



SPECIAL RELEASE

Highlights of the Full Year 2018 **SOCCKSARGEN Region’s Official Poverty Statistics**

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Official Poverty Statistics

From the results of the 2018 Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES), the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) has generated the 2018 Annual Official Poverty Statistics. This report provides the estimates of poverty incidence and magnitude of the poor using income data from this survey for the provinces and highly urbanized cities and selected cities in the country.

SOCCKSARGEN Region’s poverty incidence dropped in 2018

In 2018, a family of five living in SOCCKSARGEN Region needed about ₱10,416 monthly to meet their basic food and non-food needs. This amount is about 17.2 percent higher than the ₱8,885 threshold in 2015. The national monthly poverty threshold was estimated at ₱10,727 for a family of five in 2018. (See Table 1)

Comment [F1]: (do we need to insert and repeat "for a family of five in 2018"?)

Across the region, the monthly poverty threshold for a family of five was highest in South Cotabato (*including General Santos City*) at ₱10,507, followed by Cotabato Province at ₱10,423, Sultan Kudarat at ₱9,896 and Sarangani at ₱9,612. The poverty threshold for a family of five in Cotabato City, now part of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), was at ₱12,726.

Table 1. Monthly Poverty Threshold for a Family of Five, SOCCKSARGEN Region 2015 and 2018
(In Peso)

Area	2015	2018	% change
PHILIPPINES	9,452	10,727	13.5
Region XII	8,885	10,416	17.2
Cotabato	8,821	10,423	18.2
Sarangani	8,374	9,612	14.8
South Cotabato (<i>incl General Santos City</i>)	8,893	10,507	18.2
South Cotabato (<i>excl General Santos City</i>)	a/	10,507	
Sultan Kudarat	8,843	9,896	11.9
General Santos City b/	9,059	10,643	17.5
Cotabato City	10,659	12,726	19.4

a/ Data not available for 2015.

b/ Based on the poverty threshold of South Cotabato for urban areas.

Source: PSA





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Despite increase in the threshold, the proportion of poor families in the region improved from 31.3 percent in 2015 to 22.3 percent in 2018. Poverty incidence among families, at 36.0 percent, however, was highest in Sarangani and Cotabato Province at 23.5 percent. South Cotabato posted the lowest proportion with 13.7 percent. All of the provinces in the region posted improvements in poverty incidence in 2018 from their 2015 figures with Sultan Kudarat having posted the biggest improvement. (See Table 2)

Table 2. Poverty Incidence among Families, SOCCSKSARGEN Region: 2015 and 2018
(In Percent)

Area	2015	2018	Difference (%age point)
PHILIPPINES	17.9	12.1	-5.8
Region XII	31.3	22.3	-8.9
Cotabato	36.5	23.5	-13.0
Sarangani	45.6	36.0	-9.6
South Cotabato <i>(incl General Santos City)</i>	18.3	13.7	-4.6
South Cotabato <i>(excl General Santos City)</i>	a/	15.8	
Sultan Kudarat	41.2	24.2	-17.0
General Santos City	a/	10.4	
Cotabato City	38.5	35.5	-3.0

a/ Data not available for 2015.
 Source: PSA

In terms of magnitude, poor families numbered 252.3 thousand in 2018; a 23.2 percent reduction from 328.4 thousand in 2015. At the national level, the number of poor families in 2018 was estimated 3.0 million, a significant improvement from the 4.1 million poor families in 2015. (See Table 3)

Comment [F2]: (252.3 - maintain na lang po siguro natin ang 1 decimal point katulad sa table ng CO)

Comment [F3]: (328.4)

Table 3. Magnitude of Poor Families, SOCCSKSARGEN Region: 2015 and 2018
(In Thousand)

Area	2015	2018	% change
PHILIPPINES	4,111.1	2,986.3	-27.4
Region XII	328.4	252.3	-23.2
Cotabato	115.2	82.9	-28.1
Sarangani	47.3	48.2	1.8
South Cotabato <i>(incl General Santos City)</i>	74.5	53.8	-27.8
South Cotabato <i>(excl General Santos City)</i>	a/	37.5	
Sultan Kudarat	74.9	46.3	-38.2
General Santos City	a/	16.4	
Cotabato City	16.4	21.0	28.1

Comment [F4]: -38.2

a/ Data not available for 2015.
 Source: PSA

Cotabato Province had the most number of poor families at 82.9 thousand families, followed by South Cotabato with about 53.8 thousand poor families, Sarangani with about 48.2 thousand while Sultan Kudarat had about 46.3 thousand poor families. Except for Sarangani, all provinces posted reductions in the number of poor families in 2018 from three years ago. The highest reduction was noted in Sultan Kudarat at 38.2 percent. (See Table 3)



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Incidence of food poor families went down in 2018

In 2018, a family of five in the region needed at least ₱7,215 monthly to satisfy its food requirements. This amount was 16.8 percent higher than the monthly food threshold of ₱6,177 in 2015. The national monthly food threshold was estimated at ₱7,528 for a family of five in 2018. (See Table 4)

Comment [F5]: (do we need to insert and repeat "for a family of five in 2018"?)

Among the provinces, monthly food threshold for a family of five was highest in South Cotabato at ₱7,344, followed by Cotabato Province at ₱7,286, Sultan Kudarat at ₱6,905, and Sarangani at ₱6,698. In Cotabato City, food threshold was estimated at ₱8,887.

Table 4. Monthly Food Threshold for a Family of Five, SOCCSKSARGEN Region 2015 and 2018
(In Peso)

Area	2015	2018	% change
PHILIPPINES	15,852	18,067	14.0
Region XII	6,177	7,215	16.8
Cotabato	6,150	7,286	18.5
Sarangani	5,836	6,698	14.8
South Cotabato <i>(incl General Santos City)</i>	6,197	7,344	18.5
South Cotabato <i>(excl General Santos City)</i>	a/	7,344	
Sultan Kudarat	6,178	6,905	11.8
General Santos City b/	6,326	7,432	17.5
Cotabato City	7,439	8,887	19.5

a/ Data not available for 2015.

b/ Based on the food threshold of South Cotabato for urban areas.

Source: PSA

Similar to the poverty incidence, subsistence incidence or the proportion of families who cannot afford to provide for the food needs of the family dropped by half in 2018 to 8.3 percent from a high of 16.2 percent in 2015. The incidence translates to about 94.4 thousand food poor families in 2018, almost half the 169.9 thousand food poor families estimated in 2015. (See Table 5)

Table 5. Subsistence Incidence among Families, SOCCSKSARGEN Region: 2015 and 2018
(In Percent)

Area	2015	2018	Difference (%age point)
PHILIPPINES	6.4	3.4	-3.0
Region XII	16.2	8.3	-7.9
Cotabato	19.3	8.6	-10.7
Sarangani	25.6	17.4	-8.2
South Cotabato <i>(incl General Santos City)</i>	7.4	4.2	-3.2
South Cotabato <i>(excl General Santos City)</i>	a/	5.2	
Sultan Kudarat	25.2	9.4	-15.8
General Santos City b/	a/	2.6	
Cotabato City	15.2	10.7	-4.5

a/ Data not available for 2015.

Source: PSA



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Subsistence incidence was highest in Sarangani Province at 17.4 percent. In Sultan Kudarat, the incidence was estimated at 9.4 percent while around 8.6 percent was estimated in Cotabato Province. South Cotabato, at 4.2 percent, posted the lowest proportion of food poor families among the four provinces in the region.

All provinces posted decreasing subsistence incidence with Sultan Kudarat able to trim down the proportion of food poor families from 25.2 percent in 2015 to 9.4 percent in 2019, followed by Cotabato Province (10.7%) and Sarangani (8.2%).

Across the region, Cotabato Province had the most number of food poor families with 30.3 thousand, followed by Sarangani (23.3 thousand), Sultan Kudarat (18.1 thousand) and South Cotabato (16.4 thousand including General Santos City). Cotabato City had over 6.3 thousand food poor families. (See Table 6)

Table 6. Magnitude of Food Poor Families, SOCCSKSARGEN Region: 2015 and 2018
(In Thousand)

Area	2015	2018	% change
PHILIPPINES	1,481.3	834.7	-43.7
Region XII	169.9	94.4	-44.4
Cotabato	61.0	30.3	-50.3
Sarangani	26.6	23.3	-12.4
South Cotabato <i>(incl General Santos City)</i>	30.0	16.4	-45.3
South Cotabato <i>(excl General Santos City)</i>	a/	12.4	
Sultan Kudarat	45.9	18.1	-60.6
General Santos City	a/	4.0	
Cotabato City	6.5	6.3	-2.0

a/ Data not available for 2015.

Source: PSA

Other Poverty Measures

In addition to the above mentioned indicators, the PSA also computes for other poverty measures which could be useful to policy-makers and service providers for their poverty-alleviation-related interventions. These are income gap, poverty gap and severity of poverty.

In 2018, income gap in SOCCSKSARGEN Region was estimated at 26.3 percent. A poor person in the region needed to have an additional income of ₱548 annually, on the average, for him to move out of poverty. For a family of five, this translates to about ₱2,741 monthly or ₱90 daily. At the national level, this is equivalent to ₱467.00 monthly per person. (See Table 7)

Among the provinces, income gap was highest in Sarangani at 31.7 percent, followed by Sultan Kudarat (26.9%), Cotabato (32.1%), and South Cotabato (23.7%).



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Table 7. Per Capita Income Gap and Monthly Additional Income Needed, SOCCSKSARGEN Region 2015 and 2018

Area	Income Gap		Poverty Gap	
	Percent	Peso	Percent	Peso
PHILIPPINES	21.8	467.00	2.6	56.00
Region XII	26.3	548.00	5.9	122.00
Cotabato	25.3	528.00	5.9	124.00
Sarangani	31.7	610.00	11.4	220.00
South Cotabato (incl General Santos City)	23.7	499.00	3.2	68.00
South Cotabato (excl General Santos City)	24.5	516.00	3.9	82.00
Sultan Kudarat	26.9	533.00	6.5	129.00
General Santos City b/	21.9	460.00	2.3	48.00
Cotabato City	23.2	589.00	8.2	209.00

Source of Basic Data: PSA

- Comment [F6]: 548
- Comment [F7]: 122
- Comment [F8]: 528
- Comment [F9]: 68
- Comment [F10]: 516
- Comment [F11]: 82
- Comment [F12]: 460
- Comment [F13]: 589
- Comment [F14]: 209
- Comment [F15]: 122

In 2018, the poverty gap in SOCCSKSARGEN Region was estimated at 5.9 percent or an equivalent to a shortfall of ₱122 below the poverty threshold per person. On the average, this corresponds to about ₱611 monthly or about ₱20 daily for a family of five. On the average, this is roughly ₱56.00 monthly per individual. (See Table 7)

Among the provinces, Sarangani posted the highest poverty gap at 11.4 percent followed by Sultan Kudarat (6.5%), Cotabato (5.9%), and South Cotabato (3.2%).

Technical Notes

Family

a group of persons usually living together and composed of the head and other persons related to the head by blood, marriage or adoption. It includes both the nuclear and extended family.

Family Income

The primary income and receipts from other sources received by all family members during the reference period, as participants in any economic activity or as recipients of transfers, pensions, grants, interests, food and non-food items received as gifts by the family.

Food threshold is the minimum income or expenditure required for a family or individual to meet the basic food needs, which satisfies the nutritional requirements for economically necessary and socially desirable physical activities.

Income Gap refers to the average income shortfall, expressed in proportion to the poverty threshold, of families/individuals with income below the poverty threshold.





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Poverty gap refers to the total income or expenditure shortfall (expressed in proportion to the poverty threshold) of families or individuals with income or expenditure below the poverty threshold, divided by the total number of families or individuals.

Poverty incidence is the proportion of families or individuals with per capita income or expenditure less than the per capita poverty threshold to the total number of families or individuals.


Poverty threshold is the minimum income or expenditure required for a family or individual to meet the basic food and non-food requirements.

Subsistence incidence is the proportion of families or individuals with per capita income or expenditure less than the per capita food threshold to the total number of families or individuals.

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 itself. It is the average income shortfall of poor families/individuals relative to the poverty threshold.

Poverty gap is the average income shortfall of the total population from the poverty line so that there is zero poverty incidence in the whole population.

Approved for Release:


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Comment [F16]: Add "MPS-DM"

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