



## Highlights of the First Semester 2021 Official Poverty Statistics

### A. National

#### 1. Key Indicators

In the first semester of 2021, a family of five needed, on average, PhP 12,082 per month to meet their minimum basic food and non-food needs. This is 14.7 percent higher than the monthly average amount of PhP10,532 needed to meet the minimum basic food and non-food needs of a family of five in the first semester of 2018. These amounts are also called the poverty thresholds.

In terms of incidences, the proportion of Filipino families with income less than the poverty threshold, or the poverty incidence among families in first semester of 2021, was estimated at 18.0 percent. These families have incomes that are not sufficient to buy their minimum basic food and non-food needs during the first half of the year. Among Filipinos, the poverty incidence was 23.7 percent in first semester of 2021 or about 26.14 million poor Filipinos.

**Table A. First Semester Food and Poverty Thresholds, Incidences, and Magnitude of Poor and Food Poor: 2018 and 2021**

Statistics	Estimate		Coefficient of Variation	
	1st sem 2018 <sup>u</sup>	1st sem 2021	1st sem 2018 <sup>u</sup>	1st sem 2021
<b>Monthly Poverty Threshold for a Family of Five (PhP)</b>	10,532	12,082		
<b>Poverty Incidence (%)</b>				
Among Families*	16.2	18.0	1.1	1.2
Among Population*	21.1	23.7	1.1	1.1
<b>Magnitude of Poor (in million)</b>				
Among Families	4.04	4.74	1.2	1.3
Among Population	22.26	26.14	1.2	1.3
<b>Monthly Food Threshold for a Family of Five (PhP)</b>	7,374	8,393		
<b>Subsistence Incidence (%)</b>				
Among Families*	6.2	7.1	1.8	1.8
Among Population*	8.5	9.9	1.7	1.8
<b>Magnitude of Food Poor (in million)</b>				
Among Families	1.55	1.87	1.8	1.9
Among Population	9.03	10.94	1.8	1.9

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

u=updated; The First Semester 2018 estimates were updated due to the adoption of the 2015 Census of Population (POPCEN 2015) results for the weights used in the Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES) and the urban-rural classification of barangays. These were incorporated to ensure comparability with the 2021 estimates.

\* Based on t-test at 90% level of significance, the observed change from the first semester 2018 to first semester 2021 is significant.

The proportion of Filipino families whose incomes were less than the food threshold (PhP8,393) or the monthly average amount needed to meet their basic food needs in first semester of 2021, stood at 7.1 percent. Among the population, 1 in 10 Filipinos were food poor or those who lived below the food thresholds in the first semester of 2021.

## 2. Other Poverty Measures

In addition to the abovementioned indicators, other poverty measures generated by PSA include the income gap, poverty gap, and squared poverty gap (severity of poverty).

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 27.0 percent in the first semester of 2021, that is, on average, a poor family with five members need an additional monthly income of about PhP 3,262 to move out of poverty in the first semester of 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.

**Table B. First Semester Income Gap, Poverty Gap, and Severity of Poverty: 2018 and 2021**

Statistics	Estimate		
	1 <sup>st</sup> sem 2018 <sup>u</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> sem 2021	Inc/Dec
Income Gap	27.0	27.0	0.1
Poverty Gap*	4.4	4.9	0.5
Squared Poverty Gap* (Severity of Poverty)	1.8	1.9	0.2

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

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\* Based on t-test at 90% level of significance, the observed change from the first semester 2018 to first semester 2021 is significant.

## B. Regional

At the regional level, the regions with the lowest poverty incidence among families in the first semester of 2021 continued to be NCR and CALABARZON with 5.2 percent and 10.6 percent, respectively. On the other hand, ARMM/BARMM consistently figured with the highest poverty incidence among families at 39.4 percent in the first semester of 2021.

Nine out of 17 regions posted significant changes in poverty incidence among families from first semester 2018 to first semester 2021. ARMM/BARMM had the highest significant improvement from 55.9 percent in first semester 2018 to 39.4 percent in the first semester of 2021.

**Table C. First Semester Per Capita Poverty Thresholds and Poverty Incidence among Families, by Region: 2018 and 2021**

Region	First Semester Per Capita Poverty Threshold (in pesos)		Poverty Incidence among Families (%)		Coefficient of Variation	
	2018 <sup>u</sup>	2021	2018 <sup>u</sup>	2021	2018 <sup>u</sup>	2021
PHILIPPINES*	12,638	14,498	16.2	18.0	1.1	1.2
NCR	14,102	16,625	4.9	5.2	5.3	4.5
CAR*	12,358	14,023	13.8	12.1	4.0	4.4
Region I*	12,837	15,470	8.7	15.8	7.9	5.7
Region II	12,182	14,226	15.3	16.4	5.5	6.2
Region III*	12,976	16,226	7.9	13.7	4.8	4.4
Region IV-A*	13,669	15,604	7.8	10.6	5.9	5.3
MIMAROPA*	11,472	13,054	15.1	19.3	4.7	4.4
Region V*	11,975	13,873	21.5	26.1	3.6	3.8
Region VI*	11,964	13,519	15.9	19.2	4.9	4.5
Region VII*	12,724	15,174	19.1	26.8	4.2	4.3
Region VIII	12,195	13,550	30.4	28.9	3.4	3.8
Region IX	12,424	14,467	32.4	30.9	3.4	3.5
Region X	12,259	14,302	25.6	26.2	3.1	3.8
Region XI*	12,718	13,324	17.8	14.0	4.0	4.4
Region XII	12,082	13,298	27.2	27.1	3.7	3.8
Caraga*	12,346	13,613	28.3	31.0	3.2	3.0
ARMM/ BARMM	13,599	14,126	55.9	39.4	2.4	3.6

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

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\* Based on t-test at 90% level of significance, the observed change from the first semester 2018 to first semester 2021 is significant.

## C. Provincial

At the provincial level, the provinces which belonged to the group with the least poverty incidence among families from first semester 2018 to first semester 2021 continued to include Benguet, Capiz, Cavite, Davao del Sur, Ilocos Norte, La Union, Laguna, Pampanga, Quirino, Rizal, and Siquijor. The other provinces that joined this roster of least poor cluster in the first semester of 2021 are: Batanes, Batangas and Lanao del Sur.

**Table D. Provinces in the Least Poor Cluster: First Semester 2018 and 2021**

Province	1 <sup>st</sup> semester 2018 <sup>u</sup>				1 <sup>st</sup> semester 2021			
	Cluster	Poverty Incidence Among Families	90% Confidence Interval		Cluster	Poverty Incidence Among Families	90% Confidence Interval	
			Lower Limit	Upper Limit			Lower Limit	Upper Limit
1st District*	5	5.7	3.9	7.5	5	2.0	1.3	2.7
2nd District	5	3.5	2.7	4.2	5	3.8	3.2	4.5
3rd District	5	8.1	7.2	9.0	5	8.1	7.2	9.1
4th District*	5	3.9	3.5	4.3	5	6.3	5.6	6.9
Batanes*	4	13.5	10.9	16.0	5	7.5	4.9	10.0
Batangas*	4	13.0	11.0	15.1	5	7.0	5.4	8.6
Benguet*	5	6.0	5.0	7.1	5	7.5	6.5	8.5
Capiz*	5	5.8	4.5	7.1	5	9.5	7.5	11.4
Cavite*	5	6.1	4.8	7.4	5	10.8	8.9	12.7
Davao del Sur*	5	10.8	8.9	12.6	5	7.9	6.7	9.2
Ilocos Norte	5	5.5	4.0	7.1	5	6.3	4.5	8.2
La Union*	5	3.7	2.6	4.8	5	10.7	8.8	12.6
Laguna*	5	5.0	3.6	6.4	5	10.0	7.8	12.2
Lanao del Sur*	1	68.0	64.5	71.6	5	11.4	9.1	13.6
Pampanga*	5	3.6	2.4	4.8	5	6.2	5.1	7.4
Quirino	5	9.9	8.0	11.7	5	11.3	9.4	13.2
Rizal	5	4.8	3.6	6.1	5	6.1	4.7	7.6
Siquijor*	5	10.0	7.4	12.6	5	4.3	2.6	6.1

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

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

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On the other hand, the provinces that were consistently included in the cluster with relatively high poverty incidence among families in the first semesters of 2018 and 2021 were Basilan and Sulu. New entrants in the poorest cluster of provinces in the

first semester 2021 are Agusan del Sur, Cotabato City, Sarangani, Tawi-tawi, and Zamboanga del Norte.

**Table E. Provinces in the Poorest Cluster: First Semester 2018 and 2021**

Province	1 <sup>st</sup> semester 2018 <sup>u</sup>				1 <sup>st</sup> semester 2021			
	Cluster	Poverty Incidence Among Families	90% Confidence Interval		Cluster	Poverty Incidence Among Families	90% Confidence Interval	
			Lower Limit	Upper Limit			Lower Limit	Upper Limit
Agusan del Sur*	2	32.6	29.0	36.2	1	39.6	36.0	43.3
Basilan*	1	65.5	61.8	69.1	1	46.7	42.2	51.1
Cotabato City	2	42.0	38.1	46.0	1	42.0	38.2	45.8
Sarangani	2	40.8	35.9	45.7	1	42.1	38.0	46.1
Sulu	1	66.7	63.0	70.3	1	71.9	67.0	76.8
Tawi-tawi*	4	17.7	15.1	20.3	1	39.5	34.0	45.0
Zamboanga del Norte*	2	41.5	37.5	45.5	1	53.6	49.4	57.7

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

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

U=updated; The First Semester 2018 estimates were updated due to the adoption of the 2015 Census of Population (POPCEN 2015) results for the weights used in the Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES) and the urban-rural classification of barangays. These were incorporated to ensure comparability with the 2021 estimates.

\* Based on t-test at 90% level of significance, the observed change from the first semester 2018 to first semester 2021 is significant.