



# SPECIAL RELEASE

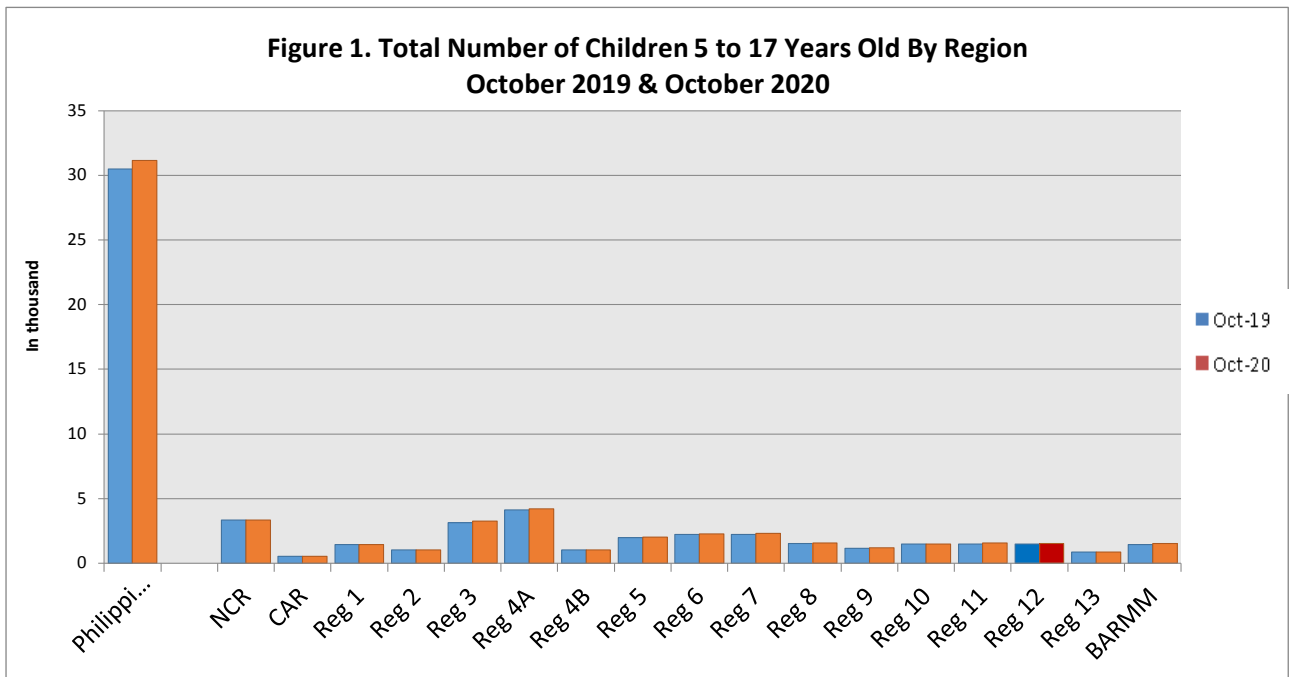
## Working Children and Child Labor Situation in SOCCSKSARGEN Region (October 2019 and October 2020)

Date of Release: 14 January 2022

Reference No.R12-SR2022-004

### Total Number of Children 5 to 17 Years Old

The number of children in the Philippines aged 5 to 17 years old in October 2020 was estimated 31.17 million, about 2.2 percent higher compared to the 30.5 million in October 2019.



Note: The 2019 and 2020 estimates were based on the 2015-based Population Projection  
Source: Labor Force Survey (LFS), Philippine Statistics Authority

In SOCCSKSARGEN Region, children aged 5 to 17 years old numbered 1.53 million in October 2020, up by 3.9 percent from 1.47 million the previous year. They constituted 4.9 percent of the 31.17 million children in the same age group nationwide in October 2020.



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Among the 17 administrative regions in the country, Region IV-A (CALABARZON) had the highest number of children 5 to 17 years old in October 2020 at 4.22 million while Region 13 (CARAGA) has the lowest at 850.80 thousand. The highest increase was noted in Region III (Central Luzon) with an additional 110.65 thousand children 5 to 17 years old followed by Region XI (Davao Region) with 95.95 thousand and Region VII (Central Visayas) at 85.23 thousand.

### Total Number of Working Children 5 to 17 Years Old

Of the 31.17 million children 5 to 17 years old in the country in October 2020, about 2.8 percent or 872.3 thousand were working children. This number was 16.6 percent lower compared to the same period a year ago. Of this number, 66.7 percent were males. In terms of age group, 68.9 percent belonged to the age range 15-17 years old. About 47.4 percent were employed in Agriculture while 43.4 percent were engaged in Services.

Table 1. Number of Children 5 to 17 Years Old and Working Children 5-17 Years Old, Philippines and SOCCSKSARGEN, October 2019 and October 2020

Area	Total Children 5 to 17 Years Old ('000)		Total Number of Working Children 5 to 17 Years Old Estimates ('000)		Proportion of Working Children to the Total Children 5 to 17 Years old (%)	
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
Philippines	30,497,900	31,169,600	1,046,500	872,300	3.4	2.8
Region XII	1,471,500	1,528,635	58,600	67,203	4.0	4.4

Notes: (1) Totals may not add up due to rounding; (2) Based on the Results of the October Round of the 2019 and 2020 Labor Force Surveys

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

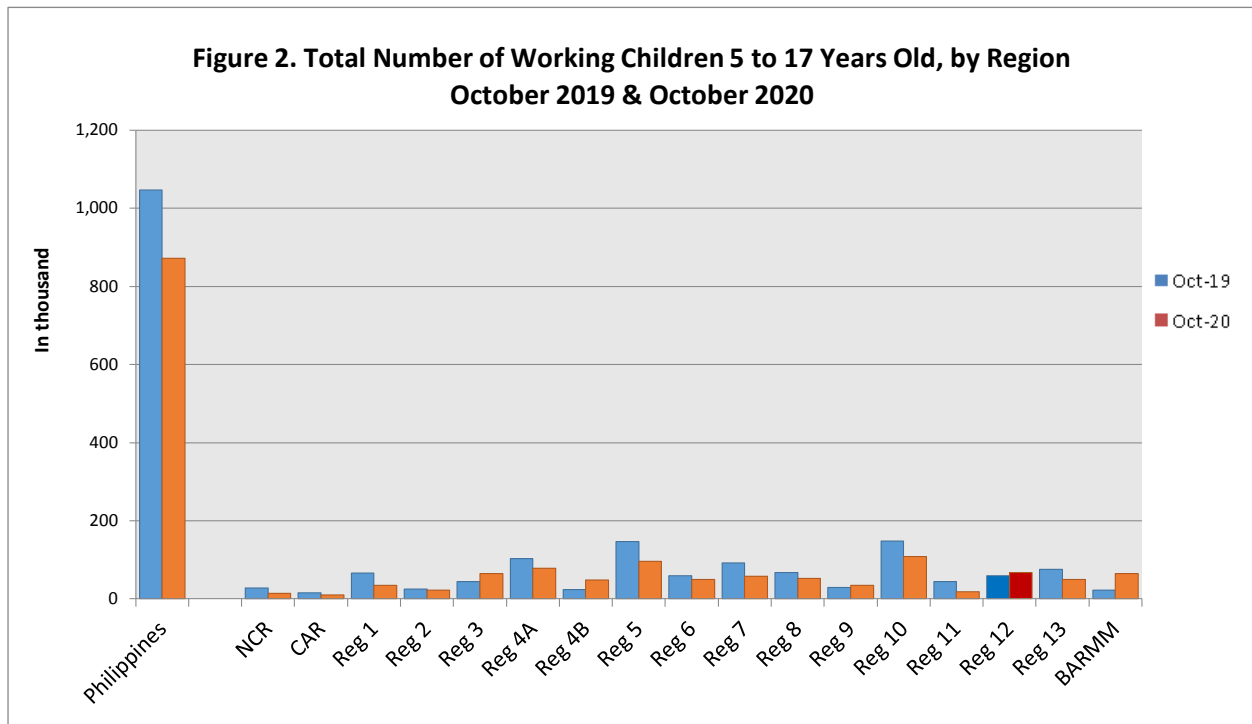
In SOCCSKSARGEN Region, working children in October 2020 were estimated at 67.2 thousand, about 14.7 percent higher from a year ago. Working children accounted for 4.4 percent of the total number of children 5 to 17 years old during the period under review.

Of the 17 regions in the country, Region 10 (Northern Mindanao) topped the list with an estimate of 108.1 thousand working children in October 2020. Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) had the lowest number at 10.1 thousand. The highest increase in number was recorded in the BARMM with an addition of 42.2 thousand from a year ago. Bicol Region recorded the highest drop of 49.9 thousand on the said period. Working children are children allowed to work, but not in child labour or in hazardous economic activity.



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Notes: Standard Error for 2019 = 9.4 & 2020 = 13.2; Coefficient of Variation for 2019 = 16.0 & 2020 = 19.6

The 2019 and 2020 estimates were based on the 2015-based Population Projections

Source: Labor Force Survey (LFS). Philippine Statistics Authority

## Total Number of Child Laborers Aged 5 to 17 Years Old

Child Laborers in the Philippines in October 2020 was estimated at 596.9 thousand, lower by 6.7 percent compared to the 640.1 thousand in October 2019. Of this figure, 72.8 percent were males. Around 73.3 percent were in the age group 15-17 years old. Around 63.6 percent were in Agriculture followed by 28.6 percent in Services. Child labour refers to any work or economic activity performed by a child that subjects him/her to any form of exploitation or is harmful to his/her health and safety or physical, mental or psychosocial development.

Table 2. Number of Working Children and Child Laborers 5 to 17 Years Old, Philippines and SOCCSKSARGEN Region: October 2019 and October 2020

Area	Total Number of Working Children 5 to 17 Years Old Estimates ('000)		Total Number of Child Labourers 5 to 17 Years Old Estimates ('000)		Proportion of Child Labourers to the Total Number of Working Children 5 to 17 Years old (%)	
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
Philippines	1,046,500	872,300	640,100	596,900	61.2	68.4
Region XII	58,600	67,203	45,900	40,955	78.3	60.9

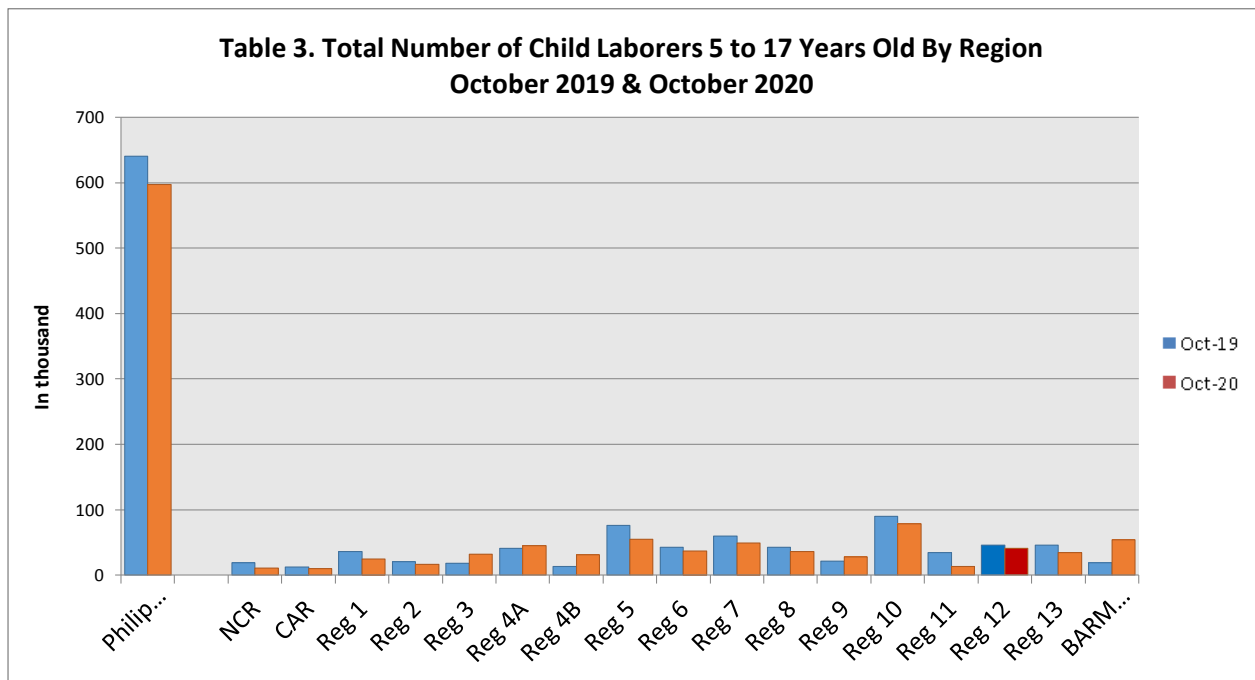
Notes: (1) Totals may not add up due to rounding; (2) Based on the Results of the October Round of the 2019 and 2020 Labor Force Surveys

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority



Child Laborers in SOCCSKSARGEN Region in October 2020 numbered 41.0 thousand, lower by 10.8 percent from the 45.9 thousand in October 2019. This figure is about 6.9 percent of the country’s total child laborers in October 2020. Child laborers in the region in October 2020 accounted for 61.0 percent of the total working children aged 5 to 17 years old in the region.

Among the 17 regions in the Philippines in October 2020, Region 10 (Northern Mindanao) had the highest number of child laborers at 78.4 thousand. The lowest was recorded in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) at 9.7 thousand. The highest addition in the number of child laborers in October 2020 from a year ago was noted in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) at 34.9 thousand. The highest decrease was recorded in Region V (Bicol Region) at 21.2 thousand during the period under review.



Notes: Standard Error for 2019 = 6.2 & 2020 = 5.5  
 Coefficient of Variation for 2019 = 13.5 & 2020 = 13.3  
 The 2019 and 2020 estimates were based on the 2015-based Population Projections  
 Source: Labor Force Survey (LFS), Philippine Statistics Authority



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## Definition of Terms


**Child Laborer** - refers to any work or economic activity performed by a child that subjects him/her to any form of exploitation or is harmful to his/her health and safety or physical, mental or psychosocial development. (<https://www.dole.gov.ph/news/dole-provides-definition-of-child-labor-related-terms/>)

**Working Children** - are children allowed to work, but not in child labor or in hazardous economic activity. (<https://www.dole.gov.ph/news/dole-provides-definition-of-child-labor-related-terms/>)

**Coefficient of Variation (CV)** - is a measure of relative variability that is commonly used to assess the precision of survey estimates.

**Standard Error (SE)** - is a measure of dispersion of an estimate from the expected value.

Approved for Release:

  
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