

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE APRIL 2007 LABOR FORCE SURVEY



### Overview

The employment situation in April 2007 showed marked improvement compared to the same period last year. Employment level rose by 3.1% or 1.007 million new employment created. Growth occurred mainly in agriculture, fishery and forestry sector (5.1%) and service sector (2.6%) while industry employment remained sluggish (0.4%). Wage employment was up by 4.2% while full-time employment grew at a much slower pace (0.6%). Notable reduction occurred in both the unemployment rate (8.2% to 7.4%) and underemployment rate (25.4% to 18.9%).

Starting with January 2007 Labor Force Survey (LFS), the population projections based on the 2000 Census of Population was adopted to generate the labor force statistics. This is in compliance with NSCB Resolution No. 1 series 2005 "Adoption of the Methodology Used in Generating the 2000 Census of Population and Housing-Based National Population Projections."

### LABOR FORCE

The country's working age population grew by 2.6% (+1.435 million) over the period. This was accompanied by a much slower growth in the labor force which expanded by 2.1% (+764,000) to reach 36.397 million. Labor force participation rate (LFPR) remained about unchanged at 64.5%, declining by just 0.3 percentage point from a year ago.

### EMPLOYMENT

Total employed persons increased from 32.699 million to 33.706 million. This translates to employment generation of 1.007 million or a year-on-year growth rate of 3.1%.

- The gains in employment occurred mostly in the combined agriculture, fishery and forestry

**KEY EMPLOYMENT INDICATORS  
PHILIPPINES: April 2006-2007  
(in thousands except rates)**

Indicator	April 2007 <sup>p</sup>	April 2006	Year-On-Year Change
Household Population 15 Years Old and Over	56,411	54,976	1,435
Labor Force	36,397	35,633	764
– Employed Persons	33,706	32,699	1,007
– Unemployed Persons	2,691	2,935	-244
Underemployed Persons	6,381	8,309	-1,928
– Visibly underemployed	4,167	4,839	-672
LFPR (%)	64.5	64.8	
Employment Growth Rate (%)	3.1	2.5 <sup>a</sup>	
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.4	8.2	
Underemployment Rate (%)	18.9	25.4	
– Visible Under-employment Rate (%)	12.4	14.8	

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary.

<sup>a</sup> Based on previous year estimate.

Source: National Statistics Office, Labor Force Survey.

sector which grew by 5.2 % (+584,000) over the period - increasing from 11.281 million to 11.865 million.

- Ranking next in terms of employment creation is the service sector which expanded by 2.7% (+431,000). Leading gainers were private households with employed persons (+148,000); real estate, renting and business services (+125,000); transport, storage and communications (+77,000); and other community, social and personal services (+94,000).
- Industry employment was positive but sluggish growing by less than a percent (0.5% or +26,000). Growth occurred in construction (+121,000), mining and quarrying (+6,000) and electricity, gas and water (+4,000) but were offset by the reduction in manufacturing (-105,000).
- The number of persons in part-time employment went up by 5.6% (+748,000) exceeding the growth in full-time employment (0.5% or +101,000).
- Growth occurred among wage and salary workers (4.1% or +678,000) and unpaid family workers (+524,000) as well but declined among own-account workers (-195,000).

### Underemployment

- The number of underemployed (i.e., persons who want or expressed the desire for

additional hours of work) declined by 1.928 million – from 8.309 million to 6.381 million. This corresponds to underemployment rate of 18.9%, down from 25.4% year before.

- Invisibly underemployed persons (i.e., persons who worked 40 hours or more a week and still wanting additional hours of work) also declined by 669,000 – from 4.836 million to 4.167 million.

### UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployment declined both in terms of rate (8.2% to 7.4%) and numbers (2.935 million to 2.691 million).

- The large proportion of the unemployed were young workers 15 to 24 years old (50.6% or 1.362 million) and relatively educated – 39.1% or 1.052 million were college graduates or undergraduates.
- Double-digit unemployment rate were recorded in NCR (12.5%) and Region III (10.2%). Other regions which posted unemployment rate higher than the national average were Region I (9.3%), Region IV-A (9.3%), Region VI (7.9%).
- Unemployment rate was recorded lowest in Region II (3.0%), Region IX (3.1%), CAR (3.7%) and ARMM (3.8%).

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**Table 1 - SUMMARY STATISTICS ON EMPLOYED PERSONS  
BY SELECTED INDICATORS, PHILIPPINES  
April 2006 and 2007  
(in thousands except rates)**

INDICATOR	2007 <sup>p</sup>	2006	Percent Share (%)		Increment	Year-on-Year Growth Rate (%)
			2007 <sup>p</sup>	2006		
<b>EMPLOYED PERSONS</b>	<b>33,706</b>	<b>32,699</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,007</b>	<b>3.1</b>
<b>SECTOR</b>						
<b>Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry</b>	<b>11,865</b>	<b>11,281</b>	<b>35.2</b>	<b>34.5</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>5.2</b>
Agriculture, Hunting and Forestry	10,280	9,842	30.5	30.1	438	4.5
Fishing	1,550	1,439	4.6	4.4	111	7.7
<b>Industry</b>	<b>5,258</b>	<b>5,232</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>0.5</b>
Mining and Quarrying	169	163	0.5	0.5	6	3.7
Manufacturing	3,067	3,172	9.1	9.7	-105	-3.3
Electricity, Gas and Water	135	131	0.4	0.4	4	3.1
Construction	1,854	1,733	5.5	5.3	121	7.0
<b>Services</b>	<b>16,617</b>	<b>16,186</b>	<b>49.3</b>	<b>49.5</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>2.7</b>
Wholesale and Retail Trade	6,438	6,442	19.1	19.7	-4	-0.1
Hotels and Restaurants	876	916	2.6	2.8	-40	-4.4
Transport, Storage & Communications	2,562	2,485	7.6	7.6	77	3.1
Financial Intermediation	337	327	1.0	1.0	10	3.1
Real Estate, Renting & Business Activities	910	785	2.7	2.4	125	15.9
Public Administration & Defense, Compulsory Social Security	1,550	1,504	4.6	4.6	46	3.1
Education	1,011	1,014	3.0	3.1	-3	-0.3
Health and Social Work	371	360	1.1	1.1	11	3.1
Other Community, Social & Personal Activities	944	850	2.8	2.6	94	11.1
Private Households w/ Employed Persons	1,652	1,504	4.9	4.6	148	9.8
Extra-Territorial Organizations	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	-
<b>CLASS OF WORKER</b>						
Wage and Salary Workers	17,224	16,546	51.1	50.6	678	4.1
Own-account workers	12,067	12,262	35.8	37.5	-195	-1.6
Unpaid Family Workers	4,415	3,891	13.1	11.9	524	13.5
<b>HOURS OF WORK</b>						
Less than 40 Hours (Part-Time Employment)	14,089	13,341	41.8	40.8	748	5.6
40 Hours and Over (Full-Time Employment)	18,707	18,606	55.5	56.9	101	0.5
Did Not Work	910	785	2.7	2.4	125	15.9

Notes: 1. Figures were estimated based on the 2000 Census Population Projection.

2. Employment levels were derived based on the percentage distribution contained in the NSO April 2007 LFS Press Release.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary.

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

**Table 2 - SUMMARY STATISTICS ON UNDEREMPLOYMENT**  
**PHILIPPINES: April 2006 and 2007**  
(In thousands except percent)

INDICATOR	2007 <sup>p</sup>	2006	Increment
<b>UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS</b>	<b>6,381</b>	<b>8,309</b>	<b>-1,928</b>
<b>Hours Worked</b>			
- Worked less than 40 hours/week	4,167	4,836	-669
- Worked more than 40 hours/week	1,991	3,249	-1,258
- With a job but not at work	223	216	7
<b>Industry</b>			
Agriculture	3,082	3,440	-358
Industry	1,053	1,471	-418
Service	2,246	3,398	-1,152
Underemployment rate (%)	18.9	25.4	-6.5
Visible underemployment rate (%)	12.4	14.8	-2.4

*Notes: 1. Figures were estimated based on the 2000 Census Population Projection.*

*2. Underemployment levels were derived based on the percentage distribution contained in the NSO April 2007 LFS Press Release.*

*p Preliminary.*

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

**Table 3 - SUMMARY STATISTICS ON UNEMPLOYMENT  
BY AGE GROUP AND HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED  
PHILIPPINES: April 2006 and 2007**  
(in thousands except percent)

INDICATOR	2007 <sup>p</sup>	2006	Percent Share (%)		Unemployment Rate (%)	
			2007 <sup>p</sup>	2006	2007 <sup>p</sup>	2006
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,691</b>	<b>2,935</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>109.1</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>8.2</b>
<b>Age Group</b>						
15-24 years old	1,362	1,450	50.6	53.9	a	a
25-54 years old	1,241	1,371	46.1	50.9	a	a
55 years old and over	89	112	3.3	4.2	a	a
<b>Highest Grade Completed</b>						
No Grade Completed	16	26	0.6	1.0	a	a
Elementary	388	470	14.4	17.5	a	a
Undergraduate	170	220	6.3	8.2	a	a
Graduate	221	252	8.2	9.4	a	a
High School	1,235	1,318	45.9	49.0	a	a
Undergraduate	344	408	12.8	15.2	a	a
Graduate	893	910	33.2	33.8	a	a
College	1,052	1,121	39.1	41.7	a	a
Undergraduate	546	584	20.3	21.7	a	a
Graduate	503	537	18.7	20.0	a	a

**Notes:** 1. Figures were estimated based on the 2000 Census Population Projection.

2. Unemployment levels were derived based on the percentage distribution contained in the NSO April 2007 LFS Press Release.

*p* Preliminary.

*a* No available data from NSO Press Release.

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

**Table 4 – RATES OF LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT  
AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT BY REGION  
PHILIPPINES: April 2007  
(in percent)**

Region	Labor Force Participation Rate	Employment Rate	Unemployment Rate	Underemployment Rate
<b>Philippines</b>	<b>64.5</b>	<b>92.6</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>18.9</b>
NCR	61.5	87.5	12.5	11.9
CAR	68.6	96.2	3.7	14.1
Region I	60.7	90.7	9.3	15.6
Region II	68.2	97.0	3.0	16.5
Region III	61.0	89.8	10.2	8.3
Region IV-A	62.8	90.7	9.3	14.8
Region IV-B	70.1	95.8	4.2	22.0
Region V	66.2	94.7	5.3	36.5
Region VI	64.2	92.1	7.9	25.5
Region VII	64.7	94.3	5.7	16.0
Region VIII	66.8	94.7	5.4	26.5
Region IX	67.2	96.9	3.1	22.7
Region X	74.2	94.4	5.5	27.3
Region XI	65.6	94.9	5.1	18.6
Region XII	67.4	94.8	5.2	25.6
Caraga	68.3	94.1	5.9	25.5
ARMM	60.8	96.2	3.8	16.6

*Notes: 1. Figures were estimated based on the 2000 Census Population Projection.  
2. Preliminary.*

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