

DEVELOPMENT OF LABOR FORCE SURVEYS (LFS)

I. Employment Concepts, Questionnaire Design, and Others - a Chronology

May 1956 - the first Labor Force Survey, Philippine Statistical Survey of Households (PSSH) was conducted. It measured the changes in the labor force participation of the population 10 years old and over during the year-to-year basis based on "past week" reference period.

May 1965 - the PSSH was renamed the Bureau of the Census and Statistics Survey of Households (BCSSH) which was taken biannually on the months of May and October.

1970 - no survey because it was a censal year.

1972 - the survey was conducted on a quarterly basis during the months of February, May, August and November up to 1974.

1974 - renamed the National Sample Survey of Households (NSSH).

1975 - conduct of the 1975 Integrated Census of the Population and Its Economic Activities-Phase I

1976 - after a series of meetings and consultation with representatives of other offices, the NSSH was renamed the Integrated Survey of Households (ISH), which started with the third quarter of 1976.

- Fourth Quarter 1976, the labor force survey was modified to cover only the population 15 years old and over instead of 10 years old and over, in conformity with the Labor Code of the Philippines.

- In November 1976, regular quarterly labor force surveys of the NCSO and the semi-annual agricultural survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics were integrated into one survey called the ISH.

- the basic frame was drawn from the 1975 Integrated Census of the Population and Its Economic Activities-Phase I. Moreover the "past week" reference period was changed to "past quarter"

1977 - the first quarter of the ISH covered 15,174 sample households which were sub-samples of the 1976 third quarter ISH. The 1977 third quarter survey, however, covered 31,258 sample households selected from sample barangays which were not necessarily the same as the 1976 survey coverage.

1978 - sample households in the 1978 survey which changed their economic activities or substratum and which could not be interviewed were replaced for the 1979 Integrated Survey of Households based on the 1978 listing of households in sample barangays.

1980 - conduct of the 1980 Census of Population and Housing.

1981 - with the fourth quarter survey the LFS started using the 1980 based Census of Population and Housing (CPH) projected population

1984 - a modular approach to household survey was implemented with the labor force section as the core module of the ISH Questionnaire. Special topics such as overseas employment and family income and expenditures were included in a rider questionnaire.

1987 - LFS used a new questionnaire design and adopted new modifications in the concepts and definitions for measuring labor force and employment characteristics. The design was based on a past week reference period.

- In the second quarter of 1987, the reference period was reverted to the "past week" from the "past quarter" reference period. However, a past quarter reference period was also asked of all persons 10 years old and over to link the old series with the present one.

1990 - The 1990 Census of Population and Housing was conducted.

1995 - The mid-decade, 1995 Population Census (POCEN) was undertaken.

July 1996 - The LFS used the new sampling design constructed from the listings of the 1995 Census of Population. The number of households increased from 26,000 to an expanded sample of about 41,000 households.

1998 - Statistical tables for 1998 using the ILO concept were published in ISH Bulletin (Series no. 60, 1991). After then, the succeeding series of ISH Bulletin included only statistical tables for the current concept of unemployment which considered the criterion on looking for work, and excluded the availability criterion.

October 1999- Series of ISH Bulletin included comparative tables for the Philippine concept and the ILO concept on unemployment.

October 2000 - The October 2002 round of LFS started using the population projections based on the 1995 Census of Population to generate the labor force and employment characteristics. Backtracking were done with 1996, 1997, 1998, 2000 LFS results.

Use of the 1995 Census-based projections - was in compliance with NSCB Resolution No. 13 series of 1999 entitled "Adopting the Methodology Used in Generating City/Municipal Population Projections, 1995-2010".

1977 PSOC and PSIC - were used for coding the occupation and industry until October 2000 LFS

January 2001 - Rethinking of the LFS questionnaire. The revised questionnaire was updated with additional columns for salaries and wages, new entrants, other occupations. The column for new entrants with the question, " Was this ____'s first time to do any work" was inserted after the column that asked for underemployed person, 'Did ____ look for additional work during the past week"? The columns for salaries and wages and for other occupation were added after the column for Class of Workers.

1992 PSOC and 1994 PSIC - two (2) digit- code were used.

Column Indicator for OCW were coded as: 1- OCW, 2- Others, 3 - Not OCW/OW

Data Dictionary - lfsf2v33

April 2001- started using the three (3) digit-code for PSOC and PSIC

Data dictionary - lfsf2v34

Additional tables with ILO concept were included in Bulletin.

Wholesale and Retail - estimates for 2001 included Repair of Motor Vehicles, motorcycles, Personal and Household Goods.

January 2002 - further revision of the LFS questionnaire with the inclusion of the line number or respondent and a screening question whether the household member has other major job or business during the past week.

Additional column in ISH Form 2, Column 26-screening question for other job

Data dictionary - lfsf2v35

April 2002 - Starting with the April 2002 round of the LFS, the generation of labor force and employment statistics has adopted the regional grouping under EO 36 which was signed last September 19, 2001. This EO provided for the reorganization of the Administrative Regions in Mindanao. Basilan, which is now under ARMM by EO 36, shall remain as part of Region IX until the upcoming revision of master sample. Wherein Basilan is transferred to ARMM except Isabela City which will be retained in Region IX.

The province of Lanao del Norte and Iligan City, which were formerly under Region XII, are now under Region X.

The province of South Cotabato and the new province Sarangani, General Santos City and Koronadal City, which were formerly under Region XI, are now under Region XII.

Marawi City, which was formerly under Region XII, is now under the administrative supervision of Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

Given the new set-up, the composition of the following regions are as follows:

Region	Province	Cities
Region IX	Basilan	Dapitan City
	Zamboanga del Norte	Dipolog City
	Zamboanga del Sur	Isabela City
		Pagadian City
		Zamboanga City
Region X	Bukidnon	Cagayan de Oro City
	Camiguin	Gingoog City
	Misamis Occidental	Iligan City
	Misamis Oriental	Malaybalay City
	Lanao del Norte	Oroquieta City
		Ozamis City
		Tangub City
		Valencia City
Region XI (Davao)	Davao Norte	Davao City
	Davao del Sur	Digos City
	Davao Oriental	Panabo City
		Tagum City

Island Garden City of Samal

Region XII (SOCCSKSARGEN)	North Cotabato Sarangani South Cotabato Sultan Kudarat	Cotabato City General Santos City Kidapawan City Koronadal City Tacurong City
Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM)	Lanao del Sur Maguindanao Sulu Tawi-tawi	Marawi City

Province	Geographic Code
South Cotabato	63 --From Region 11 to Reg. 12
Sarangani	80 --From Region 11 to Reg. 12
Lanao del Norte	35 --From Region 12 to Reg. 10
Marawi City	9817--From Region 12 to ARMM

January 2003 - New Regional Composition for Region IV, divided into two: Reg. IVA - CALABARZON and Reg. IVB-MIMAROPA (Aurora was included in Reg.III)

Region IV-A	Region IV-B
Cavite	Oriental Mindoro
Laguna	Occidental Mindoro
Batangas	Marinduque
Rizal	Romblon
Quezon	Palawan

July 2003 - the 2003 Master Sample (MS) was adopted.

By Virtue of Executive Order (EO) 36, the province of Basilan was transferred to ARMM while its city ,Isabela City remained in Region IX-Zamboanga Peninsula

Four (4) digit-code of 1992 PSOC and 1994 (PSIC) - started in July 2003 LFS

- RAKING PROCEDURE used was two-dimensional: region, cross section of age group and sex from July 2003 to October 2003 using linear interpolation.

October 2003 - LFS questionnaire with additional question on the cover page- Total HH in HU.

Started asking the:

- "5-9 years old about their economic characteristics and
- Actual number of household in the housing unit

January 04 - Started using a two-dimensional RAKING PROCEDURE - age group by region with separate sheets for male and female.

October 2004 - LFS questionnaires with additional code 7 in INTERVIEW STATUS

Additional code in Overseas Filipino Indicator

Code 4 - Employees in Philippine Embassy, Consulates and other Missions

Code 5 - students/tourists

LFS with riders - SOF and HECS

April 2005 - New unemployment definition was adopted per NSCB Resolution No. 15 dated October 20, 2004. As indicated in the said resolution, the unemployed include all persons who are 15 years old and over as of their last birthday and are reported as (1) without work; and (2) currently available for work; and (3) seeking work or not seeking work due to valid reasons.

The revised questionnaire incorporated items of inquiry that were deemed necessary to adequately capture the availability criterion and to reflect the reference period for identifying the discouraged workers. These changes were needed to adopt the international standard definition of unemployment. Some questions on the elements of decent work were also included such as:

Reasons for working more than 48 hours as well as
Questions for children on their attendance to school.

ILO Concept

The International Labor Organization (ILO) identifies the unemployed as those (1) without work, (2) currently available for work, and (3) seeking work.

The Philippines adopts partly the ILO Definition, that is, it does not include the second criterion and provides for relaxation of the third criterion on 'seeking work'.

- Overseas indicator was re-arranged:

Code 1 - OCW

Code 2 - Workers other than OCW

Code 3 - Employees in Phil. Embassy

Code 4 - Students

Code 5 - Others not belonging to 1-4

January 2006 - Started to key-in "Control "N"" - to encode others, specify - category in as one of the Codes for Col. 30, Reasons for looking for work; Codes for Col. 33, Job Search Method; and Codes for Col. 35, Reasons for not looking for work of ISH Form 2. A box was provided on the last page, at the bottom of the LFS Questionnaire:

Line No. Col. No. Others, Specify

October 2006 - Inserted additional column in the LFS questionnaire (after Col. 17) for check mark (v) to indicate if household member is aged 15 and over.

January 2007 - Started to use the 2000-Census based Population Projection for all household surveys in compliance with the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) Resolution No.1 series of 2005 entitled "Adoption of the Methodology Used in Generating the 2000 Census of Population and Housing-Based National Population Projections."

II. Past Sampling Designs Used in the LFS

1. 1956 to 1961

The first sampling design for household surveys was based on the projected population from the 1948 Census of Population (CP/POPCEN) and was used for the Philippine Statistical Survey of Households (PSSH) from 1956 to 1961. The survey was aimed at reaching a representative cross-sections of Philippine households numbering 6,500. The coefficients of variation (CVs) at the national level of the estimates on the total population (male and female), number of households, persons trained in vocational school ranged from 3.2 - 3.8.

2. 1961 to 1970

The sampling design was next updated using the 1960 Census of Population and Housing (CPH) and was used from 1961 to 1970 for the Bureau of the Census and Statistics (BCS) Survey of Households. The survey covered about 7,000 sample households.

3. March 1971

The next updating was used for the National Sample Survey of Households (NSSH) which was prepared on the basis of the 1970 Population Census results and was used for the first time in March 1971. A three-stage sampling design on a provincial level, interviews were conducted in about 12,000 sample households. The sampling plan made it possible to compute estimates separately for each province and for Manila and its suburbs.

4. 1976 to 1984

The fourth which was prepared by the NEDA Inter Agency Committee on Survey Design was based on the 1975 Integrated Census of Population and its Economic Activities (ICPEA). The integrated survey of households (ISH) was a joint project of NSO and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics (BAECon) with a predetermined sample of about 30,000 households in its initial undertaking in the 3rd quarter of 1976. The tie-up between the two agencies was planned to be in a semestral basis only, one for the first quarter and another for the 3rd quarter of the year. Hence, in the third quarter of 1977 the 31,256 households from the 4,705 barangays were used. In the fourth quarter the survey was conducted solely for NSO using only half (about 15,000 households) of the total

sample barangays in each stratum. The size of the sample was envisioned to meet the demand for fairly adequate statistics at the provincial level.

5. 1984 to 1996

With the 1980 CPH as frame an updated survey design was implemented in 1984 until 1996. The principal domains of the surveys were the urban and rural areas of each province covering about 17,000 sample households. Due to the demand for data for city planning, cities (which includes urban and rural areas) with population of 150,000 or more as of 1980 and 1990 were also made domains of the survey. The cities of Angeles, Olongapo, Bacolod, Iloilo, Cebu, Zamboanga, Butuan, Cagayan de Oro, Davao and Iligan were treated as much the same way as the provinces. A stratified two-stage sampling design, this was also designed by the NEDA Technical Committee of Survey Design.

6. 1996 to 2003

In 1996, a sample was constructed based on the 1995 POPCEN and was used in 1996 to 2003. Its domain is similar to that of the previous sampling design with an addition of 23 newly created domains with sample size of about 41,000 sample households. Similarly, the urban and rural areas of cities and municipalities with a population of 150,000 or more were also considered as separate domains. This multi-stage sampling design consists of 3,421 PSUs in the expanded sample for provincial level estimates. It has a sub-sample of 2,200 PSUs designated as the core master sample for regional level estimates.

7. 2003 Master Sample

The current master sample or the 2003 MS was used in 2003. With region as domain, it consists of 2,826 primary sampling units (PSUs) deemed sufficient only for regional estimation. This was developed under the newly organized Research and Development Unit (RDU) later renamed Statistical Methodology Unit (SMU) funded under ADBTA 3656 PHI: Improving Poverty Monitoring Surveys.