

PRESS RELEASE

Unemployment rate in Eastern Visayas drops at 3.8% in 2023 (Preliminary)

Date of Release: 23 January 2025
 Reference No. PR-2025-01-0800-03

Figure 1. Unemployment Rate in Eastern Visayas: 2020 - 2023^p
 (in Percent)



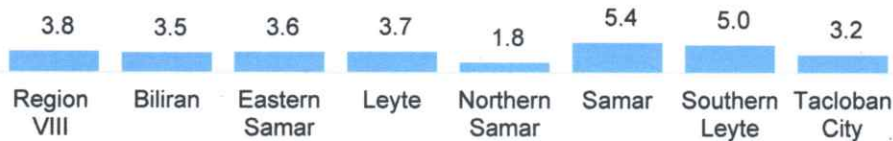
Notes:

1. *p* - Estimates are preliminary and may change.
2. *f* - Estimates are final.
3. Details may not add up to totals due to rounding.
4. The methodology for the computation of annual estimates of labor and employment indicators is based on the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) Board Resolution No. 14 Series of 2021 - Adopting the General Method for Annualized Estimates.
5. Annual 2023 estimates were based on the final estimates of January, February, March, April, May, and June 2023 LFS and preliminary estimates of July, August, September, October, November, and December 2023.

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 Labor Force Survey

In 2023, there were 80 thousand unemployed persons out of the 2.10 million persons in the labor force of Eastern Visayas. This translates to an unemployment rate of 3.8 percent, which was 1.1 percentage points lower than the 4.9 percent unemployment rate in 2022 and the lowest since 2020 when the region posted 8.0 percent unemployment rate (Figure 1).

Figure 2. Unemployment Rate in Eastern Visayas
 by Province/HUC: 2023^p
 (in Percent)



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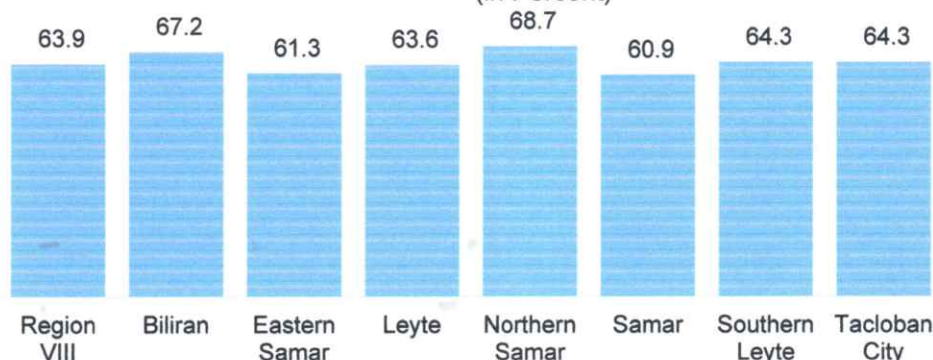
Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2023 Labor Force Survey

Among the provinces in Eastern Visayas, Samar registered the highest unemployment rate in 2023 at 5.4 percent, which was equivalent to 18 thousand unemployed persons out of the 336 persons in the labor force of the province in 2023. The second highest unemployment rate was noted in Southern Leyte at 5.0 percent, followed by Leyte at 3.7 percent, Eastern Samar at 3.6 percent, and Biliran at 3.5 percent unemployment rate. Northern Samar posted the lowest unemployment rate at 1.8 percent. Meanwhile, Tacloban City posted 3.2 percent unemployment rate in 2023 (Figure 2).



Eastern Visayas registered a Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR) of 63.9 percent in 2023. This was 1.2 percentage points lower than the 62.7 percent LFPR reported in 2022. The 63.9 percent LFPR corresponds to around 2.10 million persons who were in the labor force out of the 3.29 million persons 15 years old and over in 2023.

Figure 3. Labor Force Participation Rate in Eastern Visayas by Province/HUC: 2023^p
(in Percent)



Notes:

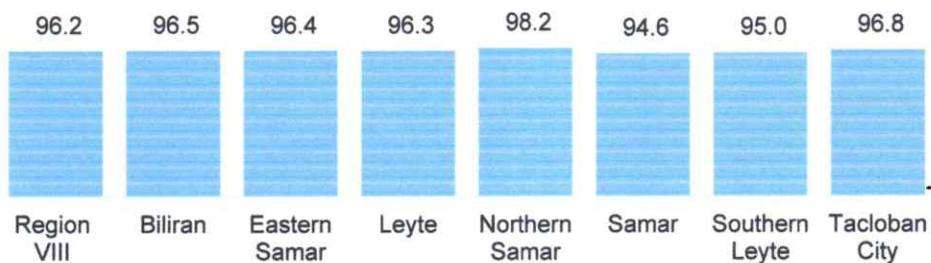
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Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2023 Labor Force Survey

Of the six (6) provinces in the region, Northern Samar registered the highest LFPR in 2023 at 68.7 percent, corresponding to 304 thousand persons who were in the labor force out of the 443 thousand persons 15 years old and over in the province. Biliran had the second highest LFPR at 67.2 percent, followed by Southern Leyte at 64.3 percent, Leyte at 63.6 percent, and Eastern Samar at 61.3 percent. Samar posted the lowest LFPR at 60.9 percent. Tacloban City, the lone Highly Urbanized City (HUC) in the region, posted 64.3 percent LFPR in 2023 (Figure 3).

There were 2.02 million employed persons out of the 2.10 million persons in the labor force in 2023. This placed the region's employment rate at 96.2 percent, which improved by 1.1 percentage points compared with the 95.1 percent employment rate in 2022. This was also the highest employment rate since 2020 when the region posted 92.0 percent employment rate.

Figure 4. Employment Rate in Eastern Visayas by Province/HUC: 2023^p
(in Percent)



Notes:

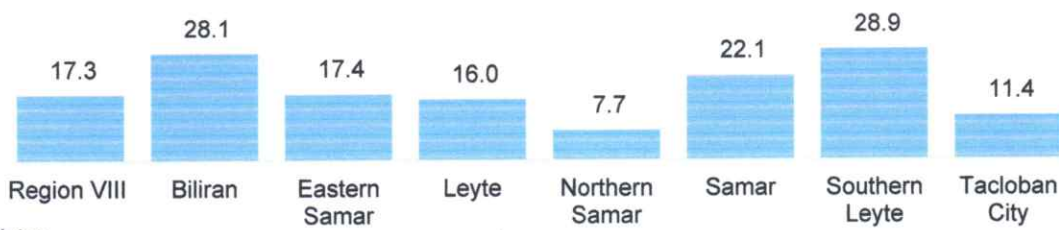
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Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2023 Labor Force Survey

Among provinces in the region, Northern Samar posted the highest employment rate in Eastern Visayas in 2023 at 98.2 percent, which was equivalent to 299 thousand persons considered employed out of the 304 thousand persons in the labor force of the province. The second highest employment rate was reported in Biliran at 96.5 percent, followed by Eastern Samar at 96.4 percent, Leyte at 96.3 percent, and Southern Leyte at 95.0 percent. Samar reported the lowest employment rate at 94.6 percent. Tacloban City recorded 96.8 percent employment rate during the year in review (Figure 4).

Underemployed population is the proportion of employed population who expresses the desire to have additional hours of work in their present job, or an additional job, or to have a new job with longer working hours. Eastern Visayas recorded a 17.3 percent underemployment rate in 2023. This means that there were 350 thousand underemployed persons out of the 2.02 million employed persons in 2023. The region's underemployment rate has been fluctuating in the past three-year period at 20.1 percent (2020), 20.9 percent (2021), and 16.0 percent (2022).

Figure 5. Underemployment Rate in Eastern Visayas by Province/HUC: 2023^p (in Percent)



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Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2023 Labor Force Survey

All provinces in the region, except Northern Samar, reported double-digit underemployment rates in 2023. Southern Leyte registered the highest underemployment rate at 28.9 percent, followed by Biliran at 28.1 percent, Samar at 22.1 percent, Eastern Samar at 17.4 percent, and Leyte at 16.0 percent. Northern Samar posted the lowest underemployment rate at 7.7 percent. Tacloban City posted 11.4 percent underemployment rate in 2023 (Figure 5).

WILMA A. PERANTE
Regional Director

Table 1. Population 15 years old and over, Total Persons in the Labor Force, and Labor Force Participation Rate BY Province/HUC, Eastern Visayas: 2022 and 2023

PHILIPPINES/ REGION/ PROVINCE/ HUC	Population 15 years old and over		Total Persons in the Labor Force		Labor Force Participation Rate		Increment/Decrement (2023-2022)	
	Annual 2022 ^f Estimate ('000)	Annual 2023 ^p Estimate ('000)	Annual 2022 ^f Estimate ('000)	Annual 2023 ^p Estimate ('000)	Annual 2022 ^f Estimate (%)	Annual 2023 ^p Estimate (%)	Total Persons in the Labor Force ('000)	Labor Force Participation Rate (%)
	PHILIPPINES	76,594	77,613	49,558	50,376	64.7	64.9	819
REGION VIII (EASTERN VISAYAS)	3,245	3,293	2,036	2,103	62.7	63.9	67	1.1
Biliran	120	122	78	82	65.0	67.2	4	2.2
Eastern Samar	343	348	210	214	61.1	61.3	4	0.2
Leyte	1,307	1,330	788	847	60.3	63.6	58	3.3
Tacloban City	182	185	113	119	61.8	64.3	6	2.5
Northern Samar	437	443	290	304	66.3	68.7	15	2.4
Samar	546	552	358	336	65.6	60.9	-21	-4.7
Southern Leyte	310	313	199	201	64.3	64.3	2	0.1

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3. Annual 2023 estimates were based on the final estimates of January, February, March, April, May, and June 2023 LFS and preliminary estimates of July, August, September, October, Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2022 and 2023 Labor Force Survey

Table 2. Total Number of Employed Persons and Employment Rate by Province/HUC, Eastern Visayas: 2022 and 2023

PHILIPPINES/ REGION/ PROVINCE/ HUC	Total Number of Employed Persons		Employment Rate		Increment/Decrement (2023-2022)	
	Annual 2022 ^f	Annual 2023 ^p	Annual 2022 ^f	Annual 2023 ^p	Number of Employed Persons ('000)	Employment Rate (%)
	Estimate ('000)	Estimate ('000)	Estimate (%)	Estimate (%)		
PHILIPPINES	46,887	48,185	94.6	95.7	1,298	1.0
REGION VIII (EASTERN VISAYAS)	1,936	2,024	95.1	96.2	88	1.1
Biliran	73	79	94.0	96.5	6	2.4
Eastern Samar	200	206	95.5	96.4	6	0.8
Leyte	741	815	94.0	96.3	74	2.3
Tacloban City	106	115	94.4	96.8	8	2.3
Northern Samar	277	299	95.7	98.2	22	2.5
Samar	349	318	97.4	94.6	-31	-2.8
Southern Leyte	188	191	94.5	95.0	3	0.5

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Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2022 and 2023 Labor Force Survey

Table 3. Total Number of Unemployed Persons and Unemployment Rate by Province/HUC, Eastern Visayas: 2022 and 2023

PHILIPPINES/ REGION/ PROVINCE/ HUC	Total Number of Unemployed Persons		Unemployment Rate		Increment/Decrement (2023-2022)	
	Annual 2022 ^f	Annual 2023 ^p	Annual 2022 ^f	Annual 2023 ^p	Number of Unemployed Persons (^{'000})	Unemployment Rate (%)
	Estimate (^{'000})	Estimate (^{'000})	Estimate (%)	Estimate (%)		
PHILIPPINES	2,671	2,191	5.4	4.3	-480	-1.04
REGION VIII (EASTERN VI Biliran ^{1,2,3,4}	100	80	4.9	3.8	-21	-1.14
Eastern Samar ^{1,2,3,4}	5	3	6.0	3.5	-2	-2.43
Leyte ^{1,2,3,4}	9	8	4.5	3.6	-2	-0.83
Tacloban City ^{1,2,3,4}	47	31	6.0	3.7	-16	-2.30
Northern Samar ^{1,2,3,4}	6	4	5.6	3.2	-2	-2.33
Samar ^{1,2,3,4}	12	5	4.3	1.8	-7	-2.49
Southern Leyte ^{1,2,3,4}	9	18	2.6	5.4	9	2.84
	11	10	5.5	5.0	-1	-0.50

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Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2022 and 2023 Labor Force Survey

Table 4. Total Number of Underemployed Persons and Underemployment Rate by Province/HUC, Eastern Visayas: 2022 and 2023

PHILIPPINES/ REGION/ PROVINCE/ HUC	Total Number of Underemployed Persons		Underemployment Rate		Increment/Decrement (2023-2022)	
	Annual 2022 ^f	Annual 2023 ^p	Annual 2022 ^f	Annual 2023 ^p	Number of Underemployed Persons (‘000)	Underemployment Rate (%)
	Estimate (‘000)	Estimate (‘000)	Estimate (%)	Estimate (%)		
PHILIPPINES	6,676	5,947	14.2	12.3	-729	-1.90
REGION VIII (EASTERN VISAYAS)	310	350	16.0	17.3	40	1.26
Biliran ^{1, 2, 3, 4}	19	22	26.5	28.1	3	1.61
Eastern Samar ^{1, 2, 3, 4}	30	36	15.2	17.4	5	2.18
Leyte ^{1, 2, 3, 4}	98	130	13.2	16.0	32	2.76
Tacloban City ^{1, 2, 3, 4}	12	13	11.3	11.4	1	0.05
Northern Samar ^{1, 2, 3, 4}	67	23	24.0	7.7	-44	-16.31
Samar ^{1, 2, 3, 4}	46	70	13.1	22.1	25	9.03
Southern Leyte ^{1, 2, 3, 4}	38	55	20.4	28.9	17	8.54

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Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2022 and 2023 Labor Force Survey

Technical Notes Annual Labor Force Survey

The 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. The LFS aims to provide a quantitative framework for the preparation of plans and formulation of policies affecting the labor market.

The Annual Labor Force Survey (LFS) refers to the average of data collected across all survey rounds throughout the year. It produces labor and employment statistics for the full year, providing a more comprehensive analysis of the Philippine labor market including the regional, provincial, and highly urbanized city (HUC) levels.

Persons aged 15 years old and over who reside in private households in the country are covered in this survey as part of the working population. However, persons who reside in the institutions and Overseas Filipino Workers are not within the scope of the survey. The reference period for this survey is the "past week" referring to the past seven days preceding the date of visit of the enumerator or the interviewer.

Employment Status Concepts

1. **Population 15 Years Old and Over** - This refers to the number of population 15 years old and over excluding overseas workers.
2. **In the Labor Force or Economically Active Population** - This refers to persons 15 years old and over who are either employed or unemployed in accordance with the definitions described below.
3. **Employed** - Persons 15 years old and over who during the reference period are reported either:
 - a. At work, i.e., those who do any work even for one hour during the reference period for pay or profit or work without pay on the farm or business enterprise operated by a member of the same household related by blood, marriage or adoption, or
 - b. With a job but not at work, i.e., those who have a job or business but are not at work because of temporary illness or injury, vacation, or other reasons. Likewise, persons who expect to report for work or to start operation of a farm or business enterprise within two weeks from the date of the enumerator's visit are considered employed.
4. **Underemployed** - Employed persons who express the desire to have additional hours of work in their present job, or an additional job, or a new job with longer working hours. Visibly underemployed persons are those who work for less than 40 hours during the reference period and want additional hours of work.
5. **Unemployed** - Include all those who during the reference period are 15 years old and over as of their last birthday and reported as persons:

- a) Without work, i.e. had no job or business during the reference period and
- b) Currently available for work, i.e. were available and willing to take up work in paid employment or self-employment during the reference period and/or would be available and willing to take up work in paid employment or self-employment within two weeks after the interview date and
- c) Seeking work i.e. had taken specific steps to look for a job or establish a business during the reference period or
- d) Not seeking work due to the following reasons: (1) tired or believed no work available i.e. discouraged workers (2) awaiting results of previous job application; (3) temporary illness or disability (4) bad weather, and/or (5) waiting for rehire or job recall.

6. Persons Not in the Labor Force - Persons 15 years old and over who are neither employed nor unemployed according to the definitions mentioned. Those not in the labor force are persons who are not looking for work because of reasons such as housekeeping, schooling, and permanent disability. Examples are housewives, students, persons with disability, or retired persons.

Sampling Design and Estimation Methodology

The 2023 Labor Force Survey (LFS) presents a new challenge in estimating the quarter and annual labor statistics as monthly surveys are added in between the regular quarterly surveys. The regular surveys are conducted in January, April, July, and October while the monthly surveys are conducted in-between, producing eight (8) additional monthly surveys for a total of twelve (12) surveys. The 2023 Geo-enabled Master Sample (GeoMS) design for household-based surveys is a two-stage cluster sampling design with barangays or enumeration areas (EAs) or groups of nearby barangays or EAs as the primary sampling unit (PSU) and housing units serving as the secondary sampling unit (SSU) within the PSUs. The 2023 GeoMS sampling frame is constructed based on the results of the 2020 Census of Population and Housing. The EA Reference File (EARF) of the 2020 Census of Population is used as the PSU frame while the 2020 list of households for each of the PSUs is used as the SSU frame.