

REPORT ON LABOR FORCE SURVEY (DECEMBER 2021)

HIGHLIGHTS

1. The unemployment rate slightly increased to 6.6 percent in December 2021 from 6.5 percent in November 2021.
2. However, this was more than offset by the larger increase in the labor force participation rate (LFPR), which improved to 65.1 percent from 64.2 percent. This meant that around 800,000 more people were able to find work as mobility restrictions were relaxed in December. This brings net employment creation to 3.7 million above pre-pandemic levels.
3. The underemployment rate also declined to 14.7 percent in December compared to 16.7 percent in November, as the quality of jobs further improved.
4. By accelerating the vaccination program and safely reopening more sectors of the economy, more and better jobs were generated for the people. These gains can be sustained in 2022 given the containment of the Omicron spread and reversion to alert level 2 for the National Capital Region and several provinces.
5. The government's progress in implementing the 10-point policy agenda of the Economic Development Cluster (EDC) will help bring back more employment opportunities, especially in hard-hit sectors like tourism and education.
6. Under Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) Resolution No. 159, the COVID-19 risk classification of countries under "green", "yellow", and "red" categories was temporarily suspended. Starting February 10, 2022, fully-vaccinated Filipinos and international tourists from visa-free countries are only required to show a 48-hour negative RT-PCR test result prior to departure from their

country of origin. International arriving passengers that meet these requirements are no longer required to undergo facility-based quarantine. This will help support the tourism industry's recovery and return tourism-related employment.

7. Moreover, the expansion of the vaccination program to the pediatric population will help pave the way for the resumption of face-to-face classes and restore employment in the education sector.

Table 1. Summary of labor and employment indicators, January 2020, April 2020, FY 2020, November 2021, December 2021 and FY 2021 (in thousands)

Indicators	2020 ^{a,b}			2021 ^{p,a}		
	Jan	Apr	FY	Nov ^c	Dec ^c	FY ^f
Population 15 years and over	72,841	73,722	73,732	75,701	76,123	75,237
Labor Force Level	44,934	41,058	43,878	48,637	49,546	47,685
Employment Level	42,543	33,830	39,378	45,477	46,274	43,989
Unemployment Level	2,391	7,228	4,500	3,159	3,272	3,697
Underemployment Level	6,299	6,398	6,395	7,617	6,811	6,996
Visible Underemployment	3,799	5,489	4,513	5,242	4,556	4,717
Employment Generation (QoQ / MoM/ YoY)	6	(8,713)	(2,583) ^e	1,651 ^d	797 ^d	4,611 ^e
Labor Force Participation Rate (%)	61.7	55.7	59.5	64.2	65.1	63.4
Employment Rate (%)	94.7	82.4	89.7	93.5	93.4	92.2
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.3	17.6	10.3	6.5	6.6	7.8
Underemployment Rate (%)	14.8	18.9	16.2	16.7	14.7	15.9
Visible Underemployment Rate (%)	8.9	16.2	11.5	11.5	9.8	10.7
Mean Hours of Work	41.3	35.0	38.8	39.6	39.7	39.5

^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 or regular LFS to generate national-level labor and employment statistics from the survey; ^d Increment from previous month; qoq – quarter on quarter difference; ^e yoy – year on year difference; ^f annual figures are NEDA estimates, based on the average of the monthly LFS results - official FY estimates will be released by the PSA in March.

Source: Labor Force Survey (LFS), PSA

The LFPR further improved to 65.1 percent in December 2021, the highest LFPR recorded for 2021.

8. The total labor force grew by 1.9 percent relative to the previous month, equivalent to an additional 910,000 individuals in the labor force or 0.8 percentage point (ppt) increase in the LFPR. The increase in the labor force can be observed across all age groups except among the youth, which declined by 0.7 ppt (-136,000). Furthermore, the increase in LFPR is more pronounced among females (+810,000) than in males (+100,000).
9. As a result, the number of persons not in the labor force (NILF) dropped by 487,000 month-on-month (m-o-m), as fewer individuals cited household duties (-424,000), age limitations (*i.e.*, too young or too old) and permanent disability (-308,000), and COVID-19-related concerns (-147,000) for staying out of the labor force. The decrease in NILF was also tempered by the increase in persons, mostly among young people, who opted out of the labor force due to schooling (+412,000).
10. Meanwhile, considering FY 2020 and 2021 figures, the overall decline in NILF (-2.3 million) is attributed to the notable decrease among those who cited household duties (-2.5 million) and COVID-19-related concerns (-1.3 million), which was offset by the increase among those who cited schooling (+834,000) and age limitations or permanent disability (+286,000) for not joining the labor force. This trend is likely due to the widespread adoption of flexible working arrangements, which enabled persons, especially women, to manage duties at home and work.¹ Another factor is the increase in alternative learning modes and technologies for delivering education amid the pandemic, especially for young people.²

¹ ILO and Australia Aid. 2020. COVID-19 labour market impact in the Philippines: Assessment and national policy responses. Retrieved from https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-manila/documents/publication/wcms_762209.pdf

² Joaquin, J., Biana, H., Dacela, M. 2020. The Philippine Higher Education Sector in the Time of COVID-19. Retrieved from <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/feduc.2020.576371/full>

Table 2. LFPR, January 2020 - December 2021 (in percent)

Indicator	2020 ^{a,b}					2021 ^{p,a}												
	Jan	Apr	Jul	Oct ^p	FY	Jan ^b	Feb ^c	Mar ^c	Apr ^b	May ^c	Jun ^c	Jul ^b	Aug ^c	Sep ^c	Oct ^b	Nov ^c	Dec ^c	FY ^d
LFPR (total)	61.7	55.7	61.9	58.7	59.5	60.5	63.5	65.0	63.2	64.6	65.0	59.8	63.6	63.3	62.6	64.2	65.1	63.4
Youth	37.4	32.4	38.9	33.9	35.7	34.7	37.7	40.1	38.2	38.4	39.8	33.3	37.8	35.8	35.7	37.5	36.7	37.2
Male	74.8	69.8	75.3	72.3	73.0	73.9	76.0	76.8	75.0	76.1	76.3	72.4	75.8	75.5	74.9	76.1	76.1	75.4
Female	48.4	41.5	48.5	45.0	45.8	46.9	50.9	53.1	51.4	52.9	53.7	47.1	51.4	51.1	50.2	52.3	54.0	51.3

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Source: LFS, PSA

Overall, labor market outcomes continued to improve, with total employment level increasing by 797,000 from the previous month.

11. The December 2021 round of the LFS exhibited more encouraging results compared to the previous month, as total employment reached 46.3 million. This is 3.7 million higher than the pre-pandemic (January 2020) employment level.
12. The bulk of employment generated m-o-m came from the agriculture sector (+673,000), primarily from agriculture and forestry (+1.1 million). The subsector remained robust despite the PHP 11.4 billion damage caused by Typhoon Odette.³ However, amid the closed fishing season in North Palawan and Visayan Sea,^{4,5} the typhoon affected the livelihood of fisherfolk, as those living near the sea were evacuated and fishponds, cages, boats, and other fishing gears were damaged by the typhoon.⁶ These have likely contributed to the employment decline in fishing and aquaculture (-393,000). Nonetheless, the

³ Agri, infra damage due to 'Odette' hit over P29-B | Philippine News Agency (pna.gov.ph)

⁴ 3-month closed fishing season in north Palawan starts Nov. 1 | Philippine News Agency (pna.gov.ph)

⁵ Fishing in Visayan Sea prohibited until Feb. 15, 2022: BFAR | Philippine News Agency (pna.gov.ph)

⁶ 'Odette' leaves P1-B damage to agri, fisheries in Surigao Norte | Philippine News Agency (pna.gov.ph)

sustained growth of the sector as a whole has led to a net employment creation of 2.2 million compared to January 2020.

Table 3. Employment: January 2020 - December 2021

Indicators	2020 ^{a,b}					2021 ^{p,a}												
	Jan	Apr	Jul	Oct ^p	FY	Jan ^b	Feb ^c	Mar ^c	Apr ^b	May ^c	Jun ^c	Jul ^b	Aug ^c	Sep ^c	Oct ^{cb}	Nov ^c	Dec ^c	FY ^f
Employment rate (in %)	94.7	82.4	90.0	91.3	89.7	91.3	91.2	92.9	91.3	92.3	92.3	93.1	91.9	91.1	92.6	93.5	93.4	92.2
Employment growth (QoQ in %)	0.01	(20.5)	22.1	(3.5)	(6.2) ^e	3.5	4.6 ^d	5.0 ^d	(4.5) ^d	3.3 ^d	0.8 ^d	(7.6) ^d	6.2 ^d	(1.5) ^d	0.5 ^d	3.8 ^d	1.8 ^d	11.7 ^e
<i>Employment levels by sector (in millions)</i>																		
Agriculture	9.63	8.76	10.87	9.76	9.75	10.04	10.30	11.13	10.56	10.63	10.94	9.19	11.10	10.25	10.77	11.16	11.83	10.66
Industry	7.99	5.75	7.78	7.30	7.21	7.60	7.65	8.80	7.89	8.22	8.17	8.34	8.37	8.17	7.82	7.91	8.24	8.10
Manufacturing	3.63	2.70	3.37	3.03	3.18	3.14	3.28	3.56	3.42	3.55	3.50	3.54	3.71	3.37	3.33	3.37	3.69	3.45
Services	24.93	19.32	22.65	22.78	22.42	23.60	25.20	25.40	24.83	25.87	25.97	24.14	24.76	25.18	25.24	26.41	26.21	25.23

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Source: LFS, PSA

13. Similarly, industry employment grew by +4.1 percent (or +326,000) mostly from manufacturing (+325,000), followed by mining and quarrying (+54,000) and construction (+16,000). The expansion of the industry sector is consistent with buoyant business sentiments for Q4 2021 due to the holiday season, supported by more relaxed quarantine restrictions and the accelerated vaccine rollout.⁷ The IHS Markit Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) registered a slight uptick from 51.7 in November to 51.8 in December as operating conditions strengthened.⁸ Relatedly, construction projects were in full swing for most parts of the month, with reconstruction efforts being fast-

⁷ Business Expectations Survey Q4 2021 (bsp.gov.ph)

⁸ IHS Markit Philippines Manufacturing PMI December 2021 (markiteconomics.com)

tracked during the latter half.⁹ On the other hand, employment contracted in the electricity (-66,000) and water (-2,000) subsectors, particularly among those in remunerative work.

Given the significant gains in December, total employment in the industry sector surpassed the pre-pandemic (January 2020) level by 247,000.

14. In contrast, the services sector recorded a drop in employment (-202,000) m-o-m, which largely stemmed from other service activities (-289,000), education (-217,000), public administration (-80,000), and information and communication (-78,000). Employment losses in these subsectors were prevalent among wage and salary workers. For other service activities and information and communication, the employment decline was consistent with the Department of Labor and Employment's (DOLE) administrative data where more workers were reportedly retrenched or displaced due to permanent closure of firms. Due to the nature of work, employment in these subsectors may have been highly affected by work suspensions, loss of livelihood, and power outages due to Typhoon Odette.¹⁰

Employment gains in health (+165,000), transportation (+146,000), and administrative and support services (+127,000) moderated employment losses in the sector. With more relaxed quarantine restrictions and higher operating capacity during the holiday season, the expansion of transportation was highly anticipated. Meanwhile, employment generated in administrative and support services was in line with the opportunities in the business process outsourcing sector that were advertised by DOLE in their hybrid job fairs.¹¹

15. The proportion of vulnerable employment (*i.e.*, self-employed and unpaid family workers) to total employment grew from 35.8 percent in November 2021

⁹ P10-B for post-'Odette' reconstruction works: PRRD | Philippine News Agency (pna.gov.ph)

¹⁰ NDRRMC reports 'huge' damage from 'Odette' | Philippine News Agency (pna.gov.ph)

¹¹ 15k jobs up for grabs at DOLE anniversary 'hybrid' fairs | Department of Labor and Employment

to 36.4 percent in December 2021. By level, vulnerable employment increased by 568,000 m-o-m, mostly from agriculture and forestry and manufacturing subsectors. Nonetheless, employers (+163,000) and wage and salary workers (+67,000) likewise increased.

16. By occupation group, the bulk of employment gains m-o-m were among the following: skilled agricultural workers (+473,000), managers (+162,000), service and sales workers¹² (+148,000), elementary occupations¹³ (+127,000), and plant and machine operators (+111,000). However, these were tempered by an employment decline among professionals (-236,000).
17. Notably, employment generated during the period was permanent in nature (+1.2 million), with the bulk still from agriculture and forestry (+860,000), transportation (+278,000), and manufacturing (+271,000). Meanwhile, short-term employment recorded a downturn relative to the previous month, mostly from other service activities (-239,000) and wholesale and retail trade (-235,000). Those who reported to have different employers also marginally declined by 5,000.

Compared to the previous month, the national underemployment rate dropped by 2 ppt to 14.7 percent in December 2021, with improvements observed in both visible and invisible underemployment.

¹² 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.

¹³ Elementary occupations involve the performance of simple and routine tasks which may require the use of hand-held tools and considerable physical effort.

18. Full-time employment¹⁴ increased by 617,000 m-o-m, particularly among wage and salary workers in private establishments (+922,000) and employers (+96,000). The increase in full-time employment slightly pushed up the mean hours of work to 39.7 in December 2021, from 39.6 in November 2021.

Similarly, part-time employment increased by 253,000 primarily among the self-employed (+363,000) and unpaid workers (+379,000).

19. The number of underemployed¹⁵ workers declined by 806,000 relative to November 2021, mostly coming from the services (-555,000) and agriculture (-352,000) sectors. Meanwhile, the industry sector registered 101,000 more underemployed workers, mainly in manufacturing (+141,000). This is also consistent with DOLE administrative data showing an increase in the number of workers under flexible work arrangements in manufacturing.¹⁶ All these bring up the underemployment rate to 14.7 percent, or equivalent to 6.8 million underemployed workers.

20. The bulk of the decrease in underemployment were among those who are visibly underemployed,¹⁷ particularly in services (-393,000) and agriculture (-267,000). Meanwhile, underemployment improved across all classes of workers relative to the previous month. Most of the decline came from wage and salary workers (-417,000), followed by the self-employed (-259,000), unpaid workers (-112,000), and employers (-18,000).

Table 4. Underemployment rates, January 2020 - December 2021 (in percent)

Area	2020 ^{a,b}					2021 ^{p,a}													
	Jan	Apr	Jul	Oct ^p	FY	Jan ^b	Feb ^c	Mar ^c	Apr ^b	May ^c	Jun ^c	Jul ^b	Aug ^c	Sep ^c	Oct ^b	Nov ^c	Dec ^c	FY ^d	
National	14.8	18.9	17.3	14.4	16.2	16.0	18.2	16.2	17.2	12.3	14.2	20.9	14.7	14.2	16.1	16.7	14.7	15.9	
AONCR	16.7	20.3	18.1	14.2	17.3	17.1	N/A	N/A	17.5	N/A	N/A	21.8	N/A	N/A	16.9	N/A	N/A	18.3	

¹⁴ Those who worked for 40 hours and more a week.

¹⁵ Employed individuals who want more work

¹⁶ September 2021 DOLE Job Displacement Report

¹⁷ Visibly underemployed persons are those who are working less than 40 hours and still want additional hours of work

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Source: LFS, PSA

The overall unemployment rate was broadly steady at 6.6 percent in December. Youth unemployment rate was down by 0.8 ppt to 12.8 percent, the lowest since 2020.

21. Unemployment increased by 113,000 m-o-m, mostly among women (+119, 000), those in prime working age groups (+114,000) and those advanced in years (+71,000). In contrast, less unemployed persons were observed among the youth (-60,000) and 35 to 44 year olds (-30,000). Notably, fewer unemployed persons have also cited COVID-19-related reasons for not looking for work (-140,000). Unlike the previous month, more unemployed have also cited pending job applications (+36,000), temporary disability (+26,000) and bad weather (+20,000) for delaying their job search.

22. By educational background, the decline in the unemployment of junior high school undergraduates (-53,000), post-secondary graduates (-34,000), and senior high school graduates (-26,000) moderated the uptick in the unemployment of college undergraduates (+67,000), college graduates (+67,000) and elementary undergraduates (+66,000).

23. Overall, the December 2021 unemployment rate of 6.6 percent is only 1.3 ppts above the pre-pandemic (or January 2020) rate. This brings the FY 2021 unemployment rate to 7.8 percent (down from 10.3 percent in 2020) and youth unemployment rate to 15.7 percent (down from 21.5 percent in 2020).¹⁸

Table 5. Unemployment Rates: January 2020 – December 2021 (in percent)

Indicator	2020 ^{a,b}					2021 ^{p,a}												
	Jan	Apr	Jul	Oct ^p	FY	Jan ^b	Feb ^c	Mar ^c	Apr ^b	May ^c	Jun ^c	Jul ^b	Aug ^c	Sep ^c	Oct ^b	Nov ^c	Dec ^c	FY ^d
Overall	5.3	17.6	10.0	8.7	10.3	8.7	8.8	7.1	8.7	7.7	7.7	6.9	8.1	8.9	7.4	6.5	6.6	7.8
15-24	13.6	31.5	22.4	19.4	21.5	19.8	18.5	15.4	15.8	14.5	14.5	15.4	16.0	17.7	15.1	13.4	12.8	15.7
25-54	4.0	16.0	8.1	7.3	8.7	7.4	7.5	6.0	8.1	6.9	7.1	5.9	7.2	7.9	6.5	5.7	5.9	6.8
55 & over	2.0	10.5	4.3	4.3	5.2	3.7	4.9	2.9	4.2	4.2	3.3	3.3	3.8	4.9	3.8	3.1	3.9	3.8

^p Estimates are preliminary and may change; ^aEstimates 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 or regular LFS to generate national-level labor and employment statistics from the survey; ^d annual figures are NEDA estimates, based on the average of the monthly LFS results - official FY estimates will be released by the PSA in March.

Source: LFS, PSA

24. The unemployment rate in the Philippines remains to be among the highest compared to the latest figures from major Asian emerging economies, though outperforming India.¹⁹ This is expected to further improve as growth prospects remain encouraging given the more targeted COVID-19 containment measures that will allow for the gradual and safe reopening of the economy.

¹⁸ The PDP target range of 14.5 to 16.5 percent for youth unemployment rate is based on the October LFS rounds, hence, best comparable to October 2021 at 15.1 percent rather than the YTD figure.

¹⁹ Based on FY 2021 unemployment rate figures, India and the Philippine are at par with each other at 7.8 percent.

Table 6. Latest unemployment rates across selected Asian economies

Indicator	Unemployment Rate	Month released
China ^a	3.9	December 2021
India ^b	7.9	December 2021
Indonesia ^c	6.5	August 2021
Malaysia ^b	4.3	October 2021
Philippines	6.6	December 2021
Vietnam ^a	3.6	December 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)

We remain generally on track with the government's employment-related targets in the Updated Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022 amid the challenges brought by the pandemic.

Table 7. Comparison of selected PDP employment targets to FY LFS data

Indicator	Targets			Actual		
	2019	2020	2021	2019 ^a	2020 ^a	2021 ^{b,d}
Unemployment Rate reduced (%)	4.3-5.3	3.8-5.2	7.0- 9.0	5.1	10.3	7.8
Employment generated (in 'million)	0.9-1.1	0.9-1.1	2.4-2.8	1.3	(2.6)	4.6
Reduced Youth unemployment ^c (%)	9.8	9.2	14.5-16.5	12.9	19.4	15.1
Labor force participation rate of women increased (%)	50.1	50.5	48.0-50.0	47.6	45.8	51.3
Percentage of youth not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) decreased (%)	18.5-20.5	17.5-19.5	18.0-20.0	18.6	18.5	16.8 ^a
Percentage of discouraged jobseekers decreased (%)	11.5	11.0	11.5	12.4	3.9	4.9
Underemployment in areas outside National Capital Region (AONCR) reduced (%)	17.4-19.4	16.9-18.9	16.0-18.0	15.1	17.3	18.3 ^a

Note: Green shade if data exceeded target; yellow shade if met; and red shade if not met. 2020 targets were set prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and retained in the midterm update. 2021 targets were adjusted to take into consideration the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. ^{a/} Estimates for quarterly rounds of the LFS. ^{b/} Estimates for monthly rounds of the LFS, starting February 2021, monthly LFS were conducted in between quarterly/regular LFS to generate national-level labor and employment statistics from the survey. ^{c/} Data for October round. ^{d/} Annual figures are NEDA estimates; official FY estimates will be released by the PSA in March.

Source: LFS, PSA

25. The national unemployment rate at 7.8 percent for FY 2021 is well-within the 2021 target of 7.0 to 9.0 percent. Moreover, there was a rebound in terms of employment levels, from a net loss of 2.6 million in FY 2020 to a net employment gain of 4.6 in FY 2021—exceeding the target of 2.4 to 2.8 million.
26. The proportion of unemployed youth dropped significantly from 19.4 percent in October 2020 to 15.1 percent in October 2021, which is close to the midpoint of the target range for 2021.
27. Meanwhile, the government is well ahead of its targets in terms of improving the LFPR of women. Despite the initial decline in female LFPR at the height of the pandemic, it swiftly bounced back since the start of 2021. This performance brings the FY 2021 female LFPR (51.3 percent) above the PDP target of 48.5 to 50.5 percent.
28. As the labor market for the young cohort gradually recovers, the reduction in the share of the youths at-risk was met for the period. There were around 16.8 percent of the youth who are not in employment, education, or training in FY 2021, which exceeded the PDP target of 18.0 to 20.0 percent.
29. Meanwhile, the proportion of discouraged jobseekers remains slightly elevated at 4.9 percent of the total unemployed in FY 2021 compared to its FY 2020 figure. Though substantially lower than the PDP target, the overperformance was driven by an increase in workers citing the pandemic as the reason for not looking for work.
30. Lastly, the government needs to further invest on strategic efforts to improve the underemployment rate in areas outside the National Capital Region as it stood at 18.3 percent in 2021. This is 1.0 ppt higher than in FY 2020, and slightly worse than the target of 16.0 to 18.0 percent for the year.

The shift from a pandemic to an endemic paradigm will continue to boost employment in 2022.

31. The government's progress in implementing the 10-point policy of the EDC will help bring back more employment opportunities, especially in hard-hit sectors like tourism and education. This covers the following areas: 1) metrics; 2) vaccination; 3) healthcare capacity; 4) economy and mobility; 5) schooling; 6) domestic travel; 7) international travel; 8) digital transformation; 9) pandemic flexibility bill; and 10) medium-term preparation for pandemic resilience to prevent further scarring on the economy.
32. Under IATF Resolution No. 159, the COVID-19 risk classification of countries under "green", "yellow", and "red" categories was temporarily suspended. Starting February 10, 2022, fully-vaccinated Filipinos and international tourists from visa-free countries are only required to show a 48-hour negative RT-PCR test result prior to departure from their country of origin. International arriving passengers that meet these requirements are no longer required to undergo facility-based quarantine. This will help support the tourism industry's recovery and return tourism-related employment.
33. The accelerated roll out of the vaccination program will help boost the confidence of the public in resuming economic activity. As of February 8, 2022, almost 60 million Filipinos have been fully vaccinated and 8 million have been inoculated with booster shots.²⁰ The expansion of the vaccination program to the pediatric population will also help pave the way for the resumption of face-to-face classes and restore employment in the education sector.

Given this, the government aims to achieve three milestones: a) fully vaccinate the initial target of 77.1 million adult population and children aged 12-17 years old by the end of Q1 2022; b) expand the number of fully vaccinated individuals to 90 million by the end of Q2 2022; and c) achieve complete vaccination for

²⁰ National COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard | Department of Health website (doh.gov.ph)

the rest of the population, including booster doses, by the end of Q3 2022. The government will also expand vaccination partnerships with pharmacies, clinics, schools, and other private establishments.²¹ Moreover, the government will conduct the third round of *Bayanihan, Bakunahan*, to administer at least five million doses from February 10 to 11, 2022.²² A nationwide roll-out of pediatric COVID-19 vaccination is also being considered, particularly for the 5 to 11 age group on February 14, 2022.²³

34. The timely implementation of the FY 2022 national budget, faster utilization of the extended 2021 budget, and urgent passage of game-changing reforms are crucial to accelerate economic recovery. The PHP 5 trillion budget for 2022 will sustain the government's COVID-19 response efforts. Meanwhile, key reforms—such as amendments to the Public Service Act, which redefines the coverage of public utilities and proposes to relax foreign ownership restrictions in critical services sectors, including transportation and telecommunications—will create more meaningful employment opportunities, enhance innovation, lower prices, and improve the quality of goods and services for all Filipinos.

²¹ Gov't to develop 'new normal' roadmap vs. Covid-19 pandemic | Philippine News Agency (pna.gov.ph)

²² 'Bayanihan' 3 to administer 5M vaccine doses | Philippine News Agency (pna.gov.ph)

²³ Nationwide kids' vax day mulled on Feb. 14 | Philippine News Agency (pna.gov.ph)