

REPORT ON LABOR FORCE SURVEY (JULY 2021)

HIGHLIGHTS

1. The labor force continues to recover as we build on the 11.8 percent economic growth recorded in the second quarter of 2021. The unemployment rate fell to its lowest since the start of the pandemic due to more relaxed quarantines, but risk aversion and precautionary behavior led to a decrease in the labor force participation rate. We will continue to strengthen our healthcare capacity, accelerate the vaccination program, and impose more targeted granular lockdowns to enable more people to safely join the labor force and earn a living.
2. The unemployment rate in the country decreased from 7.7 percent in June 2021 to 6.9 percent in July 2021.
3. A significant improvement was seen in the National Capital Region (NCR), where the unemployment rate dropped from 14.4 percent in April 2021 to 9.0 percent in July 2021 as the quarantine restrictions were eased from modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ) to variations of the general community quarantine (GCQ) from May 15 to July 31. In the same period, the unemployment rate in areas outside NCR (AONCR) also improved from 7.9 percent to 6.5 percent.
4. However, despite the improved unemployment rate, the reduction in the labor force participation rate from 65.0 percent to 59.8 percent resulted in a net job loss of 3.4 million from June to July, bringing total employment to 0.8 million below pre-pandemic level. Majority of those who left the labor force cited concerns around COVID-19 as the reason for not working at this time.

5. Meanwhile, the overall underemployment rate increased from 14.2 percent in June to 20.9 percent in July. This is mainly due to the increase in the underemployment rate in AONCR from 17.5 percent in April to 21.8 percent in July. In contrast, the underemployment rate in NCR declined from 15.5 percent in April to 14.8 percent in July.
6. With the recent spike of infections due to the spread of the more contagious Delta variant, the government will continue to adjust its risk management strategy and intensify its health response to save lives and protect the well-being of all Filipinos.

The unemployment rate in the country decreased from 7.7 percent in June 2021 to 6.9 percent in July 2021.

Table 1. Summary of labor and employment indicators, January 2020, April 2020, June 2021 and July 2021 (in thousands)

Indicators	2020 ^{a,b}			2021 ^{p,a}	
	Jan	Apr	Jul	June ^c	July ^b
Population 15 years and over	72,841	73,722	74,060	75,089	74,805
Labor Force Level	44,934	41,058	45,871	48,840	44,740
Employment Level	42,543	33,830	41,302	45,075	41,667
Unemployment Level	2,391	7,228	4,569	3,764	3,073
Underemployment Level	6,299	6,398	7,136	6,409	8,692
Visible Underemployment	3,799	5,489	5,160	4,412	4,518
Employment Generation (QoQ / MoM)	6	(8,713)	7,471	360 ^d	(3,408) ^d
Labor Force Participation Rate (%)	61.7	55.7	61.9	65.0	59.8
Employment Rate (%)	94.7	82.4	90.0	92.3	93.1
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.3	17.6	10.0	7.7	6.9
Underemployment Rate (%)	14.8	18.9	17.3	14.2	20.9
Visible Underemployment Rate (%)	8.9	16.2	12.5	9.8	10.8
Mean Hours of Work	41.3	35.0	38.2	39.0	41.8

^p Estimates are preliminary and may change; ^{a/} Estimates are based on 2015 CPH population projections;

^{b/} Estimates for the quarterly round of the LFS; ^{c/} Starting February 2021, monthly LFS will be conducted in between quarterly/regular LFS to generate national level labor and employment statistics from the survey;

^{d/} Increment from previous month; qoq – quarter on quarter difference

Source: Labor Force Survey (LFS), PSA

1. The July 2021 Labor Force Survey (LFS) showed a 3.4 million drop in total employment. This is the second-lowest employment level recorded this year and is lower compared to pre-pandemic employment levels in January 2020.
2. The sharpest employment decline month-on-month (m-o-m) came from the services sector (-1.8 million), particularly from wholesale and retail trade (-2.0

million), education (-214,000), and public administration (-182,000). The employment losses in wholesale and retail trade are consistent with the weaker business sentiments for the subsector in Q3 2021¹ and the continued increase in job displacements based on administrative data from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE). Between June and July, 114 firms in the subsector reported displacement of workers either due to permanent closure or retrenchment. The subsector was affected by the shift to ECQ and MECQ in some areas.^{2,3} Meanwhile, employment losses in education are due to the end-of-school in public schools.⁴

Table 2. Employment: January 2020 – July 2021

Indicators	2020 ^{a,b}				Jan ^b	2021 ^{p,a}					
	Jan	Apr	Jul	Oct ^p		Feb ^c	Mar ^c	Apr ^b	May ^c	Jun ^c	Jul ^b
Employment rate (in %)	94.7	82.4	90.0	91.3	91.3	91.2	92.9	91.3	92.3	92.3	93.1
Employment Growth (QoQ in %)	0.01	(20.5)	22.1	(3.6)	3.5	4.6 ^d	5.0 ^d	(4.5) ^d	3.3 ^d	0.8 ^d	(7.6) ^d
<i>Employment levels by sector (in thousands)</i>											
Agriculture	9,625	8,761	10,867	9,762	10,044	10,303	11,130	10,560	10,626	10,938	9,188
Industry	7,989	5,754	7,783	7,299	7,601	7,647	8,802	7,885	8,223	8,171	8,341
Manufacturing	3,634	2,699	3,373	3,028	3,140	3,276	3,560	3,420	3,548	3,502	3,539
Services	24,929	19,315	22,652	22,776	23,602	25,203	25,400	24,825	25,867	25,966	24,138

^p Estimates are preliminary and may change; ^{a/} Estimates are based on 2015 CPH population projections; ^{b/} Estimates for the quarterly round of the LFS; ^{c/} Starting February 2021, monthly LFS will be conducted in between quarterly/regular LFS to generate national level labor and employment statistics from the survey; ^{d/} Increment from previous month; qoq – quarter on quarter difference

Source: Labor Force Survey (LFS), PSA

Employment losses in the services sector were slightly tempered by employment gains from professional, scientific, and technical activities (+192,000), and administrative and support service activities (+180,000)

¹ Business Expectations Survey Q2 2021 (bsp.gov.ph)

² IATF Resolution No. 127-E.docx (officialgazette.gov.ph)

³ IATF Resolution No. 124.docx (officialgazette.gov.ph)

⁴ On the End-Of-School Year Rites | Department of Education (deped.gov.ph)

reflective of the continued expansion of the business process outsourcing industry.⁵ Both subsectors also registered higher employment levels compared to July 2020 and pre-pandemic (January 2020) period. Relative to the previous month, transportation and storage also recorded an increase in employment (+123,000), which corresponds to the higher mobility recorded in Metro Manila for the month of July as the region shifted to more relaxed quarantine restrictions.^{6,7,8}

3. Similarly, the agriculture sector registered a net employment loss of almost 1.8 million. Employment fell both in agriculture and forestry (-1.5 million) and fishing and aquaculture (-207,000), owing to bad weather conditions brought by the southwest monsoon and typhoons Emong and Fabian destroying some PHP700 million worth of output, and affected multiple regions from Northern Luzon down to Western Visayas. The decrease in output is also reflected in the faster vegetable inflation of 15.7 percent in August 2021 from 5.0 percent in the previous month. Moreover, the African Swine Fever (ASF)^{9,10} continues to affect hog raisers as quarter-on-quarter (q-o-q) hog production fell to 284,000 metric tons (MT), below the Department of Agriculture's (DA) projection of 299,000 MT for the second quarter.
4. In contrast, the industry sector recorded an increase in employment m-o-m (+170,000) across all subsectors except in electricity, gas, steam, and airconditioning (-5,000). Five firms under this subsector reported having retrenched workers while another firm permanently closed.¹¹

On the other hand, construction recorded 105,000 additional employment, followed by manufacturing (+36,000), water supply (+19,000), and mining and quarrying (+14,000). Employment in construction remained higher than the pre-pandemic levels in January 2020 owing to the accelerated implementation

⁵ BPO office demand grows 160%, strong indicator of recovery | Philippine News Agency (pna.gov.ph)

⁶ IATF Resolution No. 127-E.docx (officialgazette.gov.ph)

⁷ IATF Resolution No. 124.docx (officialgazette.gov.ph)

⁸ 2021-09-01_PH_Mobility_Report_en.pdf (gstatic.com)

⁹ ASF plagues another Leyte town | Philippine News Agency (pna.gov.ph)

¹⁰ ASF detected in Davao de Oro town | Philippine News Agency (pna.gov.ph)

¹¹ DOLE's Job Displacement Report

of the government's Build, Build, Build program¹²,¹³ Meanwhile, the Purchasing Manager's Index (PMI) remained higher than the threshold at 50.4 in July, signaling minor expansion in operations.¹⁴ The optimistic outlook from the policy boost and increased demand have also helped generate more jobs in the mining and quarrying and manufacturing sectors.¹⁵

5. Employment losses during the period were primarily observed in major occupations requiring low to medium-level skills, particularly among elementary occupations¹⁶ (-2.2 million), service and sales workers¹⁷ (-1.4 million), and skilled agricultural, forestry, and fishery workers (-640,000).

On the other hand, the following occupation groups registered net employment growth: craft and related trade workers¹⁸ (+389,000), managers (+375,000), and technicians and associate professionals (+284,000).

6. By class of worker, the proportion of vulnerable employment (*i.e.*, unpaid family workers [-2.3 million] and self-employed without any paid employee [-2.0 million]) to total employment showed a significant improvement from 37.2 percent in June 2021 to 30.0 percent in July 2021, or 4.3 million less vulnerable employed individuals. The reduction in vulnerable employment was mostly in agriculture and forestry (-2.3 million), and wholesale and retail trade (-1.9 million). Meanwhile, wage and salary workers (+679,000) and employer in own family-operated farm or business (+216,000) posted employment gains during the period. These classes of workers were able to surpass pre-pandemic employment levels.

¹² 'Build, Build, Build': Paving the way to progress | Philippine News Agency (pna.gov.ph)

¹³ 24 infra flagship projects seen to create over 300K jobs | Philippine News Agency (pna.gov.ph)

¹⁴ IHS Markit Philippines Manufacturing PMI (markiteconomics.com)

¹⁵ Mining sector recovery seen on resurgence of demand | Philippine News Agency (pna.gov.ph)

¹⁶ Elementary occupations involve the performance of simple and routine tasks which may require the use of hand-held tools and considerable physical effort.

¹⁷ Service and sales workers provide personal and protective services related to travel, housekeeping, catering, personal care, or protection against fire and unlawful acts, or demonstrate and sell goods in wholesale or retail shops and similar establishments, as well as at stalls and on markets.

¹⁸ Craft and related trades workers apply specific knowledge and skills in the fields to construct and maintain buildings, form metal, erect metal structures, set machine tools, or make, fit, maintain and repair machinery, equipment or tools, carry out printing work produce or process foodstuffs, textiles, or wooden, metal and other equipment or tools, carry out printing work produce or process foodstuffs, textiles, or wooden, metal and other articles, including handicraft goods.

7. By nature of employment, the recorded losses m-o-m are largely permanent (-3.9 million), concentrated in agriculture and forestry (-1.7 million) and wholesale and retail trade (-1.5 million). On the other hand, some permanent jobs were also created in professional, scientific, and technical activities (+154,000); administrative and support service activities (+149,000); and accommodation and food service activities (+78,000).

Meanwhile, 222,000 short-term jobs were created in July, specifically in construction (+166,000), public administration (+153,000), and transportation and storage (+143,000). Short-term jobs in public administration may be attributed to the hiring of contact tracers and continued implementation of DOLE's *Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Displaced/Disadvantaged Workers*.^{19,20} The increase in short-term jobs was also moderated by losses from wholesale and retail trade (-554,000).

8. In terms of hours of work, full-time employment²¹ increased by 4.0 percent or equivalent to 1.1 million individuals, with agriculture and forestry (+855,000), and construction (+371,000) contributing to the increase. Overall, the mean hours of work increased to 41.8 in July 2021, the highest since the pandemic.
9. Geographically, 12 out of 17 regions posted a decline in employment for July 2021 compared to April 2021. The largest declines in employment were recorded in Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) (-603,000), Central Visayas (-377,000), and Northern Mindanao (-312,000). Meanwhile, employment gains were recorded in Central Luzon (+209,000), NCR (+183,000), Cagayan Valley (+113,000), Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) (+34,000), and CALABARZON (+13,000). Provinces and cities in these regions had less restrictive quarantine status in July.

¹⁹ DOLE extends employment of NCR contact tracers for 2 months | Philippine News Agency (pna.gov.ph)

²⁰ Cebuano workers benefit from P25.8-M aid from DOLE | Philippine News Agency (pna.gov.ph)

²¹ worked 40 hours or more

The national underemployment rate rose to 20.9 percent in the month of July 2021, as some areas in Visayas and Mindanao were placed under stricter community quarantine classifications²² while monsoon rains affected Luzon.²³ Almost all regions outside of NCR saw an increase in underemployment, which climbed to 21.8 percent.

10. The number of underemployed²⁴ increased by almost 2.3 million workers, pushing up the underemployment rate from 14.2 percent in June to 20.9 percent in July. For AONCR, the underemployment rate also increased q-o-q from 17.5 percent in April to 21.8 percent in July.

Table 3. Underemployment rates, January 2020 – July 2021 (in percent)

Area	2020 ^{a,b}				2021 ^{p,a}						
	Jan	Apr	Jul	Oct ^p	Jan ^b	Feb ^c	Mar ^c	Apr ^b	May ^c	Jun ^c	Jul ^b
National	14.8	18.9	17.3	14.4	16.0	18.2	16.2	17.2	12.3	14.2	20.9
AONCR	16.7	20.3	18.1	14.2	17.1	N/A	N/A	17.5	N/A	N/A	21.8

^p Estimates are preliminary and may change; ^{a/} Estimates are based on 2015 CPH population projections; ^{b/} Estimates for quarterly round of the LFS; ^{c/} Starting February 2021, monthly LFS will be conducted in between quarterly/regular LFS to generate national level labor and employment statistics from the survey

Source: Labor Force Survey (LFS), PSA

11. Overall, underemployment grew in all sectors. The services sector posted the largest increase in the number of underemployed workers (+1.2 million), mainly from wholesale and retail trade (+270,000) and transportation and storage (+253,000) subsectors, as more stringent quarantine measures subdued activities towards the latter half of July.²⁵

²² July community quarantine classifications finalized | retrieved from: https://pcoo.gov.ph/news_releases/july-community-quarantine-classifications-finalized/

²³ Agroclimatic / AGROCLIMATIC / CROP CONDITION ASSESSMENT FOR JULY 2021 | Retrieved from: <http://bagong.pagasa.dost.gov.ph/agri-weather/impact-assessment-for-agriculture>

²⁴ Employed individuals who want more work

²⁵ COVID-19: Google Mobility Trends | retrieved from: <https://ourworldindata.org/covid-google-mobility-trends>

Underemployment in the industry sector also increased by 691,000, mostly from construction (+352,000) and manufacturing (+286,000). Similarly, the agriculture sector registered 394,000 additional underemployed workers from both the agriculture and forestry (+346,000) and fishing and aquaculture (+48,000) subsectors as monsoon rains brought heavy rains and flooding in Luzon. Taal Volcano's heightened geologic activities also affected fishing operations in nearby towns early in July.²⁶

12. Most of the additional underemployment in July was from invisibly underemployed workers²⁷ (+2.2 million). The majority of those working 49 hours or more per week cited wanting more earnings as the reason for their hours of work. Meanwhile, invisible underemployment²⁸ also increased by 106,000 workers despite improvements in the mean hours of work and the number of full-time workers.
13. By class of worker, underemployment increased among wage and salary workers (+1.9 million), self-employed without any paid employee (+338,000), and employers in own family-operated farm or business (+135,000). On the contrary, underemployment among unpaid family workers diminished by 123,000 from the previous month.
14. In terms of geographic location, underemployment rates increased in most regions compared to April 2021. The underemployment rate worsened the most in Region VIII (12.2 percentage points [ppts]), followed by Region V (10.1 ppts) and Region II (10.0 ppts). Region VIII was affected by red tide infestation²⁹ and the spread of ASF.³⁰ Meanwhile, Regions II and V experienced below normal harvest yields due to adverse weather conditions.³¹ On the other hand, declines in underemployment were seen in Caraga (-5.6 ppts) and NCR (-0.7 ppts) given the more relaxed quarantine restrictions in July.

²⁶ DA readies aid for Taal fishers, Batangas farmers | Retrieved from: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1146160>

²⁷ Invisible underemployment are persons working at least 40 hours and still want additional hours of work

²⁸ Visible underemployment are persons who are working less than 40 hours per week and want more hours of work

²⁹ Red tide hits anew Samar's San Pedro Bay | Retrieved from: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1148499>

³⁰ ASF plagues another Leyte town | Retrieved from: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1145734>

³¹ Ibid.

The unemployment rate in July 2021 further eased to 6.9 percent from 7.7 percent in June 2021, with notable declines across all age groups.

15. The gradual opening of the economy, especially in Metro Manila, translated to about 691,000 less unemployed persons (-0.8 ppts) in July 2021 compared to June 2021. Unemployment among women declined by 457,000, while there were 234,000 fewer unemployed men. The recorded 3.1 million unemployed in July 2021 is also 32.7 percent less (-1.5 million) on a year-on-year basis.
16. Compared to June 2021, unemployment across all age groups declined, particularly among the younger age cohorts: 25 to 34 years old (-316,000), 15 to 24 years old (-144, 000), and 35 to 44 years old (-139,000). Overall, the latest unemployment level remains higher by 682,000 relative to the pre-pandemic figures in January 2020.

Further, the slight increases among those unemployed who cited valid reasons for not looking for work, such as COVID-19 or community quarantines (+13,300), temporary illness (+19,300), bad weather (+27,000), and belief that no work is available (+84,000), were largely offset by the reduced number of those who looked for work (-609,000).

Table 4. Unemployment Rates: January 2020 – July 2021 (in percent)

Indicator	2020 ^{a,b}				2021 ^{p,a}						
	Jan	Apr	Jul	Oct ^p	Jan ^b	Feb ^c	Mar ^c	Apr ^b	May ^c	Jun ^c	Jul ^b
Overall	5.3	17.6	10.0	8.7	8.7	8.8	7.1	8.7	7.7	7.7	6.9
15-24	13.6	31.5	22.4	19.4	19.8	18.5	15.4	15.8	14.5	14.5	15.4
25-54	4.0	16.0	8.1	7.3	7.4	7.5	6.0	8.1	6.9	7.1	5.9
55 & over	2.0	10.5	4.3	4.3	3.7	4.8	2.9	4.2	4.2	3.3	3.3

^p Estimates are preliminary and may change; ^a Estimates are based on 2015 CPH population projections; ^b Estimates for quarterly round of the LFS; ^c Starting February 2021, monthly LFS will be conducted in between quarterly/regular LFS to generate national level labor and employment statistics from the survey

Source: Labor Force Survey (LFS), PSA

17. With the large decline in the participation rate of young people, the youth unemployment rate inched up to 15.4 percent in July 2021. In terms of educational attainment, unemployment decreased across the board in July 2021, particularly among college (-1.8 ppts, -285,000) and junior high school graduates (-1.4 ppts, -259,000). Meanwhile, increases were observed among post-secondary undergraduates (+3.8 ppts, +53,000) and senior high school undergraduates (+5.7 ppts, +18,000) and graduates (+3.5 ppts, +15,000).
18. A significant improvement was seen in NCR, where the unemployment rate fell from 14.4 percent in April 2021 to 9.0 percent in July 2021 as quarantine restrictions were eased. Moreover, in AONCR, the unemployment rate also improved from 7.9 percent to 6.6 percent in the same period.

Table 5. Comparison of the latest unemployment rates³² across selected Asian economies

Indicator	Unemployment Rate	Month released
China ^a	3.9	Mar 2021
India ^b	9.7	Apr-June 2021
Indonesia ^c	6.3	Feb 2021
Malaysia ^b	4.6	Apr-June 2021
Philippines	6.9	July 2021
Vietnam ^a	2.6	June 2021

Notes: a/ Unemployment in these countries is reported quarterly (March, June, September, December); b/ Unemployment in these countries is reported monthly; c/ Indonesia unemployment is reported semi-annually (February and August)

³² <https://www.ceicdata.com/en/indicator/china/unemployment-rate>; <https://unemploymentinindia.cmie.com/>; <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/11/05/unemployment-surges-to-decade-high-as-covid-19-causes-millions-to-lose-jobs.html>; <https://www.economy.com/malaysia/unemployment-rate>; <https://www.ceicdata.com/en/indicator/thailand/unemployment-rate>; <https://www.ceicdata.com/en/indicator/vietnam/unemployment-rate>

19. The country's unemployment rate continues to be relatively high compared to major Asian emerging economies, except for India which experienced a massive surge of COVID-19 cases in recent months.

The reduction in the labor force participation rate from 65.0 percent to 59.8 percent resulted in a net job loss of 3.4 million from June to July, bringing total employment to 0.8 million below pre-pandemic level. Majority of those who left the labor force cited concerns around COVID-19 as the reason for not working at this time.

20. Relative to June 2021, the total labor force contracted by about 4.1 million (-5.2 ppts), spread across all age groups, with the younger cohort recording the most number of declines: 15 to 24 years old (-1.4 million), 25 to 34 years old (-712,000) and 35 to 44 years old (-652,000). The decrease was also more pronounced among females (-2.5 million) than males (-1.6 million).

21. By educational attainment, the senior high school (+3.5 ppts), junior high school (+3.3 ppts), and post-secondary (+2.6 ppts) undergraduates recorded increased LFPR relative to their pre-pandemic level in January 2020.

Table 6. LFPR, January 2020 – July 2021 (in percent)

Indicator	2020 ^{a,b}				2021 ^{p,a}						
	Jan	Apr	Jul	Oct ^p	Jan ^b	Feb ^c	Mar ^c	Apr ^b	May ^c	Jun ^c	Jul ^b
LFPR (total)	61.7	55.7	61.9	58.7	60.5	63.5	65.0	63.2	64.6	65.0	59.8
Youth	37.4	32.4	38.9	33.9	34.7	37.7	40.1	38.2	38.4	39.8	33.3
Male	74.8	69.8	75.3	72.3	73.9	75.9	76.8	75.0	76.1	76.3	72.4
Female	48.4	41.5	48.5	45.0	46.9	50.9	53.1	51.4	52.9	53.7	47.1

^p Estimates are preliminary and may change; ^a/Estimates are based on 2015 CPH population projections; ^b/ Estimates for quarterly round of the LFS; ^c Starting February 2021, monthly LFS will be conducted in between quarterly/regular LFS to generate national level labor and employment statistics from the survey

Source: Labor Force Survey (LFS), PSA

22. The number of persons not in the labor force (NILF) increased by 3.8 million m-o-m, the majority of whom (27% or 1.0 million) cited COVID-19 or community quarantine as reasons for opting out of the labor force. More people opted to stay home given the recent spike of infections due to the spread of the more contagious Delta variant. Meanwhile, others cited age limitations (i.e., too young or old) and permanent disability (+657,000), household duties (+566,000), others (+584,000), temporary illness/disability (+273,000), and schooling (+261,000) as reasons for not joining the labor force.
23. Meanwhile, labor force participation relative to the past quarter remained buoyant in some regions, especially in Central Luzon (+0.3 ppts or +88,000), Cagayan Valley (+1.4 ppts or +41,000), and CAR (+1.0 ppts or +17,000). The rest of the regions showed a decline in LFPR during the period, with BARMM (-11.5 ppts), Northern Mindanao (-10.4 ppts), Zamboanga Peninsula (-7.8 ppts), and Central Visayas (-7.5 ppts) recording the steepest declines.

The share of economically inactive youth went up to 17.5 percent in July 2021 from 16.3 percent in April 2021.

24. The proportion and number of youth not in education, employment, nor training (NEET) climbed to 17.5 percent (equivalent to 3.5 million) in July compared to 16.3 percent (equivalent to 3.3 million) in April. Majority of the increase came from the number of youth NEET not in the labor force. Most cited COVID-19 and community restrictions (137,000) and other reasons (190,000) as reasons for not looking for work. The completion of the school year in July caused a temporary increase in youth NEET.³³

³³ Public schools may hold graduation, moving up rites in July | Retrieved from: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1141405>

**Table 7. Share of youth NEE and NEET to total youth population:
January 2020 - April 2021 (in percent)**

Indicator	2020 ^{a,b}				2021 ^{p,a,b}		
	Jan	Apr	Jul	Oct ^p	Jan	Apr	Jul
Share of youth NEE (%)	17.1	25.3	11.4	20.6	19.6	16.4	17.8
Share of youth NEET (%)	16.9	25.2	11.4	20.4	19.4	16.3	17.5

^p Estimates are preliminary and may change; ^a/Estimates are based on 2015 CPH population projections; ^b/ Estimates for quarterly round of the LFS, no estimates for monthly round

Source: Labor Force Survey (LFS), PSA

With the recent spike of infections due to the spread of the more contagious Delta variant, the government will continue to adjust its risk management strategy and intensify its health response to save lives and protect the well-being of all Filipinos.

25. **The government will shift to risk-managed restrictions on areas and establishments, while keeping low-risk areas and sectors open.** Granular lockdowns for high-risk areas will cover streets, buildings, and houses. Establishments will be allowed to operate following the 3Cs framework – closed spaces, crowds, and close contact activity. This policy shift will be piloted in NCR prior to its national roll-out. This policy shift aims to bring back jobs lost due to blanket restrictions. This will be complemented by better implementation of the Prevent, Detect, Isolate, Treat, and Reintegrate + Vaccinate (PDITR+V) strategy which will help curb the spread of the virus and ensure that people can continue reporting to work safely. Establishments are likewise encouraged to innovate and adopt digital solutions to ensure business continuity.
26. **The vaccination program will be further accelerated to cover 70 million Filipinos or the entire adult population by the end of the year.** As of September 5, 2021, 20.8 million and 15.0 million Filipinos have received their

first and second doses, respectively. More than a quarter of the targeted population of essential economic workers have received at least one dose. Aside from this, 142 million vaccines are expected to arrive in the remaining months of 2021. This will help build consumer and business confidence, translating to increased employment and income opportunities.

27. **Structural reforms need to be pursued to provide the country with a strong foundation for growth beyond the pandemic.** The government will continue pursuing structural reforms to provide the country with a strong foundation for growth beyond the pandemic, such as the Philippine Identification System, which has registered more than 41.9 million Filipinos to the demographic data capture as of September 3, 2021. Aside from this, the National Employment Recovery Strategy (NERS) adopted through Executive Order No. 140 will also complement ongoing efforts to generate and preserve jobs while supporting existing and emerging businesses. Other supportive legislations include the amendments to the Foreign Investment Act, Retail Trade Liberalization Act, and Public Service Act. Together with the immediate interventions to address the COVID-19 pandemic, these reforms will help bring us back to pre-pandemic levels in end 2022 or early 2023 and restore our development trajectory.