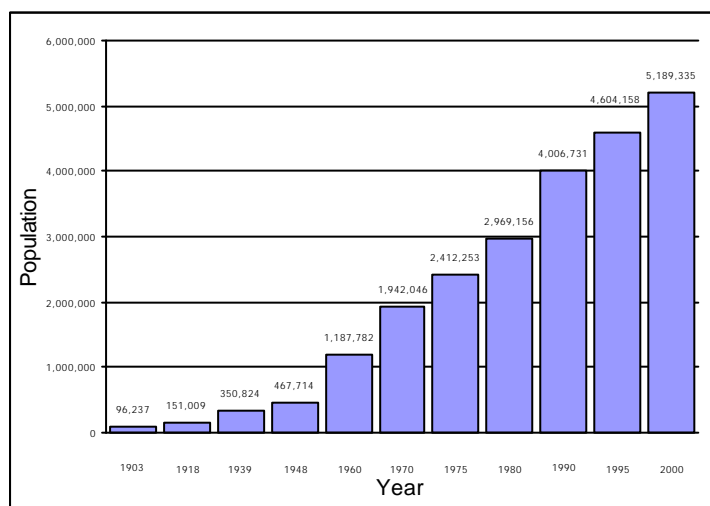




Southern Mindanao's population has quadrupled since 1960

The population of Southern Mindanao in 2000 is about 4.25 times higher than the region's population in 1960, as shown by the final results of Census 2000 by the National Statistics Office (NSO). It is now 5.2M compared to the 1.2M it registered in 1960, a difference of 4.0M. Moving forward, the populace has grown by 12.7 percent from 1995 to 2000, translating to additional 585,177 people in the region in the five year span.

Figure 1. Population Enumerated in Various Censuses, Southern Mindanao: 1903-2000

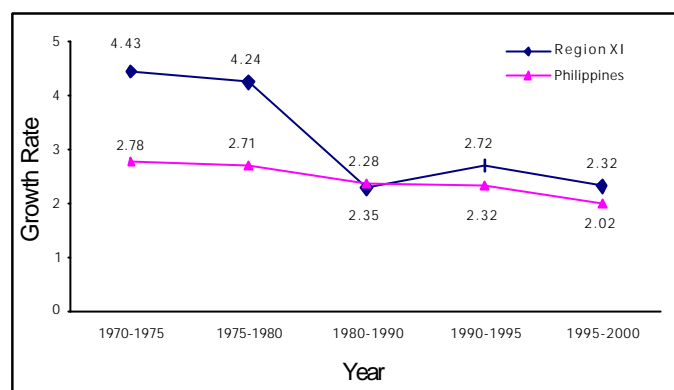


Like the other regions in the country, Southern Mindanao's population is increasing due to high birth rates and gradually decreasing death rates. However, its 2.32 percent annual population growth rate from 1995 to 2000 is lower by 0.40 percentage points compared to its 1990-1995 rate. The region registered its lowest growth rate in 1980-1990, at 2.28 percent, and its highest, in 1970-1975, at 4.43 percent.

Region XI has always registered higher annual population growth rates than the national figures since 1970 to the present, except during the years 1980-1990. Also, they had been moving in the same direction, except during 1990-1995, where the growth rate of the region became faster by 0.44 percentage points from the 2.26 percent growth rate it registered in 1980-1990. On the other hand, the rate for the whole Philippines fell by 0.03 percentage points during same years being compared.

Further, the Southern Mindanao experienced faster changes in the growth rates, compared to the Philippine figures. From the 4.43 percent growth rate of Southern Mindanao in 1970-1995, it fell by 0.19 percentage points in 1975-1980, to 4.24 percent.

Figure 2. Population Growth Rate, Philippines and Southern Mindanao: 1970-2000



Source of data: National Statistics Office

Meanwhile, the national figure fell by only 0.07 percentage point, from 2.78 percent in 1970-1975 to 2.71 percent in 1975-1980. The same pattern may be observed in succeeding years.

Among the provinces and cities in Southern Mindanao, Davao City still has the highest population in the region due to its progressive economic condition. Registering a total of 1,147,116 inhabitants in 2000, it comprised 22 percent of the region's total population. Following Davao City are Davao del Sur and Davao del Norte with a population of 758,801 and 743,881, respectively. Sarangani province has the least number of people, with 410,622.

Southern Mindanao Population, by Province/City: 1990, 1995, 2000

Province/City	Total Population		
	1990	1995	2000
Davao Oriental	394,697	413,472	446,191
Davao del Norte	1,056,301	1,191,443	743,811
Compostela Valley	a/	a/	580,244
Davao del Sur	1,482,745	1,683,909	758,801
South Cotabato	1,072,988	948,328	690,728
Sarangani	b/	367,006	410,622
Davao City	c/	c/	1,147,116
General Santos City	b/	b/	411,822
Southern Mindanao	4,006,731	4,604,158	5,189,335

a/ - included in Davao del Norte b/ - included in South Cotabato
c/ - included in Davao del Sur

Source of data: National Statistics Office