



PRESS RELEASE

Eastern Visayas records 2.07 million employed persons in 2024 (Preliminary Results)

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Figure 1. Employment Rate, Eastern Visayas:
2021 - 2024



Notes:

p - Estimates are preliminary and may change.

f - Estimates are final.

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 Labor Force Survey

In 2024, Eastern Visayas registered a Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR) of 63.6 percent. This was 0.2 percentage point lower than the 63.8 percent LFPR reported in 2023. The 63.6 percent LFPR corresponds to around 2.13 million persons who were in the labor force out of the 3.34 million population 15 years old and over.

There were 2.07 million employed persons out of the 2.13 million persons in the labor force of Eastern Visayas in 2024. This placed the region's employment rate at 97.2 percent, which improved by 1.0 percentage point compared with the 96.2 percent employment rate in 2023. This was the highest employment rate since 2021 when the region posted an employment rate of 93.4 percent.

There were 59 thousand unemployed persons out of the 2.13 million population in the labor force of Eastern Visayas in 2024. This translates to an unemployment rate of 2.8 percent, which was 1.0 percentage point lower than the 3.8 percent unemployment rate in 2023 and the lowest since 2021 when the region posted 6.7 percent unemployment rate.

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 16.2 percent underemployment rate in 2024. This means that there were 336 thousand underemployed persons out of the 2.07 million employed persons in 2024. The region's underemployment rate has been fluctuating in the past four years recorded at 20.9 percent in 2021, 16.0 percent in 2022, 17.3 percent in 2023 and 16.2 percent in 2024.

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Table 1. Summary Table of Key Employment Indicators by Region, Philippines : 2024^p

PHILIPPINES/REGION	Population 15 years old and over	Total Persons in the Labor Force	Labor Force Participation Rate	Employment Rate	Unemployment Rate	Underemployment Rate
	Annual 2024 ^p Estimate ('000)	Annual 2024 ^p Estimate ('000)	Annual 2024 ^p Estimate (%)	Annual 2024 ^p Estimate (%)	Annual 2024 ^p Estimate (%)	Annual 2024 ^p Estimate (%)
Philippines	78,827	50,786	64.4	96.2	3.8	11.9
NCR	10,445	6,630	63.5	95.2	4.8	7.0
CAR	1,296	842	65.0	97.5	2.5	12.9
Ilocos Region	3,704	2,394	64.6	96.1	3.9	10.2
Cagayan Valley	2,568	1,658	64.5	97.5	2.5	11.2
Central Luzon	9,316	5,934	63.7	97.2	2.8	7.4
CALABARZON	12,083	7,623	63.1	94.4	5.6	15.1
MIMAROPA Region	2,157	1,393	64.6	96.1	3.9	19.8
Bicol Region	4,199	2,488	59.3	94.8	5.2	19.6
Western Visayas	5,664	3,587	63.3	96.2	3.8	9.1
Central Visayas	5,790	3,789	65.4	97.1	2.9	6.8
Eastern Visayas	3,344	2,127	63.6	97.2	2.8	16.2
Zamboanga Peninsula	2,650	1,653	62.4	97.5	2.5	9.7
Northern Mindanao	3,641	2,411	66.2	96.2	3.8	16.4
Davao Region	3,831	2,470	64.5	96.8	3.2	4.4
SOCCKSARGEN	3,091	2,135	69.1	97.3	2.7	30.7
Caraga	1,906	1,344	70.5	96.9	3.1	13.4
BARMM	3,143	2,309	73.5	97.0	3.0	11.7

^p - Estimates are preliminary and may change.

^f - Estimates are final.

Notes:

- Details may not add up to totals due to rounding.
- 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 for the Labor Force Survey 2021 and Beyond.
- Caution on the use of the statistics with Coefficient of Variation greater than 10% as these may not be reliable due to small observations.
- Annual 2024 estimates were based on the final estimates of January 2024 LFS and preliminary estimates of February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, and December 2024 LFS.
- The 2023 and 2024 estimates for Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) include the 63 barangays from Cotabato. This change follows the Bangsamoro Autonomous Act Nos. 41 to 48, dated 15 September 2022, and the subsequent ratification through a plebiscite conducted on 13 April 2024. These acts resulted in the creation of eight new municipalities within the Special Geographic Area (SGA) of BARMM.
- BARMM includes the Province of Sulu.

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2023 and 2024 Labor Force Survey

Table 2. Population 15 years old and over, Total Persons in the Labor Force and Labor Force Participation Rate by Province/HUC, Eastern Visayas : 2023 and 2024

REGION/ PROVINCE/HUC	Population 15 years old and over		Total Persons in the Labor Force		Labor Force Participation Rate		Increment/Decrement (2024-2023)	
	Annual 2023 ^f Estimate ('000)	Annual 2024 ^p Estimate ('000)	Annual 2023 ^f Estimate ('000)	Annual 2024 ^p Estimate ('000)	Annual 2023 ^f Estimate (%)	Annual 2024 ^p Estimate (%)	Total Persons in the Labor Force ('000)	Labor Force Participation Rate (%)
REGION VIII (EASTERN VISAYAS)	3,293	3,344	2,103	2,127	63.8	63.6	25	-0.2
Biliran	122	122	82	79	67.2	64.5	-3	-2.6
Eastern Samar	348	355	214	229	61.4	64.5	15	3.1
Leyte	1,330	1,359	847	835	63.6	61.4	-12	-2.2
City of Tacloban	185	187	119	115	64.3	61.6	-3	-2.7
Northern Samar	443	447	304	306	68.7	68.5	2	-0.1
Samar	552	559	336	345	60.9	61.7	9	0.8
Southern Leyte	313	314	201	218	64.3	69.5	17	5.2

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2. 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 for the Labor Force Survey 2021 and Beyond.

3. Annual 2024 estimates were based on the final estimates of January 2024 LFS and preliminary estimates of February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, and December 2024 LFS.

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2023 and 2024 Labor Force Survey

Table 3. Total Number of Employed Persons and Employment Rate by Province/HUC: 2023 and 2024

REGION/ PROVINCE/HUC	Total Number of Employed Persons		Employment Rate		Increment/Decrement (2024-2023)	
	Annual 2023 ^f	Annual 2024 ^p	Annual 2023 ^f	Annual 2024 ^p	Number of Employed Persons ('000)	Employment Rate (%)
	Estimate ('000)	Estimate ('000)	Estimate (%)	Estimate (%)		
REGION VIII (EASTERN VISAYAS)	2,023	2,068	96.2	97.2	45	1.0
Biliran	79	77	96.5	97.0	-2	0.5
Eastern Samar	206	223	96.4	97.5	17	1.1
Leyte	815	809	96.3	96.9	-6	0.6
City of Tacloban	115	112	96.8	97.1	-3	0.3
Northern Samar	299	301	98.2	98.1	2	-0.0
Samar	318	335	94.6	97.1	17	2.5
Southern Leyte	191	212	95.1	97.3	21	2.2

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Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2023 and 2024 Labor Force Survey

Table 4. Total Number of Unemployed Persons and Unemployment Rate: 2023 and 2024

REGION/ PROVINCE/HUC	Total Number of Unemployed Persons		Unemployment Rate		Increment/Decrement (2024-2023)	
	Annual 2023 ^f	Annual 2024 ^p	Annual 2023 ^f	Annual 2024 ^p	Number of Unemployed Persons ('000)	Unemployment Rate (%)
	Estimate ('000)	Estimate ('000)	Estimate (%)	Estimate (%)		
REGION VIII (EASTERN VISAYAS)	80	59	3.8	2.8	-21	-1.0
Biliran ^{1 2 3 4}	3	2	3.5	3.0	-1	-0.5
Eastern Samar ^{1 2 4}	8	6	3.6	2.5	-2	-1.1
Leyte ^{1 2 3 4}	31	26	3.7	3.1	-6	-0.6
City of Tacloban ^{1 2 3 4}	4	3	3.2	2.9	-1	-0.3
Northern Samar ^{1 2 3 4}	6	6	1.8	1.9	0	0.0
Samar ^{1 2 3 4}	18	10	5.4	2.9	-8	-2.5
Southern Leyte ^{1 2 3 4}	10	6	5.0	2.7	-4	-2.2

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¹ - Caution on the use of 2023 total number of unemployed persons with Coefficient of Variation greater than 10% as these may not be reliable due to small observations.

² - Caution on the use of 2024 total number of unemployed persons with Coefficient of Variation greater than 10% as these may not be reliable due to small observations.

³ - Caution on the use of 2023 unemployment rate with Coefficient of Variation greater than 10% as these may not be reliable due to small observations.

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Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2023 and 2024 Labor Force Survey

Table 5. Total Number of Underemployed Persons and Underemployment Rate: 2023 and 2024

REGION/ PROVINCE/HUC	Total Number of Underemployed Persons		Underemployment Rate		Increment/Decrement (2024-2023)	
	Annual 2023 ^f	Annual 2024 ^p	Annual 2023 ^f	Annual 2024 ^p	Number of Underemployed Persons ('000)	Underemployment Rate (%)
	Estimate ('000)	Estimate ('000)	Estimate (%)	Estimate (%)		
REGION VIII (EASTERN VISAYAS)	349	336	17.3	16.2	-14	-1.0
Biliran ^{1 2 3 4}	22	24	28.1	31.7	2	3.6
Eastern Samar ^{1 2 4}	36	26	17.4	11.8	-10	-5.6
Leyte ^{1 2 3 4}	130	153	16.0	18.9	23	2.9
City of Tacloban ^{1 2 3 4}	13	16	11.4	14.7	3	3.3
Northern Samar ^{1 2 3 4}	23	17	7.7	5.8	-6	-1.9
Samar ^{1 2 3 4}	70	58	21.9	17.2	-12	-4.7
Southern Leyte ^{1 2}	55	41	28.9	19.3	-14	-9.6

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Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2023 and 2024 Labor Force Survey

Table 6. Population 15 years old and over, Total Persons in the Labor Force, Labor Force Participation Rate, Total Number of Employed Persons, and Employment Rate by Province/HUC: 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024

PROVINCE	Population 15 years old and over (in '000)				Total Persons in the Labor Force (in '000)				Labor Force Participation Rate (%)				Total Number of Employed Persons (in '000)				Employment Rate (%)			
	2021 ^f	2022 ^f	2023 ^f	2024 ^p	2021 ^f	2022 ^f	2023 ^f	2024 ^p	2021 ^f	2022 ^f	2023 ^f	2024 ^p	2021 ^f	2022 ^f	2023 ^f	2024 ^p	2021 ^f	2022 ^f	2023 ^f	2024 ^p
Philippines	75,301	76,594	77,160	78,827	47,703	49,558	50,371	50,786	63.4	64.7	64.9	64.4	43,989	46,887	48,178	48,843	92.2	94.6	95.6	96.2
Eastern Visayas	3,195	3,245	3,293	3,344	2,018	2,036	2,103	2,127	63.2	62.7	63.8	63.6	1,884	1,936	2,023	2,068	93.4	95.1	96.2	97.2
Biliran	119	120	122	122	81	78	82	79	68.2	65.0	67.2	64.5	75	73	79	77	92.9	94.0	96.5	97.0
Eastern Samar	338	343	348	355	220	210	214	229	65.1	61.1	61.4	64.5	209	200	206	223	95.0	95.5	96.4	97.5
Leyte	1,281	1,307	1,330	1,359	752	788	847	835	58.7	60.3	63.6	61.4	695	741	815	809	92.4	94.0	96.3	96.9
Tacloban City	180	182	185	187	106	113	119	115	58.8	61.8	64.3	61.6	99	106	115	112	93.5	94.4	96.8	97.1
Northern Samar	432	437	443	447	287	290	304	306	66.5	66.3	68.7	68.5	263	277	299	301	91.5	95.7	98.2	98.1
Samar	540	546	552	559	381	358	336	345	70.6	65.6	60.9	61.7	367	349	318	335	96.1	97.4	94.6	97.1
Southern Leyte	304	310	313	314	191	199	201	218	62.8	64.3	64.3	69.5	177	188	191	212	92.5	94.5	95.1	97.3

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Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 Labor Force Survey

Table 7. Total Number of Unemployed Persons, Unemployment Rate, Total Number of Underemployed Persons, and Underemployment Rate by Province/HUC: 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024

PROVINCE	Total Number of Unemployed Persons (in '000)				Unemployment Rate (%)				Total Number of Underemployed Persons (in '000)				Underemployment Rate (%)			
	2021 ^f	2022 ^f	2023 ^f	2024 ^p	2021 ^f	2022 ^f	2023 ^f	2024 ^p	2021 ^f	2022 ^f	2023 ^f	2024 ^p	2021 ^f	2022 ^f	2023 ^f	2024 ^p
Philippines	3,715	2,671	2,193	1,943	7.8	5.4	4.4	3.8	7,003	6,676	5,944	5,818	15.9	14.2	12.3	11.9
Eastern Visayas	134	100	80	59	6.7	4.9	3.8	2.8	394	310	349	336	20.9	16.0	17.3	16.2
Biliran	6	5	3	2	7.1	6.0	3.5	3.0	19	19	22	24	25	26.5	28.1	31.7
Eastern Samar	11	9	8	6	5.0	4.5	3.6	2.5	19	39	36	26	9.1	15.2	17.4	11.8
Leyte	57	47	31	26	7.6	6.0	3.7	3.1	173	98	130	153	24.9	13.2	16	18.9
Tacloban City	7	6	4	3	6.5	5.6	3.2	2.9	18	12	13	16	18.1	11.3	11.4	14.7
Northern Samar	24	12	6	6	8.5	4.3	1.8	1.9	78	67	23	17	29.8	24.0	7.7	5.8
Samar	15	9	18	10	3.9	2.6	5.4	2.9	39	46	70	58	10.6	13.1	21.9	17.2
Southern Leyte	14	11	10	6	7.5	5.5	5.0	2.7	48	38	55	41	27.2	20.4	28.9	19.3

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Technical Notes
Annual Labor Force Survey

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. The LFS aims to provide a quantitative framework for the preparation of plans, and formulation of policies affecting the labor market. Specifically, the survey is designed to provide statistics on levels and trends of employment, unemployment, and underemployment for the country, as a whole, and for each of the administrative regions.

Originally, the LFS was being conducted on a quarterly basis, specifically in January, April, July, and October. Starting 2021, special rounds of LFS, known as monthly LFS were conducted in response to the need for high-frequency data to monitor the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Philippine labor market. These special LFS rounds are conducted in between the regular rounds of LFS, in February, March, May, June, August, September, November, and December.

With the addition of the monthly surveys in 2021, the increased frequency of data collection introduced new challenges in estimating the annual labor statistics. Therefore, the PSA adopted an official estimation methodology for annual LFS through PSA Board Resolution No. 14, Series of 2021, enabling the generation of labor and employment statistics at the national, regional, provincial and HUC levels.

The LFS uses the 2009 Philippine Standard Industrial Classification (PSIC), 2012 Philippine Standard Occupation Classification (PSOC) and the 2017 Philippine Standard Classification of Education (PSCED). A hybrid approach was used in data collection, a mixed mode of Computer Aided Personal Interviewing (CAPI) face-to-face interview, whenever possible, or a telephone interview. 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.

The Annual 2024 LFS, being a household survey, used the 2023 GeoMS frame and design in which the domain is region and province/HUC level. The 2023 GeoMS uses the results of the 2020 Census of Population and Housing (CPH). The EA Reference File (EARF) of the 2020 CPH is used as reference in constructing the Primary Sampling Units (PSU) frame, while the 2020 list of housing units for each of the PSUs is used as the SSU frame. The 2023 GeoMS covers all households in the Philippines, excluding institutional households.

Employment Status Concepts

1. "Population 15 Years Old and Over" refers to the number of population 15 years old and over excluding overseas workers.
2. "In the Labor Force" or "Economically Active Population" refers to persons 15 years old and over who are either employed or unemployed in accordance with the definitions described below:
3. Employed refers to 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 refers to 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 persons 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" refers to 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.