

Improve the Growth Quality of the Southern Key Economic Region of Vietnam from a Social Perspective

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ABSTRACT: The objective of this paper is to analyze and evaluate the quality of economic growth in the Southern key economic region from a social perspective. The paper used the indicators of social welfare, social justice, and poverty reduction to analyze GDP, education expenditure to GDP, total budget expenditure, ratio of expenditure on education, only number of human development, per capita income, average monthly salary of employees, number of employees aged 15 and above, and poverty rate. The results showed that the HDI increases every year and higher than the national HDI, but the HDI of the region is still low compared to HDI of countries like Thailand, Philippines, and Malaysia; the gap between the poorest population groups in each local of the region occurs. The income of the agricultural production sector is at a low level and grows slowly, from which the article proposes some solutions to improve the growth quality of the Southern key economic region.

Keywords: Quality of economic growth, Southern key economic region.

1 INTRODUCTION

After more than 20 years of master plan for socio-economic development of the key economic region, the Southern key economic region (including 8 provinces and cities: Ho Chi Minh City, Binh Duong, Dong Nai, Ba Ria Vung Tau, Binh Phuoc, Tay Ninh, Long An, and Tien Giang) have recorded very important achievements in socio-economic development (in 2017, the region produced more than 45% of GDP, nearly 46% of national export turnover; contributed nearly 50 % of national budget, gross domestic product per capita is nearly 2.1 times higher than the national average). Economic growth is happening quickly, besides significant improvements in some crucial indicators of the quality of economic growth such as positive economic restructuring, international economic integration, people's lives are improved; the international community highly appreciates poverty reduction achievements. However, in general, the quality of economic growth in the southern key economic region is still low. Mainly, there are times when instability occurs during the slowdown of economic growth, and there are still many issues that need to be addressed. Therefore, the assessment and

analysis of the status of growth quality of the southern key economic region from a social perspective will contribute to solutions and policies to effectively use resources to improve quality of economic growth of the region.

In a narrow sense, the quality of economic growth can be understood as the efficiency of investment, assessed through ICOR, the quality of education, public services, social management, GDP, economic structure, the competitiveness and productivity of each product, each enterprise, each industry, and the whole economy are considered similar to the concept of total factor productivity and assessment of total factor productivity. Thus, the quality of growth is an internal attribute of the process of economic growth, expressed through the indicators reflecting the efficiency of achieving the quantity of growth and the ability to maintain it in the long-term (Nguyen & Le 2005).

In a broader sense, the quality of growth can reach the connotation of a perspective on sustainable development, focusing on all three components: economic, social, and environmental. Thus, the growth becomes more comprehensive and is improved one step ahead. Growth is not merely an increase in per capita income, but two equally

important goals are to maintain high growth rates in the long-term and increase income must be associated with increasing quality of life or increase welfare and reduce poverty. This also means that the growth does not necessarily be too high but at a reasonable and sustainable level (Tang 2018).

According to the World Bank and empirical studies by a number of economists such as Lucas (1995); Sen (1998); and Stiglitz (2001) instate of Nguyen (2017) the quality of economic growth is concentrated mainly on six criteria:

Firstly, the economic growth rate is stable for a relatively long time and avoiding external fluctuations. Secondly, economic growth must ensure improving economic efficiency and competitiveness of the economy. Thirdly, economic growth is reflected in the contribution of high and constantly increasing TFP factor. Fourthly, economic growth must be accompanied by sustainable environmental development. Fifthly, economic growth must reach the goal of improving social welfare and reducing poverty. Sixthly, economic growth must support democratic institutions that are always innovative, in turn promoting economic growth at a higher rate (Ho & Nguyen 2015).

Thus, from the above views and concepts, the author can give an overview of the concept of the quality of economic growth, namely: The quality of economic growth includes economic growth and sustainable development, related to four components, namely economic, environmental, institutional and social. Good quality of economic growth is seen with consistent and stable economic growth, a sustainable protected environment, effective state management, and improved quality of life for the people (Nguyen 2017)

Firstly, economic growth is associated with poverty reduction and meeting essential social services: For developing countries, where the poor are still the majority, policies addressing poverty are crucial to the quality of economic growth. The policies related to the economic, social, cultural, political, and environmental fields in order to, directly and indirectly, affect the underlying causes of poverty and create equal opportunities for all people. These are policies to support education, health care, build essential infrastructure, incentives for investment capital, and promote ownership of the poor to help them overcome difficulties and narrow the gap of development level.

Through poverty reduction policies, the government creates favorable conditions for the poor - the most vulnerable group in the process of improving the quality of economic growth and

international economic integration - potentially sustainable escape from poverty. To a certain extent, in the short run, when distributing a significant portion of social income to the poverty reduction program, resources for economic growth may be affected, but holistically in the long term, poverty reduction results in creating fast and sustainable economic growth as well as improving the quality of economic growth. Therefore, to improve the quality of economic growth, governments need to devise appropriate development models to help the poor improve their living standards.

Sen (1976) instead of Le & Hoang (2010) has given an index to link the advantages of the three types of indexes. The following formula calculates the index:

$$P_s = P_0 \left(1 - (1 - G^P) \frac{\mu^P}{z} \right) \quad (1)$$

where P_0 = the first count, which is equal to the number of poor people divided by the total number of people in the population sample; μ^P is the average income or expenditure of the poor; G^P is the Gini coefficient that shows inequality among the poor. z is the poverty line.

Secondly, economic growth is associated with job creation: The quality of a nation's economic growth is expressed through job creation for the population, which promotes TFP growth and makes the economy grow. It is possible to use indicators such as the unemployment rate and the labor force participation rate. The unemployment rate is a statistical indicator that indicates the percentage of people who want to work but do not have a job, calculated by the following formula:

$$\text{UnemploymentRate} = \frac{\text{NumberOfEmployment}}{\text{LaborForce}} \times 100 \quad (2)$$

The labor force participation rate is calculated as the percentage of the adult population participating in the labor force:

$$\text{LaborForceParticipationRate} = \frac{\text{LaborForce}}{\text{AdultPopulation}(>16\text{yearsOld})} \times 100 \quad (3)$$

Thirdly, economic growth is associated with social justice: In many countries, although GDP per capita is high, the living standards of the majority of the population have not been improved accordingly, and the benefits of growth fall into the hands of a small group in society, so it is difficult to say they have achieved the goal of improving the quality of

growth. According to the assessment, the more equitable the society, the faster the economic growth is. When wealth is concentrated in a small group of wealthy people, social forces cannot grow. However, if the benefits are shared or invested too much for welfare, the goal of rapid growth may be threatened and seriously affect the development process (Le & Hoang 2010).

The Gini coefficient is calculated based on the Lorenz curve (Dao & Nguyen 2014), indicating the level of inequality in society. The closer the Gini coefficient to 1, the higher the level of inequality will be. According to Sen (1973) instead of Asghar et al. (2012), the Gini coefficient can also be calculated by the following formula:

$$G = 1 + \frac{1}{n} - \frac{2}{n^2 M} \sum_{i=1}^n R_i Y_i \quad (3)$$

where n = the number of sample households; Y_i = the expenditure level or per capita income corresponding to the i rank; M = the average expenditure or sample income; R_i = the i th order of households with income or per capita income Y_i in descending order.

2 RESEARCH METHODS

The author used secondary data of 8 provinces/cities in the southern key economic region over the 2013 - 2017 period and cited three primary sources: General Statistics Office, Local Statistical Departments, and World Bank. All the above data have been adjusted to the same comparison based in 2010. The author analyzed and synthesized the survey data collected on the statistical units according to the selection criteria, from which data processing; statistics described by specific parameters such as relative number, absolute number, average number, median, standard deviation, maximum and minimum for analysis and evaluation of size and structure; using the method of time series in statistics to analyze the changes in the quality of economic growth over the years of localities and the southern key economic region.

3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Firstly, successes in human development in the southern key economic region. According to a report of the Institute of Human Studies of the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences from 2013 to 2017 and the author's calculations from the Statistical Year-

book of Provinces and Cities in the region, HDI and the constituent values of the region's HDI are as follows:

Table 1 (see appendix) shows that the HDI of the southern key economic region improved from 2013 to 2017. Thus, in only 5 years, the increase of HDI was due to the education index and income index. Thus, in only five years, the increase of HDI was due to the education index and income index.

Compared with the country's HDI, the region's HDI is higher than the country's HDI over the years. The specific reason for the increase in the region's HDI is that in addition to the economic development goals, the southern key economic region pays attention to the universalization of education, the increase in the adult literacy rate, and the right level of upper secondary education age, per capita income increase, this is considered a remarkable achievement for the most significant key region in the country.

The life expectancy index: The average life expectancy at birth of the southern key economic region increased slightly over the years from 2013 to 2017. However, the life expectancy index over the years decreased due to a significant difference between the lowest life expectancy over the years (in 2013 was 73.39 years) and the highest average life expectancy over the years (in 2017 was 76.60 years old) as well as there was a considerable difference between provinces and cities of the region over the years. Furthermore, in 2017, it reached 75.71 years of age with the life expectancy index of 0.687 exceeding the target until 2020 is 73 years old and higher than the world average, developing countries and the equivalent of Asia - Pacific countries.

Income index: GDP per capita in US\$ of the Southern key economic region has improved significantly over the years from 2013 - 2017. Thus, on average, the income index increases by two every year. Although this index is much lower than the HDI of the region, in terms of speed, this index increased faster than the HDI (0.92%). This indicates that the increase of the region's HDI is due to the enormous contribution of the region's income index.

Education index: From 2013 - 2017, the southern key economic region has quite a high educational index. Particularly, in 2017, it reached 0.895, the highest among the 3 constituent indexes of regional HDI. The educational index of the region is much higher than the national and regional HDI. The above results are achieved by the 99.9% adult literacy rate (2017), which is much higher than other countries in the country and 68.5% of the right age

for upper secondary education (2017), higher than the national average of 64%.

The southern key economic region has prioritized spending on education in both policy and practice. In 2017, the total value of education expenditure for the region was VND 29 trillion, accounting for only 1.74% of the region's GDP. Compared to the total educational expenditure of the whole country at VND 217 trillion, accounting for 6.65% of the national GDP, the region's educational expenditure is quite low. However, when considering the region's educational expenditure over the region's total public expenditure, the ratio of 15.19% is higher than the country's educational expenditure to total national spending by 14.84%. Compared to other sectors, the region's education has also been given priority, whereby education expenditure in public spending accounts for a relatively high proportion. Thus, in terms of the proportion of GDP, public spending of the region is quite low compared to the whole country. With the goal of continuing to increase spending on education by 2020, it will create conditions for further improvement of education quality and effectiveness of education, thereby contributing to the improvement of national goals.

In recent years, due to increased investment in education, the educational situation of the southern key economic region has improved significantly both in quantity and quality. The percentage of school-aged children attending school is quite high. Specifically, in 2017, Primary school was 99.9%; Lower secondary is 92.8%, and upper secondary school is 85.4%. Thus, the percentage of students attending at all levels in recent years has increased significantly. Notably, the percentage of students attending junior and senior high schools has increased sharply. The attendance rate at the right age of the region has also increased over the years. However, this rate in localities of the region is quite large. Therefore, in order to make further strides in education in general and high school in particular, it is essential to pay attention to investment in the problematic areas of the region.

Secondly, a number of problems exist. (i) About HDI: Although the HDI of the southern key economic region is improving year by year and higher than the national HDI, the region's HDI is still low compared to the HDI values of Asian and regional countries such as Thailand, Philippines, Malaysia. Moreover, from 2013 to 2017, the region's HDI slowly increased. The speed of improvement of the HDI ranking of the region relatively tends to decrease, while HDI of Asian countries and in the region tends to increase, such as China, India has an annual increase of over 10%. (ii) Constituent

indexes The component indexes remain low and change unevenly: The education index and the income index increase, but from 2015 to 2017, the life index decreased by 0.011 points or 1.1%.

Income index: One of the factors that makes the region's HDI remain low is the low GDP per capita (although some localities have high GDP per capita; rather high in terms of average GDP among localities of the region), while this is a prerequisite for implementing health care and improving life expectancy and education. Moreover, the region's HDI increased mainly due to the increase in GDP per capita.

Education Index: The education index is always the highest among the two remaining constituents of the region's HDI and has continuously increased over the years, from 0.871 points (the year 2013) to 0.895 points (the year 2017). Although the education index is high, it is mainly based on quantity (the percentage of adults who are literate and the rate of general education at the right age), while the quality of education from high school to university is low, running more quantity is quality.

Longevity index: Rate of health spending in the region's total state budget expenditure increases annually from 2013 to 2017. In fact, the state budget for health development and care for the health of the region is not enough to quickly increase the quality of medical examination and treatment and health services, modernize the health system, health service system, improve the capacity of producing essential medicines for people.

Besides the economic growth of the southern key economic region, social justice is also considered an important achievement of the region. Therefore, in this section, the author analyzes three factors: income inequality, gender inequality, and poverty reduction.

The southern key economic region has a high and stable development speed, with an average of 7.06% over the period of 2013-2017. The region has made great achievements in the development process, but the income inequality, as well as the gap between rich and poor, have widened.

Table 3 (see on appendix) shows that the difference in average per capita income per month by the method of calculating the difference in per capita income per month between the highest income group and the lowest income group of the southern key economic region is as follows: Through 2014 and 2016, the average monthly income per capita of the lowest and highest income groups of localities in the region in 2016 increased compared to 2014; there is a quite high difference of the lowest income group and the highest income

group of the localities of each region; there is a quite significant difference between the group with the highest monthly income per capita compared to the lowest monthly income per capita group in the region. Thus, the disparity in income between the highest-income group and the lowest-income group over the past two years has increased, which shows that the rich-poor gap of the southern key economic region tends to widen. However, this gap does not mean that the income of the poor is low. In fact, in recent years, the average income of the region compared to the whole country is quite high and has been improved every year. The poverty rate has decreased significantly. In the past, the spread has increased relatively quickly, and it is likely to increase even more soon.

The southern key economic region has been promoting gender equality in recent years, as reflected in the proportion of female students at the secondary level increased from 92.4% in 2013 to 96.5% in 2017. In university, the rate of females increased significantly; in the People's Council of provinces and cities is 25.8% and in communes and wards is 22.3%. Maternal and child health care has been focused as most children are able to enjoy their fundamental rights such as birth, health care, education, and social welfare policies. Males and females account for the same proportion in the labor force; the percentage of employees aged 15 and overworking is not much different, males account for 55.2%, and females account for 44.8% of the total.

Gender inequality persists in inequality in terms of economic opportunities, income and labor and time allocation. In addition, the income gap between male and female still exists, females earn less than males in all professions. In the Southern key economic region, the average monthly salary of female accounts for 85% - 91% of the male salary. This ratio in urban areas is also 85% - 91% and in rural areas is from 84% - 91% (in 2017), which shows that there is not much difference in female salary compared to males in both urban and rural areas. This situation can be clearly seen by the fact that employers pay female workers 9% - 15% less than males, even though they have the same job. Inequality of income in labor can come from many reasons, including differences in educational level, expertise, work experience, and other causes plus discrimination that have existed for a long time.

Table 4 (see on appendix) on the classification of occupation groups by gender shows that males account for the majority of jobs in leadership positions, high-level technical experts, with high incomes and opportunities for advancement. Female

makes up the majority in low-income jobs, with limited promotion possibilities. In terms of working time, while female and male work with the same number of hours in production and business, the female spends 2.5 times more every day on housework than males in urban areas and 2.3 times in rural areas. Although gender inequality has decreased markedly, there are still labor inequalities between females and males.

In more than 30 years of renovation, the implementation of mechanisms and policies in line with our country's practical achievements, significant achievements have been achieved in increasing incomes and reducing poverty. Poverty is a socio-economic problem that the southern key economic region has paid great attention to and achieved particular successes.

As people's lives have improved, along with the general orientation of gradually approaching the level of developing countries in the region, the poverty line has been revised, taking into account the influence factor. According to the government's poverty line for the period of 2011-2015, Table 5 shows that from 2012 to 2016, the percentage of poor households in the key economic areas in the South has decreased significantly, including the local government has sharply reduced and the poverty rate to less than 1%.

4 CONCLUSION

Although the southern key economic region has gained some important achievements in recent years, there are still many difficulties at present: although the region's HDI is constantly improving every year and higher than the country's HDI, the region's HDI is still low compared to the HDI values of Asian countries and in the region such as Thailand, the Philippines, and Malaysia.

The income gap of the poorest population groups in each region of the region, such as rural areas and mountainous ethnic minorities, is growing, and there is an increasing trend. The income of agricultural production is low and increases slowly, while the poor are mainly concentrated in this area. The economic restructuring in order to create non-agricultural jobs in rural areas currently faces many difficulties.

Resources mobilization for poverty reduction and program are still modest. Meanwhile, some localities have not proactively mobilized or not commensurate with the potential of local resources; It has not been integrated harmoniously to all kinds of resources in the same area and has not synchronized with the

active participation of businesses, organizations, and individuals who are willing to eliminate hunger and reduce poverty.

A number of mechanisms, policies, and measures to support poverty reduction are not really appropriate, the implementation is still inadequate and subsidized; thus, it does not create incentives for the poor to take the initiative in overcoming poverty. Subsidy for medical examination and treatment are still low; subsidy and price subsidy policies are also unreasonable; the preferential credit loan level is low and not really suitable for the production and business cycle.

The implementation of hunger elimination and poverty reduction programs is uneven in some localities. Staff are both lacking in number and weak in capacity. The majority of program implementation officers at the community level are concurrent, not regularly trained, and fostered.

Human resource development. The region implements solutions to bridge the gap between labor supply and demand; plan and adjust the education network system associated with the socio-economic plan of the whole region and each locality; encourage and diversify forms of training, especially vocational training; improve the business environment, and support non-agricultural activities, cottage industries, and handicrafts, especially labor-intensive industries to create jobs in rural areas. Moreover, the region needs to expand external economic relations, actively participate in regional and international labor markets in order to boost labor export; expand exchanges of education and training with countries, and access to the most advanced education and training models. There are policies to attract more foreign professors and experts to teach, conduct research, exchange, and share experiences. Expand forms such as twinning, cooperating between universities of the region's localities, and foreign universities to provide high-quality training according to international standards.

Renew the mechanism of mobilizing domestic and foreign resources and developing the capital market. Clearing up accumulated and idle resources among the population through investment socialization. Developing stock and corporate bond markets to create conditions for businesses to mobilize social resources; the regional government needs to find capable investors and effectively implement the policy of socialization for all sectors and fields through public-private partnership (PPP), stimulate capital demand society to reduce local budget pressures. At the same time, the organization connects investors with banks, credit institutions, and assists businesses in accessing loans.

Expand international cooperation and take advantage of the region. Enhancing startup support activities from the budget to support startups and individual business to switch to businesses; adding startup projects to the investment stimulus program; apply modern management model, invest in modernizing equipment through investment stimulus program, bank - enterprise connection program; and equal access to local resources.

Infrastructure development. Concentrate State resources to invest and synchronize socio-economic infrastructure, especially key transport infrastructures, with spillover effects and create regional links (works on axes centripetal, belts, roads connecting seaports and international transport corridors); prioritize investment in axes and belt routes in order to consolidate the linkage between the center and the periphery and relieve congestion; open new highways; connect transportation system with port - logistics cluster system of Ho Chi Minh City, Dong Nai Province, and Ba Ria Vung Tau.

Promote the advantages of integration for business development. Strengthen interregional cooperation through cooperation and coordination programs for interregional development. To take measures to encourage the attraction of capital from enterprises from Ho Chi Minh City and the Southeast as well as other regions in order to prioritize the development of key products; develop and diversify modern types of retail trade, e-commerce, products and export markets, in which domestic retail enterprises play a leading role in guiding the market; develop tourism in combination with investment, procurement and medical treatment; attach great importance to the development of hi-tech service industries to keep up with the regional and world advanced level such as telecommunications, banking, commerce, tourism, hotel and restaurant services, with a view to improve the economic efficiency of industrial-agricultural production, associate production with domestic and foreign markets; priority is given to the development of a network of logistics centers such as modern warehousing, storage services, transportation ports, maritime logistics, and import-export.

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APPENDIX

Table 1. Human Development Index and Constituent Indicators

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
HDI of Vietnam	0.617	0.638	0.666	0.638	0.694
HDI of the Southern key economic region	0.646	0.639	0.666	0.703	0.692
Educational index	0.871	0.881	0.878	0.888	0.895
Longevity index	0.715	0.678	0.698	0.695	0.687
Income index	0.434	0.436	0.481	0.563	0.540

Source: Institute of Human Studies and calculations from the Statistical Yearbook of provinces and cities in the Southern key economic region

Table 2. Education Expenditure and GDP at Conctant 2010 prices by provinces, city of the Southern Key Economic Region in 2017

Province/ City	GDP (tril- lion dong)	Educa- tion expen- diture (tril- lion dong)	Educat- ion expend- iture/G DP (%)	Total budget expend- iture (trillio- ns dong)	The rate of spendin- g on educati- on (%)
Whole country	3,262	217	6.65	1,462	14.84
Southern key economic region	1,693	29	1.74	194	15.19
HCM city	842	10	1.20	67	15.03
Binh Duong	177	3	2.01	22	15.46
Dong Nai	205	4	2.19	34	13.03
Ba Ria Vung Tau	255	2	0.84	16	13.09
Binh Phuoc	39	2	5.56	7	29.37
Tay Ninh	47	1	3.86	10	17.31
Long An	70	2	3.72	19	13.35

Tien Giang	55	2	4.57	15	16.53
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Source: Statistical Yearbook of provinces and cities of the Southern key economic region

Table 3a. Monthly Per capita income at current prices by type 5 income groups and disaggregated by locality of the southern key economic region

Province/ city	2014 (Thousand Dongs)					Coeffi- cient (times)
	Gro up 1	Gro up 2	Gro up 3	Gro up 4	Group 5	
HCM City	1,84	2,70	3,38	4,37	11,89	6,5
Binh Duong	1,28	2,10	2,77	3,67	8,95	7,0
Dong Nai	1,27	2,10	2,75	3,60	7,78	6,1
Ba Ria Vung Tau	1,18	1,84	2,48	3,38	9,85	8,4
Binh Phuoc	860	1,58	2,17	3,02	5,79	6,7
Tay Ninh	1,08	1,58	2,05	2,60	6,65	6,2
Long An	794	1,44	1,98	2,66	5,25	6,5
Tein Giang	849	1,53	2,03	2,76	5,80	6,8

Table 3b. Monthly Per capita income at current prices by type 5 income groups and disaggregated by locality of the southern key economic region

Province/ city	2016 (Thousand Dongs)					Coeffi- cient (times)
	Gro up 1	Gro up 2	Gro up 3	Gro up 4	Group 5	
HCM City	1,82	2,99	3,77	4,97	11,98	6,6
Binh Duong	1,67	2,93	3,73	4,91	11,82	7,1
Dong Nai	1,58	2,63	3,34	4,29	9,79	6,2
Ba Ria Vung Tau	1,37	2,15	2,81	3,78	11,95	8,47
Binh Phuoc	1,03	1,85	2,48	3,31	7,09	6,9
Tay Ninh	1,28	1,97	2,54	3,24	7,94	6,2
Long An	1,08	1,92	2,58	3,46	7,20	6,7
Tein Giang	1,03	1,81	2,44	3,26	7,14	6,9

The coefficient is the difference between the highest income group (group 5) and the lowest income group (group 1). Source: General Statistics Office

Table 4. Labour Force at 15 Years of Age and Above by Gender of the Southern Key Economic Region in 2017

By occupation	Total (person) (Mil- lion)	Of which			
		Male		Female	
		Amount (person) (Mil- lion)	Rate (%)	Amount (person) (Million)	Rate (%)
Leaders/managers	134	109	82.0	24	18.0
High level professionals	1,058	640	60.5	418	39.5
Mid-level professionals	500	212	42.5	287	57.5
Clerks	364	170	46.8	194	53.2

Personal services, protective workers and sales workers	2,432	785	32.3	1,646	67.7
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery	537	351	65.4	185	34.6
Craft and related trade workers	1,646	1,124	68.3	521	31.7
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	1,867	1,402	75.1	465	24.9
Unskilled occupations	2,656	1,386	52.2	1,269	47.8
Other	27,	13	50.0	13	50.0
Total	11,225	6,198	55.2	5,026	44.8

Source: Statistical yearbook of provinces and cities of the Souther key economic region

Table 5. The Rate of Poor Households by Locality of Souther Key Economic Region

Province/City	2012 (%)	2013 (%)	2014 (%)	2015 (%)	2016 (%)
Ho Chi Minh City	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	..
Binh Duong	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dong Nai	2.3	1.8	1.2	0.8	0.5
Ba Ria Vung Tau	3.4	2.2	1.3	0.7	0.8
Binh Phuoc	7.8	7.0	6.7	6.0	5.1
Tay Ninh	4.4	3.7	2.9	2.1	1.5
Long An	6.3	6.0	5.4	5.0	4.2
Tien Giang	9.0	8.3	7.1	6.3	5.3

Source: General Statistics Office