



THE LABOR FORCE SURVEY IN BRIEF APRIL (1998-1999)

Overview

The country's labor market registered a mark improvement in April 1999 compared to the same period last year, data from the Labor Force Survey (LFS) of the National Statistics Office indicate. This can be seen in terms of the respectable growth in employment (6.0%) registered during the period which can be attributed mainly to the strong recovery in agricultural employment and the reduction in the country's unemployment rate from 13.3 percent to 11.8 percent. These positive developments, however, were dampened by the continued slump in industry sector employment (-3.6%), the sluggish growth in services sector employment (1.4%) and the slight increase in the incidence of underemployment.

Participation Rate

Labor force participation rate (LFPR) rose to a record 69.6 percent from 68.6 percent a year ago. Notable increases were observed among rural workers (70.7% to 72.2%), women (51.5% to 53.0%), young workers 15 to 24 years old (60.2% to 61.2%) and those in the prime working age group 25 to 54 (77.0% to 78.2%). Overall, the country's labor force population expanded by 1.331 million to reach 33.444 million.

Employment

Employment level grew by 6.0 percent (+1.657 million) from the year ago level to 29.492 million in April 1999. This is in sharp contrast to last year

when employment level contracted by 1.0 percent (-270,000).

- Employment in the agricultural, fishery and forestry sector bounced back after suffering a decline (-1.168 million) in the previous year posting a hefty 15.9 percent growth (+1.657 million) in April 1999.
- Industry sector employment contracted by 3.6 percent (-173,000). The biggest decline was noted in construction (-118,000) followed by manufacturing (-43,000) and mining and quarrying (-22,000). The only sector that posted an increase was electricity, gas and water (+10,000).

□ Employment growth in the service sector (+170,000) slowed down during the period relative to last year (+831,000). This is mainly attributed to the reduction in employment in the community, social and personal services (-26,000) and the lower growth posted in wholesale and retail trade (+109,000). However, employment turnaround (+43,000) was observed in the financing, insurance, real estate and business services, which suffered a slump (-41,000) last year.

□ Persons with full-time employment (worked 40 hours and over a week) accounted for majority (61.2 % or 18.040 million) of the total employed persons while the rest were engaged in part-time employment (36.5% or 10.772 million) or have a job but not at work (2.3% or 680,000). Over the period, part-time employment grew by 11.6 percent (+1.117 million) and full-time employment by 4.0 percent (+696,000).

□ Nearly half (48.2% or 14.224 million) of the employed persons were wage and salary workers and a little over one-third (36.6% or 10.803 million) were own-account workers. The rest were unpaid family workers (15.1% or 4.465 million).

□ Employment increments were posted highest in Western Visayas (+236,000). Sizeable increments were also noted in Northern Mindanao (+149,000),

Cagayan Valley (+137,000),
Central Luzon (+135,000),
Southern Tagalog (+128,000)
and Southern Mindanao
(+120,000).

Unemployment

The total number of persons without work and have actively looked for work stood at 3.952 million in April 1999 down from 4.274 million in the same month last year. This figure corresponds to unemployment rate of 11.8 percent lower than the figure recorded last year at 13.3 percent. The decline occurred despite the increase in participation rate from 68.6 percent to 69.6 percent.

□ More than one-half of the unemployed persons were urban workers (58.6%), mostly men (58.7%) and in the age bracket 15 to 24 years old (58.4%).

□ Unemployment rate was registered highest (26.0%) among young workers (15 to 25 years old) and urban workers (14.8%).

□ The highest unemployment rate was recorded in the National Capital Region (18.3%) followed by Central Luzon (13.5%) and Bicol Region (12.0%). The lowest were recorded in ARMM (6.2%) and CAR (7.9%).

Underemployment

Employed persons wanting additional hours of work or job inched up by 1.7 percentage points increasing from 5.837 million to 6.694 million. This translates to underemployment rate of 22.7 percent.

- More than one-half (54.6% or 3.652 million) of the total underemployed persons worked less than 40 hours a week or visibly underemployed, the majority of which were in the rural areas (64.5% or 2.354 million workers).

FOR INQUIRIES:

Regarding this report contact **Employment and Manpower Statistics Division** at 527-3419

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**

FAX 527-3579 E-mail: emsd@manila-online.net Website: <http://www.manila-online.net/bles>

**Table 1 – SUMMARY STATISTICS
ON PHILIPPINE LABOR FORCE: APRIL (1998-1999)
(in thousands except percent)**

Indicator	April 1998	April 1999	Increment	Growth Rate (Percent)
LABOR FORCE POPULATION	32,113	33,444	1,331	4.1
Labor Force Participation Rate (%)	68.6	69.6	1.0	
EMPLOYED PERSONS	27,835	29,492	1,657	6.0
Industry				
Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry	10,433	12,090	1,657	15.9
Mining and Quarrying	130	108	-22	-16.9
Manufacturing	2,827	2,784	-43	-1.5
Electricity, Gas and Water	145	155	10	6.9
Construction	1,704	1,586	-118	-6.9
Wholesale and Retail	4,439	4,548	109	2.5
Transportation	1,859	1,903	44	2.4
Financing	659	702	43	6.5
Community	5,630	5,604	-26	-0.5
NEC	9	11	2	22.2
Class of Worker				
Wage and Salary	13,760	14,224	464	3.4
Own-Account	10,344	10,803	459	4.4
Unpaid Family Worker	3,731	4,465	734	19.7
Hours of Work				
Less than 40 Hours	9,655	10,772	1,117	11.6
40 Hours and over	17,344	18,040	696	4.0
Did Not Work	836	680	-156	-18.7
Region				
NCR	3,603	3,720	117	3.2
CAR	573	595	22	3.8
Region I	1,573	1,622	49	3.1
Region II	1,185	1,322	137	11.6
Region III	2,634	2,769	135	5.1
Region IV	3,769	3,897	128	3.4
Region V	1,977	2,049	72	3.6
Region VI	2,375	2,611	236	9.9
Region VII	2,047	2,162	115	5.6
Region III	1,494	1,554	60	4.0
Region IX	1,084	1,165	81	7.5
Region X	1,194	1,343	149	12.5
Region XI	1,884	2,004	120	6.4
Region XII	912	988	76	8.3
ARMM	662	746	84	12.7
Caraga	869	948	79	9.1
UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS	5,837	6,694	857	14.7
Worked less than 40 hours	3,330	3,652	322	9.7
Worked 40 hours of more	2,507	3,042	535	21.3

Source: National Statistics Office, Labor Force Survey

**Table 2 – SUMMARY STATISTICS
ON UNEMPLOYED PERSONS: April (1998-1999)
(in thousands except percent)**

Indicator	Total Number		Increment	Unemployment Rate	
	April 1998	April 1999		April 1998	April 1999
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	4,274	3,952	-322	13.3	11.8
Sex					
Men	2,431	2,319	-112	12.2	11.2
Women	1,843	1,634	-209	15.2	12.8
Age Group					
15-24 years old	2,503	2,308	-195	29.0	26.0
25-54 years old	1,457	1,380	-77	7.6	7.3
55 years old and over	315	264	-51	7.3	6.2
Area					
Urban	2,323	2,316	-7	15.4	14.8
Rural	1,952	1,636	-316	11.5	9.2
Region					
NCR	841	831	-10	18.0	18.3
CAR	50	51	1	8.0	7.9
Region I	175	178	3	10.0	9.9
Region II	206	138	-68	14.8	9.5
Region III	355	433	78	11.9	13.5
Region IV	450	436	-14	10.7	10.1
Region V	279	279	0	12.4	12.0
Region VI	479	342	-137	16.8	11.6
Region VII	350	289	-61	14.6	11.8
Region VIII	207	177	-30	12.2	10.2
Region IX	115	125	10	9.6	9.7
Region X	161	148	-13	11.9	9.9
Region XI	255	231	-24	11.9	10.3
Region XII	132	125	-7	12.6	11.3
ARMM	69	49	-20	9.4	6.2
Caraga	154	120	-34	15.1	11.2

Source: National Statistics Office, Labor Force Survey.