Philippine Population Density
(Based on the 2015 Census of Population)

Philippine population density increases from 255 to 337 persons per square kilometer

- The population of the Philippines as of August 1, 2015 based on the 2015 Census of Population (POPCEN 2015) was 100.98 million persons.

- With a total land area of approximately 300,000 square kilometers, the population density of the Philippines in 2015 was posted at 337 persons per square kilometer. This represents an increase of 29 persons per square kilometer (9.4 percent) from the population density of 308 persons per square kilometer in 2010. In 2000, there were 255 persons residing in every square kilometer of land.

![Figure 1: Philippine Population Density](image)

Number of persons per square kilometer

Sources of basic data:
Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) for population
Land Management Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (LMB-ENR) for land area as of 31 December 2015
NCR is the most densely populated region, CAR the most sparsely populated

- Among the country’s 18 administrative regions, the most densely populated was the NCR, with a population density of 19,988 persons per square kilometer. This figure is almost 60 times higher than the population density of 337 persons per square kilometer at the national level. This translates to an additional 1,586 persons per square kilometer (8.6 percent) from the 18,402 persons per square kilometer in 2010. The population density of the NCR in 2000 was 15,417 persons per square kilometer.

- The most sparsely populated region in 2015 was the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), with 84 persons per square kilometer.

FIGURE 2  Population Density by Region: 2015

Sources: PSA and LMB, DENR
Among provinces, Cavite is most densely populated; Apayao the most sparse

- Among the country’s 81 provinces, Cavite was the most densely populated with 2,455 residents per square kilometer of land. It was followed by Rizal with 2,311 persons per square kilometer, Laguna with 1,567 persons per square kilometer, Pampanga (excluding Angeles City) with 1,111 persons per square kilometer, and Bulacan with 1,107 persons per square kilometer.

  ![Figure 3: Top Ten Most Densely Populated Provinces: 2015](image)

  Sources: PSA and LMB, DENR

- In contrast, Apayao was the most sparsely populated province with a population density of 26 persons per square kilometer. Next was Abra with 56 residents per square kilometer of land, followed closely by Palawan (excluding Puerto Princesa City) with 58 persons per square kilometer, Mountain Province with 59 persons per square kilometer, and Kalinga with 61 persons per square kilometer.

  ![Figure 4: Fifteen Most Sparsely Populated Provinces: 2015](image)

  Sources: PSA and LMB, DENR
Manila has more than 40 thousand residents per square kilometer of land; only 6,130 in Pateros

- In the NCR, the City of Manila was the most densely populated with 42,628 persons per square kilometer in 2015. The City of Mandaluyong and Caloocan City followed with 41,580 persons per square kilometer and 28,387 persons per square kilometer, respectively.

- Five other highly urbanized cities (HUCs) in the NCR surpassed the regional population density of 19,988 persons per square kilometer. These were: City of Makati (27,010 persons per square kilometer), City of Malabon (23,267 persons per square kilometer), Pasay City (23,038 persons per square kilometer), City of Navotas (22,845 persons per square kilometer), and City of San Juan (21,102 persons per square kilometer).

- The municipality of Pateros had the least population density in NCR with 6,138 persons per square kilometer of land.

Figure 5
Population Density of the National Capital Region
by Highly Urbanized City/Municipality: 2015

Sources: PSA and LMB, DENR
Mandaue City is the most densely populated HUC outside the NCR; Puerto Princesa City is most sparsely populated

- Of the 17 HUCs outside of the NCR, Mandaue City was the most densely populated with 14,402 persons per square kilometer of land. It was followed by Lapu-Lapu City with 7,024 persons per square kilometer and Angeles City with 6,496 persons per square kilometer. The two other HUCs outside of the NCR with a population density of more than 5,000 persons per square kilometer of land were Baguio City with 6,004 persons per square kilometer and Iloilo City with 5,719 persons per square kilometre.

- Puerto Princesa City was the most sparsely populated HUC outside of the NCR with 107 persons per square kilometer of land.

![Graph showing population of highly urbanized cities outside of the National Capital Region: 2015](image)

Sources: PSA and LMB, DENR

Five cities in Region IV-A are the most densely populated component cities; Ilagan City in Isabela is most sparsely populated

- In 2015, the most densely populated component city in the country was the City of San Pedro in Laguna with 13,829 persons per square kilometer. It was followed by Bacoor City in Cavite with 13,009 persons per square kilometer and the City of Biñan in Laguna with 8,270 persons per square kilometer.

- The rest of the top ten most densely populated component cities includes two cities each from Laguna and Cavite; and one city each from Bulacan, Cebu, and Pangasinan.
Ilagan City in Isabela was the most sparsely populated component city in the country with a population density of 125 persons per square kilometer. It was followed by the City of Borongan in Eastern Samar with 147 persons per square kilometer and the City of Tabuk in Kalinga with 158 residents per square kilometer of land. The rest of the country’s ten most sparsely populated component cities are all located in selected provinces in the Visayas and Mindanao.

Cainta, Rizal has over 16 thousand residents per square kilometer of land; only one person for every square kilometer of land in Kalayaan, Palawan

Of the country’s 1,489 municipalities in 2015, Cainta, Rizal was the most densely populated with 16,294 residents per square kilometer of land. The three other municipalities with a population density of more than 10,000 persons per square kilometer were: Gen. Mariano Alvarez, Cavite with 15,928 persons per square kilometer; Rosario, Cavite with 14,547 persons per square kilometer; and Taytay, Rizal with 12,446 persons per square kilometer.
Kalayaan, Palawan was the most sparsely populated municipality in the country in 2015 with only one person residing for every square kilometer of land. It was followed by Dinapigue, Isabela with five persons per square kilometer and by Tineg, Abra and Divilacan, Isabela, both with six persons per square kilometer. The rest of the ten most sparsely populated municipalities are found in the country's three northernmost regions, namely: CAR, Region I, and Region II.