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PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY
 SOCCSKSARGEN REGION
SPECIAL RELEASE

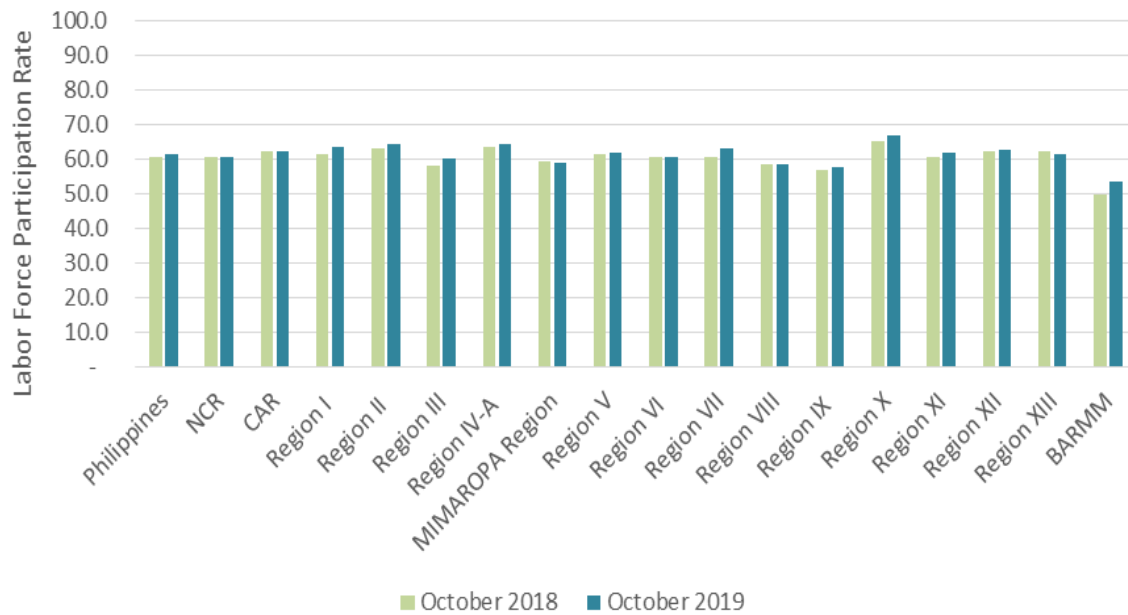
Employment Rate in SOCCSKSARGEN Region hits 95.9 percent in October 2019

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Labor Force Participation Rate slightly improved to 62.7%

In October 2019, the total population 15 years old and over in SOCCSKSARGEN Region reached 3.24 million, up by 1.9 percent in October 2019. This number was about 4.4% of the national figures.

Figure 1. Labor Force Participation Rate in the Philippines, by Region: October 2019 and October 2018



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, October 2018 and October 2019 Labor Force Survey

Of the total population 15 years old and over in the region, more than half (62.7%) were in the labor force. The Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR) or the proportion of employed and unemployed persons to the population 15 years old and over in the region was slightly higher by 0.47 percentage points compared to the same period the



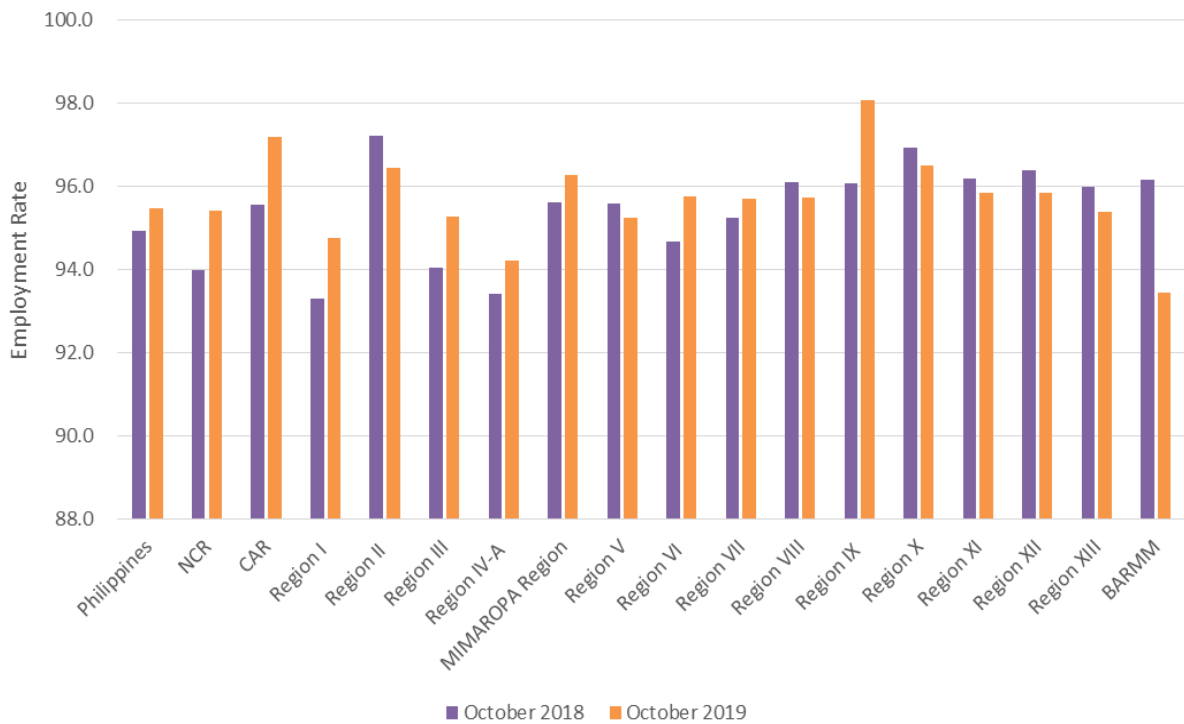


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previous year. The region’s LFPR was higher by 1.28 percentage points compared to the national estimates of 61.5%. Nine (9) regions had LFPR higher than the national average (see Figure 1).

SOCCKSARGEN Region was ranked 6th among the 17 regions in the country with the highest LFPR. Northern Mindanao posted the highest at 66.8%. The top 2 lowest participation rates were observed in Zamboanga Peninsula (57.5%) and BARMM (53.4%).

Figure 2. Employment Rate in the Philippines, by Region: October 2019 and October 2018



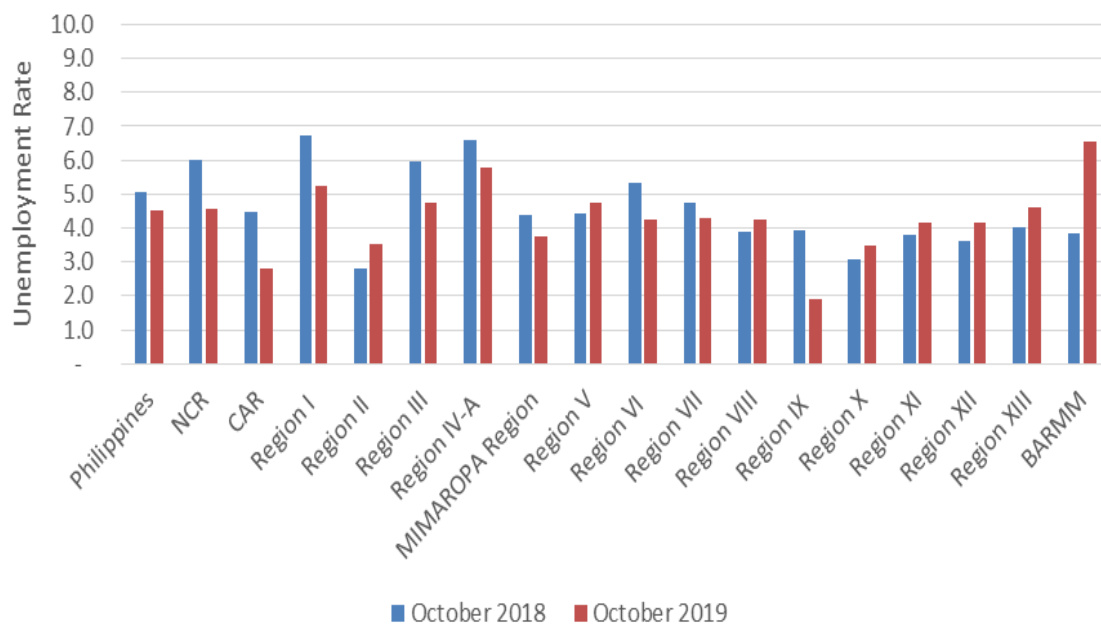
Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, October 2018 and October 2019 Labor Force Survey

Employment Rate went down to 95.9%

About 95.9% of the working-age population who were in the labor force in SOCCSKSARGEN Region were employed in October 2019. This was 0.54 percentage point lower compared to the 96.4% posted in same period the previous year. The region’s employment rate was 0.4 percentage point higher compared to the national average of 95.5%. SOCCSKSARGEN Region was ranked 7th in terms of employment rate. Ten (10) regions had employment rates better than the national figures (see Figure 2).



Figure 3. Unemployment Rate in the Philippines, by Region: October 2019 and October 2018

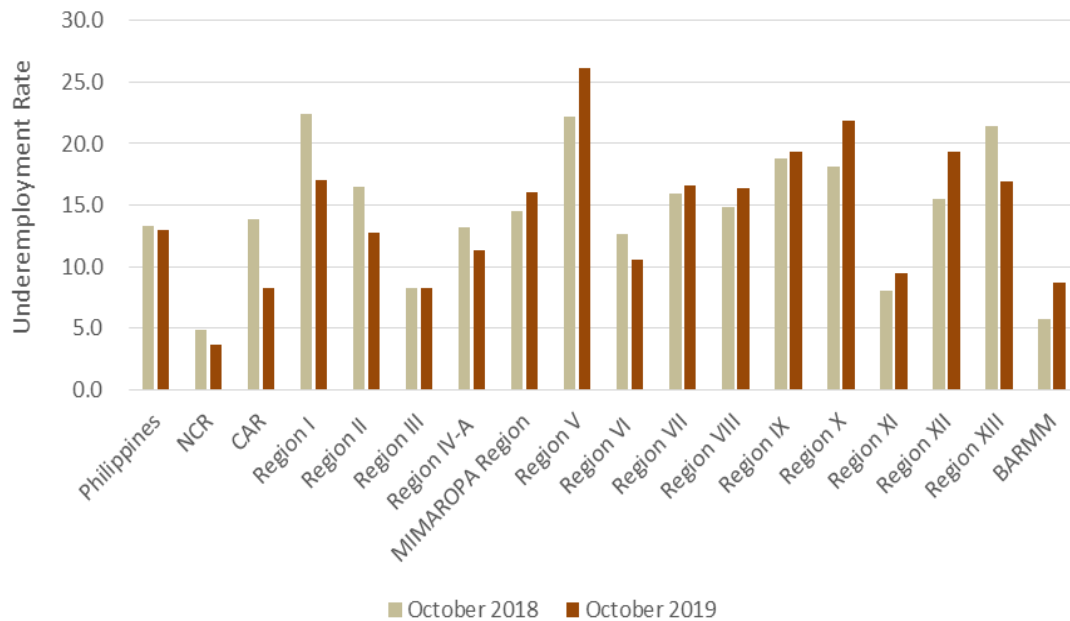


Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, October 2018 and October 2019 Labor Force Survey

Unemployment Rate dropped to 4.1%

At 4.1% in October 2019, unemployment rate (UR) in the region increased by 0.54 percentage points from 3.6% in October 2018. SOCCSKSARGEN Region's unemployment rate was lower by 0.39 percentage point compared to the national estimates of 4.5% in October 2019. BARMM was highest with 6.6%. Nine (9) regions, including SOCCSKSARGEN, had unemployment rates lower than the national figure of 4.5% (see Figure 3).

Figure 4. Underemployment Rate in the Philippines, by Region: October 2019 and October 2018



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, October 2018 and October 2019 Labor Force Survey

Underemployment rate rose to 19.3%

Underemployed persons in the region rose to 19.3% in October 2019. About 3.8 percentage points higher compared to 15.5% the previous year. SOCCSKSARGEN region's underemployment rate was 6.3 percentage points higher compared to the 13.0% national average. The top 5 highest underemployed rates were recorded in Bicol Region (26.1%), Northern Mindanao (21.8%), Zamboanga Peninsula (19.3), SOCCSKSARGEN (19.3%) and Ilocos Region (17.0%). In October 2019, twelve (12) regions had double-digit underemployment rates. The lowest was noted in NCR at 3.6% (see Figure 4).



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Table 1 Total Population 15 Years Old and Over and Rates of Labor Force Participation, Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment, by Region: October 2018 and 2019

Region	Total Population 15 Years Old and Over (in '000)		Labor Force Participation Rate		Employment Rate		Unemployment Rate		Underemployment Rate	
	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018
Philippines	73,528	71,885	61.5	60.6	95.5	94.9	4.5	5.1	13.0	13.3
NCR	9,422	9,244	60.6	60.6	95.4	94.0	4.6	6.0	3.6	4.8
CAR	1,312	1,283	62.4	62.2	97.2	95.5	2.8	4.5	8.3	13.9
Region I	3,607	3,518	63.4	61.3	94.8	93.3	5.2	6.7	17.0	22.4
Region II	2,473	2,412	64.1	63.2	96.5	97.2	3.5	2.8	12.8	16.5
Region III	8,177	7,990	60.0	58.0	95.3	94.0	4.7	6.0	8.3	8.3
Region IV-A	10,345	10,195	64.1	63.3	94.2	93.4	5.8	6.6	11.4	13.2
MIMAROPA Region	2,168	2,103	58.6	59.4	96.3	95.6	3.7	4.4	16.1	14.5
Region V	4,247	4,145	61.6	61.3	95.2	95.6	4.8	4.4	26.1	22.2
Region VI	5,582	5,483	60.4	60.3	95.8	94.7	4.2	5.3	10.6	12.7
Region VII	5,476	5,330	63.2	60.7	95.7	95.2	4.3	4.8	16.6	16.0
Region VIII	3,258	3,174	58.3	58.4	95.7	96.1	4.3	3.9	16.3	14.9
Region IX	2,716	2,629	57.5	56.9	98.1	96.1	1.9	3.9	19.3	18.8
Region X	3,417	3,329	66.8	65.2	96.5	96.9	3.5	3.1	21.8	18.1
Region XI	3,617	3,535	61.6	60.4	95.9	96.2	4.1	3.8	9.5	8.0
Region XII	3,243	3,183	62.7	62.3	95.9	96.4	4.1	3.6	19.3	15.5
Region XIII	1,945	1,897	61.4	62.0	95.4	96.0	4.6	4.0	17.0	21.4
BARMM	2,522	2,435	53.4	49.5	93.4	96.2	6.6	3.8	8.7	5.7

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, October 2019 Labor Force Survey
 Notes: Estimates for October 2019 are preliminary and may change. Details may not add up to totals due to rounding.
 Coverage of BARMM are still the areas belonging to the ARMM Region.





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Definition of Terms:

Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR) - Percentage of the total number of persons in the labor force to the total population 15 years old and over.

Employment Rate – percentage of the total number of employed persons to the total number of persons in the labor force.

Unemployment Rate- Percentage of the total number of unemployed persons to the total number of persons in the labor force.

Underemployment Rate - Percentage of the total number of underemployed persons to the total number of employed persons.

Employed Persons – Persons in the labor force who were reported either as at work (according to the definition of work), or with a job or business although not at work. Persons at work are those who did some work, even for an hour, during the reference period.

Persons are also considered employed if they are with a job/business even though not at work during the reference period because of reasons such as temporary illness/injury, vacation or other leave of absence, bad weather, or strike/labor dispute.

Underemployed Persons – employed persons who expressed the desire to have additional hours of work in their present job or in an additional job, or to have a new job with longer working hours.

Approved for Release:

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