

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE OCTOBER 2003 LABOR FORCE SURVEY

### Overview

The Philippine labor market performed better than expected in October 2003, as revealed in the latest Labor Force Survey (LFS) conducted by the National Statistics Office (NSO). Employment level grew by a respectable 4.2 percent and was broadly based with all three major sectors contributing to the overall growth. The expansion in employment was accompanied by increases in number of persons who found full-time work and wage and salary employment.

The rate on unemployment was unchanged from last year as there was a matching increase in labor force. Similarly, the rate of underemployment rate was of little change from last year.



### Labor Force

The size of the country's labor force increased by 1.403 million to reach 35.078 million in October. This translates to a labor force participation rate (LFPR) of 67.1 percent, upped by 0.9 percentage point from last year.

### Employment

Total employed persons in October increased by 1.273 million from a year earlier to reach 31.524 million. This implies a year-on-year growth rate of 4.2 percent, a marked improvement from the near zero growth (0.6%) recorded last year.

### KEY EMPLOYMENT INDICATORS PHILIPPINES: OCTOBER 2002-2003

(in '000 except rates)

Indicator	Oct. 2003	Oct. 2002	Year-On-Year Change
Household Pop'n 15 Years Old and Over	52,299	50,841	1,458
Labor Force	35,078	33,674	1,404
Employed Persons	31,524	30,251	1,273
<i>Agri, Fishery and Forestry</i>	11,675	11,311	364
<i>Industry</i>	4,941	4,669	272
<i>Services</i>	14,904	14,271	633
Unemployed Persons	3,554	3,423	131
Underemployed Persons	4,964	4,628	336
LFPR (%)	67.1	66.2	XXXX
Unemployment Rate (%)	10.1	10.2	XXXX
Underemployment Rate (%)	15.7	15.3	XXXX

Source: National Statistics Office, Labor Force Survey.

- ❑ Employment in the combined agriculture, fishery and forestry sector was up 3.2 percent (+364,000), increasing from 11.311 million to 11.675 million.
- ❑ Industry sector employment grew a robust 5.9 percent (+272,000) largely owing to the strong growth in manufacturing (6.4% or 183,000) and construction (6.2% or 99,000). These offset the employment decline posted in electricity, gas and water (-8.1% or -10,000).
- ❑ Nearly one-half (49.7% or 633,000) of the total new employment created during the period originated in the service sector. Notable gains were recorded in private households with employed persons (+225,000), transportation, storage and communication (+192,000) and real estate, renting and business activities (+160,000). On the other hand, slump in employment occurred in public administration and defense, compulsory social security (-74,000) and education (-33,000).
- ❑ Persons in full-time employment (worked 40 hours or more in the past week) increased by 7.9 percent (+1.471 million). On the other hand, the number of persons in part-time employment fell by 1.4 percent (-159,000).
- ❑ Much of the growth in employment occurred among wage and salary workers which grew by 10.0 percent (+1.457 million) over the period. Own-account workers also posted a

positive but less than one percent increase (0.5% or +55,000) while unpaid family workers fell (-6.0% or -238,000) during the period.

- ❑ Gains in employment were observed in all but two regions. The bulk of the gain in employment occurred in four (4) regions: NCR (+250,000), Region IV-A (+247,000), Region III (+114,000) and ARMM (+109,000). The two regions which posted decline in employment were Regions IV-B (-2,000) and IX (-33,000).

## Unemployment

Unemployment rate in October 2003 stood at 10.1 percent, down by 0.1 percentage point from a year earlier. In absolute terms, however, the total number of unemployed persons grew by 131,000 over the period, from 3.423 million to 3.554 million. This was a consequence of the continued rise in the country's labor force which expanded by 1.403 million during the period under review.

- ❑ The unemployment rates for men (10.0%) and women (10.3%) showed little change from last year.
- ❑ Youth (15-24 years old) unemployment rate improved by 1.7 percentage points to 19.7 percent. The rate for those in the prime-working age 25-54 years old was unchanged at 7.3 percent while those 55 years old and over increased from 6.0 percent to 7.1 percent over the period.

- Only three regions posted significant changes in unemployment rates, namely: Region IV–B (7.2% to 6.2%), Region V (8.1% to 7.1%) and ARMM (4.4% to 5.4%). There were no significant changes in other regions.

## Underemployed Persons

The incidence of underemployment (employed persons who expressed the desire for additional hours/additional jobs/new jobs) increased marginally in October both in terms of rate (15.3% to 15.7%) and number (4.628 million to 4.964 million). Nearly two-thirds (61.6% or 3.059 million) of the total underemployed persons worked less than 40 hours a week or visibly underemployed.

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**TABLE 1.0 - SUMMARY STATISTICS ON LABOR FORCE  
PHILIPPINES: OCTOBER (2002-2003)**  
(in thousands except percent)

Indicator	Total Household Population 15 Yrs. Old and Over		Labor Force Participation Rate (%)		Total Labor Force (LF)		Year-on-Year Change in LF	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	Number	Growth Rate (%)
<b>Sex</b>	<b>50,841</b>	<b>52,299</b>	<b>66.2</b>	<b>67.1</b>	<b>33,674</b>	<b>35,078</b>	<b>1,404</b>	<b>4.2</b>
Men	25,387	26,056	80.8	83.4	20,515	21,718	1,203	5.9
Women	25,454	26,242	51.7	50.9	13,159	13,360	201	1.5
<b>Age Group</b>	<b>50,841</b>	<b>52,299</b>	<b>66.2</b>	<b>67.1</b>	<b>33,674</b>	<b>35,078</b>	<b>1,404</b>	<b>4.2</b>
15-24 years old	15,390	15,926	51.1	50.7	7,553	8,077	524	6.9
25-54 years old	26,723	28,647	79.0	78.6	21,112	22,515	1,403	6.6
55 years old and over	8,728	7,725	57.4	58.1	5,010	4,488	(522)	(10.4)
<b>Region</b>	<b>50,841</b>	<b>52,299</b>	<b>66.2</b>	<b>67.1</b>	<b>33,674</b>	<b>35,078</b>	<b>1,404</b>	<b>4.2</b>
NCR	7,349	7,533	64.4	66.4	4,731	5,004	273	5.8
CAR	926	950	65.4	69.0	605	656	51	8.4
Region I	2,776	2,842	63.2	64.8	1,754	1,841	87	5.0
Region II	1,818	1,867	69.6	69.9	1,266	1,305	39	3.1
Region III	5,316	5,484	63.6	64.2	3,384	3,520	136	4.0
Region IV-A	6,140	6,373	64.9	67.0	3,985	4,270	285	7.2
Region IV-B	1,433	1,474	72.2	69.3	1,034	1,021	(13)	(1.3)
Region V	2,947	3,022	67.6	67.2	1,993	2,031	38	1.9
Region VI	4,195	4,294	67.4	68.2	2,826	2,927	101	3.6
Region VII	3,704	3,793	64.5	65.2	2,390	2,474	84	3.5
Region VIII	2,362	2,426	70.6	71.8	1,668	1,742	74	4.4
Region IX	2,028	1,921	63.6	65.1	1,290	1,251	(39)	(3.0)
Region X	2,338	2,408	74.3	74.0	1,736	1,783	47	2.7
Region XI	2,434	2,499	68.7	68.5	1,673	1,712	39	2.3
Region XII	2,125	2,196	69.9	68.9	1,486	1,513	27	1.8
ARMM	1,520	1,740	57.8	57.6	878	1,002	124	14.1
Caraga	1,429	1,476	68.2	69.5	974	1,026	52	5.3

\* Preliminary

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 EMPLOYMENT**  
**PHILIPPINES: OCTOBER (2002-2003)**  
(in thousands except rates)

Indicator	2002	2003	Increment	Year-on-Year Growth Rate (%)
<b>LABOR FORCE POPULATION</b>	<b>33,674</b>	<b>35,078</b>	<b>1,404</b>	<b>4.2</b>
<b>EMPLOYED PERSONS</b>	<b>30,251</b>	<b>31,524</b>	<b>1,273</b>	<b>4.2</b>
<b>SECTOR</b>				
<b>Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry</b>	<b>11,311</b>	<b>11,675</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>3.2</b>
<b>Industry</b>	<b>4,669</b>	<b>4,941</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>5.8</b>
Mining and Quarrying	101	101	0	-
Manufacturing	2,855	3,038	183	6.4
Electricity, Gas and Water	124	114	(10)	(8.1)
Construction	1,589	1,688	99	6.2
<b>Services</b>	<b>14,271</b>	<b>14,904</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>4.4</b>
Wholesale and Retail Trade	5,621	5,672	51	0.9
Hotels and Restaurants	713	786	73	10.2
Transportation, Storage & Communication	2,171	2,363	192	8.8
Financial Intermediation	318	332	14	4.4
Real Estate, Renting & Business Activities	560	720	160	28.6
Public Administration & Defense, Compulsory Social Security	1,461	1,387	(74)	(5.1)
Education	939	906	(33)	(3.5)
Health and Social Work	347	366	19	5.5
Other Community, Social & Personal Services	847	856	9	1.1
Private Households with Employed Persons	1,289	1,514	225	17.5
Extra-Territorial Organizations	5	2	(3)	(60.0)
<b>CLASS OF WORKER</b>				
Wage and Salary Workers	14,620	16,077	1,457	10.0
Own-Account Workers	11,646	11,701	55	0.5
Unpaid Family Workers	3,984	3,746	(238)	(6.0)
<b>HOURS OF WORK</b>				
Less than 40 Hours (Part-Time Employment)	11,188	11,029	(159)	(1.4)
40 Hours and Over (Full-Time Employment)	18,623	20,094	1,471	7.9
Did Not Work	441	400	(41)	(9.3)
<b>REGION</b>				
NCR	3,942	4,192	250	6.3
CAR	559	609	50	8.9
Region I	1,573	1,650	77	4.9
Region II	1,210	1,245	35	2.9
Region III	3,018	3,132	114	3.8
Region IV-A	3,470	3,717	247	7.1
Region IV-B	960	958	(2)	(0.2)
Region V	1,831	1,887	56	3.1
Region VI	2,601	2,690	89	3.4
Region VII	2,123	2,180	57	2.7
Region VIII	1,544	1,601	57	3.7
Region IX	1,210	1,177	(33)	(2.7)
Region X	1,623	1,666	43	2.6
Region XI	1,517	1,559	42	2.8
Region XII	1,348	1,380	32	2.4
ARMM	839	948	109	13.0
Caraga	882	933	51	5.8

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 UNEMPLOYMENT**  
**PHILIPPINES: OCTOBER (2002-2003)**  
(in thousands except percent)

Indicator	Total Unemployed Persons		Percent Share (%)		Unemployment Rate (%)	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
<b>Sex</b>	<b>3,423</b>	<b>3,554</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>10.1</b>
Men	2,076	2,174	60.6	61.2	10.1	10.0
Women	1,347	1,379	39.4	38.8	10.2	10.3
<b>Age Group</b>	<b>3,423</b>	<b>3,554</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>10.1</b>
15-24 years old	1,616	1,594	47.2	44.9	21.4	19.7
25-54 years old	1,505	1,641	44.0	46.2	7.1	7.3
55 years old and over	302	319	8.8	9.0	6.0	7.1
<b>Region</b>	<b>3,423</b>	<b>3,554</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>10.1</b>
NCR	789	812	23.0	22.8	16.7	16.2
CAR	46	47	1.3	1.3	7.6	7.2
Region I	181	191	5.3	5.4	10.3	10.4
Region II	56	60	1.6	1.7	4.4	4.6
Region III	366	388	10.7	10.9	10.8	11.0
Region IV - A	515	553	15.0	15.6	12.9	13.0
Region IV - B	74	63	2.2	1.8	7.2	6.2
Region V	162	144	4.7	4.1	8.1	7.1
Region VI	225	237	6.6	6.7	8.0	8.1
Region VII	267	294	7.8	8.3	11.2	11.9
Region VIII	124	141	3.6	4.0	7.4	8.1
Region IX	80	74	2.3	2.1	6.2	5.9
Region X	113	117	3.3	3.3	6.5	6.6
Region XI	156	153	4.6	4.3	9.3	8.9
Region XII	138	133	4.0	3.7	9.3	8.8
ARMM	39	54	1.1	1.5	4.4	5.4
Caraga	92	93	2.7	2.6	9.5	9.1

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.