



## More police needed in Region XII

In 2008, there were 2,814 policemen providing peace and order security in Region XII to a population of 3.9 million. This means that every police in the region serves 1,386 people.

Based on Republic Act 6975, the standard police-to-population ratio in the Philippines is at least one police per 500 individuals. RA 6975, otherwise known as the Department of Local Government Act of 1990, established the Philippine National Police under a reorganized DILG.

Generally, the police to population (PTP) ratio in all provinces and cities in Region XII is higher than the 500 PTP standard indicating the need for more police personnel in the region. The highest PTP ratio was noted in South Cotabato at 1:2,102 followed by Cotabato Province at 1:2,010. Only Kidapawan City and Koronadal City were within the standard PTP ratio.

### POLICE TO POPULATION RATIO, REGION XII: 2006-2008

Province/City	2006	2007	2008
Cotabato	1:1,963	1:1,932	1:2,010
South Cotabato	1:2,057	1:2,508	1:2,102
Sarangani	1:2,262	1:2,308	1:1,676
Sultan Kudarat	1:1,167	1:1,168	1:1,163
Cotabato City	1:1,140	1:1,215	1:1,300
Koronadal City	1:524	1:534	1:529
Kidapawan City	1:559	1:468	1:502
General Santos City	1:1,334	1:1,371	1:1,303
Tacurong City	1:1,481	1:1,444	1:1,570
<b>Region XII</b>	<b>1:1,416</b>	<b>1:1,407</b>	<b>1:1,386</b>

Source of raw data: PNP-XII

The required number of police strength varies depending on the peace and order situation, population density, and actual demands of the service in a particular area, but the minimum police-to-population (PTP) ratio according to RA 6975 should be one police per 1,000 persons.

### Need to Enlist More Police

The population of Region XII was growing by 3.8 percent annually from 2000 to 2007. Police recruitment in the region increased by 4.0 percent in 2008 as against 3.1 percent in 2007. Sultan Kudarat with a police personnel of 518 had the largest police force in the region with Tacurong City having the leanest at 53.

To satisfy the ideal police to population ratio of 1:500 based on the RA 6975 standard, the region must enlist about 5,000 more police. To comply with the minimum requirement of one police per 1,000 population, the region needs to recruit an additional 1,086 police to beef-up its current force of 2,814.

Except for the Cities of Koronadal and Kidapawan, the rest of the provinces and cities in the region need more police to augment existing local security personnel in their areas. The recruitment of more police is expected to increase police visibility and help curb criminality in the region.

### POLICE REQUIREMENT, REGION XII: 2008

Province/City	1:1,000			1:500		
	Ideal No.	Current No.	Add'l	Ideal No.	Current No.	Add'l
Cotabato	1,021	508	513	2,042	508	1,534
South Cotabato	624	297	327	1,249	297	952
Sarangani	483	288	195	966	288	678
Sultan Kudarat	602	518	84	1,205	518	687
Cotabato City	272	209	63	543	209	334
Koronadal City	151	286	(135)	303	286	17
Kidapawan City	119	238	(119)	239	238	1
General Santos	543	417	126	1,087	417	670
Tacurong City	83	53	30	166	53	113
<b>Region XII</b>	<b>3,900</b>	<b>2,814</b>	<b>1,086</b>	<b>7,799</b>	<b>2,814</b>	<b>4,985</b>

Note: Figures may not add up due to rounding.

Source of raw data: PNP-XII

### Police Recruitment versus Criminality

The rise in criminalities in the region outpaced augmentation of the police force. In 2008 alone, criminalities reported to the PNP-XII rose by 20.5 as against an increase of 4.0 percent in police recruitment. Reported criminalities in the region rose by 217 crimes in 2008 from 1,056 in 2007. Draftees to the region's police force increased by 109 in 2008 from 2,705 in 2007.

### VOLUME OF CRIMES AND POLICE STRENGTH, REGION XII 2007-2008

Province/City	Volume of Crimes		Police Strength		07-08 Inc/Dec (%)	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	Crimes	Police
Cotabato	168	144	517	508	(10.0)	1.7
South Cotabato	125	184	299	297	47.2	(0.07)
Sarangani	79	83	205	288	5.1	40.5
Sultan Kudarat	229	326	505	518	42.4	2.6
Cotabato City	88	108	210	209	22.7	(0.5)
Koronadal City	71	85	279	286	19.7	2.5
Kidapawan City	90	120	250	238	33.3	25.2
General Santos City	139	126	383	417	(0.9)	8.9
Tacurong City	67	87	57	53	29.9	(7.0)
<b>Region XII</b>	<b>1,056</b>	<b>1,273</b>	<b>2,705</b>	<b>2,814</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>4.0</b>

Source: PNP-XII

The table above suggests that, generally, areas with increased police deployment had a corresponding decrease in criminalities in their areas of jurisdiction. This simply implies that police visibility is an important component in restraining occurrence of criminalities in the area.

Note: Population projections for 2006-2008 were generated from the results of the 2000 & 2007 Census of Population, using the annual average population growth rates of cities and provinces.