

REPORT ON LABOR FORCE SURVEY (APRIL 2022)

HIGHLIGHTS

1. The country's unemployment rate decreased from 5.8 percent in March 2022 to 5.7 percent in April 2022, the lowest since the start of the pandemic. Underemployment also declined from 15.8 percent to 14 percent in the same period.
2. However, fewer Filipinos participated in the labor force because of supply chain disruptions brought about by the Russia-Ukraine conflict and seasonal factors in agriculture, among others. The labor force participation rate (LFPR) declined from 65.4 percent to 63.4 percent, translating to a net employment loss of 1.3 million between March and April.
3. Of the 1.3 million net employment loss, 1.1 million were from agriculture while 0.5 million were from services. This was slightly tempered by 0.3 million employment generated in the industry sector.
4. The government is rolling out targeted subsidies amounting to PHP6.1 billion for the transport and agriculture sectors. This consists of PHP5 billion worth of fuel vouchers for qualified public utility vehicle (PUV) drivers and PHP1.1 billion as fuel discounts for farmers and fisherfolk.
5. Despite external risks, overall employment remains at 3.1 million above the pre-pandemic level as around 80 percent of the economy has been placed under Alert Level 1.
6. However, the country cannot reap the full benefits of Alert Level 1 without the full resumption of face-to-face classes. This is among the strategies cited in Executive Order (EO) No. 166, which adopts the Economic Development Cluster's 10-point-policy agenda to accelerate and sustain economic recovery.

Table 1. Summary of Labor and Employment Indicators (in thousands)

Indicators	2020 ^{f,a,b}		2021 ^{f,a}	2022 ^{p,a}	
	Jan	Apr	Apr ^b	Mar ^c	Apr ^b
Population 15 years and over	72,841	73,722	74,971	76,256	76,374
Labor Force Level	44,934	41,058	47,407	49,850	48,393
Employment Level	42,543	33,830	43,269	46,975	45,631
Unemployment Level	2,391	7,228	4,138	2,875	2,762
Underemployment Level	6,299	6,398	7,453	7,422	6,399
Visible Underemployment	3,799	5,489	5,331	4,810	4,217
Employment Generation (MoM)	6 ^d	(8,713) ^d	(2,063)	1,495	(1,344)
Labor Force Participation Rate (%)	61.7	55.7	63.2	65.4	63.4
Employment Rate (%)	94.7	82.4	91.3	94.2	94.3
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.3	17.6	8.7	5.8	5.7
Underemployment Rate (%)	14.8	18.9	17.2	15.8	14.0
Visible Underemployment Rate (%)	8.9	16.2	12.3	10.2	9.2
Mean Hours of Work	41.3	35.0	38.0	40.6	40.1

^{f/} Final estimates; ^{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/} quarter on quarter difference. Source: Labor Force Survey (LFS), PSA

The labor force participation rate (LFPR) declined from 65.4 percent to 63.4 percent, translating to a net employment loss of 1.3 million between March and April.

1. The LFPR dropped by 2.0 percentage points (ppt) compared to March, equivalent to about 1.5 million fewer workers in the labor force. This can be attributed to the month-on-month (m-o-m) increase in the number of persons who are not in the labor force (NILF) (+1.6 million). Most individuals cited age-related limitations (+431,000), household duties (+384,000), schooling (+354,000), temporary illness/disability (+139,000), and pending job applications/recall/rehire (+73,000) for opting out of the labor force. This may be partly due to the expansion of face-to-face classes. Generally, the NILF trend in April has reversed the downtrend in March, except for those who left the workforce due to household duties, belief that there is no work available, pending job recall/rehire, and other reasons, which continued to increase.

2. The overall decline is observed across all age groups, but is more pronounced among the older cohorts—65 years old and over (-3.7 ppts) and 55 to 64 years old (-2.1 ppts)—and the youth (-2.1 ppts). Nonetheless, the LFPR remains higher than that of the previous year by 0.1 ppt (+987,000), and above the pre-pandemic figure by 1.7 ppts (+3.5 million), with the increase more evident among females (+3.1 ppts), and across all age groups except the youth.

3. Almost all regions posted an increase in LFPR compared to January 2022. The Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) recorded the highest increase in LFPR (+7.0 ppts), followed by Ilocos Region (+6.5 ppts) and Central Visayas (+6.2 ppts), as these areas shifted to a more relaxed alert level in April.¹ Meanwhile, only Davao (-2.1 ppts) and Western Visayas (-0.7 ppt) posted slight declines in their labor force quarter-on-quarter.

Table 2. Labor Force Participation Rates, 2020-2022 (in percent)

Indicator	2020 ^{f,a,b}		2021 ^{p,a,c}												2022 ^{p,a}			
	Jan	Apr	Jan ^{f,b}	Feb ^f	Mar ^f	Apr ^{f,b}	May	Jun	Jul ^b	Aug	Sep	Oct ^b	Nov	Dec	Jan ^b	Feb ^c	Mar ^c	Apr ^b
LFPR (total)	61.7	55.7	60.5	63.5	65.0	63.2	64.6	65.0	59.8	63.6	63.3	62.6	64.2	65.1	60.5	63.8	65.4	63.4
Youth	37.4	32.4	34.7	37.7	40.1	38.2	38.4	39.8	33.3	37.8	35.8	35.7	37.5	36.7	32.0	35.9	36.9	34.8
Male	74.8	69.8	73.9	76.0	76.8	75.0	76.1	76.3	72.4	75.8	75.5	74.9	76.1	76.1	72.9	75.7	76.9	75.1
Female	48.4	41.5	46.9	50.9	53.1	51.4	52.9	53.7	47.1	51.4	51.1	50.2	52.3	54.0	48.1	51.8	53.7	51.5

^{f/} Final estimates; ^{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. Source: Labor Force Survey (LFS), PSA

¹ Based on the level of restriction imposed in highly urbanized cities (HUCs) and provinces only, noting that there may be looser Alert Level classification in certain municipalities. In January 2022, some areas in BARMM, Ilocos Region and Central Visayas were still placed under Alert Level 3. However, in April 2022, most highly urbanized cities (HUC) in these regions have shifted to Alert Level 1 (Ilocos Region) and Alert Level 2 (Central Visayas and BARMM).

Given the reduced LFPR, total employment fell by 1.3 million. Of this net employment loss, 1.1 million were from agriculture while 0.5 million were from services. This loss was slightly tempered by 0.3 million employment generated in the industry sector.

4. The number of employed Filipinos dropped to 45.6 million in April 2022, from 47.0 million in March. Both agriculture and services sectors contributed to the decline, which was slightly moderated by the employment expansion in industry. Despite the losses, total employment in April 2022 remains higher than pre-pandemic figures in January 2020 and the same period last year by 3.1 million and 2.4 million, respectively.

The main driver for the employment decline m-o-m came from agriculture (-1.1 million), mainly from the agriculture and forestry subsector (-1.1 million). Fishing and aquaculture likewise recorded losses of 22,000. These are largely attributed to the onslaught of Tropical Depression Agaton, which resulted in PHP3 billion worth of damage to agriculture.² Issues such as smuggling,³ rising fuel and fertilizer prices, African Swine Fever (ASF),⁴ and Avian Influenza (AI)^{5,6} also continued to challenge the sector. Despite the significant decline, employment in the sector still surpassed pre-pandemic figures in January 2020 and April 2021 by 1.1 million and 192,000, respectively.

² DA assures more aid as agri damage shoots up to P3-B | Philippine News Agency (pna.gov.ph)

³ Economic intel group confiscates smuggled vegetables in Divisoria Market | Official Portal of the Department of Agriculture (da.gov.ph)

⁴ Avoid transporting pork products: DA | Philippine News Agency (pna.gov.ph)

⁵ 3K ducks culled as bird flu hits Davao Sur town | Philippine News Agency (pna.gov.ph)

⁶ Pangasinan bans entry of C. Valley chicken, poultry products | Philippine News Agency (pna.gov.ph)

Table 3. Employment, 2020-2022

Indicators	2020 ^{f,a,b}		2021 ^{p,a,c}												2022 ^{p,a}			
	Jan	Apr	Jan ^{f,b}	Feb ^c	Mar ^f	Apr ^{f,b}	May	Jun	Jul ^b	Aug	Sep	Oct ^b	Nov	Dec	Jan ^b	Feb ^c	Mar ^c	Apr ^b
Employment rate (in %)	94.7	82.4	91.3	91.2	92.9	91.3	92.3	92.3	93.1	91.9	91.1	92.6	93.5	93.4	93.6	93.6	94.2	94.3
Employment growth (MoM in %)	0.01 ^d	(20.5) ^d	3.5	4.6	5.0	(4.5)	3.3	0.8	(7.6)	6.2	(1.5)	0.5	3.8	1.8	(7.0)	5.7	3.3	(2.9)
<i>Employment levels by sector (in millions)</i>																		
Agriculture	9.63	8.76	10.04	10.30	11.13	10.56	10.63	10.94	9.19	11.10	10.25	10.77	11.16	11.83	9.35	10.86	11.84	10.75
Industry	7.99	5.75	7.60	7.65	8.80	7.89	8.22	8.17	8.34	8.37	8.17	7.82	7.91	8.24	8.31	8.14	8.17	8.42
Manufacturing	3.63	2.70	3.14	3.28	3.56	3.42	3.55	3.50	3.54	3.71	3.37	3.33	3.37	3.69	3.63	3.40	3.61	3.66
Services	24.93	19.32	23.60	25.20	25.40	24.82	25.87	25.97	24.14	24.76	25.18	25.24	26.41	26.21	25.36	26.48	26.97	26.46

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 Source: Labor Force Survey (LFS), PSA

- Similarly, the services sector registered a net employment loss of 507,000, mainly from public administration (-275,000), wholesale and retail trade (-242,000), administrative and support services (-160,000), and financial and insurance activities (-143,000), reversing the trend from the previous month. Employment contraction in public administration may have been attributed to the election ban, including contract-of-service or job orders with contracts expiring within the ban period. These are consistent with the jobs displacement monitoring of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), wherein more firms reportedly retrenched workers or permanently closed in April 2022 compared to the previous month.

On the other hand, these were partly tempered by employment gains in accommodation and food services (+173,000), transportation and storage (+88,000), education (+79,000), and professional activities (+46,000), in line with the further reopening of the economy as more areas shift to Alert Level 1 in April. The employment expansion in accommodation and food services is also aligned with the positive employment outlook of businesses in the subsector for Q2 2022,⁷ as tourism rebounded particularly during the Holy Week.⁸ Moreover, the Commission on Elections (COMELEC)

⁷ Q1 2022 Business Expectations Survey (bsp.gov.ph)

⁸ Hordes of tourists seen arriving in Baguio this Holy Week | Philippine News Agency (pna.gov.ph)

exemption of government subsidy programs concerning transportation–fuel subsidy program, PUV service contracting program, and PUV modernization program may have contributed to retaining employment in the subsector.⁹ Compared to pre-pandemic figures, employment in services remains higher by 1.5 million. It is also higher by 1.6 million compared to the same period last year.

In contrast, the industry sector recorded an increase in employment m-o-m (+250,000) across all subsectors except water supply (-5,000). Construction posted 188,000 additional employment, followed by manufacturing (+50,000), mining and quarrying (+10,000), and electricity (+8,000). In general, these are aligned with the more upbeat business outlook of firms in the sector for Q2 2022, attributed to the easing of quarantine restrictions and improving management of the COVID-19 pandemic by the national government, among others.¹⁰ Employment creation in manufacturing is also reflective of the strong improvement in business conditions in the subsector, as the S&P Global Philippines Manufacturing Purchasing Managers Index continued to increase from 53.2 in March to 54.3 in April.¹¹ These gains further pushed up employment in the sector, surpassing pre-pandemic figures in January 2020 and April 2021 by 428,000 and 532,000, respectively.

6. Employment losses during the period were observed among all major occupation groups except plant and machine operators (+393,000), service and sales workers (+372,000), and craft and related trade workers¹²

⁹ Comelec exempts 3 gov't subsidy programs from ban | Philippine News Agency (pna.gov.ph)

¹⁰ Q1 2022 Business Expectations Survey (bsp.gov.ph)

¹¹ S&P Global Philippines Manufacturing PMI (spglobal.com)

¹² 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 articles, including handicraft goods.

(+200,000). Elementary occupations¹³ (-632,000) and managers (-614,000) posted the largest decline in employment.

7. By class of worker, those considered vulnerably employed registered the largest decline (-1.2 million), reducing their share of total employment from 36.2 percent in March to 34.6 percent in April 2022. On the other hand, employers (+85,000), workers in private establishments (+64,000), and workers in private households (+49,000) increased m-o-m.
8. Geographically, employment rates slightly declined in four regions compared to January 2022, namely: SOCCSKSARGEN (-1.0 ppt), Western Visayas (-0.9 ppt), BARMM (-0.6 ppt), and the National Capital Region (NCR) (-0.2 ppt). Meanwhile, the regions with the biggest improvement in employment rate are Central Visayas (+2.9 ppt), Zamboanga Peninsula (+2.1 ppt), Bicol Region (+1.6 ppt), Caraga (+1.4 ppt), and Ilocos Region (+1.3 ppt).

Underemployment also declined from 15.8 percent to 14 percent in the same period, with improvements observed in both visible and invisible underemployment.

9. In terms of hours worked, losses were mainly attributed to the substantial reduction in full-time employment¹⁴ (-1.9 million). This was moderated by an increase in part-time employment¹⁵ (+426,000) and those who did not work (+138,000). Given the reduction in full-time employment, mean hours of work fell to 40.1 in April 2022 from 40.6 in March.
10. The number of underemployed workers declined significantly by 1.0 million, mostly from the agriculture (-843,000) and services (-299,000)

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

¹⁴ Those who worked for 40 hours or more.

¹⁵ Those who worked for less than 40 hours.

sectors. Meanwhile, the industry sector registered 119,000 more underemployed workers, mainly in the construction (+116,000) and manufacturing (+28,000) subsectors. The net effect was a 0.8 ppt increase in the underemployment rate to 14.0 percent, equivalent to 6.4 million underemployed workers.

11. In terms of hours worked, both visible¹⁶ (-593,000) and invisible¹⁷ underemployment (-430,000) declined m-o-m, as the number of part-time workers in agriculture (-735,000) and full-time workers in the services (-328,000) and agriculture (-108,000) sectors decreased. Underemployment also improved across all classes of workers except the employers (+26,000). Most of the decline came from self-employed (-510,000), followed by wage and salary workers (-331,000), and unpaid workers (-208,000). The recorded underemployment rate during the month is lower relative to figures in April 2021 (-3.2 ppts) and the pre-pandemic level (-0.8 ppt).
12. Meanwhile, 12 out of 17 regions saw improved underemployment rates relative to the previous quarter (January 2022), of which the Cordillera Administrative Region exhibited the largest decrease (-6.1 ppts), followed by Central Visayas (-5.8 ppts) and Eastern Visayas (-4.9 ppts). Meanwhile, BARMM (+5.4 ppts) posted the largest increase in underemployment followed by CALABARZON (+3.5 ppts) and the SOCCSKSARGEN region (+3.4 ppts). NCR continues to have the lowest underemployment rate at 7.0 percent in April 2022 down from 9.0 percent in January 2022.

¹⁶ Visible underemployment are persons who are working less than 40 hours per week and want more hours of work

¹⁷ Invisible underemployment are persons working at least 40 hours and still want additional hours of work

Table 4. Underemployment Rates, 2020-2022 (in percent)

Indicators	2020 ^{f,a,b}		2021 ^{p,a,c}												2022 ^{o,a}			
	Jan	Apr	Jan ^{f,b}	Feb ^{f,c}	Mar ^f	Apr ^{f,b}	May	Jun	Jul ^b	Aug	Sep	Oct ^b	Nov	Dec	Jan ^b	Feb ^c	Mar ^c	Apr ^b
National	14.8	18.9	16.0	18.2	16.2	17.2	12.3	14.2	20.9	14.7	14.2	16.1	16.7	14.7	14.9	14.0	15.8	14.0
AONCR	16.7	20.3	17.1	N/A	N/A	17.5	N/A	N/A	21.8	N/A	N/A	16.9	N/A	N/A	15.7	N/A	N/A	15.0

^{f/} Final estimates; ^{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. Source: Labor Force Survey (LFS), PSA

The unemployment rate decreased from 5.8 percent in March 2022 to 5.7 percent in April 2022, the lowest since the start of the pandemic.

- The number of unemployed workers fell by 113,000, reducing the unemployment rate to 5.7 percent. Except for the youth cohort, all age groups registered a decline in unemployment. However, the youth unemployment rate at 12.3 percent still stands as the second-lowest figure since the start of the pandemic and lower than the pre-pandemic figure by 1.3 ppts. Overall, the unemployment rate remains lower compared to the previous year (-3.0 ppts), but still slightly above its pre-pandemic level (+0.4 ppt).
- In terms of education, the overall reduction in unemployment is mostly among junior high school (-122,000) and college (-84,000) graduates. Year-on-year, unemployment decreased across all educational levels, while relative to the pre-pandemic or January 2020 levels, only post-secondary undergraduates posted a decline in unemployment.
- The number of unemployed persons who did not look for work for valid reasons grew by 54.7 percent (+552,000). The majority of these are unemployed persons with pending job applications/recall/rehire (+244,000), and discouraged workers or those who believe that there is no work available for them (+141,000).

16. Owing to the easing of mobility restrictions, regional unemployment rates have generally improved. Year-on-year, 14 out of 17 regions registered declines in their respective unemployment rates. Compared to the previous quarter, four regions saw an uptick in their unemployment rates, including NCR (+0.2 ppt), Western Visayas (+0.9 ppt), SOCCSKSARGEN (+1.0 ppt), and BARMM (+0.6 ppt). Meanwhile, relative to pre-pandemic levels, six regions posted lower unemployment rates, specifically: Ilocos Region (-2.9 ppts), Central Luzon and Davao region (-0.8 ppt), Zamboanga Peninsula (-0.7 ppt), Caraga (-0.3 ppt), and Cagayan Valley (-0.1 ppt).

Table 5. Unemployment Rates, 2020-2022 (in percent)

Indicator	2020 ^{f,a,b}		2021 ^{p,a,c}												2022 ^{p,a}			
	Jan	Apr	Jan ^{f,b}	Feb ^f	Mar ^f	Apr ^{f,b}	May	Jun	Jul ^b	Aug	Sep	Oct ^b	Nov	Dec	Jan ^b	Feb ^c	Mar ^c	Apr ^b
Overall	5.3	17.6	8.8	8.8	7.1	8.7	7.7	7.7	6.9	8.1	8.9	7.4	6.5	6.6	6.4	6.4	5.8	5.7
15-24	13.6	31.5	19.8	18.5	15.4	15.8	14.5	14.5	15.4	16.0	17.7	15.1	13.4	12.8	13.8	14.3	11.3	12.3
25-54	4.0	16.0	7.4	7.5	6.0	8.1	6.9	7.1	5.9	7.2	7.9	6.5	5.7	5.9	5.6	5.6	5.3	5.1
55 & over	2.0	10.5	3.7	4.9	2.9	4.2	4.2	3.3	3.3	3.8	4.9	3.8	3.1	3.9	3.3	2.7	2.9	2.3

^{f/} Final estimates; ^{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. Source: Labor Force Survey (LFS), PSA

17. The unemployment rate in the Philippines remains one of the highest among major Asian economies, though much lower than that of India 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	7.8	April 2022
Malaysia ^b	4.1	March 2022
Philippines	5.7	April 2022
Indonesia ^c	5.8	February 2022
Vietnam ^a	2.8	March 2022

Notes: ^{a/} Unemployment in these countries is reported quarterly (March, June, September, December); ^{b/} Unemployment in these countries is reported monthly;

The share of economically inactive youth declined to 11.9 percent in April 2022 from 14.5 percent in January 2022.

18. The proportion and number of youth not in education, employment, or training (NEET) dropped to 11.9 percent (equivalent to 2.4 million) compared to 14.5 percent (equivalent to 2.9 million) in January. The majority of the decrease came from the youth NEET not in the labor force (-496,000) on a quarter-on-quarter basis. The number of youth citing the pandemic or lockdowns (-496,000) and being tired or believed no work available (-278,000) as the reasons for not looking for work contributed the most to the overall reduction in youth NEET not in the labor force.

Table 7. Share of Youth NEE and NEET to Total Youth Population, 2020-2022 (in percent)

Indicators	2020 ^{f,a,b}				2021 ^{p,a,b}				2022 ^{p,a,b}	
	Jan	Apr	Jul	Oct	Jan ^f	Apr ^f	Jul	Oct	Jan	Apr
Share of youth NEE (%)	17.1	25.3	11.4	20.6	19.6	15.9	17.8	14.0	14.6	11.9
Share of youth NEET (%)	16.9	25.2	11.4	20.4	19.4	15.8	17.5	13.9	14.5	11.9

^{f/} Final estimates; ^{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

19. Relative to the previous year, youth NEET substantially dropped by 4.0 ppts or 791,000 less inactive youth.

The government can help sustain the country's growth momentum and employment gains, primarily through the continued implementation of the 10-point-policy agenda under EO 166. This will be complemented by targeted subsidies and the full resumption of face-to-face schooling that will help bring back employment in the hardest-hit sectors.

20. The full implementation of the 10-point-policy agenda, issued through EO 166, will contribute to accelerating and sustaining our economic

recovery. This covers the following areas: (1) strengthen healthcare capacity, (2) accelerate and expand the vaccination program, (3) further reopen the economy and expand transport capacity, (4) resume face-to-face learning, (5) reduce restrictions on domestic travel and standardize local government unit (LGU) requirements, (6) relax requirements for international travel, (7) accelerate digital transformation, (8) provide for enhanced and flexible emergency measures through legislation, (9) shift focus to more useful and empowering metrics, and (10) medium-term preparation for pandemic resilience.

21. **The Inter-Agency Task Force against Emerging Infectious Diseases allowed 100 percent capacity under Alert Level 1,** provided that proof of full vaccination is presented. However, **it is critical to shift the entire country to Alert Level 1 to help generate more employment and strengthen the domestic economy against external shocks.** For June 1 to 15, about 19 percent of the economy and over 11.7 million workers are still under Alert Level 2.¹⁸

22. **The government continues to implement strategies to scale up the country's vaccination program, which will allow for the further reopening of the economy.** As of June 6, 2022, more than 69.5 million or 77 percent of the target eligible population have been fully vaccinated. Around 14.3 million and 426,000 have received the first and second booster shots, respectively.¹⁹ To boost vaccination, the government is taking decisive measures to cover more segments of the population. For instance, the Department of Health (DOH) partnered with LGUs to hire additional personnel for information dissemination to address vaccine hesitancy and conduct inoculation in the last mile.²⁰ The Department also considers incorporating the vaccination program into its regular programs

¹⁸ Restrictions on activities in areas under Alert Level 1 lifted | Philippine News Agency (pna.gov.ph)

¹⁹ DOH eyes inclusion of Covid vaccination in public health programs | Philippine News Agency (pna.gov.ph)

²⁰ DOH, LGUs partner for 'last mile' vaccination in Cordillera | Philippine News Agency (pna.gov.ph)

for public health to make it more accessible to Filipinos.²¹ Meanwhile, the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) launched its *Bakuna Bus* to vaccinate 5 to 11 year old children.²²

23. **The immediate resumption of face-to-face classes will increase domestic activities and prevent future productivity losses.** In addition, one-fourth of parents cannot go to work as they need to support and manage their children's online schooling, thus limiting the income generation of some households. The resumption of face-to-face classes can also maximize the gains from more relaxed alert level classifications as it can induce more economic activities, such as businesses around schools. In addition, **a catch-up plan may need to be formulated to regain lost learning from the past two years.** This will help secure better opportunities for future generations and ensure that our demographic dividend will not be wasted.
24. **To strengthen the resilience and support the expansion of the agriculture sector including boosting local food production,** the **Plant, Plant, Plant 2** program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) was launched on March 7, 2022. The DA-Bureau of Animal Industry may also contribute to building the resilience of the sector by strengthening its monitoring and containment of highly transmissible animal diseases, such as the AI and ASF.
25. **The government continues to implement measures to mitigate the impact of rising prices of fuel and other basic commodities.** The government is rolling out targeted subsidies amounting to PHP6.1 billion for the transport and agriculture sectors. As of June 1, 2022, over 180,000 PUV drivers and operators have received the PHP6,500 subsidy.²³ From

²¹ DOH eyes inclusion of Covid vaccination in public health programs | Philippine News Agency (pna.gov.ph)

²² PRC's 'Bakuna Bus' now in Dagupan to boost kids' vax rate | Philippine News Agency (pna.gov.ph)

²³ Fuel subsidy, other measures seek to tame rise in consumer prices | Philippine News Agency (pna.gov.ph)

April 11 to June 6, 2022, more than 98 million commuters benefitted from the Service Contracting Program Phase 3.²⁴ At the same time, more than 158,000 farmers and fisherfolk are also set to receive PHP3,000 as fuel discounts.

Moreover, 14 regional wage boards have issued orders granting minimum wage hikes from PHP30 to PHP110.²⁵ The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) also approved the one-peso provisional fare increase for public utility jeepneys in NCR, Central Luzon, and CALABARZON to address increasing fuel prices.

To complement this, the Civil Service Commission also allowed government offices to adopt flexible work arrangements, such as four-day work weeks, to help employees save on fuel costs.

Meanwhile, **timely non-monetary policy interventions** will complement the *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas*' rate hikes²⁶ in easing domestic supply constraints and second-round effects.²⁷

26. **The timely implementation of the FY 2022 national budget and faster utilization of the extended FY 2021 budget are crucial to accelerate economic recovery and mitigate the impact of the ongoing global crisis.** Given the ban on public spending for infrastructure and other projects due to the elections,²⁸ the new administration may need to formulate and implement a catch-up plan for spending.

²⁴ LTFRB Official Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/ltfrb.central.office>

²⁵ Wage hikes in 14 regions take effect in June | Philippine News Agency (pna.gov.ph)

²⁶ Key policy interest rate by 25 basis points to 2.25 percent: Overnight reverse repurchase rate - overnight deposit, and lending facilities rate all increased by 25 basis points to 2.25 percent, 1.75 percent, and 2.75 percent, respectively. Source: BSP hikes key rates by 25 basis points | Philippine News Agency (pna.gov.ph)

²⁷ Non-monetary policy aid still best vs. war's impact on inflation | Philippine News Agency (pna.gov.ph)

²⁸ COMELEC Resolution No. 10747 (comelec.gov.ph)