

# SPECIAL RELEASE

## 2022 ANNUAL LABOR MARKET STATISTICS IN WESTERN VISAYAS (Preliminary Results)

Date of Release: 26 July 2023  
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### Explanatory Notes

This special release presents the Annual 2022 Labor Market Statistics (Preliminary Results) in Western Visayas. Labor Force Survey (LFS) is a nationwide survey of households conducted by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) to gather data on the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of the population. The data provided in this special release were taken from the latest available preliminary data of the Labor Force Survey of Income and Employment Statistics Division, Social Sector Statistics Service, Sectoral Statistics Office of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). This information presented in this special release was taken from [www.psa.gov.ph](http://www.psa.gov.ph).

### Western Visayas' labor force in 2022 is estimated at 3.6 million

In 2022, an estimated 3,556,706 million of the population 15 years old and over in the region were in the labor force. This is the highest recorded number from 2018 to 2022. (Figure 1)

### Western Visayas ranked 5th among the highest total population in the Labor Force

Among the regions, Region VI (Western Visayas) ranked 5th in the total estimated labor force population; Region IV-A (CALABARZON) registered the highest number with 7.5 million, while Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) had the least number with 842 thousand population. (Figure 2)

Figure 1. Total Population in Labor Force, Region VI: 2018-2022 (in thousands)

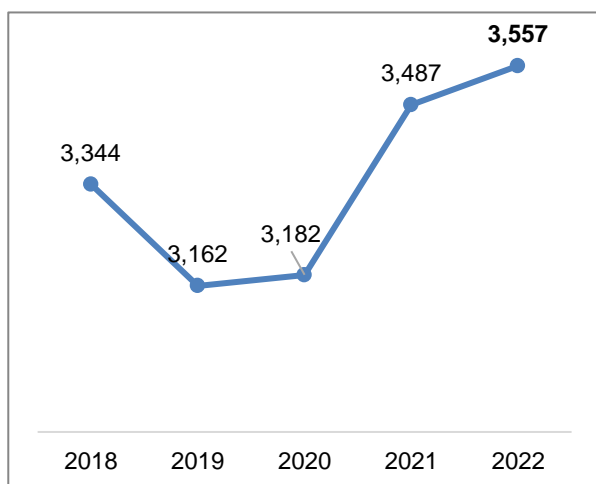
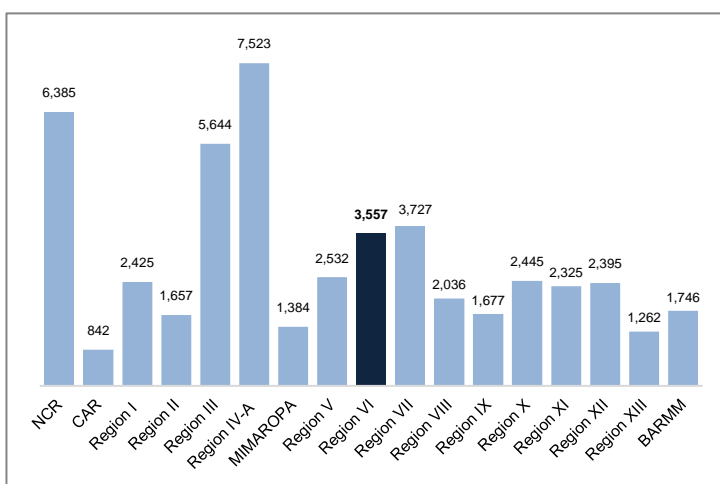


Figure 2. Total Population in Labor Force by Region, Philippines: 2022 (in thousands)



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, Labor Force Survey (LFS)



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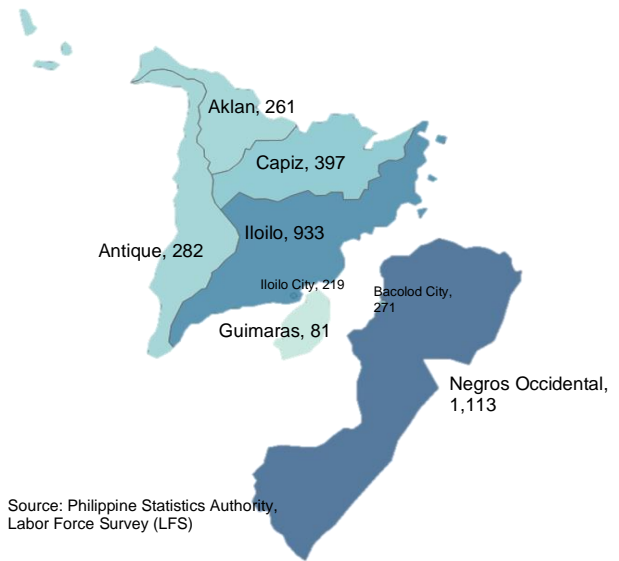


J Villanueva Building, Iznart Street, Iloilo City, Iloilo, Philippines 5000  
Telephone: (033) 335-0907  
Email: [rso06@psa.gov.ph](mailto:rso06@psa.gov.ph)  
<http://rso06.psa.gov.ph>  
[www.psa.gov.ph](http://www.psa.gov.ph)

**Negros Occidental registered the highest labor force population**

Among the provinces and Highly Urbanized Cities (HUCs) in Western Visayas, Negros Occidental registered the highest labor force population with around 1,112,564 million persons. This was followed by Iloilo (932,793), Capiz (397,137), Antique (282,376), Bacolod City (271,345), Aklan (260,513), Iloilo City (218,858) and Guimaras (81,121). (Figure 3)

Figure 3. Total Population in Labor Force by Province, Highly Urbanized City, Western Visayas: 2022 (in thousands)



**Labor Force Participation Rate in 2022 increased to 64.0 percent from 63.4 percent in 2021**

The Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR) in Western Visayas was estimated at 64.0 percent in 2022, an increase of 0.6 percentage points compared to the previous year and the highest annual estimate since 2018. The lowest LFPR was posted in 2020 at 58.7 percent. This annual LFPR is the lowest since 2018, reflecting the effect of the various community quarantine restrictions, business closures, and physical distancing measures that were put in place in the Philippines starting in March 2020 amidst the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. (Figure 4)

Moreover, Region VI (Western Visayas) placed 12th among the 17 regions, lower than the Philippines' average LFPR of 64.7 percent. Region XII (SOCCSKSARGEN) posted the highest rate at 71.5 percent while Region V (Bicol Region) had the lowest rate at 62.0 percent. (Figure 5)

Figure 4. Labor Force Participation Rate, Region VI: 2018-2022 (in percent)

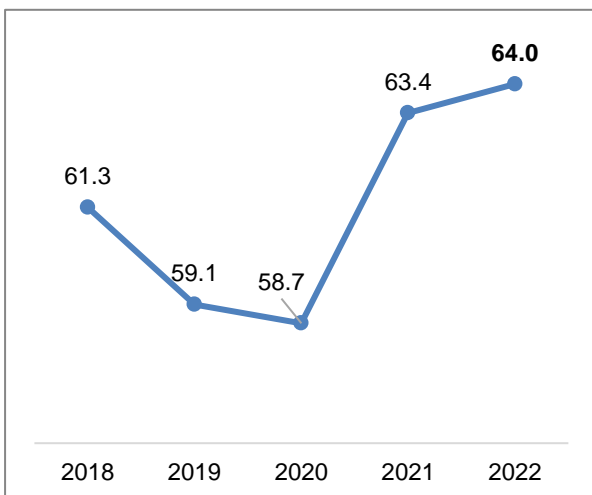
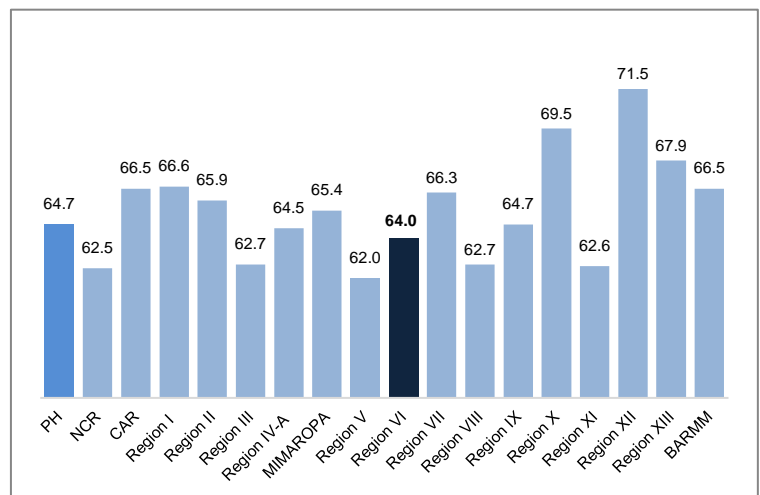


Figure 5. Labor Force Participation Rate by Region, Philippines: 2022 (in percent)

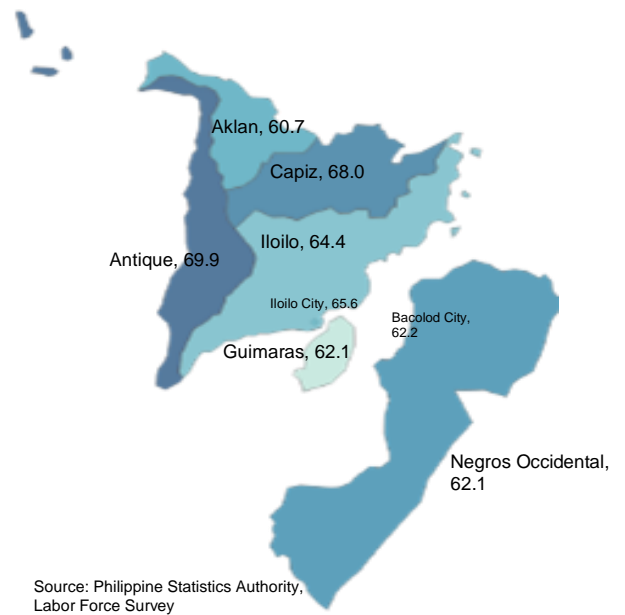


Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, Labor Force Survey (LFS)

**Antique had the highest LFPR at 69.9 percent**

Among the provinces and HUCs in Western Visayas, Antique had the highest labor force participation rate at 69.9 percent, followed by Capiz at 68.0 percent. Aklan recorded the lowest labor force participation rate at 60.7 percent. (Figure 6)

Figure 6. Labor Force Participation Rate by Province, Highly Urbanized City, Western Visayas: 2022 (in percent)



**Employment rate estimated at 94.8 percent**

Employment Rate (ER) in Western Visayas was estimated at 94.8 percent in 2022, an increase of 1.4 percentage points compared to 2021 at 93.4 percent.

The highest ER annual estimates were observed in 2019 at 95.3 percent and the lowest in 2020 at 92.2 percent. (Figure 7)

Among the regions, Region VI (Western Visayas) placed 12th among the highest employment rate, higher by 0.2 percentage points compared to the 94.6 percent of the Philippines' estimate. Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) topped at 96.3 percent while National Capital Region (NCR) had the least employment rate at 92.8 percent. (Figure 8)

Figure 7. Employment Rate, Region VI: 2018-2022 (in percent)

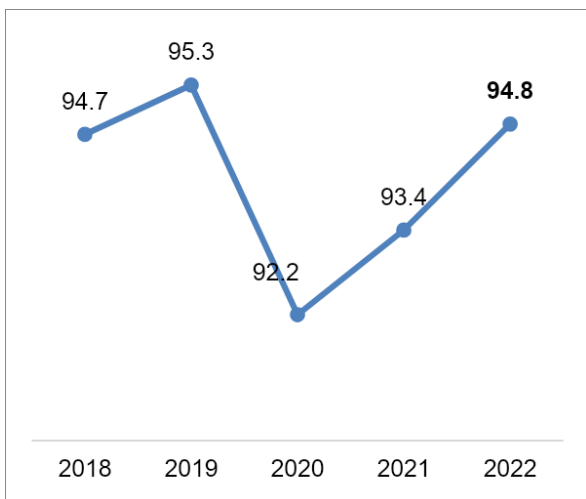
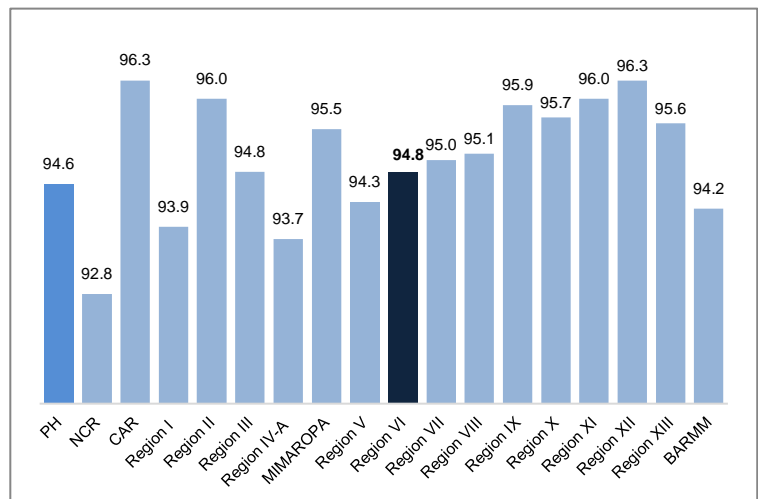


Figure 8. Employment Rate by Region, Philippines: 2022 (in percent)



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, Labor Force Survey (LFS)

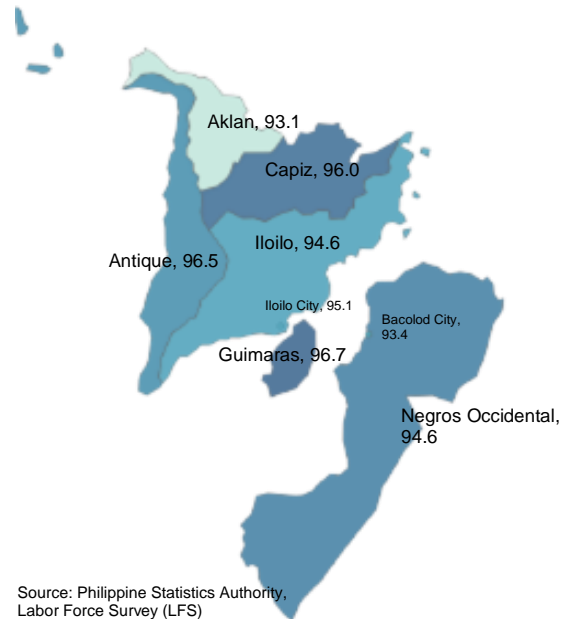
**Guimaras recorded the highest employment rate at 96.7 percent**

In 2022, Guimaras recorded the highest employment rate in Western Visayas at 96.7 percent, followed by Antique with 96.5 percent. Aklan recorded the lowest employment rate at 93.1 percent. (Figure 9)

**Unemployment Rate in Western Visayas decreased to 5.2 percent**

Western Visayas' unemployment rate was recorded at 5.2 percent in 2022, lower by 1.4 percentage points compared to 6.6 percent in 2021. Likewise, this is lower by 0.2 percentage points compared to the Philippines' annual estimate of 5.4 percent. The highest annual estimate was recorded in 2020 with 7.8 percent reflecting the effects of the various community quarantine restrictions, and business closures, among others during the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic starting in March 2020. From 2021 to 2022 a downward trend was observed for the unemployment rate reducing to 5.2 percent in 2022. (Figure 10) Across regions, Western Visayas ranked 6th with the highest unemployment rate. National Capital Region (NCR) placed first at 7.2 percent, while Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) had the least unemployment rate at 3.7 percent. (Figure 11)

Figure 9. Employment Rate by Province, Highly Urbanized City, Western Visayas: 2022 (in percent)



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, Labor Force Survey (LFS)

Figure 10. Unemployment Rate, Region VI: 2018-2022 (in percent)

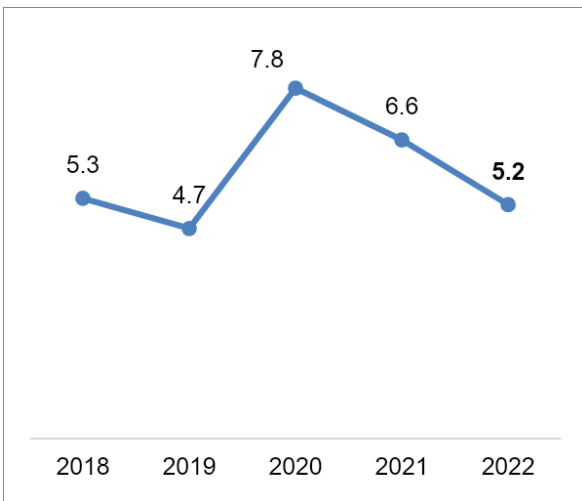
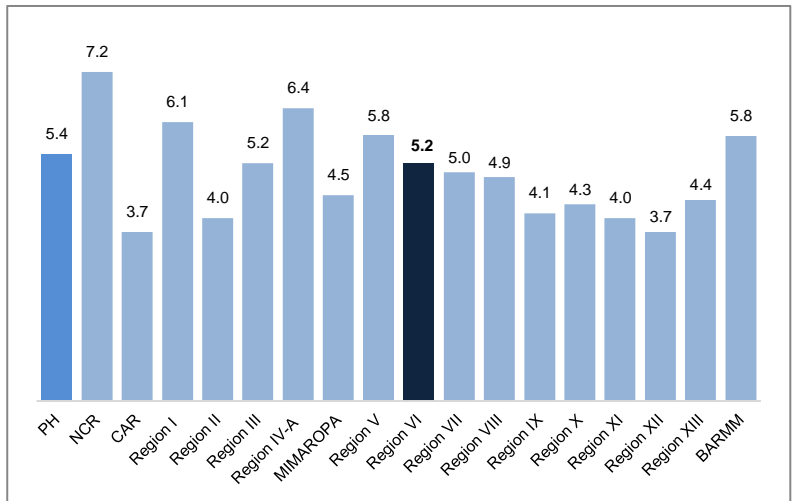


Figure 11. Unemployment Rate by Region, Philippines: 2022 (in percent)



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, Labor Force Survey (LFS)

Figure 12. Unemployment Rate by Province, Highly Urbanized City, Western Visayas: 2022 (in percent)



**Aklan registered the highest unemployment rate at 6.9 percent**

Among the provinces in Western Visayas, Aklan had the highest unemployment rate at 6.9 percent in 2022, followed by Bacolod City at 6.6 percent. On the other hand, Guimaras had the lowest unemployment rate with 3.4 percent. (Figure 12)

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, Labor Force Survey (LFS)

**Underemployment Rate in Western Visayas decreased from 20.4 percent to 16.3 percent in 2022**

Of the 3.4 million employed persons in the region in 2022, 16.3 percent were underemployed. This was lower by 4.1 percentage points from 20.4 percent posted in 2021.

Moreover, Region VI (Western Visayas) placed 6th among the highest underemployment rate at 16.3 percent, higher by 2.1 percentage points compared to the Philippines figure. Region XII (SOCCSKSARGEN) registered the highest underemployment rate at 23.8 percent, while Region X (Northern Mindanao) got the lowest rate at 8.9 percent. (Figures 13 and 14)

Figure 13. Underemployment Rate, Region VI: 2018-2022 (in percent)

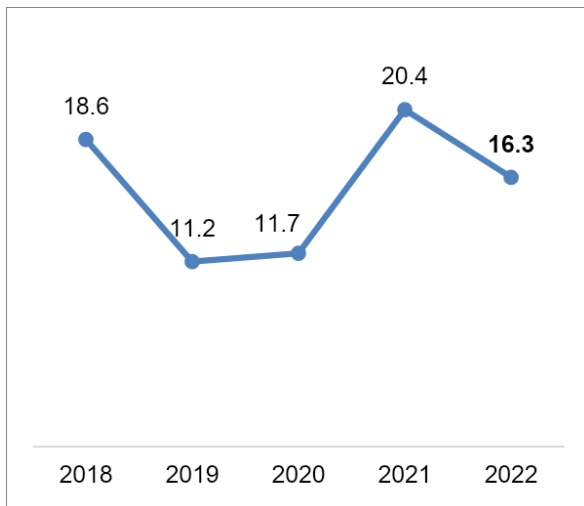
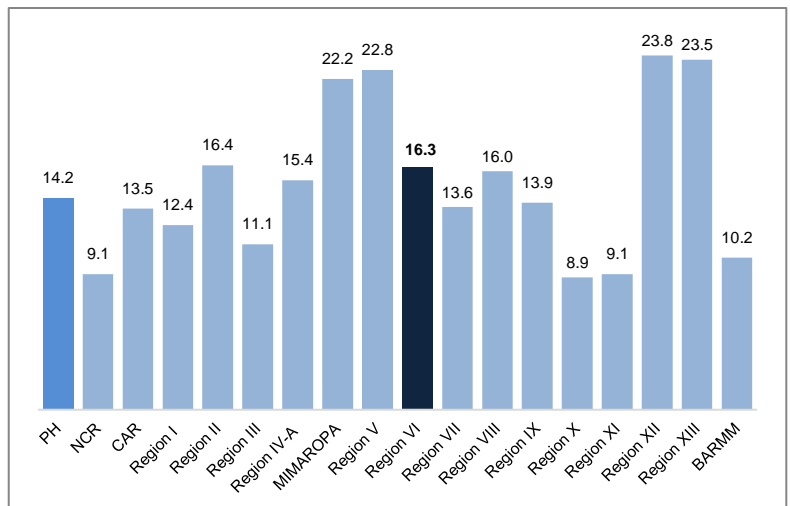


Figure 14. Underemployment Rate by Region, Philippines: 2022 (in percent)

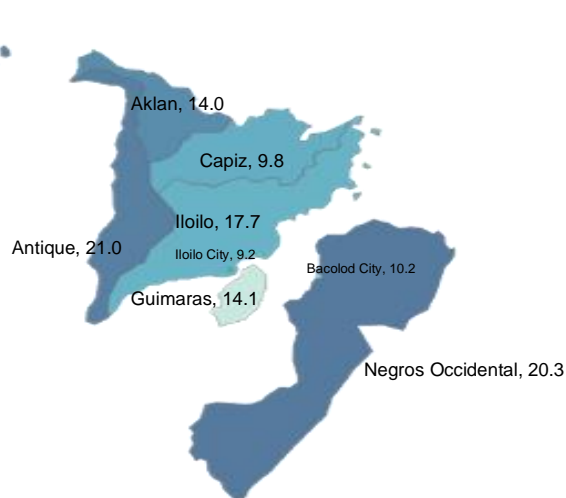


Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, Labor Force Survey (LFS)

**Antique recorded the highest underemployment rate at 21.0 percent**

Among the provinces and HUCs in Western Visayas, Antique had the highest underemployment rate at 21.0 percent, followed by Negros Occidental at 20.3 percent. Inversely, Iloilo City had the lowest underemployment rate with 9.2 percent in 2022. (Figure 15)

Figure 15. Underemployment Rate by Province, Highly Urbanized City, Western Visayas: 2022 (in percent)



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, Labor Force Survey (LFS)

## SUMMARY TABLES

Table 1. Total Persons in Labor Force, Employed Persons, Unemployed Persons and Underemployed Persons, Western Visayas: 2022 (in thousands)

Region/Province	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Underemployed
<b>Region VI- Western Visayas</b>	<b>3,557</b>	<b>3,372</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>548</b>
<b>Aklan</b>	261	243	18	34
<b>Antique</b>	282	272	10	57
<b>Capiz</b>	397	381	16	37
<b>Iloilo</b>	933	883	50	156
<b>Iloilo City</b>	219	208	11	19
<b>Negros Occidental</b>	1,113	1,053	60	213
<b>Bacolod City</b>	271	253	18	20
<b>Guimaras</b>	81	78	3	11

Note: Preliminary estimates based on the average of the four (4) LFS rounds (January, April, July, and October 2022)  
Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, Labor Force Survey (LFS)

Table 2. Labor Force Participation Rate, Employment Rate, Unemployment Rate and Underemployment Rate, Western Visayas: 2022 (in percent)

Region/Province	Labor Force Participation Rate	Employment Rate	Unemployment Rate	Underemployment Rate
<b>Region VI- Western Visayas</b>	<b>64.0</b>	<b>94.8</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>16.3</b>
<b>Aklan</b>	60.7	93.1	6.9	14.0
<b>Antique</b>	69.9	96.5	3.5	21.0
<b>Capiz</b>	68.0	96.0	4.0	9.8
<b>Iloilo</b>	64.4	94.6	5.4	17.7
<b>Iloilo City</b>	65.6	95.1	4.9	9.2
<b>Negros Occidental</b>	62.1	94.6	5.4	20.3
<b>Bacolod City</b>	62.2	93.4	6.6	8.0
<b>Guimaras</b>	62.1	96.7	3.4	14.1

Notes:

Preliminary estimates based on the average of the four (4) LFS rounds (January, April, July, and October 2022)

The methodology for the computation of annual estimates of labor and employment indicators is based on Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) Board Resolution No. 01 Series of 2017-151-Approving and Adopting the Official Methodology for Generating Annual Labor and Employment Estimates using the Average estimates of the four LFS rounds.

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, Labor Force Survey (LFS)

## CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

### a. Reference Period

The reference period for this survey is the “past week” referring to the past seven (7) days preceding the date of visit of the enumerator or the interviewer.

### b. 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. Overseas workers are excluded in the estimation of the size of working population (population ages 15 years and over) since the data on their economic characteristics are not collected because they are not considered part of the labor force in the country.

#### 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

Employed persons include all those who, during the reference period are 15 years old and over as of their last birthday, and 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

Underemployed persons include all employed persons who express 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. Visibly underemployed persons are those who work for less than 40 hours during the reference period and want additional hours of work.

#### 5. Unemployed

Starting April 2005, the new unemployment definition was adopted per NSCB Resolution Number 15 dated October 20, 2004. As indicated in the said resolution:

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;
- 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

Not seeking work due to the following reasons: (1) fatigued 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.



**NELIDA C. AMOLAR**  
(Chief Statistical Specialist)  
Officer-in-Charge  
PSA RSSO VI

MYA/APB/ERT