



SPECIAL RELEASE

First Semester 2021 Official Poverty Statistics in Western Visayas

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

The 2021 First Semester Official Poverty Statistics Report presents the official poverty statistics for the first semester of 2021 by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). It is based on the first visit of the 2021 Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES) conducted by the PSA in July 2021. The estimates were generated based on the methodology for the estimation of official poverty statistics using the income from the FIES. The back estimates for the updated 2018 First Semester Official Poverty Statistics are also included in this release. This set of estimates were updated due to the adoption of the 2015 Census of Population (POPCEN 2015) results for the weights used in the FIES and the urban-rural classification of barangays. These were incorporated to ensure comparability with the 2021 first semester official poverty statistics.

The proportion of poor Filipinos in Western Visayas registered at 25.3 percent in the first semester of 2021

The First Semester 2021 poverty incidence among population in Western Visayas, or the proportion of poor Filipinos in the region whose per capita income is not sufficient to meet their basic food and non-food needs, was estimated at 25.3 percent. This translates to about 2.0 million Filipinos in the region who lived below the poverty threshold estimated at PhP 11,266, on the average, for a family of five per month in the first semester of 2021 (Table 1). On the other hand, subsistence incidence among Filipinos in the region, or the proportion of population in the region whose income is not enough to meet even the basic food needs, was registered at 9.8 percent or about 780 thousand in the first semester of 2021 (Table 2).

Table 1. First Semester Poverty Thresholds, Incidences and Magnitude of Poor: 2018 and 2021, Western Visayas

Statistics	Estimate		Coefficient of Variation	
	1 st Sem 2018 ^u	1 st Sem 2021	1 st Sem 2018 ^u	1 st Sem 2021
Monthly Poverty Threshold for a Family of Five (PhP)				
Philippines (Phils.)	10,532	12,082		
Western Visayas (WV)	9,970	11,266		
Poverty Incidence				
Among Families (%)*	15.9	19.2	4.9	4.5
Among Population (%)*	20.9	25.3	4.6	4.2
Magnitude of Poor				
Among Families ('000)	302.9	374.4	5.3	4.9
Among Population ('000)	1,624.4	2,015.7	5.2	4.9

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.

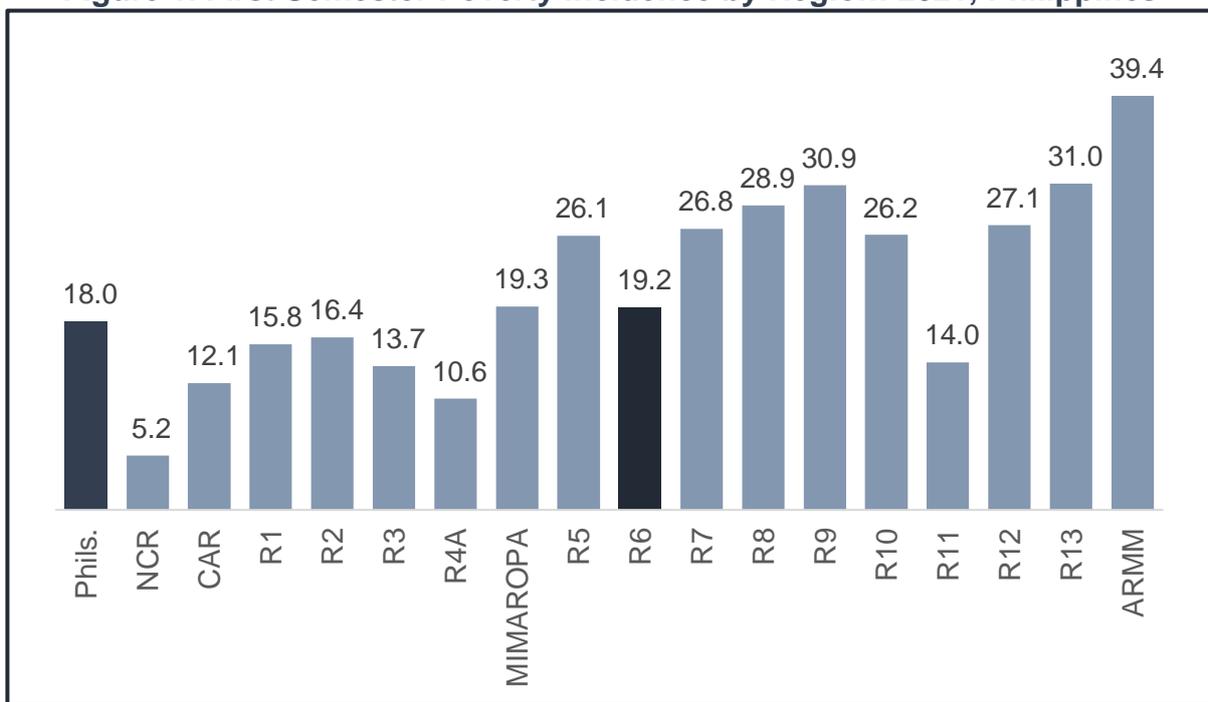


Poverty incidence among families in Western Visayas is higher than the national level poverty incidence

The poverty incidence among families increased from 15.9 percent in first semester 2018 to the 19.2 percent in the same semester of 2021. This means that about one in every 5 families in the region are poor (Table 1).

The reported poverty incidence among families is higher than the national value poverty incidence of 18.0 percent. Among all the 17 regions in the country, Western Visayas reported the 8th lowest in terms of poverty incidence among families in the first semester of 2021 (Figure 1).

Figure 1. First Semester Poverty Incidence by Region: 2021, Philippines



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

The proportion of food poor Filipinos in Western Visayas registered at 9.8 percent in the first semester of 2021

The proportion of Filipino families in the region whose incomes were less than the food threshold (PhP7,879.00) or the monthly average amount needed to meet their basic food needs in first semester of 2021, stood at 9.8 percent. This estimate is 2.9 percentage points higher than its value of 6.9 percent in the same semester of 2018. In terms of magnitude, the number of poor Filipinos in the region increase from 91 thousand in 1st semester of 2018 to about 133 thousand in the same semester of 2021.

Table 2. First Semester Food Thresholds, Incidences and Magnitude of Poor: 2018 and 2021, Western Visayas

Statistics	Estimate		Coefficient of Variation	
	1 st Sem 2018 ^u	1 st Sem 2021	1 st Sem 2018 ^u	1 st Sem 2021
Monthly Poverty Food Threshold for a Family of Five (PhP)				
Philippines (Phils.)	7,374	8,393		
Western Visayas (WV)	6,935	7,879		
Subsistence Incidence				
Among Families (%) [*]	4.8	6.9	10.0	7.7
Among Population (%) [*]	6.9	9.8	9.8	7.6
Magnitude of Food Poor				
Among Families ('000)	91.2	133.3	10.2	7.9
Among Population ('000)	534.3	780.1	10.2	8.1

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 income gap was at 25.3 percent

The income gap was estimated at 25.3 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 2,852 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.

On the other hand, the poverty gap was reported at 4.9 percent. The gap widened by 32.4 percent from 3.7 percent in 1st semester 2018 to 4.9 percent in the same semester of 2021. Moreover, the severity of poverty in the region increased from 1.3 percent to the current estimate of 1.8 percent in the 1st semester of 2021. Consequently, severity of poverty increased by 38.0 percent from the 1st semester of 2018 to the same semester of 2021.

Table 3. First Semester Income Gap, Poverty Gap, and Severity of Poverty: 2018 and 2021, Western Visayas

Statistics	Estimate (%)		Inc/Dec
	1 st Sem 2018 ^u	1 st Sem 2021	
Income Gap	23.0	25.3	10.0
Poverty Gap	3.7	4.9	32.4
Squared Poverty Gap (Severity of Poverty)	1.3	1.8	38.5

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.

TECHNICAL NOTES

REPUBLIC ACT 8425 OF 1997 - (SOCIAL REFORM AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION ACT)

Defines Poor as “Individuals and families whose income fall below the poverty threshold as defined by NEDA and/or cannot afford in a sustained manner to provide their minimum basic needs of food, health, education, housing and other essential amenities in life.” (Section 3 of RA 8425)

POVERTY THRESHOLD

Is the minimum income required for a family or individual to meet the basic food and non-food needs, also known as POVERTY LINE.

FOOD THRESHOLD

Is the minimum income required for a family or individual to meet the basic food needs, which satisfy the nutritional requirement for economically necessary and socially desirable physical activities.

POVERTY INCIDENCE

The proportion of families or individuals with per capita income less than the per capita POVERTY THRESHOLD to the total number of families or individuals.

SUBSISTENCE INCIDENCE

The proportion of families or individuals with per capita income less than the per capita FOOD THRESHOLD to the total number of families or individuals.

INCOME GAP

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.

POVERTY GAP

Refers to the income shortfall (expressed in proportion to the poverty threshold) of families with income below the poverty threshold, divided by the total number of families.

SEVERITY OF POVERTY

Is the total of the squared income shortfall (expressed in proportion to the poverty threshold) of families with income below the poverty threshold, divided by the total number of families. This is a poverty measure that is sensitive to income distribution among the poor.



NELIDA C. AMOLAR
(Chief Statistical Specialist)
Officer-in-Charge

MYA/MGMN/MJVN