

THE LABOR FORCE SURVEY IN BRIEF OCTOBER (1998-1999)



Overview

The country's employment situation showed an improvement in October 1999 compared to the sluggish growth recorded in the same period last year, data from the Labor Force Survey (LFS) of the National Statistics Office indicate. This can be attributed to the sustained recovery in agriculture and the industry sectors, particularly in manufacturing and the general improvement in the quality of work as indicated by the decline in the incidence of underemployment rate. However, the national unemployment edged down only slightly by 0.2 percentage point.

Participation Rate

Labor force participation rate (LFPR) was about unchanged at 65.8 percent from 66.0 percent a year ago. Notable declines were observed among men (82.2% to 81.8%) and young workers 15-24 (50.0% to 49.1%). Overall, the country's labor force population expanded by 722,000 to reach 32.000 million.

Employment

Employment level grew by 2.6 percent (+741,000) from 1.3 percent (+374,000) a year ago, increasing from 28.262 million to 29.003 million in October 1999. The quality of employment generally improved this period as indicated below.

- From a recovery posted in July, **industry** employment continued to grow at 1.7 percent (+76,000) in October. This is due mainly to the respectable 3.4 percent (+91,000) growth registered in **manufacturing** employment.

Construction, which suffered a 7.9 percent (-130,000) decline last year, managed to post only a small decline during the period at 0.3 percent (-5,000). **Electricity, gas and water** posted higher growth at 3.6 percent (+5,000) compared to 0.7 growth (+1,000) last year. **Mining and quarrying** employment remained on the slump (-14.4% or -15,000).

- Employment grew by 0.6 percent (+70,000) in the **agriculture, fishery and forestry**, upped slightly from 0.1 percent growth (+12,000) a year ago.
- Employment in the service sector grew by 4.7 percent (+594,000), about the same last year. Growth was particularly strong in the wholesale and retail trade sector (from 2.6% to 6.7%). But this was offset by the decline in employment growth in the community, social and personal services (from 6.3% to 2.8%). Employment growth was about the same in financing (3.0%) and transport, storage and communication (6.6%).

- Persons in full-time employment (worked 40 hours and over a week) grew by robust 6.2 percent (+1.108 million) after declining by 1.7 percent (-317,000) a year ago. In contrast, part-time employment was down by 3.2 percent (-321,000) from 5.9 percent growth rate (+563,000) last year.

- Wage and salary employment expanded 3.9 percent (+536,000), upped from last year's 2.2 percent (+293,000). Lower growth rates were recorded among own-account workers (1.9% or +200,000) and unpaid family workers (0.2% or +6,000) relative to last year.

- Underemployment rate was placed at 22.1 percent, down by 1.6 percentage points a year ago. This translates to 6.415 million underemployed persons.

Of the total underemployed, 3.298 million worked less than 40 hours a week or **visibly underemployed**. Again, this figure is lower compared to last year at 3.567 million.

Unemployment

Total unemployed persons was placed at 2.997 million, down by 19,000 from last year figure. This corresponds to unemployment rate of 9.4 percent, down slightly by 0.2 percent from 1998.

- ❑ Unemployment rate among young workers (15 to 24 years old) which constituted nearly one-half (47.7%) of total unemployed persons was up to 20.0 percent from 19.4 percent a year ago.
 - ❑ The jobless rate was down mainly among rural workers (7.5% to 6.9%) and women (9.8% to 9.2%).
 - ❑ Double-digit unemployment rates were recorded in the National Capital Region (16.0%), Central Visayas (10.5%) and Central Luzon (10.1%). The lowest were recorded in ARMM (3.6%) and Cagayan Valley (3.7%).
1. bracket 15–24 comprised one-fifth (20% or 5.827 million) and the rest (15% or 4.446 million) were 55 years old and over.
 2. The employed persons were predominantly male (18.073 million). Statistics indicate that for every three employed persons two were males and one female.
 3. By educational attainment, the majority (43.0% or 12.494 million) have not attended school or have reached at least elementary education; 33.8% (9.821 million) with high school education and about 23.0 percent (6.683 million) have attended college.
 4. The bulk of the employed persons were reported in the following three big regions: National Capital Region (12.6% or 3.660 million), Region IV (13.4% or 3.891 million) and Region III (9.6% or 2.783 million).
 5. Nearly one-half (48.3% or 14.022 million) of the employed were wage and salary workers. Own-account workers comprised a little over one-third (37.7 % or 10.944 million) and the rest (14.0% or 4.090 million) were unpaid family workers.
 6. Most of the employed persons were involved in activities related to agriculture, fishery and forestry (40.4% or 11.756 million). The next sizeable groups were employed in the community, social and personal services (19.4% or 5.642 million), trading (15.3% or 4.449 million) and manufacturing (9.4% or 2.742 million).

FOR INQUIRIES:

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TABLE 1 - SUMMARY STATISTICS
ON LABOR FORCE, PHILIPPINES: October (1998-1999)
(In thousands except rates)

Region	Total Employed Persons		Increment	Growth Rate (Percent)
	1998	1999		
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION	31,278	32,000	722	2.3
Labor Force Participation rate (%)				
EMPLOYED PERSONS	28,262	29,003	741	2.6
Industry				
Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry	11,272	11,342	70	0.6
Mining and Quarrying	104	89	(15)	(14.4)
Manufacturing	2,687	2,778	91	3.4
Electricity, Gas and Water	140	145	5	3.6
Construction	1,511	1,506	(5)	(0.3)
Wholesale and Retail Trade	4,328	4,619	291	6.7
Transportation, Storage and Communication	1,885	2,009	124	6.6
Financing, Insurance, Real Estate & Bus. Svc.	695	716	21	3.0
Community, Social and Personal Services	5,631	5,789	158	2.8
Not adequately classified	8	10	2	25.0
Class of Worker				
Wage and salary workers	13,858	14,394	536	3.9
Own-account workers	10,613	10,813	200	1.9
Unpaid family workers	3,790	3,796	6	0.2
Hours of Work				
Less than 40 hours (Part-time Employment)	10,085	9,764	(321)	(3.2)
40 hours and over (Full-time Employment)	17,776	18,884	1,108	6.2
Did not work	400	355	(45)	(11.3)

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Region	28,262	29,003	741	2.6
NCR - National Capital Region	3,705	3,720	15	0.4
CAR -Cordillera Administrative Region	535	563	28	5.2
Region I - Ilocos Region	1,564	1,608	44	2.8
Region II - Cagayan Valley	1,241	1,299	58	4.7
Region III - Central Luzon	2,658	2,781	123	4.6
Region IV - Southern Tagalog	3,782	3,959	177	4.7
Region V- Bicol Region	1,986	2,001	15	0.8
Region VI - Western Visayas	2,527	2,588	61	2.4
Region VII - Central Visayas	2,046	2,073	27	1.3
Region VIII - Eastern Visayas	1,495	1,528	33	2.2
Region IX - Western Mindanao	1,088	1,115	27	2.5
Region X - Northern Mindanao	1,237	1,290	53	4.3
Region XI - Southern Mindanao	1,917	1,923	6	0.3
Region XII - Central Mindanao	941	942	1	0.1
ARMM-Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao	678	697	19	2.8
Caraga	862	916	54	6.3

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

Source: National Statistics Office.

**TABLE 2 - SUMMARY STATISTICS
ON UNEMPLOYMENT PHILIPPINES: October (1998-1999)**
(in thousands except rates)

Region	Total Unemployed Persons		Increment	Unemployment Rate	
	1998	1999		1998	1999
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	3,016	2,997	(19)	9.4	9.4
Sex					
Men	1,857	1,876	19	9.5	9.5
Women	1,159	1,121	(38)	9.8	9.2
Age					
15 -24	1,403	1,429	26	19.4	20.0
25 -54	1,334	1,305	(29)	6.8	6.5
55 and over	279	263	(16)	6.3	5.6
Area					
Urban	1,786	1,821	35	12.1	12.1
Rural	1,230	1,177	(53)	7.5	6.9
Region					
NCR - National Capital Region	659	706	47	15.1	16.0
CAR -Cordillera Administrative Region	52	40	(12)	8.9	6.6
Region I - Ilocos Region	139	153	14	8.2	8.7
Region II - Cagayan Valley	53	50	(3)	4.1	3.7
Region III - Central Luzon	359	313	(46)	11.9	10.1
Region IV - Southern Tagalog	394	412	18	9.4	9.4
Region V- Bicol Region	205	188	(17)	9.4	8.6
Region VI - Western Visayas	221	233	12	8.0	8.3
Region VII - Central Visayas	257	243	(14)	11.2	10.5
Region VIII - Eastern Visayas	126	127	1	7.8	7.7
Region IX - Western Mindanao	83	81	(2)	7.1	6.8
Region X - Northern Mindanao	90	98	8	6.8	7.1
Region XI - Southern Mindanao	183	187	4	8.7	8.9
Region XII - Central Mindanao	66	63	(3)	6.6	6.3
ARMM-Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao	34	26	(8)	4.8	3.6
Caraga	95	78	(17)	9.9	7.9

*Note: Details may not add up to totals due to rounding of figures.
Source: National Statistics Office.*