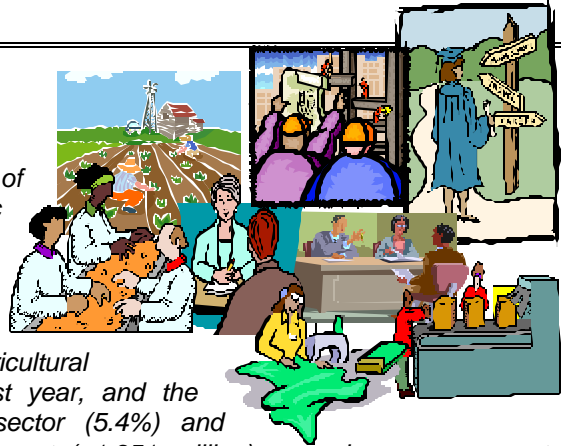


THE LABOR FORCE SURVEY IN BRIEF April (2000-2001)

Overview

The country's labor market showed some signs of improvement in April, despite the sluggish domestic economy weighed down by a series of political turmoil and global economic slump. Results of the latest Labor Force Survey (LFS) of the National Statistics Office indicate a marked improvement (7.2%) in employment.

This is due in large part to the strong recovery in agricultural employment (10.9%), which suffered a large decline last year, and the corresponding employment expansion in the industry sector (5.4%) and service-producing sector (5.0%). The increase in employment (+1.951 million), however, was not enough to match the expansion in labor force (+2.034 million) as the month of April is usually associated with the seasonal influx of new graduates and vacationing students entering the labor market. Nonetheless, unemployment rate in April eased slightly to 13.3 percent from 13.9 percent in 2000.



Participation Rate

Labor force participation rate (LFPR) has been observed to pick up during the month of April due to seasonal influx of students looking for summer jobs. This pattern was not observed last year when LFPR fell by 2.8 percentage points to 66.5 percent with roughly half a million persons leaving the workforce. In April this year, LFPR was up again to 69.0 percent, which is in line with the level observed in the previous years. In nominal terms, the size of the country's workforce grew by 6.4 percent to 33.621 million.



Employment

Total employed persons in April increased by 7.2 percent (+1.951 million), a reversal from the slump (-3.6%) recorded last year. In absolute terms, employment level rose from 27.209 million to 29.160 million over the period. The strong employment growth in April was broadly based. This may be attributed to the campaign-related spending activities in the last national election, which have created multiplier effects on the various sectors of the economy creating employment in the process.

□ Following a steep decline last year, employment for the combined agriculture, fishery and forestry sector bounced back posting a 10.9 percent increment (+1.070 million). For the period under review, employment in this sector was placed at 10.915 million or 37.4 percent of total employed workforce.

□ Driven by strong performance in manufacturing (5.6%) and construction sectors (+7.8%), industry sector employment expanded by a respectable 5.4 percent (+244,000). These sectors may have benefited most from the last election campaign in terms of printing of election materials and construction of billboards, among others. These gains were negated by the employment declines posted in mining and quarrying (-11.6%) and electricity, gas and water (-11.4%).

□ Employment in the service-producing sector expanded by 5.0 percent (+642,000). The wholesale and retail trade sector led the way posting a hefty 17.0 percent increment (+764,000). Modest gains were also recorded in transportation, storage and communication (+148,000) and financing, insurance, real estate and business services (+56,000). Interestingly, employment in the community, social and personal services sector fell by 5.8 percent (-326,000).

□ Part-time employment rose by a 25.9 percent (+2.318 million) virtually accounting for all the employment gains during the period. Data showed that the increase in part-time employment was most pronounced in the rural areas (+1.502 million) which accounted for the bulk (64.6% or 1.261 million) of employment increment during the period.

As a corollary, the big proportion (85.3% or 1.664 million) of the employment gains during the period occurred mainly among unpaid family workers (+878,000) and own-account workers (+786,000). This could mean a rise in entrepreneurial activities, particularly small enterprises and sub-contracting to homeworkers. On the other hand, wage and salary employment edged up by 2.1 percent (+289,000).

□ Growth in employment was felt in all regions of the country reversing the trend observed last year. The top five gainers were: Region IV (+377,000), Region III (+232,000), Region VIII (+217,000), Region X (+172,000) and Region V (+168,000).

Unemployment

For the period under review, total unemployed persons posted a marginal increase of 83,000 to 4.461 million. This figure corresponds to unemployment rate of 13.3 percent, a slight improvement from 13.9 percent last year.

- ❑ Notable decline in unemployment rate occurred among women (15.9% to 14.3%) and persons in the prime working age 25 to 54 years old (8.3% to 7.8%). Lower unemployment rates were also observed in both urban areas (16.2% to 15.8%) and rural areas (11.8% to 10.9%).
- ❑ Little change in unemployment rates were reported for men (12.7% to 12.6%) and young workers 15-24 years old (30.6% to 29.4%).
- ❑ Unemployment rate in the National Capital Region improved slightly (18.6% to 17.7%) while large reductions were posted in Region VIII (19.3% to 13.8%), Region VI (17.5% to 15.5%), Region V (13.7% to 11.7%) and Region X (10.3% to 8.3%).

In contrast, unemployment rate worsens in Region II (8.5% to 10.3%) and the three regions located in Mindanao, namely:

Region IX (10.0% to 12.1%), Region XI (11.3% to 12.5%) and Caraga (10.6% to 11.9%). The rest of the regions posted little or no change in unemployment rate.

Underemployment

Statistics on underemployment showed mix results with total underemployment falling by 7.2 percentage points to 17.5 percent while visible underemployment rate remained about unchanged declining by only 0.4 percentage point to 11.8 percent. In nominal terms, the number of visibly underemployed persons rose by 112,000 despite the decline in total underemployed persons by 1.629 million.

- ❑ Visible underemployment rate rose in rural areas (12.5% to 14.7%) while slight decline was posted in urban areas (9.0% to 8.4%).

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TABLE 1.0 - SUMMARY STATISTICS ON LABOR FORCE
PHILIPPINES: 1999-2001^a
(In thousands)

Year/Month	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Underemployed
1999 (Ave.)	30,759	27,742	3,017	6,127
January	29,888	27,147	2,741	5,945
April	32,013	28,217	3,796	6,347
July	30,440	27,840	2,600	6,129
October	30,693	27,762	2,931	6,088
2000 (Ave.)	30,911	27,453	3,459	5,955
January	30,632	27,733	2,899	5,818
April	31,587	27,209	4,378	6,721
July	30,518	27,093	3,425	5,752
October	30,908	27,775	3,133	5,528
2001 (Ave.)				
January	31,684	28,087	3,597	4,743
April	33,621	29,160	4,461	5,092

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

^a *Estimates based on the revised population benchmark using the 1995 Census of Population results.*

Source: Labor Force Survey, National Statistics Office.

TABLE 2.0 - SUMMARY STATISTICS ON LABOR FORCE
PHILIPPINES: 1999-2001^a
(In percent)

Year/Month	Labor Force Participation Rate	Employment Rate	Unemployment Rate	Underemployment Rate	Visible Underemployment Rate
1999 (Ave.)	66.4	90.2	9.8	22.1	11.7
January	65.2	90.8	9.2	21.9	11.8
April	69.3	88.1	11.9	22.5	12.1
July	65.5	91.5	8.5	22.0	11.7
October	65.7	90.4	9.6	21.9	11.1
2000 (Ave.)	64.9	88.8	11.2	21.7	11.1
January	64.9	90.5	9.5	21.0	11.4
April	66.5	86.1	13.9	24.7	12.2
July	63.8	88.8	11.2	21.2	10.0
October	64.3	89.9	10.1	19.9	10.7
2001 (Ave.)					
January	65.5	88.6	11.4	16.9	8.3
April	69.0	86.7	13.3	17.5	11.8

Source: National Statistics Office, Labor Force Survey.

^a *Estimates based on the revised population benchmark using the 1995 Census of Population results.*

Source: Labor Force Survey, National Statistics Office.

TABLE 3.0 - SUMMARY STATISTICS ON EMPLOYED PERSONS
PHILIPPINES: April (2000-2001)^a
(in thousands except rates)

Indicator	2000	2001	Increment	Growth Rate (%)
LABOR FORCE POPULATION	31,587	33,621	2,034	6.4
EMPLOYED PERSONS	27,209	29,160	1,951	7.2
SECTOR				
Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry	9,845	10,915	1,070	10.9
Industry	4,542	4,786	244	5.4
Mining and Quarrying	112	99	-13	-11.6
Manufacturing	2,758	2,912	154	5.6
Electricity, Gas and Water	140	124	-16	-11.4
Construction	1,532	1,651	119	7.8
Services	12,816	13,458	642	5.0
Wholesale and Retail Trade	4,486	5,250	764	17.0
Transportation, Storage & Comm.	1,960	2,108	148	7.6
Financing, Insurance, R. Estate & Bus.	727	783	56	7.7
Community, Social & Personal Services	5,643	5,317	-326	-5.8
NEC	5	0	-5	-100.0
AREA				
Urban	13,003	13,694	691	5.3
Rural	14,205	15,466	1,261	8.9
CLASS OF WORKER				
Wage and Salary Workers	13,956	14,245	289	2.1
Own-Account Workers	10,074	10,860	786	7.8
Unpaid Family Workers	3,178	4,056	878	27.6
HOURS OF WORK				
Less than 40 Hours (Part-Time Employed)	8,965	11,283	2,318	25.9
40 Hours and Over (Full-Time Employed)	17,765	17,089	-676	-3.8
Did Not Work	478	789	311	65.1
REGION				
NCR	3,640	3,749	109	3.0
CAR	537	546	9	1.7
Region I	1,518	1,541	23	1.5
Region II	1,113	1,193	80	7.2
Region III	2,620	2,852	232	8.9
Region IV	3,910	4,287	377	9.6
Region V	1,645	1,813	168	10.2
Region VI	2,202	2,351	149	6.8
Region VII	2,022	2,041	19	0.9
Region VIII	1,288	1,505	217	16.8
Region IX	1,122	1,132	10	0.9
Region X	1,090	1,262	172	15.8
Region XI	2,007	2,153	146	7.3
Region XII	951	1,059	108	11.4
ARMM	723	789	66	9.1
Caraga	821	888	67	8.2

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

^a *Estimates based on the revised population benchmark using the 1995 Census of Population results.*

Source: Labor Force Survey, National Statistics Office.

**TABLE 4.0 - SUMMARY STATISTICS ON LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE
AND UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, PHILIPPINES: April (2000-2001)**
(in thousands except percent)

Indicator	Labor Force Participation Rate (%)		Total Unemployed Persons		Percent Share (%)		Unemployment Rate (%)	
	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001
Sex	66.7	69.0	4,378	4,461	100.0	100.0	13.9	13.3
Men	83.8	84.6	2,518	2,607	57.5	58.4	12.7	12.6
Women	49.7	53.2	1,860	1,853	42.5	41.5	15.9	14.3
Age Group	66.7	69.0	4,378	4,461	100.0	100.0	13.9	13.3
15-24 years old	57.5	59.7	2,531	2,598	57.8	58.2	30.6	29.4
25-54 years old	76.1	78.6	1,591	1,578	36.3	35.4	8.3	7.8
55 years old and over	53.8	56.4	257	285	5.9	6.4	6.3	6.2
Area	66.7	69.0	4,378	4,461	100.0	100.0	13.9	13.3
Urban	65.1	66.0	2,428	2,573	55.5	57.7	16.2	15.8
Rural	68.3	72.1	1,950	1,888	44.5	42.3	11.8	10.9
Region	66.5	69.0	4,378	4,461	100.0	100.0	13.9	13.3
NCR	64.5	64.3	822	808	18.8	18.1	18.6	17.7
CAR	68.9	69.4	57	67		1.5	9.0	10.9
Region I	67.1	66.6	241	229	5.5	5.1	13.6	13.0
Region II	70.7	75.9	103	137	2.4	3.1	8.5	10.3
Region III	61.3	64.8	370	393	8.5	8.8	12.5	12.1
Region IV	64.1	67.8	609	655	13.9	14.7	13.4	13.3
Region V	68.2	71.9	257	240	5.9	5.4	13.7	11.7
Region VI	67.6	68.8	467	430	10.7	9.6	17.5	15.5
Region VII	68.7	67.9	356	373	8.1	8.4	14.9	15.5
Region VIII	72.0	76.8	307	240	7.0	5.4	19.3	13.8
Region IX	66.0	66.4	120	155	2.7	3.5	10.0	12.1
Region X	71.8	79.2	123	114	2.8	2.6	10.3	8.3
Region XI	70.8	74.8	255	308	5.8	6.9	11.3	12.5
Region XII	68.2	72.6	140	132	3.2	3.0	12.8	11.1
ARMM	57.8	61.4	54	59	1.2	1.3	7.0	6.9
Caraga	69.8	74.0	95	120	2.2	2.7	10.6	11.9

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

Source: National Statistics Office, Labor Force Survey.

TABLE 5.0 -UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS BY TYPE AND AREA
PHILIPPINES: April (2000-2001)^a
(in thousands except percent)

Year/Area	Total Underemployed Persons	Visibly Underemployed Persons	Underemployment Rate (%)	Visible Underemployment Rate (%)
2000	6,721	3,315	24.7	12.2
Urban	2,794	1,174	21.5	9.0
Rural	3,927	2,141	27.6	12.5
2001	5,092	3,427	17.5	11.8
Urban	1,927	1,157	14.1	8.4
Rural	3,165	2,270	20.5	14.7

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

^a *Estimates based on the revised population benchmark using the 1995 Census of Population results.*

Source: Labor Force Survey, National Statistics Office.