



The Unemployed Men and Women: *Their Characteristics*

Unemployed persons are persons in the labor force who did not work or had no job/business during the reference week but were reported available and actively looking for work. Also considered as unemployed are persons without a job or business who were reported as available for work but were not looking for work because of their belief that no work was available or because of temporary illness/disability, bad weather, pending job application or waiting for job interview.



**Table 1 - Unemployed Persons and Unemployment Rates by Sex
Philippines: 1987, 1990, 1993 and 1996**

Year	Unemployed Persons (000)			Unemployment Rate (%)		
	Both Sexes	Men	Women	Both Sexes	Men	Women
1987	2,085	1,163	922	9.1	8.1	10.9
1990	1,993	1,099	893	8.1	7.1	9.8
1993	2,379	1,384	995	8.9	8.2	10.0
1996	2,195	1,293	902	7.4	7.0	8.2

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

The total number of unemployed persons ranged from around 2.0 to 2.4 million during the period 1987 to 1996. This translates to an increase of 5.3 percent over a span of ten (10) years.

More than half of the total unemployed (55.1% to 58.9%) in all years were men. Unemployed women accounted for the remaining share of 41.1 percent to 44.9 percent.

The data presented and discussed in this paper were culled from the results of the October rounds of the Labor Force Survey (LFS) of the National Statistics Office (NSO).

Relative to total labor force, unemployment rate decreased by 1.7 percentage points from 9.1 percent in 1987 to 7.4 percent in 1996. This could be explained by the expansion of employment opportunities from different sectors that provide jobs to more than

one million jobseekers. The unemployment rates of men ranged from 7.0 percent (1996) to 8.2 percent (1993). On the other hand, the highest unemployment rate of women was recorded in 1987 at 10.9 percent while the lowest was in 1996 at 8.2 percent.

NCR cut the biggest share of unemployed men and women

Among regions, NCR registered the highest percent share of unemployed men and women in all years. Jobless men in this region comprised more than 25.0 percent of the total unemployed men in 1987, 1990 and 1993 and 23.0 percent in 1996. Whereas, the share of unemployed women ranged between 18.1 percent and 21.7 percent during the period (Table 2).

women were Region III and Region IV ranging from 10.3 percent to 14.6 percent for the ten-year period.

Low percent shares were exhibited in Region II and Region XII from 1987 to 1996. For which data were available, CAR, ARMM and Caraga also recorded low share of jobless men and women ranging from 0.4 percent to 3.3 percent.

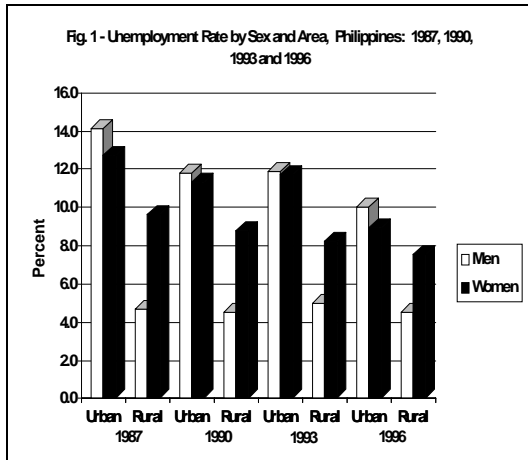
Other regions with considerably high shares of unemployed men and

**Table 2 - Percent Distribution of Unemployed Men and Women by Region
Philippines: 1987, 1990, 1993 and 1996**

Region	1987		1990		1993		1996	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Philippines (000)	1,163	922	1,099	893	1,384	995	1,293	902
NCR	28.7	21.7	25.1	19.1	25.5	20.3	23.0	18.1
CAR	-	-	1.2	0.9	1.1	1.3	1.8	1.9
Region I	7.3	6.7	5.8	4.3	6.1	4.7	4.6	5.1
Region II	1.8	3.5	2.2	2.5	1.6	2.5	1.1	2.5
Region III	14.3	12.4	13.1	10.5	14.6	10.7	11.6	10.3
Region IV	11.6	11.8	14.4	13.7	12.6	13.3	13.5	11.9
Region V	4.1	4.8	4.2	5.8	3.9	4.7	6.0	6.8
Region VI	7.9	8.1	8.4	8.7	7.9	7.6	9.2	8.0
Region VII	7.2	5.1	5.9	8.2	6.6	8.8	8.1	8.1
Region VIII	4.0	6.4	3.6	5.0	3.0	4.2	4.7	7.3
Region IX	3.2	3.1	2.5	4.5	2.6	3.1	2.4	2.2
Region X	3.5	6.2	5.5	5.8	5.3	6.7	3.0	3.4
Region XI	4.3	7.4	6.3	7.7	6.9	7.8	6.2	6.9
Region XII	2.1	2.7	2.0	3.4	1.8	2.9	1.6	2.8
ARMM	-	-	-	-	0.4	1.3	0.5	1.3
Caraga	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.8	3.3

Source of Basic Data: National Statistics Office, Labor Force Survey.

Lower unemployment rates for women in urban communities



From Figure 1, it can be discerned that unemployment rates of men were higher than those of women in the urban areas: 14.1 percent vs. 12.7 percent in 1987; 11.8 percent vs. 11.3 percent in 1990; 11.9 percent vs. 11.7 percent in 1993; and 10.0 percent vs. 8.9 percent in 1996. The lower unemployment rates of women in the

urban setting suggest that the available and emerging job opportunities in urban areas may be favorable to women. Generally, inspite of performing the major role in child rearing and housekeeping, women are becoming active members of the labor force due to economic necessity. Moreover, they are joining the labor force in response to economic opportunities that are available to them.

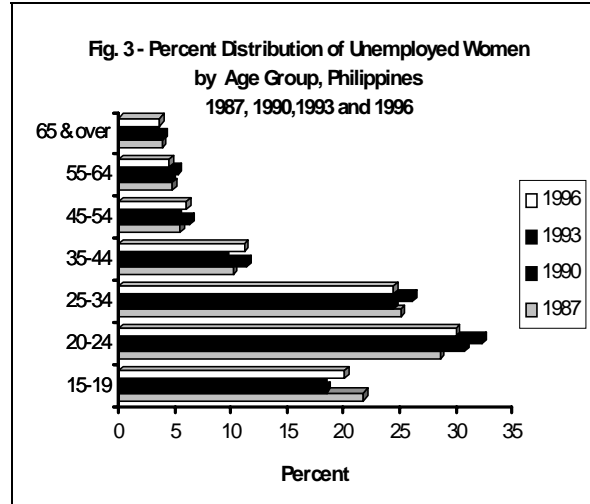
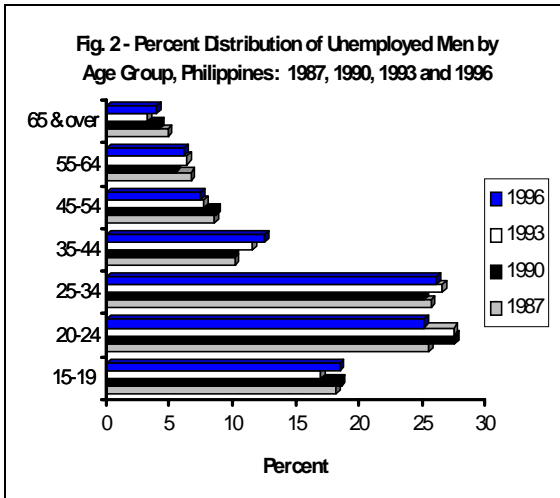
Unemployment rates of women were higher in rural areas than in urban areas. The unemployment rates ranged from 7.5 percent to 9.6 percent for women and 4.5 percent to 5.0 percent for men. This reflects that women in the rural areas are traditionally homemakers devoting their time in child care and household chores.

Bulk of unemployed men and women in 20 - 34 age group

Unemployed men and women were concentrated in age group 20 - 34 constituting a combined share of more than half of the total unemployed men and women for each year.

Those in 15 - 19 age group accounted for more than 15.0 percent. These may include school leavers.

Expectedly, older age groupings (55 - 64 years and 65 years and over) shared low proportion of unemployed men and women in all years covered since most of them are in their retireable age and unable to work due to old age or illness.



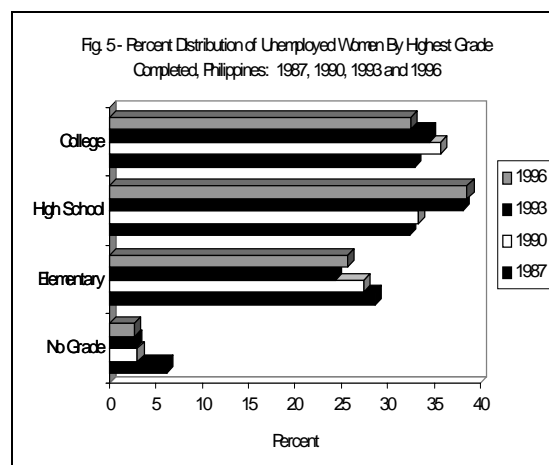
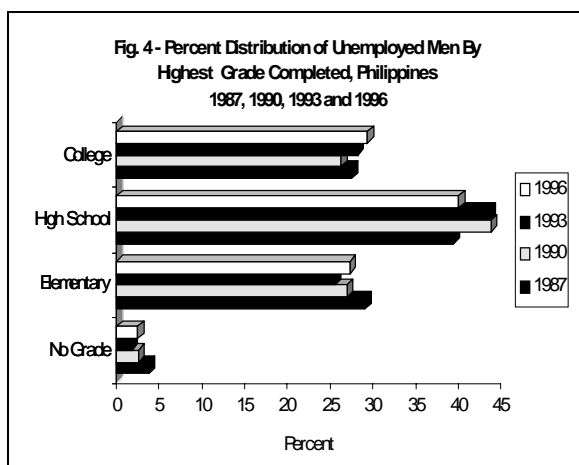
Persons with no grade completed register low unemployment share

It is a common belief that education and employment is strongly related, that is, persons with high level of education have greater chances to be employed in better paying jobs while those with low educational background have lesser opportunities to land into gainful employment.

The data disclosed contradicting situation. Those with high school and college education found it hard to land into gainful employment. As shown in the Figures 4 and 5, those unemployed men with high school background accounted for about 40.0 percent and 32.0 percent to 39.0 percent for women in all years under review. More than 25.0 percent of the unemployed men and more than 30.0 percent of the unemployed women had college education. The situation may be

explained partly by the choosy attitudes of persons with college education in accepting low or semi-skilled job openings. This may also be attributed to the fact that the educational attainment of majority of the graduates particularly those from specialized fields (e.g. nursing) do not match the emerging demands of the labor market.

The share of those with no grade completed ranged from only 1.8 percent to 6.2 percent. This observation could be explained by the following factors: a) type of jobs they were employed do not require much educational qualification particularly in services sector and in informal sector; and b) employment of family members with low education in their own family operated farms or businesses.



Unemployed persons approach relatives and friends in searching for jobs

Out of the total unemployed men and women in the years under review, about 27.0 percent to 36.0 percent looked for work (Table 3).

Most of these unemployed men and women looking for work opted to approach relatives and friends (35.0% to 41.5%) and approached employer directly (34.1% to 44.7%). Others

sought employment through private and public employment agencies and placing/answering advertisements. Those unemployed men and women who registered in public employment agencies accounted for 6.2 percent to 17.2 percent while only 1.8 percent to 5.8 percent registered in private employment agencies.

Table 3 - Percent Distribution of Unemployed Men and Women Who Are Looking For Work by Job Search Method, Philippines: 1987, 1990, 1993 and 1996

Job Search Method	1987		1990		1993		1996	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Total (000)	421	321	388	311	413	293	388	247
As percent to total unemployed	36.2	34.8	35.3	34.8	29.8	29.4	30.0	27.4
Registered in employment agency	14.7	9.3	14.9	13.2	21.1	20.5	12.1	10.9
Private	2.9	3.1	2.8	4.8	3.9	5.8	1.8	4.0
Public	11.9	6.2	12.1	8.4	17.2	14.7	10.3	6.9
Approached employer directly	34.7	36.8	38.4	44.7	34.1	36.5	36.9	43.7
Approached relatives or friends	38.2	38.9	38.1	35.0	36.3	34.8	41.5	36.8
Placed/Answered ads	10.5	11.8	7.5	6.1	8.0	7.2	8.5	7.7
Others	1.9	3.1	0.8	1.3	0.5	1.0	0.8	0.8

Source of Basic Data: National Statistics Office, Labor Force Survey.

Believed no work was available, main reason cited for not looking for work

More than 60.0 percent of the unemployed men and women did not look for work. The major reason for this was the belief that no work was available. This comprised more than 35.0 percent of the total unemployed men and women for the period. About one-fourth of the unemployed men and

women in each year did not look for work due to temporary illness/disability. Other reasons that deterred men and women from seeking employment include waiting for rehire/job rehire, awaiting results of previous job applications and bad weather (Table 4).

Table 4 - Percent Distribution of Unemployed Men and Women by Reason For Not Looking For Work, Philippines: 1987, 1990, 1993 and 1996

Reason for not Looking for Work	1987		1990		1993		1996	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Total (000)	743	600	711	583	971	702	905	656
As percent to total unemployed	63.9	65.1	64.7	65.3	70.2	70.6	70.0	72.7
Believed no work available	39.6	42.0	40.4	37.4	42.3	42.2	41.0	35.5
Awaiting results of previous jobs applications	9.8	10.0	9.4	11.3	9.2	11.4	7.6	8.8
Temporary illness/disability	35.0	28.3	30.0	26.6	25.2	19.2	27.5	22.0
Bad Weather	0.4	1.0	1.3	1.7	3.6	2.3	0.7	1.4
Waiting for rehire/Job rehire	15.1	18.7	19.0	22.8	19.8	24.9	23.2	32.2

Source of Basic Data: National Statistics Office, Labor Force Survey.

FOR INQUIRIES:

Regarding this report contact **Labor Relations Statistics Division** at 527-3578

Regarding other statistics and technical services contact **BLES Databank** at 527-3577

Or write to BLES c/o **Databank, 3/F DOLE Bldg., Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila 1002**

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