

THE PHILIPPINE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

EMPLOYMENT

Employment level grew by 1.7% year-on-year, increasing from 33.6 million in January 2008 to 34.3 million in January 2009. This indicates a net addition of more than half a million jobs. It also represents an improvement from last year's growth rate of 0.4%.

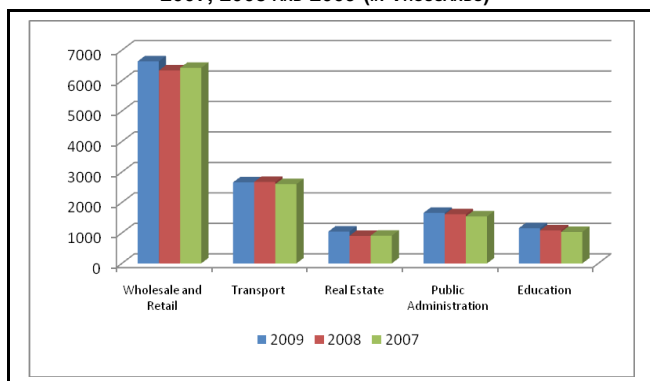
TABLE 1. EMPLOYMENT BY SECTOR, JANUARY 2007, 2008 & 2009 (IN THOUSANDS)

	2009	2008	2007
Total Employed Persons	34,258	33,693	33,545
Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry	11,842	11,793	11,639
Industry	4,860	4,981	4,977
Services	17,557	16,919	16,929

Source: NSO Labor Force Survey, January 2009

Services Sector. The services sector remained the primary source of employment, accounting for 51.2% of total employment and growing by 3.8% from January 2008 to January 2009. In the services sector, Wholesale and Retail Trade recorded 6.6 million persons employed in January 2009 or 37.8% of total employment in the sector. It also has the largest contributions to new jobs created at 300,000. On the other hand, the highest year-on-year employment growth was observed in Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities at 15.5% or 140,000 new employments.

FIGURE 1. EMPLOYMENT IN THE SERVICES SUB-SECTOR, JANUARY 2007, 2008 AND 2009 (IN THOUSANDS)



Source: NSO Labor Force Survey, January 2009

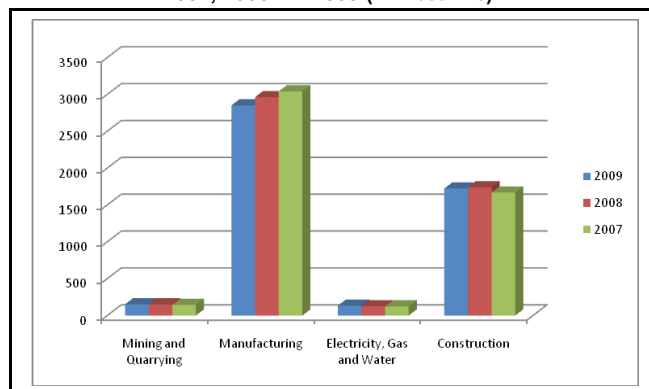
Facts in figures

Congressional Planning and Budget Department
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Notwithstanding these gains, there were employment cutbacks in the sub-sectors of Transport, Storage and Communications (-15,000) and Financial Intermediation (-28,000).

Industry Sector. The impact of the global crisis was most pronounced in the industry sector, which suffered a 2.4% drop in employment in January 2009 from previous year's level. Manufacturing was the most affected by the crisis as it posted the biggest employment cutback of 112,000 jobs among sub-sectors. Employment also fell in construction by 1.0%.

FIGURE 2. EMPLOYMENT IN THE INDUSTRY SUB-SECTOR, JANUARY 2007, 2008 AND 2009 (IN THOUSANDS)



Source: NSO Labor Force Survey, January 2009

Status of Employment. The number of wage and salaried workers increased by 488,000 or by 2.8% from January 2008 to January 2009. Unpaid family workers also increased by 2.5% in 2008 (4.2 million in 2009 from 4.1 million in 2008). The number of employers had a year-on-year increase of 10.2%. Meanwhile, the number of self-employed workers fell by 156,000 or 1.4% from 2008 to 2009.

TABLE 2. NUMBER OF WORKERS BY STATUS OF EMPLOYMENT, JANUARY 2007, 2008 & 2009 (IN THOUSANDS)

Sector	2009	2008	2007	Year-on-Year Growth
Wage and Salary Workers	17,909	17,421	17,911	2.8
Self-Employed Workers	10,724	10,880	10,194	-1.4
Employers	1,412	1,281	1,570	10.2
Unpaid Family Workers	4,214	4,110	3,870	2.5

Source: NSO Labor Force Survey, January 2009

UNEMPLOYMENT

The January 2009 unemployment rate slightly rose from 7.4% in January 2008 to 7.7% in January 2009, which represents a 0.3 percentage point year-on-year increase. The full year unemployment rate for 2009 was estimated by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies at 8.0% to 9.0%.

In absolute terms, the total number of unemployed persons was 2.8 million in January 2009. This represents an increase of 6.7% from the last year's figure.

As in previous years, there were more unemployed men than women in January 2009. About two in every three unemployed were men.

TABLE 3. UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES BY SEX, JANUARY 2009, 2008 AND 2007 (IN THOUSANDS)

Indicator	Total Unemployed Persons (in thousands)			Unemployment Rate (in %)		
	2009	2008	2007	2009	2008	2007
TOTAL	2,855	2,675	2,850	7.7	7.4	7.8
Male	1,829	1,741	1,794	8.0	7.8	8.1
Female	1,026	935	1,055	7.2	6.7	7.4

Source: NSO Labor Force Survey, January 2009

Age and Educational Attainment. Nearly half (49.2% or 1.40 million) of the unemployed were in the 15-24 years old age group. The unemployment rate in this age group (16.6%) was more than twice the national rate in January 2009.

Majority of the unemployed were high school graduates or undergraduates at 1.13 million. The second highest group consisted of college graduates and undergraduates at 1.03 million.

TABLE 4. UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES BY HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED, JANUARY 2009, 2008 AND 2007 (IN THOUSANDS)

INDICATOR	Total Unemployed Persons		
	2009	2008	2007
Highest Grade Completed			
Elementary	339	306	307
Undergraduate	153	136	136
Graduate	185	170	170
High School	1,139	1,038	1,038
Undergraduate	308	292	292
Graduate	831	746	746
College	1,034	886	886
Undergraduate	559	486	486
Graduate	476	400	400

Source: NSO Labor Force Survey, January 2009

Regional Employment Situation. In terms of labor force participation rate, most regions were at par with the national average with Region IV-B having the highest participation rate at 69.4%. The Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao posted the lowest participation rate of 55.9%.

On the other hand, the National Capital Region posted the highest unemployment rate in January 2009 at 14.0%. Four other regions have unemployment rates higher than the national rate (7.7%). These were Region I (8.5%), Region III (9.7%), Region IV-A (10.9%); and Region VII (7.8%).

The remaining regions posted unemployment rates ranging from 2.4% (ARMM) to 6.3% (CARAGA).

TABLE 5. LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION (LFPR) AND UNEMPLOYMENT (UER) RATES BY REGION, PHILIPPINES, JANUARY 2009 (IN PERCENT)

	LFPR	UER		LFPR	UER
Philippines	63.3	7.7	Region VI	63.7	6.0
NCR	60.9	14.0	Region VII	63.2	7.8
CAR	66.9	4.3	Region VIII	63.9	5.6
Region I	62.3	8.5	Region IX	65.8	3.6
Region II	66.1	2.9	Region X	68.3	4.3
Region III	60.2	9.7	Region XI	64.6	5.8
Region IV-A	63.0	10.9	Region XII	65.3	3.5
Region IV-B	69.4	4.5	CARAGA	66.9	6.3
Region V	63.8	6.1	ARMM	55.9	2.4

Source: NSO Labor Force Survey 2009