increased in the rural areas. In 1997, jobless men in this area rose to 576,000 (+62,000) while women climbed to 495,000 (+30,000).

In the urban areas, some 5,000 men were added to the ranks of the unemployed in 1997. This brought the number of the total unemployed men to 955,000. The number of unemployed women however, went down to 614,000 (-3,000).

Age Group

The youth (15 to 24 years old) accounted for the biggest proportion of the unemployed men (+30,000). Increases were also noted among men aged 25 – 34 (+14,000) and 45 and over (+21,000).

Among women, a considerable number were without jobs particularly in age categories 25-34 and 45-64 years old, 28,000 and 11,000, respectively in 1997. Normally, these are the ages when the labor force participation rates of women are relatively high (52.6 percent and 58.2 percent, respectively). Women in these age groups most likely look for work either because they have ample time to go back to work, inasmuch as the children are already grown-up or in school or due to economic necessity.



Region

The 1997 unemployment rate among women stood at 9.8 percent, an almost equal proportion relative to previous year's 9.7 percent. On the other hand, men unemployment rate rose to 8.1 percent in 1997 from 7.9 percent a year ago. Despite the increase in level, the national unemployment rate however, remained almost the same as last year's, increasing by a negligible 0.1 percent to 8.7 percent.

Compared to last year's figures, NCR still posted a double digit unemployment rate for men (14.4%) while Regions III (9.5%), IV (8.3%) and VII (8.9 %) registered rates higher than the national average of 8.1 percent. Likewise, the unemployment rates of women were comparatively high in six regions, i.e. NCR (13.0 %), Regions VIII (11.7%), Caraga (11.0 %), III (10.6%), VI (10.4%) and V (10.2%).

Unemployment rate was lowest in ARMM (2.0 %) for men and CAR (6.1 %) for women in 1997.

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**SUMMARY STATISTICS OF THE UNEMPLOYED
MEN AND WOMEN, PHILIPPINES: 1996 - 1997**

(In thousands except rates)

INDICATOR	1996		1997		Increment	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
TOTAL	1,464	1,082	1,530	1,110	66	28
AGE GROUP						
15 - 19 Years	354	280	366	274	12	-6
20 - 24 Years	370	316	388	312	18	-4
25 - 34 Years	342	236	356	264	14	28
35 - 44 Years	156	113	158	113	2	-
45 - 54 Years	110	62	123	66	13	4
55 - 64 Years	81	40	86	47	5	7
65 Years and Over	50	35	53	34	3	-1
HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED						
No Grade Completed	29	26	29	26	-	-
Elementary	360	236	381	249	21	13
High School	639	437	674	444	35	7
College	425	377	434	384	9	7
Not Reported	11	4	12	5	1	1
AREA						
Urban	950	616	955	614	4	-3
Rural	514	465	576	495	62	30
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY REGION						
Philippines	7.9	9.7	9.1	9.8	1.2	1.2
National Capital Region	14.7	12.8	14.4	13.0	-0.3	-0.3
Cordillera Administrative Region	6.2	7.4	6.1	6.1	-0.1	-0.1
Region I - Ilocos Region	7.6	9.8	7.7	8.7	0.1	0.1
Region II - Cagayan Valley	2.8	5.0	3.7	6.3	0.9	0.9
Region III - Central Luzon	9.7	11.4	9.5	10.6	-0.2	-0.2
Region IV - Southern Tagalog	7.9	8.4	8.3	8.1	0.4	0.4
Region V - Bicol Region	5.7	9.3	5.5	10.2	-0.2	-0.2
Region VI - Western Visayas	8.7	10.4	8.0	10.4	-0.7	-0.7
Region VII - Central Visayas	9.3	10.1	8.9	8.5	-0.4	-0.4
Region VIII - Eastern Visayas	5.4	11.6	6.8	11.7	1.4	1.4
Region IX - Western Mindanao	4.8	7.3	5.1	9.3	0.3	0.3
Region X - Northern Mindanao	5.1	5.8	5.8	7.4	0.7	0.7
Region XI - Southern Mindanao	5.8	8.5	6.9	9.4	1.1	1.1
Region XII - Central Mindanao	4.5	8.4	5.4	8.7	0.9	0.9
Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao	1.0	5.4	2.0	7.5	1.0	1.0
Caraga	6.1	8.4	8.1	11.0	2.0	2.0

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