After a novel decrease recorded in April 2020, employment rate in the region slowly picked up for the past six months based on the latest Labor Force Survey (LFS) conducted by the PSA in October 2020. The latest employment at 94.2 percent showed a remarkable 10.2 percentage points climbed from the lowest employment record captured in April 2020 at 84.4 percent. Further, the region’s latest employment is about 3.6 percentage points higher than the recorded employment in July 2020 at 90.6 percent. Notably, the latest employment in the region is almost at par with the employment record in October 2019 and January 2020 survey periods, although still behind by 2.2 percentage points in the former period and 1.8 percentage points lower than the latter period.

The national average employment also behave in the same pattern with that of Cagayan Valley although employment rate in the region across survey periods is
Cereals Production in the Region Slid Down during the Last Quarter of 2020

Palay and corn production in the region fell respectively during the last quarter of 2020 compared with the actual production a year ago. Specifically, palay production showed a remarkable deficit of 47,614 metric tons from the actual production in 2019 estimated at 951,313 metric tons. The latest production at 903,699 metric tons is exactly 5.0 percent less than the reported production in 2019.

In the same manner, corn production during the 4th quarter of 2020 also showed decline of about 6,179 metric tons compared with 2019 estimate of 208,227 metric tons. The latest corn production of 202,049 metric tons is about 3.0 percent less that the reported corn production a year ago. Compared with the crop forecast (standing crop as of October 2020), both palay and corn productions also posted decrement with the former crop showing remarkable reduction of 4.8 percent or about 45,329 metric tons decrement from 949,028 metric tons forecast. Further, actual corn production estimate also fell by 0.3 percent or about 550 metric tons decrease from the 202,599 metric tons forecast in October 2020.

Concomitantly, decrement in palay production during the last quarter of 2020 can be imputed largely to the reduction in the estimated yield as shown in Figure 3. In fact, the latest actual estimated yield of 4.26 metric tons per hectare is 4.5 percent less than the estimated yield reported in 2019 of the same period. Moreover, the latest yield is also 4.7 percent less than the forecasted yield based on standing crops as of October 2020. The reductions, when converted into 50.0 kilograms of one sack is equivalent to about 4.0 sacks per hectare when compared in 2019 and 4.2 sacks per hectare against the October 2020 forecast yield. Additionally, the reported area harvested also

- continued on page 6
Contributory to the uptrend in the inflation can be noted to the increased annual rates of the following commodities:

- Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages, 8.0 percent;
- Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco, 13.0 percent;
- Health, 5.6 percent;
- Transport, 23.7 percent; and
- Restaurant and Miscellaneous Goods and Services, 2.6 percent.

Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels

- posted an annual rate of 0.9 percent
- the only commodity that registered slower annual rate.

---

**ISABELA**

posted the highest inflation during the month at 7.9 percent

---

- **continued on page 9**
The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) kicked off its PhilSys pre-registration process via press conference to its project partners last 09 October 2020.

Usec. Claire Dennis Mapa explained that the registration process is divided into two steps: the pre-registration process and registration process.

In her message during the series of trainings, Regional Director Marilyn T. Estrada said that “The success of the implementation of PhilSys will not be possible without you as our Registration Officers and Enumerators. We hope that you will do your job properly, adhere to the procedures of the manual and comply with the health protocols ordered by DOH and the IATF”.

Meanwhile, Sec. Karl Kendrick Chua of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) assured the public that PSA will still push through in registering the target household for this year despite the threat of COVID-19 and safety protocols will be strictly observed during the nationwide conduct of pre-registration.

The PhilSys pre-registration process started last 12 October 2020 at 664 Cities and Municipalities of 32 provinces identified as low risk of COVID 19 transmission and ended December 2020. Meanwhile, the registration process was targeted to start by the end of November 2020.

In Cagayan Valley, Cagayan and Isabela were among the 32 provinces to conduct the pre-registration and registration processes.

Pre-registration Provincial Level Trainings were conducted to equip the Pre-Registration Team with the knowledge and tools in order to successfully register all target registrants from the Listahanan III of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

The manual of operational procedures where cascaded and the step by step procedures on how to use the KoboCollect application installed in the tablets.
Cagayan Valley’s Employment… from page 1

always higher than the national average. Indubitably, the lowest recorded employment at the national level was also reported in April 2020 at 82.4 percent, two percentage points lower than the employment rate record in Cagayan Valley, and recorded at the height of the national lockdown declared in March 2020.

As a consequence, the region’s latest unemployment rate captured in October 2020 at 5.8 percent showed drastic decline since April 2020 when the highest unemployment was recorded at 15.6 percent. The latest rate however is still 2.2 percentage points above the unemployment rate recorded a year ago at 3.6 percent and 1.8 percentage points higher than the result of the January 2020 LFS record at 4.0 percent, both previous rates were captured before the global pandemic. In terms of the number of unemployed persons, the latest survey showed still around 81 thousand individual in the labor force without employment, a huge cut from the reported unemployed persons of 227 thousand in April 2020. Despite this decline, the latest count of unemployed person in the region is still above the number reported before the pandemic, that is, during the October 2019 and January 2020 LFS survey rounds, counted at 56 thousand and 62 thousand unemployed individual, respectively.

Meanwhile, underemployment in the region dipped down at its lowest level for one year in October 2020. Underemployment rate registered at 11.1 percent in October 2020 showed a remarkable decrease of 10.7 percentage points from the report three months ago of about 21.8 percent. Surprisingly, during this new normal period, the latest underemployment rate is 1.7 percentage points lower than the rate a year ago registered at 12.8 percent and 5.2 percent lower than the rate in January 2020 at 16.3 percent. The latest rate reported translate to about 154 thousand underemployed individual in October 2020, more than two times lower than the count reported in July 2020 at 347 thousand underemployed persons. Further, the latest count is lower by 100 thousand compared with information captured in the January 2020 LFS at 254 thousand underemployed persons in the region.

Icons from https://pottcoso.com
Cereals Production in the Region... from page 2

In the same vain, corn production decrement can be attributed solely in the decline of the reported yield during the period under review. As shown in Figure 4, the latest estimated yield of 4.20 metric tons per hectare is 4.5 percent less than the reported yield in 2019 of same quarter or about 4.0 sacks per hectare reduction from the 2019 yield of 4.40 metric tons per hectare. Corollary, the latest yield is about 0.2 percent less than the forecast yield of 4.21 metric tons per hectare or a reduction of about 0.2 sacks per hectare. Although there was an increment in the area harvested in the latest period by about 705 hectares against the 4th quarter 2019 area harvested of 47,363 hectares, this only contributes in restricting further decline in the corn production of the region during the period under review.

In terms of percentage share of the provinces to the regional production in the last quarter of 2020, Isabela province shared the most of production both for palay and corn at 56.8 percent for the former crop and 47.2 percent for the latter crop. Cagayan province placed 2nd in terms of palay and corn production in the region with 29.9 percent share for palay and 35.1 percent share for corn, respectively. Nueva Vizcaya province collared 7.5 percent share from the total palay production and only 1.5 percent from the total corn production, relegating the province as the 3rd contributor of palay production and only 4th contributor for corn production in the region. The province of Quirino grabbed the 3rd position in terms of its share in corn production with 16.1 percent and landed in the 4th position in terms of its share in palay production with 5.7 percent. Expectedly, the province of Batanes filled in the remaining production share for palay and corn at a very insignificant percentage contribution.
Headline Inflation Rates in Cagayan Valley, All Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region/Province</th>
<th>Nov 2019</th>
<th>Oct 2020</th>
<th>Nov 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cagayan Valley</td>
<td>(0.1)</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batanes</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cagayan</td>
<td>(0.9)</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabela</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>6.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nueva Vizcaya</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quirino</td>
<td>(0.2)</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Survey of Retail Prices of Commodities for Consumer Price Index

Annual rates of increments were slower in the indices of furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house at 3.0 percent; communication at 0.4 percent; recreation and culture at -0.6 percent; and restaurant and miscellaneous goods and services at 2.2 percent. The rest of the commodity groups retained their previous month’s annual rates.

Contributory to the uptrend in the inflation can be noted to the increased annual rates of the following commodities:

- Food and non-alcoholic beverages, 5.5 percent;
- Alcoholic beverages and tobacco, 12.7 percent;
- Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels, 1.5 percent; and
- Transport, 21.1 percent.
Around 332 individuals were hired as Manual and Machine Processors for the 2020 Census of Population and Housing (2020 CPH). The 225 manual processors were composed of map processors, screeners, editors, coders and verifiers. Meanwhile, the 107 Machine Processors comprised of shift supervisors, receipt and control clerks and encoders.

Data processing centers were set up by the Provincial Statistical Offices for the processors for the five-months manual and machine processing activity which started last 24 October 2020 until 06 March 2021.

Prior to the processing activities, series of trainings were conducted such as the Manual and Machine Processing Task Force training on 12-17 October 2020 attended by participants in the North Luzon Cluster composed of the National Capital Region (NCR), Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley Region and Central Luzon Region. The 2020 CPH Team of PSA-RSSO II including the provinces joined the training with 20 participants.

As scheduled, the second level training on Manual Processing was conducted in the four provinces except Batanes whose mode of interview was through Computer Assisted Personal Interview. To augment the need for the provinces for resource persons, two staff from the Statistical Operations and Coordination Division (SOCD) served as lecturers during the Second Level Training in the provinces of Cagayan, Isabela and Nueva Vizcaya.
Headline Inflation Rate... from page 3

Consumer Price Index (CPI) for all items in the region for December 2020 was at 130.9, a growth of 2.8 index points from last month’s record and up by 8.1 index points from same period of last year.

Generally, all provinces reported gains in the CPI compared to same period of last year following the trend of the region.

The province of Isabela had the highest growth at 9.9 index points.

Across commodity groups, the top three groups with the highest CPI in the region were Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco, Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages and Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Maintenance.

Education had the lowest CPI at 96.0. Cagayan province registered the lowest CPI on this group.

Highest CPI on Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco group was recorded in Cagayan.

PPP in the region generally weakened on the last quarter of the year and had the least PPP in December 2020 at PhP 0.76. This means that the value of PhP1.0 in 2012 is only worth PhP0.76 in December 2020.

Compared to its value in 2019, the value of PPP weakened by PhP0.05 from its PhP0.81 of same period last year.

During the month, the province of Isabela displayed the weakest PPP at PhP0.74 while Quirino remains the strongest across provinces at PhP 0.82.

31st National Statistics Month Celebration
Cap-Off in Region II

PSA-RSSO II concluded its 31st National Statistics Month celebration last 30 October 2020 via a virtual Statistical Quiz Bee (dubbed as Pulso ng Rehiyon Dos version 3.0) and awarding of the Poster-Slogan making contest, the former event participated by representatives of the regional line agencies (RLAs) and other stakeholders and the latter by Senior High School and College Students of Region II.

Regional Director Marilyn T. Estrada welcomed the participants and highlighted the importance of statistics especially during this trying times, “given our current situation, the numbers provided by our statisticians are imperative for rebuilding our economy”, RD Estrada said. She further encouraged the students who are watching in the Facebook Livestream to venture into studying statistics as she pointed out statisticians as the sexiest jobs in the present time. Lastly, she thanked all the partners and stakeholders who helped in making the 31st NSM a success given the new normal scenarios of conducting meetings and other formal gathering.

For the third-year, the activity Pulso ng Rehiyon Dos: Tagisan ng Talino ng mga Kawani ng Gobyerno, provides a festive mood of the culminating activity as employees of the different RLAs actively contested for the cash prizes at stake. In the end, three lucky participants were declared winners after the hurdling the three stages of the game.

Complementing the fun-filled activity was the awarding of the winners for the POSTER-SLOGAN MAKING CONTEST. There were sixty (60) students from all over the region who submitted their entries and illustrated a poster depicting the theme of this year’s celebration - “Bridging Digital Gaps: Making Information, Available to All.”

All entries where posted at PSA RSSO II’s official Facebook page and was adjudged by Dr. Teresita A. Tabaog, Regional Director of

**Winners of the Pulso ng Rehiyon Dos: Tagisan ng Talino ng mga Kawani ng Gobyerno**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLACE</th>
<th>NAME OF CONTESTANT</th>
<th>OFFICE</th>
<th>PRIZE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>Raymond C. Rosete</td>
<td>Bureau of Local Government and Finance</td>
<td>P5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second</td>
<td>Mark Djeron V. Tumabao</td>
<td>Philippine Information Agency Region 02</td>
<td>P3,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third</td>
<td>Angelica U. Cabading</td>
<td>National Economic and Development Authority</td>
<td>P2,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Team PIA2—PIA Regional Director Angely Mercado (leftmost) and Information Officer Mark Djeron Tumabao (rightmost) while receiving their cash prize to Mary Jane C. Pepito of PSA-RSSO II for the Quiz Bee

- continued on page 13
DOST Region 02, Ms. Maria Elena A. Madriaga of Bangko Sentral Ng Pilipinas, Ms. Mageline S. De Laza of NEDA Region 02 and Angely L. Mercado, Regional Director of PIA Region 2.

Non-winners were also given a consolation prize of P500.00 each.

Meanwhile, Engr. Girme M. Bayucan, Statistical Operations and Coordination Division (SOCD) Chief finally closed the program by extending his gratitude to everyone who participated in the said event and to all stakeholders who facilitated and extended effort during the month-long celebration. He went on to narrate the different activities conducted geared toward making an equilibrium in the information asymmetry which this year’s celebration would like to address. Engr. Bayucan further thanked this year’s NSM’s partner agency – the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) for its support in ensuring that no one will be left behind in attaining inclusive growth through the use of data information.

### Winners of the Poster-Slogan Making Contest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLACE</th>
<th>NAME OF CONTESTANT</th>
<th>SCHOOL</th>
<th>PRIZE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>Gabby John J. Reyes</td>
<td>Cagayan State University - Carig Campus</td>
<td>P5,000.00 Certificate of Recognition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second</td>
<td>Baby Jeryn Manzano</td>
<td>Isabela State University - Echague Campus</td>
<td>P3,000.00 Certificate of Recognition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third</td>
<td>Karyle V. Dela Cruz</td>
<td>Saint Mary's University - Bayombong</td>
<td>P2,000.00 Certificate of Recognition</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PSA-Batanes highlighted the 31st NSM Celebration with an Online Digital Contest and Lecture

PSA-Batanes highlighted the celebration of the 31st NSM with an Online Digital Contest which was participated by senior high school students within the province. The events were Digital Poster Making, Infographics Making and Digital Slogan Making. Winners received certificates and prizes which was awarded virtually.

Moreover, Mr. Jeanniel I. Barcayan, Statistical Specialist II lectured on the Overview of System of National Accounts (SNA) and Introduction to Tourism Satellite Accounts to regular employees, Contract of Service Workers (COSWs) and 2020 CPH Office-based Personnel.
The Provincial Statistics Committee (PSC) in the province of Batanes had its first convening on 18 December 2020 at the Provincial Planning and Development Office (PPDO), Kayhuvokan, Basco, Batanes.

The meeting was presided by Ms. Marissa C. Antonio, Chairperson of PSC and Officer-In-Charge of PPDO – Batanes, and attended by 11 member agencies including Mr. Ramil G. Abad, Vice-Chair of PSC and Chief Statistical Specialist of Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) - Provincial Statistical Office (PSO) of Batanes. Mr. Jeanniel I. Barcayan, Ma. Jamila, A. Calucag, Administrative Officer I and Ms. Blessy Gee H. Gonzales composed the Secretariat.

To familiarize the members in the mandates and functions of PSA and their role in the committee, the agenda discussed in the first meeting were about the Philippine Statistics Authority and the Philippine Statistical System, General Guidelines on the Operations of the Provincial Statistics Committee (PSC) and Rules of Procedure for PSC Meetings, Executive Order No. 52, series of 2020, “An Executive Order Reconstituting the PSC in the Province of Batanes”. Also included in the agenda for discussion was the Countryside in Figures which will provide disaggregated statistical data that can be used as guide in policymaking, formulating development programs and other monitoring activities in the subnational level.
EDITORIAL STAFF

Adviser

Marilyn T. Estrada
Regional Director

Editor-in-Chief

Girme M. Bayucan
Chief, SOCD

Editorial Staff
Lay-out and Design

Ma. Jovy S. Agbayani
Ma. Iseendra N. Miguel

Contributors

PSA Regional Office
PSA Batanes

Circulation

Angelita D. Buena Ventura
Agustin John P. Bangayan