

PRESS RELEASE

Urban Population of the Philippines (2020 Census of Population and Housing)

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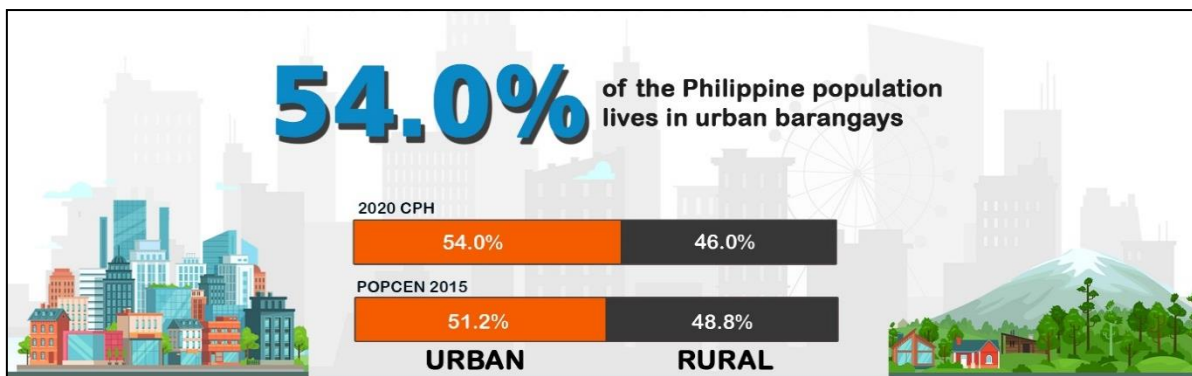
Urban population of the Philippines increases by 7.20 million

1. In 2020, 58.93 million or 54.0 percent of the total 109.03 million population of the Philippines lived in urban barangays. This represents an increase of 7.20 million persons from the 51.73 million urban residents in 2015. The rural population or those who lived in barangays classified as rural in 2020 comprised the remaining 50.10 million persons or 46.0 percent of the total population. (Tables 1 and A)

Level of urbanization improves by 2.8 percentage points

2. The level of urbanization or the proportion of the total population living in barangays classified as urban was recorded at 54.0 percent in 2020. This is 2.8 percentage points higher than the 51.2 percent level of urbanization in 2015. (Figure 1)

Figure 1. Proportion of Urban and Rural Population in the Philippines: 2020 and 2015



Sources: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2020 Census of Population and Housing and 2015 Census of Population

Five regions surpass the national level of urbanization

3. Across regions, aside from the NCR, which is classified as entirely urban, four other regions posted a level of urbanization higher than the national level (54.0%). These were: Region IV-A - CALABARZON (70.5%), Region XI - Davao (66.8%), Region III - Central Luzon (66.3%), and Region XII - SOCCSKSARGEN (55.5%). In 2015, the same five regions posted the highest level of urbanization. (Table 1)
4. On the other hand, the five regions with the lowest level of urbanization were: Region VIII - Eastern Visayas (14.7%), Region II - Cagayan Valley (19.5%), Region V - Bicol (23.8%), Region I - Ilocos (25.5%), and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao or BARMM (27.6%). (Table 1)

Table 1. Total Population, Urban Population, and Level of Urbanization by Region: Philippines, 2020 and 2015

Region	Total Population		Urban Population		Level of Urbanization (Percent)	
	2020 ^a	2015 ^b	2020 ^a	2015 ^b	2020	2015
Philippines	109,033,245	100,979,303	58,930,729	51,728,697	54.0	51.2
NCR	13,484,462	12,877,253	13,484,462	12,877,253	100.0	100.0
CAR	1,797,660	1,722,006	598,688	524,672	33.3	30.5
I – Ilocos	5,301,139	5,026,128	1,351,205	1,029,562	25.5	20.5
II - Cagayan Valley	3,685,744	3,451,410	717,788	663,695	19.5	19.2
III - Central Luzon	12,422,172	11,218,177	8,230,254	6,914,703	66.3	61.6
IV-A – CALABARZON	16,195,042	14,414,774	11,415,742	9,564,515	70.5	66.4
MIMAROPA	3,228,558	2,963,360	1,138,021	905,666	35.2	30.6
V – Bicol	6,082,165	5,796,989	1,447,370	1,344,903	23.8	23.2
VI - Western Visayas	7,954,723	7,536,383	3,353,205	2,868,795	42.2	38.1
VII - Central Visayas	8,081,988	7,396,898	4,196,639	3,656,628	51.9	49.4
VIII - Eastern Visayas	4,547,150	4,440,150	666,473	529,902	14.7	11.9
IX - Zamboanga Peninsula	3,875,576	3,629,783	1,489,443	1,373,274	38.4	37.8
X - Northern Mindanao	5,022,768	4,689,302	2,528,239	2,272,001	50.3	48.5
XI - Davao	5,243,536	4,893,318	3,504,533	3,108,872	66.8	63.5
XII – SOCCSKSARGEN	4,360,974	4,053,514	2,418,843	2,031,361	55.5	50.1
XIII – Caraga	2,804,788	2,596,709	1,027,223	869,195	36.6	33.5
BARMM	4,944,800	4,273,149	1,362,601	1,193,700	27.6	27.9

Notes:

^a The 2020 total population and urban population exclude 2,098 Filipinos in Philippine embassies, consulates, and missions abroad.

^b The 2015 total population and urban population exclude 2,134 Filipinos in Philippine embassies, consulates, and missions abroad.

Sources: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2020 Census of Population and Housing and 2015 Census of Population

Rizal ranks first in terms of level of urbanization among provinces

5. Of the country's 81 provinces, 11 provinces registered a level of urbanization higher than the national level in 2020 (54.0%). Rizal topped the list with 94.6 percent urbanization rate, followed by Bulacan (85.7%), and Laguna (79.3%). (Table 2)

Table 2. Total Population, Urban Population, and Level of Urbanization of the Provinces with a Level of Urbanization Above the National Level: Philippines, 2020

Province	Total Population	Urban Population	Level of Urbanization (Percent)
Philippines ¹	109,033,245	59,022,292	54.0
Rizal	3,330,143	3,151,809	94.6
Bulacan	3,708,890	3,177,147	85.7
Laguna	3,382,193	2,681,317	79.3
Cavite	4,344,829	3,341,490	76.9
Pampanga *	2,437,709	1,827,312	75.0
Davao del Norte	1,125,057	768,298	68.3
Negros Occidental	2,623,172	1,698,366	64.7
South Cotabato *	975,476	606,989	62.2
Bataan	853,373	506,668	59.4
Benguet *	460,683	260,130	56.5
Bukidnon	1,541,308	836,243	54.3

Notes:

¹ The 2020 total population and urban population exclude 2,098 Filipinos in Philippine embassies, consulates, and missions abroad.

* Excluding the total population and urban population of highly urbanized city.

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2020 Census of Population and Housing

All but one of the 17 HUCs outside the NCR exceeds 60.0 percent level of urbanization

- Among the 17 highly urbanized cities (HUCs) outside the NCR, 16 had a level of urbanization of at least 60.0 percent. The City of Angeles and City of Mandaue had the highest level of urbanization with 100.0 percent each. They were followed by the City of Olongapo (98.5%) and the City of General Santos (98.4%). With an urbanization level of 56.0 percent, the City of Tacloban was the only HUC outside the NCR that posted an urbanization level lower than 60.0 percent. (Table 3)

City of Davao registers the biggest urban population among the HUCs outside the NCR

- In terms of population, the City of Davao posted the biggest urban population among the HUCs outside the NCR, with 1.63 million urban residents or a level of urbanization of 91.8 percent. It was followed by the City of Cebu with 908,195 urban population and 94.2 percent level of urbanization, and the City of Zamboanga with 869,929 urban population and 89.0 percent level of urbanization. (Table 3)

Table 3. Total Population, Urban Population, and Level of Urbanization of the Highly Urbanized Cities Outside the National Capital Region: Philippines, 2020

Highly Urbanized City	Total Population	Urban Population	Level of Urbanization (Percent)
City of Angeles	462,928	462,928	100.0
City of Mandaue	364,116	364,116	100.0
City of Olongapo	260,317	256,334	98.5
City of General Santos (Dadiangas)	697,315	686,134	98.4
City of Bacolod	600,783	589,209	98.1
City of Cagayan de Oro	728,402	697,611	95.8
City of Lapu-Lapu (Opon)	497,604	476,353	95.7
City of Cebu	964,169	908,195	94.2
City of Lucena	278,924	262,301	94.0
City of Iligan	363,115	335,490	92.4
City of Davao	1,776,949	1,631,785	91.8
City of Zamboanga	977,234	869,929	89.0
City of Puerto Princesa	307,079	257,837	84.0
City of Iloilo	457,626	365,018	79.8
City of Butuan	372,910	255,281	68.5
City of Baguio	366,358	236,926	64.7
City of Tacloban	251,881	140,953	56.0

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2020 Census of Population and Housing

Two component cities and eight municipalities are classified as entirely urban

8. Excluding the HUCs/municipality in the NCR and the 17 HUCs outside the NCR, two component cities were classified as entirely urban (100%), namely, the City of Santa Rosa and the City of Cabuyao both in the province of Laguna. Moreover, the eight municipalities that were classified as entirely urban were: Taytay and San Mateo in Rizal, Marilao in Bulacan, Jolo in Sulu, Santo Tomas in Pampanga, Morong in Bataan, Talaingod in Davao del Norte, and Kalayaan in Laguna. (Tables 4 and B)

Table 4. Total Population and Urban Population of Component Cities and Municipalities With 100% Level of Urbanization: Philippines, 2020

Component City/Municipality	Province	Total Population	Urban Population
City of Santa Rosa	Laguna	414,812	414,812
City of Cabuyao	Laguna	355,330	355,330
Taytay	Rizal	386,451	386,451
San Mateo	Rizal	273,306	273,306
Marilao	Bulacan	254,453	254,453
Jolo	Sulu	137,266	137,266
Santo Tomas	Pampanga	42,846	42,846
Morong	Bataan	35,394	35,394
Talaingod	Davao del Norte	28,333	28,333
Kalayaan	Laguna	24,755	24,755

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2020 Census of Population and Housing

Tempo of urbanization decelerates to 2.4 percent in 2020

9. Between the period 2015 to 2020, the tempo of urbanization was computed at 2.4 percent. This is lower by 2.2 percentage points compared with the 4.6 percent tempo of urbanization that was posted between the period 2010 to 2015. (Table 5)
10. The urban population of the Philippines increased at an average of 2.8 percent annually during the period 2015 to 2020. In comparison, it is lower than the 4.1 percent average at which the urban population of the country grew annually during the period 2010 to 2015. Moreover, the rural population improved by 0.4 percent annually between the period 2015 to 2020 from a 0.5 percent annual decline between the period 2010 to 2015. (Table 5)

Table 5. Average Annual Growth Rate of Urban and Rural Population and Tempo of Urbanization: Philippines, 2015-2020 and 2010-2015

Period	Average Annual Growth Rate (Percent)		Average Annual Tempo of Urbanization (Percent)
	Urban	Rural	
2015-2020	2.8	0.4	2.4
2010-2015	4.1	-0.5	4.6

Sources: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2010 and 2020 Census of Population and Housing and 2015 Census of Population

Proportion of urban barangays to total barangays gains by 1.2 percentage point

11. Out of the 42,046 barangays in the Philippines in 2020, 7,957 barangays or 18.9 percent were classified as urban. In 2015, 7,437 barangays were classified as urban, representing 17.7 percent of the total 42,036 barangays during that year. (Tables 6 and C)

Table 6. Total Number of Barangays and Urban Barangays and Proportion of Urban Barangays to Total Barangays: Philippines, 2020 and 2015

Year	Total Number of Barangays	Number of Urban Barangays	Proportion of Urban Barangays to Total Barangays (Percent)
2020	42,046	7,957	18.9
2015	42,036	7,437	17.7

Sources: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2020 Census of Population Housing and 2015 Census of Population

More than half of the barangays classified as urban belongs to Category 1

12. More than half (56.4%) or 3,525 of the 6,247 urban barangays in 2020 (excluding the 1,710 barangays in the NCR that were automatically classified as urban) were classified under Category 1, that is, they had a population size of at least 5,000 persons. Altogether, the population of these 3,525 Category 1 urban barangays totaled to 38.99 million or 85.8 percent of the total urban population in the country (excluding the 13.48 million urban residents in the NCR). In 2015, 53.0 percent or 3,037 of the 5,731 urban barangays (excluding the 1,706 barangays in the NCR that were automatically classified as urban) were classified under the same category. The corresponding population of these 3,037 Category 1 urban barangays totaled to 32.53 million or 83.7 percent of the country's total urban population in 2015 (excluding the 12.88 million urban residents in the NCR). (Tables 7 and 8)

13. The barangays classified as urban based on the presence of establishments with at least 100 employees (Category 2) totaled to 1,191, making up 19.1 percent of the total urban barangays in 2020. In comparison, Category 2 urban barangays totaled to 1,010 in 2015, accounting for 17.6 percent of the total barangays during that year. (Table 7)

14. The remaining urban barangays, 1,531 or 24.5 percent of the total urban barangays in 2020, and 1,684 or 29.4 percent of the total urban barangays in 2015, had at least five establishments (with 10 to 99 employees) within the barangay, and at least five facilities within the two-kilometer radius from the barangay hall. These urban barangays were classified under Category 3. (Table 7)

Table 7. Number of Urban Barangays by Category of Urban Classification:
Philippines, 2020 and 2015

Category	2020		2015	
	Number of Urban Barangays	Percent to Total Urban Barangays	Number of Urban Barangays	Percent to Total Urban Barangays
Total Urban Barangays * (All Categories)	6,247	100.0	5,731	100.0
1	3,525	56.4	3,037	53.0
2	1,191	19.1	1,010	17.6
3	1,531	24.5	1,684	29.4

* Excluding barangays in the NCR (1,710 barangays in 2020 and 1,706 barangays in 2015), which were all automatically classified as urban.

Sources: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2020 Census of Population and Housing and 2015 Census of Population

Table 8. Total Urban Population by Category of Urban Classification:
Philippines, 2020 and 2015

Category	2020		2015	
	Size of Urban Population	Percent to Total Urban Population	Size of Urban Population	Percent to Total Urban Population
Total Urban Population * (All Categories)	45,446,267	100.0	38,851,444	100.0
1	38,986,633	85.8	32,526,713	83.7
2	2,939,676	6.5	2,434,008	6.3
3	3,519,958	7.7	3,890,723	10.0

* Excluding urban population in the NCR (13,484,462 persons in 2020 and 12,877,253 persons in 2015).

Sources: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2020 Census of Population and Housing and 2015 Census of Population

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