

Highlights of the 2021 Full Year Official Poverty Statistics

A. National

1. Incidences and Magnitude

Based on the preliminary results of the Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES) conducted in 2021, the proportion of Filipino families with incomes that are not sufficient to buy their minimum basic food and non-food needs or the poverty incidence among families in 2021 was estimated at 13.2 percent. Among Filipinos, the poverty incidence was 18.1 percent in 2021 or 19.99 million poor Filipinos.

Meanwhile, the proportion of Filipino families whose incomes were not sufficient to meet the basic food needs in 2021 stood at 3.9 percent. Among Filipinos, 6 in 100 Filipinos lived below the food thresholds in 2021.

Table 1. Full Year Food and Poverty Thresholds, Incidences and Magnitude of Poor and Food Poor: 2015, 2018, and 2021

Statistics	Estimate			Coefficient of Variation		
	2015	2018	2021	2015	2018	2021
Monthly Poverty Threshold for a Family of Five (PhP)	9,478	10,756	12,030			
Poverty Incidence or Proportion of Poor (%)						
Among Families ^{1/, 2/}	18.0	12.1	13.2	2.1	1.4	1.4
Among Population ^{1/, 2/}	23.5	16.7	18.1	2.0	1.3	1.3
Magnitude of Poor (in million)						
Among Families	4.14	3.00	3.50	2.08	1.41	1.47
Among Population	23.68	17.67	19.99	2.09	1.40	1.44
Monthly Food Threshold for a Family of Five (PhP)	6,620	7,553	8,379			
Subsistence Incidence or Proportion of Food Poor (%)						
Among Families ^{1/, 2/}	6.5	3.4	3.9	3.5	2.5	2.4
Among Population ^{1/, 2/}	9.1	5.2	5.9	3.4	2.4	2.3
Magnitude of Food Poor (in million)						
Among Families	1.49	0.84	1.04	3.41	2.47	2.47
Among Population	9.22	5.54	6.55	3.40	2.44	2.38

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

Notes: 1/ Based on t-test at 10% level of significance, the observed change from 2015 to 2018 is significant.

2/ Based on t-test at 10% level of significance, the observed change from 2018 to 2021 is significant.

2. Thresholds and Income

The average family income needed to meet the minimum basic food and non-food needs of a family with five members in 2021 was estimated at PhP 12,030 per



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month. This amount is also called as the poverty threshold, which was higher by 11.8 percent from the estimated PhP10,756 monthly poverty threshold for a five-member family in 2018. On the other hand, the average family income needed to meet the minimum basic food needs of a five-member family in 2021 was placed at PhP 8,379 per month, an amount higher than the food threshold in 2018 of about PhP 7,553.

It is to be noted that there are various sources of income, including wages and salaries, entrepreneurial activities, and other sources of income. The other sources of income include net share, cash receipts from abroad and from domestic source, rentals received, interest, pension, dividends, net receipts, received as gifts, and imputed rent.

The average per capita income grew by 3.8 percent from 2018 to 2021, while it grew at a faster rate of 20.9 percent from 2015 to 2018.

Table 2. Annual Per Capita Poverty Threshold and Mean Per Capita Income: 2015, 2018, and 2021

Indicators	2015	2018	2021	Increase/Decrease (%)	
				2015-2018	2018-2021
Annual Per Capita Poverty Threshold (PhP)	22,747	25,813	28,871	13.5	11.8
Mean Per Capita Income (PhP)	57,657	69,689	72,340	20.9	3.8

3. Other Poverty Measures

The other poverty measures being generated by PSA include the income gap, poverty gap, and severity of poverty (squared poverty gap).

The 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. The income gap was estimated at 22.6 percent in 2021, that is, on the average, a poor family with five members need an additional monthly income of about PhP 2,719 to move out of poverty in 2021. This can serve as a useful reference especially in determining the necessary budget that can be transferred/added to the income of the poor and lift them out of poverty.



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**Table 3. Full Year Income Gap, Poverty Gap and Severity of Poverty:
2015, 2018, and 2021**

Statistics	Estimate			Increase/Decrease	
	2015	2018	2021	2015 - 2018	2018 - 2021
Income Gap ^{1/, 2/}	25.1	21.7	22.6	(3.4)	0.9
Poverty Gap ^{1/, 2/}	4.5	2.6	3.0	(1.9)	0.4
Severity of Poverty ^{1/, 2/} (Squared Poverty Gap)	1.7	0.9	1.0	(0.8)	0.1

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

Notes: 1/ Based on t-test at 10% level of significance, the observed change from 2015 to 2018 is significant.

2/ Based on t-test at 10% level of significance, the observed change from 2018 to 2021 is significant.

B. Regional

At the regional level, the regions with the lowest poverty incidence among families in 2021 were National Capital Region (NCR), Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), Region III, and Region IV-A.

On the other hand, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) consistently figured with the highest poverty incidence among families at 29.8 percent in 2021.

Moreover, more than half of the regions posted significant changes in their incidences from 2018 to 2021. The regions with significant increases were NCR, MIMAROPA, and Regions I, III, IV-A, VI, VII, and X.

On the other hand, significant decreases were observed in CAR, Region XI, and ARMM/BARMM.



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Table 4. Annual Per Capita Poverty Thresholds and Poverty Incidence among Families, by Region: 2015, 2018, and 2021

Region	Annual Per Capita Poverty Threshold (in PhP)			Poverty Incidence among Families					
				Estimates (%)			Coefficient of Variation		
	2015	2018	2021	2015	2018	2021	2015	2018	2021
PHILIPPINES ^{1/, 2/}	22,747	25,813	28,871	18.0	12.1	13.2	2.1	1.4	1.4
NCR ^{1/, 2/}	25,188	28,682	32,978	2.8	1.4	2.2	10.7	10.4	6.7
CAR ^{1/, 2/}	22,985	24,907	28,304	17.1	8.6	6.9	11.0	5.3	5.4
Region I ^{1/, 2/}	22,762	27,055	31,113	14.0	7.0	11.0	8.4	9.6	6.8
Region II	22,622	25,099	28,292	13.1	12.5	11.7	7.9	6.4	7.1
Region III ^{1/, 2/}	22,867	26,954	31,584	8.3	5.2	8.3	9.7	6.4	5.7
Region IV-A ^{1/, 2/}	25,642	27,928	31,059	9.2	5.1	7.2	8.6	7.3	6.4
MIMAROPA ^{1/, 2/}	20,369	23,315	26,321	18.0	10.5	15.0	11.0	6.5	5.1
Region V ^{1/}	22,503	24,461	27,675	31.0	20.0	21.9	5.4	4.0	4.0
Region VI ^{1/, 2/}	21,921	24,494	27,083	18.5	11.9	13.8	7.6	6.2	5.3
Region VII ^{1/, 2/}	22,644	25,745	31,220	24.9	13.4	22.1	5.8	6.1	5.1
Region VIII ^{1/}	22,398	24,987	26,848	33.0	23.9	22.2	6.2	3.6	4.1
Region IX ^{1/, 3/}	22,557	25,650	28,739	29.7	25.4	23.4	7.0	4.3	4.3
Region X ^{1/, 2/}	23,020	24,835	28,836	32.3	17.3	19.2	6.3	3.8	4.4
Region XI ^{1/, 2/}	23,146	25,953	28,102	18.0	13.9	11.9	8.0	5.1	4.8
Region XII ^{1/, 4/}	21,341	25,023	26,443	31.2	22.4	21.4	7.0	4.8	4.6
Caraga ^{1/}	22,788	25,375	27,335	31.1	24.1	25.9	5.8	3.5	3.5
ARMM/BARMM ^{2/}	22,650	27,715	28,293	53.8	54.2	29.8	5.2	2.6	4.0

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

Notes: 1/ Based on t-test at 10% level of significance, the observed change from 2015 to 2018 is significant.

2/ Based on t-test at 10% level of significance, the observed change from 2018 to 2021 is significant.

3/ Including Isabela City.

4/ Including Cotabato City.

C. Provincial

At the provincial level, the provinces which belonged to the group with the least poverty incidence among families in 2015, 2018 and 2021 were Bataan, Batanes, Benguet, Bulacan, Capiz, Cavite, Guimaras, Ilocos Norte, Laguna, Pampanga, and Rizal. The provinces of La Union, Siquijor, and Tarlac were included in the least poor cluster since 2018. Meanwhile, the other provinces that joined this roster of least poor cluster in 2021 were: Apayao, Batangas, Cagayan, Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Ifugao, Kalinga, Lanao del Sur, Palawan, and Quirino.



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Table 5. Provinces in the Least Poor Cluster Based on the 2021 Poverty Incidence Among Families: 2015, 2018, and 2021

Province	2015				2018				2021			
	Cluster	Poverty Incidence	90% CI		Cluster	Poverty Incidence	90% CI		Cluster	Poverty Incidence	90% CI	
			LL	UL			LL	UL			LL	UL
1st District	5	3.6	2.1	5.1	5	1.9	1.0	2.9	5	1.1	0.5	1.6
2nd District	5	1.9	1.3	2.6	5	1.4	1.0	1.9	5	1.6	1.2	2.1
3rd District	5	3.4	2.2	4.6	5	2.2	1.7	2.7	5	3.3	2.7	3.9
4th District	5	3.1	2.1	4.1	5	0.7	0.5	0.9	5	2.5	2.2	2.9
Apayao	3	38.1	22.7	53.4	3	16.0	12.3	19.6	5	4.7	2.9	6.4
Bataan	5	0.8	0.0	2.1	5	5.8	4.4	7.2	5	9.0	7.4	10.7
Batanes	5	10.0	10.0	10.0	5	6.5	4.8	8.2	5	2.6	1.4	3.7
Batangas	4	17.4	13.6	21.2	4	8.6	6.8	10.4	5	4.3	2.9	5.6
Benguet	5	2.6	1.6	3.6	5	4.2	3.3	5.2	5	3.9	3.2	4.6
Bulacan	5	3.1	2.0	4.1	5	3.5	2.4	4.7	5	8.3	6.3	10.2
Cagayan	4	14.0	10.9	17.0	4	12.5	10.5	14.5	5	7.3	5.7	8.9
Capiz	5	7.0	2.0	12.0	5	4.1	3.1	5.1	5	6.1	4.4	7.8
Cavite	5	6.1	4.4	7.9	5	3.7	2.6	4.8	5	7.1	5.4	8.8
Davao del Norte	4	24.3	17.7	31.0	4	10.3	8.0	12.5	5	7.3	5.4	9.3
Davao del Sur	4	14.8	11.7	17.9	4	8.1	6.2	10.0	5	7.2	6.0	8.5
Guimaras	5	4.8	0.0	11.3	5	6.8	4.7	8.9	5	7.3	5.7	9.0
Ifugao	3	34.9	23.5	46.4	4	9.9	7.5	12.4	5	6.0	4.2	7.8
Ilocos Norte	5	5.2	2.3	8.1	5	3.1	2.0	4.2	5	1.7	0.9	2.6
Kalinga	3	34.5	25.2	43.7	4	9.2	7.3	11.1	5	5.6	3.9	7.3
La Union	4	13.5	9.0	18.1	5	2.9	1.9	3.8	5	6.6	5.2	8.1
Laguna	5	3.8	2.2	5.4	5	2.7	1.8	3.6	5	6.9	5.2	8.5
Lanao del Sur	1	72.4	65.7	79.2	1	64.2	60.3	68.1	5	7.3	6.0	8.6
Palawan	5	12.6	8.1	17.2	4	8.2	6.5	9.9	5	9.4	7.7	11.1
Pampanga	5	2.7	1.7	3.7	5	2.1	1.1	3.1	5	2.9	2.1	3.8
Quirino	4	20.3	11.3	29.3	4	8.9	7.3	10.6	5	6.2	4.7	7.7
Rizal	5	4.1	2.8	5.4	5	3.3	2.4	4.3	5	4.3	3.1	5.5
Siquijor	2	47.0	39.4	54.6	5	7.2	4.8	9.6	5	2.2	1.1	3.4
Tarlac	4	13.2	10.2	16.2	5	7.7	6.3	9.1	5	8.1	6.8	9.4

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

- Notes: 1. Provinces were clustered using confidence intervals of poverty incidence among families as the clustering variable, where cluster 5 is comprised of least poor provinces.
 2. Variable used in the cluster analysis is the 90% confidence interval of poverty incidence among families.



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On the other hand, Sulu was consistently included in the cluster with relatively high poverty incidence among families in 2015, 2018 and 2021. Basilan was in the poorest cluster in 2018 and 2021, while the new entrants in 2021 were Agusan del Sur, Davao Occidental, Sarangani, and Zamboanga del Norte.

Table 6. Provinces in the Poorest Cluster Based on the 2021 Poverty Incidence Among Families: 2015, 2018, and 2021

Province	2015				2018				2021			
	Cluster	Poverty Incidence	90% Confidence Interval		Cluster	Poverty Incidence	90% Confidence Interval		Cluster	Poverty Incidence	90% Confidence Interval	
			Lower Limit	Upper Limit			Lower Limit	Upper Limit			Lower Limit	Upper Limit
Agusan del Sur	3	37.5	31.1	43.8	2	30.6	27.0	34.1	1	33.4	29.9	36.9
Basilan	3	35.6	25.0	46.3	1	66.3	62.7	70.0	1	42.5	38.1	46.9
Davao Occidental ^{a/}					2	31.9	28.3	35.4	1	34.5	30.4	38.6
Sarangani	2	45.2	36.3	54.2	2	36.1	30.7	41.4	1	33.5	29.6	37.5
Sulu	1	63.8	54.8	72.7	1	75.3	72.2	78.4	1	51.0	46.4	55.5
Zamboanga del Norte	2	50.9	44.2	57.7	2	36.9	32.5	41.4	1	40.8	36.9	44.7

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

Notes: 1. Provinces were clustered using confidence intervals of poverty incidence among families as the clustering variable, where cluster 5 is comprised of least poor provinces.

2. Variable used in the cluster analysis is the 90% confidence interval of poverty incidence among families.

a/ The 2015 estimates of Davao Occidental were excluded as the province was not yet considered in the Master Sample.



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D. Highly Urbanized Cities

In general, poverty incidence in highly urbanized cities (HUCs) were relatively lower compared to many of the provinces in the country. In HUCs within NCR, the following cities registered significant increases in their poverty incidence among families from 2018 to 2021: Cities of Malabon, Valenzuela, Las Piñas, Makati, Muntinlupa, Parañaque and Taguig. For HUCs outside NCR, the Cities of Lapu-Lapu, Butuan, and Mandaue registered the highest significant increase, while Zamboanga City was the only HUC with significant decrease from 6.5 percent in 2018 to 3.3 percent in 2021.

Table 7. Poverty Incidence among Families, by Highly Urbanized City: 2018 and 2021

Highly Urbanized City	Poverty Incidence Among Families (%)	
	2018	2021
City of Manila	1.9	1.1
City of Mandaluyong	0.9	0.4
City of Marikina	1.5	1.6
City of Pasig	1.8	2.2
Quezon City	1.5	1.8
City of San Juan	0.4	0
City of Caloocan	3.1	4.2
City of Malabon*	1.2	2.9
City of Navotas	2.4	3.1
City of Valenzuela*	0.5	1.5
City of Las Piñas*	1.0	2.5
City of Makati*	0.2	0.8
City of Muntinlupa*	0.8	1.7
City of Parañaque*	0.5	2.5
Pasay City	1.5	2.3
Pateros ^{a/}	1.8	2.9
City of Taguig*	0.5	4.5
City of Baguio	1.5	1
City of Angeles	1.1	1.5
City of Olongapo*	3.6	7.6
City of Lucena*	3.1	6.4
City of Puerto Princesa *	2.7	4.8
City of Iloilo	2.3	3.3
City of Bacolod	3.3	3.4
City of Cebu*	5.0	9.8
City of Lapu-Lapu (Opon)*	4.6	10.8
City of Mandaue*	4.2	10.4
City of Tacloban *	5.3	10.7
City of Zamboanga*	6.5	3.3
City of Iligan	11.9	11.8
City of Cagayan De Oro	6.1	6.8
City of Davao	6.2	5.1
City of General Santos (Dadiangas)	10.4	9.9
City of Butuan*	16.4	22.6

Notes: a/ Pateros is the only municipality in NCR.

* Based on t-test at 10% level of significance, the observed change from 2018 to 2021 is significant.



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