



PHILIPPINE STAR/KJ ROSALES

CHEFS undergo culinary training for newly hired crew members at Magsaysay Center for Hospitality and Culinary Arts in Manila, March 25.

Jobless,
from S1/1

Meanwhile, job quality deteriorated as the underemployment rate rose to 13.8% in July from 12.6% in June. However, this was still lower than the 21% underemployment rate in July last year.

This was the highest underemployment rate in two months, or since May's 14.5%.

In absolute terms, the ranks of Filipinos already working but still looking for more work or longer working hours to the total employed population increased by 655,000 month on month to 6.543 million in July. However, this was lower by 2.226 million from 8.769 million underemployed Filipinos recorded in July last year.

The size of the labor force was estimated at 49,994 million in July, up by 412,000 from 49.581 million in June. This brought the labor force participation rate (LFPR) to 65.2% of the country's working-age population in July, inching up from 64.8% the previous month.

New entrants to the labor force reached 1.289 million in July, larger than the 980,619 recorded in June.

The employment rate reached 94.8% in July from 94.0% in June. This translated to 47.391 million employed Filipinos that month from 46.592 million previously.

The services sector remained the biggest source of jobs in July after recording an employment rate of 58.8%, up from 56.5% in June.

However, the employment rate in agriculture and industry eased to 23.5% in July (from 24.5% in June) and 17.7% (from 19%), respectively.

'WORRISOME'

Sentro ng mga Nagkakaisa at Progresibong Manggagawa Secretary-General Josua T. Mata said the quality of jobs being generated in the country is "worrisome."

"What we are seeing are more part-time jobs than full-time jobs [...] At the same time, the decline of jobs in critical sectors such as education and health is also of grave concern. After all, we are in the midst of an education crisis even as we have yet to fully end the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic," Mr. Mata said in a Viber message.

"The continuing loss of jobs in manufacturing means that we are missing out on high value-added jobs. Clearly, our industrial development is still badly affected by global supply chain problems. Coupled with high inflation rates, these trends do not augur well for workers," he added.

Several sub-sectors showed month-on-month job losses in agriculture and forestry (down 263,000 to 9730 million in July), construction (down 200,000 to 4.523 million), manufacturing (down 152,000 to 3.494 million), mining and quarrying (down 145,000 to 192,711), and education (down 108,000 to 1.389 million).

On the other hand, job gains were recorded in the wholesale and retail trade sector (up 941,000 month on month to 10.665 million in July), accommodation and food service activities (up 227,000 to 1.902 million), and public administration and defense (up 122,000 to 2.886 million).

National Statistician Claire Dennis S. Mapa said in the press conference the quarter-on-quarter decline in manufacturing jobs were mainly those involved in semiconductor devices and other electronic components, ready-made embroidered garments, and bakery products.

"Comparing April and July 2022, we can see that for the

past few months the manufacture of bakery products has been decreasing in employment. And a possible reason is because of input cost," Mr. Mapa said.

In the seven months to July, the unemployment rate averaged 5.9%, lower than 8% in the same period last year.

The underemployment rate also improved, averaging 14.2% in the seven months to July, from 16.4% a year ago.

The employment rate in the January to July period stood at 94.1%, from 92% last year, while the LFPR slightly increased to 63.9% during the same period from 63%.

On average, an employed Filipino worked 40.5 hours a week in July, slightly increasing from the 40.3 hours logged the previous month, but lower than the 41.7 hours in July last year.

INFLATION IMPACT

Analysts noted that the uptick in the underemployment rate signaled workers are looking for better or more work as they try to cope with rising prices.

"It's harder for people to move around due to higher gas prices so people would probably prefer to work from home, which is mostly an option with part-time jobs," Ateneo de Manila University Center for Economic Research and Development Associate Director Ser Percival K. Peña-Reyes said in a Viber call.

"And now we're seeing inflation spiking up. And reporting to work means mobility expenses," he added.

Headline inflation rate for July grew to a 45-month high of 6.4% annually as prices for food and transport skyrocketed. It was faster than 6.1% in June and 3.7% last year.

The transport index, which contributes nearly a tenth to the total consumer basket, grew to 18.1% in July from 17.1% in June due to higher public utility fares.

Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) Vice-President Luis C. Corral urged economic managers to "not treat things as business as usual."

"Globally, many economies are going into freefall or recession. And our export markets, for example, many orders are being canceled. Further, the international export market is softening. And that softening will have major impact on the Philippines. They need to act with a sense of urgency and dispatch. Our economic managers are also saying that our economy has not been impacted dramatically by the dollar, but I don't think so. Therefore, we push for more quality jobs creation," Mr. Corral said in a Viber call.

On Thursday, the peso fell to fresh record low against the US dollar for the fifth straight day. The local unit shed 4.5 centavos to finish at P57.18 to a dollar, data from the Bankers Association of the Philippines showed.

Mr. Peña-Reyes said the peso depreciation, food shortages, and the impact of the US Federal Reserve's aggressive policy tightening as key factors that may affect the labor market in the coming months.

"Domestically, we face rising inflation and monetary policy rates, and the National Government must be able to respond well to economic challenges and set up the economy for a more robust economic recovery from the pandemic," Mr. Asuncion said.

— **Ana Olivia A. Tirona**

Agri dep't preference for imports seen as hurdle to RCEP approval

THE Department of Agriculture's (DA) recent track record of preferring imports as opposed to developing productive farms has been cited as a potential deal-breaker as the Senate struggles to approve the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) trade deal.

The DA has "an unparalleled record of reckless importation, which is why stakeholders are very fearful," Senator Imelda Josefa Remedios R. Marcos said at a hearing

of the chamber's foreign relations committee, which she chairs.

She said that in previous hearings the DA has cited the Philippines' obligations to the World Trade Organization (WTO), which she identified as the beginning of the agriculture industry's downfall.

"They are really blaming the WTO and the entry of several products in the country without regulation," Ms. Marcos said, "almost as if we surrendered our rights as a

country to control, somehow, the entrance of these products."


"We cannot just import and import even during the harvest season or the fishing open season," she added. "You have to understand. The products are overflowing without being sold, yet imports continue to increase."

Agriculture Assistant Secretary-designate for Policy, Research and Development Noel A. Padre said that the DA's mandate of en-

sureing food security takes heed of the necessity of improving domestic productivity, and described part of the approach taken as "distributing our domestic production from surplus areas to deficit areas." — **Alyssa Nicole O. Tan**

FULL STORY

Read the full story by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or by typing the link bit.ly/RCEP090922



Power Maintenance Updates

by MERALCO ADVISORY

The following are scheduled power interruptions necessary for the regular maintenance and upgrade of our power distribution facilities, to ensure the delivery of safe and reliable electricity to your areas. Rest assured that Meralco is doing everything to quickly restore your electricity according to schedule.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2022

QUEZON CITY (PROJECT 6)
BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 2:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT DILIMAN 433VU
Portion of Road 7 from Road 2 to and including Alley 10.
Portion of Alley 2 from Road 7 to and including Alley 6
Portion of Alley 1 from Alley 11 to Road 5.
Portion of Road 3 from Road 7 to Alley 6.
REASON: Installation of facilities along Road 7 corner Road 2 in Bgy. Project 6, Quezon City.

PASIG CITY (MANGGAHAN)
BETWEEN 9:30AM AND 10:00AM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT CAINTA 432XG
Portion of Hon. Benito Soliven Ave. from Eulogio Amang Rodriguez Ave. to and including Buenos Aires, Bucharest, Monaco, Madrid, Algiers, Bonn, Prague, Paris, Kingston, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Washington, Warsaw, Brussels, Havana, Vienna, Brasilia, London, Cairo, Tokyo, Edinburgh, Lima, Milan, Belfast, Panama, Bern, Sterdam, Moscow, San Salvador, Melbourne, Capetown, Athens, Rome and Wellington Sts. in Pasig Greenpark Village.
Portion of F. Mariano St. from Hon. Benito Soliven Ave. to near Pag Asa Steel Gate 5 in Bgy. Manggahan.
Portion of 4th St. from near 5th St. to 2nd St. in Trinidad Homes Subd.
BETWEEN 9:30AM AND 10:00AM AND THEN BETWEEN 2:00PM AND 2:30PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT CAINTA 432XG
Portion of Panama St. from Brasilia to and including Paris, Kingston, Copenhagen, Washington, Stockholm, Brussels, Havana and Vienna Sts. in Pasig Greenpark Village.
Portion of R. Magsaysay St. from Eulogio Amang Rodriguez Ave. to near Dali Supermarket including Malvar, Lapu Lapu, Victoria and Sta. Lucia Sts. in Bgy. Manggahan.
BETWEEN 9:30AM AND 10:00AM AND THEN BETWEEN 3:15PM AND 3:45PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT CAINTA 432XG
Portion of Felix Ave. (Imelda Ave.) from Karangalan Village – Gate 5 to near Millex Construction and Devt.
BETWEEN 9:30AM AND 3:45PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT CAINTA 432XG
Portion of Kaginhawaan St. from Felix Ave. (Imelda Ave.) to near Kaalinsabay St. including Kaayusan, Kasinupan, Kalakasan, Kaularan, Kasaganahan Katipunan, Kapayakan and Katyakan Sts., Rizal High School Annex – Manggahan, Pasig City Hall Annex and St. Christiana Maternity Hospital in Karangalan Village Phases 2B2 & 2C1.
Portion of Karikaran Road from Katiyagaan St. to Kaginhawaan St. including in Karangalan Village Phase 2B-1, Bgy. Manggahan, Pasig City.
Portion of Bucharest St. near 4th St. in Pasig Greenpark Village, Bgy. Manggahan, Pasig City.
Portion of 1st St. from 2nd St. to and including 5th and 3rd Sts. in Trinidad Homes Subd.
BETWEEN 9:30AM AND 2:30PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT CAINTA 432XG
Portion of Kaginhawaan St. from Kaalinsabay St. to Kaayusan St. in Karangalan Village, Bgy. Manggahan.
Portion of Kaayusan St. from Kaginhawaan St. to and including Eusebio BLISS.
Portion of Kaalinsabay St. from Kaginhawaan St. to and including Kaayusan, KC 15, Kalakihan and Kaligayahan Sts. in Karangalan Village Phase 2C3.
Portion of Kapitagan St. from Kaalinsabay St. to and including Science, Physics and English Sts.; and San Lorenzo Ruiz Road in Karangalan Village Phase 2C2.
Portion of Kaibigan St. from Kanliran St. to and including Kalawakan, Kaluwalhatian, KC 33 and Kaluwagan Sts. in Karangalan Village Phase 2C3.
BETWEEN 2:00PM AND 2:30PM – PORTIONS OF CIRCUIT MANGGAHAN 452M
Portion of F. Mariano St. from near Pag Asa Steel Gate 5 to M. L. Quezon St.
Portion of M. L. Quezon St. from Eulogio Amang Rodriguez Ave. to and including A. Luna, Osmeña, Malvar, A. Mabini and Ramos Sts.; Atlanta Industries, Top Boss Development, Flyup Business, Trojan Computer Forms, Apo Chemical & Manufacturing and Khumbu Enterprises.
REASON: Line reconstruction work along Kaginhawaan, M. L. Quezon and R. Magsaysay Sts. in Bgy. Manggahan, Pasig City.

RIZAL PROVINCE (SAN MATEO)
BETWEEN 10:00AM AND 2:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT SAN MATEO 415SMA
Portion of Sampaguita and N. Libis Sts. from near J. P. Rizal St. to and including Joy Variety Store in Doña Pepeng Subd., Bgy. Banaba.
REASON: Replacement of rotten poles and line reconductoring work in Doña Pepeng Subd., Bgy. Banaba, San Mateo, Rizal Province.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2022

CAVITE (DASMARINAS CITY; GEN. TRIAS CITY; AND IMUS CITY)
BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 12:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 5:30AM AND 6:00AM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS ABUBOT 32XZ AND 38XZ
Portion of Emilio Aguinaldo Highway from Meralco – Abubot substation to Governor's Drive including Westwood Highlands Subd., Pamela Homes Subd., Village Park Subd., Villa Catalina Subd. Phases I – IV, Dasmariñas Townsville Subd., Dexterville Classic Subd., Goldenville Subd. Phases I & II, Greensborough Subd. Phases I & II, Sunnydale Homes, Dasmariñas Executive Village, Doctor's Village, Via Verde Village and Zones I – IV in Bgys. Langkaan I & II, Sampaloc I, San Agustin I – III, Sabang and City Proper in Dasmariñas City.
Portion of Gov. Ferrer Drive from Governor's Drive to and including Meridian Place Subd., Paseo General Dos Subd., Mary-Cris Complex Subd. Phases 1 & 6, Tierra Grande Village Phase II, Kaia Homes Phase II, Liora Homes Phase 2, Sitio Julugan, Sitio Palindong, Sitio Bagong Kalsada and Sitio Kaynituhan in Bgys. Buenavista I – III, Manggahan, Pasong Camachile 2, Pasong Kawayan 1 & 2, San Francisco and Tapia in Gen. Trias City.
Portion of Malagosan Road from Open Canal Road to and including Mary Cris Complex Subd. Phase 5, Citlane Subd., Goldenville Subd. and Greenside Homes in Bgys. Malagosan II-B, II-C, II-D, II-E, II-F and II-G in Imus City.
REASON: Testing work inside Meralco – Abubot substation.

RIZAL PROVINCE (ANTIPOLO CITY; BARAS; MORONG; AND TERESA)
BETWEEN 9:45AM AND 10:00AM AND THEN BETWEEN 3:01PM AND 3:15PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT MASINAG 423WN
Along Pinugay Road (Antipolo – Tanay Road) from Marcos Highway (Marikina – Laguna - Quezon Highway) to Roman Rojas Road including Pinugay Habitat Subd., Sirbaha Subd. and Summerfield Subd.; Sitios Abuyod, Kapatagan, Rizza, Sumliang and Tibagan in Bgy. San Jose, Antipolo City; Southville 9 Subd. in Bgy. Pinugay, Baras.
Portion of Roman Rojas Road from Regina Village in Bgy. May – Iba, Teresa to and including Tiesto Apparel Mfg., Foremost Farms, First Philippine Rubber, Universal Robina Farms, Rofebenah Foods, Quezon Poultry & Livestock and Iglesia Ni Cristo; and One Ynares Village in Bgys. Pinugay, San Jose and San Salvador in Baras; Sitios Pantay Buhangin and Abuyod in Bgys. May – Iba, Dalig and Bagumbayan in Teresa; and Sitio Yapak in Bgy. Lagundi, Morong.
BETWEEN 10:00AM AND 3:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT MASINAG 423WN
Portion of Marcos Highway (Marikina – Laguna - Quezon Highway) from near Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBL) in Sitio Cabading, Bgy. San Jose, Antipolo City to and including Masungi Georeserve, Pato Alto Leisure Residential Estates Subd. and Heroes' Ville Subd.; Sitios Paenan and San Roque in Bgy. Pinugay, Baras; Sitios Cabading, Calumpang, Kapatagan, Kaysakat, Pantay, Rizza and Tanza; and Tanza Villa Leyva I Subd. in Bgys. Calawis, San Isidro and San Jose in Antipolo City.
REASON: Line reconductoring work along Marcos Highway (Marikina – Laguna - Quezon Highway) in Bgy. San Jose, Antipolo City, Rizal Province.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2022

CAVITE (TANZA; TRECE MARTIRES CITY; AND GEN. TRIAS CITY)
BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 12:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 6:00AM AND 6:30AM – PORTIONS OF CIRCUIT TMC II 45VA
Portion of Tanza – Trece Martires Road and Bukal Road from Antero Soriano Highway to and including Landmass Park Subd., Villa Tanza Subd., Villa Marciana Subd., Ma. Cecilia Subd., Sta. Cecilia Subd. Phase I, Villa Dominga Subd., Villa Monteverde Subd., Pabahay Sa Punta Subd. Phase 1, 3 Verde Rosa Subd., Heart Foundation Sanja Subd., Sanja Mayor Subd. Phases 1 & 2, Tanza Green Heights Subd., Vendinville Residences Subd., Pabahay Sa Santol 1 Subd., Villa Francisca Subd., Belleview Meadows Subd., Belvedere Towne Subd. Phases 1, 2 & 3, Camp Riego, De Dios Subd., Grandiosa Subd., Kalliste Tanza Subd., Lumina tanza subd. Phases 1 & 2, Nusa Dua Farm Estate Subd. Phases 1 – 4, Pabahay 2000 Bagtas Subd., Sunrise Place Subd., Westwood Place Subd. Phase 1, Westwood Mansions Expansion Phase 2, Woodside Subd. Phases 1 & 2, Christine Village, Retirees Village Phases 1 & 2, Persan Village, Golden Sunrise Mutual Homes, Lihnetta Homes, MF homes, Woodstock Homes (Villa Evelina), Garden Homes, Camella Homes - Blooming Grove, Camella Homes – Tanza and Carissa Homes Phases 1 – 7, Ciudad Verde Homes Phases 1 & 3 in Bgys. Bagtas, Biga, Bunga, Daang Amaya 1, Mulawin, Paradahan 1 & 2, Punta 1 & 2, Sanja Mayor, Santol and Tres Cruces in Tanza.
Portion of Tanza – Trece Martires Road from Governor's Drive to and including City View Subd., Cityview Farmlots Subd., Ciudad Pangarap Subd. Phase 1, De Ocampo Subd., Golden Horizon Courtyards Subd., Grand Krauseville II Subd., Metrogate Subd. Phase 1, Metroland Terraces Subd. Phases 1 & 2, Regina Ville Classic Subd., Erinville Homes Phase 1, Heritage Homes Phases 1 & 2, Masaito Homes Phases 1 & 3, Transville Homes and Goldcrest Villas in Bgys. De Ocampo, Gregorio, Hugo Perez and San Agustin in Trece Martires City.
Portion of Bagong Kalsada Road from Pamanayan Maliksi Subd. Phases 2 & 3 to and including Belmont Hills Subd. - Section 4, Belvedere Towne 111 Subd. Sections 1 & 8, Belvedere Towne 4 Subd., Woodville Subd. Phases 1 & 2, Asenso Village, Castillon Homes 3 and Kaia Homes in Bgy. Pasong Kawayan 2, Gen. Trias City.
REASON: Maintenance work inside Meralco – TMC II substation.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2022

RIZAL PROVINCE (MORONG)
BETWEEN 10:00AM AND 2:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT MALAYA 48MM
Portion of V. Javier St. from near H. Raymond St. to and including Sitio Pulong Kumunoy, Feliciano and M. Javier Sts. in Bgy. Lagundi.
REASON: Line reconductoring work in Sitio Pulong Kumunoy, Bgy. Lagundi, Morong, Rizal Province.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2022

CAVITE (GENERAL TRIAS CITY)
BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 2:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT FCIE 42WB
Portion of Tierra Nevada Main Road from Amalado Highway to near El Centro St. including Tierra Nevada Subd. Phases 1 & 2, and Tierra El Pueblo Subd. Phases 1 & 2 in Bgy. San Francisco.
REASON: Replacement of poles and line reconductoring works in Tierra Nevada Subd., Bgy. San Francisco, General Trias City, Cavite.

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