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Trade Liberalization, Economic Reform and Poverty Reduction in Lao PDR

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ABSTRACT

Since 1986 Lao PDR has greatly reduced the barriers to international trade and the

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Notes

*Per capita real consumption is measured in LAK per month, at the average prices in urban areas in the period March 1997 to February 1998.

**Severity of poverty is the P2 measure of [Foster et al. \(1984\)](#). See Note 1.

1. The headcount ratio is the proportion of the population below the poverty line; the poverty gap is the headcount ratio multiplied by the proportionate amount by which the mean real private consumption of poor people is below the poverty line. Equivalently, it is the ratio of the aggregate amount by which the real private consumption of all poor people is below the poverty line to the product of the population and the poverty line. The severity of poverty is the headcount ratio multiplied by the mean, for all poor people, of the squared proportionate shortfall of real private consumption below the poverty line. The headcount ratio, the poverty gap and the severity of poverty are, respectively, the P0, P1 and P2 indices of [Foster et al. \(1984\)](#).

2. Since 1999, the World Bank and IMF have based their assistance to low income countries on 'Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers' (PRSPs). The Lao government prepared

of [Lao PRSP](#). The Lao government is committed to the National Development Strategy (NDS) and the National Development Plan (NDP) of the Government.

3. On the basis of the 1998 survey (1998), [Dollar](#)

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