



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY



# Adapting Household Survey Data Collection in Challenging Situations

(Mode effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic into Official Statistics)

The Philippine Experience

**Wilma A Guillen**  
Assistant National Statistician  
Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)



Joint ISWGHS-UNESCAP Webinar: Covid-19 Assessment  
01 February 2021

**ASIA-PACIFIC Stats Café Series: In COVID-19 introducing mode effects into your**



## Outline of the Presentation

- ❑ Background
- ❑ Specific Activities under the COVID-19 lockdown
- ❑ The Labor Force Survey (LFS) and adaptation to the COVID-19
- ❑ New answer category related to COVID-19
- ❑ Way Forward





## Background

### Authority of the Survey

The authority and mandate of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) to the Labor Force Survey emanates from Republic Act (RA) No. 10625.

PSA is primarily responsible for all **national censuses and surveys, sectoral statistics**, consolidation of selected administrative recording systems and compilation of national accounts.

*Article 5, Rule 4 of the Republic Act 10625  
(Philippine Statistical Act of 2013)*





## Background

The IATF placed the entirety of the biggest island group, out of the three major islands in the Philippines, under very strict restrictions in movement of people except for necessity, work and health circumstances.



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE**  
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES

**RESOLUTION NO. 22**  
Series of 2020  
April 8, 2020

**RECOMMENDATIONS RELATIVE TO THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) SITUATION**

**WHEREAS**, on March 8, 2020, recognizing that the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic requires the mobilization of a way, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte declared a State of Public Health Emergency through Proclamation No. 922;

**WHEREAS**, on March 16, 2020, to prevent the spread of the disease in the country, the President placed the entirety of Luzon under

- E. Paragraph (I) of IATF Resolution No. 14, series of 2020, providing for exemptions on the implementation of the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) in Luzon is hereby amended, to wit:

x x x

The PSA has requested for exemption from the strict restrictions.....

*"I. The Philippine Statistics Authority shall be allowed to operate at a capacity necessary to conduct data gathering and survey activities related to COVID-19, including those related to the registration and implementation of the National Identification (I.D.) System."*

x x x

*Provided*, that such exemption shall be without prejudice to the requirement of strict social distancing measures in all its operations and data-gathering activities.



## Specific Activities under COVID-19 Lockdown

- ❑ Provided estimates to the Office of the President and to the Senate Oversight Committee on the number of families that should be given social amelioration. The estimates considered inclusion of the “middle class” in the 6th and 7th income decile.
- ❑ Submitted of listing of businesses engaged in the production of medical supplies and equipment, including but not limited to personal protective equipment (PPE) and mechanical ventilators;
- ❑ PSA NSCRG participated at the Board Meeting of the PARIS21 and is one of the panelists in a webinar on the SDGs organized by PARIS21.



## Specific Activities under COVID-19 Lockdown

- ❑ inclusion of the Rapid Assessment Questionnaires (consumers and business) into PSA regular surveys (LFS, Agri, and QSPBI);
- ❑ coordination with the Dept Of Affairs - Office of Migrant Workers Affairs to assist OFWs with problems on civil registration documents during the Luzon strict restrictions;
- ❑ entered into data sharing agreements with academic institutions (UP, Ateneo, DLSU, AIM), Asian Development Bank, Senate Oversight Committee, Department of Finance for access of survey data sets of the PSA (other researchers may access the data sets).



# The Labor Force Survey (LFS) and adaptation to the COVID-19

The LFS:

- is a nationwide quarterly survey of households;
- gathers data on the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the population; and
- aims to provide a quantitative framework for the preparation of plans and formulation of policies affecting the labor market



# The Labor Force Survey (LFS) and adaptation to the COVID-19

Changes in the survey protocol for the LFS were implemented for the first time using hybrid platforms in keeping with the government's policy **to maintain social distancing**.

- Conduct of Trainings was done through virtual meetings and face-to-face (F-to-F) trainings:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Level /National (TASK Force Training) – virtual (Regional Trainers)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Level (Regional Level Training) – virtual & F-to-F (Provincial trainers)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Level (Provincial Level Training) – F-to-F (data collectors)



# The Labor Force Survey (LFS) and adaptation to the COVID-19

- Conduct of data collection was a combination:
  - 1) face to face interview (FTF-in);**
  - 2) telephone interview (Tel-in);**
  - 3) Computer Assisted Web Interview (CAWI);**
  - 4) downloadable excel-based questionnaire**

These approaches are options to choose from, whichever is feasible and according to the respondent's choice.

- The LFS included a rider on Consumer and Business Rapid Assessment Questionnaire for the Nat'l Economic

# The Labor Force Survey (LFS) and adaptation to the COVID-19

- **Closer monitoring of data collection was implemented for the first time on a weekly basis. The ever reliable face to face interview registered 84 % completion , telephone interview registered 5.2% and the CAWI registered merely 0.04%. But we are happy to have the CAWI tried for the LFS.**

# The Labor Force Survey (LFS) and adaptation to the COVID-19

Monitoring of data collection by approach of data collection:

April 2020 Labor Force Survey  
Status Report on Enumeration  
as of 11 MAY 2020

RO/Prov/City/Mun	Workload	Approach of Interview												UPLOADED (CO downloaded from server as of 08 May)	UPLOADED (FO reports as of 08 May)	Remarks	
		Total		Face to Face (Interview Status)									CAWI (OnlineQ)				Tel-in
		Number	%	Completed	Refusal	Entire HH Absent for Extended Period of Time	Vacant Housing Unit	Housing Unit Destroyed / Demolished	Address Not a Housing Unit	Housing Unit Not Found	Critical or Flooded Area	Others					
PHILIPPINES	43,995	44,017	100.1	36,989	30	641	1,061	725	72	61	50	2,092	19	2,277	30,227	10,958	
SSO NCR	6,265	6,633	105.9	5,907	10	59	33	29	14	3	15	35	17	511	3,318		
CAR	2,521	2,337	92.7	2,096		41	106	8				86			1,654		
REGION I	1,584	1,733	109.4	1,125	-	22	19	2	1	-	-	36	2	526	1,722		fr status as of 01 May

In April 2020, response rate was 98 percent.

Core to our work is to ensure that the data we produce are unbiased such that it can be used to make inferences about the general population

# The Labor Force Survey (LFS) and adaptation to the COVID-19

- (1) If it **was possible** to do the **face to face interview (FTF-in)**, the interviewer **must** use the following **digital tool**:
  - (a) Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) for the LFS

# The Labor Force Survey (LFS) and adaptation to the COVID-19

(2) If the approach was to have a **telephone interview (Tel-in)**, the interviewer **must** use any of the following digital tools:

(a) the CAPI, or

(b) CAWI - the Online Questionnaire (**OnlineQ**) which will be accessed electronically with a code/link to be provided; or,

(c) the LFS **E-Questionnaire** (Excel format), which can be accessed through email.

*Note: The interviewer/statistical researcher need to get the contacts (telephone numbers, emails, and/or social media accounts of the sample household respondents (SHR) through quick visits to the SHR.*

# The Labor Force Survey (LFS) and adaptation to the COVID-19

(3) If it was **NOT possible** to do the **FTF-in** and **Tel-in**, the **CAWI** will have to be implemented.

# NEW answer CATEGORY Re: COVID-19

- One of the interest of policy makers and legislators is on the impact of the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) due to COVID-19 on employment/unemployment.

How many became unemployed due to the ECQ?

In the LFS Questionnaire:

**Column 11.** Did \_\_\_ do any work for at least one hour, including work from home or telecommuting, during the past week?

**Column 12.** Although \_\_\_ did not work, did \_\_\_ have a job or business during the past week?

**If the response in Column 11 is 2-NO but the response in Column 12 is 1-YES, ... In Column 29, “ECQ/lockdown/Covid-19 pandemic” WAS added AMONG THE REASONS FOR WORKING LESS THAN 40 HOURS (Code 32) ...and for worked more than 48 hours (Code 15)**

# NEW answer CATEGORY Re: COVID-19

- One of the interest of policy makers and legislators is on the impact of the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) to COVID-19 on employment/unemployment.

How many became unemployed due to the COVID-19 ECQ?

In the LFS Questionnaire:

**Column 11.** Did \_\_\_ do any work for at least one hour, including work from home or telecommuting during the past week?

**Column 12.** Although \_\_\_ did not work, did \_\_\_ have a job or business during the past week?

**If the responses to both questions is 2-NO, ... proceed to Column 30 and if the response is 2-NO, then proceed next to Column 34, where “ECQ/lockdown/Covid-19 pandemic” WAS added AMONG THE REASONS FOR not LOOKING FOR WORK(**Code 0**).**



## Way Forward

- **Measuring the gig economy has started with the collection of grab drivers. We are quickly studying the gig economy statistical framework so that we can measure this soonest.**
- **MONHTLY LFS starting February 2021 to have higher frequency labor and employment statistics due the COVID-19**



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY

---



Thank you!