

# SPECIAL RELEASE

## Highlights of the Population of the Province of Davao Occidental (Based on the Results of 2024 Census of Population)

Date of Release: 22 July 2025  
Reference No.: SR-2025-31

Based on the 2024 Census of Population (2024 POPCEN), the total population of Davao Occidental as of 01 July 2024 was 317,598. The total population of Davao Occidental accounted for about 6.0 percent of Davao Region's population in 2024.

The 2024 total population of the province is higher by 439 persons compared with the population of 317,159 persons in 2020 and by 1,744 persons compared with the population of 316,342 persons in 2015. (Table 1)

**Table 1. Total Population of Davao Occidental Based on Various Censuses**

Census Year	Census Reference Date	Total Population
2000	May 1, 2000	254,512
2010	May 1, 2010	293,780
2015	August 1, 2015	316,342
2020	May 1, 2020	317,159
2024	July 1, 2024	317,598

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

The total population of Davao Occidental increased by 0.03 percent annually, on average, during the period of 2020 to 2024. By comparison, the rate at which the provincial population grew during the period of 2015 to 2020 was slightly higher at 0.05 percent. (Table 2)

If the population continues to grow at an annual rate of 0.03 percent, the province will double its size in 2,310 years.

**Table 2. Annual Population Growth Rate of Davao Occidental  
Based on Various Censuses**

Intercensal Period	Annual Population Growth Rate (%)
2000 to 2010	1.44
2010 to 2015	1.42
2015 to 2020	0.05
2020 to 2024	0.03

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

Among the five municipalities comprising the province, Malita had the biggest population in 2024 with 118,438 persons, followed by Jose Abad Santos with 72,552, Santa Maria with 58,886, and Don Marcelino with 45,681. Sarangani had the smallest population with 22,041. (Table 3)

Thirty-seven (37) in every 100 persons in the province are living in the Municipality of Malita.

**Table 3. Total Population by Municipality: Davao Occidental  
Based on Various Censuses**

Municipality	Total Population				
	2000	2010	2015	2020	2024
Don Marcelino	33,403	41,942	44,554	45,540	45,681
Jose Abad Santos	57,147	69,631	78,332	73,381	72,552
Malita	100,000	109,568	117,746	118,197	118,438
Santa Maria	45,571	49,349	53,671	57,526	58,886
Sarangani	18,391	23,290	24,039	22,515	22,041

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

From 2020 to 2024, Santa Maria was the fastest growing municipality in the province with an average annual population growth rate (PGR) of 0.56 percent. It was followed by Don Marcelino with a PGR of 0.07 percent and Malita with a PGR of 0.05 percent. On the other hand, Jose Abad Santos and Sarangani posted a negative growth with a PGR of -0.27 percent and -0.51 percent respectively. (Table 4)

**Table 4. Annual Population Growth Rate by Municipality:  
Davao Occidental  
Based on Various Censuses**

Province/Municipality	Population Growth Rate (in percent)			
	2000-2010	2010-2015	2015-2020	2020-2024
<b>Davao Occidental</b>	1.44	1.42	0.05	0.03
Don Marcelino	2.30	1.16	0.46	0.07
Jose Abad Santos	1.99	1.76	-0.83	-0.27
Malita	0.92	1.38	0.08	0.05
Santa Maria	0.80	1.61	1.47	0.56
Sarangani	2.39	0.60	-1.37	-0.51

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

Of the 105 barangays, three barangays posted more than 10,000 inhabitants (Table 5), while four barangays with less than 1,000 population (Table 6).

**Table 5. Barangays with more than 10,000 Population:  
Davao Occidental, 2024**

Barangay	Municipality	Total Population
Poblacion	Malita	20,289
Little Baguio	Malita	12,848
Poblacion	Santa Maria	10,422

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2024 Census of Population

**Table 6. Barangays with less than 1,000 Population:  
Davao Occidental, 2024**

Barangay	Municipality	Total Population
Datu Daligasao	Santa Maria	999
Kitayo	Jose Abad Santos	836
Tucal	Sarangani	791

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2024 Census of Population

With a total land area of approximately 2,163.45 square kilometer, the population density of Davao Occidental in 2024 was posted at 147 persons per square kilometer. This is same population density posted in 2020.

**Table 7. Davao Occidental Population Density  
Based on Various Censuses**

Census Year	Population Density (Person per Square Kilometer of Land)
2000	118
2010	135
2015	146
2020	147
2024	147

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, *2024 Census of Population*  
Land Manage Bureau, 2013 Masterlist of Land Areas of Cities and Municipalities

The population figures used in this report were from the results of the 2024 Census of Population. To derive the population density of the number of persons per square kilometer of land, only the population residing in Philippine territories were considered at the national level. Hence, Filipinos in Philippine embassies, consulates, and missions abroad were excluded from the population count. Meanwhile, the land areas were based on the 2013 Masterlist of Land Areas of Cities and Municipalities provided by the Land Management Bureau (LMB) to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

**TECHNICAL NOTES**

<i>Population growth rate</i>	the rate at which the population is increasing (or decreasing) in a given period due to natural increase and net migration, expressed as a percentage of the base population
<i>Total population</i>	the sum of the household population and institutional population. It also includes Filipinos in Philippine embassies, consulates, and missions abroad
<i>Population Density</i>	refers to persons per square kilometer of land
<i>Reference Period</i>	All living persons as of 12:01 a.m. of 01 July 2024 will be enumerated

The 2024 POPCEN was undertaken by the Philippine Statistics Authority pursuant to Republic Act No. 10625, also known as the *Philippine Statistical Act of 2013*, Executive Order No. 352 – *Designation of Statistical Activities That Will Generate Critical Data for Decision-Making of the Government and the Private Sector*, and Batas Pambansa (BP) Bilang 72, which provide the basis for the decennial conduct of the integrated census of population and housing.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has declared official for all purposes the population counts by province, city/municipality, and barangay based on the 2024 POPCEN under Proclamation No. 973 dated 11 July 2025. The population counts were based on census questionnaires administered by about 70,000 enumerators deployed during the nationwide census taking.

The PSA extends its deepest appreciation to the public for their continued support and participation in the 2024 POPCEN. This census marks the 16th Census of Population in the Philippines since the first census in 1903.

Approved for Release:

**JESSIE A. MADULIN**

Chief Statistical Specialist

  
MLB/RST