

Philippine Labor Force Survey January 2001

Reference Number:

2001-022

Release Date:

Friday, March 16, 2001

SUMMARY:

Philippines	January 2001	October 2000	July 2000	April 2000	January 2000
Total 15 years old & over (in 000)	48,405	48,076	47,800	47,500	47,185
Labor force (in 000) Participation rate (%)	31,684 65.5	30,908 64.3	30,518 63.8	31,587 66.5	30,632 64.9
Employment (in 000) Rate (%)	28,087 88.6	27,775 89.9	27,093 88.8	27,209 86.1	27,733 90.5
Unemployment (in 000) Rate (%)	3,597 11.4	3,133 10.1	3,425 11.2	4,378 13.9	2,899 9.5
Underemployment (000) Rate (%)	4,743 16.9	5,528 19.9	5,752 21.2	6,721 24.7	5,818 21.0

- Labor force in January 2001 increased by 1.05 million or 3.4 percent compared to the same period last year.
- Employed persons increased by 354 thousand, or 1.3 percent, from 27.7 million in January last year to 28.1 million this year.

- **In agriculture, employment in January 2001 was short by 370 thousand (-3.5 percent) of the January 2000 level.**
- **In industry, employment increased by 277 thousand or 6.3 percent.**
- **In services, the increase was 450 thousand or 3.5 percent.**
- **Unemployment rate moved up to 11.4 percent from 9.5 percent last year. The number of unemployed went up by 698 thousand in January 2001 or 24 percent due to the combined effect of the additional 1.05 million persons who entered the labor force and the decline in agricultural employment of 370 thousand.**
- **Underemployment rate however decreased by 4.1 percentage points, from 21.0 percent to 16.9 percent.**

HIGHLIGHTS

Persons aged 15 years old and over...

- **Persons aged 15 years old and over totaled 48.4 million in January 2001, higher by 2.6 percent from 47.2 million in January 2000.**

Of the 48.4 million persons 15 years old and over, there were those who joined the labor force ...

- **Persons joining the labor force increased to 31.7 million in January 2001 from 30.6 million a year ago. This represents an increase of 3.4 percent or 1.1 million.**
- **Those who were not in the labor force like housewives, students, disabled and retired persons increased by 1.0 percent or 168 thousand, from 16.6 million a year ago to 16.7 million this year. This indicates a slight increase of 0.6 percentage point.**

Of the 31.7 million persons in the labor force, there were those who were employed and those who were not ...

- **The number of employed persons in January 2001 increased to 28.1 million, up by 1.3 percent from 27.7 million in January 2000.**
- **However, employment rate dropped by 1.9 percentage points to 88.6 percent from 90.5 percent last year.**

Of the 28.1 million persons employed, there were those either working in agriculture, industry or services ...

- The services sector absorbed the bulk of employed workforce in the labor market. The number increased by 3.5 percent to 13.2 million from 12.7 million a year ago. Its share to total employed increased by 1.0 percentage point, from 45.8 percent to 46.8 percent.
- Employment in the industry sector increased by 6.3 percent to 4.7 million in January 2001 from 4.4 million last year.
- The agriculture sector declined both in number and proportion to total employment. Its number decreased by 3.5 percent to 10.3 million from 10.6 million last year. Its share to total employed declined by 1.8 percentage points, from 38.3 percent to 36.5 percent.

Of the 3.5 percent increase in services ...

- Wholesale and retail trade contributed much to the increase where the number rose to 5.0 million in January 2001 from 4.4 million in January 2000. Transport, storage and communication also increased by 119 thousand along with financing, insurance, real estate and business services by 43 thousand., Community, social and personal services decreased by 218 thousand, from 5.6 million to 5.7 million.

Of the 6.3 percent increase in industry

- Employment in industry sector increased to 4.7 million in January 2001 from 4.4 million a year ago. This could be due to the increases posted in manufacturing (170 thousand), construction (97 thousand), and mining 12 thousand. Electricity declined by 2 thousand.

Of the 3.5 percent drop in agriculture. . .

- The 370 thousand decline in agricultural employment was attributable to decreases among unpaid family workers (386 thousand) and own-account workers (64 thousand).

Of the 28.1 million employed, there were those who were paid wages and salaries, worked on their account, or worked for the family...

- The increases in employment were brought about by increases in the number of wage and salary workers and own-account workers. The wage and salary workers added 602 thousand in the total employed while those engaged as own-account workers added 193 thousand.
- While own-account workers showed an over-all increase, only those own-account workers in the industry and services sector reported increases of 32 thousand and 224 thousand, respectively. Those engaged in agriculture decreased by 64 thousand this year.

The employed by region ...

- Six regions showed decreases in employment levels with Central Mindanao posting the highest decrease at 44 thousand while Central Visayas registered the least decrease in employment at 3 thousand.
- Ten regions experienced growth in employment level during the reference quarter. Southern Tagalog posted the highest increase of 137 thousand followed by Bicol Region (70 thousand), National Capital Region (67 thousand), Eastern Visayas (57 thousand), Northern Mindanao (38 thousand), Southern Mindanao (37 thousand), Cagayan Valley (20 thousand), Caraga (16 thousand), Western Mindanao (11 thousand) and Ilocos Region (6 thousand).
- Among the regions, only Bicol Region posted an increase in employment rate of 0.2 percentage point from January 2000 to January 2001.
- Among the regions reporting decline in employment rate, Central Mindanao registered the biggest decrease of 3.3 percentage points from 93.0 percent in January 2000 to 89.7 percent in January 2001. Western Visayas followed next with 3.1 percentage points, Ilocos Region and ARMM (2.8 percentage points), Eastern Visayas (2.6 percentage points) and Central Luzon (2.2 percentage points).

The employed by number of hours worked ...

- The number of full-time workers increased by 1.4 million from 17.8 million in January 2000 to 19.3 million this year. Its share to total employed also increased by 4.2 percentage points from 64.3 percent to 68.5 percent.
- Those who worked for less than 40 hours decreased in levels and proportion to total employment. The estimate of 9.5 million last year (with a share of 34.3%) decreased to 8.5 million (with a share of 30.2%).
- **Of the employed, there were those who desired more hours of work, the underemployed...**
- The underemployed persons totaled 4.743 million in January 2001, or one sixth of the total employed persons. The number of those who were working full-time or those who worked 40 hours and over was estimated at 2.399 million, 55 thousand more than those who worked less than 40 hours.
- Compared to previous estimates, this quarter's figure was the lowest. From 5.818 million underemployed persons last year, the number decreased by over a million (1.075 million).
- The number of underemployed persons in the rural areas was 6.3 percent larger than those in the urban areas (2.939 million against 1.804 million). Among the underemployed rural dwellers,

those who worked less than 40 hours were 164 thousand more compared to those who worked 40 hours or more a week.

And there were those who looked for work and did not find any, the unemployed...

- In January 2001, unemployment rate was estimated at 11.4 percent, increasing by 1.9 percentage points from 9.5 percent last year.
- Likewise, unemployment levels increased by 24.1 percent to 3.6 million in January 2001 from 2.9 million in January 2000.
- Out of the 16 regions, nine regions posted a double-digit unemployment rate with Metro Manila posting the highest unemployment rate of 18.0 percent. This was followed by Southern Tagalog (12.6%), Central Visayas (12.4%), Central Luzon (12.2%). Ilocos Region (10.8%), Western Visayas (10.6%), Eastern Visayas (10.3%), Central Mindanao (10.3%) and Southern Mindanao (10.2%).