

TECHNICAL NOTES

LABOR FORCE SURVEY WITH WORKING CHILDREN RIDER QUESTIONS

The Labor Force Survey (LFS) is a nationwide survey of households conducted by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) to gather data on the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the population.

Starting October 2017, the LFS was modified to capture data on the current demographic and economic activity status of the children aged 5 to 17 years old during the reference week, specifically the socio-economic characteristics of working child and the child laborers aged 5 to 17 years old in the country.

Definitions:

1. Working Child

A child considered working or economically active if the child had a job or business or was engaged either as paid or unpaid in the family farm or business, at any time for at least one hour during the week prior to the survey. The reference age range in this report for the estimate of working children is 5 to 17 years old.

2. Hazardous Work and Activities

Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Order No. 149, Series of 2016 enumerates the different work and activities declared hazardous for persons below 18 years of age:

- a. Work and activities under the following industrial classifications:
 - i. Mining and Quarrying;
 - ii. Construction;
 - iii. Transportation and storage;
 - iv. Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities;
 - v. Forestry and logging;
 - vi. Fishing and Aquaculture;
 - vii. Hunting, Trapping and related Service Activities;
 - viii. Security and Investigation; and
 - ix. Manufacturing, specifically of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, pyrotechnics, rubber and plastic products, chemicals and chemical products, basic metals, and weapons and ammunitions.
- b. Work and activities under the following occupational classifications:
 - i. Farmers and other Plant Growers, specifically, preparatory, tending, harvesting and post-harvesting activities;
 - ii. Animal producers, specifically, rearing, harvesting, post-harvesting activities and working in slaughterhouses;

- iii. Physical Sciences, Life Sciences and Health Associate Professionals, includes tasks involving operating radiation emitting machines, high power laboratory, medical, dental and electronic equipment; extracting, collecting or processing human or animal blood, fecal remains and other body fluids or chemicals;
- iv. Sales and Services Elementary Occupations, including work that requires use of dangerous power tools, machines or devices; handling, use and application of or exposure to toxic, corrosive, flammable and combustible substances; selling of alcoholic beverages, tobacco and pyrotechnics and chemicals; and courier and delivery service-related tasks that expose the child to road accidents and carrying of heavy loads;
- v. Personal and protective services workers, including, escorting, accompanying or guiding tourists in dangerous activities; personal care of persons with communicable diseases; housekeeping-related tasks that require use of power instruments and handling toxics; bartending, cooking involving the use of pressurized cookers and similar equipment; work exposed to sexual abuse;
- vi. Customer Services clerks, including, inbound and outbound sales and technical support or contact center services to clients over phone or internet; work in gambling facilities;
- vii. Other craft and related trade workers involving driving or operating of high power machineries or equipment; sanding, varnishing, painting and tasks related to textile and garments; or
- viii. Other work and activities declared as hazardous.

3. Child labor

Child labor is defined as any work or economic activity performed by a child that subjects him/her to any form of exploitation or is harmful to his/her health and safety or physical, mental, or psychological development.

STATISTICAL TABLES

TABLE A. Total Number of Children 5 to 17 Years Old, Working Children, and Proportion and Percent Distribution of Working Children by Region, Philippines: October 2020, October 2021, and October 2022

Region	Total Number of Children 5 to 17 Years Old (in '000)			Total Number of Working Children 5 to 17 Years Old			Proportion of Working Children 5 to 17 Years Old (%)			Percentage Distribution (%)		
				2020	2021	2022						
	2020	2021	2022	Estimate (in '000)	Estimate (in '000)	Estimate (in '000)	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
Philippines	31,170	31,641	31,714	872.33	1,366.16	1,477.92	2.8	4.3	4.7	100.0	100.0	100.0
National Capital Region (NCR)	3,348	3,359	3,467	14.16	22.22	25.32	0.4	0.7	0.7	1.6	1.6	1.7
Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR)	522	505	522	10.08	22.73	18.59	1.9	4.5	3.6	1.2	1.7	1.3
Region I (Ilocos Region)	1,439	1,507	1,481	34.55	80.05	93.35	2.4	5.3	6.3	4.0	5.9	6.3
Region II (Cagayan Valley)	1,038	1,042	1,060	22.68	47.52	24.61	2.2	4.6	2.3	2.6	3.5	1.7
Region III (Central Luzon)	3,262	3,318	3,334	65.31	52.11	38.71	2.0	1.6	1.2	7.5	3.8	2.6
Region IV-A (CALABARZON)	4,219	4,411	4,330	78.30	138.33	163.74	1.9	3.1	3.8	9.0	10.1	11.1
MIMAROPA Region	1,035	1,037	1,100	48.34	39.16	50.68	4.7	3.8	4.6	5.5	2.9	3.4
Region V (Bicol Region)	2,013	2,076	2,038	96.74	117.78	84.80	4.8	5.7	4.2	11.1	8.6	5.7
Region VI (Western Visayas)	2,281	2,283	2,246	49.02	112.83	98.81	2.1	4.9	4.4	5.6	8.3	6.7
Region VII (Central Visayas)	2,295	2,301	2,318	57.41	118.54	154.55	2.5	5.2	6.7	6.6	8.7	10.5
Region VIII (Eastern Visayas)	1,560	1,548	1,512	52.76	68.87	94.53	3.4	4.4	6.3	6.0	5.0	6.4
Region IX (Zamboanga Peninsula)	1,195	1,177	1,198	34.38	71.29	81.13	2.9	6.1	6.8	3.9	5.2	5.5
Region X (Northern Mindanao)	1,498	1,500	1,513	108.09	187.59	130.47	7.2	12.5	8.6	12.4	13.7	8.8
Region XI (Davao Region)	1,579	1,624	1,625	18.61	51.51	55.44	1.2	3.2	3.4	2.1	3.8	3.8
Region XII (SOCCSKSARGEN)	1,529	1,497	1,538	67.20	110.38	188.71	4.4	7.4	12.3	7.7	8.1	12.8
Region XIII (Caraga)	851	873	876	49.61	96.65	61.34	5.8	11.1	7.0	5.7	7.1	4.2
Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM)	1,507	1,585	1,555	65.08	28.61	113.14	4.3	1.8	7.3	7.5	2.1	7.7

TABLE B. Total Number of Child Laborers and Proportion and Percent Distribution of Child Laborers to Working Children 5 to 17 Years Old by Region, Philippines: October 2020, October 2021, and October 2022

Region	Total Number of Child Laborers 5 to 17 Years Old (in '000)			Proportion of Working Children 5 to 17 Years Old (%)			Percentage Distribution (%)		
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
	Estimate (in '000)	Estimate (in '000)	Estimate (in '000)						
Philippines	597	935	828	68.4	68.4	56.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
National Capital Region (NCR)	11	11	15	78.9	49.8	61.0	1.9	1.2	1.9
Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR)	10	19	14	96.3	81.7	76.6	1.6	2.0	1.7
Region I (Ilocos Region)	25	62	64	71.1	78.0	68.7	4.1	6.7	7.7
Region II (Cagayan Valley)	17	37	19	73.2	77.9	78.1	2.8	4.0	2.3
Region III (Central Luzon)	32	37	21	49.6	70.3	55.1	5.4	3.9	2.6
Region IV-A (CALABARZON)	45	74	48	57.6	53.8	29.5	7.6	8.0	5.8
MIMAROPA Region	31.06	29.40	23.79	64.3	75.1	46.9	5.2	3.1	2.9
Region V (Bicol Region)	55	60	37	57.0	51.2	44.0	9.2	6.5	4.5
Region VI (Western Visayas)	37	78	53	75.7	69.2	53.7	6.2	8.3	6.4
Region VII (Central Visayas)	49	94	87	85.2	79.1	56.3	8.2	10.0	10.5
Region VIII (Eastern Visayas)	36	34	59	68.6	50.0	62.2	6.1	3.7	7.1
Region IX (Zamboanga Peninsula)	28	56	48	81.4	78.7	59.3	4.7	6.0	5.8
Region X (Northern Mindanao)	78	138	77	72.5	73.7	59.4	13.1	14.8	9.4
Region XI (Davao Region)	13	37	35	70.4	72.1	63.4	2.2	4.0	4.2
Region XII (SOCCSKSARGEN)	41	79	103	60.9	71.9	54.7	6.9	8.5	12.5
Region XIII (Caraga)	34	70	35	69.2	72.2	57.8	5.8	7.5	4.3
Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM)	54	18	86	83.2	64.0	76.1	9.1	2.0	10.4