

More poor families in Region I as income inequality widens between 2003 and 2006

Table 1. Poverty Incidence, Magnitude of Poor Families and Poverty Threshold
Region I, 2000, 2003 and 2006

Province	Incidence of Families			Magnitude of Poor Families			Poverty Threshold ^{1/}		
	2000	2003	2006	2000	2003	2006	2000	2003	2006
Region I	29.5	24.4	26.2	237,910	213,846	248,443	12,687	13,281	15,956
Ilocos Norte	18.2	19.6	17.1	19,466	21,694	20,362	13,143	12,893	16,024
Ilocos Sur	30.4	22.8	27.2	35,189	28,302	35,779	13,515	12,824	16,922
La Union	33.2	24.6	27.6	42,654	33,163	40,641	12,978	13,356	16,732
Pangasinan	30.8	25.8	27.6	140,601	130,687	151,660	12,363	13,412	15,656

^{1/} Annual Per Capita (in Pesos)

Source of Data: National Statistical Coordination Board

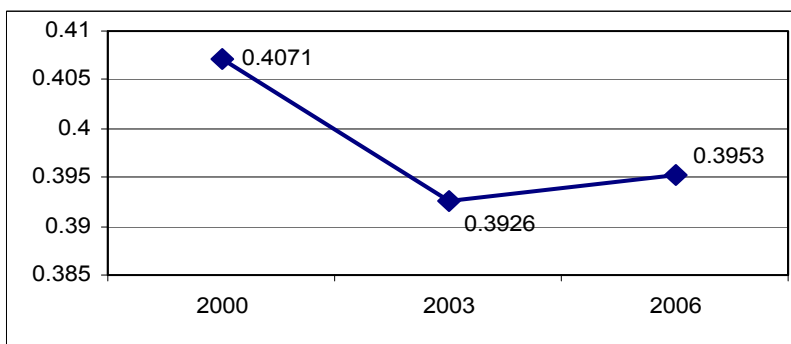
Between 2003 and 2006, about 11,532 families were added yearly to the number of poor families in the Ilocos Region.

Subsequently, the incidence of poor families went up to 26.2 percent in 2006, from 24.4 percent in 2003. The 2006 figure, however, was better than the 29.5 percent poverty incidence of families recorded in 2000.

Among the provinces, Ilocos Norte was the only province which posted a decrease in the magnitude of its poor families. The province recorded a lower poverty incidence of 17.1 percent in 2006 from 19.6 percent in 2003 as its magnitude of poor families went down by 6.1 percent. While the poverty incidences of the other three provinces rose in 2006, these were better than in 2000. Pangasinan had the largest magnitude of families added to its poor families with 20,973 between 2003 and 2006 or an additional 19 families added to its poor families every day. It ranked second, together with the province of Leyte, among the provinces with the highest percent share to the total poor families in the country at 3.2 percent. Negros Occidental had the highest percent share at 4.1 percent.

The region's poverty threshold grew 20.1 percent from P13,281 in 2003 to P15,956 in 2006. This means that a family of five would need about P6,648 a month in 2006 for them to satisfy their nutritional requirements and basic needs. The amount is P1,114 higher than what was required monthly in 2003. Poverty threshold is the minimum income needed by a family/individual to satisfy almost 100 percent of nutritional requirements and other basic needs.

Figure 1. Gini Concentration Ratio, Region I, 2000, 2003 and 2006



Source of Basic Data: National Statistics Office, Family Income and Expenditure Survey, 2003 and 2006 Final Results

Among the provinces, Ilocos Sur recorded the biggest growth in its poverty threshold growing 32.0 percent from P12,824 in 2003 to P16,922 in 2006. From needing only around P5,343 a month in 2003 for a family of five in Ilocos Sur to satisfy their nutritional requirements and other basic needs, they needed around P7,051 in 2006. All of the provinces, except Pangasinan, recorded higher poverty threshold than the region. Pangasinan's poverty threshold in 2006 was at P15,656, the lowest among the provinces and is 16.7 percent higher than in 2003. La Union remained the second province with the highest poverty threshold in the region with P16,732 while Ilocos Norte posted P16,024.

Meanwhile, the region's income inequality slightly widened as its Gini concentration ratio went up to 0.3953 in 2006. This was, however, better than the 2000 figure which showed a Gini concentration ratio of 0.4071. Gini concentration ratio is the measure of income inequality within a population. A Gini coefficient ranges from 0 to 1 with 1 indicating perfect income equality among families and 1 indicating absolute income inequality.

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