



**SEATCA**  
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**MEASURING EMPLOYMENT  
IN THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY:  
THE CASE OF THE  
PHILIPPINES**

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**Financial support from  
The Rockefeller Foundation and  
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# **MEASURING EMPLOYMENT IN THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY: THE CASE OF THE PHILIPPINES**

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

Tobacco use has been proven to be a major cause of chronic diseases (such as lung cancer and respiratory and cardiovascular diseases) worldwide, which in turn affect productivity and shortens the lives of smokers (Gajalakshmi, *et. al.* 2000). Dans *et. al.* (1999) study on the annual economic costs of smoking from 4 tobacco-related diseases in the Philippines showed an enormous amount: (i) average health care cost per individual was PhP192,597 for lung cancer; PhP79,038 for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; PhP147,107 for coronary artery disease; and PhP85,567 for cerebrovascular disease ; (ii) PhP988 million (US\$17.96 million) for productivity loss from smoking; and (iii) PhP18 billion (US\$327.27 million) for productivity loss due to premature deaths from smoking. Given that the costs of health care in the country is shouldered by the families of affected individuals, the enormous economic costs of tobacco-related diseases and deaths could bring economic havoc to affected families.

Recognizing the adverse health and economic impacts of tobacco use, the Philippine government has been implementing tobacco control measures. Yet, by international standards, the country has been acknowledged as among the world's slowest nations to take tobacco control seriously (Chapman, 2004). Worse, some government policies tend to promote tobacco use and cigarette smoking, instead of strengthening tobacco control measures already in place. For example, the recent study by Austria (2005) showed that trade liberalization under the country's commitment in the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) lowers the retail price of cigarette and hence, leads to an increase in demand and consumption. The findings also show that the reduction in price and the increase in cigarette consumption are much larger with the complete elimination of the Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) rate, the ultimate goal of AFTA by 2010.

Admittedly, the government is faced with a dilemma. Tobacco control measures leads to less smoking. But less smoking leads to decreased employment and income for tobacco farmers and workers in tobacco-related industries, changes in foreign exchange earnings, and possibly to decreased government revenue from tobacco taxes. It is these conflicting economic objectives that made tobacco policies the center of debates of different sectors in the society.

In general, tobacco control policies are said to have social and labor costs. Thus, some policymakers worldwide are concerned of the risk of incurring high social and economic costs as a consequence of these measures, such as, reduced sales of cigarettes might cause the permanent loss of thousands of jobs and would result in lower government revenues; and, higher prices would encourage massive levels of cigarette smuggling as well as foster more widespread use of other plant extracts in the form of narcotics or grey market tobacco products (ILO 2003). These economic fears, however, are largely unfounded according to the World Bank as cited in ILO (2003) and those policies that reduce the demand for tobacco would not cause long-term job losses in the vast majority of nations (ILO 2003, page 7).

This study will focus on estimating the employment generated by the Philippine tobacco industry. How much really is the contribution of the industry to employment? Is it significant or not? Specifically, the study will: (a) determine the structure of the tobacco industry in the Philippines, particularly in terms of production, trading/buying, manufacturing, marketing, and the public sector; (b) measure employment in the Philippine tobacco industry following the structure determined in objective (a); (c) analyze the contribution of the Philippine tobacco industry to the total employment of the country, based on the findings in objectives (a) & (b); and, (d) compare the findings in (b) to available measures of tobacco employment in the country.

The study will provide the necessary information needed by the country's policymakers who are hesitant to intensify the government's tobacco control efforts. At the same time, however, any possible consequences of tobacco control policies on tobacco employment should not be taken lightly, given the already high unemployment in the country. And, any move to further implement tobacco control measures in the country should be firmly based on sound evidence-based initiatives.

## 2. STRUCTURE OF THE PHILIPPINE TOBACCO INDUSTRY

To be able to estimate the employment generated by the tobacco industry, one needs to understand the structure of the Philippine tobacco industry. This is important as the effect of a reduction in tobacco use on the employment of individuals in tobacco-related jobs will vary across these individuals, depending on the degree of their dependence on the industry for their income. The industry involves several layers as shown in Figure 1.

At the lowest level are the farmers involved in tobacco production. Tobacco grown in the country is classified into 2, namely, aromatic and native. The aromatic type is characterized by its low nicotine content (less than 1%), high sugar content (23%), and low moisture content. The varieties under this type include Virginia, Burley and Turkish or Oriental, all of which are intended for cigarette manufacturing. On the other hand, the native type is mostly used for filler for home and factory-made cigars. Tobacco is grown mostly in the northern provinces of the country (Region 1 and Region 2). The top 5 tobacco producing provinces come from these regions and they accounted for a combined share of 87% of total production. These are Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union and Pangasinan in Region 1 and Isabela in Region 2 (Figure 2). On the average, about three-fourths of tobacco production is used in the domestic manufacture of cigarettes, cigars or used as chewable tobacco (Table 1). The rest are exported.

The second layer is the buying and trading of tobacco leaves. This involves two major activities namely, curing and re-drying of tobacco leaves and wholesale of tobacco leaves. The leaves are then either exported or used for the manufacture of cigarettes, cigars and other tobacco products. The latter is the third major layer in the industry's structure. Cigarette manufacturing is almost totally mechanical.

The fourth layer is marketing and distribution. This layer is the most complicated, given the country's geography of hundreds of islands. Before tobacco products reach the consumers, they pass through wholesalers, then retailers in the cities, municipalities and *barangays* (districts). Of particular importance to the country's tobacco industry are the street vendors selling loose cigarettes. These are usually found in the cities and town proper. Street vendors represent men and women of all ages, including children. These vendors either have "mobile shops" that are temporarily stationed along the streets during daytime or are walking along the streets selling their cigarettes (together with newspapers, candies, etc) to passengers of moving buses or *jeepneys*. Street vendors are classic example of urban poor in the society. Their activity is also considered informal sector, one which is not counted in official statistics.

The last layer is the government sector. The major government agencies are the National Tobacco Administration (NTA) and the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS) of the Department of Agriculture (DA).



### 3. ESTIMATING EMPLOYMENT IN THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY

This study will make use of secondary data from NTA, BAS-DA, National Statistics Office (NSO) and the Bureau of Labor and Economic Statistics (BLES). In order to get the full-time equivalent of employment under the various layers of the industry, discussion and interviews with staff of NTA, NSO and BLES were undertaken. This section explains the estimation of employment following the industry's structure in the preceding section.

**Tobacco Production.** Official data from the NTA includes number of tobacco farmers. However, it is uncertain whether these farmers devote solely their time on tobacco farming. It is very common in the Philippines for farmers to be involved in multiple cropping at any given time of the year. Thus, to estimate the full-time equivalent of farmers working in tobacco production, this study adopted the following procedures.

- (i) Available data on tobacco production in kilograms (kg) was first converted to pounds (lbs). Following Zhang's (2001) approach, the total labor hours used in production was then estimated using the data on man-hours required per pound per tobacco leaf provided by the NTA as follows:
  - Virginia – 0.74 man-hours per pound
  - Burley – 0.73 man-hours per pound
  - Native – 0.39 man-hours per pound
- (ii) The total labor hours used estimated in (i) above was converted to the number of full-time jobs.

It is also common for family members to help in the activities on the farm. To estimate for full-time equivalent of helpers in the farm, the study follows NTA assumption of 1 full time laborer per farmer. Furthermore, the study also assumes 1 full-time landlord for every 10 full-time equivalent farmers

Following the above procedures, the estimates of full-time employment at the tobacco production level are shown in Table 2 and Figure 3. Tobacco production (Table 2) has been on a down trend (Figure 3), registering an average annual growth rate of -4.76% during the period 1996-2005. Production in 2005 was less than two-thirds of production in 1996. The decline is due to the following: (i) decrease in area devoted to tobacco farming as a result of the shift in land use to high value cash crop products; (ii) increase in tobacco imports since 1998 (Austria 2005). Consequently, total employment generated at the production level has also been declining (Table 2 & Figure 3) at an average annual growth rate of -5.18% during the same period. The largest number of employed persons was registered in 2003 with a total number of 121,154 persons employed. However, the succeeding years have consistently registered negative growth rates at 40.4% and 17.0% during 2004 and 2005, respectively.

**Trading and Buying of Tobacco Leaves.** Estimates of employment generated from curing and re-drying tobacco leaves and wholesale of tobacco leaves are not officially available. This is because NSO, under its Annual Survey of Establishments, classifies its employment in wholesale and retail trade to include all sectors doing wholesale and retail trade, regardless of industry. For example, wholesale and retail in agriculture are lumped together with wholesale and retail in manufacturing. However, we requested the NSO to separate and estimate from the total the employment generated specifically from the trading and buying of tobacco leaves.

The NSO estimates is rather erratic, with employment reaching its peak at 4,026 in 2001 (Table 3). However, employment has declined thereafter.

**Manufacturing.** Employment generated from the manufacture of cigarettes and other tobacco products were taken from the Annual Survey of Establishments of the NSO. As shown in Table 3 and Figure 4, employment has increased between 1999 and 2005, although the growth rate has been declining since 2002.

In a separate NSO estimate, female employment in tobacco manufacturing is almost 50% per year of total tobacco manufacturing employment (Table 4). A more telling information is the declining and very low percentage share of total compensation cost to total costs in tobacco manufacturing. The share went down from 5.5% in 1991 to 3% in 2001 (Table 5).

**Local Marketing & Distribution.** Like in the trading and buying of tobacco leaves, official NSO data on the wholesale and retail of tobacco products are lumped together with the wholesale and retail of all other products. This is taken from the Annual Survey of Establishments. We requested NSO to separate the estimate for tobacco products.

As shown in Table 3, employment in the wholesale of tobacco products has increased during the period 1999-2005. It increased from 847 in 1999 to 1,362 in 2005, registering an average growth rate of 8.6% per year.

On the other hand, NSO's estimates of employment in the retail of tobacco products was not adopted because it does not include the informal sector. Instead, we made a separate estimates taking into consideration the structure of retail activities as discussed previously in Section 2. The estimates together with our assumptions, are shown in Table 6. On the average, the retail of tobacco products generates a total employment of 63,320 per year.

**Government sector.** Employment in the government sector includes those primarily employed at the National Tobacco Administration (NTA). On the average, the agency has 750 officials and staff (Table 3). For 2007, the staff has gone down to 350 only (based on interview at NTA)

#### 4. EMPLOYMENT STRUCTURE AND CONTRIBUTION TO PHILIPPINE EMPLOYMENT

Estimate of total employment in the tobacco industry went down from 169,906 in 1999 to 135,672 in 2005 (Table 3). This estimate is lower compared to existing estimates as the latter include in the counting, all the family members of those employed in tobacco-related activities. The decline in employment was due to the decrease in employment at the tobacco farming level. The largest annual decline in total employment was registered in 2003-2004 at -24.7% (Figure 5). The number may appear large considering the country's high unemployment rate of 8.1%. However, as discussed below, the industry contributes less than 1% to total employment in the country. Likewise, tobacco manufacturing which is expected to generate high value added compared to the other sub-sectors of the industry, appears to be highly capital intensive. As discussed in the preceding section, the share of compensation to total cost in tobacco manufacturing is less than 5%.

Up until 2003, total employment in the industry was increasing, just as cigarette production and total cigarette consumption were increasing (Table 7). The latter could be due to the country's high population growth, although on a per capita basis, cigarette consumption has been declining on the average over the period 1990-2003 (Figure 6). However, the growth in employment at 3.6% per year is lower compared to the annual growth rate of 5.2% and 5.0% for cigarette production and consumption, respectively. Total employment declined from 2003 to 2005 by 31.3% but cigarette production and cigarette consumption during the same period increased by 4.1% and 8.9%, respectively

The bulk of employment in the tobacco sector is in tobacco farming, with an average share of 56.1% per year during the period 1999-2005 (Table 3). However, the share has been going down, from 58.2% in 1999 to 44.2% in 2005. Retail of tobacco products is the second largest source of employment, with an average share of 37.5% per year. However, unlike tobacco production, the share of this sector has been increasing, reaching 46.7% in 2005. Tobacco manufacturing contributed an average of 3.4% and the share has been increasing. On the other hand, curing and re-drying of tobacco leaves contributed 1.7% and the rest of the sectors, less than 1%.

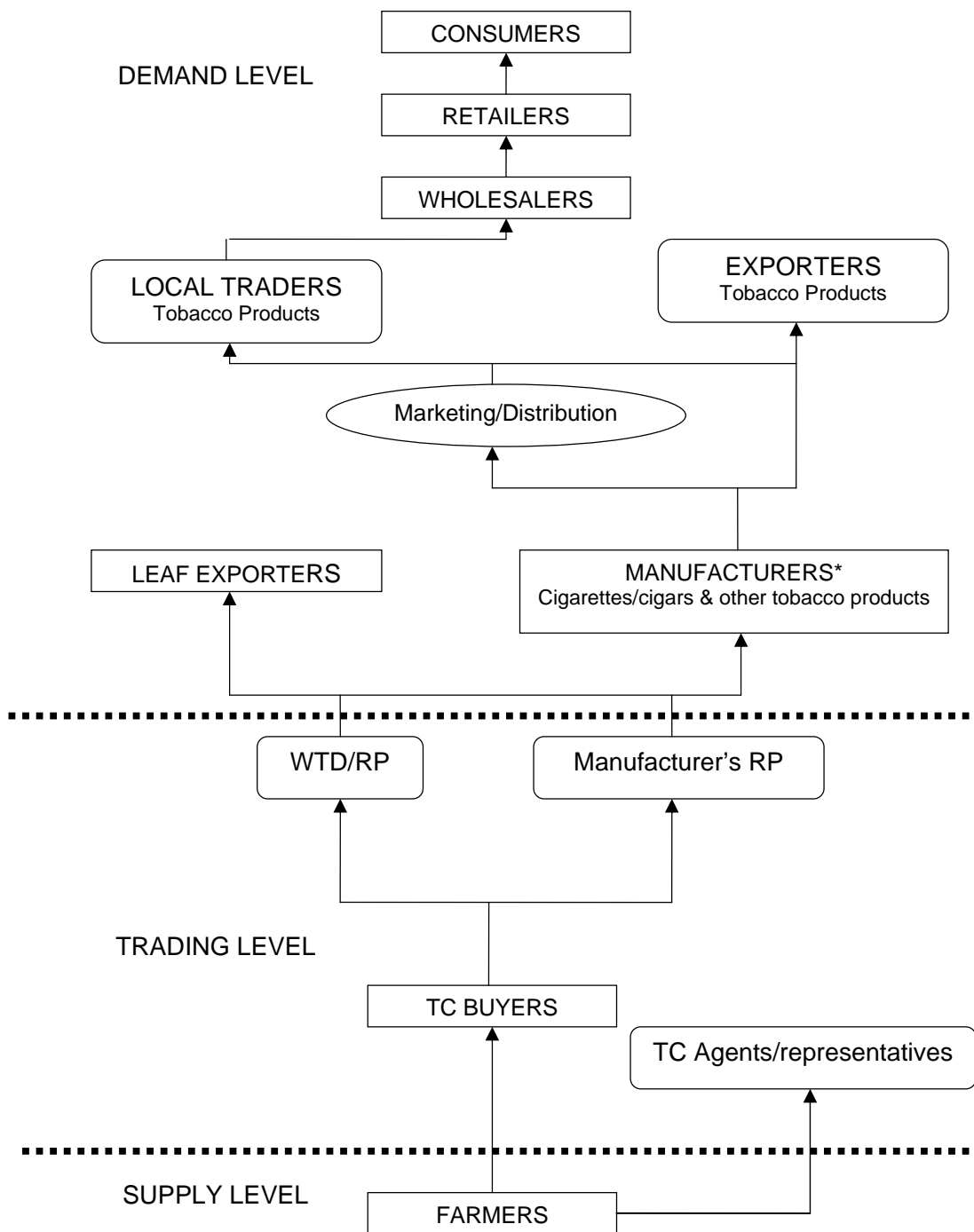
Employment in the tobacco industry is less than 1% of total employment in the country (Table 8). The share has also been going down during the period 1999-2005. Except for wholesale and retail trade, all the sectors contributed less than 1% to their respective total sector employment. The share of agriculture has been increasing during the period 1999-2003, until it started to decrease in 2004.

## **5. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Estimates of full-time equivalent employment in the tobacco industry show the industry's small contribution to the country's total employment. While the number is small, one has to be cautious of the possible implications of any tobacco control measures in reducing employment, given the high unemployment problem in the country. Thus, there should be a balance in approach given the high social, health and economic costs of tobacco use and cigarette smoking. The government should ensure alternative employment opportunities for the labor sector which will be displaced by any tobacco control measures.

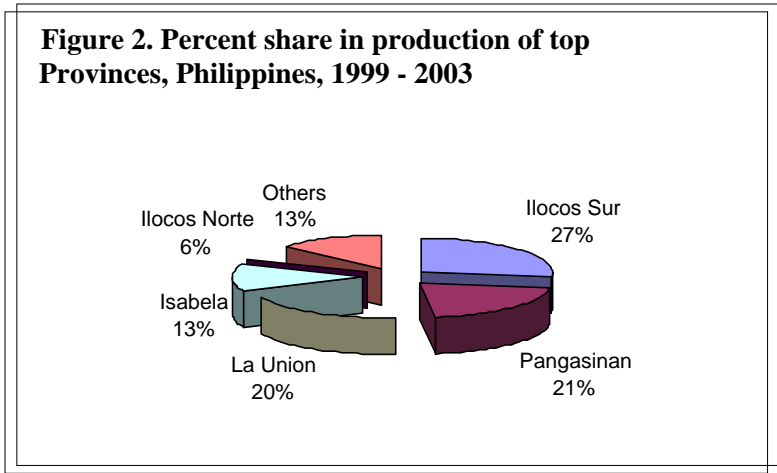
# APPENDICES

**Figure 1. Structure of the Philippine Tobacco Industry**



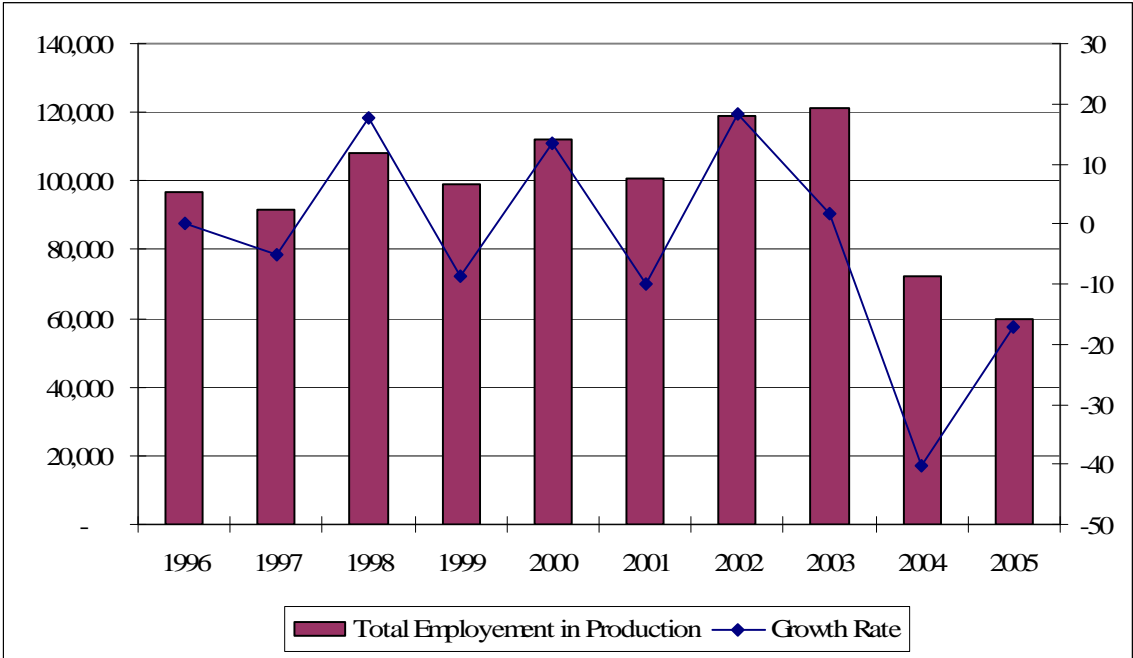
WTD – wholesale tobacco traders  
 RP – redrying plants  
 TC – trading center  
 \*IMPORTER also of tobacco leaf

Source: National Tobacco Administration



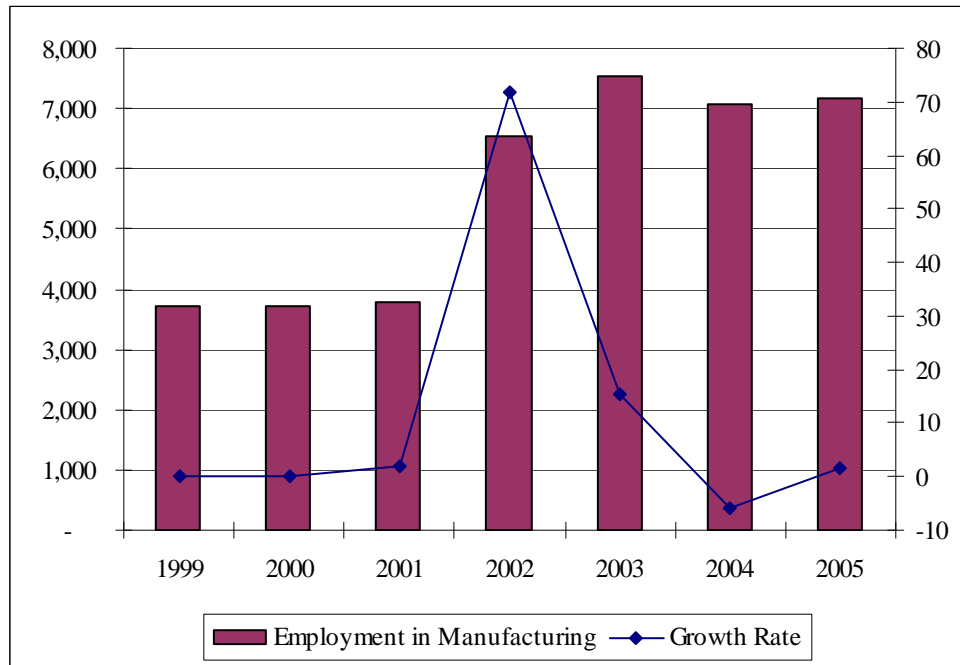
Source: Bureau of Agricultural Statistics

**Figure 3. Total employment, tobacco farming, 1996-2005**



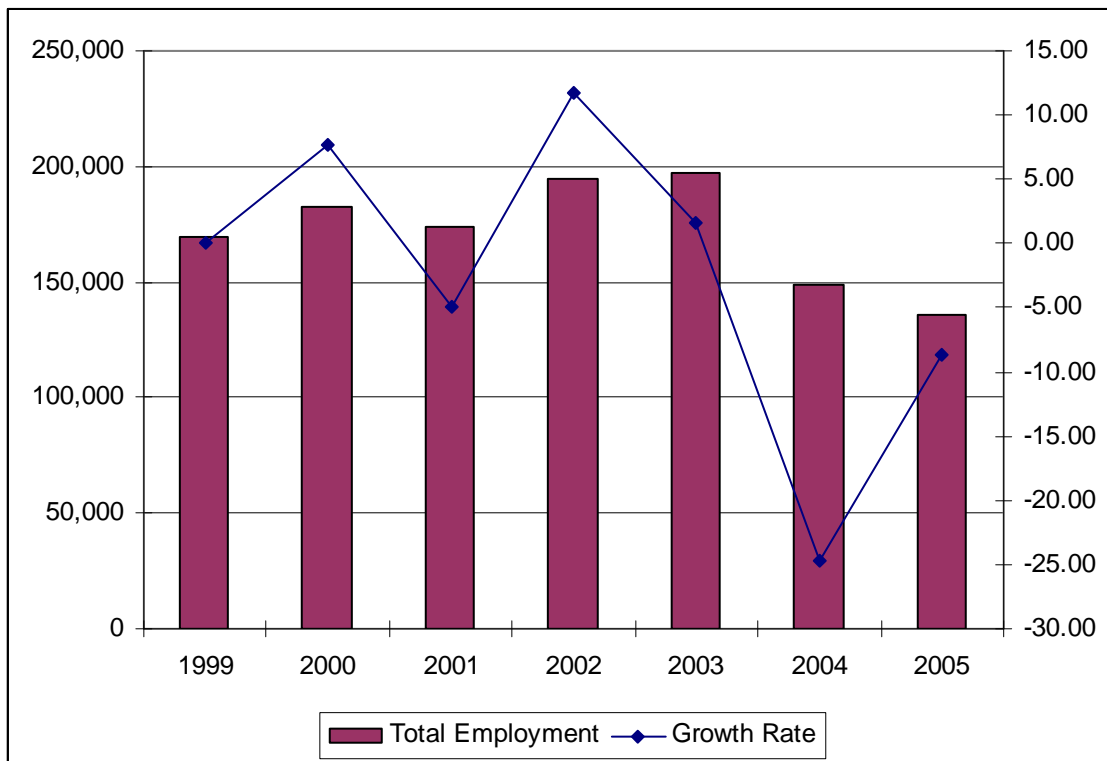
Source: Table 2 on employment, tobacco production level, 1996-2005.

**Figure 4. Tobacco manufacturing employment, 1999-2005**



Source: Table 3 on employment in the tobacco industry, by structure, 1999-2005.

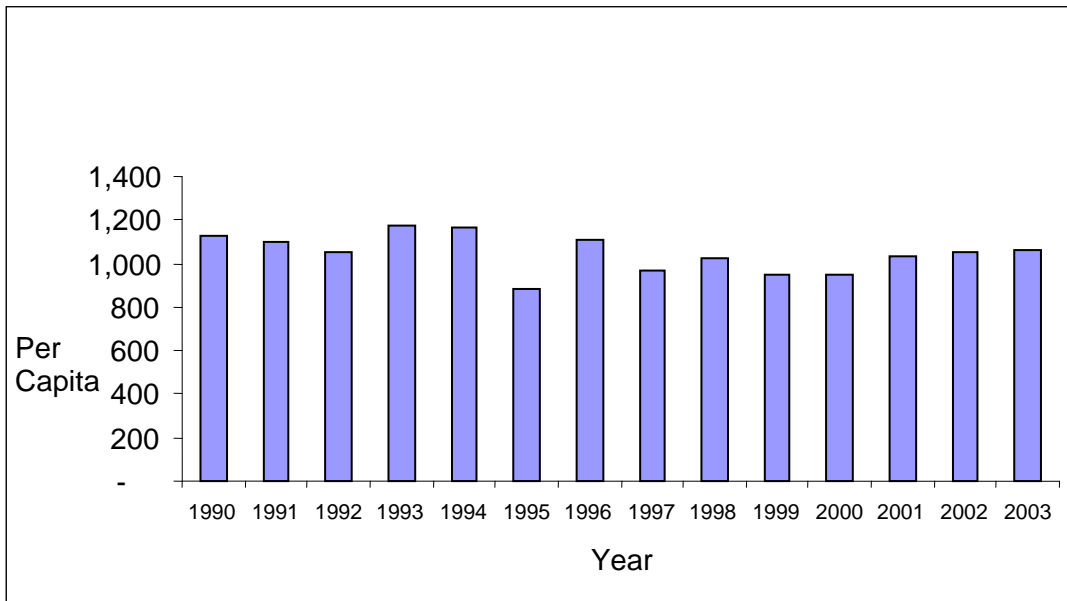
**Figure 5. Total employment in the tobacco industry, 1999-2005**



Source: Table 3 on employment in the tobacco industry, by structure, 1999-2005.



**Figure 6. Per capita cigarette consumption, 1990-2003**



**Table 1. Production of tobacco, by use, Philippines, 1990-2003**

Year	Quantity (MT)			% Share	
	Production	Exports	Domestic	Exports	Domestic
1990	81,722	12,100	69,622	14.8	85.2
1991	85,182	24,200	60,982	28.4	71.6
1992	117,899	18,210	99,689	15.4	84.6
1993	104,786	17,210	87,576	16.4	83.6
1994	56,900	11,930	44,970	21.0	79.0
1995	63,706	19,146	44,560	30.1	69.9
1996	64,861	18,176	46,685	28.0	72.0
1997	65,292	18,171	47,121	27.8	72.2
1998	61,952	13,191	48,761	21.3	78.7
1999	51,693	17,638	34,055	34.1	65.9
2000	49,529	9,712	39,817	19.6	80.4
2001	48,173	9,733	38,440	20.2	79.8
2002	50,174	11,731	38,443	23.4	76.6
2003	52,902	12,252	40,650	23.2	76.8

Source of basic data: USDA/FAS; Bureau of Agricultural Statistics

**Table 2. Employment, tobacco farming, 1996-2005**

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>Production (kg)</b>										
Virginia	39,999,264	41,316,832	46,046,215	35,401,050	36,648,137	36,066,490	39,251,127	40,888,982	29,366,183	23,458,007
Burley	15,228,039	9,844,276	14,405,556	19,302,328	26,462,937	19,830,389	27,572,032	27,138,444	9,153,178	8,899,918
Native	8,805,049	10,670,177	12,217,911	12,341,907	12,078,271	12,298,278	13,239,370	13,333,514	11,658,158	8,940,710
Total	64,032,352	61,831,285	72,669,682	67,045,286	75,189,345	68,195,156	80,062,530	81,360,939	50,177,519	41,298,634
<b>Production (lbs)</b>										
Virginia	88,182,378	91,087,089	101,513,485	78,045,156	80,794,483	79,512,183	86,533,035	90,143,850	64,740,687	51,715,521
Burley	33,571,735	21,702,690	31,758,489	42,553,912	58,340,191	43,718,075	60,785,302	59,829,413	20,179,096	19,620,759
Native	19,411,610	23,523,473	26,935,606	27,208,969	26,627,756	27,112,783	29,187,516	29,395,065	25,701,574	19,710,688
Total	141,165,723	136,313,252	160,207,580	147,808,037	165,762,430	150,343,041	176,505,853	179,368,327	110,621,358	91,046,969
<b>Number of Farmers</b>										
Virginia	30,897	31,915	35,568	27,345	28,309	27,859	30,319	31,584	22,684	18,120
Burley	11,604	7,501	10,977	14,709	20,165	15,111	21,010	20,680	6,975	6,782
Native	3,585	4,344	4,974	5,024	4,917	5,007	5,390	5,428	4,746	3,640
Total	46,086	43,760	51,519	47,078	53,391	47,977	56,719	57,692	34,405	28,542
<b>Additional Laborers</b>	46,086	43,760	51,519	47,078	53,391	47,977	56,719	57,692	34,405	28,542
<b>Total # of Landlords</b>	4,609	4,376	5,152	4,708	5,339	4,798	5,672	5,769	3,440	2,854
<b>Total Employment</b>	96,780	91,896	108,190	98,864	112,120	100,751	119,110	121,154	72,250	59,937

**Notes:**

- 1) Number of farmers was obtained using the following steps:
  - (i) man-hours per pound of tobacco x number of pounds of tobacco produced = hours of labor
  - (ii) hours of labor/hours of a full-time employee = # of full-time employees
- 2) Man-hours labor per pound (lbs) as provided by NTA are the following for each type of tobacco:
  - a Virginia =0.74 man-hours per pound
  - b Burley =0.73 man-hours per pound
  - c Native = 0.39 man-hours per pound
- 3) Raw data obtained from the NTA was in kilograms (kg).

**Table 3. Employment in the tobacco industry, by structure, 1999-2005**

YEAR	Farmers' level	Trading/Buying level		Manufacturing	Local marketing level		Government sector	TOTAL
	Production	Curing & redrying tobacco leaves	Tobacco leaf wholesaling		Wholesale of tobacco products	Retail of tobacco products		
<b>Employment</b>								
1999	98,864	2,408	N.A.	3,717	847	63,320	750	169,906
2000	112,120	2,120	N.A.	3,720	804	63,320	750	182,834
2001	100,751	4,026	N.A.	3,799	1,282	63,320	750	173,928
2002	119,110	3,476	N.A.	6,528	1,146	63,320	750	194,330
2003	121,154	3,476	N.A.	7,528	1,151	63,320	750	197,379
2004	72,250	3,074	745	7,073	1,358	63,320	750	148,570
2005	59,937	2,757	374	7,172	1,362	63,320	750	135,672
<b>% Distribution</b>								
1999	58.2	1.4	-	2.2	0.5	37.3	0.4	100.0
2000	61.3	1.2	-	2.0	0.4	34.6	0.4	100.0
2001	57.9	2.3	-	2.2	0.7	36.4	0.4	100.0
2002	61.3	1.8	-	3.4	0.6	32.6	0.4	100.0
2003	61.4	1.8	-	3.8	0.6	32.1	0.4	100.0
2004	48.6	2.1	0.5	4.8	0.9	42.6	0.5	100.0
2005	44.2	2.0	0.3	5.3	1.0	46.7	0.6	100.0

**Sources:**

1. Production - refer to Table 2.
  2. Curing & redrying – NSO
  3. Tobacco leaf wholesaling – NSO
  4. Manufacturing – NSO
  5. Wholesale of tobacco products – NSO
  6. Retail, tobacco products - refer to Table 6.
  7. Government sector – NTA
- N.A. – not available

**Table 4. Percentage share of female employees,  
by type of establishment, 1991-2003**

Year	< 10 Employees	> 10 Employees	Total Establishments
	% Share	% Share	% Share
1991	57.14	50.14	50.15
1992	23.91	49.82	49.74
1993	57.50	49.38	49.45
1994	34.78	46.61	46.59
1995	72.22	45.06	45.11
1996	59.57	44.79	44.85
1997	62.26	44.80	44.88
1998	60.00	55.48	55.49
1999	75.00	45.59	45.65
2000	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
2001	60.53	47.78	47.82
2002	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
2003	-	43.64	43.64

Source: National Statistics Office, Annual Survey of Philippine Business and Industry (2001 & 2003)

Census of Philippine Business and Industry (1999)

Note: Figures from 1999 to 2003 are based on employees 20 & over as classified by NSO.

N.A. – not available

**Table 5. Share of compensation to total cost,  
tobacco manufacturing, 1991-2003**

Year	Percentage
1991	5.5
1992	5.0
1993	5.3
1994	3.9
1995	3.7
1996	4.6
1997	5.0
1998	2.7
1999	3.0
2000	N.A.
2001	3.0
2002	N.A.
2003	N.A.

Source: National Statistics Office, Annual Survey of Philippine Business and Industry (2001 & 2003);  
Census of Philippine Business and Industry (1999).

Note: Figures from 1999 to 2003 are based on employees 20 & over as classified by NSO.

N. A. – not available

**Table 6. Retail of tobacco products**

Level	Assumptions*	Estimates	% Distribution
<b>Retailers**</b>			
Cities (133)	3 per city	299	0.47
Municipalities (1,495)	1 per municipality	1,121	1.77
<i>Barangay</i> level (41,994 )	1 per <i>barangay</i>	31,495	49.74
<b>Cigarette vendors**</b>			
Cities (133)	80 per city	7,980	12.60
Municipalities (1,495)	20 per municipality	22,425	35.42
<b>Total</b>		63,320	100.00

**Note:** \*Assumptions were based on assumptions by the National Tobacco Administration (NTA).

\*\*A typical retailer and street vendor spends about 75% of the time selling tobacco products.

Number of towns is broken down into 133 cities and 1,495 municipalities

as of July 2007 according to Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG).

Number of *barangays* figure is as of July 2007 according to DILG.

Cigarette vendors in cities are 3 to 5 times more than in municipalities

according to NTA.

**Table 7. Tobacco employment, cigarette production & consumption, 1999-2005**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Employment</b>	<b>*Cigarette Production</b>	<b>*Cigarette Consumption</b>
1999	169,906	68,620	71,620
2000	182,834	73,156	72,665
2001	173,928	79,000	81,190
2002	194,330	81,000	84,000
2003	197,379	84,000	87,100
2004	148,570	85,700	90,970
2005	135,672	87,400	94,840

Source: Austria (2006), Table 2 and 17.

Note: \*In million pieces



**Table 8. Percentage share of tobacco industry to total employment, Philippines, 1999-2005**

Sectors	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>Total employment (000)</b>	27,742	27,452	29,156	30,062	30,635	31,613	32,313
Tobacco & tobacco products	169.91	182.83	173.93	194.33	197.38	148.57	135.67
% share	0.61	0.67	0.60	0.65	0.64	0.47	0.42
<b>Agriculture (000)</b>	10,774	10,181	9,716	9,963	9,956	10,013	10,234
Tobacco	101.27	114.24	104.78	122.59	124.63	76.07	63.07
% share	0.94	1.12	1.08	1.23	1.25	0.76	0.62
<b>Manufacturing (000)</b>	2,759	2,745	2,906	2,869	2,941	3,061	3,077
Tobacco products	3.72	3.72	3.8	6.53	7.53	7.07	7.17
% share	0.13	0.14	0.13	0.23	0.26	0.23	0.23
<b>Wholesale &amp; retail trade (000)</b>	4,353	4,484	5,255	5,613	5,601	5,872	6,147
Tobacco products	64.17	64.17	64.60	64.47	64.47	64.68	64.68
% share	1.47	1.43	1.23	1.15	1.15	1.10	1.05
<b>Government (000)</b>	N.A.	N.A.	2,921	3,217	3,398	3,775	3,784
Tobacco	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75
% share	-	-	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02

**Notes:**

1. Agriculture, tobacco - includes employment at the (i) production level, (ii) trading/buying level.
2. Manufacturing, tobacco - data is based on 1999-2005 Lists of Establishments, Industry & Trade Statistics, National Statistics Office.
3. Wholesale & retail trade, tobacco - includes (i) wholesale of tobacco products, and (ii) retail of tobacco products. Retail of tobacco products is based on NTA estimates.
4. Government, tobacco - number is based on NTA estimates. Reorganization of NTA has reduced number to 350 by May 2007.

**N.A. – not available**

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## About SEATCA

The Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance (SEATCA) works closely with key partners in ASEAN member countries to generate local evidence through research programs, to enhance local capacity through advocacy fellowship program, and to be catalyst in policy development through regional forums and in-country networking. By adopting a regional policy advocacy mission, it has supported member countries to ratify and implement the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)

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