



Senate Economic
Planning Office

Philippine Poverty *At a Glance*

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Poverty among Filipinos declined in 2003 compared to 2000 levels as revealed in the latest estimates of the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB).

Poverty Incidence of Population and Families

- There are less poor people in 2003 compared to 2000 as poverty incidence among population dropped from 33 percent in 2000 to 30.4 percent in 2003.
- Similarly, the number of poor families decreased in 2003 as estimates revealed that only 24.7 percent of families were considered poor in that year compared to 27.5 percent in 2000.
- Poverty incidence remained high in Mindanao, with Caraga region as the poorest region in 2003 at 54.2 percent poverty incidence.

Table 1 Poverty Incidence of Population and Families (%)

Region	Population			Families		
	2000	2003	Difference	2000	2003	Difference
Philippines	33.0	30.4	(2.5)	27.5	24.7	(2.7)
National Capital Region	7.6	7.3	(0.3)	5.7	5.0	(0.7)
Region I	35.1	30.2	(5.0)	29.4	24.4	(5.0)
Region II	30.4	24.5	(5.9)	25.2	19.3	(5.9)
Region III	21.4	17.7	(3.6)	17.3	13.7	(3.6)
Region IV-A (CALABARZON)	19.1	18.8	(0.3)	15.2	14.9	(0.4)
Region IV-B (MIMAROPA)	45.2	47.9	2.7	36.3	39.7	3.4
Region V	52.6	48.4	(4.2)	45.3	40.5	(4.8)
Region VI	44.4	39.1	(5.3)	36.6	31.3	(5.3)
Region VII	36.2	28.4	(7.7)	31.5	23.7	(7.8)
Region VIII	45.1	43.3	(1.8)	37.5	35.5	(1.9)
Region IX	44.8	49.4	4.6	38.5	44.1	5.6
Region X	43.8	44.3	0.6	37.9	37.9	-
Region XI	33.1	34.4	1.3	27.7	28.1	0.4
Region XII	46.8	38.4	(8.4)	40.7	32.0	(8.7)
CAR	37.6	31.2	(6.4)	30.7	24.8	(5.9)
ARMM	59.8	53.1	(6.7)	53.7	45.7	(8.0)
Caraga	50.9	54.2	3.3	43.7	47.3	3.6

Source: NSCB

- Region XII (Central Mindanao) registered the highest decrease in poverty incidence, from 46.8 percent in 2000 to 38.4 percent in 2003 followed by Region VII (Western Visayas), Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao or ARMM, from 59.8 percent to 53.1 percent.

Table 2 Real Per Capita Income Per Decile (In Pesos)

Decile	Philippines		
	2000	2003	% Inc/Dec
Real Average Capita Income	28,356	28,899	1.9
First decile	5,435	7,501	38.0
Second decile	8,276	11,014	33.1
Third decile	10,795	13,861	28.4
Fourth decile	13,675	16,719	22.3
Fifth decile	17,076	20,047	17.4
Sixth decile	21,557	24,076	11.7
Seventh decile	27,747	29,192	5.2
Eight decile	36,693	37,320	1.7
Ninth decile	52,410	51,589	(1.6)
Tenth decile	127,068	115,219	(9.3)

Source: NSCB

- The decline in poverty incidence in 2003 is made evident by the increase in the real per capita income of families. It should be noted that families belonging to the low income deciles (from first to fifth) experienced increases in their real per capita income (See Table 2).

Annual Per Capita Poverty Threshold

- In terms of annual per capita poverty threshold (Table 3), a person needs a yearly income of P12,267 in 2003 to meet the minimum basic needs. A family of five would therefore need an annual income of P61,335 or a monthly income of P5,111.25.
- The annual per capita poverty threshold was highest at the National Capital region at P16,796 while Region VII has the lowest with P9,779.

Table 3 Poverty and Food Threshold (Annual Per Capita, In Pesos)

Region	Per Capita Poverty Threshold			Per Capita Food Threshold		
	2000	2003	% change	2000	2003	% Change
Philippines	11,451	12,267	7.1	7,707	8,134	5.5
National Capital Region	15,693	16,796	7.0	9,570	9,974	4.2
Region I	12,685	13,276	4.7	8,552	8,903	4.1
Region II	11,128	11,409	2.5	7,560	8,026	6.2
Region III	13,760	14,342	4.2	8,764	9,338	6.5
Region IV-A (CALABARZON)	13,657	14,616	7.0	8,783	9,189	4.6
Region IV-B (MIMAROPA)	11,995	12,406	3.4	8,078	8,339	3.2
Region V	11,372	12,354	8.6	8,047	8,372	4.0
Region VI	11,313	12,275	8.5	7,983	8,386	5.1
Region VII	9,656	9,779	1.3	6,759	7,016	3.8
Region VIII	9,518	10,802	13.5	7,080	7,696	8.7
Region IX	9,116	10,414	14.2	6,574	7,245	10.2
Region X	10,503	11,609	10.5	7,296	7,999	9.6
Region XI	10,264	11,276	9.9	7,087	7,751	9.4
Region XII	10,466	11,303	8.0	7,235	7,804	7.9
CAR	13,066	13,976	7.0	8,744	9,117	4.3
ARMM	12,192	12,739	4.5	8,313	8,737	5.1
Caraga	10,896	12,000	10.1	7,667	8,353	9.0

Source: NSCB

Annual Per Capita Food Threshold

- The annual per capita food threshold or the cost of food to satisfy the nutritional requirements was estimated at P8,134 in 2003, a 5.5-percent increase over the 2000 threshold of P7,707.
- Annual per capita food threshold was highest in the NCR at P9,974 and lowest in Region VII at P7,016. Region VII likewise registered the lowest increase at 3.2 percent.

Subsistence Incidence of Population and Families

- Only 13.8 percent of the population in 2003 do not have incomes sufficient to meet their basic food needs. This represents a 2-percentage point reduction from the 2000 level of 15.8 percent.
- Similarly, more families have incomes enough to meet their basic food needs in 2003. Only 10 percent of families earn income that do not meet their basic food needs. This represents an improvement from the 2000 level of 12.3 percent.

Table 4 Subsistence Incidence of Population and Families (%)

Region	Population			Families		
	2000	2003	% Change	2000	2003	% Change
Philippines	15.8	13.8	(2.0)	12.3	10.4	(1.9)
National Capital Region	1.0	0.6	(0.4)	0.7	0.4	(0.4)
Region I	15.2	11.2	(4.0)	11.4	8.1	(3.3)
Region II	11.8	7.6	(4.1)	9.3	5.6	(3.8)
Region III	5.5	4.2	(1.3)	4.2	2.9	(1.3)
Region IV-A (CALABARZON)	6.5	4.9	(1.7)	5.1	3.7	(1.4)
Region IV-B (MIMAROPA)	24.1	22.9	(1.1)	17.4	17.7	0.3
Region V	29.3	26.6	(2.8)	23.3	20.3	(3.0)
Region VI	23.1	17.7	(5.4)	17.4	12.9	(4.5)
Region VII	20.7	14.6	(6.0)	16.9	11.2	(5.7)
Region VIII	24.8	21.0	(3.8)	19.1	15.5	(3.6)
Region IX	25.8	32.8	7.0	21.0	27.9	6.9
Region X	23.8	25.4	1.6	19.2	19.7	0.4
Region XI	16.7	17.6	0.9	12.8	13.5	0.7
Region XII	22.6	18.4	(4.1)	17.9	14.0	(3.9)
CAR	17.9	13.4	(4.5)	13.7	9.8	(3.9)
ARMM	28.5	24.1	(4.5)	23.9	18.6	(5.4)
Caraga	30.7	31.0	0.3	24.4	24.5	0.1

Source: NSCB