



The LABOR FORCE SURVEY In Brief

January (1997-1998)

Overview

Results of the January 1998 Labor Force Survey (LFS) indicate continued slowdown in employment and rising level of unemployment and underemployment. This reflects the slump in agricultural employment which was hit hardest by the *El Nino* phenomenon and the trickle down effects of the Asian financial crisis on the country's industrial and financing sectors.

Participation Rate

The labor force population expanded by 608,000 to reach 30.239 million in January 1998. Little change in labor force participation rate (LFPR) was noted during the period which remained at the same rate last year (65.0%).

Employment

Employment level edged up slightly (+358,000) to reach 27.693 million in January 1998. This increment is barely

half the figure (+808,000) recorded last year and one of the lowest recorded over the last two years. The slump in employment pushed down the employment growth to a low of 1.3 percent from 3.0 percent in 1997.

- Agricultural employment suffered severe decline (-372,000) due to the extreme weather condition.
- Industry employment remained sluggish with only small increases in manufacturing (+21,000), utilities (+10,000), construction (+82,000) and a decline in mining and quarrying (-13,000).
- Service sector employment registered mix results. Large increases were noted in wholesale and retail trade (+185,000) and transportation, storage and communication (+140,000) while a reduction was posted in financing, insurance, real estate and business services (-32,000). Community service employment recorded the same increment last year (+340,000).

- Part-time employment accounted mainly for the increase in employment (+398,000) during the period. On the other hand, full-time employment was down (-124,000).
- Wage and salary employment rose by only half (+469,000) of the previous year's figure (+ 804,000). In contrast, the increment in own-account employment (+141,000) was almost two-folds from previous year (+82,000). Large reduction in unpaid family workers was observed during the period (-252,000).
- Employment levels were upped in 12 regions notably in Region IV (+80,000), Region VII (80,000) and NCR (+59,000) but fell in four regions, namely. Region I (-30,000), Region VII (-10,000), Region IX (-10,000) and Region XI (-5,000).
- Youths aged 15 to 24 accounted for nearly half (110,000) of the increase in unemployed persons. Their unemployment rate edged up from 14.7 percent to 16.7 percent.
- Urban jobless rate was upped to 11.0 percent from 9.6 percent a year earlier.
- NCR has the highest jobless rate (15.0%) and accounts for more than half of the country's total unemployed (57.6% or 619,000).

Underemployment

The incidence of underemployment went up by 0.6 percentage point to reach 21.7 percent with the number of underemployed persons increasing by 249,000 to 6.004 million.

- About two-thirds (62.6%) of the underemployed can be found in the rural areas. For this period, rural under employment rate rose slightly from 24.5 percent to 25.0 percent.
- A little over half (3.287 million) of the underemployed worked less than 40 hours a week or visibly underemployed.

Unemployment

The national unemployment rate rose from 7.7 percent to 8.4 percent. This corresponds to a total of 2.546 million unemployed or an increase of 250,000 jobless persons over the period.

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**RESULTS OF THE JANUARY 1998 LABOR FORCE SURVEY
IN THE PHILIPPINES**
(In thousands)

Indicators	Employed Persons	
	Jan-97	Jan-98
LABOR FORCE POPULATION	29,631	30,239
EMPLOYED PERSONS	27,335	27,693
Hours Worked		
Working:		
Less than 40 hours	9,288	9,686
40 hours and over	17,709	17,586
Did not work	338	422
Class of Worker		
Wage and salary	12,975	13,444
Own-account	10,327	10,468
Unpaid Family Worker	4,033	3,781
Occupation		
Professional	1,672	1,644
Administrative	493	546
Clerical	1,238	1,210
Sales	3,871	3,994
Services	2,631	2,841
Agricultural	11,275	10,923
Production	6,122	6,493
NEC	33	41
Industry		
Agriculture	11,407	11,035
Mining and Quarrying	128	115
Manufacturing	2,683	2,704
Electricity, Gas & Water	125	135
Construction	1,530	1,612
Wholesale & Retail Trade	4,050	4,235
Transportation, Storage & Comm.	1,681	1,821
Financing, Insurance., Real Estate and Bus. Svcs.	697	665
Community, Social & Personal Services	5,027	5,367
NEC	6	4
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	2,296	2,546
15-19 years old	438	475
20-24 years old	596	669
25-34 years old	602	635
35-44 years old	270	312
45-54 years old	184	211
55-64 years old	121	147
65 years old and over	85	97
Not reported	-	*
UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS	5,755	6,004
Worked less than 40 hours	3,006	3,287
Worked 40 hours and over	2,750	2,717
NOT IN THE LABOR FORCE	15,696	16,273

Source: Labor Force Survey, National Statistics Office.