



*More men are in the labor force*

The data presented in this report were based on the results of the October round of the Labor Force Survey (LFS) conducted by the National Statistics Office under the Integrated Survey of Households. This study aims to show the trend in the labor force by sex nationwide for the period 1987, 1990, 1993 and 1996.

Here are some of the highlights on status of the labor force in the said years.

Household Population		
	Men	Women
1987	17,308	17,532
1990	18,894	19,105
1993	20,598	20,855
1996	22,494	22,540

Labor Force		
	Men	Women
1987	14,416	8,464
1990	15,448	9,078
1993	16,852	9,970
1996	18,601	11,039

Urban		
	Men	Women
1987	5,140	3,492
1990	5,529	3,811
1993	7,916	5,057
1996	8,293	5,536

Rural		
	Men	Women
1987	9,276	4,972
1990	9,919	5,267
1993	8,936	4,913
1996	10,308	5,503

*Note: Figures above are in thousands*

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

The labor force which is composed of the employed and the unemployed totaled to 29.6 million in October 1996. It represents an increase of 29.5 percent from 22.9 million in 1987. From 1987 to 1990 about 1.6 million persons (22.9 million vs. 24.5 million) were added to the labor force. The increment reached 2.3 million in 1993. This shows that there were more persons entering and re-entering the labor force in the said years.

From 1987 to 1996, men in the labor force averaged to about 63.0 percent. This means that out of 100 persons in the labor force 63 were men and 37 were women.

***Majority of persons in the labor force are in the rural areas; women are slowly moving towards the urban centers***

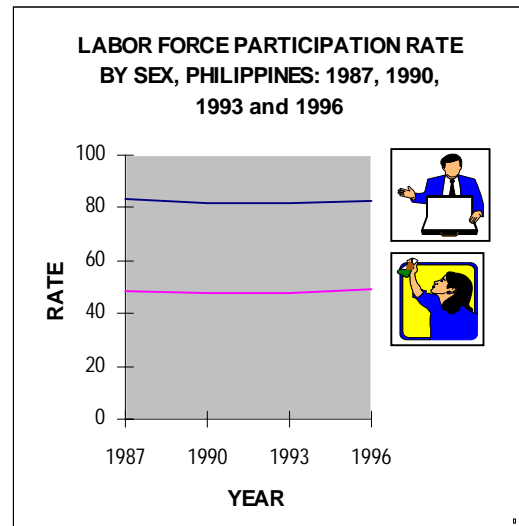
There were more persons joining the labor force in the rural areas compared to those in the urban communities in all years, i.e. *14.2 million vs. 8.6 million in 1987, 15.2 million vs. 9.3 million in 1990, 13.8 million vs. 13.0 million in 1993, 15.8 million vs. 13.8 million in 1996.* This indicates that in 1987 about 62 persons joined the labor force in the rural areas compared to 38 persons in the urban areas. But in 1996, the gap narrowed down to 53 persons in the rural areas and 47 in the urban areas. This shows that the rural labor force are slowly moving towards the urban centers.

Men dominated women in the labor force by area in all the years under review. The number of men in the rural areas reached 10.3 million in 1996, almost double the number of rural women in the labor force (5.5 million) of the same period. An almost equal proportion was noted 10 years ago, i.e. *9.3 million for men vs. 5.0 million for women.* In the urban areas, men in the labor force numbered 5.1 million (59.5%) in 1987 while their women counterparts totaled to 3.5 million (40.5%). In 1996, the proportion remained relatively unchanged at 60.0 percent for men and 40.0 percent for women.

However, looking closely at the figures presented in the preceding page, there is an apparent change in the structure of women labor force. In 1987 and 1990, there were more women working and

looking for work in the rural than in the urban areas. A reversal of the trend however, was observed in 1993 and 1996 as women were slowly flocking the urban centers. On the other hand, men labor force continued to stay in the rural areas.

***Labor force participation rate of men higher than women***



Note: LFPR = Labor force / Total household population 15 years old and over

The chart above shows that labor force participation rate (LFPR) of men was higher than women during the 10-year period. The LFPR of men was placed at 83.3 percent in 1987. However, in 1990 and 1993 the rate slightly dropped to 81.8 percent. In 1996, the LFPR increased to 82.7 percent but still a little below the 1987 figure. Women's LFPR on the other hand, was recorded at 48.3 percent in 1987. In 1990 and 1993, the rates tapered off to 47.5 percent and 47.8 percent, respectively. The trend however, was reestablished as the women's LFPR rose to 49.0 percent in 1996.

***Men LFPR lowest in NCR; women in ARMM***

Regional distribution (Table 1) shows that the labor force participation rate is relatively skewed in favor of men in all regions and in all years. This is specifically true in Regions VIII, XI, X and II where about nine out of ten men were in the labor force. On the other hand, LFPR of women was highest in CAR where six out of ten women joined the labor force from 1990 to 1996. The National Capital Region registered the lowest participation rate for men in all the four years covered while women in the ARMM posted the least at 29.4 percent in 1993 and 31.9 percent in 1996. This could be attributed to the Muslim's societal orientation where women are traditionally homemakers.

***High LFPR clusters in 25-54 age bracket for men and 35-54 for women***

The age structure of labor force participation rate (Table 2) was heavily clustered in the 25-34, 35-44 and 45-54 age brackets among men from 1987 to 1996.

The highest was noted at age group 35-44 where more than 95.0 percent of the total

men household population 15 years old and over were in the labor force. Basically, these are the ages where men strive to work or to look for work because they are considered as family breadwinners.

However, women tend to be most economically active between 35-54 years of age. These are the ages where their children are older or already in school. Those belonging to age brackets 25-34 also showed increasing trend but at a slower pace, i.e. 51.6 percent in 1987 to 52.6 percent in 1996. Women in retirement age categories (55-64 years and 65 years and over) also posted an uptrend from 51.0 percent and 28.8 percent in 1987 to 54.1 percent and 29.0 percent in 1996, respectively. The growing need for women to work or seek employment could be the result of the push factors which are economic in nature, i.e. to supplement family income, to support a family (if sole breadwinner) and to meet the rising cost of living. The need to prove self-worth, to bolster self-confidence or to exercise one's profession or skill could also be considered contributory factors why women join the labor market.

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**TABLE 2 - LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE BY AGE GROUP AND SEX**  
**PHILIPPINES: 1987, 1990, 1993 AND 1996**  
*(In percent),*

REGION	1987		1990		1993		1996	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
<b>PHILIPPINES</b>	<b>83.3</b>	<b>48.3</b>	<b>81.8</b>	<b>47.5</b>	<b>81.8</b>	<b>47.8</b>	<b>82.7</b>	<b>49.0</b>
National Capital Region	74.8	46.9	73.6	47.6	74.6	45.9	76.7	49.9
Cordillera Administrative Region	-	-	84.2	63.7	80.1	56.4	80.2	57.1
Region I - Ilocos Region	81.6	43.3	80.1	43.9	81.8	42.8	84.3	50.1
Region II - Cagayan Valley	87.8	51.9	87.7	45.8	87.0	57.1	85.9	55.1
Region III - Central Luzon	82.2	42.6	81.9	42.9	79.8	38.8	82.4	40.2
Region IV - Southern Tagalog	82.8	48.4	81.4	47.4	81.5	48.9	83.3	47.8
Region V - Bicol Region	86.8	51.9	84.6	52.3	84.9	52.2	84.6	53.5
Region VI - Western Visayas	83.8	49.4	81.7	48.4	80.7	50.5	79.1	46.4
Region VII - Central Visayas	84.7	52.6	81.7	43.7	82.4	52.5	79.6	50.0
Region VIII - Eastern Visayas	88.9	56.3	85.2	55.3	84.4	49.3	87.8	53.0
Region IX - Western Mindanao	84.6	40.4	82.0	34.9	84.6	40.1	84.7	38.1
Region X - Northern Mindanao	84.6	51.6	85.2	52.6	85.2	53.1	86.7	61.4
Region XI - Southern Mindanao	87.5	50.8	84.9	49.2	85.6	52.1	86.9	53.2
Region XII - Central Mindanao	85.1	45.8	84.2	42.4	83.6	48.7	85.5	51.0
CARAGA	-	-	-	-	-	-	86.2	55.3
ARMM	-	-	-	-	85.8	29.4	82.7	31.9

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

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**PHILIPPINES: 1987, 1990, 1993 AND 1996**  
*(In Percent)*

AGE GROUP	1987		1990		1993		1996	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
<b>All Age Groups</b>	<b>83.3</b>	<b>48.3</b>	<b>81.8</b>	<b>47.5</b>	<b>81.8</b>	<b>47.8</b>	<b>82.7</b>	<b>49.0</b>
15 - 19 years	50.4	33.0	47.5	29.7	46.1	28.3	46.8	28.7
20 - 24 years	81.9	50.7	78.2	50.9	79.0	52.3	82.5	50.2
25 - 34 years	97.5	51.6	96.5	51.0	96.6	51.1	97.2	52.6
35 - 44 years	99.2	57.3	98.6	56.3	98.8	56.5	98.8	58.4
45 - 54 years	98.6	58.7	97.4	58.4	96.9	58.3	96.8	62.3
55 - 64 years	90.2	51.0	89.3	51.2	87.6	51.1	87.2	54.1
65 and over	62.3	28.8	59.3	27.2	58.7	30.1	57.3	29.0

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