



The Labor Force Survey In Brief

January (1999-2000)

OVERVIEW

The results of the January 2000 Labor Force Survey (LFS) indicate little change in the country's labor market situation in comparison to the same period last year. Unemployment rate, which stood at 9.3 percent, was up by a negligible 0.3 percentage point while employment level managed to post positive growth (+1.9) despite continuing decline in construction. On a brighter note, the incidence of underemployment declined to 21.2 percent, almost a full percent point (0.9%) drop from last year. Also, manufacturing employment, which suffered a slump (-0.9% or -24,000) in 1999, has started to show signs of recovery posting a modest growth (+0.7% or +19,000) in January this year. Service sector employment continued to exhibit strong employment growth (+3.6%) this period.

LABOR FORCE AND PARTICIPATION RATE

The country's labor force population reached 31,848 million in January 2000, about 2.2 percent (+680,000) higher than the January 1999 estimate. This translates to a labor force participation rate (LFPR) of 65.1 percent, down 0.2 percentage point from last year.

Table 1
KEY LABOR FORCE STATISTICS
Philippines: January (1999-2000)
(in '000 except rate)

Indicator	1999	2000
Labor Force	31,168	31,848
Employment	28,368	28,895
- Underemployment	6,269	6,117
Unemployment	2,800	2,953
LFPR (%)	65.3	65.1
Employment Growth (%)	2.4	1.9
Underemployment Rate (%)	22.1	21.2
Unemployment Rate (%)	9.0	9.3

Source: National Statistics Office.

EMPLOYMENT

Employment level expanded during the period by 1.9 percent (+527,000) – a slowdown from 2.4 percent growth (+679,000) registered in the previous year.

In absolute terms, employment level increased to 28.895 million from 28.368 million recorded in January 1999.

Year/ Month	Employ- ment	Increment	Growth Rate (%)
1999	28,980	1,069	3.8
January	28,368	675	2.4
April	29,492	1,657	6.0
July	29,055	1,200	4.3
October	29,003	741	2.6
2000			
January	28,895	527	1.9

Source: National Statistics Office.

Sectoral Employment

Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry

After recovering last year from the severe slump caused by the two-year dry spell, agricultural employment continued to post positive gain in January 2000 increasing by 1.0 percent or additional 109,000 workers from previous year level.

Industry

Industry employment declined slightly by -0.7 percent (-31,000) from 4.447 million recorded last year. This was brought about mainly by the employment slump in **electricity, gas and water** (-17,000) and the continuing decline in **construction** (-39,000). **Manufacturing** employment, which suffered a decline (-24,000) last year due to the effect of the financial crisis, bounced back this year to register a modest increase (+19,000).

Service

The service sector posted the biggest gain in employment (+449,000). The sub-sectors which contributed the biggest gains were **wholesale and retail trade** (+207,000) and **community, social and personal services** (+172,000).

Hours of Work

Persons in full-time employment (worked 40 hours or more a week) increased by 1.8 percent (+333,000) over the year ago level to reach 18.365 million. On the other hand, the number of persons **in part-time employment** (worked less than 40 hours a week) also posted an increase (+229,000) to 10.128 million.

Class of Worker

Wage and salary workers continued to account for the bulk of the employment increases (+283,000). Worthy of note, however, was the rise in employment of **own-account workers** (+193,000) and the slightly lower than last year growth in employment of **unpaid family worker** (+51,000).

UNEMPLOYMENT

The number of unemployed persons in January 2000 stood at 2.953 million, a little change (+153,000) from the level recorded in similar period last year. This corresponds to unemployment rate of 9.3 percent, about unchanged from 9.0 percent a year ago.

Table 3
Summary Statistics on Unemployment
Philippines: January (1999 –2000)
(in '000 except rates)

Year/ Month	Unemployed Persons	Increment	Unemploy- ment Rate (%)
1999	3,102	-42	9.7
January	2,800	254	9.0
April	3,952	-326	11.8
July	2,658	-80	8.4
October	2,997	-19	9.4
2000			
January	2,953	153	9.3

Source: National Statistics Office.

Four (4) regions recorded double-digit unemployment rates: NCR (16.2%), Region III (10.2%), Region IV (10.5%) and Region VII (10.1%).

The youth (15-24 years old) which accounted for nearly one-half (45.5%) of

unemployed persons posted unemployment rate of 18.9 percent, upped slightly from 17.9 percent last year. Unemployment rate was about unchanged for those in the prime working age group (25-54 years old) at 6.7 percent and among the adults-55 years old and over (5.5%).

Male unemployment rate (9.3%) exceeded slightly their female counterparts (9.1%). On the other hand, urban unemployment rate edged up to 12.1 percent from 11.9 percent a year ago while rural unemployment rate was about unchanged at 6.7 percent.

UNDEREMPLOYMENT

Approximately one out of four employed persons were seeking additional hours of work (underemployed persons). Their number estimated at 6.269 million in January 1999 fell by 2.5 percent (-152,000) this year to 6.117 million. Accordingly, underemployment rate declined from 22.1 percent to 21.2 percent over the period under review.

Table 4
Summary Statistics on Underemployment
Philippines: January (1999 –2000)

Indicator	January		1999- 2000 Change
	1999	2000	
Total Underemployed ('000)	6,269	6,117	-152
- Underemployment rate (%)	22.1	21.2	-0.9
- % in Rural Areas	61.2	62.5	
- % in Urban Areas	38.4	37.5	
Visible Underemployed ('000)	3,444	3,370	-74
- Visible Underemployment rate (%)	12.1	11.7	-0.4
- % in Rural Areas	67.5	67.8	
- % in Urban Areas	32.5	32.2	

Source: National Statistics Office.

Of total underemployed persons, a little more than one-half (55.1% or 3.370 million) were visibly underemployed (worked an average of less than 40 hours a week).

Underemployment is prevalent in the rural areas. Data indicate that nearly two-thirds (62.5% or 3.822 million) of underemployed persons worked in the rural areas. Likewise, majority (67.8%) of the visible underemployed persons were in the rural areas.

FOR INQUIRIES:

Regarding this report contact **Employment and Manpower Statistics Division** at **527-3419**

Regarding other statistics and technical services contact **BLES Databank** at **527-3577**

Or write to BLES c/o **Databank, 3/F DOLE Bldg., Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila 1002**

FAX 527-3579 E-mail: emsd@manila-online.net Website: <http://www.manila-online.net/bles>

Annex 1
SUMMARY STATISTICS ON LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYED PERSONS
PHILIPPINES: JANUARY (1999-2000)
(in thousands except rates)

Indicator	1999	2000	Increment	% Change
LABOR FORCE	31,168	31,848	680	2.2
EMPLOYED PERSONS	28,368	28,895	527	1.9
Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry	11,306	11,415	109	1.0
Industry	4,447	4,416	-31	-0.7
Mining and Quarrying	104	110	6	5.8
Manufacturing	2,681	2,700	19	0.7
Electricity, Gas and Water	138	121	-17	-12.3
Construction	1,524	1,485	-39	-2.6
Services	12,612	13,061	449	3.6
Wholesale & Retail Trade	4,383	4,590	207	4.7
Transportation, Storage & Comm.	1,927	1,991	64	3.3
Financing, Insurance, Real Estate & Business Services	723	729	6	0.8
Community, Social & P. Services	5,579	5,751	172	3.1
Not adequately classified	5	2	-3	
Class of Worker				
Wage and salary workers	13,888	14,171	283	2.0
Own-account workers	10,607	10,800	193	1.8
Unpaid family workers	3,873	3,924	51	1.3
Hours of Work				
Less than 40 hours (Part-time Employment)	9,899	10,128	229	2.3
40 hours and over (Full-time Employment)	18,032	18,365	333	1.8
Did not work	435	401	-34	
Region				
NCR	3,647	3,636	-11	-0.3
CAR	541	571	30	5.5
Region I	1,549	1,591	42	2.7
Region II	1,276	1,302	26	2.0
Region III	2,695	2,803	108	4.0
Region IV	3,811	3,859	48	1.3
Region V	1,993	2,027	34	1.7
Region VI	2,539	2,558	19	0.7
Region VII	2,067	2,121	54	2.6
Region VIII	1,469	1,487	18	1.2
Region IX	1,098	1,129	31	2.8
Region X	1,254	1,292	38	3.0
Region XI	1,933	1,935	2	0.1
Region XII	946	977	31	3.3
ARMM	679	702	23	3.4
Caraga	873	906	33	3.8

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

Source: National Statistics Office.

Annex 2
SUMMARY STATISTICS ON UNEMPLOYED PERSONS
PHILIPPINES: JANUARY (1999-2000)
(in thousands except rates)

Indicator	Total Unemployed Persons		Labor Force Participation Rate (%)		Percent Share (%)		Unemployment Rate (%)	
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	2,800	2,953	65.3	65.1	100.0	100.0	9.0	9.3
Sex								
Men	1,761	1,861	82.2	81.6	62.9	63.0	9.0	9.3
Women	1,039	1,092	48.5	48.6	37.1	37.0	8.9	9.1
Age								
15 - 24	1,256	1,343	48.5	48.0	44.9	45.5	17.9	18.9
25 - 54	1,292	1,354	77.2	77.3	46.1	45.9	6.5	6.7
55 and Over	252	255	57.2	56.7	9.0	8.6	5.7	5.5
Area								
Urban	1,757	1,813	63.4	62.9	62.8	61.4	11.9	12.1
Rural	1,043	1,139	67.1	67.1	37.3	38.6	6.3	6.7
Region								
NCR	678	703	64.1	62.6	24.2	23.8	15.7	16.2
CAR	41	32	66.1	66.8	1.5	10.8	7.0	5.4
Region I	141	138	64.0	64.1	5.0	4.7	8.3	8.0
Region II	49	56	69.8	69.7	1.8	1.9	3.7	4.1
Region III	307	317	61.8	62.6	11.0	10.7	10.2	10.2
Region IV	371	452	64.3	64.5	13.2	15.3	8.9	10.5
Region V	154	189	66.8	67.2	5.5	6.4	7.2	8.5
Region VI	210	204	65.3	64.1	7.5	6.9	7.6	7.4
Region VII	218	239	65.2	65.9	7.8	8.1	9.5	10.1
Region VIII	116	122	65.4	65.0	4.1	4.1	7.3	7.6
Region IX	73	72	62.0	61.9	2.6	2.4	6.2	6.0
Region X	96	83	75.1	74.4	3.4	2.8	7.1	6.0
Region XI	180	177	70.8	69.0	6.4	6.0	8.5	8.4
Region XII	59	73	67.3	68.4	2.1	2.5	5.9	7.0
ARMM	23	21	55.5	55.9	0.8	0.7	3.3	2.9
Caraga	86	74	68.0	67.7	3.1	2.5	8.9	7.6

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