



SPECIAL RELEASE

Highlights of the Population Density of the Philippines 2020 Census of Population and Housing (2020 CPH)

Date of Release: 22 July 2021

Reference No. 2021-289

- As of 01 May 2020, the population of the Philippines, excluding Filipinos in Philippine embassies, consulates, and missions abroad was 109,033,245 based on the 2020 Census of Population and Housing (2020 CPH). In 2020, the number of Filipinos in Philippine embassies, consulates, and missions abroad totaled to 2,098 persons. (Tables 1 and A)

Table 1. Total Population Based on Various Censuses: Philippines

Census Year	Census Reference Date	Total Population
2010	May 1, 2010	92,335,113 ^a
2015	August 1, 2015	100,979,303 ^b
2020	May 1, 2020	109,033,245 ^c

^a Excludes 2,739 Filipinos in Philippine embassies, consulates, and missions abroad.

^b Excludes 2,135 Filipinos in Philippine embassies, consulates, and missions abroad.

^c Excludes 2,098 Filipinos in Philippine embassies, consulates, and missions abroad.

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

- With a total land area of approximately 300,000 square kilometers, the population density of the Philippines in 2020 was posted at 363 persons per square kilometer. This represents an increase of 27¹ persons per square kilometer (8.0%) from the population density of 337 persons per square kilometer in 2015. In 2010, there were 308 persons residing in every square kilometer of land. (Tables 2 and A)

Table 2. Philippine Population Density Based on Various Censuses

Census Year	Population Density (Persons Per Square Kilometer of land)
2010	308
2015	337
2020	363

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

¹Increase not equal to the difference of values in Table 2 due to rounding off



Management
System
ISO 9001:2015
www.tuv.com
ID 3105640991



PSA Complex, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines 1101
Telephone: (632) 8938-5267
www.psa.gov.ph

- The population figures used in this report were from the results of the 2020 CPH. To derive the population density or the number of persons per square kilometer of land, only the population residing in Philippine territories were considered at the national level. Hence, Filipinos in Philippine embassies, consulates, and missions abroad were excluded from the total population count. Meanwhile, the land areas were based on the 2013 Masterlist of Land Areas of Cities and Municipalities provided by the Land Management Bureau (LMB) to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).
- In 2020, the Philippines had 17 administrative regions, 33 highly urbanized cities (HUCs), 108 component cities, five independent component cities, and 1,488 municipalities.
- In terms of population by region, Region IV-A (CALABARZON) was the biggest among the 17 administrative regions, with 16.20 million persons. It was followed by the National Capital Region (NCR) with 13.48 million persons and Region III (Central Luzon) with 12.42 million persons. The Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) registered the smallest population size of 1.80 million persons. (Tables 3 and A)
- The three biggest regions in terms of land area were: Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) with 36,650.95 square kilometers, Region II (Cagayan Valley) with 29,836.88 square kilometers, and MIMAROPA Region with 29,606.25 square kilometers. The NCR was the smallest with a land area of 619.54 square kilometers.
- Population density refers to persons per square kilometer of land. Among regions, the NCR was the most densely populated with a population density of 21,765 persons per square kilometer. This figure is almost 60 times of the population density of 363 persons per square kilometer posted at the national level. This translates to an additional 980 persons per square kilometer (4.7%) from the 20,785 persons per square kilometer reported in 2015. The population density of the NCR in 2010 was 19,137 per square kilometer.
- Aside from the NCR, five other regions surpassed the national population density of 363 persons per square kilometer in 2020. These were: Region IV-A (977 persons), Region III (567 persons), Region VII (Central Visayas, 509 persons), Region I (Ilocos, 409 persons), and Region VI (Western Visayas, 383 persons).

- Moreover, the three regions with the lowest population density were: CAR (91 persons), MIMAROPA Region (109 persons), and BARMM (120 persons).

Table 3. Total Population, Land Area, and Population Density by Region: 2020

Rank	Region	Total Population	Land Area (Square Kilometer)	Population Density (Persons Per Square Kilometer of land)
	Philippines	109,033,245 ^a	300,000.00 ^b	363
1	National Capital Region (NCR)	13,484,462	619.54	21,765
2	IV-A - CALABARZON	16,195,042	16,576.26	977
3	III - Central Luzon	12,422,172	21,906.19	567
4	VII - Central Visayas	8,081,988	15,872.58	509
5	I - Ilocos	5,301,139	12,964.62	409
6	VI - Western Visayas	7,954,723	20,778.29	383
7	V - Bicol	6,082,165	18,114.47	336
8	XI - Davao	5,243,536	20,433.38	257
9	X - Northern Mindanao	5,022,768	20,458.51	246
10	IX - Zamboanga Peninsula	3,875,576	16,904.03	229
11	XII - SOCCSKSARGEN	4,901,486	22,786.08	215
12	II - Cagayan Valley	3,685,744	29,836.88	124
13	VIII - Eastern Visayas	4,547,150	23,234.78	196
14	XIII - Caraga	2,804,788	21,120.56	133
15	Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM)	4,404,288	36,650.95	120
16	MIMAROPA Region	3,228,558	29,606.25	109
17	Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR)	1,797,660	19,818.12	91

^a Excludes 2,098 Filipinos in Philippine embassies, consulates, and missions abroad.

^b Estimated total land area of the Philippines. Regional details do not add up to national total due unfinished cadastral surveys.

Sources: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2020 Census of Population and Housing
Land Management Bureau, 2013 Masterlist of Land Areas of Cities and Municipalities

- Among the 81 provinces in 2020, five had a population density of more than 1,000 persons per square kilometer. Of these five most densely populated provinces, the top three were in Region IV-A, followed by two provinces in Region III. Moreover, the 10 most densely populated provinces were all located in Luzon, except for Cebu (ranked seventh), which is in the Visayas. (Tables 4 and A)
- Cavite was the most densely populated province with 2,847 persons per square kilometer. It was followed by Rizal with 2,816, Laguna with 1,754

persons, Bulacan with 1,332 persons, and Pampanga (excluding the City of Angeles) with 1,218 persons.

Table 4. Ten Most Densely Populated Provinces: 2020

Rank	Province	Total Population	Land Area (Square Kilometer)	Population Density (Persons Per Square Kilometer of land)
1	Cavite	4,344,829	1,526.28	2,847
2	Rizal	3,330,143	1,182.65	2,816
3	Laguna	3,382,193	1,928.23	1,754
4	Bulacan	3,708,890	2,783.69	1,332
5	Pampanga *	2,437,709	2,001.22	1,218
6	Batangas	2,908,494	3,115.05	934
7	Cebu **	3,325,385	4,943.72	673
8	Bataan	853,373	1,372.98	622
9	Pangasinan	3,163,190	5,450.59	580
10	La Union	822,352	1,499.28	548

* Excluding the City of Angeles

** Excluding the City of Cebu, the City of Lapu-lapu, and the City of Mandaue

Sources: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2020 Census of Population and Housing
Land Management Bureau, 2013 Masterlist of Land Areas of Cities and Municipalities

- In 2020, 12 provinces had a population density of at most 100 persons per square kilometer. Except for Benguet, all provinces in CAR were included in the 12 most sparsely populated provinces in the country, while five provinces were in Luzon and two provinces were in Mindanao. (Tables 5 and A)
- Apayao was the most sparsely populated province with population density of 28 persons per square kilometer. It was followed by Abra with 60 persons and Palawan (excluding the City of Puerto Princesa) with 64 persons.

Table 5. Twelve Most Sparsely Populated Provinces: 2020

Rank	Province	Total Population	Land Area (Square Kilometer)	Population Density (Persons Per Square Kilometer of land)
1	Apayao	124,366	4,502.33	28
2	Abra	250,985	4,199.72	60
3	Palawan *	939,594	14,649.73	64
4	Mountain Province	158,200	2,389.43	66
5	Kalinga	229,570	3,282.04	70
6	Agusan del Sur	739,367	9,989.52	74
7	Aurora	235,750	3,133.40	75
8	Ifugao	207,498	2,618.01	79
9	Lanao del Sur	1,195,518	15,055.51	79
10	Quirino	203,828	2,319.66	88
11	Occidental Mindoro	525,354	5,851.09	90
12	Batanes	18,831	203.22	93

* Excluding the City of Puerto Princesa

Sources: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2020 Census of Population and Housing
Land Management Bureau, 2013 Masterlist of Land Areas of Cities and Municipalities

- Of the 33 highly urbanized cities (HUCs), 16 were in the NCR.
- Among the 16 HUCs in the NCR, seven surpassed the regional population density of 21,765 persons per square kilometer. The City of Manila was the most densely populated with 73,920 persons per square kilometer in 2020, followed by the City of Mandaluyong with 45,830 persons per square kilometer, and Pasay City with 31,543 persons per square kilometer. The four other HUCs in the NCR that surpassed the regional population density were the City of Navotas (27,689 persons per square kilometer), the City of Caloocan (29,777 persons per square kilometer), the City of Makati (29,189 persons per square kilometer), and the City of Malabon (24,222 persons per square kilometer). (Tables 6, A, and B)
- Moreover, the City of Muntinlupa had the least population density among the HUCs in the NCR with 13,672 persons per square kilometer.

Table 6. Population Density of Highly Urbanized Cities:
National Capital Region, 2020

Rank	Region/ Highly Urbanized City	Total Population	Land Area (Square Kilometer)	Population Density (Persons Per Square Kilometer of land)
	National Capital Region (NCR)	13,484,462	619.54	21,765
1	City of Manila	1,846,513	24.98	73,920
2	City of Mandaluyong	425,758	9.29	45,830
3	Pasay City	440,656	13.97	31,543
4	City of Caloocan	1,661,584	55.80	29,777
5	City of Makati	629,616	21.57	29,189
6	City of Navotas	247,543	8.94	27,689
7	City of Malabon	380,522	15.71	24,222
8	City of San Juan	126,347	5.95	21,235
9	City of Marikina	456,059	21.52	21,192
10	City of Taguig	886,722	45.21	19,613
11	City of Las Piñas	606,293	32.69	18,547
12	Quezon City	2,960,048	171.71	17,239
13	City of Pasig	803,159	48.46	16,574
14	City of Valenzuela	714,978	47.02	15,206
15	City of Parañaque	689,992	46.57	14,816
16	City of Muntinlupa	543,445	39.75	13,672

Sources: Philippine Statistics Authority, *2020 Census of Population and Housing*
Land Management Bureau, *2013 Masterlist of Land Areas of Cities and Municipalities*

- In 2020, 17 HUCs are located outside the NCR – five in Luzon, six in the Visayas, and six in Mindanao.
- Of the 17 HUCs outside the NCR, the City of Mandaue was the most densely populated with 14,461 persons per square kilometer. It was followed by the City of Lapu-Lapu with 8,565 persons per square kilometer, and the City of Angeles with 7,305 persons per square kilometer. (Tables 7, A, and B)
- Other HUCs outside NCR with a population density of more than 5,000 persons per square kilometer were the City of Baguio with 6,370 and the City of Iloilo with 5,842 persons.

Table 7. Population Density of Highly Urbanized Cities:
Outside National Capital Region, 2020

Rank	Highly Urbanized City	Total Population	Land Area (Square Kilometer)	Population Density (Persons Per Square Kilometer of land)
1	City of Mandaue	364,116	25.18	14,461
2	City of Lapu-lapu	497,604	58.10	8,565
3	City of Angeles	462,928	63.37	7,305
4	City of Baguio	366,358	57.51	6,370
5	City of Iloilo	457,626	78.34	5,842
6	City of Bacolod	600,783	160.71	3,738
7	City of Lucena	278,924	80.21	3,477
8	City of Cebu	964,169	315.00	3,061
9	City of Cagayan de Oro	728,402	412.80	1,765
10	City of General Santos	697,315	492.86	1,415
11	City of Olongapo	260,317	185.00	1,407
12	City of Tacloban	251,881	201.72	1,249
13	City of Davao	1,776,949	2,443.61	727
14	City of Zamboanga	977,234	1,414.70	691
15	City of Butuan	372,910	816.62	457
16	City of Iligan	363,115	813.37	446
17	City of Puerto Princesa	307,079	2,381.02	129

Sources: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2020 Census of Population and Housing
Land Management Bureau, 2013 Masterlist of Land Areas of Cities and Municipalities

- In 2020, the country had 108 component cities and five independent component cities.
- Seven of the ten most densely populated component cities were in Region IV-A. Two cities in Region III and another city in Region VII also made it to the top ten. (Tables 8 and B)
- The most densely populated component city in the country was the City of Bacoar in Cavite with 14,395 persons per square kilometer. It was followed by the City of San Pedro, Laguna with 13,555 persons, and the City of Biñan, Laguna with 10,118 persons.

Table 8. Ten Most Densely Populated Component Cities: 2020

Rank	Component City/Province	Total Population	Land Area (Square Kilometer)	Population Density (Persons Per Square Kilometer of land)
1	City of Bacoor, Cavite	664,625	46.17	14,395
2	City of San Pedro, Laguna	326,001	24.05	13,555
3	City of Biñan, Laguna	407,437	40.27	10,118
4	City of Cavite, Cavite	100,674	10.89	9,245
5	City of Cabuyao, Laguna	355,330	43.30	8,206
6	City of Dasmariñas, Cavite	703,141	90.13	7,801
7	City of Santa Rosa, Laguna	414,812	54.84	7,564
8	City of Meycauayan, Bulacan	225,673	32.10	7,030
9	City of Talisay, Cebu	263,048	39.87	6,598
10	City of San Jose del Monte, Bulacan	651,813	105.53	6,177

Sources: Philippine Statistics Authority, *2020 Census of Population and Housing*
Land Management Bureau, *2013 Masterlist of Land Areas of Cities and Municipalities*

- Of the ten most sparsely populated component cities in the country, two were in Luzon, and four each in the Visayas and Mindanao.
- The City of Ilagan in Isabela was the most sparsely populated component city in the country, with a population density of 136 persons per square kilometer. It was followed by the City of Borongan in Eastern Samar with 151 persons per square kilometer, and the City of Bayugan in Agusan del Sur with 159 persons per square kilometer. (Tables 9 and B)

Table 9. Ten Most Sparsely Populated Component Cities: 2020

Rank	Component City/Province	Total Population	Land Area (Square Kilometer)	Population Density (Persons Per Square Kilometer of land)
1	City of Ilagan, Isabela	158,218	1,166.26	136
2	City of Borongan, Eastern Samar	71,961	475.00	151
3	City of Bayugan, Agusan del Sur	109,499	688.77	159
4	City of Tabuk, Kalinga	121,033	700.25	173
5	City of Bayawan, Negros Oriental	122,747	699.08	176
6	City of Sipalay, Negros Occidental	72,448	379.78	191
7	City of Malaybalay, Bukidnon	190,712	969.19	197
8	City of Calbayog, Samar	186,960	880.74	212
9	City of Tandag, Surigao del Sur	62,669	291.73	215
10	City of Dapitan, Zamboanga del Norte	85,202	390.53	218

Sources: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2020 Census of Population and Housing
Land Management Bureau, 2013 Masterlist of Land Areas of Cities and Municipalities

- Of the five independent component cities, the City of Dagupan in Pangasinan was the most densely populated with 4,682 persons per square kilometer. It was followed by the City of Naga, Camarines Sur with 2,702 persons , City of Cotabato, Maguindanao with 1,847 persons, City of Santiago, Isabela with 582 persons, and Ormoc City, Leyte with 376 persons. (Tables 10 and B)

Table 10. Population Density of Independent Component Cities: 2020

Rank	Independent Component City/Province	Total Population	Land Area (Square Kilometer)	Population Density (Persons Per Square Kilometer of land)
1	City of Dagupan, Pangasinan	174,302	37.23	4,682
2	City of Naga, Camarines Sur	209,170	77.40	2,702
3	City of Cotabato, Maguindanao	325,079	176.00	1,847
4	City of Santiago, Isabela	148,580	255.50	582
5	Ormoc City, Leyte	230,998	613.60	376

Sources: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2020 Census of Population and Housing
Land Management Bureau, 2013 Masterlist of Land Areas of Cities and Municipalities

- Of the country's 1,488 municipalities in 2020, Gen. Mariano Alvarez in Cavite was the most densely populated with 18,344 persons per square kilometer, followed by Rosario in Cavite with 14,561 persons, and Taytay in Rizal with 9,960 persons. Completing the top five most densely populated municipalities were Cainta in Rizal with 8,768 persons per square kilometer and Marilao in Bulacan with 7,542 persons per square kilometer. (Tables 11 and A)
- Pateros, the only municipality in the NCR, was the sixth most densely populated municipality in the country with 6,272 persons per square kilometer.

Table 11. Ten Most Densely Populated Municipalities: 2020

Rank	Municipality/Province	Total Population	Land Area (Square Kilometer)	Population Density (Persons Per Square Kilometer of land)
1	Gen. Mariano Alvarez, Cavite	172,433	9.40	18,344
2	Rosario, Cavite	110,807	7.61	14,561
3	Taytay, Rizal	386,451	38.80	9,960
4	Cainta, Rizal	376,933	42.99	8,768
5	Marilao, Bulacan	254,453	33.74	7,542
6	Pateros, National Capital Region	65,227	10.40	6,272
7	Malay, Aklan	60,077	10.66	5,636
8	Camaligan, Camarines Sur	25,036	4.68	5,350
9	Angono, Rizal	130,494	26.22	4,977
10	Pandi, Bulacan	155,115	31.20	4,972


Sources: Philippine Statistics Authority, *2020 Census of Population and Housing*
Land Management Bureau, *2013 Masterlist of Land Areas of Cities and Municipalities*

- Kalayaan in Palawan was the most sparsely populated municipality in the country in 2020, with only one person residing in every square kilometer. Other municipalities with a population density of less than ten persons per square kilometer were Dinapigue, Divilacan, and Maconacon in Isabela; and Tineg in Abra. (Tables 12 and A)
- Completing the ten most sparsely populated municipalities in the country were two other municipalities in Abra and one municipality each in Nueva Vizcaya, Apayao, and Ilocos Norte.

Table 12. Ten Most Sparsely Populated Municipalities: 2020

Rank	Municipality/Province	Total Population	Land Area (Square Kilometer)	Population Density (Persons Per Square Kilometer of land)
1	Kalayaan, Palawan	193	290.00	1
2	Dinapigue, Isabela	5,821	1,031.93	6
3	Divilacan, Isabela	5,827	889.49	7
4	Tineg, Abra	4,977	744.80	7
5	Maconacon, Isabela	3,977	538.66	7
6	Calanasan, Apayao	12,550	1,256.15	10
7	Alfonso Castaneda, Nueva Vizcaya	8,539	849.83	10
8	Tubo, Abra	5,674	492.12	12
9	Adams, Ilocos Norte	2,189	159.31	14
10	Malibcong, Abra	4,027	283.17	14

Sources: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2020 Census of Population and Housing
Land Management Bureau, 2013 Masterlist of Land Areas of Cities and Municipalities


DENNIS S. MAPA, Ph.D.
Undersecretary
National Statistician and Civil Registrar General