

Philippines



KEY FACTS

Official name: Republika ng Pilipinas (Republic of the Philippines)

Head of State: Benigno Aquino III (LP) (from 29 Jun 2010)

Head of government: Benigno Aquino III (LP)

Ruling party: Partido Liberal (Liberal Party) (coalition with Kalapian ng mga Kaibigan sa Kaunlaran (KKK) (Friends Of Development – City of Hagonoy) (from 29 Jun 2010)

Area: 300,439 square km (7,107 islands)

Population: 95.80 million (2012)* (92,337,852; 2010, census figure)

Capital: Manila (on Luzon)

Official language: Filipino (based on Tagalog)

Currency: Peso (P) = 100 centavos

Exchange rate: P43.41 per US\$ (Jul 2013)

GDP per capita: US\$2,614 (2012)*

GDP real growth: 6.59% (2012)*

GDP: US\$250.46 billion (2012)*

Labour force: 40.43 million (2012)*

Unemployment: 7.03% (2012)*

Inflation: 3.13% (2012)*

Balance of trade: -US\$15.21 billion (2012)*

Annual FDI: US\$1.87 billion (2011)

* estimated figure

Just when everything was looking so good, in 2013 an embarrassing scandal concerning members' of parliament's misuse of public funds threatened to become the most serious crisis of Benigno Aquino's presidency, tarnishing his image as a corruption fighter and undermining his ability to push through essential economic reforms.

Corruption

Since the rumours first circulated in July 2013 President Aquino has struggled to keep the scandal at least at arms length. A whistleblower had revealed that some deputies, including the president's allies, were embezzling as much as half the

funds allocated to local projects from government funds. Corruption allegations are nothing new in the Philippines; but in this case the revelations rang home in the first instance because of the scale of the embezzlement and secondly because of the sad realisation that despite their President's promised reforms, little had changed when it came to corruption. The squeaky clean image projected by the President, the only son of former president Corazon Aquino (herself the widow of assassinated politician and presidential hopeful Benigno Aquino Sr), began to fade. Mr Aquino had tried to dodge the flak by claiming that he too was outraged by the corruption, which was corroborated in a detailed report by the state auditing body. As the allegations circled around the presidency, it became apparent that President Aquino had failed to tackle the culture of political patronage that hinged on the US\$586 million Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF), which had disparagingly become known as the 'pork barrel'. Following the allegations, the President's popularity rating had fallen by 15 points to 49 per cent. And it got worse; a separate development fund established in 2011 by the Aquino administration, the so called Disbursement Acceleration Programme, showed disbursements included transfers totalling the peso equivalent of US\$25.5 million to 18 senators in 2012 after they voted to impeach the Supreme Court chief justice, who was perceived to be an Aquino rival. The

President vehemently denied allegations that this amounted to political bribery, accusing his opponents of trying to distract attention from the real scandal. The irony was that the Philippines' position on Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index improved in 2012, rising to 105 out of the 176 surveyed, up from 129 in 2011, overtaking both Indonesia and Vietnam.

Economic headway

The Philippines posted robust expansion in the second quarter of 2013, as strong fundamentals and domestic spending cushioned the country from the region's fund outflows. The Philippines had overtaken emerging economies such as Indonesia as a safer investment bet due to prudent management of fiscal and monetary policy, and even secured investment grade from ratings agencies in 2013. The economy expanded by an annual 7.5 per cent in the second quarter, above the 7.3 per cent market estimate and compared with a revised 7.7 per cent in the first three months of the year. In 2012 the World Bank noted that growth in the Philippines had been averaging around 5 per cent over the previous 10 years, significantly higher than the rate achieved in the previous two decades. In 2010 the Philippines grew by 7.6 per cent, the highest rate for 30 years.

In recent years, the Philippines has restored macro-economic stability and proved resilient to recent external shocks, such as food and fuel price hikes, the

global financial crisis and recession and the impact of typhoons and El Niño. Rising and counter-cyclical remittances have provided a strong basis for currency stability and a healthy build up of international reserves. The country currently enjoys a savings rate that exceeds investment. Its human resources are in high demand around the world. Despite these achievements, inclusive growth that benefits the poor has been a continuing challenge for the Philippines. Poverty has remained at about the same level during the last decade, with a little over a quarter of the population below the poverty line. A key challenge has been to deploy these financial and human resources more effectively in the country, especially in rural areas, by improving the investment climate and creating job opportunities. The government has now prioritised an improved business climate, infrastructure development and public-private partnerships. Investment in human capital and social protection is another critical pillar addressed by the government to improve the livelihoods of the poor; budget allocations have been increased for health, education and conditional cash transfer programmes. Good governance remains a high priority for the country. The current administration's focus on anti-corruption is intended not only to improve the investment climate for domestic and foreign investors, but also to enhance social service delivery and help reduce poverty through more accountable governance. The Philippines has a dynamic civil society and a vibrant media that help articulate the voice of the public for urgent reforms. The work of civil society groups, often highlighted in the media, has contributed to the successful promotion of specific reforms in the fields of procurement, textbook delivery, budget transparency and community infrastructure, among others.

At the beginning of 2012, the Philippines economy had ranked overall 112 in the world; nothing to shout about. However, as the economic trends seen in 2010 and 2011 persisted, there is no obvious reason why it should not aspire to a place in the top 20 by 2050. In the first quarter of 2012 the economy grew at a commendable 6.4 per cent, second only to China among the Asian economies. One thing the Philippines does not have is an ageing population; over 60 per cent of the population is of working age, marking it out from most of its neighbours. Something else that marks it out from many of its neighbours is the fact that most of its population and all of its middle class population, have

KEY INDICATORS		Philippines				
	Unit	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Population	m	90.34	92.20	*94.01	*95.86	*95.80
Gross domestic product (GDP)	US\$bn	167.50	161.00	188.70	*213.10	*250.46
GDP per capita	US\$	1,851	1,746	2,007	*2,223	*2,614
GDP real growth	%	4.2	1.1	7.6	*3.7	*6.6
Inflation	%	8.2	4.2	3.8	*4.8	*3.1
Unemployment	%	7.4	7.5	7.3	*7.4	*7.0
Industrial output	% change	5.0	-1.9	11.6	-	-
Agricultural output	% change	3.2	-0.7	-0.2	-	-
Exports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	48,202.0	37,510.0	50,684.0	38,890.0	*46,284.0
Imports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	60,748.0	46,388.0	61,068.0	55,412.0	*61,489.0
Balance of trade	US\$m	-12,582.0	8,878.0	-10,384.0	-16,522.0	*-15,205.0
Current account	US\$m	3,633.0	8,552.0	8,465.0	6,988.0	*7,177.0
Total reserves minust gold	US\$m	33,193.0	38,783.0	55,363.0	59,385.8	*73,478.0
Foreign exchange	US\$m	33,047.0	37,504.0	53,991.0	57,863.0	*71,656.0
Exchange rate	per US\$	44.32	47.68	45.11	43.42	41.19
* estimated figure						

a good command of English. This explains the success of one particular services sector industry: call centres. These employed no less than 683,000 Filipinos in 2011 and generated an impressive US\$11 billion in revenue, an increase of 24 per cent over 2010. The government has targeted a staggering US\$25 billion revenue for the call-centre industry by 2016.

ADB approval

According to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) sustained growth in private consumption, a recovery in government spending and positive net exports lifted GDP growth to 6.6 per cent in 2012, or 4.8 per cent in per capita terms. Inflation eased to a 5-year low and external accounts were healthy. Private consumption rose by 6.1 per cent and contributed the most to GDP growth from the expenditure side. Buoyant consumption was driven by higher remittances from overseas Filipino workers, a slight gain in employment and low inflation. Remittances increased by 6.5 per cent to US\$23.4 billion (up by 3.8 per cent in strengthening Philippine pesos).

Government spending rebounded from the low levels seen in 2011, when governance reforms slowed budget disbursements. Higher spending on public infrastructure, alongside expansion in private construction and investment in equipment, pushed up fixed capital investment by 8.7 per cent. Growth in investment was supported by improvements in the domestic business environment and declining interest rates. Fixed investment as a ratio to GDP edged up in 2012 but was still modest at 19.7 per cent. A rise in net exports also contributed to growth, in contrast with 2011, when net exports fell.

From the production side, the service sector, accounting for over half the economy, remained the dominant growth driver. Its growth accelerated to 7.4 per cent, which contributed nearly two-thirds of GDP growth. Retail trading accounted for one-fourth of services' growth, consistent with robust private consumption. Other key sub-sector contributors were finance and real estate services, business process outsourcing (BPO) and those associated with tourism.

Industry's performance improved in 2012. Manufacturing expanded by 5.4 per cent, with strong growth in food processing in particular. However, the communications equipment sub-sector, which includes semiconductors, shrank owing to weak export demand. Construction and

utilities expanded, so that industry as a whole accounted for one-third of GDP growth. Agricultural output rose by 2.7 per cent, mainly a result of higher production of rice and maize.

Notwithstanding strong GDP growth, inflation eased in 2012 to average 3.2 per cent. Better harvests tempered food inflation. Broadly stable global commodity prices and an appreciating peso helped to contain price pressures. Modest inflation and the fragile international economy prompted Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (Central Bank of the Philippines), to reduce interest rates by 100 basis points in 2012, trimming the overnight borrowing rate to 3.5 per cent and the overnight lending rate to 5.5 per cent. Bank lending interest rates eased and credit extended to the private sector increased by 17.8 per cent.

Government spending on infrastructure jumped by 58 per cent, after a decline of 29 per cent in 2011, but it still fell short of the budget target. Under-spending of budgeted allocations held the fiscal deficit to 2.3 per cent of GDP, below the programmed level but a slightly wider deficit than in 2011. The ratio of tax revenue to GDP improved to 12.9 per cent, though it, too, did not meet the government's target.

The Philippines external accounts were in good shape in 2012. Merchandise exports rose by 8.5 per cent in US dollar terms, a turnaround from a 6.3 per cent fall in 2011. This recovery was driven largely by higher shipments of machinery and transport equipment, wood manufactures, furniture, fruit and vegetables, processed food and beverages. Shipments of electronics continued to fall, though at a slower pace than in 2011. Imports grew by 5.1 per cent in value so that the merchandise trade deficit narrowed by 5.3 per cent to US\$14.8 billion.

Trade in services produced a smaller surplus than in 2012. After taking into account the substantial remittance inflows, the current account surplus rose slightly to US\$7.2 billion, equivalent to 2.9 per cent of GDP. Private consumption was expected to remain a key driver of growth, underpinned by remittances and positive consumer sentiment. These transfers from overseas Filipinos have accelerated since the second half of 2011. The number of deployed overseas workers in 2012 rose by 6.7 per cent. Domestic employment was projected to increase this year and election-related spending will lift consumption in the first half of 2013.

As for private investment, a survey of businesses in February 2013 showed they

were optimistic and planned to increase hiring. Imports of capital goods rose by 14 per cent in 2012, a sign of positive business sentiment. Bank lending for production rose by 15.2 per cent in February 2013 from a year earlier and the buoyant stock market has facilitated corporate expansion. For the first time, the Philippines achieved an investment grade credit rating in March 2013, bolstering the investment climate. Fitch raised its sovereign rating on long-term foreign-currency denominated debt to BBB- from BB+. It cited the Philippines' strong external balance sheet, resilient economy, improved fiscal management and decline in government debt relative to GDP.

Risk assessment

Politics	Poor
Economy	Good
Regional stability	Good

COUNTRY PROFILE

Historical profile

1898 During the Spanish-American War, the independence of the Philippines was declared by General Emilio Aguinaldo, leader of the revolutionary movement, with the support of the US. Spain ceded the islands to the US under the Treaty of Paris.

1935 A constitution was ratified by plebiscite, giving the Philippines internal self-government and providing independence after 10 years.

1946 The islands were occupied by Japanese forces from 1942-45. US rule was restored at the end of the Second World War, and the Philippines became an independent republic with Manuel Roxas as its first president.

1965 After a succession of presidents, under the control of US economic interests and the Filipino land-owning class, Ferdinand Marcos won elections.

1972 Martial law was imposed by the President, in order to deal with subversive activity and to introduce drastic reforms.

1973 A new constitution was ratified by President Marcos. Transitional provisions gave the president the combined authority of the presidency and the premiership without any fixed term of office.

1981 Martial law was lifted.

1986 Ferdinand Marcos claimed to have defeated his challenger, Corazon Aquino, in the general election. However, it was so blatantly rigged that the result triggered a popular revolt. Marcos and associates fled the country and Aquino took over.

1987 A plebiscite ratified a new constitution with Aquino as president. Congressional elections confirmed her popular support.

1992 In the presidential and legislative elections, Aquino's chosen successor, Fidel Ramos, succeeded her as president, although his supporters failed to achieve an overall majority in the legislature.

1994 President Ramos' Lakas ng EDSA (Lakas-NUCD) (National Union of Christian Democrats) party formed an electoral pact with the Laban ng Makabayang Masang Pilipino (LaMMP) (Struggle of the Nationalist Filipino Masses).

1995 Candidates representing the Lakas-NUCD/LDP alliance secured the bulk of the seats contested in the mid-term elections.

1996 A peace agreement was reached with Mindanao's Muslim rebels, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

1998 Joseph Estrada easily won the presidential elections. Estrada replaced Ramos, who during his six years in power had built up a reputation for ensuring the political stability and economic growth urgently required after the Marcos era.

2000 President Estrada was impeached by the lower house of the legislature after allegations that he had accepted bribes and diverted taxes for personal use.

2001 Estrada was stripped of his powers by a Supreme Court ruling, paving the way for the inauguration of Vice President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo as president. Supporters of President Arroyo won control of the Senate in the legislative elections. The government's offer of enhanced autonomy to Mindanao, instead of independence, was turned down by the MILF.

2002 Filipino and US military forces launched joint exercises near to the stronghold of Abu Sayyaf, the high-profile Islamist rebel group, believed to have links with the al Qaeda terrorist group. Tensions in southern Philippines increased following a declaration made by exiled Filipino Muslim leader Nur Misuari for an independent Muslim state. Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines signed a pact to counter terrorism and to stop a network that is believed to be bent on turning all three into a single Islamic state.

2004 Gloria Arroyo was elected president, defeating her nearest rival, actor Fernando Poe. A typhoon and powerful storms caused major floods and mudslides that killed hundreds of people.

2005 The two-year cease-fire with the MILF was broken when heavy fighting broke out between government troops and the MILF.

2006 The death penalty was abolished

2007 The body of Khaddafy Janjalani, the leader of Abu Sayyaf, was found; the army stated he had been killed during fighting in 2006. Former president, Joseph Estrada, was found guilty of corruption and embezzlement of an estimated US\$84 million; he was sentenced to life

imprisonment. An agreement was reached between the government and the MILF, the main separatist group, on a boundary for a Muslim homeland in the southern region of Mindanao.

2008 In a negotiated settlement the government and the MILF agreed to an enlarged autonomous region in the south of the country for the Muslim rebel separatist group. Critics said the deal effectively established an independent state within the Philippines, contrary to the constitution.

The Supreme Court blocked the territorial aspect of the agreement, forcing the government to break the deal. Fierce fighting broke out as militants, led by the MILF, attacked towns and villages in the previously designated border area. The government estimated 100,000 people had been killed and hundreds of thousands had been displaced since the insurrection began in the 1970s.

2009 The Philippines was removed from an OECD blacklist of secretive tax havens and placed on a grey list of countries that have agreed to adhere to tax disclosure standards, although without legislation enacting it. Former president Corason Aquino died.

2010 The ruling Lakas-Kampi-CMD coalition won 38.1 per cent (105 seats out of 228) in parliamentary elections held in May. Nine candidates took part in presidential elections held at the same time. Benigno Aquino III (LP) was elected with 42.1 per cent of the vote, while his closest rival, former president Joseph Estrada (Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino) (Force of the Filipino Masses) (FFM) won 26.3 per cent. GDP growth of 7.9 per cent for the first two quarters was the strongest growth recorded since the late 1980s.

2011 The Philippines suffered a series of floods and mudslides through January, caused by severe rains, which killed 51 and affected 1.6 million people in total. Four years after losing the vote and a long legal battle to achieve a recount, Aquilino Pimentel was finally declared a winner and took his seat as a senator in August. Extensive and severe flooding in northern Philippines caused widespread destruction in the central Luzon region north of Manila, following typhoons on 27 September and 1 October. Hundreds of thousands of people had to be evacuated, with an initial death toll of 60 people and 30 missing. On 18 November, former president, Gloria Arroyo, was arrested for electoral fraud during the 2007 presidential elections. Devastating flash floods and landslides killed over 650 people, with another 900 missing, on the southern island of Mindanao following tropical storm Washi.

2012 Further severe flooding throughout the country in February, July and August

caused widespread damage to life, property and production. On 6 October, the police arrested former president Gloria Arroyo on charges of corruption. She was alleged to have misused US\$8.8 million in state lottery funds. On 7 October, a peace agreement was reached between the government and the MILF, which provides for a new autonomous Muslim homeland in the southern region of Mindanao. An official signing was scheduled for 15 October. Typhoon Bopha, which struck the south on 5–6 December, killed over 1,000 people, with over 850 people missing and damaged crops and infrastructure in the Compostela Valley Province, the worst affected area.

2013 Typhoon Haiyan struck on 6 November. It was reported as one of the most powerful storms ever recorded on land. It hit the coastal Philippine provinces of Leyte and Samar and swept through six central Philippine islands. Initial reports were of 10,000 deaths in Tacloban alone; this figure was later revised down, but the full death count is not expected for some time. Cesar Purisma, finance minister, told the BBC that the devastation caused by the typhoon could reduce growth by one percentage point in 2014. The worst affected region accounts for 12.5 per cent of the Philippines economy.

Political structure

Constitution

Between January 1987 and February 1988, the Philippines adopted a new constitution, elected a newly created two-tier congress, and voted in provincial governors, and town and city councils around the country. The written constitution provides for a presidential system of government with separation of powers and was ratified by national referendum in February 1987. The drafting of the constitution was designed to prevent the emergence of another dictator.

Its principal provisions are that sovereignty resides in the people, and all government authority emanates from them; war is renounced as an instrument of national policy; and civilian authority is supreme over military authority. It has wide powers to check the presidency, including presidential impeachment, the right to lift any imposition of martial law, veto of presidential appointments and human rights protection. These steps completed the rebuilding of democratic structures after two decades of martial law and dictatorial rule by Ferdinand Marcos, whose presidency was ended in the near-bloodless revolution of February 1986.

Suffrage is granted to all citizens over 18 years of age who have resided for at least one year previously in the Philippines, and

for at least six months in their voting district. Voting is by secret ballot. Local government is vested in 13 regions, with provincial, city and municipal councils.

Independence date

12 June 1898

Form of state

Republic

The executive

Executive power is vested in the directly elected president and an appointed cabinet.

The constitution allows the president a single six-year term and prevents any vice president from serving for more than two successive terms.

The president is head of state, chief executive of the republic and commander-in-chief of the armed forces. The vice president is elected on a separate ticket and may represent a different political party.

National legislature

The bicameral legislative congress consists of the *Kapulungán ng mgá Kinatawán* (House of Representatives, commonly referred to as the Congress) and the *Senado* (Senate). Congress has no more than 250 representatives directly elected for three-year terms, of which 212 are district representatives of geographical areas with populations of around 250,000 and the remainder in number are sector representatives elected through party lists up to 20 per cent of the total number of representatives. The Senate has 24 members, elected nationally (across electoral boundaries) to serve for six years. All senators must be aged over 35 years and have been born in the Philippines. An alternate 50 per cent of the senate are elected every three years. All financial legislation and powers to check the presidency, including impeachment, the right to lift any imposition of martial law, veto of presidential appointments and human rights protection is exclusively the responsible of Congress, while the senate is exclusively responsible for ratifying treaties.

Legal system

Based on Spanish and Anglo-American law.

There is a formal separation of powers between legislative, executive and judiciary. There are also the following courts: the Supreme Court, the court of appeals (formerly the intermediate appellate court), regional trial courts, metropolitan trial courts, municipal trial courts and municipal circuit trial courts. Other laws have created special courts such as the *Sandiganbayan* (with an anti-corruption brief), and the Sharia courts (for matters involving Muslims). The Supreme Court comprises a chief justice and 14 associate

judges, 10 of whom are required to declare on constitutional matters.

Last elections

10 May 2010 (House of Representatives and half Senate and presidential)
Results: Parliamentary (House of Representatives): Lakas ng EDSA (Lakas), *Kabalikang Mamamayang Pilipino* (Kampi) Christian Muslim Democrats Party CMD (coalition of five political parties) won 38.1 per cent (106 seats out of 228), Partido Liberal (Liberal Party) (coalition of three political parties), 20.3 per cent (45), Nacionalista Party (NP) (National Party) (coalition of four political parties) 11.4 per cent (31), seven independent candidates won a total of 2.43 per cent (seven) (*Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino* (PMP) (Force of the Filipino Masses) (coalition of two political parties and seven independents) 2.8 per cent (six). The remaining seats were won between 16 political parties that each won less than 1 per cent of the vote; the remaining 57 seats were determined by proportional representative votes by party lists. Turnout was 78.95 per cent. Presidential: Benigno Aquino III (LP) won 42.1 per cent of the vote, Joseph Estrada (PMP) 26.3 per cent, Manuel Villar (NP) 15.4 per cent, and Gilberto Teodoro (Lakas) 11.3 per cent; five other candidates each won less than 4 per cent.

Next elections

2013 (presidential and House of Representatives and half of Senate)

Political parties

Ruling party

Partido Liberal (Liberal Party) (coalition with *Kalapian ng mga Kaibigan sa Kaunlaran* (KKK) (Friends Of Development – City of Hagonoy) (from 29 Jun 2010)

Main opposition party

Lakas ng EDSA (Lakas), *Kabalikang Mamamayang Pilipino* (Kampi) Christian Muslim Democrats Party CMD (coalition of five political parties)

Population

95.80 million (2012)* (92,337,852; 2010, census figure)

Last census: 1 May 2010: 92,337,852

Population density: 313 inhabitants per square km (2010). Urban population 49 per cent (2010 Unicef).

Annual growth rate: 2.1 per cent, 1990–2010 (Unicef).

Internally Displaced Persons (IDP)

More than 75,000 (UNHCR 2004)

Ethnic make-up

Filipinos are of Malayan descent with Chinese and Spanish ancestries. There are around six million tribal Filipinos – 60 ethnological groups – comprising approximately 8 per cent of the total population, mainly around North Luzon, central Luzon

and western Mindanao and the Sulu Islands.

Religions

The Philippines is the only country in Asia with a Christian majority. About 85 per cent of the population are baptised Roman Catholics; a sect, the Philippine Independent Church which, since 1902, has not recognised the authority of the Holy See, (4 per cent). There is a strong Muslim presence (5 per cent) especially on Mindanao and a Protestant minority (4 per cent). Buddhism and other beliefs (2 per cent) account for the remainder.

Education

Primary education lasts for four years followed by two years of intermediate and four years of secondary education. Instruction is in both English and Filipino at elementary level, while English is the usual language at secondary level and beyond. However, a curriculum for secondary schools, introduced in 1989, made Filipino (Tagalog) the language of instruction for all subjects except mathematics and the sciences.

Both public and private universities offer higher education. Estimates in 2001 showed that 72 per cent of all students were enrolled in private higher education institutions. Public expenditure on education typically amounted to 3.4 per cent of annual gross national income between 1994–1997.

Literacy rate: 93 per cent adult rate; 95 per cent youth rate (15–24) (Unesco 2005).

Compulsory years: 6 to 12

Enrolment rate: 117 per cent gross primary enrolment of relevant age group (including repeaters); 78 per cent gross secondary enrolment (World Bank).

Pupils per teacher: 35 in primary schools

Health

HIV/Aids

HIV prevalence: 0.1 per cent aged 15–49 in 2003 (World Bank)

Life expectancy: 68 years, 2004 (WHO 2006)

Fertility rate/Maternal mortality rate: 3.1 births per woman, 2010 (Unicef); maternal mortality 170 per 100,000 live births (World Bank).

Child (under 5 years) mortality rate (per 1,000): 30 per 1,000 live births (WHO 2012); 32 per cent of children aged under five are malnourished (World Bank).

Welfare

The government runs a comprehensive social security scheme, providing a retirement fund, hospital coverage, funeral grants, sickness and disability leave and maternity benefits. Three separate and

complementary social security programmes are operated by the state. The first is the basic scheme, providing a pension plan and illness, disability and maternity leave. The second is employee compensation covering disability or work related death and the third is medical care, providing for hospital coverage. Despite government intentions, only a small proportion of the population benefit from these schemes. Income disparities are extreme, with approximately one out of every four residents in Manila a squatter. Two-thirds of the population live below the national poverty line, with the richest 20 per cent typically receiving more than half of the country's income. At least five million families are estimated to be in extreme poverty or severely malnourished.

Main cities

Manila (on Luzon) (capital, estimated population – including Caloocan and Quezon cities – 12.6 million (m) in 2012). Davao City, on Mindanao (1.4m), Cebu, on Visayas, (818,924), Antipolo (765,260), Zamboanga (722,308), Dasmariñas (713,595), Dadiangas (613,988), Cagayan de Oro (598,526).

Languages spoken

English is widely understood and generally used in government and commerce. There are altogether 11 long-established cultural and racial groups, each with their own language. The major linguistic groups are Tagalog, Ilocano, Cebuano, Hiligaynon, Bicolana, Waray, Pampango and Pangasinense. Other languages include Leytehon-Samaron, Maranao, Tausog and highland ethnic languages. Based on a survey by the national census and statistics office, a representative population of 8.6 million Filipinos showed that 2.5 million speak Tagalog as a mother language and 2.1 million speak Cebuano. The rest of the surveyed population speak one of the more than 80 other dialects in the country. Arabic and Chinese dialects are spoken by a minority of the population.

Official language/s

Filipino (based on Tagalog)

Media

Press

Dailies: Others are *The Daily Tribune* (www.tribune.net.ph), *Malaya* (www.malaya.com.ph), *Manila Standard* (online: www.manilastandardtoday.com) *The Manila Times* (www.manilatimes.net) and the *Manila Bulletin* (www.mb.com.ph) with a large circulation, *Philippines Daily Inquirer* (www.inquirer.net). Major regional dailies, in English, include *Sun Star Sebu* (www.sunstar.com.ph/cebu), *Mindanao Times* (www.mindanaotimes.com.ph),

Davao Today (www.davaotoday.com) and *Minda News* (www.mindanews.com). In Tagalog, *Abante* (www.abante.com.ph), *Ang Pilipino Star Ngayon* (www.philstar.com) and *Taliba* (www.journal.com.ph).

English language newspapers with Online editions updated regularly include the *Philippine Star* (www.philstar.com) and *Philippine Daily Inquirer* and *Philippines News.Net* (www.philippinesnews.net).

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Weeklies: The leading magazines, in English, are *Cosmopolitan Philippines* (www.cosmomagazine.com.ph) for women, *Candy* (www.candymag.com) for teenagers, *FHM Philippines* (www.fhm.com.ph) for men and *Bayani Magazine* (<http://bayanimagazine.com>) on general interest. In Tagalog, *Pinoy Weekly* (www.pinoyweekly.org).

Business: In English, national and Manila based *Business World* (www.bworldonline.com), *Business Mirror* (www.businessmirror.com.ph). Agricultural and agribusiness publications are issued by the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development.

Periodicals: Periodicals include the women's quarterly *Attitude*.

Broadcasting

Radio: There are 350 local radio stations, of which around 10 per cent are either government-owned, non-commercial religious or educational stations, the remaining 90 per cent are commercial broadcasters. National radio networks include Bombo Radyo (www.bomboradyo.com), FEBC (Far East Broadcasting Company) (www.febc.org), MBC Radio (www.mbcradio.net), Radio Philippines (www.radiophilippines.com) and the state-owned PBS (Philippine Broadcasting Service). In Tagalog, RMN Networks (www.rmn.com.ph).

Television: In English, ABS-CBN (www.abs-cbnnews.com), GMA Network (www.gmanews.tv). Online television services in English and Tagalog, iGMA TV (www.igma.tv) and Filamvision TV (www.filamvision.tv).

There are over 50 originating television stations around the country, five of them in Manila, and about 30 relay stations. Philippines News Agency (PNA), 2nd Floor, National Media Center, Visayas Ave, Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila (tel: 920-6551-65; internet: www.pna.gov.ph).

Economy

The Philippines has a variety of thriving sectors. Agriculture is an important component of the economy, employing 34 per cent of the workforce, of which some 16 per cent were farmers, forestry workers and fishermen in 2009, accounting for around 15 per cent of GDP, but which had fallen to 12.3 per cent of GDP in 2010. The Philippines' other important primary industry, mining, is a leading source of export revenue. There are reserves of gold, copper, chromite and nickel ore, as well as oil, natural gas and coal; but the largest components of the Philippines' mining sector are stone quarrying and salt farms (around 40 per cent and 20 per cent of total respectively). There is a successful high-tech industry of manufactured electronic components and automotive parts as well as service industries including call centre facilities – the Philippines is second after India in Asia. GDP growth in 2008 was 4.2 per cent. In 2009, high prices for fuel and food helped slow the economy so that when the global economic crisis was at its deepest GDP growth fell to 1.1 per cent as world trade was severely weakened. However, in 2010 as the world economy picked up GDP growth reached 7.6 per cent. Inflation, which had been 2.8 per cent in 2007 rose sharply to 8.2 per cent in 2008, before falling back to 4.2 per cent in 2009 and further still to 3.8 per cent in 2010.

Around eight million Filipinos work overseas – remittances in 2010 were US\$21.4 billion (10.7 per cent of GDP), and are estimated to have grown to US\$22.9 billion in 2011. Against the benefits of this source of revenue must be offset the structural consequences of the continuing loss of professional, skilled and unskilled workers to the economy. The growth rate in remittances in 2009 was 5.61 per cent, of which sea-based remittances rose by 12.06 per cent – Philippine seamen are considered skilled operatives, with years of crewing experience. The global recession had an impact on the number of migrant workers overseas as factories closed or reduced their workforces and foreign workers were the first to be laid off; thousands of Philippine migrant workers have been forced to return home. Typically, over 80 per cent of all migrants are female, working in domestic situations. In 2010, the Philippines was the fifth in Asia for its migrant population. In 2010, the government introduced measures to ensure the welfare, support and protection of its migrants, including a levy on all migrants to support a fund for any necessary repatriations.

In 2011, the UN Human Development Index (HDI) ranked the Philippines 112 (out

of 187) for national development in health, education and income. In 2010, 47.4 per cent of the population experienced deprivation in at least one indicator for poverty, while 22.6 per cent lived on the equivalent of US\$1.25 per day.

External trade

The Philippines is a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Free Trade Area (Afta) and maintains a list of goods that have preferential import duties between members and a programme of tariff reductions due to be introduced in the next few years.

The country has some of the world's highest levels of mineral reserves, including copper, gold and zinc; most deposits have yet to be exploited. There is an extensive heavy industrial sector as well as a manufacturing sector with commodities dominated by electronic goods which represent around 60 per cent of exports. Foreign trade accounts for 95 per cent of GDP and remittances are an important source of foreign revenue.

Imports

Principal imports are petroleum and oil products, transport equipment, capital machinery, plastics, ores and scrap metal, telecommunication equipment, consumer goods and food.

Main sources: US (11.6 per cent of total in 2012), China (10.8 per cent), Japan (10.4 per cent).

Exports

Principal exports are semiconductors, electrical and electronic equipment, vehicles, garments, optical and medical instruments, petroleum products, gold, copper concentrates and chemicals, processed foods, fruits and nuts, garments and textiles.

Main destinations: Japan (19 per cent of total in 2012), US (14.2 per cent), China (11.8 per cent).

Agriculture

Agriculture, once the main contributor to GDP, has lost its position to the services sector. It accounts for around 14 per cent of GDP and employs about 41 per cent of the labour force.

Some 35 per cent of the total land area is used to cultivate food crops, mostly on smallholdings.

About one-third of the population depends on coconuts, the major export crop. Other commercial crops include sugar cane, hemp, bananas, coffee, tobacco, peanuts and various fruits. Rice and maize production is sufficient to meet domestic demand and other crops include sweet potatoes, cassava, plantains, pineapples, mangoes and cocoa.

The Asian Development Bank has highlighted the need for further reforms to stimulate rural development, to improve

irrigation systems, which cover only 42 per cent of irrigatable areas, and to improve the yield and production of paddy rice.

Livestock reared for local consumption include cattle, goats, pigs and poultry. A record rice harvest of 7.57 million tonnes was recorded in the first half of 2011, a 14.4 per cent year-on-year increase over 2010. The wheat harvest was also up by 37 per cent year-on-year at 3.3 million tonnes. The Department of Agriculture put the increase down to irrigated farmland and sufficient rainwater for all farming.

The fishing industry is a big export earner for the Philippines. During the mid-1990s, the annual net trade surplus in fish products amounted to almost US\$100 million. In recent years, thousands of hectares, estimated at 40 per cent of former sugar lands, have been converted into shrimp aquaculture ponds. The southern Philippines have traditionally been bountiful for tuna fishermen, but the tuna catch decreased during the 1990s. There is massive overcapacity at Philippine canneries and fishing companies blame years of unrestrained plunder, rising imports and the destruction of the habitat for the slump in the annual catch.

Since the government initiated a reef development plan to create artificial fish spawning grounds, production of fish has increased dramatically, and the Philippines now boasts the largest area of developed estuarine fishponds in south-east Asia.

Following the annual meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), held on Cheju Island, South Korea, all members agreed to a 20 per cent cut in the roughly 17,000 tonnes in 2009 bluefin tuna catches from 2010. Scientists had warned that without a cut fish stocks could crash as numbers had become dangerously low.

Woodland and forests cover 51 per cent of the land area and contain an estimated 1.45 billion cubic metres of hardwood.

Exports of logs were phased out to assist the local timber processing industries. The reforestation programme is markedly behind schedule, but is being accelerated.

Industry and manufacturing

The industrial sector accounts for around a third of GDP and employs 16 per cent of the workforce.

Food and beverage processing is the main manufacturing activity, including sugar, meat, fruit and vegetables, fish and shrimp processing, soft drinks and alcoholic beverages. Electronics (semiconductors, circuit boards etc) has been the fastest growing sector of the economy.

Production of computers and computer parts is principally carried out by Japanese, US, South Korean and Taiwanese companies. Other major industries include petroleum and coal products, chemicals and chemical products. Main light industrial products, which are often produced from imported materials or components, are cotton and textiles, vehicles, chemicals, machine tools and electrical and consumer goods such as refrigerators, radios, TVs, freezers, air-conditioning equipment, sewing machines and watches.

Tourism

The Philippines has many islands offering a wide variety of experiences but most tourism activity is centred on the sandy beach-lined island of Boracay and metropolitan Cebu (second largest city). The scope for ecotourism is wide as there are unspoiled rainforests and marine environments to explore.

There are five sites on Unesco's World Heritage List, including historic buildings and national parks. The Tubbataha Reefs National Park is a unique and pristine atoll reef that has a high density of marine species. The Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park became one of the 'New7Wonders of Nature' in January 2012.

Travel and tourism accounts for over 9 per cent of GDP (US\$16.6 billion) and provides employment for over 10 per cent of the workforce (3.6 million jobs). Foreign visitor numbers have fluctuated as the global economic crisis curbed discretionary spending on holidays. Arrivals in 2008 were 3.1 million, which dropped to three million in 2009 before growing to 3.5 million in 2010.

Government backs the tourism management plan that provides a framework for tourist development and its related infrastructure. Currently the Philippines lacks adequate tourist accommodation away from resort areas. There are few international airports outside Manila necessary to allow growth in tourism from North America and Europe. Domestic transport, which lacks an integrated, scheduled service between many of the islands, has also been identified as a problem inhibiting growth. Internal travel costs are comparatively high.

Environment

Tree felling in the 1980s caused erosion and soil degradation, and in 1989 deforestation was prohibited by law. In April 2012, two new species of frogs were identified in the country's fast-disappearing forests. The forests have been identified, by the US-based Conservation International, as one of the world's top 'biodiversity hotspots'.

New mining regulations introduced after copper leakages into river systems in the mid-1990s, stipulate that companies must allocate 10 per cent of initial costs for environmental improvements, and set aside a further 3–5 per cent of mining and milling costs for an environmental protection programme, to be audited annually. Fishing methods using dynamite and cyanide to stun tropical fish in the coral reefs have poisoned the reef and killed other sea creatures living there. Philippines, Indonesia, Australia, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands are the countries with the most coral reef fish species.

Mining

The mining sector accounts for 2 per cent of GDP and a similar proportion of the workforce.

The Philippines is the second largest gold producer in Asia (after Indonesia) and one of the top 20 producers in the world. It also produces large quantities of silver. There are copper reserves estimated at 3.6 billion tonnes.

Nickel (fourth-largest reserves in the world after Cuba, New Caledonia and Indonesia), chromium, manganese, zinc, mercury, sand, gravel and rock asphalt are also mined. Other metal and mineral resources include iron ore (reserves, mainly laterite, 1.3 billion tonnes), molybdenum, lead, platinum, palladium, cadmium, cobalt, uranium, phosphate, guano, sulphur, pyrites, limestone, shale, gypsum, clay, kaolin, feldspar and silica sand. Large mineral resources, scattered throughout the archipelago, remain unmeasured and untouched.

Hydrocarbons

Proven oil reserves were 139 billion barrels and production was 23,000 barrels per day (bpd) in 2007. The Philippines is still heavily reliant on imports of crude oil and petroleum products, although the high cost of oil has made investment in exploration appear reasonable and a number of major oil companies had started either exploring or drilling for oil in 2008. The offshore, Galoc oilfield began production in 2008 and holds an estimated 23.5 million barrels oil and the Calauit field, with an estimated 40 million barrels oil is expected to go into production in 2009.

The Philippines, along with China, Taiwan, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam, claims the potentially oil-rich Spratly Islands.

Proven natural gas reserves were 98.6 billion cubic metres (cum) in 2008. Natural gas is being used to replace oil for electricity generation. The US\$4.5 billion development of the Malampaya offshore field, containing up to 73.2 billion cum of gas, is one of the country's largest

investments ever seen. The field is being developed by an international consortium, including operator Shell Philippines Exploration (SPEX) (45 per cent), Texaco (45 per cent) and the Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC) (10 per cent). The Philippines has around 264 million tonnes of recoverable coal reserves and produces around two million tonnes per year (tpy), which satisfies around 25 per cent of annual domestic consumption. The remaining 75 per cent is imported, primarily from Indonesia, China and Australia. The sector has been affected by the increasing use of natural gas.

Energy

Total installed generating capacity is 15.5 gigawatts (GW), of which 68 per cent is thermal (gas, oil, coal and solid fuel), 15 per cent hydroelectric and 17 per cent other, mostly geothermal. The country is spearheading the development of environmentally friendly electricity generation.

The Philippines has the potential for self-sufficiency in electricity generation thanks to its vast geothermal energy reserves. The first merchant power plant of 49.37MW became operational in 2007 and there are plans for two more such power plants to come online by 2011. The government has proposed plans for a further 70 hydropower plants with a potential capacity of 2.6GW.

The government also plans to complete the restructuring process that involves privatisation of the energy market and full electrification of the archipelago.

Financial markets

Stock exchange

Pamilihan Sapi ng Pilipinas (Philippines Stock Exchange) (PSE)

Banking and insurance

The government made its first step to liberalise the banking sector in 2000 when it introduced a general banking law, allowing foreign banks to gradually take over domestic banks. However, the government continues to intervene in the sector, bailing out banks that experience difficulties.

Philippines was removed from the OECD Financial Action Task Force (FATF) list of non-co-operative countries on money laundering in 2005.

Central bank

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (Central Bank of the Philippines).

Main financial centre

Manila, Makati

Time

GMT plus eight hours

Geography

The Philippines is an archipelago of 7,107 islands, some large and some only

islets, stretching more than 1,700km north to south. Fewer than 5,000 of the islands have names, and less than 2,000 are inhabited.

The nearest neighbours are Indonesia and parts of Malaysia to the south and Taiwan to the north. To the west, across the South China Sea, are Vietnam and peninsular Malaysia. The Pacific Ocean is to the east. The Philippines is situated in the centre of the Asia Pacific region – Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia can all be reached within two to four hours flying time.

Nearly 95 per cent of the population live on the 11 largest islands. These are mostly mountainous, except for coastal areas and the central plain on Luzon, the largest island (104,683 square km). The second largest island is Mindanao (94,596 square km) in the south, followed by Palawan (14,896 square km), Panay (12,327 square km) and Mindoro (10,245 square km).

There are some 40 active volcanoes (including Balusan and Mayon, both of which erupted in 2006) scattered across the country, and 21 less active ones.

Hemisphere

Northern

Climate

The climate is tropical, with an average temperature of 27 degrees Celsius. Tropical storms and typhoons are common between July–October and they can hit any part of the country. The Philippines is vulnerable to the *El Niño* phenomenon, which has severely affected agricultural output. The climate is drier and more comfortable between October–February, and can be very pleasant at the higher elevations.

Dress codes

National dress, often worn by men in the office or at any formal occasion, is the *barong* or embroidered native shirt worn outside the trousers. Reflecting US influence, business suits are almost as prevalent. National dress for women, a scoop-necked dress with ballooning short sleeves, is worn at formal social occasions, not for work. Leisure wear tends to be 'smart casual'.

Entry requirements

Passports

Required by all, valid for six months beyond date of departure.

Visa

Visas are not required by nationals of most countries, including business travellers, for visits of up to 21 days, with valid passports and proof of return/onward passage. For details see www.gov.ph/faqs/visa.asp.

Currency advice/regulations

Import and export of local currency up to P10,000 is allowed; amounts exceeding this figure require authorisation from the Central Bank of the Philippines. There are no restrictions on the import and export of foreign currency, subject to declaration of amounts over P10,000.

Travellers cheques and major foreign currencies may be cashed in large commercial banks and by central bank dealers in Manila, and they are also accepted in most hotels, restaurants and shops. Always use authorised money changers or banks. Outside the capital, it is advisable to carry a sufficient amount of local currency when travelling to provinces, as there is a shortage of exchange facilities.

Customs

Personal effects are allowed duty-free. Visitors may import motorcycles and boats duty-free for stays of up to one month; longer stays require a bond guaranteeing re-export.

Health (for visitors)**Mandatory precautions**

Vaccination certificate required for yellow fever if travelling from an infected area.

Advisable precautions

Vaccinations for diphtheria, tuberculosis, hepatitis A and B, Japanese B encephalitis, polio, tetanus and typhoid are advisable. Anti-malaria precautions should be taken if travelling outside urban areas. There is a rabies risk. Tap water is generally clean and safe to drink in the towns.

Hotels

A service charge of 13 per cent and a government tax of 10 per cent are usually added to hotel bills, and gratuities are not necessary, although it is customary to leave small change.

Credit cards

International credit cards are widely accepted in major establishments throughout big cities.

Public holidays (national)**Fixed dates**

1 Jan (New Year), 9 Apr (Bataan and Corregidor Heroes Day), 1 May (Labour Day), 12 Jun (Independence Day), 1 Nov (All Saints' Day), 30 Nov (Bonifacio Day), 25 Dec (Christmas Day), 30 Dec (Rizal Day), 31 Dec (New Year's Eve).

Variable dates

Easter, National Heroes Day (last Sun in Aug), Eid al Fitr.

Easter is a major holiday in the Philippines and travel may be disrupted.

Working hours

Working hours vary. Some banks and offices open for a half day on Saturday and, in the Manila area, many shops open for a half day on Sunday.

Banking

Mon–Fri: 0900–1600. Automated banking systems exist (24 hours).

Business

Mon–Fri: 0800–1200/1300, 1300/1400–1700; Sat: 0830–1200.

Government

Mon–Fri: 0730–1130, 1230–1630 or 0800–1200, 1300–1700.

Shops

Mon–Sat: 0930–2030. Most tourist shops open on Sundays.

Electricity supply

220 or 110V AC, 60 cycles with flat and round two-pin plug fittings.

Weights and measures

Metric system, with some local units still in use.

Social customs/useful tips

It is customary to shake hands on meeting and taking leave. If people have an academic or professional title (eg doctor, director) they should be addressed by their title. Senior citizens should be treated with particular respect. Shoes should be removed before entering someone's home. Central to Filipino values is the concept of maintaining 'face'. Anything which appears to constitute a slight to a Filipino can have serious consequences. Criticism, however mild, of anyone present is to be avoided. New ideas need to be carefully introduced. A strong personal element to relationships, including those of business and state, makes refusal of frequently proffered hospitality offensive. It can be common to receive a positive answer to a question when the appropriate answer is negative. Reciprocity of hospitality is also required. Despite the appearance of extensive westernisation, conservative values usually apply.

Religious matters are taken seriously, but so is superstition to the extent that no building displays a thirteenth floor. Belief in witches happily co-exists alongside more mainstream religions.

Punctuality is aimed at, but not always achieved. Tips of about 10 per cent for most services are considered standard. Gift-giving, on the smallest pretext, is widely practised, although the gift itself may be inexpensive.

Old-style chivalry towards women reigns supreme, disguising the extent to which women's dominance at home translates into effective control of the Filipino male. Male visitors will be offered companions as a matter of course, but should not extend this apparent availability into loose behaviour with women outside the bounds of the sex industry.

The most important tradition is that of *utang na loob*, or a lifelong debt of gratitude. This is not just a matter of mutual

back-scratching. It is a deeply felt belief that even small favours can never be fully repaid, so that complex networks of loyalties develop, providing a hidden structure to relationships.

Another important tradition is that of *pakikisama*, or co-operating with the team view. Group identification is all-important, reaching back to one's class at school, or to one's village of origin. Approval of the group is often needed before any serious decision is reached. In this context, the supreme importance of family links can be seen, and the paramount significance of family honour understood.

Security

Widespread poverty makes robbery the most common crime. Changing money at a black-market operator will probably deliver you into the hands of pickpockets outside. Foreigners are rarely targeted for more violent crimes.

Getting there**Air**

National airline: Philippine Airlines (PAL)

International airport/s: Ninoy Aquino International Airport (MNL) is 12km south of Manila; facilities include bank, duty-free shop, restaurants, post office and car hire. Mactan-Cebu International Airport (CEB), on Mactan Island, is 9km from Cebu City and 45km from Manila.

Airport tax: P550.

Surface

Water: It may be possible to find a freight ship which will carry passengers from nearby Malaysian or Indonesian ports, but schedules are unreliable. Cruise ships stop in Manila Bay. There is danger from smugglers and pirates operating between Borneo and Mindanao.

Main port/s: Manila, Batangas City, Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, Zamboanga, Cagayan de Oro, Subic Bay Freeport.

Getting about**National transport**

Air: Philippine Airlines (PAL), Cebu Pacific Air, and Air Philippines are the main operators of relatively inexpensive domestic flights.

Road: The network of highways is mainly confined to coastal areas. The Maharlika Highway runs from Luzon to Mindanao, with connecting ferry services.

Buses: There are bus services between Manila and the rest of the country. Air-conditioned buses are available. There is no central bus terminal in Manila, each company having its own terminal.

Rail: The only railway line is on Luzon island, running south from Manila to Legazpi. A line from Manila to San Fernando and San Jose in the north is not open. Both lines are single track and

narrow gauge. Train services are slow; some have restaurant cars and air-conditioning.

Water: Inter-island services are operated by several companies, some with air-conditioned cabins and dining rooms. There are numerous public and private ports, many serving coastal shipping traffic.

City transport

If travelling by road, allow extra travel time between appointments – there are many traffic jams. Tricycles (motorbikes with sidecars) and trishaws are a cheap alternative for shorter distances around towns.

Taxis: Taxis are plentiful and cheap, but not easy to hail. Because traffic is heavy, drivers will often refuse to go beyond the local district. It may be worthwhile retaining a driver for the day. Taxis are metered, but passengers need to ensure that the drivers switch them on; if they make excuses, they should not be engaged. Tipping taxi drivers is not customary.

Buses, trams & metro: Numerous inexpensive bus services operate in and around main centres, but they can be crowded, and knowledge of the area is recommended before travelling by bus. Jeepneys are shared taxis, which ply regular routes and are cheap.

The Metrorail Light Rail Transit (LRT) is an overhead railway which runs from north to south Manila.

Car hire

Self-drive and chauffeur-driven car hire is available. It is advisable to hire a car and driver. Local driving habits make traffic conditions extremely difficult. International driving licences are acceptable. Driving is on the right-hand side of the road.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

The addresses listed below are a selection only. While World of Information makes every endeavour to check these addresses, we cannot guarantee that changes have not been made, especially to telephone numbers and area codes. We would welcome any corrections.

Telephone area codes

The international dialling code (IDD) for the Philippines is +63, followed by the area code and subscriber's number:

Bacolod	34	Iloilo	33
Cebu	32	Manila	2
Dagupan	75	San Pablo	49
Davao	82		

Useful telephone numbers

Manila
Police: 599-011
Fire: 581-176

Chambers of Commerce

American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Corinthian Plaza, Paseo de

Roxas, Legazpi Village, PO Box 2562, Makati, Manila (tel: 818-7911; fax: 811-3081; e-mail: info@amchamphilippines.com).

British Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, c/o British Embassy, 6752 Ayala Avenue corner Makati Avenue, Makati, Manila (tel: 580-8359; fax: 893-9073; e-mail: administrator@bccphil.com).

Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, CCCI Center, Corner 11th and 13th Avenues, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City (tel: 232-1421; fax: 232-1422; e-mail: ccci@gsilink.com).

Davao City Chamber of Commerce and Industry, DCCII Building, JP Laurel Avenue, Davao City (tel: 221-4148; fax: 226-4433; e-mail: dccii@skynet.net).

European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Axa Life Center, Sen Gil Puyat Avenue corner Tindalo Street, Makati, Manila (tel: 845-1324; fax: 845-1395; e-mail: info@eccp.com).

Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Salcedo Towers, 169 HV dela Costa Street, Salcedo Village, Makati, Manila (tel: 844-5713; fax: 843-4102; e-mail: pcci@philcham.com).

Banking

Allied Banking Corp, Allied Bank Centre, 6754 Ayala Avenue corner Legaspi Street, Makati, Manila (tel: 816-331; fax: 816-0921).

Bank of the Philippine Islands, PO Box 1827 MCC, BPI Bldg, Ayala Avenue, corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City (tel: 818-5541; fax: 815-9434).

Development Bank of the Philippines, DBP Building, Makati Avenue corner Sen Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati, Manila (tel: 818-9511; fax: 818-6699).

Equitable PCI Bank, Equitable PCI Bank Tower 1, Makati Avenue corner HV Dela Costa Street, Makati, Manila (tel: 817-7330; fax: 817-6984).

Land Bank of the Philippines, 319 Sen Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati, Manila (tel/fax: 814-0179).

Metrobank, Metrobank Plaza Building, Sen Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati, Manila (tel: 810-3311; fax: 817-6248; e-mail: metrobank@metrobank.com.ph).

Philippine National Bank, Cacho-Gonzales Bldg, cor Aguirre & Transierra Sts, Legaspi Village, Makati City 1229 (tel: 892-8780; fax: 840-3039).

Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation, RCBC Building, 333 Sen Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati, Manila (tel: 819-3061; fax: 891-0775).

Security Bank Corporation, SBTC Building, 6776 Ayala Avenue, Makati, Manila

(tel: 888-7340; fax: 893-2563; e-mail: inquiry@securitybank.com.ph).

Union Bank of the Philippines, SSS (Makati) Building, Ayala Avenue corner Herrera Street, Makati, Manila (tel: 892-0011; fax: 840-0168).

Central bank

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, A Mabini Street, Corner Pablo Ocampo Street, Malate, Manila 1004 (tel: 524-7011; fax: 523-6210; e-mail: bspmail@bsp.gov.ph).

Stock exchange

Pamilihan Sapi ng Pilipinas (Philippines Stock Exchange) (PSE), www.pse.org.ph
Philippine Dealing Exchange (PDEX), www.pdex.com.ph

Travel information

Automobile Association Philippines, PO Box 999, 683 Aurora Boulevard, Quezon, Manila (tel: 723-0808; fax: 726-5878; e-mail: aaphils@greendot.com.ph).

Cebu Pacific Air, Robinsons Equitable Building, Ortigas Centre, Pasig, Manila (tel: 702-0888; fax: 637-9170; e-mail: feedback@cebupacificair.com).

Hotel and Restaurant Association of the Philippines, Regina Building, Legazpi Village, Makati, Manila (tel: 815-4659; fax: 815-4663; e-mail: hrap@mnl.sequelnet).

Manila Ninoy Aquino International Airport, NAIA Complex, Pasay, Manila (tel: 877-1109; fax: 833-1180; e-mail: info@miaa.gov.ph).

Philippine Airlines (PAL), PO Box 954, Philippine Airlines Centre, Legazpi Street, Makati, Manila (tel: 818-0111; fax: 818-3298; e-mail: webmgr@pal.com.ph).

Philippine Travel and Tourism Council, 1102 City and Land Mega Plaza, Ortigas Centre, Pasig, Manila (tel: 687-4812; fax: 931-8307; e-mail: info@philppinetourism.org).

Ministry of tourism

Department of Tourism, Kalaw Street, Rizal Park, Manila (tel: 525-2000; fax: 521-7374; e-mail: webmaster@tourism.gov.ph).

National tourist organisation offices

Philippine Tourism Authority, Kalaw Street, Ermita, PO Box 1813, Manila (tel: 524-7141; fax: 521-8113; e-mail: info@philtourism.gov.ph).

Ministries

Office of the President, Malacanang Palace, JP Laurel Street, San Miguel, Manila (tel: 564-1451; fax: 742-1641).

Department of Agrarian Reform, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City (tel: 928-3979; fax: 929-3088).

Department of Agriculture, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City (tel: 920-4358; fax: 920-3986).

Department of Budget and Management, General Solano Street, San Miguel, Manila (tel: 735-4929; fax: 735-4927).

Department of Defence, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City (tel: 911-6193; fax: 911-6213).

Department of Education, Culture and Sports, Meralco Avenue, Pasig, Manila (tel: 634-2925; fax: 636-4876).

Department of Energy, PNCP Complex, Meritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Makati, Manila (tel: 844-2850; fax: 817-8603).

Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City (tel: 929-6633; fax: 920-4352).

Department of Finance, Vito Cruz corner Mabini Street, Malate, Manila (tel: 523-4255; fax: 521-9495).

Department of Foreign Affairs, 2330 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay, Manila (tel: 831-8955; fax: 832-1597).

Department of Health, Rizal Avenue, Santa Cruz, Manila (tel: 743-8301; fax: 711-6055).

Department of the Interior and Local Government, EDSA corner Reliance Street, Mandaluyong, Manila (tel: 631-8777; fax: 631-8831).

Department of Justice, Padre Faura Street, Ermita, Manila (tel: 521-8344; fax: 521-1614).

Department of Labour and Employment, San Jose Street, Intramuros, Manila (tel: 527-2118; fax: 527-3499).

Department of Public Works and Highways, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila (tel: 527-4111; fax: 527-5635).

Department of Science and Technology, General Santos Avenue, Bicutan, Taguig, Manila (tel: 837-2939; fax: 837-2937).

Department of Social Welfare and Development, Constitution Hills, Quezon City, Manila (tel: 931-8101; fax: 931-8191).

Department of Tourism, Kalaw Street, Rizal Park, Manila (tel: 524-1751; fax: 521-7374).

Department of Trade and Industry, 385 Sen Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati, Manila (tel: 895-3515; fax: 896-1166).

Department of Transportation and Communications, Ortigas Avenue, Pasig, Manila (tel: 726-7106; fax: 632-9985).

National Economic and Development Authority, Amber Avenue, Pasig, Manila (tel: 631-3716; fax: 631-3747).

Other useful addresses

ASEAN Investment Promotion Agency, Board of Investments (BOI), Industry and Investments Building, 385 Sen Gil J Puyat Avenue, Makati, Manila (tel: 890-1332; fax: 895-3512).

ASEAN Secretariat, 70 Jl Sisingamangaraja, Jakarta 12110, Indonesia (tel: 62 (21) 726-2991; fax: 739-8234; e-mail: termsak@asean.or.id).

Asian Development Bank, 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong, Manila (tel: 632-4444; fax: 636-2444; e-mail: information@adb.org).

Board of Investments, Industry and Investments Building, 385 Sen Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati, Manila (tel: 897-6682; fax: 895-3521; e-mail: mis@boi.gov.ph).

British Embassy, L V Locsin Building, 6752 Ayala Avenue corner Makati Avenue, Makati, Manila (tel: 816-7116; fax: 819-7206).

Bureau of Export Trade Promotion, New Solid Building, 357 Sen Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati, Manila (tel: 899-0133; fax: 890-4707; e-mail: betpod@dti.gov.ph).

National Economic Development Authority, NEDA Building, Blessed Joseph Maria Escriva Drive, Pasig, Manila (tel: 631-0945; fax: 633-6011; internet site: <http://www.neda.gov.ph>).

Petroleum Association of the Philippines, c/o 7/F Basic Petroleum Building, C. Palanca Jr Street, Legaspi Village, Makati, Manila (tel: 817-3329; fax: 817-0191).

Philippine Convention and Visitors Corporation, Legazpi Towers, 300 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, Manila (tel: 525-9318; fax: 521-6165; e-mail: pcvcnet@info.com.ph).

Philippine Electronics & Telecommunications Federation, 7/F PS Bank Building, Tindalo Street corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati, Manila (tel/fax: 813-6397).

Philippine Exporters Confederation, Roxas Boulevard corner Sen Gil Puyat Avenue, Pasay City, Manila (tel: 833-2531; fax:

831-2132; e-mail: philxpri@l-next.net; internet site: <http://www.philexport.org/launch/index.htm>).

Philippines Embassy (US), 1600 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20036 (tel: (+1-202)-467-9300; fax: (+1-202)-467-9417; e-mail: uswashpe@aol.com).

Philippines Food Processors and Exporters Organisation, Suite 304, JS Contractor Building, 423 Magallanes Street, Intramuros, Manila (tel: 527-5540; fax: 527-5539).

Philippine Information Agency, PIA Building, 1100 Visayas Avenue, Quezon City, Manila (tel: 921-7941; fax: 920-4394; e-mail: odg@pia.gov.ph).

Philippine Iron and Steel Traders Association, 700 Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City, Manila (tel: 722-0536; fax: 721-3599).

Philippine International Trading Corporation, Philippines International Centre, 46 Sen Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati, Manila (tel: 845-4376; fax: 845-4363; e-mail: pitc@info.com.ph).

Philippine Stock Exchange, Exchange Road, Ortigas Centre, Pasig, Manila (tel: 636-0122; fax: 634-5920; e-mail: write@pse.org.ph).

Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, Building 229, Waterfront Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Olongapo City (tel: 252-4365; fax: 252-3014; e-mail: bgroup@sbma.com).

Textile Producers Association of the Philippines, Room 513, Downtown Center Building, 516 Quintin Paredes Street, Binondo, Manila (tel: 241-1144; fax: 241-1162).

US Embassy, 1201 Roxas Boulevard, Ermita, Manila (tel: 523-1001; fax: 522-4361).

Internet sites

Philippine Consulate General Toronto (gateway site): <http://www.philcongen-toronto.com/links.htm>

Philippine National Statistics Offices: <http://www.census.gov.ph/>

Tanikalang Ginto (small gateway site): <http://www.filipinolinks.com/business/businformation.html>