

POVERTY STATISTICS UPDATE FIRST SEMESTER 2023

The Philippine Statistics Authority released in December the preliminary first semester poverty statistics for 2023 based on the July 2023 visit of the Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES). Previously undertaken every three years, the FIES is now conducted biennially.

Poverty threshold. The per capita poverty threshold, the minimum income requirement one person needs to cover basic food and non-food items for the first six months of the year, jumped by 14.2% from P14,498 in 2021 to P16,557 in 2023 (*Table 1*). Translated in monthly terms, one person needs P2,759 in the first semester of 2023 compared to P2,416 in the same period of 2021 or an additional P343. A family of five will therefore require P13,797 per month in 2023 versus P12,082 in 2021.

TABLE 1
FIRST SEMESTER PER CAPITA POVERTY THRESHOLD,
BY REGION, 2021 AND 2023

	First Semester Per Capita Poverty Threshold (in PhP)		Per Capita Monthly Poverty Threshold* (in PhP)		Monthly Poverty Threshold for a Family of 5* (in PhP)	
	2021	2023 ^P	2021	2023 ^P	2021	2023 ^P
PHILIPPINES	14,498	16,557	2,416	2,759	12,082	13,797
NCR	16,625	18,704	2,771	3,117	13,854	15,586
CAR	14,023	15,912	2,337	2,652	11,686	13,260
I: Ilocos Region	15,470	16,839	2,578	2,807	12,892	14,033
II: Cagayan Valley	14,226	15,750	2,371	2,625	11,855	13,125
III: Central Luzon	16,226	19,088	2,704	3,181	13,522	15,906
IV-A: CALABARZON	15,604	18,389	2,601	3,065	13,004	15,324
IV-B: MIMAROPA	13,054	15,277	2,176	2,546	10,879	12,731
V: Bicol Region	13,873	16,349	2,312	2,725	11,560	13,624
VI: West. Visayas	13,519	17,048	2,253	2,841	11,266	14,206
VII: Cen. Visayas	15,174	17,044	2,529	2,841	12,645	14,204
VIII: East. Visayas	13,550	15,476	2,258	2,579	11,292	12,897
IX: Zambo. Pen.	14,467	16,286	2,411	2,714	12,056	13,572
X: North. Mindanao	14,302	16,542	2,384	2,757	11,919	13,785
XI: Davao Region	13,324	15,278	2,221	2,546	11,103	12,731
SOCCKSARGEN	13,298	14,685	2,216	2,448	11,082	12,238
XIII: CARAGA	13,613	14,576	2,269	2,429	11,344	12,146
BARMM	14,126	15,179	2,354	2,530	11,771	12,649

*Note: Poverty threshold is the minimum income needed to meet basic food and non-food needs. The figures for the monthly thresholds were computed based on the resulting per capita daily poverty threshold, at 30.4 days per month for six months.

Source: PSA 2023 First Semester Poverty Statistics (preliminary)

The Central Luzon Region replaced the National Capital Region in 2023 for having the highest per capita poverty threshold. On the other hand, CARAGA had the lowest threshold amount in 2023 while MIMAROPA took that spot in 2021.

Facts in Figures

Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department
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Poverty Incidence. The poverty incidence among population in the first semester of 2023 declined to 22.4% from 23.7% for the same period in 2021 (*Table 2*). This translated to 1.54 percentage points decrease in the incidence of poor families between the two periods. The biggest reduction was registered in CARAGA at around 10%.

TABLE 2
FIRST SEMESTER POVERTY INCIDENCE AMONG
POPULATION AND AMONG FAMILIES, BY REGION,
2021 AND 2023

	Poverty Incidence among Population (% Estimates)		Poverty Incidence among Families (% Estimates)	
	2021	2023 ^P	2021	2023 ^P
PHILIPPINES	23.7	22.4	18.0	16.4
NCR	7.8	5.1	5.2	3.3
CAR	16.2	13.9	12.1	9.4
I: Ilocos Region	20.2	18.7	15.8	14.2
II: Cagayan Valley	20.9	16.2	16.4	11.6
III: Central Luzon	18.2	15.7	13.7	11.6
IV-A: CALABARZON	14.8	13.5	10.6	9.5
IV-B: MIMAROPA	25.7	26.9	19.3	19.0
V: Bicol Region	33.5	32.9	26.1	25.1
VI: West. Visayas	25.3	26.0	19.3	20.5
VII: Cen. Visayas	33.0	31.0	26.8	23.9
VIII: East. Visayas	36.0	33.7	28.9	26.1
IX: Zambo. Pen.	37.4	38.2	30.9	29.7
X: North. Mindanao	33.8	32.8	26.2	24.8
XI: Davao Region	19.4	27.2	14.0	20.4
SOCCKSARGEN	34.2	30.0	27.1	22.9
XIII: CARAGA	38.3	28.1	31.0	20.8
BARMM	45.8	44.8	39.4	34.8

Note: 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. Figures may not add up due to rounding.

Source: PSA 2023 First Semester Poverty Statistics (preliminary)

The BARMM continued to record the highest proportion of poor population and families. All but three regions recorded improvements in poverty incidence. Particularly noteworthy are the increases by 6.3 percentage points (incidence among families) and 7.8 percentage points (incidence among population) in the Davao Region. In Western Visayas, poverty incidence among families increased by 1.26 percentage points while there was 1.13 percentage points increase in the poverty incidence in the population of MIMAROPA.

Magnitude of Poor Families and Population. There were 25.24 million poor Filipinos in the first half of 2023, lower by 895.26 thousand individuals or 228 thousand families compared to 2021 figures (Table 3). Regions with the biggest reductions in number of poor families are SOCCSKSARGEN, the NCR, and the CARAGA.

TABLE 3
FIRST SEMESTER MAGNITUDE OF POOR FAMILIES AND POOR POPULATION BY REGION, 2018, 2021, 2023

	Magnitude of Poor Families (Estimate in '000)			Magnitude of Poor Population (Estimate in '000)		
	2018	2021	2023 ^p	2018	2021	2023 ^p
PHILIPPINES	4,039	4,740	4,512	22,262	26,137	25,242
NCR	157	183	121	886	1,091	721
CAR	61	54	44	318	295	257
I: Ilocos Region	108	200	185	608	1,074	1,006
II: Cagayan Valley	133	147	108	691	772	607
III: Central Luzon	219	410	364	1,234	2,276	2,023
IV-A: CALABARZON	281	432	409	1,615	2,417	2,283
IV-B: MIMAROPA	118	152	155	635	826	881
V: Bicol Region	292	349	344	1,685	2,077	2,072
VI: West. Visayas	303	374	414	1,624	2,016	2,102
VII: Cen. Visayas	354	527	491	1,881	2,661	2,556
VIII: East. Visayas	333	328	309	1,723	1,728	1,661
IX: Zambo. Pen.	290	270	266	1,486	1,425	1,472
X: North. Mindanao	288	311	306	1,564	1,716	1,697
XI: Davao Region	233	195	299	1,220	1,040	1,502
SOCCSKSARGEN	314	327	261	1,606	1,703	1,370
XIII: CARAGA	188	206	145	949	1,066	797
BARMM	366	274	292	2,537	1,954	2,234

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

Source: PSA 2023 First Semester Poverty Statistics (preliminary)

Food Threshold and Subsistence. A family of five needs P9,550 per month in 2023 to provide for their basic food needs (Table 4). This is 13.8% higher than the 2021 threshold. Nevertheless, there were 252 thousand less hungry families in the first semester of 2023 than in 2021, with the reduction in the number of subsistence poor families or those whose income is less than the food threshold from 1.87 million in

January to June of 2021 to 1.62 million in the same period of 2023 (Table 5).

TABLE 4
FIRST SEMESTER PER CAPITA FOOD THRESHOLD BY REGION, 2021 AND 2023

	First Semester Per Capita Food Threshold (in PhP)		Per Capita Monthly Food Threshold* (in PhP)		Monthly Food Threshold for a Family of 5* (in PhP)	
	2021	2023 ^p	2021	2023 ^p	2021	2023 ^p
PHILIPPINES	10,071	11,460	1,679	1,910	8,393	9,550
NCR	11,609	13,061	1,935	2,177	9,674	10,884
CAR	9,796	11,206	1,633	1,868	8,164	9,339
I: Ilocos Region	10,802	11,730	1,800	1,955	9,002	9,775
II: Cagayan Valley	9,930	11,105	1,655	1,851	8,275	9,255
III: Central Luzon	11,351	13,348	1,892	2,225	9,459	11,123
IV-A: CALABARZON	10,750	13,075	1,792	2,179	8,959	10,896
IV-B: MIMAROPA	9,103	10,570	1,517	1,762	7,586	8,808
V: Bicol Region	9,750	11,451	1,625	1,908	8,125	9,542
VI: West. Visayas	9,455	12,006	1,576	2,001	7,879	10,005
VII: Cen. Visayas	10,578	11,943	1,763	1,991	8,815	9,953
VIII: East. Visayas	9,484	10,746	1,581	1,791	7,903	8,955
IX: Zambo. Pen.	10,468	11,463	1,745	1,911	8,723	9,553
X: North. Mindanao	9,964	11,490	1,661	1,915	8,304	9,575
XI: Davao Region	9,289	10,685	1,548	1,781	7,741	8,904
SOCCSKSARGEN	9,254	10,268	1,542	1,711	7,711	8,557
XIII: CARAGA	9,520	10,151	1,587	1,692	7,933	8,460
BARMM	9,956	10,523	1,659	1,754	8,296	8,769

*Note: Per capita food threshold is the minimum income required for an individual to meet the basic food needs. 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. The figures for the monthly thresholds were computed.

Source: PSA 2023 First Semester Poverty Statistics (preliminary)

TABLE 5
FIRST SEMESTER MAGNITUDE OF SUBSISTENCE AMONG POOR POPULATION AND FAMILIES BY REGION, 2018, 2021, 2023

	Subsistence Poor Families ('000 Estimates)			Subsistence Poor Population ('000 Estimates)		
	2018	2021	2023 ^p	2018	2021	2023 ^p
PHILIPPINES	1,549.1	1,868.7	1,616.5	9,030.7	10,944.9	9,794.6
NCR	52.9	42.4	21.4	271.4	262.6	125.3
CAR	26.9	21.4	14.4	140.4	122.4	91.2
I: Ilocos Region	22.9	67.0	67.3	144.2	375.9	394.1
II: Cagayan Valley	43.8	54.3	27.6	240.7	297.8	174.8
III: Central Luzon	66.0	125.8	92.2	386.9	745.3	562.9
IV-A: CALABARZON	84.3	131.0	112.5	472.1	795.8	665.7
IV-B: MIMAROPA	39.7	58.9	52.7	220.3	341.0	327.7
V: Bicol Region	99.2	140.1	119.6	600.0	892.7	805.1
VI: West. Visayas	91.2	133.3	150.6	534.3	780.1	815.8
VII: Cen. Visayas	133.4	251.6	198.2	715.1	1,319.3	1,129.0
VIII: East. Visayas	143.7	149.8	128.7	781.9	830.8	733.6
IX: Zambo. Pen.	132.3	132.0	106.5	728.3	741.0	656.1
X: North. Mindanao	105.9	129.5	109.8	620.7	762.1	692.2
XI: Davao Region	84.2	65.0	143.0	489.6	379.2	768.2
SOCCSKSARGEN	157.2	151.0	113.2	840.2	850.2	638.8
XIII: CARAGA	73.0	97.3	51.9	396.7	532.4	313.1
BARMM	192.4	118.2	107.0	1,448.2	916.3	901.2

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

Source: PSA 2023 First Semester Poverty Statistics