

REGIONAL POVERTY STATISTICS UPDATE

The Marcos administration is aiming for a 9% poverty incidence by the end of the six-year presidency. From the 18.1% poverty incidence in 2021, five percentage points reduction is targeted in the mid-term, and a further drop of four percentage points by the end of term.

Poverty Threshold and Poverty Incidence. The poverty incidence among population increased from 16.7% in 2018 to 18.1% in 2021 (Table 1). For the same period, poverty incidence among families increased from 12.1% to 13.2%.

**TABLE 1
MONTHLY PER CAPITA POVERTY THRESHOLD AND
POVERTY INCIDENCE AMONG POPULATION AND AMONG
FAMILIES, BY REGION, 2018 AND 2021**

| | Monthly per Capita Poverty Threshold (in PhP) | | Poverty Incidence among Population (% Estimates) | | Poverty Incidence among Families (% Estimates) | |
|---------------------|---|-------------------|--|-------------------|--|-------------------|
| | 2018 | 2021 ^P | 2018 | 2021 ^P | 2018 | 2021 ^P |
| PHILIPPINES | 2,151 | 2,406 | 16.7 | 18.1 | 12.1 | 13.2 |
| NCR | 2,390 | 2,748 | 2.2 | 3.5 | 1.4 | 2.2 |
| CAR | 2,076 | 2,359 | 12.0 | 9.9 | 8.6 | 6.9 |
| I: Ilocos Region | 2,255 | 2,593 | 9.9 | 14.4 | 7.0 | 11.0 |
| II: Cagayan Valley | 2,092 | 2,358 | 16.3 | 15.4 | 12.5 | 11.7 |
| III: Central Luzon | 2,246 | 2,632 | 7.0 | 11.4 | 5.2 | 8.3 |
| IV-A: CALABARZON | 2,327 | 2,588 | 7.1 | 10.2 | 5.1 | 7.2 |
| IV-B: MIMAROPA | 1,943 | 2,193 | 15.1 | 20.8 | 10.5 | 15.0 |
| V: Bicol Region | 2,038 | 2,306 | 27.0 | 29.3 | 20.0 | 21.9 |
| VI: West. Visayas | 2,041 | 2,257 | 16.3 | 19.0 | 11.9 | 13.8 |
| VII: Cen. Visayas | 2,145 | 2,602 | 17.7 | 27.6 | 13.4 | 22.1 |
| VIII: East. Visayas | 2,082 | 2,237 | 30.7 | 28.9 | 23.9 | 22.2 |
| IX: Zambo. Pen. | 2,137 | 2,395 | 32.7 | 30.1 | 25.4 | 23.4 |
| X: North. Mindanao | 2,070 | 2,403 | 23.1 | 26.1 | 17.3 | 19.2 |
| XI: Davao Region | 2,163 | 2,342 | 19.1 | 16.8 | 13.9 | 11.9 |
| SOCCSKSARGEN | 2,085 | 2,204 | 28.2 | 28.1 | 22.4 | 21.4 |
| XIII: CARAGA | 2,115 | 2,278 | 30.5 | 33.2 | 24.1 | 25.9 |
| BARMM | 2,310 | 2,358 | 61.8 | 37.2 | 54.2 | 29.8 |

Note: Poverty threshold is the minimum income needed to meet basic food and non-food needs. Poverty incidence is the proportion of poor Filipinos/families whose per capita income is not sufficient to meet their basic food and non-food needs.

Source: PSA 2021 Official Full Year Poverty Statistics

Among regions, the highest incidences were for BARMM, which in fact registered having significantly noticeable improvements from 2018. BARMM also has the lowest increase in monthly per capita poverty threshold, while Central Visayas recorded the highest increase (21.3%). Poverty threshold per capita or the minimum income needed to meet both food and non-food necessities increased by 11.9% in 2021 to P2,406 per month from P2,151 in 2018.

Facts in Figures

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Magnitude of Poor Families and Population. The most number of poor families and populations can be found in Region VII (Table 2). The decline in the number of poor families and population between 2015 to 2018 was reversed in 2021 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Eleven regions recorded higher number of poor families and poor population with Region VII registering the highest increase with an additional 850,627 more poor population, or 188,445 more poor families.

**TABLE 2
MAGNITUDE OF POOR FAMILIES AND POOR POPULATION
BY REGION, 2015, 2018, 2021**

| Year | Magnitude of Poor Families (Estimate in '000) | | | Magnitude of Poor Population (Estimate in '000) | | |
|---------------------|---|--------------|-------------------|---|---------------|-------------------|
| | 2015 | 2018 | 2021 ^P | 2015 | 2018 | 2021 ^P |
| PHILIPPINES | 4,138 | 3,005 | 3,496 | 23,678 | 17,670 | 19,992 |
| NCR | 86 | 48 | 76 | 523 | 302 | 482 |
| CAR | 68 | 36 | 31 | 390 | 214 | 181 |
| I: Ilocos Region | 161 | 85 | 139 | 944 | 510 | 763 |
| II: Cagayan Valley | 106 | 106 | 105 | 612 | 583 | 568 |
| III: Central Luzon | 213 | 143 | 248 | 1,179 | 837 | 1,430 |
| IV-A: CALABARZON | 313 | 190 | 296 | 1,793 | 1,102 | 1,676 |
| IV-B: MIMAROPA | 123 | 77 | 118 | 747 | 467 | 668 |
| V: Bicol Region | 377 | 256 | 293 | 2,307 | 1,621 | 1,815 |
| VI: West. Visayas | 317 | 218 | 269 | 1,852 | 1,267 | 1,517 |
| VII: Cen. Visayas | 423 | 246 | 435 | 2,168 | 1,371 | 2,221 |
| VIII: East. Visayas | 326 | 253 | 251 | 1,831 | 1,420 | 1,389 |
| IX: Zambo. Pen. | 237 | 213 | 205 | 1,367 | 1,218 | 1,145 |
| X: North. Mindanao | 337 | 194 | 228 | 1,813 | 1,129 | 1,323 |
| XI: Davao Region | 212 | 178 | 165 | 1,149 | 978 | 900 |
| SOCCSKSARGEN | 328 | 253 | 258 | 1,731 | 1,348 | 1,400 |
| XIII: CARAGA | 179 | 149 | 172 | 1,028 | 822 | 924 |
| BARMM | 334 | 356 | 207 | 2,242 | 2,481 | 1,590 |

Note: Magnitude estimates the total number of poor families / population whose income falls below the poverty threshold.

Source: PSA 2021 Official Full Year Poverty Statistics

Food Threshold and Subsistence Incidence. A family of five needs P8,379 per month in 2021 to provide for their basic food needs (Table 3). This is 10.9% and 21.0% respective increase from the 2018 and 2015 thresholds.

In 2021, six regions exceeded the Philippine average family food threshold including Regions I, III, IV-A, VII, IX, and NCR. Among these, only Regions VII and IX had subsistence incidence higher than the 3.9% national average. Consistent with Table 2, there was a clear downtrend in subsistence incidence from 2015 to 2018, except for Region II and BARMM, and an expected rise from 2018 to 2021, save for five regions (CAR, II, XI, XII, BARMM).

TABLE 3
MONTHLY FOOD THRESHOLD FOR A FAMILY OF FIVE AND SUBSISTENCE INCIDENCE AMONG FAMILIES, BY REGION, 2015, 2018, 2021

| Year | Monthly Food Threshold per Family (in PhP) | | | Subsistence Incidence among Families (% Estimates) | | |
|---------------------|--|--------------|-------------------|--|------------|-------------------|
| | 2015 | 2018 | 2021 ^P | 2015 | 2018 | 2021 ^P |
| PHILIPPINES | 6,620 | 7,553 | 8,379 | 6.5 | 3.4 | 3.9 |
| NCR | 7,329 | 8,345 | 9,595 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.3 |
| CAR | 6,756 | 7,264 | 8,248 | 5.7 | 2.2 | 1.4 |
| I: Ilocos Region | 6,569 | 7,957 | 9,114 | 3.5 | 1.0 | 2.8 |
| II: Cagayan Valley | 6,539 | 7,310 | 8,240 | 2.3 | 3.0 | 2.7 |
| III: Central Luzon | 6,725 | 7,952 | 9,392 | 2.0 | 1.0 | 1.6 |
| IV-A: CALABARZON | 7,564 | 7,901 | 8,886 | 2.6 | 1.0 | 1.6 |
| IV-B: MIMAROPA | 5,896 | 6,730 | 7,710 | 6.0 | 2.8 | 5.0 |
| V: Bicol Region | 6,564 | 7,118 | 8,069 | 9.9 | 4.6 | 6.6 |
| VI: West. Visayas | 6,382 | 7,076 | 7,897 | 5.4 | 2.7 | 3.6 |
| VII: Cen. Visayas | 6,568 | 7,435 | 9,122 | 10.6 | 3.4 | 8.0 |
| VIII: East. Visayas | 6,591 | 7,345 | 7,819 | 14.0 | 7.0 | 7.2 |
| IX: Zambo. Pen. | 6,705 | 7,581 | 8,637 | 11.1 | 8.7 | 8.8 |
| X: North. Mindanao | 6,723 | 7,237 | 8,385 | 14.9 | 3.9 | 6.2 |
| XI: Davao Region | 6,737 | 7,539 | 8,185 | 5.8 | 3.7 | 3.3 |
| SOCCSKSARGEN | 6,184 | 7,230 | 7,695 | 16.3 | 8.4 | 8.0 |
| XIII: CARAGA | 6,630 | 7,359 | 7,950 | 12.5 | 7.2 | 9.0 |
| BARMM | 6,715 | 8,149 | 8,274 | 20.6 | 23.3 | 8.8 |

Note: Subsistence incidence is the proportion of families with per capita income/expenditure less than the per capita food threshold to the total number of families/ individuals.

Source: PSA 2021 Official Full Year Poverty Statistics

Urban-Rural Food and Poverty Thresholds. In 2021, families residing in urban areas need P622 more monthly for their food needs compared to rural-based families (Table 4). Including non-food necessities, the additional amount increases to P957. Regions III (urban) and I (rural) top the regions in terms of food threshold requirement. For the requisite poverty threshold, the NCR (urban) and Region III again (rural) lead the pack.

TABLE 4.
MONTHLY FOOD AND POVERTY THRESHOLD FOR A FAMILY OF FIVE, BY REGION AND URBAN-RURAL CLASSIFICATION, 2021

| | Food Threshold (in PhP) | | Poverty Threshold (in PhP) | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| | Urban | Rural | Urban | Rural |
| PHILIPPINES | 8,827 | 8,205 | 12,677 | 11,720 |
| NCR | 9,595 | - | 13,741 | - |
| CAR | 8,639 | 8,179 | 12,058 | 11,728 |
| I: Ilocos Region | 9,491 | 9,017 | 13,584 | 12,827 |
| II: Cagayan Valley | 8,909 | 8,119 | 12,694 | 11,590 |
| III: Central Luzon | 9,789 | 8,789 | 13,231 | 13,062 |
| IV-A: CALABARZON | 9,537 | 8,494 | 13,718 | 12,144 |
| IV-B: MIMAROPA | 7,912 | 7,639 | 11,124 | 10,913 |
| V: Bicol Region | 8,542 | 7,978 | 12,195 | 11,400 |
| VI: West. Visayas | 8,028 | 7,840 | 11,458 | 11,198 |
| VII: Cen. Visayas | 9,745 | 8,919 | 14,003 | 12,609 |
| VIII: East. Visayas | 8,110 | 7,796 | 11,591 | 11,150 |
| IX: Zambo. Pen. | 8,201 | 8,706 | 11,405 | 12,109 |
| X: North. Mindanao | 8,625 | 8,232 | 12,313 | 11,818 |
| XI: Davao Region | 8,367 | 8,047 | 12,036 | 11,435 |
| SOCCSKSARGEN | 8,117 | 7,423 | 11,558 | 10,658 |
| XIII: CARAGA | 8,263 | 7,821 | 11,803 | 11,193 |
| BARMM | 8,888 | 8,120 | 12,552 | 11,621 |

Source: PSA 2021 Official Full Year Poverty Statistics

Income Gap. Region VII posted the most elevated income gap estimate at 25.7%. In 2021, a poor family in Region VII needs an additional P3,341 monthly income, on the average, to move out of poverty (Table 5).

TABLE 5
INCOME GAP AND MONTHLY POVERTY THRESHOLD FOR A FAMILY OF FIVE, BY REGION, 2021

| | Income Gap, Estimate (%) | | | 2021 Income Gap (in PhP) | 2021 Monthly Poverty Threshold per Family |
|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------------------|---|
| | 2015 | 2018 | 2021 ^P | | |
| PHILIPPINES | 25.1 | 21.7 | 22.6 | 2,713 | 12,030 |
| NCR | 16.3 | 15.6 | 14.7 | 2,025 | 13,741 |
| CAR | 23.5 | 21.1 | 19.3 | 2,277 | 11,793 |
| I: Ilocos Region | 20.0 | 16.5 | 20.7 | 2,690 | 12,964 |
| II: Cagayan Valley | 18.2 | 19.3 | 20.5 | 2,419 | 11,788 |
| III: Central Luzon | 20.3 | 17.7 | 18.8 | 2,468 | 13,160 |
| IV-A: CALABARZON | 21.3 | 18.5 | 19.3 | 2,500 | 12,941 |
| IV-B: MIMAROPA | 24.7 | 21.4 | 23.2 | 2,549 | 10,967 |
| V: Bicol Region | 22.8 | 19.7 | 22.9 | 2,637 | 11,531 |
| VI: West. Visayas | 22.5 | 19.4 | 21.0 | 2,369 | 11,285 |
| VII: Cen. Visayas | 28.8 | 20.6 | 25.7 | 3,341 | 13,008 |
| VIII: East. Visayas | 27.9 | 22.5 | 23.5 | 2,633 | 11,187 |
| IX: Zambo. Pen. | 25.9 | 24.1 | 26.2 | 3,134 | 11,975 |
| X: North. Mindanao | 29.0 | 19.3 | 23.4 | 2,815 | 12,015 |
| XI: Davao Region | 23.4 | 21.0 | 21.3 | 2,495 | 11,709 |
| SOCCSKSARGEN | 32.1 | 26.3 | 25.3 | 2,785 | 11,018 |
| XIII: CARAGA | 26.6 | 22.5 | 24.1 | 2,748 | 11,390 |
| BARMM | 26.2 | 27.8 | 22.5 | 2,656 | 11,789 |

Note: Income gap measures the average amount of income required by the poor in order to get out of poverty expressed in relation to the poverty thresholds.

Source: PSA 2021 Official Full Year Poverty Statistics