

Poverty & Equity Brief

Middle East & North Africa

Tunisia

April 2019

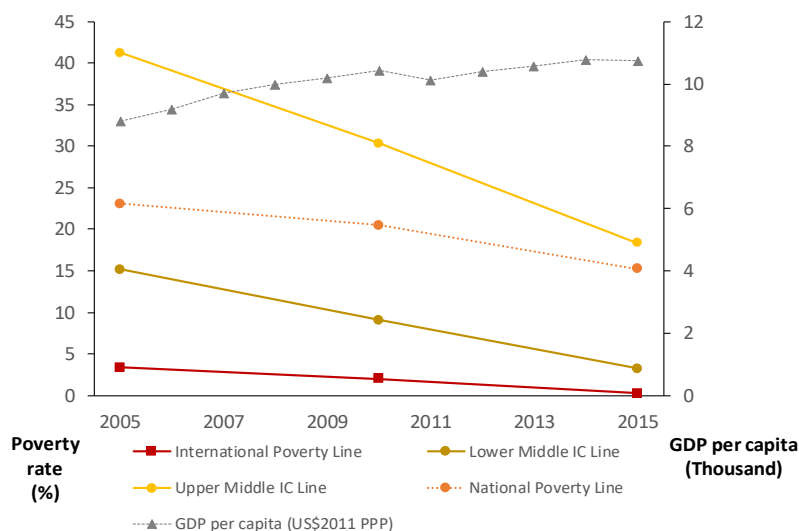
The latest numbers for Tunisia refer to 2015, when the Tunisian National Statistics Institute (INS) published a new series of poverty rates based on the consumption patterns observed in the 2015 Household Budget Consumption and Living Conditions Survey. According to official numbers, the 2015 poverty rate in the country was 15.2 percent, significantly lower than the rate of 20.5 percent in 2010 and 23.1 percent in 2005. Likewise, when measured with international poverty lines (1.9 \$ PPP and 3.2 \$ PPP) the decline is also sharp. Using the International poverty rate 1.9 \$ PPP, poverty in 2015 is almost eradicated (below 1 percent) while using the lower middle-income poverty line (3.2 \$ PPP) poverty fell to 3.2 percent from 9.0 percent in 2010.

Looking at the spatial distribution, poverty is typically concentrated in the Nord West (28.4 percent) and Centre West (30.8 percent) landlocked regions. Poverty rates decrease moving towards the coastal North Est (11.6 percent), Centre Est (11.4 percent) and Greater Tunis (5.3 percent) regions, although there are pockets of relatively high poverty rates there as well. Inequality seems to have followed a downward path in the 2005-2015 period. The Gini index according to official numbers was 36.0 in 2005, dropping to 33.9 in 2010 and to 32.8 in 2015.

POVERTY	Number of Poor (thousand)	Rate (%)	Period
National Poverty Line	1,713.6	15.2	2015
International Poverty Line 1.6 in Tunisian dinar (2015) or US\$1.90 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	29.4	0.3	2015
Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line 2.8 in Tunisian dinar (2015) or US\$3.20 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	361.8	3.2	2015
Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line 4.8 in Tunisian dinar (2015) or US\$5.50 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	2,065.3	18.3	2015
SHARED PROSPERITY			
Annualized Consumption Growth per capita of the bottom 40 percent		4.97	2010-2015
INEQUALITY			
Gini Index		32.8	2015
Shared Prosperity Premium = Growth of the bottom 40 - Average Growth		1.96	2010-2015
GROWTH			
Annualized GDP per capita growth		0.6	2010-2015
Annualized Consumption Growth per capita from Household Survey		3.00	2010-2015

Sources: WDI for GDP, National Statistical Offices for national poverty rates, POVCALNET as of March 2019, and Global Monitoring Database for the rest.

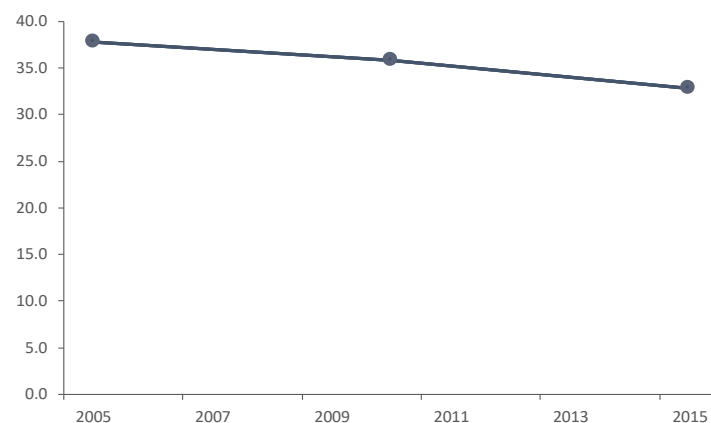
POVERTY HEADCOUNT RATE, 2005-2015



Source: World Bank using NSHBCSL/MNAPOV/GMD

INEQUALITY TRENDS, 2005-2015

Gini Index



Source: World Bank using NSHBCSL/MNAPOV/GMD

KEY INDICATORS (distribution among groups)

	Lower Middle Income line (%)		Relative Group (%)		Year
	Non-Poor	Poor	Bottom 40	Top 60	
Urban population	97	3	27	73	2010
Rural population	79	21	64	36	2010
Males	91	9	41	59	2010
Females	91	9	39	61	2010
0 to 14 years old	86	14	50	50	2010
15 to 64 years old	92	8	37	63	2010
65 and older	93	7	36	64	2010
Without education (age 16 and older)	86	14	51	49	2010
Primary education (age 16 and older)	91	9	44	56	2010
Secondary education (age 16 and older)	97	3	26	74	2010
Tertiary/post-secondary education (age 16 and older)	98	2	15	85	2010

Source: World Bank using Global Monitoring Database

POVERTY DATA AND METHODOLOGY

The National Institute of Statistics designs and applies the poverty measurement methodology in Tunisia. Using the most recent survey data from 2015, the INS conducted a full recalculation of their poverty line to define the thresholds of minimum standard of living in the country. The welfare aggregate is based on a consumption expenditure measure that includes food, education, health, dwelling related expenditures, communications and transportation, clothing, entertainment, and an estimate of rental values for the dwelling where the household resides. The welfare aggregate is not spatially or temporally deflated for poverty measurement, but spatially adjusted using poverty lines for calculating the Gini index. Three poverty lines in Dinars (TND) per person per year are estimated and used to calculate the official poverty rates: Metropolitan areas (TND 1878), Communal (TND 1703) and Non-communal (TND 1501). On average, the poverty line is TND 1706, which roughly translates into \$2.6 USD/PPP.

HARMONIZATION

The numbers presented in this brief are based on the MNAPOV database. MNAPOV is a new data collection effort enacted in 2014, and managed by MNATSD. It covers 36 surveys from 11 countries. Two data points (surveys) are available for each country, except Algeria. The database is organized in 3 modules following the Global Monitoring Database (GMD) Harmonization guidelines, including the welfare aggregate which is used for Global Poverty Monitoring. Terms of use of the data adhere to agreements with the original data producers.