lack of job opportunities

**Underemployment** is the under-use of a worker due to a [job](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Employment) that does not use the worker's skills, or is part time, or leaves the worker idle. Examples include holding a part-time job despite desiring full-time work, and [overqualification](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Overqualification), where the employee has education, experience, or skills beyond the requirements of the job.

In our community, there are a lot of people who already graduated and passed their board exams. But there are only few agencies who hires workers and some slots have already taken by the top notcher.

Despite rapid economic growth in the Philippines in recent years, unemployment remains a persistent problem for the sprawling Southeast Asian nation of more than 100 million people.

Under President Benigno Aquino, in office since 2010, unemployment has fallen. The latest figures show the rate at 6.4 per cent in the second quarter of this year, down from 7 per cent a year earlier. But progress has been uneven and the Philippines still has one of the highest rates of unemployment in the Asean region.

One reason is that job creation has struggled to keep pace with an ever-expanding population. In three of the past five years, the number of people entering the job market has been greater than the number of jobs created.

The conundrum highlights the difficulty of spreading the benefits of economic growth and suggests they have yet to trickle down to more deprived areas.

Participation in the labour force remains relatively low. Only about 65 per cent of the population aged 15 and above is looking for work, one of the lowest levels in the region. This compares with 78 per cent in Vietnam, 72 per cent in Thailand and 68 per cent in Indonesia.

This is partly explained by the high value set on further education in the Philippines: young Filipinos typically spend some time in college before entering the labour market, contributing to the lower participation rate. Others in the region go to work earlier.

Another factor may be the low quality of jobs available. Last year, just 58 per cent of workers — in both formal and informal employment — were in what were described as paid jobs. Of the rest, 28 per cent were self-employed, with no guaranteed income, and 11 per cent worked on family-owned farms or other businesses where they typically receive food and lodging but no actual cash, according to official statistics.

Benjamin Diokno, an economist at the University of the Philippines and former budget minister, says this relatively large number of unpaid workers — about 4 million people — "bloats" the ranks of the employed and makes unemployment appear less serious than it is.

Such unpaid workers are not the only ones feeling held back.

In a government survey, 18 per cent of workers said they would like to work longer hours or get an extra job. Only 35 per cent of these worked 40 hours or more a week.

In an effort to mirror the success of its Asian neighbours, the Philippine government is seeking to improve the quality of jobs available by ramping up employment in manufacturing, according to FT Confidential Research, an investment research service at the Financial Times. But it has had little success so far, hindered by issues such as higher wages, limited infrastructure and red tape, which make the country less competitive than its Asean peers.

The country's uneven employment market has traditionally led millions of Filipinos to seek better-paying jobs overseas. One out of every 10 Filipinos works abroad, sending billions of dollars in remittances home, helping to drive the country's consumption-driven domestic economy — but doing little to promote employment.

Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Arsenio Balisacan says unemployment in the past few years was at or above 7%, causing poverty to persist

between 2010 and 2012, the economy created only 1.59 million jobs. In 2012, there were 37.6 million employed Filipinos, slightly higher than 36 million in 2010.

"At the heart of the poverty problem is the inadequacy of jobs, especially decent, high-quality jobs. Although job creation between 2010 and 2012 was significant, the level of unemployment [remains] quite high -- 7.4% in 2010 and 7% in 2012

* **Economic conditions**

In a situation where a company needs to cut costs, it may decide to offer employees an incentive to take early retirement or lay them off altogether. A person on temporary layoff from work and waiting to be recalled back to work can be considered unemployed.

* **Mismatch between available workers and positions to be filled**

When there are more workers available than positions to be filled, unemployment rates for will rise. When there are positions waiting to be filled, but available workers don't have the necessary training or skills to do the jobs, unemployment rates will be higher than when there is a surplus of available job openings compared to people looking for work.

* **Lack of experience**

Unemployment rates among young people tend to be higher than for other segments of the population. This is due to a lack of experience which makes it more difficult for them to find jobs, and they can't gain the practical experience they need unless they can find someone willing to hire them.

* **Voluntary unemployment**

There are some people who are between jobs because of choices they have made. They may have resigned from a job in anticipation of a move to another location before they have another job lined up or be planning to return to school.

**Consequences of Unemployment**

There are several consequences of unemployment that you need to be aware of. They range from those that affect the individual and his or her family to those that have an impact on the economy as a whole.

A person who has recently lost his or her job may first be in shock at what has happened. All of a sudden the individual doesn't have the regular routine they had when they were working. Unemployed people may have concerns that their current situation may mean that they will not be able to find another job. Mixed in with the feelings of shock may be concerns about being able to meet their financial obligations until they are able to find work again.