

Region XII Facts & Figures

Political Composition

Per *Executive Order 36 issued on 19 September 2001*, Region XII is now composed of the provinces of North Cotabato, Sarangani, South Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat, and the cities of Cotabato, General Santos, Kidapawan, Koronadal and Tacurong. The City of Koronadal is designated as the administrative center for the region.

Land Area

Region XII has a total land area of 19,165.87 sq. km., which is about 17% of the total land area of Mindanao. Among the four provinces of the region, North Cotabato has the biggest land area at 6,019.78 sq. km., which is about 30.4% of the region's land area. The smallest among the provinces is Sultan Kudarat with a land area of 4,401.06 sq. km.

Among the five cities of the region, General Santos City has the biggest land area at 668.49 sq. km., with Tacurong City as the smallest with a land area of 161.96 sq. km.

Population

The population of Region XII in 2007 was 3.829 million persons. This was almost 18% of the Mindanao total population. The average annual population growth rate from 2000 to 2007 was placed at 2.41%.

The population density of Region XII increased from 168 in 2000 to 169 persons per square kilometer in 2007. Cotabato City and General Santos City are the most densely populated areas in the region. The population density of these areas was 1,472 and 1,074 persons per sq. km., respectively in 2007.

Transportation

The region has a relatively well-developed transportation system, which is critical in strengthening its ties with other economic growth centers in other parts of the country and the world. It is served by an international airport located in General Santos City and a trunk line airport in Awang, Maguindanao in the ARMM.

The port of General Santos City is the biggest seaport of the region, which was categorized as port of entry, and caters to large inter-island vessels for passengers and cargo. It also accommodates international vessels from Singapore, Japan, Malaysia and Indonesia. The region has one sub-port located in Cotabato City and 2 municipal ports located in Kalamansig and Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat Province.

Communication

Aside from the transportation network, the region is linked with the rest of the world thru modern telecommunications facilities. Major private telephone carriers are serving the region, such as the PLDT, Bayantel, Smart, Globe and Sun Cellular, among others. Cellular sites, as well as, Internet service providers, are generally present in urban centers of the region. However, it is recognized that these services should also reach the rural areas for increased accessibility to centers of economic growth.

Economy

Region XII is endowed with rich natural resources and has the potential of becoming one of the fastest growing regional economies in the country. The provinces of South Cotabato, Sarangani and Sultan Kudarat, as well as, General Santos City (SOCSKSARGEN), had been

provided with modern infrastructure support under SOCSKSARGEN Area Development Project. The province of North Cotabato and neighboring provinces are recipients of the Malitbog-Maridagao Irrigation Project. All these initiatives were meant to support agricultural activities in the region as a major food supplier to domestic and export markets.

The cities of Cotabato and General Santos serve as the region's major financial, business, institutional, education and service centers.

The economy of the region slightly expanded as it grew from 6.6 percent in 2006 to 6.7 percent in 2007. The impressive performance of the Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry (AFF) sector was offset by the decelerated growths posted by the industry and services sectors.

Major Crops

The major crops in the region are as follows: Rice, Corn, Coconut, Pineapple, Oil Palm, Coffee, Sugarcane, Banana, Rubber, Asparagus and Mango.

Investments and Exports

The total value of investments generated in the first semester of 2008 amounted to P3.288 Billion, or 63 percent higher than last years record of P2.015 Billion.

The total export earnings of the region in the third quarter of 2008 was US\$136.433 Million, which grew by 22 percent compared with last year's earnings of US\$111.781 Million.

The major exports of the region are: Fresh/Canned/Frozen tuna, Other fish products, Fresh/Canned pineapples, Frozen octopus/shrimps, Fresh bananas, Coconut/Crude/Cochin-type coconut oil, Copra pellets,

Cutflowers, Asparagus and Okra, Abaca pulp, Garments, Aquaculture products, Banana Chips, Steel scrap, Gifts and Houseware products.

Tourism

Tourist arrivals in the region during the first semester of 2008 reached 293,937 visitors. This figure however, is about 8.0 percent lower than the total visitors in the first semester of last year.

Inflation

The average inflation rate for the first semester of 2008 was estimated at 10.4 percent, reflecting an increase of 7.3 percentage points from last year's estimate of 3.1 percent.

Employment

Employment rate in January 2008 was estimated at 95.4 percent, which is translated to a total of 1.505 million employed persons. Underemployment rate was estimated at 22.5 percent, an improvement of about 1.2 percentage points from the previous year's figure.

Poverty

Poverty incidence or the proportion of families who are poor or are living below the poverty threshold was estimated at about 34 for every 100

households in 2006. The annual poverty threshold or the minimum amount needed by each person in 2006 to be able to buy his basic needs for food, clothing and shelter was estimated at P14,225.00 per annum.

