

# CNMI Labor Force Participation Measures

General Population, Potential Labor Force, Labor Force,  
Employed, Unemployed, Not In-Labor Force Populations,  
Unemployment Rate and Labor Force Participation Rate  
In the  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
4th Quarter, 2017

CNMI Department of Commerce  
Central Statistics Division

May 2, 2018



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## INTRODUCTION/ORGANIZATION

This report presents the estimated total population, potential labor force population, labor force population, employed population, unemployed population, and not in labor force population in the CNMI during the Fourth Quarter of 2017. It also presents the unemployment rate and the labor force participation rate in the Commonwealth at that time. Hereon these measures are collectively referred to as the labor force participation measures (LFP Measures).

Before presenting the relevant estimates, the LFP Measures are defined first. Then the broadest (CNMI-wide) estimates for each of the LFP Measures are presented with the aid of a waterfall chart. Following the broad estimates, the LFP measures are presented by Island and District, followed by LFP measures by Gender, by Age Group, by Ethnic Group, by Citizenship, by Birthplace, by Migrate Reason, by Marital Status, by Education Level, by Education Place, and by Language spoken at home. Appendix A describes the survey methodology and how the population and survey weights were estimated and Appendix B is the survey questionnaire.

### DEFINITIONS

#### GENERAL POPULATION

The general (*total*) population in the Commonwealth include all persons who lived or resided in the CNMI including persons in the Island of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. It includes permanent and temporary residents but excludes tourists.

#### POTENTIAL LABOR FORCE POPULATION

The *potential labor force population* consists of all persons 16 years old and older within the total population. The potential labor force population is divided into two sub-populations: 1) the *labor force* population and 2) the *not in labor force population*.

#### LABOR FORCE POPULATION

The *labor force population* includes all persons currently available to participate in or supply the productive activities in the economy. The labor force population, itself, is divided into two sub-populations: 1) the *employed population* and 2) the *unemployed population*.

#### EMPLOYED POPULATION

The *employed population* include all persons who currently have jobs, during the survey period. It includes persons with full-time as well as those with part-time jobs. Employed persons currently supply labor in the market place at the time of the survey.

#### UNEMPLOYED POPULATION

The *unemployed population* includes all persons who did not have a job, were actively looking for a job, and could have taken a job, at the time of the Survey. As already pointed out above, it is the complement of the employed population, i.e., these two combined make up the labor force population. While not engaged in the production activities at the time of the survey, unemployed persons are readily available to supply labor at the time of the survey.

#### NOT-IN-LABOR FORCE POPULATION

The *not in labor force population* include all persons, sixteen years old and older, currently with no jobs, and are not actively looking for a job. As stated earlier, it is the complement of the *labor force population*, i.e. these two combined constitute the potential labor force population.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

One of the most common measure of labor force utilization in the economy is the *unemployment rate*. This measure is derived by dividing the *unemployed population* by *labor force population*.

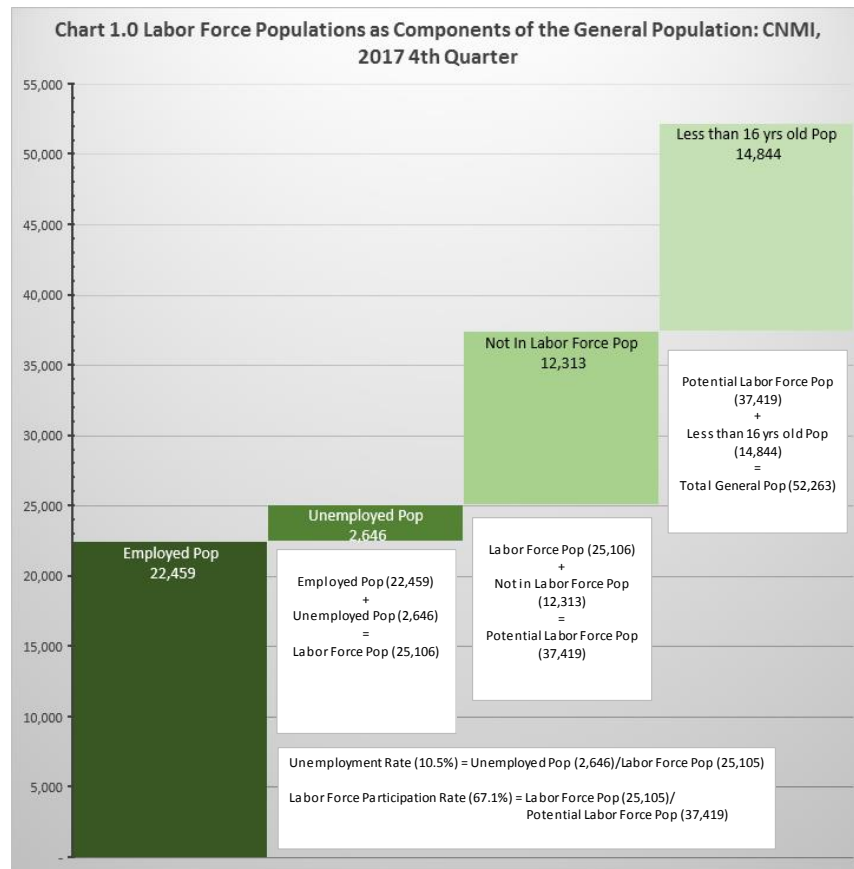


## LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE

Another useful measure of labor utilization in the economy is the *labor force participation rate*. This measure is derived by dividing the *in-labor force population* by the *potential labor force population*. In other words, it is the proportion of the potential labor force population that is currently available to supply labor productivity in the economy.

## ESTIMATED GENERAL POPULATION, LABOR FORCE POPULATIONS, UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AND LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE IN THE CNMI, 4TH QTR., 2017

The estimated total population in the Commonwealth in 2017 was 52,263<sup>1</sup>. Chart 1.0, below, disaggregates this total into its various components (or sub-populations) and illustrates the relationships among them. The estimated employed population was 22,459 workers while the unemployed population was 2,646 persons. These two complementary populations combine to form the estimated labor force population of 25,106 persons. The not in labor force population was 12,313 persons, which when added to its complementary, the labor force population, constitute the potential labor force population of 37,419 persons. The potential labor force population (consisting of all 16 years old and older) plus the less than 16 years old population equals the estimated total population of 52,263 persons. Please see Appendix A for details on how the general population and the various labor force populations were derived. It is important to note that the employed population was almost 90% of the labor force population; that the labor force population was 67% of the potential labor force population; and that the potential labor force population was 72% of the general population. Because the employed population is a major component of the other labor force populations, namely, the labor force and the potential labor force populations, its characteristics/patterns underlie these other labor force populations.



<sup>1</sup> The CNMI total population estimate of 52,263 for 2017 is based on the [U.S. Census Bureau](#) estimates.

## LFP MEASURES BY ISLAND AND DISTRICT

### TOTAL POPULATION BY ISLAND AND DISTRICT

Of the 52,263 CNMI total population, Saipan's was 47,565 (91%), Tinian's was 2,626 (5%), and Rota's was 2,072 (4%). Again, please see Appendix A for detail how the populations were estimated.

By districts, District 3 had the largest population of 15,218 (29%); followed by District 1 with 14,416 (28%), District 5 with 7,472 (24%), District 2, 6,566 (13%), and District 4 with 3,892 (7%). District 6 is the island of Tinian, and District 7 is the Island of Rota. See Table 1.0 and Chart 1.1 for details.

### POTENTIAL LABOR FORCE POPULATION BY ISLAND AND DISTRICT

Of 37,419 estimated potential labor force population at the time of the Survey, 34,001 (91%) was in Saipan, 1,874 (5%) in Tinian, and 1,544 (4%) in Rota.

Within Saipan and by districts, District 3 had the largest potential labor force population of 10,961 (29%), followed by District 1 with 10,209 (27%), District 5 with 5,690 (15%), District 2 with 4,426 (12%), and District 4 with 2,714 (7%).

### LABOR FORCE POPULATION BY ISLAND AND DISTRICT

Of the 25,106 estimated labor force population persons in the CNMI at the time of the Survey, 22,339 (91%) was in Saipan, 1,218 (5%) in Tinian, and 1,084 (4%) in Rota.

Within Saipan and by districts, District 3 had the largest labor force population of 7,697 (31%), followed by District 1 with 6,706 (27%), District 5 with 3,508 (14%), District 2 with 3,217 (13%), and District 4 with 1,676 (7%).

### EMPLOYED POPULATION BY ISLAND AND DISTRICT

Of the 22,459 estimated employed population in the CNMI at the time of the Survey, 20,339 (91%) was in Saipan, 1,135 (5%) in Tinian, and 986 (4%) in Rota.

**Table 1.0 Labor Force Participation Measures by Island and District: CNMI, 2017 4th Qtr.**

Island/District	General Population	Potential Labor Force Population (persons 16+ years)	Labor Force Population	Employed Population	Un-employed Population	Not In Labor Force Population	Unemployment Rate	Labor Force Participation Rate
<b>Saipan</b>	<b>47,565</b>	<b>34,001</b>	<b>22,804</b>	<b>20,339</b>	<b>2,465</b>	<b>11,197</b>	<b>10.8%</b>	<b>67.1%</b>
District 1	14,416	10,209	6,706	5,980	726	3,503	10.8%	65.7%
District 2	6,566	4,426	3,217	2,807	410	1,210	12.8%	72.7%
District 3	15,218	10,961	7,697	7,052	645	3,264	8.4%	70.2%
District 4	3,892	2,714	1,676	1,507	169	1,038	10.1%	61.7%
District 5	7,472	5,690	3,508	2,992	515	2,182	14.7%	61.6%
<b>Tinian</b>	<b>2,626</b>	<b>1,874</b>	<b>1,218</b>	<b>1,135</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>6.8%</b>	<b>65.0%</b>
<b>Rota</b>	<b>2,072</b>	<b>1,544</b>	<b>1,084</b>	<b>986</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>9.0%</b>	<b>70.2%</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>52,263</b>	<b>37,419</b>	<b>25,106</b>	<b>22,459</b>	<b>2,646</b>	<b>12,313</b>	<b>10.5%</b>	<b>67.1%</b>
<i>Percent by Island/District</i>								
<b>Saipan</b>	<b>91.0%</b>	<b>90.9%</b>	<b>90.8%</b>	<b>90.6%</b>	<b>93.2%</b>	<b>90.9%</b>		
District 1	27.6%	27.3%	26.7%	26.6%	27.4%	28.4%		
District 2	12.6%	11.8%	12.8%	12.5%	15.5%	9.8%		
District 3	29.1%	29.3%	30.7%	31.4%	24.4%	26.5%		
District 4	7.4%	7.3%	6.7%	6.7%	6.4%	8.4%		
District 5	14.3%	15.2%	14.0%	13.3%	19.5%	17.7%		
<b>Tinian</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>4.9%</b>	<b>5.1%</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>5.3%</b>		
<b>Rota</b>	<b>4.0%</b>	<b>4.1%</b>	<b>4.3%</b>	<b>4.4%</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>3.7%</b>		
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>		

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Within Saipan and by districts, District 3 had the largest employed population of 7,052 (31%), followed by District 1 with 5,980 (27%), District 5 with 2,992 (13%), District 2 with 2,807 (13%), and District 4 with 1,507 (7%).

**UNEMPLOYED POPULATION BY ISLAND AND DISTRICT**

Of the 2,646 estimated unemployed population, at the time of the Survey in the Commonwealth, 2,465 (93%) was in Saipan, 83 (3%) in Tinian and 98 (4%) in Rota.

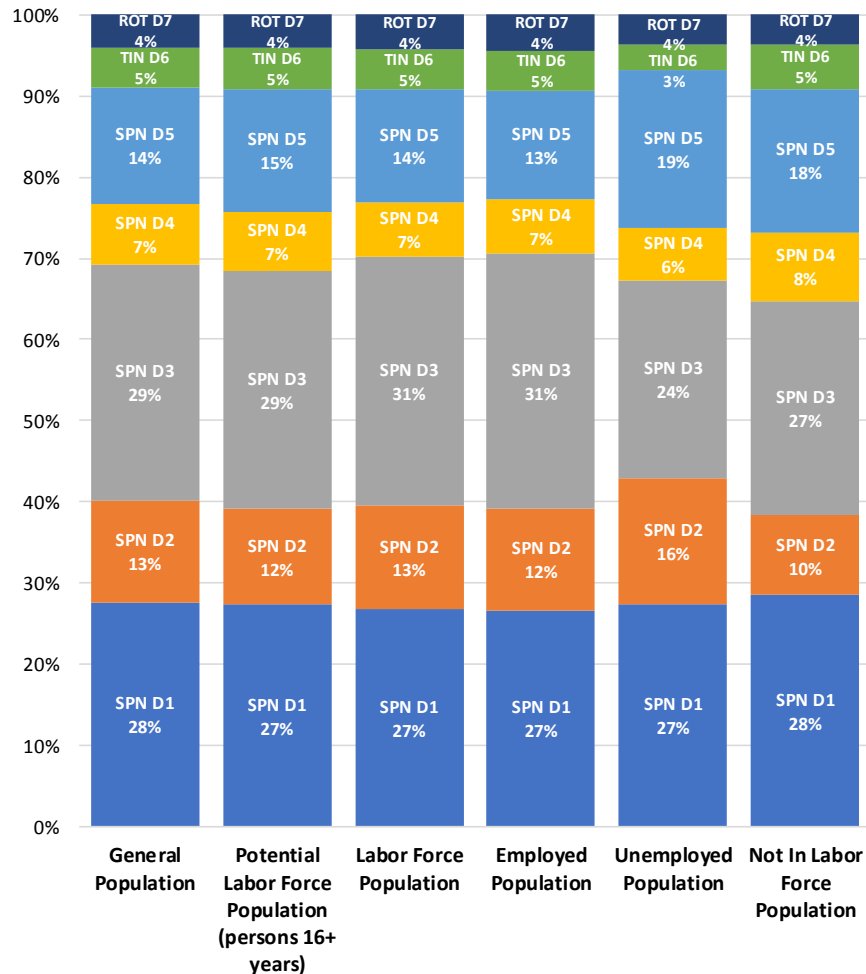
Within Saipan and by district, District 1 had the largest unemployed population of 726 (27%), followed by District 3 with 645 (24%), District 5 with 515 (20%), District 2 with 410 (16%), and District 4 with 169 (6%).

**NOT IN LABOR FORCE POPULATION BY ISLAND AND DISTRICT**

Of the 12,313 estimated not in-labor force population in the CNMI in 2017 4th Quarter, 11,197 (91%) was in Saipan, 656 (5%) in Tinian, and 461 (4%) in Rota.

Within Saipan and by districts, District 1 had the largest not in labor force population of 3,503 (28%), followed by District 3 with 3,264 (27%), District 5 with 2,182 (17%), District 2 with 1,210 (10%), and District 4 with 1,038 (8%).

**Chart 1.1 Population Distributions by District: CNMI, 2017 4th Qtr.**



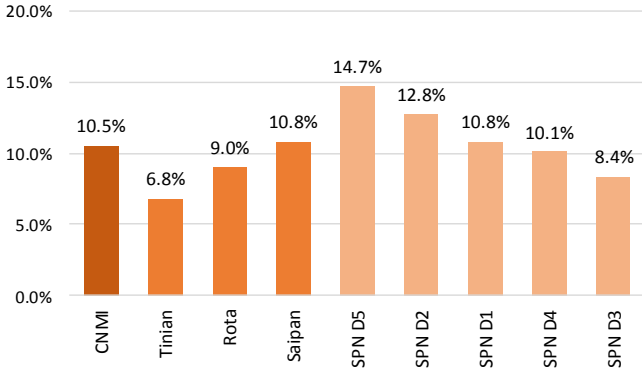
As noted earlier, the employed population was 90% of the labor force population, while the labor force population was 67% of the potential labor force population and the potential labor force population in turn made up 72% of the general population. The interdependencies is the main reason the percent distribution of the employed, labor force, potential labor force, and the general populations are similar, as shown Table B.1.0 and Chart B.1.1. For example, by island, Saipan comprised 91% of the general population; Tinian, 5%; and Rota, 4%. This percent distribution is the same in all labor force populations. The same is true with percent distribution by district. By district, District 3 had the highest share, followed by District 1, District 5, District 2, and then District 4 had the lowest share in all population except for the unemployed and the not in labor force populations. In these last two, District 1 had the highest share, followed by District 3, District 5, District 2, then District 4.

**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY ISLAND AND DISTRICT**

The unemployment rate was highest in Saipan at 10.8%, followed by Rota at 9.0%, then Tinian at 6.8%.

Within Saipan and by district, District 5 had the highest unemployment rate of 14.7%, followed by District 2 at 12.8%, District 1 at 10.8%, District 4 at 10.1%, and District 3 at 8.4%.

**Chart 1.2 Unemployment Rate by Island and District:  
CNMI, 2017 4th Qrt.**

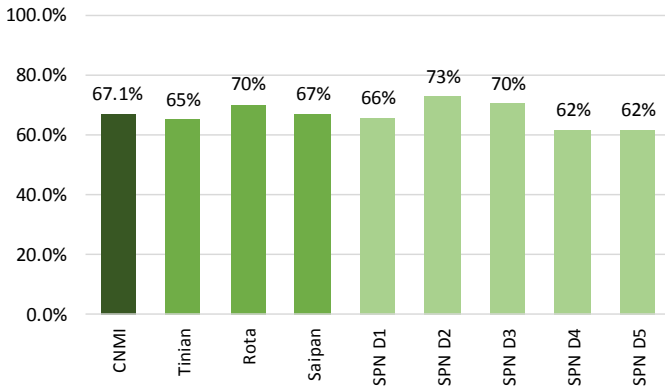


**LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE BY ISLAND AND DISTRICT**

In the 4th Quarter of 2017, the labor force participation rate in the CNMI was highest in Rota 70.2%, followed by Saipan 67.1%, then Tinian at 65.0%.

Within Saipan and by district, District 2 had the highest LFP rate of 72.7%, followed by District 3 at 70.2%, District 1 at 65.7%, while District 4 and 5 had similar LFP rate at 62%.

**Chart 1.3 Labor Force Participation Rate by Island and District: CNMI, 2017 4th Qrt.**



## LFP MEASURES BY GENDER

### TOTAL POPULATION BY GENDER

Male outnumbered female in the CNMI at the time of the Survey. An estimated 27,641 (53%) of the estimated total CNMI population was male.

### POTENTIAL LABOR FORCE POPULATION BY GENDER

Like the general population, the majority (19,515, 52%) of the potential labor force population was male.

### LABOR FORCE POPULATION BY GENDER

Male comprised a much higher proportion (58% or 14,571 persons) of the labor force population.

### EMPLOYED POPULATION BY GENDER

Like the labor force population, male comprised 58% (13,082 person) of the employed population in the Commonwealth during the 4th Quarter, 2017. As noted earlier, it is the distribution of the employed population that influenced that of the labor force population since the employed population made up almost 90% of the labor force population at the time of the Survey.

### UNEMPLOYED POPULATION BY GENDER

Male also comprised the majority (56%, 1,489) of the unemployed population in the CNMI at the time of the Survey.

**Table 2.0 Labor Force Participation Measures by Gender: CNMI, 2017 4th Qtr.**

Gender	General Population	Potential Labor Force Population (persons 16+ years)	Labor Force Population	Employed Population	Un-employed Population	Not In Labor Force Population	Unemployment Rate	Labor Force Participation Rate
Male	27,641	19,515	14,571	13,082	1,489	4,943	10.2%	74.7%
Female	24,622	17,904	10,534	9,378	1,157	7,370	11.0%	58.8%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>52,263</b>	<b>37,419</b>	<b>25,106</b>	<b>22,459</b>	<b>2,646</b>	<b>12,313</b>	<b>10.5%</b>	<b>67.1%</b>
<i>Percent by Gender</i>								
Male	52.9%	52.2%	58.0%	58.2%	56.3%	40.1%		
Female	47.1%	47.8%	42.0%	41.8%	43.7%	59.9%		
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>		

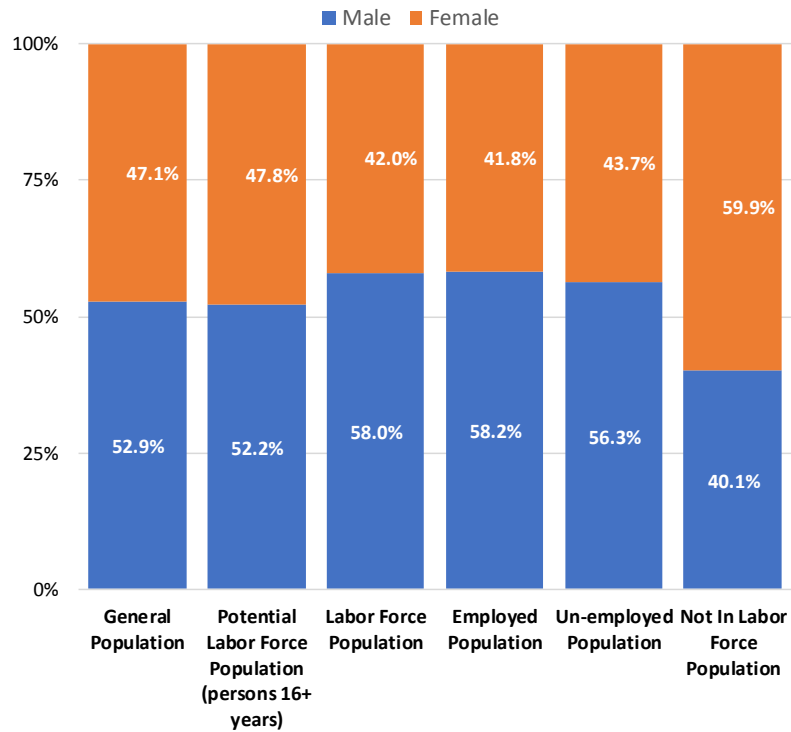
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## NOT IN LABOR FORCE POPULATION BY GENDER

The proportions and numbers of male and female are reversed when it comes to the not-in-labor force population. Female comprised a larger share (60%, 7,370) of the not in labor force population.

**Chart 2.1 Population Distributions by Gender: CNMI, 2017 4th Qtr.**



## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY GENDER

There was no significant difference in the unemployment rate between male and female, at the time of the Survey. The seeming, minor difference in Table 2.0 is not statistically significant at the 5% level of significance.

## LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE BY GENDER

Male had a higher labor force participation rate (75%) than female (59%) at the time of the Survey. This fact is evident in the measures discussed previously. It is also a pattern that is true in most economies elsewhere: traditionally, a higher proportion of the male population, compared to that of female, participate, directly, in the supply of labor in the economy. Child-rearing and other traditional roles by women in the society keep some women from entering the labor force.

## LFP MEASURES BY AGE GROUP

### TOTAL POPULATION BY AGE GROUP

Persons less than 16 years of age comprised 28% (14,844 person) of the total population in the Commonwealth at the time of the Survey. Aside from the *less than 16* group, 45 to 54 was the largest ten-year age group followed by 35 to 44, and 55 to 64, see Table 3.0 for details. (Please note that the age groups have different intervals which is suitable for looking at age from the labor force participation perspective.) The higher relative share of these age groups also reflects the presence of a relatively large foreign-worker population in the CNMI at the time of the Survey, which will become clear in the sections on citizenship and place of birth discussed later.

### POTENTIAL LABOR FORCE POPULATION BY AGE GROUP

The largest ten-year age group of this population was the 45–to 54 with 9,810 (26%), followed by 35 to 44 with 7,656 (21%), 16 to 24 with 6,373 (17%), 55 to 64 with 5,790 (16%), 25 to 34 with 5,136 (14%), then 65 and older with 2,654 (7%).

### LABOR FORCE POPULATION BY AGE GROUP

The largest ten-year age group of the labor force population was the 45–to 54 with 7,480 (30%), followed by 35 to 44 with 6,106 (24%), 25 to 34 with 3,845 (15%), 55 to 64 with 3,529 (14%), 16 to 24 with 3,298 (13%), then 65 and older with 847 (3%).

### EMPLOYED POPULATION BY AGE GROUP

The largest ten-year age group of the employed population was the 45 to 54 with 6,779 (30%), followed by the 35 to 44 with 5,569 (25%), 25 to 34 with 3,397 (15%), 55 to 64 with 3,241 (14%), 16 to 24 with 2,644 (12%), and 65 and older with 830 (4%). As shown in Table B.3.0 and Chart B.3.1, the age group percent distribution was similar in the employed, labor force, and potential labor force populations because of the interdependence among these populations. The employed population was 90% of the labor force population hence its age group distribution underlies the other labor force populations, namely, the labor force and the potential labor force populations.

**Table 3.0 Labor Force Participation Measures by Age Group: CNMI, 2017 4th Qtr.**

Age Group	General Population	Potential Labor Force Population (persons 16+ years)	Labor Force Population	Employed Population	Un-employed Population	Not In Labor Force Population	Unemployment Rate	Labor Force Participation Rate
Less than 16	14,844	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16 to 19 yrs	3,766	3,766	1,217	899	318	2,548	26.2%	32.3%
20 to 24 yrs	2,608	2,608	2,081	1,745	336	527	16.2%	79.8%
25 to 34 yrs	5,136	5,136	3,845	3,397	448	1,291	11.6%	74.9%
35 to 44 yrs	7,656	7,656	6,106	5,569	538	1,549	8.8%	79.8%
45 to 54 yrs	9,810	9,810	7,480	6,779	701	2,330	9.4%	76.3%
55 to 64 yrs	5,790	5,790	3,529	3,241	288	2,261	8.2%	61.0%
65 and older	2,654	2,654	847	830	17	1,807	2.0%	31.9%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>52,263</b>	<b>37,419</b>	<b>25,106</b>	<b>22,459</b>	<b>2,646</b>	<b>12,313</b>	<b>10.5%</b>	<b>67.1%</b>
			<i>Percent by Age Group</i>					
Less than 16	28.4%	-	-	-	-	-		
16 to 19 yrs	7.2%	10.1%	4.8%	4.0%	12.0%	20.7%		
20 to 24 yrs	5.0%	7.0%	8.3%	7.8%	12.7%	4.3%		
25 to 34 yrs	9.8%	13.7%	15.3%	15.1%	16.9%	10.5%		
35 to 44 yrs	14.6%	20.5%	24.3%	24.8%	20.3%	12.6%		
45 to 54 yrs	18.8%	26.2%	29.8%	30.2%	26.5%	18.9%		
55 to 64 yrs	11.1%	15.5%	14.1%	14.4%	10.9%	18.4%		
65 and older	5.1%	7.1%	3.4%	3.7%	0.6%	14.7%		
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>		

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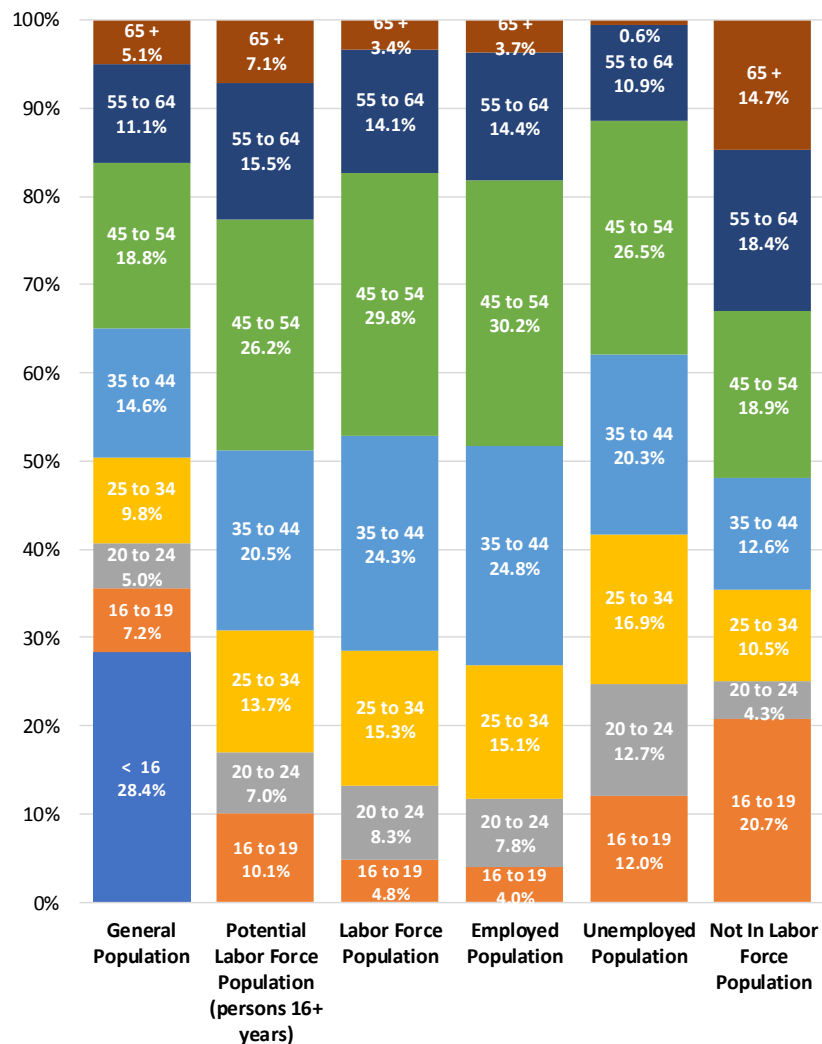
## UNEMPLOYED POPULATION BY AGE GROUP

Within the unemployed population, the 45 to 54 age group was the largest with 701 (27%), followed by 16 to 24 with 655 (25%), 35 to 44 with 538 (20%), 25 to 34 with 448 (17%), 55 to 64 with 288 (11%), then 65 and older with 17 (1%). Note that the 65 and older group comprise a very small percentage (less than 1%) of the unemployed population because of retirement and other reasons such as illness.

## NOT IN LABOR FORCE POPULATION BY AGE GROUP

The 16 to 24 was the largest age group within the not in the labor force population with 3,075 (25%), followed by 45 to 54 with 2,330 (19%), 55 to 64 with 2,261 (18%), 65 and older with 1,807 (15%), 35 to 44 with 1,549 (13%), then 25 to 34 with 1,291 (11%). Note that the 16 to 19 and the 65 and older had relatively higher share of the not in labor force population than in the other populations. This is because the 16 to 19 age group are more likely to be in school and the 65 and older are more likely retired or no longer active in the labor market.

**Chart 3.1 Population Distributions by Age Group: CNMI, 2017 4th Qtr.**

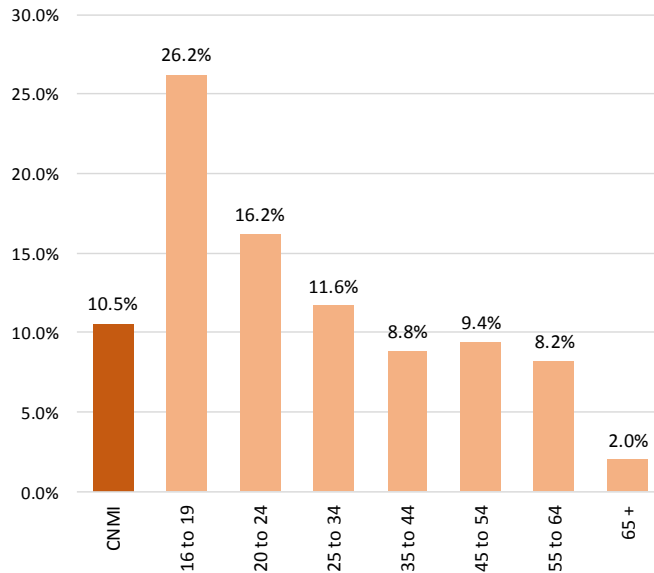




## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY AGE GROUP

The unemployment rate is negatively associated with age group: it was highest for the 16 to 19 age group at 26.2% and lowest for the 65 and older at 2.0%. This is so mainly because in the lower age brackets, young people are more likely to be in school and have not acquired the necessary work experience or skills to get jobs quickly. From 25 through 64, most people are healthy and have acquired marketable/productive skills and more likely to be gainfully employed. Beyond 64, retirement and illness keep persons in this age group from entering or remaining the labor force.

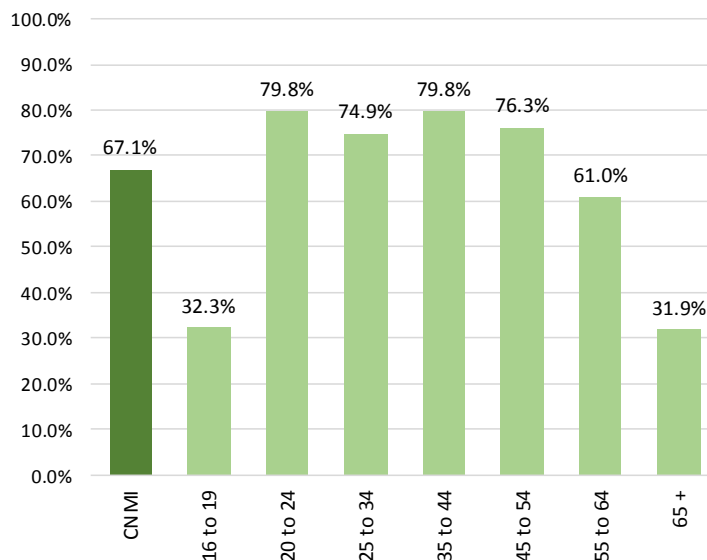
Chart 3.2 Unemployment Rate by Age Group: CNMI, 2017 4th Qrt.



## LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE BY AGE GROUP

The labor force participation rate was lower in the 16 to 19 age group and in the 65 and older age group and higher among age groups in between. It was about 32% for both the 16 to 19 and 65 and older and ranged from 61% to 80% for the age groups in between. This distribution is true in economies elsewhere, not just in the CNMI. At the lower age brackets, it takes time for persons to

Chart 3.3 Labor Force Participation Rate by Age Group: CNMI, 2017 4th Qrt.



enter the labor force population for various reasons, including going to school and lack of employable skills. On the other hand, persons 65 and older are exiting the labor force population mainly for retirement and for other reasons, such as illness. Labor force participation rate is higher in the intervening age groups where people are usually healthy and have gained skills to be gainfully employed.

## LFP MEASURES BY ETHNIC GROUP

### TOTAL POPULATION BY MAJOR ETHNIC GROUP

Asian was the largest major ethnic group with 54% (28,240) of the CNMI's total population at the time of the Survey. It was followed by Pacific Islander with 45% (23,267), then Caucasian at 1% (574). Chamorro and Carolinian was 36% (18,564) and made up the clear majority of the Pacific Islander. Filipino was 41% (21,537) of the total population and was the largest single ethnic, as well as the largest of the Asian ethnic group.

### POTENTIAL LABOR FORCE POPULATION BY MAJOR ETHNIC GROUP

Asian was the largest major ethnic group at 55% (20,607), with Filipino being the largest (42%, 15,681) among Asians within the potential labor force population. Chinese was the second largest among Asians. Pacific islander with 43% (16,195) was the second largest major ethnic, most of which was Chamorro and Carolinian (28%, 13,112). Micronesian was the second among the Pacific Islander at about 9% (4,503) of the potential labor force population, at the time of the Survey.

**Table 4.0 Labor Force Participation Measures by Major Ethnic Group: CNMI, 2017 4th Qtr.**

Ethnic Group	General Population	Potential Labor Force Population (persons 16+ years)	Labor Force Population	Employed Population	Un-employed Population	Not In Labor Force Population	Unemployment Rate	Labor Force Participation Rate
<b>Pacific Islander</b>	<b>23,267</b>	<b>16,195</b>	<b>8,629</b>	<b>7,193</b>	<b>1,437</b>	<b>7,566</b>	<b>16.7%</b>	<b>53.3%</b>
Chamorro and Carolinian	18,564	13,112	6,953	5,788	1,166	6,159	16.8%	53.0%
Micronesian	4,503	2,995	1,588	1,336	253	1,407	15.9%	53.0%
Othe Pac Islander	200	88	88	69	19	-	21.3%	100.0%
<b>Caucasian</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>7.2%</b>	<b>80.9%</b>
<b>Asian</b>	<b>28,240</b>	<b>20,607</b>	<b>15,980</b>	<b>14,801</b>	<b>1,178</b>	<b>4,628</b>	<b>7.4%</b>	<b>77.5%</b>
Chinese	3,829	2,876	2,159	2,080	79	717	3.7%	75.1%
Japanese	435	338	245	245	-	94	0.0%	72.3%
Koean	757	584	455	434	21	129	4.6%	77.8%
Filipino	21,537	15,681	12,357	11,388	969	3,324	7.8%	78.8%
Other Asian	1,683	1,128	765	655	109	363	14.3%	67.8%
<b>Other Single</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>78.2%</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>52,263</b>	<b>37,419</b>	<b>25,106</b>	<b>22,459</b>	<b>2,646</b>	<b>12,313</b>	<b>10.5%</b>	<b>67.1%</b>
<i>Percent by Ethnic Group</i>								
<b>Pacific Islander</b>	<b>44.5%</b>	<b>43.3%</b>	<b>34.4%</b>	<b>32.0%</b>	<b>54.3%</b>	<b>61.4%</b>		
Chamorro and Carolinian	35.5%	35.0%	27.7%	25.8%	44.0%	50.0%		
Micronesian	8.6%	8.0%	6.3%	5.9%	9.5%	11.4%		
Othe Pac Islander	0.4%	0.2%	0.4%	0.3%	0.7%	-		
<b>Caucasian</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>1.8%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>0.8%</b>		
<b>Asian</b>	<b>54.0%</b>	<b>55.1%</b>	<b>63.7%</b>	<b>65.9%</b>	<b>44.5%</b>	<b>37.6%</b>		
Chinese	7.3%	7.7%	8.6%	9.3%	3.0%	5.8%		
Japanese	0.8%	0.9%	1.0%	1.1%	-	0.8%		
Koean	1.4%	1.6%	1.8%	1.9%	0.8%	1.1%		
Filipino	41.2%	41.9%	49.2%	50.7%	36.6%	27.0%		
Other Asian	3.2%	3.0%	3.0%	2.9%	4.1%	2.9%		
<b>Other Single</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.2%</b>		
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>		

Notes:  
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 "-" means zero or not applicable  
 "0.0%" means less than 0.01%

### LABOR FORCE POPULATION BY MAJOR ETHNIC GROUP

Asians made up 64% (15,980) of the labor force population in the Commonwealth at the time of the Survey, while Pacific Islander was 34% (8,629). Filipino was the largest single ethnic at 49% (12,357), followed by Chamorro and Carolinian (28%, 6,953), Chinese (8%, 2,159) and Micronesian (6%, 1,588).

### EMPLOYED POPULATION BY MAJOR ETHNIC GROUP

Asian comprised 66% of the employed population, at the time of the Survey while Pacific Islander made up 32%. Filipino was the largest single ethnic at 50% (11,388). Chamorro and Carolinian was 26% (5,788), Chinese was 9% (2,080) and Micronesian was 6% (1,336).

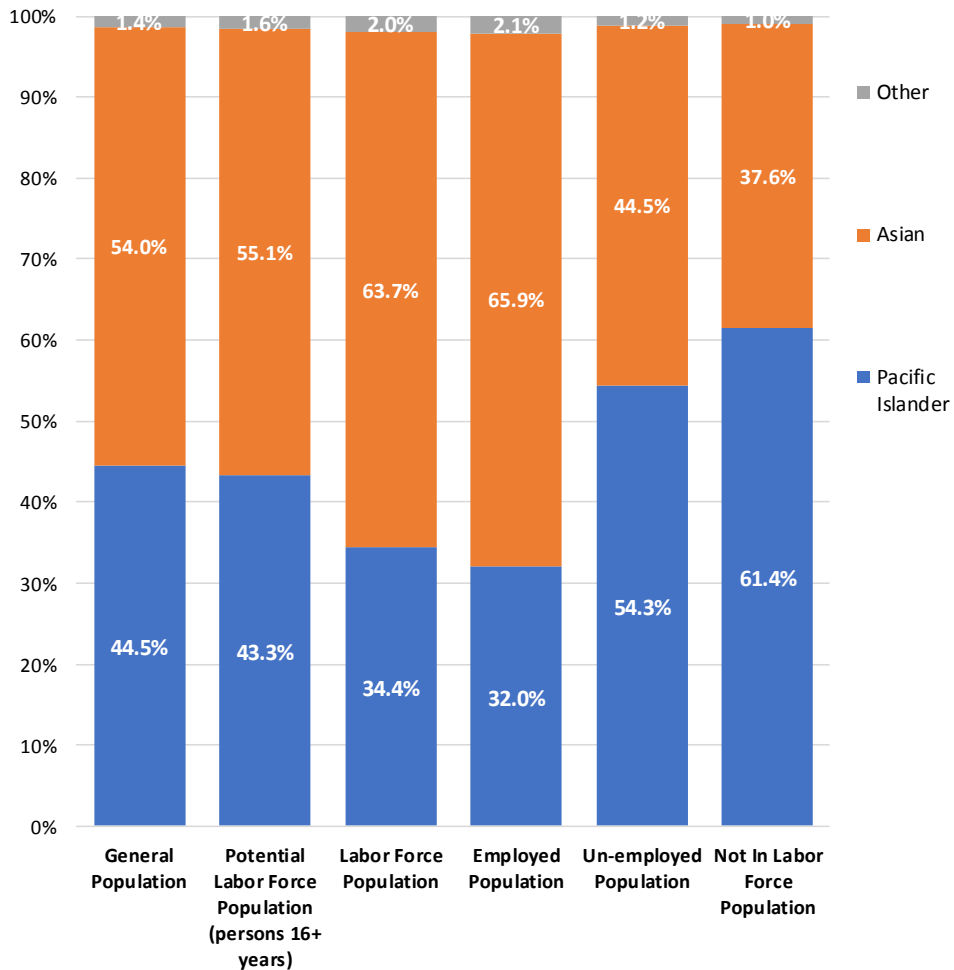
### UNEMPLOYED POPULATION BY MAJOR ETHNIC GROUP

Pacific Islander was 54% (1,437) of the unemployed population at the time of the Survey while Asian was 45% (1,178). Chamorro and Carolinian was 44% (1,166), Filipino was 37% (969), Micronesian was 10% (253), and Chinese was 3% (79).

### NOT IN LABOR FORCE POPULATION BY MAJOR ETHNIC GROUP

Pacific Islander was 61% (7,566) of the not in labor force population, at the time of the Survey, while Asian was 38% (4,628). Chamorro and Carolinian was 50% (6,159), Filipino was 27% (3,324), Micronesian was 11% (1,407), and Chinese was 6% (717).

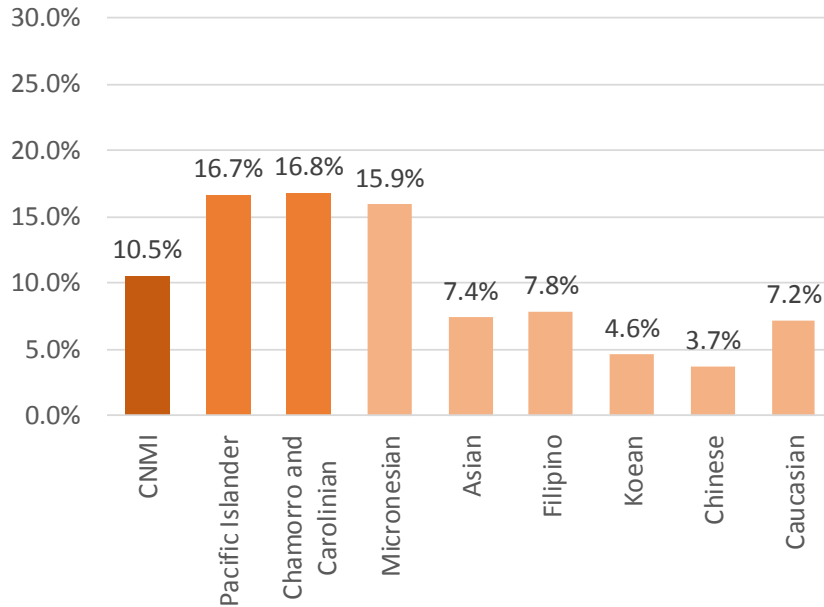
**Chart 4.1 Population Distributions by Major Ethnic Group: CNMI, 2017 4th Qtr.**



## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY MAJOR ETHNIC GROUP

Pacific Islander unemployment rate was 16.7% while Asian was 7.4%. Chamorro and Carolinian unemployment rate was 16.8%, Micronesians was 15.9%, Filipino was 7.8%, and Chinese was 3.7%.

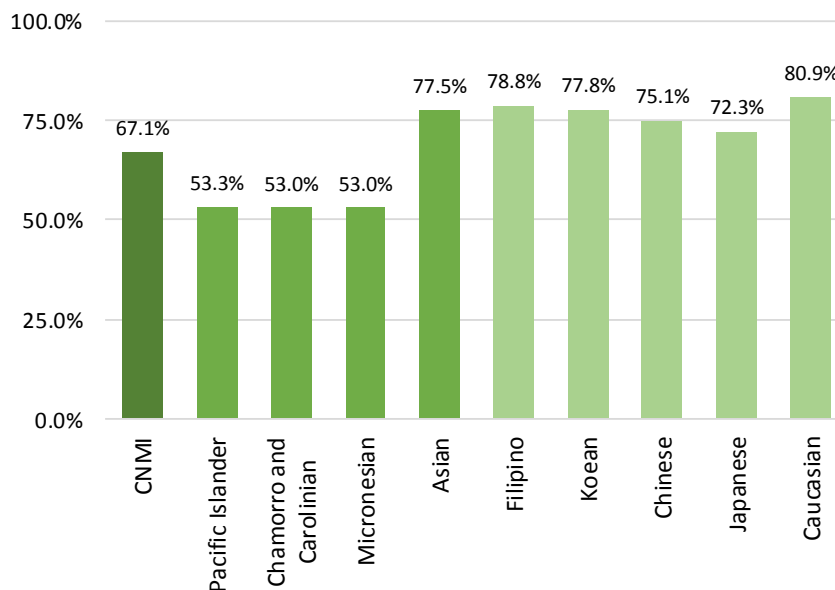
**Chart 4.2 Unemployment Rate by Ethnic Group: CNMI, 2017 4th Qrt.**



## LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE BY MAJOR ETHNIC GROUP

Asian labor force participation rate was 77.5%, at the time of the Survey, while Pacific Islander was 53.3%. Caucasian had the highest labor force participation rate at 80.9%, followed by Filipino (78.8%), Korean (77.8%), Chinese (75.1%), and Japanese (72.3%). Chamorro and Carolinian and Micronesians had the same labor force participation rate at 53.0%.

**Chart 4.3 Labor Force Participation Rate by Ethnic Group: CNMI, 2017 4th Qrt.**



## LFP MEASURES BY CITIZENSHIP

### TOTAL POPULATION BY CITIZENSHIP

The U.S. Citizen and Permanent Resident comprised 71% (37,249) while Not U.S. Citizen was 28% (15,262) of the total population in the Commonwealth at the time of the Survey.

### POTENTIAL LABOR FORCE POPULATION BY CITIZENSHIP

The U.S. Citizen and Permanent Resident made up 62% (23,185) while Not a U.S. Citizen was 38% (14,234) of the potential labor force population in the Commonwealth at the time of the Survey. The U.S. Citizen was 50% (18,541), Permanent Resident was 12% (4,644).

### LABOR FORCE POPULATION BY CITIZENSHIP

The U.S. Citizen and Permanent Resident made up 55% (13,771) while Not U.S. Citizen was 45% (11,334) of the labor force population in the Commonwealth at the time of the Survey. The U.S. Citizen was 41% (10,401) while Permanent Resident was 14% (3,370).

### EMPLOYED POPULATION BY CITIZENSHIP

The U.S. Citizen and Permanent Resident made up 54% (12,055) while Not U.S. Citizen was 46% (10,404) of the employed population in the Commonwealth at the time of the Survey. The U.S. Citizen was 40% (8,996) while Permanent Resident was 14% (3,060).

### UNEMPLOYED POPULATION BY CITIZENSHIP

The U.S. Citizen and Permanent Resident made up 65% (1,716) while Not U.S. Citizen was 35% (930) of the unemployed population in the Commonwealth at the time of the Survey. The U.S. Citizen was 53% (1,406) while Permanent Resident was 12% (310). Note that while there are Not U.S. Citizens in the unemployed population, they are likely to be more temporary, compared to U.S. Citizen and Permanent Resident, because of existing laws governing migrant workers. With no job, Not U.S. Citizen, migrant worker will eventually leave the CNMI.

**Table 5.0 Labor Force Participation Measures by Citizenship: CNMI, 2017 4th Qtr.**

Citizenship	General Population	Potential Labor Force Population (persons 16+ years)	Labor Force Population	Employed Population	Un-employed Population	Not in Labor Force Population	Unemployment Rate	Labor Force Participation Rate
<b>U.S. Citizen and Permanent Residents</b>	<b>37,249</b>	<b>23,185</b>	<b>13,771</b>	<b>12,055</b>	<b>1,716</b>	<b>9,414</b>	<b>12.5%</b>	<b>59.4%</b>
U.S. Citizen	32,508	18,541	10,401	8,996	1,406	8,140	13.5%	56.1%
Permanent Resident (FAS, GC, etc)	4,741	4,644	3,370	3,060	310	1,274	9.2%	72.6%
<b>Not a U.S. Citizen</b>	<b>15,014</b>	<b>14,234</b>	<b>11,334</b>	<b>10,404</b>	<b>930</b>	<b>2,899</b>	<b>8.2%</b>	<b>79.6%</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>52,263</b>	<b>37,419</b>	<b>25,106</b>	<b>22,459</b>	<b>2,646</b>	<b>12,313</b>	<b>10.5%</b>	<b>67.1%</b>
<i>Percent by Citizenship</i>								
<b>U.S. Citizen and Permanent Residents</b>	<b>71.3%</b>	<b>62.0%</b>	<b>54.9%</b>	<b>53.7%</b>	<b>64.8%</b>	<b>76.5%</b>		
U.S. Citizen	62.2%	49.5%	41.4%	40.1%	53.1%	66.1%		
Permanent Resident (FAS, GC, etc)	9.1%	12.4%	13.4%	13.6%	11.7%	10.4%		
<b>Not a U.S. Citizen</b>	<b>28.7%</b>	<b>38.0%</b>	<b>45.1%</b>	<b>46.3%</b>	<b>35.2%</b>	<b>23.5%</b>		
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>		

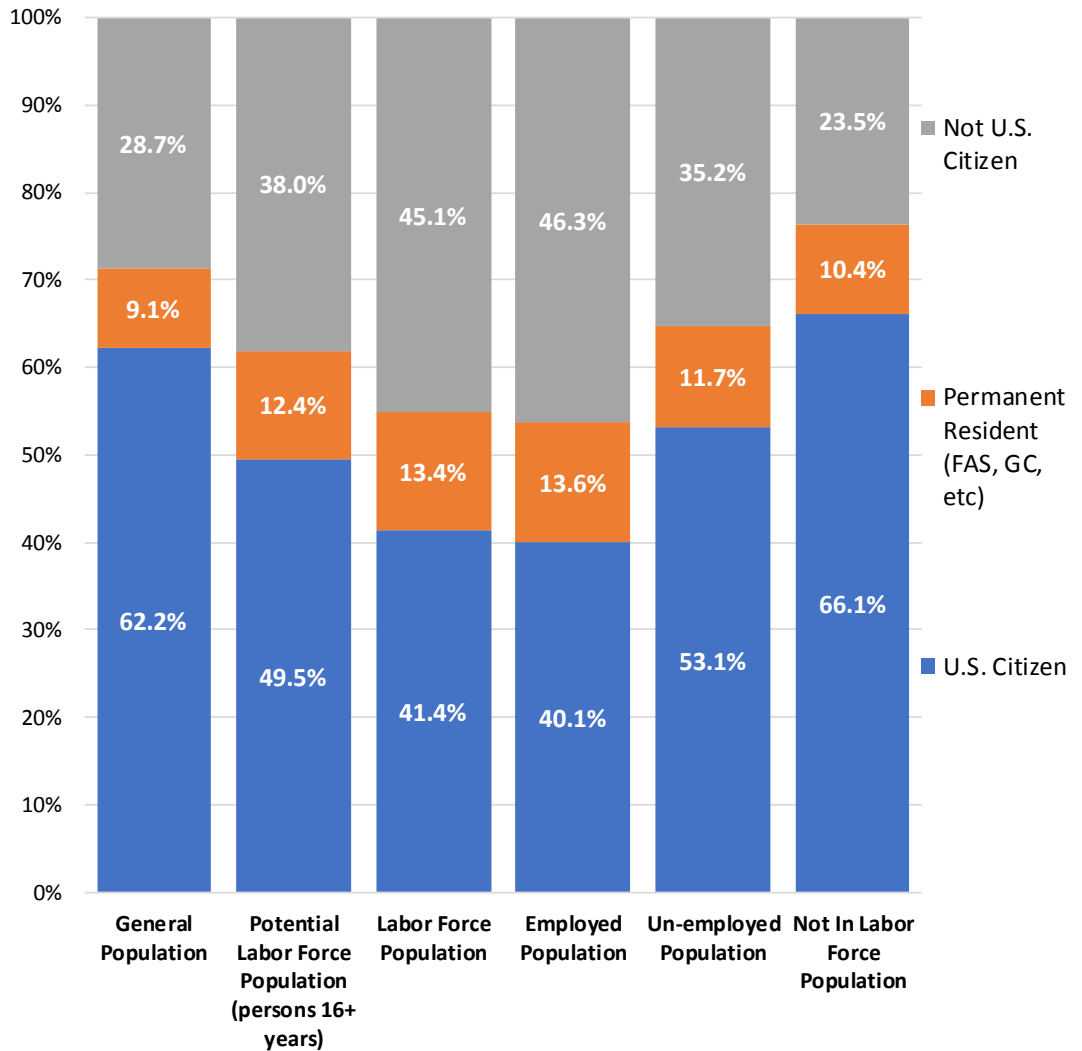
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**NOT IN LABOR FORCE POPULATION BY CITIZENSHIP**

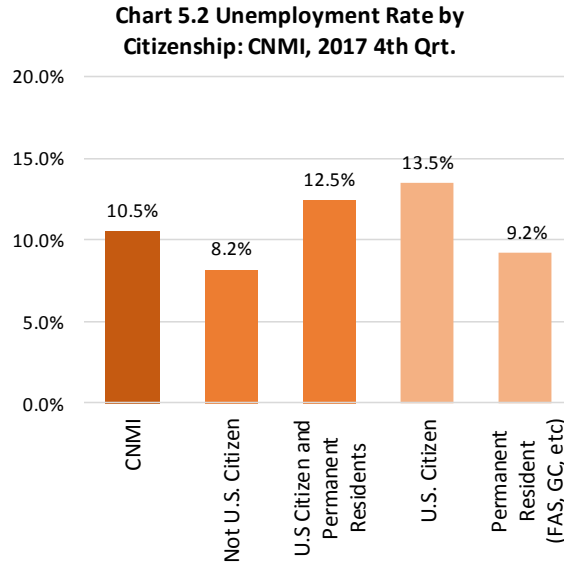
The U.S. Citizen and Permanent Resident made up 77% (9,414) while Not U.S. Citizen was 23% (2,899) of the not in labor force population in the Commonwealth at the time of the Survey. The U.S. Citizen was 66% (8,140) while Permanent Resident was 10% (1,274). Expectedly, Not U.S. Citizen was a lower percentage of the not in labor force population because of existing laws governing this group. Not U.S. Citizens who lose their jobs may be unemployed for a while and may even stop looking for work and become part of the not in labor force but will have to leave the CNMI in compliance with existing laws.

**Chart 5.1 Population Distributions by Citizenship: CNMI, 2017 4th Qtr.**



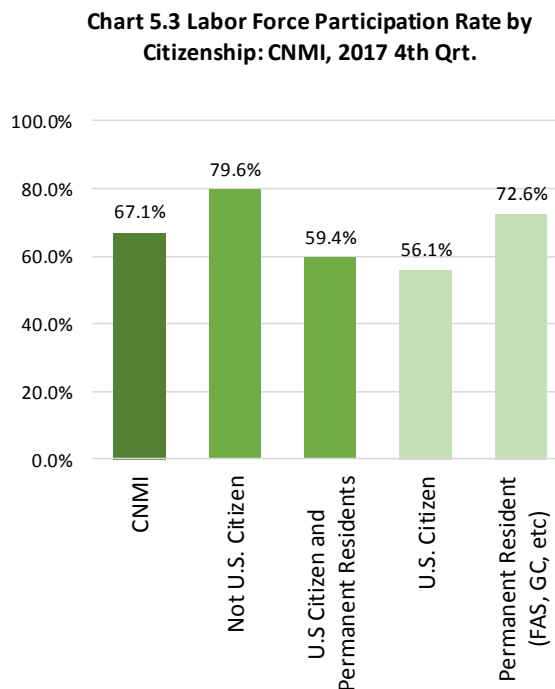
## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY CITIZENSHIP

The U.S. Citizen and Permanent Resident unemployment rate was 12.5% while Not U.S. Citizen was 8.2% in the Commonwealth at the time of the Survey. The U.S. Citizen unemployment rate was 13.5% while Permanent Resident was 9.2%. Because the Not U.S. Citizen (migrant workers) entered the CNMI for employment reason, unemployment rate is expected to be lower for this group than the U.S. Citizen and Permanent Resident.



## LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE BY CITIZENSHIP

The U.S. Citizen and Permanent Resident labor force participation rate was 59.4% while Not U.S. Citizen was 79.6% in the Commonwealth at the time of the Survey. The U.S. Citizen labor force participation rate was 56.1% while Permanent Resident was 72.6%. Again, Not U.S. Citizen is expected to have a higher labor force participation rate because persons in this group came here for employment reason.



## LFP MEASURES BY BIRTHPLACE

### TOTAL POPULATION BY BIRTHPLACE

Sixty percent (60%, 31,229) of the total population in the CNMI, at the time of the Survey, was born in the US or US Territories while 36% (18,552) was born in Asian countries. Fifty seven percent (57%, 29,618) was born in the CNMI; 26% (13,661) was born in the Philippines.

### POTENTIAL LABOR FORCE POPULATION BY BIRTHPLACE

Forty eight percent (48%, 17,796) of the potential labor force population in the CNMI, at the time of the Survey, was born in Asian countries while 46% (17,335) was born in the US and US Territories. Forty three percent (43%, 16,097) was born in the CNMI; 35% (13,166) was born in the Philippines.

### LABOR FORCE POPULATION BY BIRTHPLACE

More than half (57%, 14,325) of the labor force population in the CNMI, at the time of the Survey, was born in Asian countries while 38% (9,547) was born in the US and Territories. Forty-three percent (43%, 10,846) was born in the Philippines; 35% (8,730) was born in the CNMI; and 8% (2,120) was born in China.

### EMPLOYED POPULATION BY BIRTHPLACE

About 3 out of 5 (59%, 13,285) in the employed population was born in Asian Countries, at the time of the Survey, while 36% (8,177) was born in the US and Territories. Forty-five percent (45%, 9,995) was born in the Philippines; 33% (7,413) was born in the CNMI; and 9% (2,041) was born in China.

**Table 6.0 Labor Force Participation Measures by Birthplace: CNMI, 2017 4th Qtr.**

Birthplace	General Population	Potential Labor Force Population (persons 16+ years)	Labor Force Population	Employed Population	Un-employed Population	Not In Labor Force Population	Unemployment Rate	Labor Force Participation Rate
<b>US and Territories</b>	<b>31,229</b>	<b>17,335</b>	<b>9,547</b>	<b>8,177</b>	<b>1,370</b>	<b>7,788</b>	<b>14.3%</b>	<b>55.1%</b>
CNMI	29,618	16,097	8,730	7,413	1,317	7,367	15.1%	54.2%
US and Territories	1,611	1,238	817	764	53	420	6.5%	66.0%
<b>Pacific Islands</b>	<b>2,167</b>	<b>2,065</b>	<b>1,035</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>1,030</b>	<b>18.9%</b>	<b>50.1%</b>
<b>Asian Countries</b>	<b>18,552</b>	<b>17,796</b>	<b>14,325</b>	<b>13,285</b>	<b>1,039</b>	<b>3,471</b>	<b>7.3%</b>	<b>80.5%</b>
China	2,779	2,737	2,120	2,041	79	617	3.7%	77.5%
Japan	320	297	217	217	-	80	-	72.9%
Korea	487	487	376	376	-	110	-	77.3%
Phillippines	13,661	13,166	10,846	9,995	851	2,320	7.8%	82.4%
Other Asian Countries	1,305	1,110	766	657	109	343	14.3%	69.1%
<b>Other Countries</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>21.0%</b>	<b>89.1%</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>52,263</b>	<b>37,419</b>	<b>25,106</b>	<b>22,459</b>	<b>2,646</b>	<b>12,313</b>	<b>10.5%</b>	<b>67.1%</b>
			<i>Percent by Birthplace</i>					
<b>US and Territories</b>	<b>59.8%</b>	<b>46.3%</b>	<b>38.0%</b>	<b>36.4%</b>	<b>51.8%</b>	<b>63.2%</b>		
CNMI	56.7%	43.0%	34.8%	33.0%	49.8%	59.8%		
US and Territories	3.1%	3.3%	3.3%	3.4%	2.0%	3.4%		
<b>Pacific Islands</b>	<b>4.1%</b>	<b>5.5%</b>	<b>4.1%</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>7.4%</b>	<b>8.4%</b>		
<b>Asian Countries</b>	<b>35.5%</b>	<b>47.6%</b>	<b>57.1%</b>	<b>59.2%</b>	<b>39.3%</b>	<b>28.2%</b>		
China	5.3%	7.3%	8.4%	9.1%	3.0%	5.0%		
Japan	0.6%	0.8%	0.9%	1.0%	-	0.7%		
Korea	0.9%	1.3%	1.5%	1.7%	-	0.9%		
Phillippines	26.1%	35.2%	43.2%	44.5%	32.2%	18.8%		
Other Asian Countries	2.5%	3.0%	3.1%	2.9%	4.1%	2.8%		
<b>Other Countries</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>1.6%</b>	<b>0.2%</b>		
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>		

Notes:

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"-" means zero or not applicable

"0.0%" means less than 0.01%



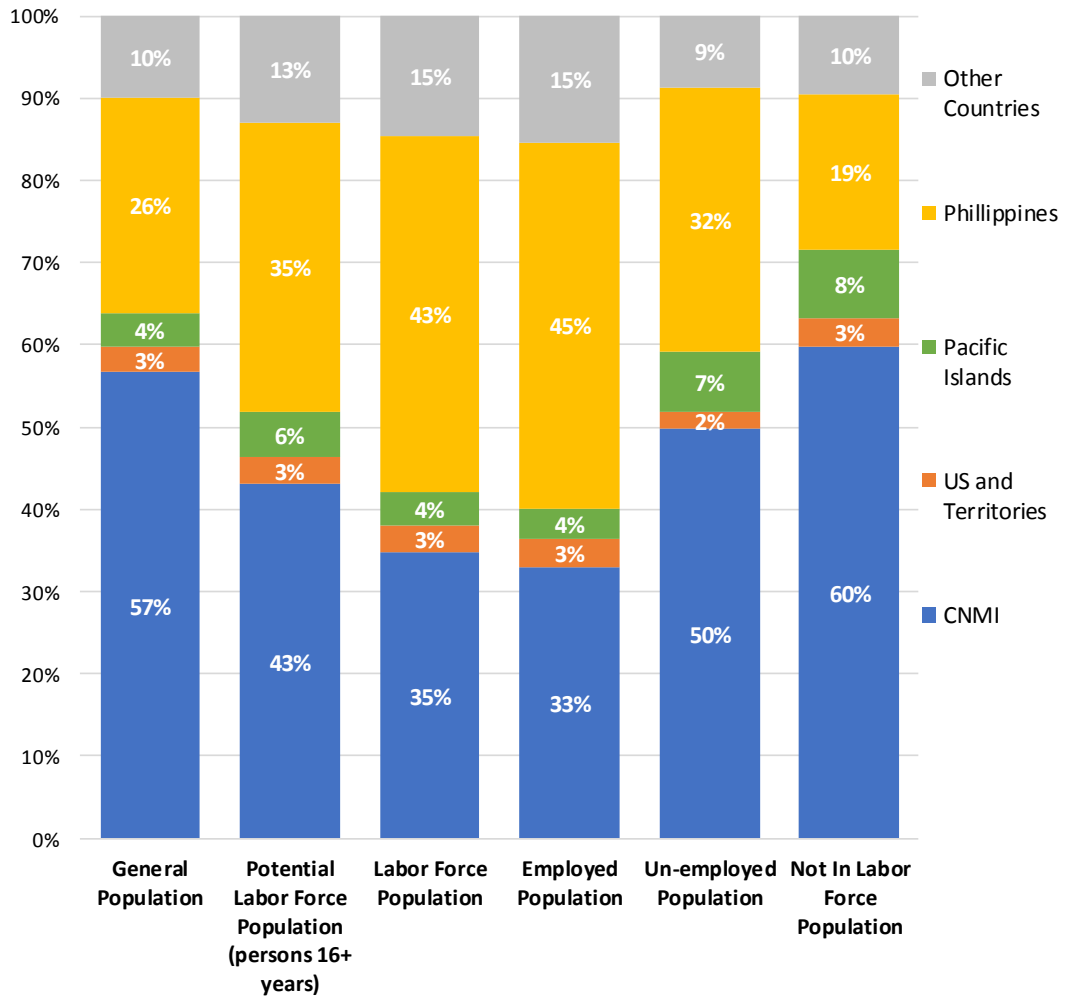
**UNEMPLOYED POPULATION BY BIRTHPLACE**

Over half (52%, 1,370) of the unemployed population was born in the US and Territories, at the time of the Survey, while 39% (1,039) was born in Asian countries. Fifty percent (50%, 1,317) was born in the CNMI; 32% (851) was born in the Philippines; and 7% (195) was born in other Pacific Islands.

**NOT IN LABOR FORCE POPULATION BY BIRTHPLACE**

Born in US and Territory was 63% (7,788) of the not in labor force population, at the time of the Survey. Born in Asian countries was 28% (3,471). Born in the CNMI was 60% (7,367) while born in the Philippines was 19% (2,320). Born in other Pacific Islands was 8% (1,030).

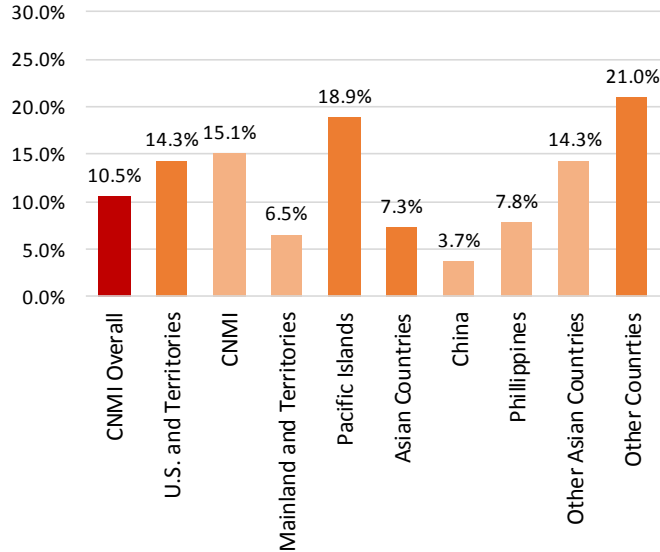
**Chart 6.1 Population Distributions by Birthplace: CNMI, 2017 4th Qtr.**



## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY BIRTHPLACE

Born in US and Territories had unemployment rate of 14.3% while born in Asian counties was 7.3%. Born in the CNMI unemployment rate was 15.1% while born in US and Territories was 6.5%. Born in the Philippines was 7.8%, born in China was the lowest at 3.7% while born in other Pacific Islands was highest at 18.9%.

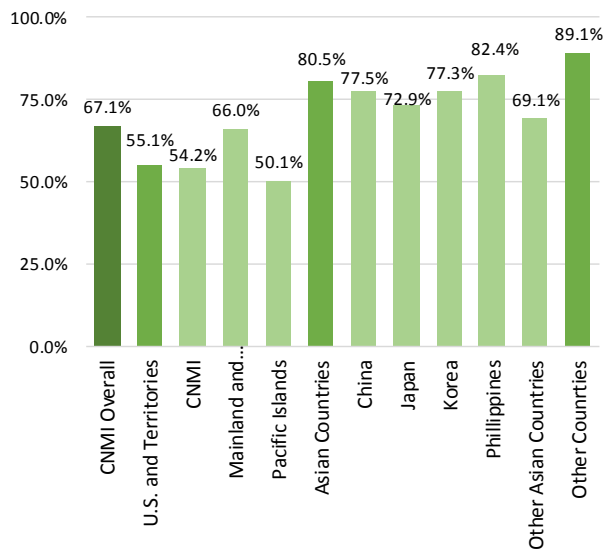
**Chart 6.2 Unemployment Rate by Birthplace:  
CNMI, 2017 4th Qrt.**



## LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE BY BIRTHPLACE

Born in Asian counties had a higher labor force participation rate of 80.5% compared to born in US and Territories at 55.1%. Born in the Philippines had the highest labor force participation rate while born in the CNMI had the lowest at 54.2%.

**Chart 6.3 Labor Force Participation Rate by  
Birthplace: CNMI, 2017 4th Qrt.**



## LFP MEASURES BY MIGRATE REASON

### TOTAL POPULATION BY MIGRATE REASON

As noted in the previous section, 43% (22,645) of the estimated total population was born elsewhere and migrated into the CNMI while 57% was born within the Commonwealth.

Employment is the number one reason why people migrated into the CNMI. Seventy one percent (71%, 16,151) of all migrants came for employment purpose. Another 20% (4,601) came because they were spouse, dependent, or family member of an employed person.

### POTENTIAL LABOR FORCE POPULATION BY MIGRATE REASON

Employment, as reason for migration, increased as a percentage of the potential labor force population when persons less than 16 years of age are excluded. It increased to 76% while spouse, dependent, and family member declined to 16%.

### LABOR FORCE POPULATION BY MIGRATE REASON

When the labor force population and not in labor force population are separated, employment, as a reason for migration, increased to 86% of the labor force population while spouse, dependent, family member declined to 8%.

### EMPLOYED POPULATION BY MIGRATE REASON

When the employed is separated from the unemployed population, not only that employment is the number one reason for migration, it becomes clear that employed migrants influences the composition of the other populations, namely the labor force population, potential labor force population and the ultimately the general population. That is, when migrant enters the CNMI for employment purpose, employment population increases, but also, the labor force population increases, the potential labor force population increases, and ultimately, the general population increases. Of course, the converse is true as well.

### UNEMPLOYED POPULATION BY MIGRATE REASON

Among the migrant unemployed population, persons that came here for employment purposes make up 74%. Obviously, when migrants lose their jobs, for one reason or another, they initially came for employment reason and show up in a survey. It is important to note, again, that

**Table 7.0 Labor Force Participation Measures by Migrate Reason: CNMI, 2017 4th Qtr.**

Reason	General Population	Potential Labor Force Population (persons 16+ years)	Labor Force Population	Employed Population	Un-employed Population	Not In Labor Force Population	Unemployment Rate	Labor Force Participation Rate
<b>Migrants</b>	<b>22,645</b>	<b>21,322</b>	<b>16,375</b>	<b>15,046</b>	<b>1,329</b>	<b>4,946</b>	<b>8.1%</b>	<b>76.8%</b>
Employment	16,151	16,151	13,988	13,002	986	2,162	7.1%	86.6%
Spouse of Employed	916	916	118	89	30	797	25.0%	12.9%
Dependent of Employed	2,234	1,138	475	415	60	662	12.6%	41.8%
Family Member of Employed	1,452	1,292	788	627	162	504	20.5%	61.0%
Student-Attend School	529	529	267	228	38	262	14.4%	50.5%
Other	1,364	1,296	738	685	53	558	7.2%	56.9%
<b>(Born in CNMI)</b>	<b>29,618</b>	<b>16,097</b>	<b>8,730</b>	<b>7,413</b>	<b>1,317</b>	<b>7,367</b>	<b>15.1%</b>	<b>54.2%</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>52,263</b>	<b>37,419</b>	<b>25,106</b>	<b>22,459</b>	<b>2,646</b>	<b>12,313</b>	<b>10.5%</b>	<b>67.1%</b>
<i>Percent by Migrate Reason</i>								
<b>Migrants</b>	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%		
Employment	71.3%	75.7%	85.4%	86.4%	74.2%	43.7%		
Spouse of Employed	4.0%	4.3%	0.7%	0.6%	2.2%	16.1%		
Dependent of Employed	9.9%	5.3%	2.9%	2.8%	4.5%	13.4%		
Family Member of Employed	6.4%	6.1%	4.8%	4.2%	12.2%	10.2%		
Student-Attend School	2.3%	2.5%	1.6%	1.5%	2.9%	5.3%		
Other	6.0%	6.1%	4.5%	4.6%	4.0%	11.3%		

Notes:

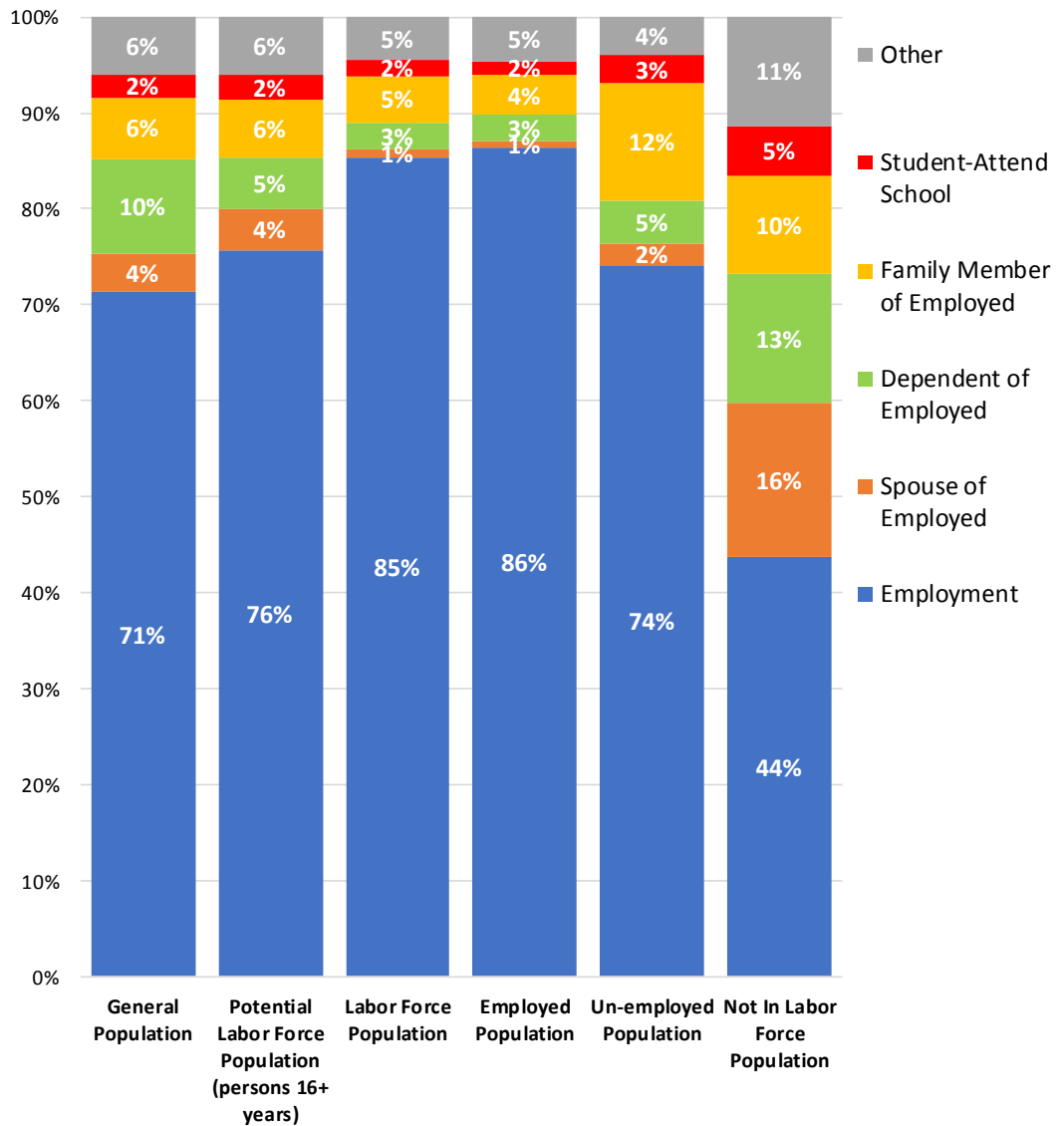
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unemployed migrants are temporary residents and might remain in the Commonwealth, temporarily, when they lose their jobs, but eventually will leave the CNMI in time, according to the requirements of existing laws.

**NOT IN LABOR FORCE POPULATION BY MIGRATE REASON**

Employment, as reason for being in the CNMI, decline as a proportion (44%) of migrants in the not in labor force population. Like in the unemployed population, as pointed out previously, the presence of migrants in the not in labor force population is more temporary in duration since these persons will eventually leave the CNMI, according to the requirements of the laws.

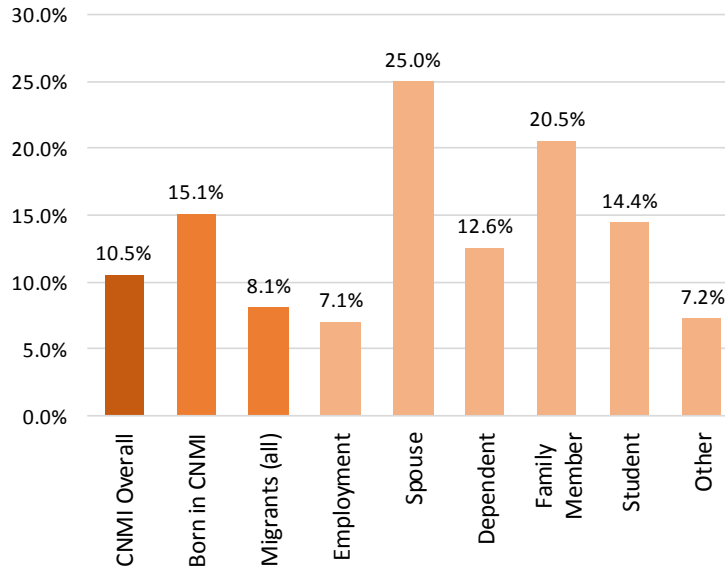
**Chart 7.1 Population Distributions by Migrate Reason: CNMI, 2017 4th Qtr.**



## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY MIGRATE REASON

Unemployment rate was 8.1% for all migrants. It was lowest for migrants who came for employment reason and relatively high for the other migrant groups. Unemployment rate of the employment migrants is expected to be lower than the CNMI-born population because of their temporary residency.

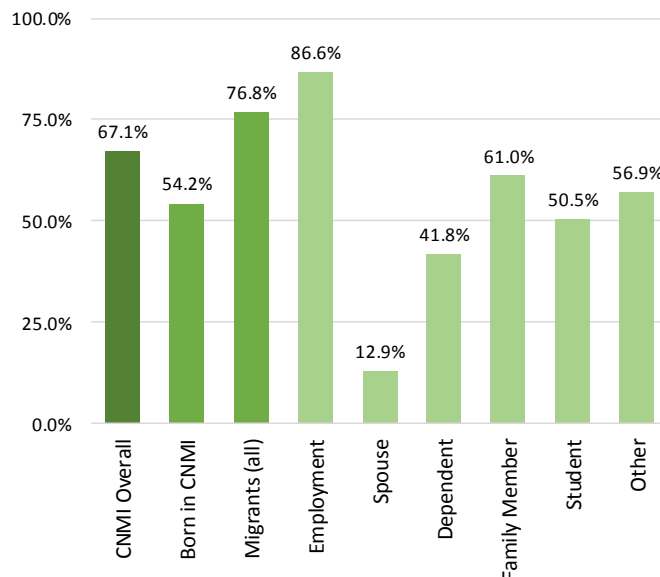
**Chart 7.2 Unemployment Rate by Migrate Reason:  
CNMI, 2017 4th Qrt.**



## LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE BY MIGRATE REASON

Labor force participation rate which is 76.8% for the migrants was a high 86.6% for the employment migrants and relatively low for the other migrant groups. This is expected since this group came for employment in the first place.

**Chart 7.3 Labor Force Participation Rate by Migrate  
Reason: CNMI, 2017 4th Qrt.**



## LFP MEASURES BY MARITAL STATUS

### TOTAL POPULATION BY MARITAL STATUS

The never married was 53% (27,821) of the estimated total population in the CNMI at the time of the Survey. However, it is important to keep in mind that this group includes all ages. The now married group was 41% (21,648), widowed was 3% (1,428); divorced and separated, combined, was also 3% (1,367).

### POTENTIAL LABOR FORCE POPULATION BY MARITAL STATUS

Now married was 62% (15,512) while never married was 32% (8,116) of the potential labor force population in the Commonwealth at the time of the Survey.

### LABOR FORCE POPULATION BY MARITAL STATUS

Now married was 58% (21,629) while never married was 38% (12,995) of the labor force population in the Commonwealth at the time of the Survey.

### EMPLOYED POPULATION BY MARITAL STATUS

Now married was 64% (14,377) while never married was 30% (6,833) of the employed population in the Commonwealth at the time of the Survey.

### UNEMPLOYED POPULATION BY MARITAL STATUS

Never married was almost half (49%, 1,283) while now married was 43% (1,135) of the unemployed population in the Commonwealth at the time of the Survey.

**Table 8.0 Labor Force Participation Measures by Marital Status: CNMI, 2017 4th Qtr.**

Marital Status	General Population	Potential Labor Force Population (persons 16+ years)	Labor Force Population	Employed Population	Un-employed Population	Not In Labor Force Population	Unemployment Rate	Labor Force Participation Rate
Now married	21,648	21,629	15,512	14,377	1,135	6,117	7.3%	71.7%
Separated	658	658	529	415	114	129	21.6%	80.4%
Widowed	1,428	1,428	456	385	71	972	15.5%	31.9%
Divorced	709	709	493	450	44	215	8.9%	69.6%
Never married	27,821	12,995	8,116	6,833	1,283	4,879	15.8%	62.5%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>52,263</b>	<b>37,419</b>	<b>25,106</b>	<b>22,459</b>	<b>2,646</b>	<b>12,313</b>	<b>10.5%</b>	<b>67.1%</b>
<i>Percent by Marital Status</i>								
Now married	41.4%	57.8%	61.8%	64.0%	42.9%	49.7%		
Separated	1.3%	1.8%	2.1%	1.8%	4.3%	1.0%		
Widowed	2.7%	3.8%	1.8%	1.7%	2.7%	7.9%		
Divorced	1.4%	1.9%	2.0%	2.0%	1.7%	1.7%		
Never married	53.2%	34.7%	32.3%	30.4%	48.5%	39.6%		
Grand Total	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>		

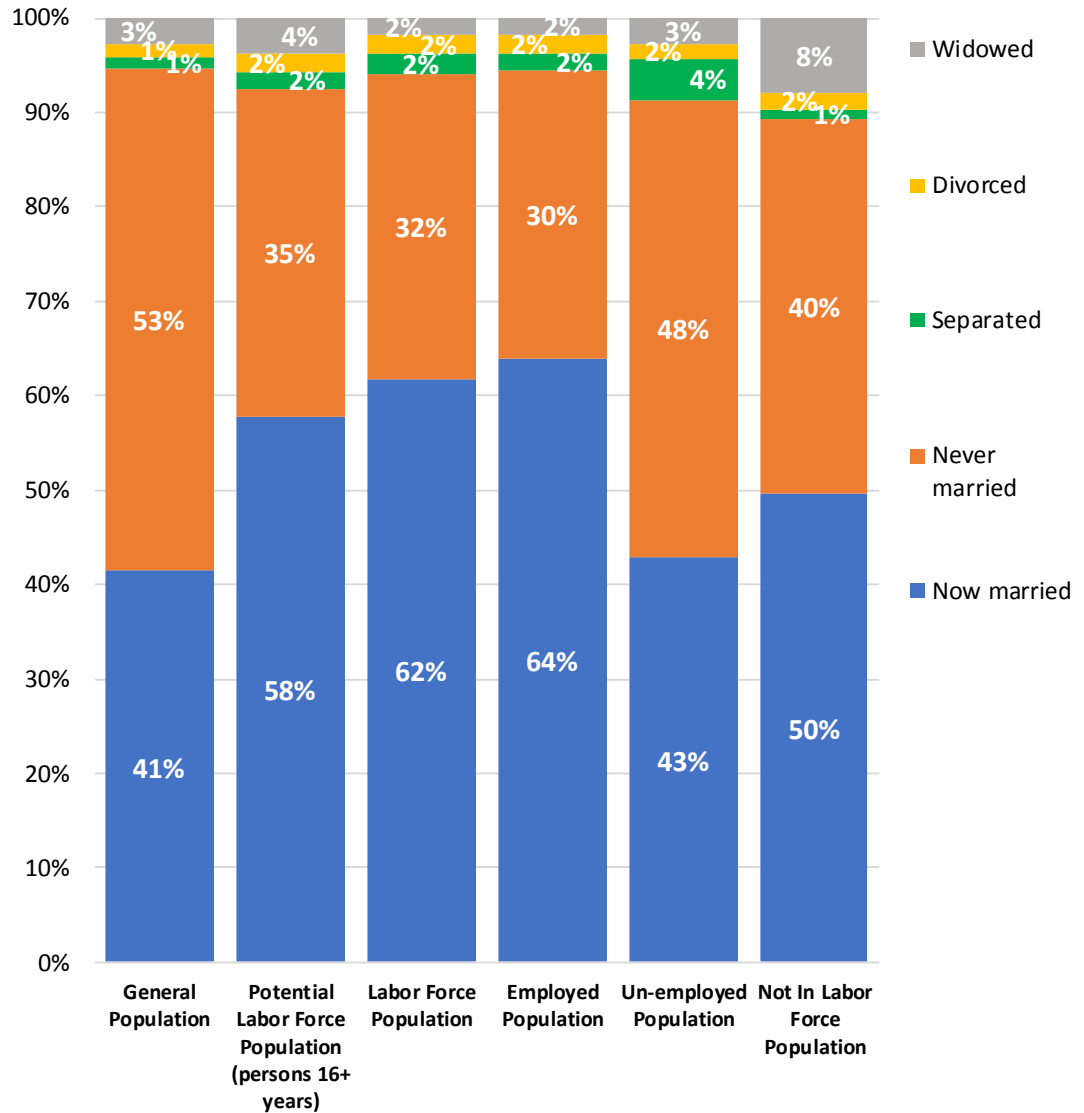
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**NOT IN LABOR FORCE POPULATION BY MARITAL STATUS**

Now married was half (50%, 6,117) while never married was 40% (4,879) of the not in labor force population in the Commonwealth at the time of the Survey.

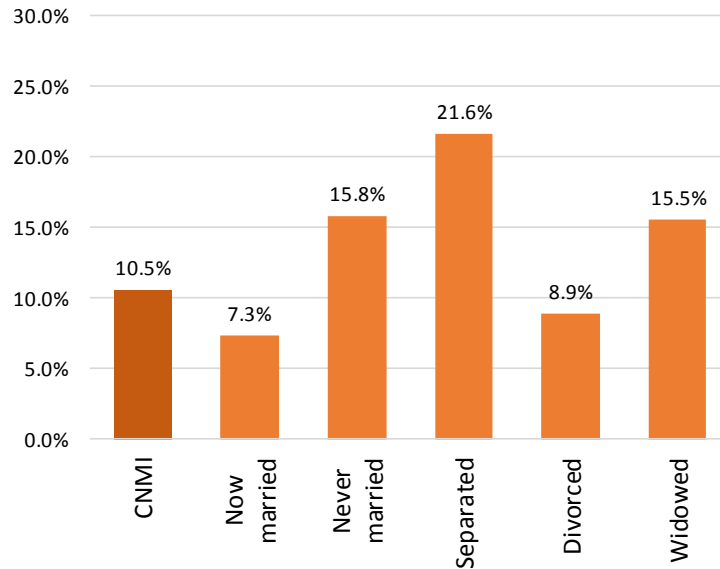
**Chart 8.1 Population Distributions by Marital Status:  
CNMI, 2017 4th Qtr.**



### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY MARITAL STATUS

Now married had the lowest unemployment rate of 7.3%, followed by divorced (8.9%), widowed (15.5%), never married (15.8%), and then separated (21.6%).

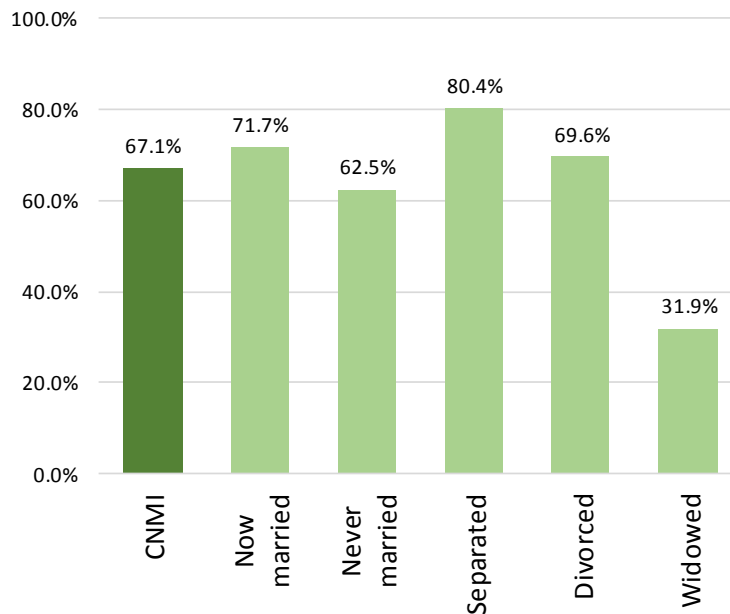
**Chart 8.2 Unemployment Rate by Marital Status:  
CNMI, 2017 4th Qrt.**



### LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE BY MARITAL STATUS

Separated had the highest labor force participation rate (80.4%), followed by now married (71.7%), divorced (69.6%), never married (62.5%), and then widowed (31.9%).

**Chart 8.3 Labor Force Participation Rate by Marital  
Status: CNMI, 2017 4th Qrt.**





## LFP MEASURES BY EDUCATION LEVEL

### TOTAL POPULATION BY EDUCATION LEVEL

Less than high school diploma was 44% (23,176) of the total population in the CNMI at the time of the Survey, followed by high school diploma or GED at 32% (16,527), some college or associate degree (14%, 7,449), bachelor's degree (8%, 4,272), and then master's and beyond (1.4%, 739). Note that this distribution includes all ages.

### POTENTIAL LABOR FORCE POPULATION BY EDUCATION LEVEL

The distribution of highest education level completed changes under the different labor force populations. High School Diploma or GED was 44% (16,621) of the potential labor force population at the time of the Survey. Less than HS Diploma was 23% (8,401), followed Some College or Associate's (20%, 7,449), Bachelor's (11%, 3,677), then Master's and Beyond with 2%, (676).

### LABOR FORCE POPULATION BY EDUCATION LEVEL

High School Diploma or GED made up 47% (11,785) of the labor force population at the time of the Survey. Some College or Associate's followed with 22% (5,505), Bachelor's was 15% (3,677), Less than HS Diploma was 14% (3,576), then Master's and Beyond with 2%, (562).

### EMPLOYED POPULATION BY EDUCATION LEVEL

High School Diploma or GED made up 48% (10,713) of the employed population at the time of the Survey. Some College or Associate's followed with 22% (4,877), Bachelor's was 16% (3,512), Less than HS Diploma was 13% (2,816), then Master's and Beyond with 2%, (541).

### UNEMPLOYED POPULATION BY EDUCATION LEVEL

High School Diploma or GED made up 41% (1,072) of the unemployed population at the time of the Survey. Less than HS Diploma was 29% (761), Some College or Associate's followed with 24% (627), Bachelor's was 6% (165), then Master's and Beyond with less than 1%, (21).

**Table 9.0 Labor Force Participation Measures by Education Level: CNMI, 2017 4th Qtr.**

Education Level	General Population	Potential Labor Force Population (persons 16+ years)	Labor Force Population	Employed Population	Un-employed Population	Not In Labor Force Population	Unemployment Rate	Labor Force Participation Rate
Less than HS Diploma	23,176	8,401	3,576	2,816	761	4,825	21.3%	42.6%
High School Diploma or GED	16,627	16,621	11,785	10,713	1,072	4,835	9.1%	70.9%
Some College or Associate's	7,449	7,449	5,505	4,877	627	1,945	11.4%	73.9%
Bachelor's degree	4,272	4,272	3,677	3,512	165	595	4.5%	86.1%
Master's and Beyond	739	676	562	541	21	114	3.7%	83.2%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>52,263</b>	<b>37,419</b>	<b>25,106</b>	<b>22,459</b>	<b>2,646</b>	<b>12,313</b>	<b>10.5%</b>	<b>67.1%</b>
<i>Percent by Education Level</i>								
Less than HS Diploma	44.3%	22.5%	14.2%	12.5%	28.8%	39.2%		
High School Diploma or GED	31.8%	44.4%	46.9%	47.7%	40.5%	39.3%		
Some College or Associate's	14.3%	19.9%	21.9%	21.7%	23.7%	15.8%		
Bachelor's degree	8.2%	11.4%	14.6%	15.6%	6.2%	4.8%		
Master's and Beyond	1.4%	1.8%	2.2%	2.4%	0.8%	0.9%		
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>		

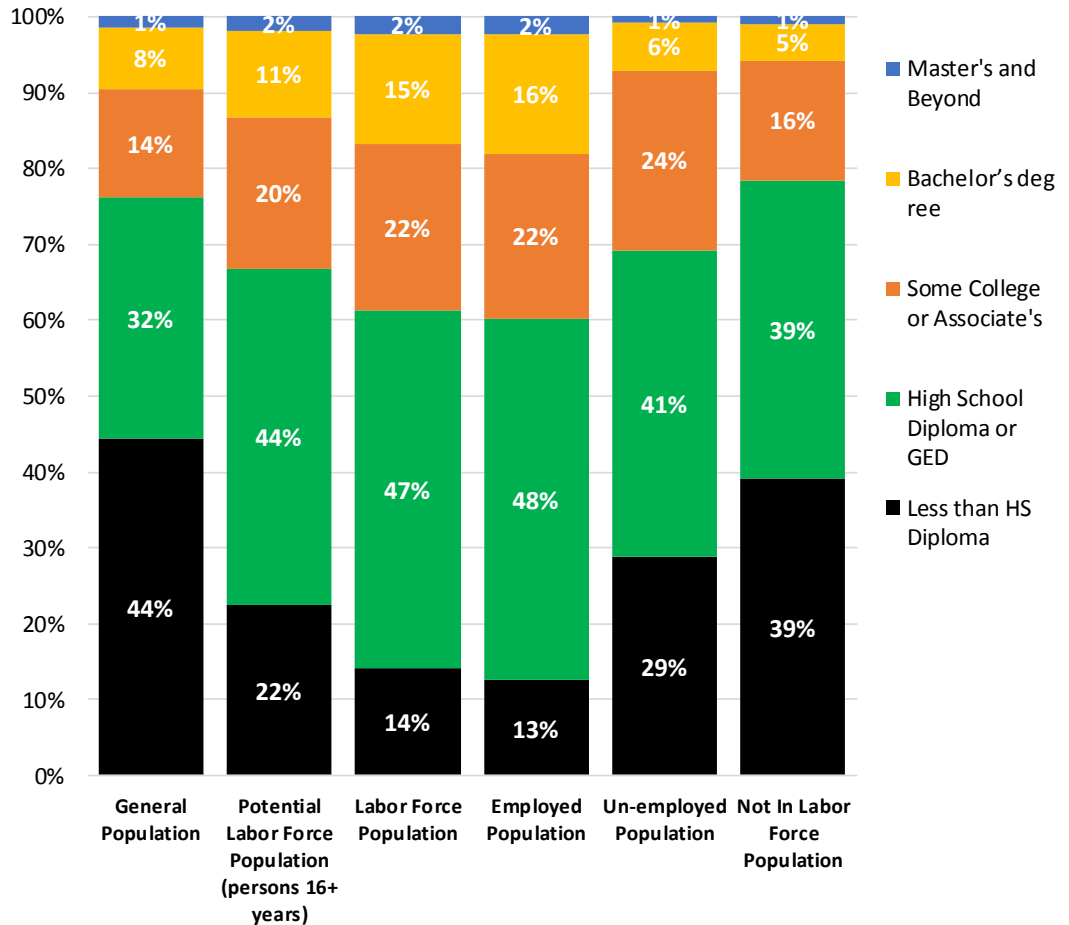
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**NOT IN LABOR FORCE POPULATION BY EDUCATION LEVEL**

Less than HS Diploma and High School Diploma or GED made up almost 80% (79%, 9,660) of the unemployed population at the time of the Survey. Some College or Associate's followed with 16% (1,945), Bachelor's was 5% (595), then Master's and Beyond with less than 1%, (114).

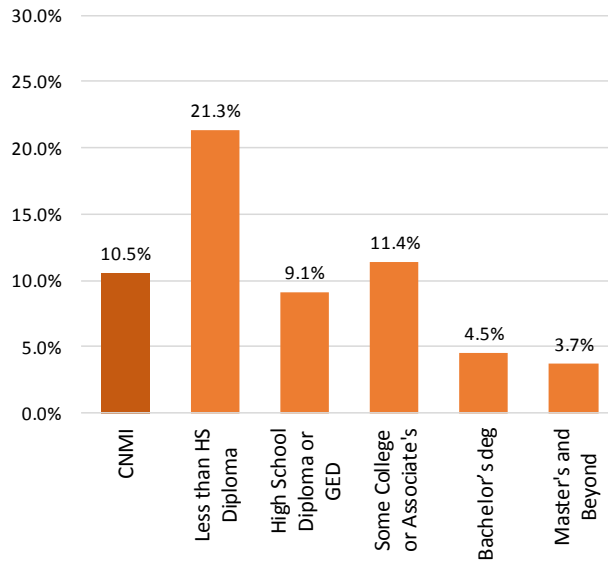
**Chart 9.1 Population Distributions by Education Level: CNMI, 2017 4th Qtr.**



## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY EDUCATION LEVEL

Unemployment rate was inversely related to education level as persons with higher level of education have a better chance of getting a job. Master's and Beyond had the lowest unemployment at 3.7%, followed by Bachelor's (4.5%), High School Diploma (9.1%), Some College or Associate's (11.4%) and Less than HS Diploma had the highest unemployment rate at 21.3%.

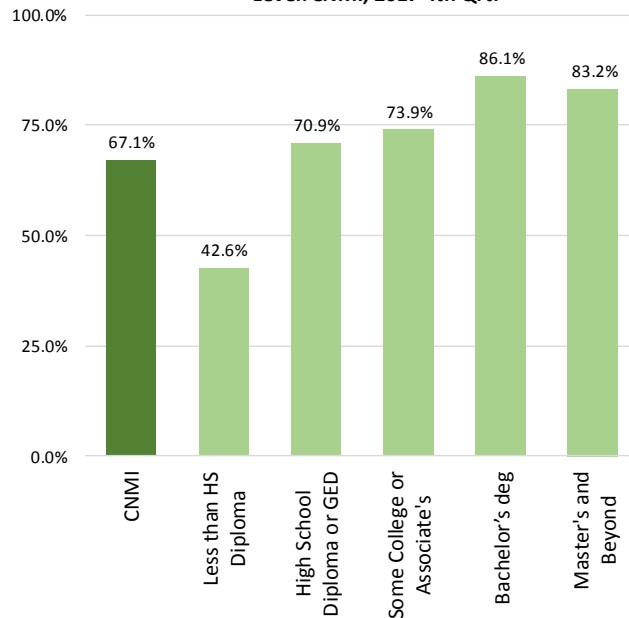
**Chart 9.2 Unemployment Rate Education Level:  
CNMI, 2017 4th Qrt.**



## LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE BY EDUCATION LEVEL

Labor force participation rate was positively related to education level as persons with higher education levels are more likely to seek and obtain jobs. Bachelor's degree had the highest labor force participation rate of 86.1% at the time of the Survey. Master's and Beyond was second highest at 83.2%, followed by Some College or Associate's (73.9%), High School Diploma (70.9%), and Less than HS Diploma had the lowest labor force participation rate at 42.6%.

**Chart 9.3 Labor Force Participaiton Rate by Education  
Level: CNMI, 2017 4th Qrt.**



## LFP MEASURES BY EDUCATION PLACE

### TOTAL POPULATION BY EDUCATION PLACE

As a place of education, CNMI, US, and Territories had a 70% share while Asia was 27% of the total population in the CNMI at the time of the Survey. CNMI alone, as education place, was 66% (34,512), Philippines was 20% (10,261). Other Pacific Islands was 3% (1,765).

### POTENTIAL LABOR FORCE POPULATION BY EDUCATION PLACE

The Education Place distribution changes when the less than 16 years old are excluded and we look at only 16 years old and older. CNMI, US and Territory, as education place, had 57% (21,418) of the potential labor force population while Asia was 38% (14,199) at the time of the Survey. CNMI alone had 53% (19,887) and Philippines had 27.4% (10,261).

### LABOR FORCE POPULATION BY EDUCATION PLACE

CNMI, US and Territory, as Education Place, had 50% (12,659) while Asia was 46% (11,495) of the labor force population, at the time of the Survey. CNMI alone was 47% (11,729) and Philippines was 34% (8,460).

### EMPLOYED POPULATION BY EDUCATION PLACE

About half (49%, 11,048) of the employed population obtained their highest level of education in the CNMI, U.S. and Territory at the time of Survey. Forty-seven (47%, 10,636) got their education from Asia. Only about 4% (744) got theirs from other Pacific Islands. Forty five percent (45%, 10,131) got theirs from the CNM an and 37% (7,770) received theirs from the Philippines. The shift in relative share towards Asia, and Philippines in particular, reflects the presence of the large migrant worker

**Table 10.0 Labor Force Participation Measures by Place of Education: CNMI, 2017 4th Qtr.**

Place of Education	General Population	Potential Labor Force Population (persons 16+ years)	Labor Force Population	Employed Population	Un-employed Population	Not In Labor Force Population	Unemployment Rate	Labor Force Participation Rate
<b>CNMI, US, and Territories</b>	<b>36,262</b>	<b>21,418</b>	<b>12,659</b>	<b>11,048</b>	<b>1,611</b>	<b>8,759</b>	<b>12.7%</b>	<b>59.1%</b>
CNMI	34,512	19,887	11,729	10,131	1,598	8,159	13.6%	59.0%
U.S. and Territories	1,750	1,531	930	917	14	601	1.5%	60.8%
<b>Pacific Islands</b>	<b>1,765</b>	<b>1,765</b>	<b>919</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>846</b>	<b>19.1%</b>	<b>52.1%</b>
<b>Asia</b>	<b>14,199</b>	<b>14,199</b>	<b>11,496</b>	<b>10,636</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>2,702</b>	<b>7.5%</b>	<b>81.0%</b>
China	2,310	2,310	1,853	1,774	79	458	4.3%	80.2%
Japan	278	278	217	217	-	61	-	77.9%
Korea	324	324	233	233	-	91	-	71.9%
Philippines	10,261	10,261	8,460	7,770	691	1,801	8.2%	82.5%
Other Asian Countries	1,025	1,025	733	643	90	292	12.3%	71.5%
<b>Other Countries</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>84.6%</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>52,263</b>	<b>37,419</b>	<b>25,106</b>	<b>22,459</b>	<b>2,646</b>	<b>12,313</b>	<b>10.5%</b>	<b>67.1%</b>
<i>Percent by Place of Education</i>								
<b>CNMI, US, and Territories</b>	69.4%	57.2%	50.4%	49.2%	60.9%	71.1%		
CNMI	66.0%	53.1%	46.7%	45.1%	60.4%	66.3%		
U.S. and Territories	3.3%	4.1%	3.7%	4.1%	0.5%	4.9%		
<b>Pacific Islands</b>	3.4%	4.7%	3.7%	3.3%	6.6%	6.9%		
<b>Asia</b>	27.2%	37.9%	45.8%	47.4%	32.5%	21.9%		
China	4.4%	6.2%	7.4%	7.9%	3.0%	3.7%		
Japan	0.5%	0.7%	0.9%	1.0%	-	0.5%		
Korea	0.6%	0.9%	0.9%	1.0%	-	0.7%		
Philippines	19.6%	27.4%	33.7%	34.6%	26.1%	14.6%		
Other Asian Countries	2.0%	2.7%	2.9%	2.9%	3.4%	2.4%		
<b>Other Countries</b>	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	-	0.0%		
<b>Grand Total</b>	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%		

Notes:

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"-" means zero or not applicable

"0.0%" means less than 0.01%

population in the CNMI. Again, because the employed population is a large proportion of the other populations, its education place proportions underlie the other labor force populations, as shown in Table B.10.0 and Chart B.10.1.

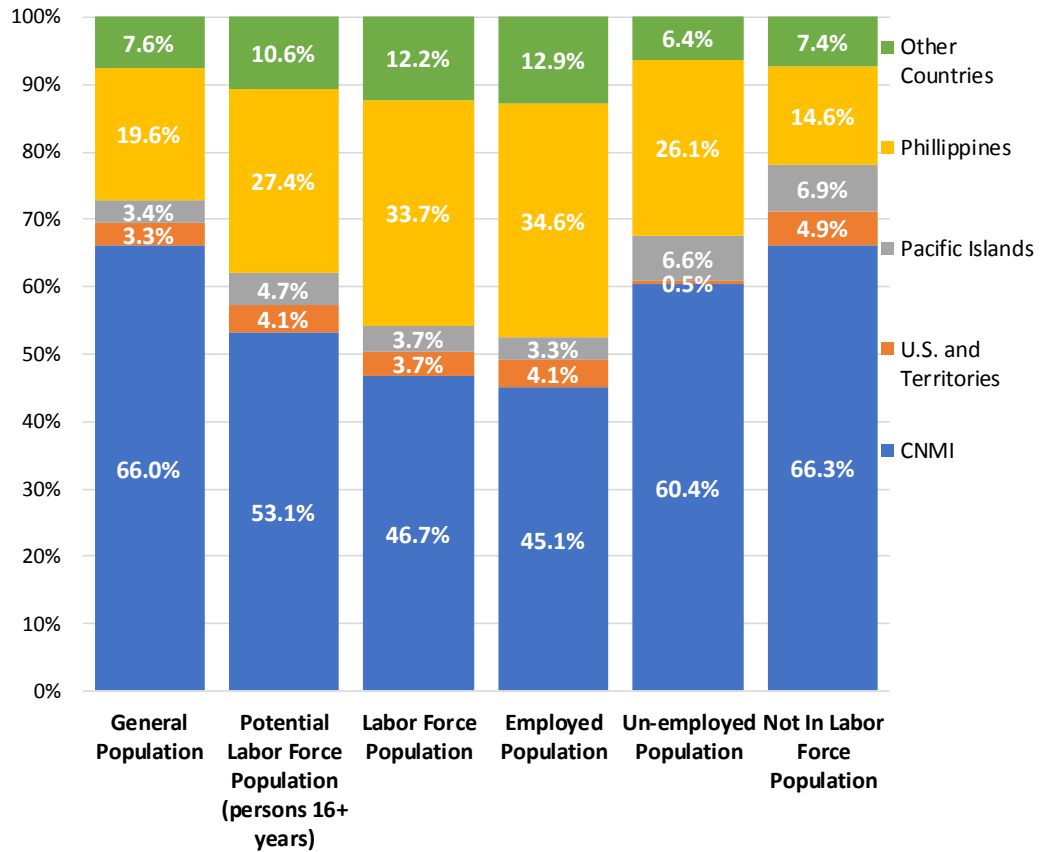
**UNEMPLOYED POPULATION BY EDUCATION PLACE**

Sixty one percent (61%, 1,598) of the unemployed population get their education from the CNM, US, or Territories while 33% (860) got theirs from Asia. Sixty percent (60%, 8,159) got theirs from the CNM alone and 33% (860) received theirs from the Philippines.

**NOT IN LABOR FORCE POPULATION BY EDUCATION PLACE**

Seventy one percent (71%, 8,759) of the not in labor force population got their education from the CNM, US, or Territories while 22% (2,702) got theirs from Asia. Sixty six percent (66%, 8,159) got theirs from the CNM alone and 15% (1,801) got theirs from the Philippines.

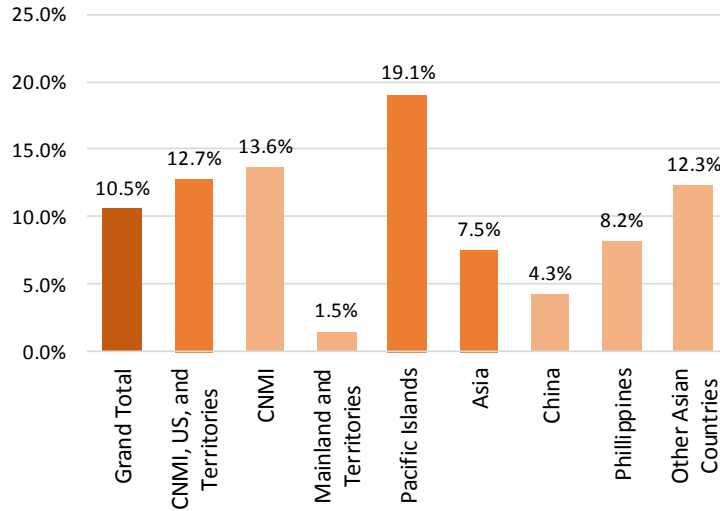
**Chart 10.0 Population Distributions by Place of Education: CNMI, 2017 4th Qtr.**



## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY EDUCATION PLACE

Unemployment rate was lower for the group that got their education from Asia (7.5%) compared to the group that got their education from CNMI, US, and Territories (12.7%). Those who got their education from US and Territories—excluding CNMI—had the lowest unemployment rate of 1.5%, followed by those who got theirs from China (4.3%), and from the Philippines (8.2%). From the CNMI had the second highest level of unemployment rate. (13.6%) while from the other Pacific Islands had the highest level of unemployment rate (19.1%).

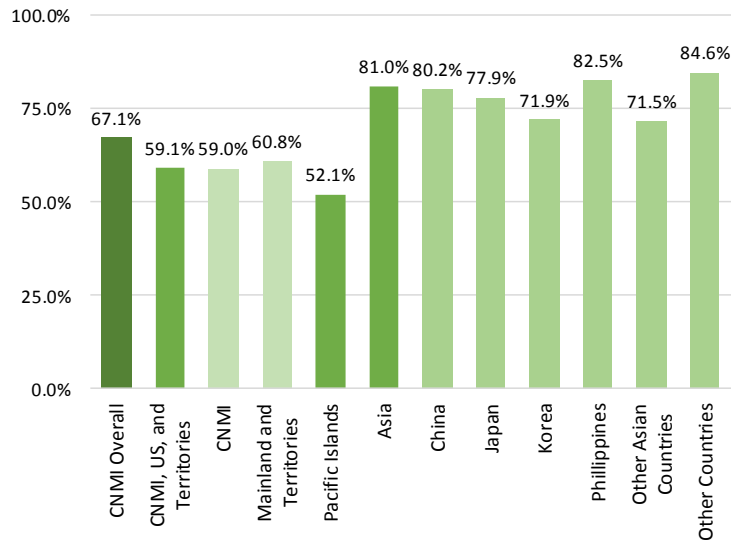
**Chart 10.2 Unemployment Rate by Education Place:  
CNMI, 2017 4th Qrt.**



## LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE BY EDUCATION PLACE

Labor force participation rate was higher for Asia (81%), as Education Place, compared to CNMI, U.S. and Territories (59%), at the time of the Survey. It was highest for the group from the Philippines (82.5%), followed by those from China (80%), from Japan (77.9%), from Korea (71.9%), from U.S. or Territories—excluding CNMI—was 60.8%, and from the CNMI was 59.0%.

**Chart 10.3 Labor Force Participation Rate by Education  
Place: CNMI, 2017 4th Qrt.**



## LFP MEASURES BY LANGUAGE

### TOTAL POPULATION BY LANGUAGE

Twenty percent (20%, 10,658) of the estimated total population spoke English only at home while 79% (41,069) spoke English and another language at the time of the Survey. Forty six percent (46%, 23,786) spoke an Asian language while 33% (17,005) spoke a Pacific Islander language at home. One percent (1, 536) of the total population was less than 2 years old.

### POTENTIAL LABOR FORCE POPULATION BY LANGUAGE

Ninety percent (90%, 33,645) of the potential labor force population spoke English and another language at home while 10% (3,774) spoke English only at home, at the time of the Survey. Over half (52%, 19,278) in the potential labor force population spoke English and an Asian language at home while 38% (14,119) spoke English and a Pacific Islander language.

### LABOR FORCE POPULATION BY LANGUAGE

Ninety one percent (91%, 22,716) of the labor force population spoke English and another language at home while 9% (2,390) spoke only English at home, at the time of the Survey. Three of five (60%, 15,174) spoke English and an Asian language at home while 29% (7,351) spoke English and a Pacific Islander language in the labor force population.

### EMPLOYED POPULATION BY LANGUAGE

Ninety one percent (91%, 20,402) of the employed population spoke English and another language at home while 9% (2,057) spoke only English, at the time of the Survey. More than three in five (63%, 11,093) spoke English and an Asian language at home while 27% (6,119) spoke English and a Pacific Islander language at home, within the employed population. The distribution of Language spoken at home in the employed population influenced the other labor force population distributions because it is inherent in them, as shown in Table B.11.0 and Chart B.11.1.

**Table 11.0 Labor Force Participation Measures by Language: CNMI, 2017 4th Qtr.**

Row Labels	General Population	Potential Labor Force Population (persons 16+ years)	Labor Force Population	Employed Population	Un-employed Population	Not In Labor Force Population	Unemployment Rate	Labor Force Participation Rate
<b>English Only</b>	<b>10,658</b>	<b>3,774</b>	<b>2,390</b>	<b>2,057</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>1,384</b>	<b>13.9%</b>	<b>63.3%</b>
English	10,658	3,774	2,390	2,057	333	1,384	13.9%	63.3%
<b>English and Another Language</b>	<b>41,069</b>	<b>33,645</b>	<b>22,716</b>	<b>20,402</b>	<b>2,313</b>	<b>10,930</b>	<b>10.2%</b>	<b>67.5%</b>
Pac. Islands Languages	17,005	14,119	7,351	6,119	1,232	6,768	16.8%	52.1%
Asian Languages	23,786	19,278	15,174	14,093	1,081	4,104	7.1%	78.7%
Other Languages	278	248	190	190	-	58	-	76.5%
<b>Less than 2 yrs old</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>52,263</b>	<b>37,419</b>	<b>25,106</b>	<b>22,459</b>	<b>2,646</b>	<b>12,313</b>	<b>10.5%</b>	<b>67.1%</b>
<i>Percent by Education Level</i>								
<b>English Only</b>	<b>20.4%</b>	<b>10.1%</b>	<b>9.5%</b>	<b>9.2%</b>	<b>12.6%</b>	<b>11.2%</b>		
English	20.4%	10.1%	9.5%	9.2%	12.6%	11.2%		
<b>English and Another Language</b>	<b>78.6%</b>	<b>89.9%</b>	<b>90.5%</b>	<b>90.8%</b>	<b>87.4%</b>	<b>88.8%</b>		
Pac. Islands Languages	32.5%	37.7%	29.3%	27.2%	46.6%	55.0%		
Asian Languages	45.5%	51.5%	60.4%	62.7%	40.9%	33.3%		
Other Languages	0.5%	0.7%	0.8%	0.8%	-	0.5%		
<b>Less than 2 yrs old</b>	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>		
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>		

Notes:

Gray area left blank intentionally

"-" means zero or not applicable

"0.0%" means less than 0.01%

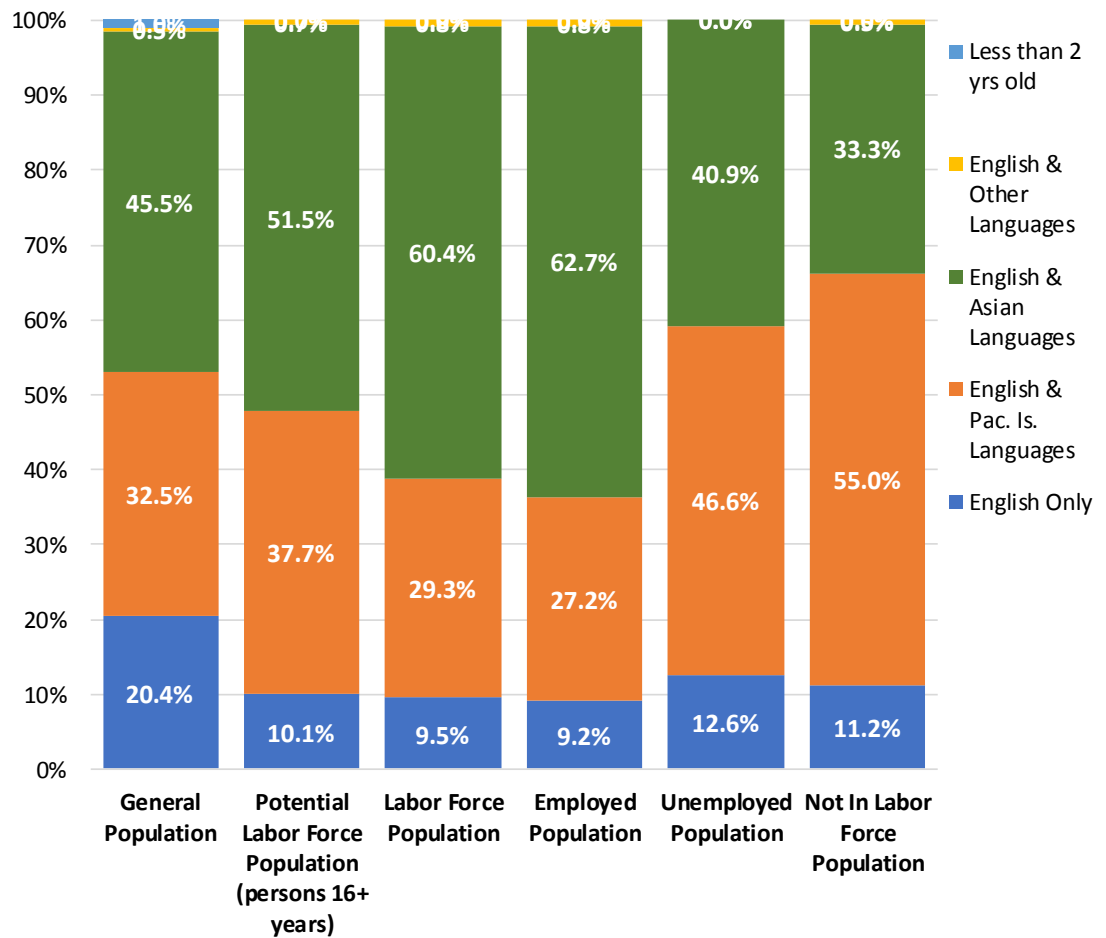
**UNEMPLOYED POPULATION BY LANGUAGE**

Eighty seven percent (87%, 2,313) spoke English and another language at home in the unemployed population while 13% (333) spoke only English, at the time of the Survey. Forty seven percent (47%, 1,232) spoke English and a Pacific Islander language while 41% (1,081) spoke English and an Asian language at home.

**NOT IN LABOR FORCE POPULATION BY LANGUAGE**

Eighty seven percent (89%, 10,930) spoke English and another language at home in the not in labor force population while 11% (1,384) spoke only English, at the time of the Survey. Fifty five percent (55%, 6,768) spoke English and a Pacific Islander language while 33% (4,104) spoke English and an Asian language at home.

**Chart 11.1 Population Distributions by Language at Home: CNMI, 2017 4th Qtr.**

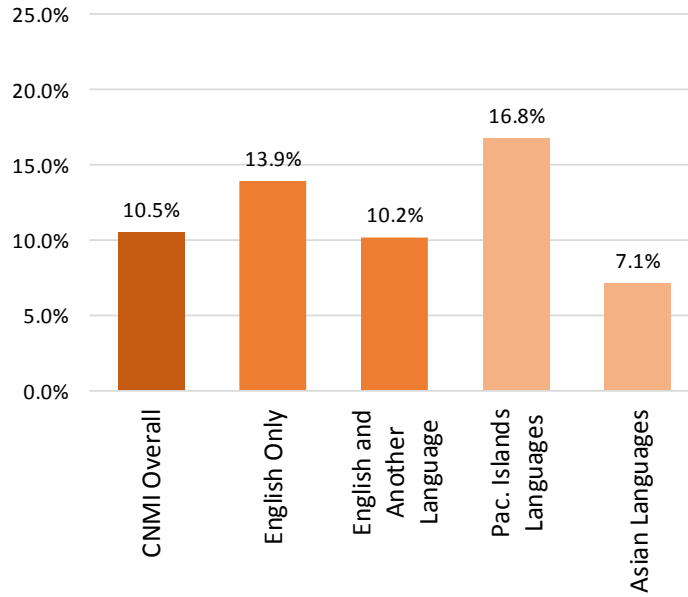




### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY LANGUAGE

Those who spoke English only at home had a higher unemployment rate (13.9%) compared to those who spoke English and another language (10.2%), at the time of the Survey. English and Asian language group had a low unemployment rate of 7.1% while English and Pacific Islands languages group had a higher unemployment rate of 16.8%.

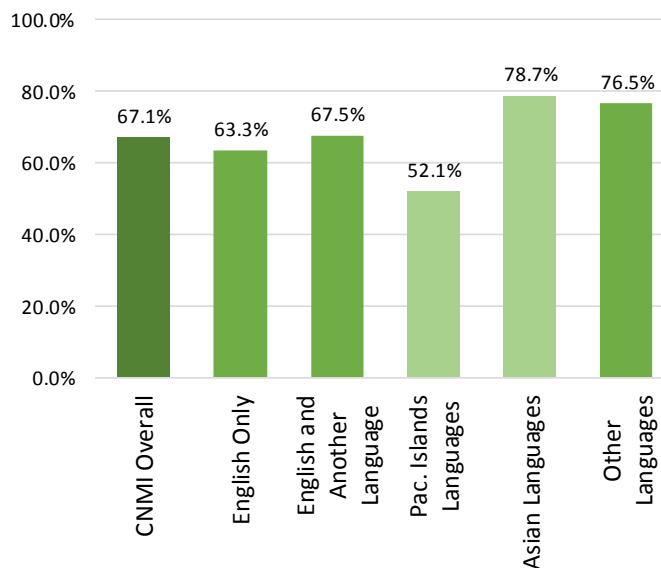
**Chart 11.2 Unemployment Rate by Language at Home: CNMI, 2017 4th Qrt.**



### LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE BY LANGUAGE

The labor force participation rate was higher (67.5%) for English only speakers at home compared to those who spoke English and another language (63.3%) at home. Persons who spoke English and an Asian language at home had a higher labor force participation rate (78.7%) than those that Spoke English and a Pacific Island Language (52.1%) at home.

**Chart 11.3 Labor Force Participation Rate by Language at Home: CNMI, 2017 4th Qrt.**



APPENDIX A:  
THE 2017 LABOR FORCE SURVEY METHODOLOGY



## THE PURPOSE OF THE SURVEY

The 2017 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Labor Force Survey (CNMI LFS) is the latest of several that have been conducted in the CNMI since the 1990s under the CNMI Department of Commerce, Central Statistics Division (CSD). The main purpose of the survey was to collect adequate data to profile labor force participation measures in the Commonwealth. However, the survey went beyond just collecting data on labor force and included other population and housing characteristics. Please see attached questionnaire for details on items included in this survey.

## THE TARGET POPULATION AND GEOGRAPHY OF THE LFS

The target population of the 2017 LFS included the entire CNMI population and housing units. Specifically, it included all persons and occupied housing units on the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota, but did not cover the Northern Islands.

## THE SURVEY TIMELINE

The data collection for the 2017 LFS was conducted in the Fourth Quarter, 2017; it started on September 20, 2017 and ended on December 21, 2017. Data coding began the same week the field work began. Data entry began the second week of October and continued until the last week of December 2017. Data reconciliation and cleaning took place in December 2017 through January 2018.

## THE SAMPLING DESIGN OF THE 2017 LFS

The 2017 LFS sampling design was like in prior surveys: a stratified random sampling with proportion to size and with minimum. The sample frame was the Housing Units Listing maintained by Commerce CSD last updated in 2014. Island was the first stratum and Village Group was the second stratum. A minimum of 30 was applied. The goal of the Survey was to produce reliable statistical estimates on the selected characteristics of housing and population in the CNMI.

A total of 1,278 housing units were randomly selected: 878 from Saipan, 200 from Tinian, and 200 from Rota. In addition, 938 additional housing units (724 from Saipan, 100 from Tinian, and 114 from Rota) were randomly selected and used as substitutes for situations where a housing unit was no longer occupied, demolished, converted into a business establishment, a householder refused to complete the survey, or for other reasons. Substitution was done to ensure that enough household data from each of the three islands was collected to adequately profile the population and housing units for the three islands.

## THE SURVEY INSTRUMENT

The 2017 LFS questionnaire contained thirty-two (32) main housing questions with related sub-questions and thirty-five (35) main person questions with related sub-questions. The questionnaire is attached as Appendix B. Items in the questionnaires were taken from prior surveys and censuses instruments and adapted to meet the needs of this survey.

## THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SURVEY

The 2017 LFS was conducted out of the Central Statistics Division. CSD hired survey takers and clerks as temporary government worker based within CSD. Under the law, PL 7-35, enacted in 1990, CSD is the CNMI Government Office that is empowered with authority to conduct surveys in the CNMI. The CSD has been conducting similar surveys in the CNMI since the 1990s.

### SURVEY TRAINING AND STAFF

The Central Statistics Division hired 30 temporary employees for the Survey: 27 field survey takers and three office clerks. In addition, CSD in-house staff also worked directly on the on the survey. All field survey field workers and office clerks went through a 9-hour survey training session, spread over a three-day period. The first day focused on properly completing the survey questionnaire. The second day reviewed completing the questionnaire and focused on field work—how to use the CNMI Housing Register and Housing Maps to locate the preselected households in the sample, logistical, and other administrative work involved in the Survey.

The third day was a field trial run where each of the enumerators went out to the field, located the houses in his/her assignment area, completed one questionnaire, returned to the Office, and had his/her work verified by the supervisor and the clerks. The three office clerks attended the same training with the field surveyors and were also trained in reviewing forms, coding, and data entry. Training was done separately for Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

#### THE PRIMARY MODE OF COMPLETING THE SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

The primary mode of collecting the data from each of the selected households in the LFS was through a personal visit and interview of the members of the selected households. As stated earlier, survey takers were hired and trained to locate each of the randomly selected housing units in the sample, conduct a personal interview, and complete an LFS questionnaire. In cases where follow-ups were necessary, telephone was also used to complete the questionnaires to minimize the cost and speed-up the follow-up process of completing forms. In all cases the first contact with each household was a personal visit; most questionnaires were completed this way, but telephone follow-up was also commonly used to complete or verify pieces of information. Telephone follow-ups were done by both field survey takers and in-house office clerks, depending on the situation. In situations where an office clerk can call a household and get the required piece of information, this was done; in other situations, the form was returned to the appropriate surveyor to do follow-up and complete the form.

#### THE TRACKING OF FIELD WORK

To help manage the Survey's daily operations, a database tracking system in MS Access was created to track the progress of each field worker, the entire group, and percentage of work done. Daily, an office clerk entered completed forms into the database tracking system and reports were produced to show the progress of the Survey's field work. Survey supervisors reviewed the progress of the field work, daily, and determined necessary changes, decisions, and actions to take.

#### QUESTIONNAIRE REVIEW FOR QUALITY CONTROL

Three office clerks were trained to review each questionnaire for completeness and either accepted or rejected each of the questionnaire submitted by the field surveyors. The enumerators were paid on a per completed form basis rather than per hour. To be paid, the questionnaire submitted must pass review. CSD settled on this form of payment based on past survey work experiences. At the beginning of the field work, work was deliberately slowed down to make sure that each enumerator was doing his/her job correctly before being encouraged to increase production. After the training, dates and times were set for field workers to come in to CSD for their field work assignment. As mentioned above, on the third day of training, each enumerator was given only one assignment area (AA) and one questionnaire; each went out to the field and completed that one questionnaire from within that AA; and brought the completed form back to CSD for review. Enumerators who passed the first questionnaire review were given a supply of questionnaires and enough housing units to increase their field work production in the coming days. Those who did not do so well were re-trained or assisted in their weak areas. Many of the field enumerators have worked with prior censuses and surveys with valuable past experiences doing field survey work.

#### DATA CODING

Once a questionnaire passed the review stage, it was filed appropriately in a filing cabinet ready for coding. Code books from prior survey were updated and used for coding the 2017 LFS forms. Throughout each day, the clerks would review incoming forms, assisted field workers, and coded completed forms. Code books copies are available at CSD. Codes can also be obtained from the code tables in MS Access database that house the Survey data.

#### DATA ENTRY

A database in MS Access was created to store the survey data. A form application was created to enter the data from the completed questionnaire into the database. The database tables and form application contained validation rules that allowed only the acceptable set of values (variable domain) into each of the fields. The validation check helped to minimize the amount of keying errors entering the database.

#### DATA CLEANING AND PROCESSING

As the forms were entered into the database, frequencies and crosstabs were produced and used to look for possible errors and/or anomalies in the database records. Queries were created in MS Access to show what appeared to be possible errors and isolate, appropriately, these set of records. At the completion of data entry, possible errors were isolated and validated against the appropriate hard copy questionnaires.

The resulting clean dataset for the LFS resides in MS Access. It was also exported in SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) and into a data model in MS Excel for tabulation and analysis.

#### SURVEY CHALLENGES

##### FIELD WORK DATA COLLECTION DELAY IN TINIAN AND ROTA

Saipan's field data collection went relatively smoothly and was completed within the Fourth Quarter, 2017. However, data collection in Tinian and Rota were not completed by the enumerators hired from these two islands and required sending field workers from Saipan to complete field work in those two islands. Although a problem in that Tinian and Rota hired field workers stopped working, Saipan workers sent to those two islands completed field work in these islands in a timely manner, so that data collection was completed with the month of December, as planned. Getting survey field work done in Tinian and Rota have always been problematic. It is important to keep this in mind and have a back-up plan in case field workers hired in these islands fail to complete their assignments.

##### WORK REASSIGNMENT

Several of the field workers started but either did not complete the areas assigned to them or were making slow progress. This required reassignment of field work to the more productive ones. It is important to keep in mind that going door-to-door completing survey questionnaire is not for everyone and to plan for options to make sure survey takers are able to complete the field work.

##### DATA ENTRY DELAY

While form reviews, coding, and keying was completed in December they could have been done sooner, before the clerk contracts expired, so that clerks could have worked on data cleaning. Consider changing/refining workflows to make sure clerical support stay on task. Also, it might be time to experiment with electronic devices, such as tablets, for field data collection work.

#### RESPONSE RATE IN THE LABOR FORCE SURVEY

Of the 1,278 households selected for the 2017 LFS, 1,122 of them were completed, a response rate of about 83% for the CNMI. By island, the response rate was 92% for Saipan; 89% for Tinian, and 68% for Rota. The 1,122 households had 3,491 persons for an average of 3.1 per household CNMI-wide. The average number of persons per household was 3.2 (2,598/809) in Saipan; 3.0 (525/177) in Tinian; and 2.7 (368/136) in Rota.

## ESTIMATED POPULATION AND SURVEY WEIGHTS IN THE SURVEY

The estimated total population for the CNM in 2017 was 52,263, according to the US Census Bureau<sup>2</sup>. This total was used in estimating the sub populations in this Survey. Table A.1.0 shows how the survey weights—used to estimate the sub-populations in the Survey—were derived. As discussed earlier, sampling was stratified by island and by village group. Table A.1.0, column 2 (C2), shows the number of occupied housing units by island and by village group based on the 2014 sample frame; the count of randomly sampled housing units for the Survey in C3; the count of housing units completed in the Survey (C4), the count of persons captured in the Survey (C5), and the average number of persons per housing unit in the Survey (C6). The estimated total population based on the sample frame and survey average are shown in column 7, derived by multiplying C2 and C6; however, the resulting total population of 43,548 is less than the Bureau’s estimate of 52,263. To scale the population estimates in C7 to the Bureau’s total, C7 was multiplied by 1.2 (52,263/43,548). Survey weights by village group were, then, derived by dividing 2017 Population Estimates (C9) by the count of persons in the Survey (C5). These weights were then imputed appropriately to the individual records in the Survey’s dataset and used to produce labor force participation measures shown in the body of this report.

Table A.1.0 Population and Survey Weights Estimates

C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	C8	C9	C10
Island/Village Group	Count Of Occupied Housing Units in the Frame (2014)	Count of Housing Units Sampled for the Survey	Count Of Housing Units Completed in the Survey	Count of Persons in the Survey	Avg Number of Persons Per Housing Unit in the Survey (C5/C4)	Estimated Population based on 2014 Frame and Survey Average (C2*C6)	Weight Adjustment (52,263/43,548)	2017 Population Estimates (C7*C8)	2017 LFS Person Weights (C9/C5)
<b>CNMI Total</b>	<b>13,922</b>	<b>1,278</b>	<b>1,122</b>	<b>3,491</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>43,548</b>		<b>52,263</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Saipan</b>	<b>12,536</b>	<b>878</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>2,598</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>39,633</b>		<b>47,565</b>	<b>-</b>
As Matusi & Surrounding Areas	177	30	28	126	4.5	797	1.20	956	7.586500
San Roque Area	193	30	29	91	3.1	606	1.20	727	7.987030
Tanapag & Surrounding Areas	298	30	28	103	3.7	1,096	1.20	1,316	12.772750
Navy Hill & Puerto Rico	741	48	39	114	2.9	2,166	1.20	2,599	22.802360
Garapan & Surrounding Areas	2794	180	169	438	2.6	7,241	1.20	8,690	19.841100
Chalan Kiya Area	824	53	51	154	3.0	2,488	1.20	2,986	19.390240
Susupe & Chalan Kanoa	1440	93	90	291	3.2	4,656	1.20	5,588	19.201980
San Antonio Area	952	37	58	171	2.9	2,807	1.20	3,368	19.698590
Koblerville & Surrounding Areas	753	73	47	197	4.2	3,156	1.20	3,788	19.227520
Dandan & Surrounding Areas	773	50	49	176	3.6	2,776	1.20	3,332	18.932570
As Lito & Surrounding Areas	1186	77	68	192	2.8	3,349	1.20	4,019	20.931570
San Vicente & Surrounding Areas	882	57	57	196	3.4	3,033	1.20	3,640	18.570340
Kagman & Surrounding Areas	798	60	51	203	4.0	3,176	1.20	3,812	18.778410
Papago & Surrounding Areas	151		7	20	2.9	431	1.20	518	25.888390
As Teo & Surrounding Areas	186	30	23	79	3.4	639	1.20	767	9.705350
Capital Hill & Surrounding Areas	388	30	15	47	3.1	1,216	1.20	1,459	31.043210
<b>Tinian</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2,188</b>		<b>2,626</b>	
San Jose	574	148	121	345	2.9	1,637	1.20	1,964	5.693150
Marpo	165	42	51	155	3.0	501	1.20	602	3.882750
Carolinas	10	10	5	25	5.0	50	1.20	60	2.400250
<b>Rota</b>	<b>637</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>1,727</b>		<b>2,072</b>	
Songsong - Teneto	263	80	61	160	2.6	690	1.20	828	5.174310
Songsong Surrounding Areas	15	10	3	11	3.7	55	1.20	66	6.000620
Sinapalo	305	93	61	162	2.7	810	1.20	972	6.000620
Sinapalo Surrounding Areas	54	17	11	35	3.2	172	1.20	206	5.891520

<sup>2</sup> [United States Census Bureau](https://www.census.gov)

APPENDIX B:  
The 2017 CNMI Labor Force Survey Questionnaire