

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE APRIL 2002 LABOR FORCE SURVEY

Overview

Employment level continued to grow in April 2002 exceeding by 3.5 percent the level recorded last year with wholesale and retail trade sector contributing the biggest share. Industry employment remained sluggish while agricultural sector managed to maintain the level of employment it achieved last year.

Unemployment rate in April 2002 was of little change increasing by 0.6 percentage point to 13.9%. This occurs amidst the unexpected large increase in labor force (4.3%) as more people joined the labor market in expectation of better employment prospects.

More people found full-time employment and wage and salary employment grew at a modest rate. Despite this, the incidence of underemployment was up from last year.

Labor Force and Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR)

The labor force expanded 1.431 million to 35.052 million in April, representing an increase of 4.3 percent from the year ago level. Accordingly, the labor force participation rate (LFPR) rose by 0.9 percent to 69.9 percent. The LFPR normally rises during the month of April due to the influx of young workers seeking for summer jobs. However, for this period notable increases in LFPR occurred among female workers (53.2% to 55.3%) and workers in the age group 25-54 years old (78.4% to 79.5%).

KEY EMPLOYMENT INDICATORS PHILIPPINES: APRIL 2001-2002 (in thousands except rates)			
Indicator	APRIL 2002	APRIL 2001	Year- On-Year Change
Labor Force	35,052	33,621	1,431
Employed Persons	30,186	29,160	1,026
Unemployed Persons	4,866	4,461	405
Underemployed Persons	5,922	5,092	830
LFPR (%)	69.9	69.0	XXXX
Employment Growth (%)	3.5	7.1	XXXX
Unemployment Rate (%)	13.9	13.3	XXXX
Underemployment Rate (%)	19.6	16.5	XXXX

Employment

Employment level in April grew by 3.5 percent year-on-year, a moderation compared to the growth figure registered last year. In absolute terms, total employed persons increased to 30.186 million from 29.160 million reported a year earlier. This translates to an increment of 1.026 million employed persons over the period.

- Growth in employment was largely concentrated in the services sector which posted a year-on-year growth of 6.6 percent (+883,000). The wholesale and retail trade continued to account for the biggest increment (+523,000) followed by private households with employed persons (194,000).
- Employment in the agriculture, fishery and forestry sector was up 1.0 percent (+110,000) from last year level. In April 2001, agricultural employment grew by 10.9 percent. But this was made possible only because the sector was recovering from the slump it suffered in 2000.
- Industry sector employment was almost unchanged from last year increasing by only 0.7 percent (+34,000). Little gains in employment were registered in mining and quarrying (+37,000) and construction (15,000). But these were offset by employment losses in manufacturing (8,000) and

electricity, gas and water (10,000).

- Persons in full-time employment (worked 40 hours or more a week) rose by 8.7 percent (+1.427 million). On the other hand, part-time employment (worked less than 40 hours a week) fell by 4.1 percent (-492,000).
- By class of worker, the gain in employment was almost equally divided between own-account workers (+519,000) and wage and salary workers (+466,000). Meanwhile, growth in unpaid family workers was negligible at 1.0 percent (+40,000).
- Large gains in employment were noted in Region IV (+220,000), NCR (+178,000), Region VI (+142,000) and Region VIII (+112,000). In contrast, employment losses were posted in Region XII (-33,000), Region III (-20,000) and ARMM (-2,000).

Unemployment

Unemployment rate edged up 0.6 percentage point to 13.9 percent in April as more people participated in the labor market. This corresponds to 4.866 million unemployed persons, upped by 405,000 from last year. Survey results indicated that roughly 1.4 million persons joined/rejoined the labor force in April exerting heavy pressure on the labor market.

- Unemployment rate increased for male workers (12.6% to 13.0%) and female workers (14.3% to 15.2%).
- Unemployment rate among the youth aged 15 to 24 remained unchanged at 29.4 percent but increased among the prime working age 25-54 years old (7.8% to 8.9%) and the elderly age group 55 years old and over (6.2% to 6.8%).
- Unemployment rate recorded an increase in both urban areas (15.8% to 16.7%) and rural areas (10.9% to 11.2%).
- Unemployment rates rose considerably in NCR (17.7% to 20.3%) and Region I (13.0% to 15.2%), Region III (12.1% to 15.0%) and Region XII (11.0% to 13.5%). Notable declines were observed in Region VI (15.5% to 13.4%) and Region VIII (13.8% to 10.2%). Elsewhere, the unemployment rates were of little change.
- Close to one-half (2.717 million) of the total underemployed persons were engaged in agriculture, forestry and fishery. Relatively large numbers were also noted in wholesale and retail trade (872,000), manufacturing (544,000) and transportation, storage and communication (367,000).
- Underemployment is also a rural phenomenon as the majority (62.0% or 3.670 million) of the underemployed were rural workers.
- By class of worker, almost one-half (2.780 million) were in wage and salary employment with own-account workers ranking a close second (2.366 million).

Visible Underemployment

- A little less than two-thirds (63.9% or 3.784 million) of the total underemployed persons worked less than 40 hours a week or **visibly underemployed**.
- For the period under review, the number of visibly underemployed persons rose by 10.4 percent (+357,000), from 3.427 million to 3.784 million.

Underemployment

Of the total employed persons, 5.922 million were underemployed i.e. they expressed the desire for more hours of work/additional job during the survey period. This figure corresponds to 19.6 percent of total employed persons, upped 2.1 percentage points from the previous year.

FOR INQUIRIES:

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Table 1.0 - SUMMARY STATISTICS ON EMPLOYMENT
PHILIPPINES: APRIL (2001-2002)
(in thousands except rates)

Indicator	2001	2002	Increment	Year-on-Year Growth Rate (%)
LABOR FORCE POPULATION	33,621	35,052	1,431	4.3
EMPLOYED PERSONS	29,160	30,186	1,026	3.5
SECTOR				
Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry	10,915	11,025	110	1.0
Industry	4,786	4,820	34	0.7
Mining and Quarrying	99	136	37	37.4
Manufacturing	2,912	2,904	(8)	(0.3)
Electricity, Gas and Water	124	114	(10)	(8.1)
Construction	1,651	1,666	15	0.9
Services	13,458	14,341	883	6.6
Wholesale and Retail Trade	5,250	5,773	523	10.0
Hotels and Restaurants	656	680	24	3.7
Transportation, Storage & Comm.	2,108	2,104	(4)	(0.2)
Financial Intermediation	277	301	24	8.7
Real Estate, Renting & Bus.Activities	506	552	46	9.1
Public Administration & Defense, Compulsory Social Security	1,402	1,445	43	3.1
Education	886	913	27	3.0
Health and Social Work	305	355	50	16.4
Other Community, Social & Personal Services	921	877	67	(4.8)
Private Households with Employed Persons	1,145	1,339	194	16.9
Extra-Territorial Organizations	2	2	-	0.0
CLASS OF WORKER				
Wage and Salary Workers	14,245	14,711	466	3.3
Own-Account Workers	10,860	11,379	519	4.8
Unpaid Family Workers	4,056	4,096	40	1.0
HOURS OF WORK				
Less than 40 Hours (Part-Time Employment)	11,970	11,478	(492)	(4.1)
40 Hours and Over (Full-Time Employment)	16,355	17,782	1,427	8.7
Did Not Work	836	926	90	10.8
REGION				
NCR	3,749	3,927	178	4.7
CAR	546	573	27	4.9
Region I	1,541	1,565	24	1.6
Region II	1,193	1,233	40	3.4
Region III	2,852	2,832	(20)	(0.7)
Region IV	4,287	4,507	220	5.1
Region V	1,813	1,888	75	4.1
Region VI	2,351	2,493	142	6.0
Region VII	2,041	2,134	93	4.6
Region VIII	1,505	1,617	112	7.4
Region IX	1,132	1,199	67	5.9
Region X	1,583	1,624	41	2.6
Region XI	1,506	1,536	30	2.0
Region XII	1,349	1,316	(33)	(2.4)
ARMM	825	823	(2)	(0.2)
Caraga	888	918	30	3.4

Notes: 1. Details may not add to totals due to rounding of figures.

2. Estimates based on the revised population benchmark using the 1995 Census of Population results.

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

**Table 2.0 - SUMMARY STATISTICS ON LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE
AND UNEMPLOYMENT, PHILIPPINES: APRIL (2001-2002)**
(in thousands except percent)

Region	Labor Force Participation Rate (%)		Total Unemployed Persons		Percent Share (%)		Unemployment Rate (%)	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
Sex	69.0	69.9	4,461	4,866	100.0	100.0	13.3	13.9
Men	84.6	84.5	2,607	2,751	58.4	56.5	12.6	13.0
Women	53.2	55.3	1,853	2,115	41.5	43.5	14.3	15.2
Age group	69.0	69.9	4,461	4,866	100.0	100.0	13.3	13.9
15-24 years old	59.6	59.8	2,598	2,646	58.2	54.4	29.4	29.4
25-54 years old	78.4	79.5	1,578	1,888	35.4	38.8	7.8	8.9
55 years old and over	56.4	57.5	285	332	6.4	6.8	6.2	6.8
Area	69.0	69.9	4,461	4,866	100.0	100.0	13.3	13.9
Urban	66.0	67.5	2,573	2,856	57.7	58.7	15.8	16.7
Rural	72.1	72.3	1,888	2,010	42.3	41.3	10.9	11.2
Region	69.0	69.9	4,461	4,866	100.0	100.0	13.3	13.9
NCR	64.3	68.1	808	1,002	18.1	20.6	17.7	20.3
CAR	69.4	70.2	67	67	1.5	1.4	10.9	10.4
Region I	66.5	67.4	229	280	5.1	5.8	13.0	15.2
Region II	75.9	76.3	137	147	3.1	3.0	10.3	10.6
Region III	64.8	64.8	393	501	8.8	10.3	12.1	15.0
Region IV	67.8	68.6	655	675	14.7	13.9	13.3	13.0
Region V	71.9	73.8	240	267	5.4	5.5	11.7	12.4
Region VI	68.8	69.2	430	386	9.6	7.9	15.5	13.4
Region VII	67.9	69.1	373	387	8.4	8.0	15.5	15.4
Region VIII	76.8	77.2	240	184	5.4	3.8	13.8	10.2
Region IX	66.4	67.4	155	150	3.5	3.1	12.1	11.1
Region X	78.4	78.8	170	198	3.8	4.1	9.7	10.9
Region XI	73.6	73.5	208	223	4.6	4.6	12.1	12.7
Region XII	74.9	72.8	166	205	3.7	4.2	11.0	13.5
ARMM	61.2	59.9	67	75	1.5	1.5	7.5	8.3
CARAGA	74.0	73.8	120	120	2.7	2.5	11.9	11.6

Notes: 1. Details may not add to totals due to rounding of figures.

2. Estimates based on the revised population benchmark using the 1995 Census of Population results.

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

Table 3.0 - SUMMARY STATISTICS ON UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS
PHILIPPINES: APRIL (2001-2002)
(in thousands except percent)

Indicator	2001	2002
UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS ('000)	5,092	5,922
UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE (%)	17.5	19.6
VISIBLE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE (%)	11.8	12.5
Hours Worked		
Less than 40 hours (Visibly Underemployed)	3,427	3,784
40 hours and more (Invisibly Underemployed)	1,665	2,138
Area		
Urban	1,927	2,251
Rural	3,165	3,670
Sector		
Agriculture, Fishery and Fishery	2,460	2,717
Industry	858	1,038
Mining and Quarrying	20	26
Manufacturing	431	544
Electricity, Gas and Water	20	23
Construction	387	445
Services	1,775	2,167
Wholesale and Retail Trade	654	872
Hotels and Restaurants	80	90
Transportation, Storage & Communication	331	367
Financial Intermediation	22	33
Real Estate, Renting & Business Activities	65	83
Public Administration & Defense,		
Compulsory Social Security	184	222
Education	66	91
Health and Social Work	42	45
Other Community, Social & Personal Services	222	223
Private Households with Employed Persons	109	141
Extra-Territorial Organizations	*	*
Class of Worker		
Wage and Salary Worker	2,516	2,780
Own-account Worker	1,859	2,366
Unpaid Family Worker	717	775

Notes: 1. Details may not add to totals due to rounding of figures.

2. Estimates based on the revised population benchmark using the 1995 Census of Population results.

* Less than 5,000.

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