

Introduction

The Philippines is a country in Southeast Asia in the western Pacific Ocean. It is an archipelago made up of 7,106 islands located in relation to many of Southeast Asia's main water bodies: the South China Sea, Philippine Sea, Sulu Sea, Celebes Sea, and Luzon Strait. Proximate countries include Taiwan, Vietnam, and Indonesia.

The geography is mountainous with narrow coastal lowlands. The government system is a republic; the chief of state and head of government is the president. The Philippines has a mixed economic system which includes a variety of private freedom, combined with centralized economic planning and government regulation. Philippines is a member of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).



Location: South-Eastern Asia

Capital City: Manila (+8 GMT)

Chief of State: President Rodrigo Duterte

Head of Govt.: President Rodrigo Duterte

Currency: Pesos (PHP)

Major Languages: Filipino (official; based on Tagalog) and English (official); eight major dialects - Tagalog, Cebuano, Ilocano, Hiligaynon or Ilonggo, Bicol, Waray, Pampango, and Pangasinan

Primary Religions: Roman Catholic 80.6%, Protestant 8.2% (includes Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches 2.7%, National Council of Churches in the Philippines 1.2%, other Protestant 4.3%), Muslim 5.6%, tribal religions .2%, other 1.9%, none .1% (2010 est.)

Calling Code: 63

Voltage: 220

Key Websites

Main Government Page: officialgazette.gov.ph

Commerce Ministry: dti.gov.ph

Export Promotion Agency: dti.gov.ph

Investment Promotion Agency: boi.gov.ph

Key Economic Facts

Income Level (by per capita GNI):	Lower Middle Income
Level of Development:	Developing
GDP, PPP (current international \$):	\$875.31 billion (2017)
GDP growth (annual %):	6.68% (2017)
GDP per capita, PPP (current international \$):	\$8,342.80 (2017)
External debt stocks, total (DOD, current US\$):	\$73,079,674,147.10 (2017)
Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP):	19.46% (2017)
Current account balance (BoP, current US\$):	-\$2.52 billion (2017)
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %):	2.85% (2017)
Labor force, total:	44,643,324 (2017)
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate):	2.35% (2017)
Imports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$125.77 billion (2017)
Exports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$95.80 billion (2017)

GDP Composition %

Agriculture Services Industry Manufacturing



**Although Manufacturing is included in the Industry figures, it is also separately reported because it plays a critical role in economy.*

Rankings

Index	Rank
Corruption Perceptions Index	111 / 178
EY Globalization Index	34 / 60
Global Competitiveness Index	54 / 139
Global Enabling Trade Index	82 / 136
Global Services Location Index	7 / 55
Index of Economic Freedom	70 / 179
International Logistics Performance Index (LPI)	60 / 160
Inward FDI Potential Index	77 / 139
KOF Index of Globalization	88 / 185
Networked Readiness Index (NRI)	77 / 139
Open Budget Index	19 / 115

Risk Assessment (Provided by Coface)

Country rating: A4 - A somewhat shaky political and economic outlook and a relatively volatile business environment can affect corporate payment behavior. Corporate default probability is still acceptable on average.

Business Climate rating: B - The business environment is mediocre. The availability and the reliability of corporate financial information vary widely. Debt collection can sometimes be difficult. The institutional framework has a few troublesome weaknesses. Intercompany transactions run appreciable risks in the unstable, largely inefficient environments rated B.

Strengths

- Large population that is young, qualified, and has a command of English
- External accounts in balance
- Diverse geographic and sectoral origin of remittances from expatriate workers (10% of GDP)
- Thriving Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) sector

Weaknesses

- Low rates of investment and outdated infrastructures
- Governance shortcomings: bureaucracy and corruption
- High levels of income inequality
- Problematic security situation in the Muslim regions of the South
- Strict bank secrecy and casinos facilitate money laundering

U.S. Embassy

U.S. Embassy in Manila
1201 Roxas Boulevard
Manila, Philippines 1000
Phone: (632) 301-200

<https://ph.usembassy.gov>