

Philippines

Geography

Location: Southeastern Asia, archipelago between the Philippine Sea and the South China Sea, east of Vietnam

Area:

total area: 300,000 sq km

land area: 298,170 sq km

Land boundaries: 0 km

Coastline: 36,289 km

Maritime claims: measured from claimed archipelagic baselines

continental shelf: to depth of exploitation

exclusive economic zone: 200 nm

territorial sea: irregular polygon extending up to 100 nm from coastline as defined by 1898 treaty; since late 1970s has also

claimed polygonal-shaped area in South China Sea up to 285 nm in breadth

Climate: tropical marine; northeast monsoon (November to April); southwest monsoon (May to October)

Terrain: mostly mountains with narrow to extensive coastal lowlands

Natural resources: timber, petroleum, nickel, cobalt, silver, gold, salt, copper

Land use:

arable land: 26%

permanent crops: 11%

meadows and pastures: 4%

forest and woodland: 40%

other: 19%

Irrigated land: 16,200 sq km (1989 est.)

Environment:

current issues: uncontrolled deforestation in watershed areas; soil erosion; air and water pollution in Manila; increasing pollution of

coastal mangrove swamps which are important fish breeding grounds

natural hazards: astride typhoon belt, usually affected by 15 and struck by five to six cyclonic storms per year; landslides, active volcanoes, destructive earthquakes, tsunamis

People

Population: 73,265,584 (July 1995 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 38% (female 13,841,552; male 14,214,234)

15-64 years: 58% (female 21,603,818; male 20,923,307)

65 years and over: 4% (female 1,425,706; male 1,256,967) (July 1995 est.)

Population growth rate: 2.23% (1995 est.)

Birth rate: 30.42 births/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Death rate: 6.97 deaths/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Net migration rate: -1.14 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Infant mortality rate: 49.6 deaths/1,000 live births (1995 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:
total population: 65.65 years
male: 63.16 years
female: 68.25 years (1995 est.)

Total fertility rate: 3.81 children born/woman (1995 est.)

Nationality:
noun: Filipino(s)
adjective: Philippine

Ethnic divisions: Christian Malay 91.5%, Muslim Malay 4%, Chinese 1.5%, other 3%

Religions: Roman Catholic 83%, Protestant 9%, Muslim 5%,
Buddhist and other 3%

Languages: Pilipino (official; based on Tagalog), English (official)

Literacy:

total population: 94%

male: 94%

female: 93%

Government

Names:

conventional long form: Republic of the Philippines

conventional short form: Philippines

local long form: Republika ng Pilipinas

local short form: Pilipinas

Capital: Manila

Independence: 4 July 1946 (from US)

National holiday: Independence Day, 12 June (1898) (from Spain)

Suffrage: 15 years of age; universal

Flag: two equal horizontal bands of blue (top) and red with a white equilateral triangle based on the hoist side; in the center of the

triangle is a yellow sun with eight primary rays (each containing three individual rays) and in each corner of the triangle is a small yellow five-pointed star

Economy

Industries: textiles, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, wood products, food processing, electronics assembly, petroleum refining, fishing

Agriculture: accounts for 22% of GDP and about 45% of labor force; major crops - rice, coconuts, corn, sugarcane, bananas, pineapples, mangos; animal products - pork, eggs, beef; net exporter of farm products; fish catch of 2 million metric tons annually

Illicit drugs: illicit producer of cannabis for the international drug trade; growers are producing more and better quality cannabis despite government eradication efforts; transit point for Southwest Asian heroin bound for the US

Transportation

Railroads:

Highways:

total: 160,700 km

Inland waterways: 3,219 km; limited to shallow-draft (less than 1.5 m) vessels

Pipelines: petroleum products 357 km

Ports: Batangas, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, Davao, Guimaras, Iligan, Iloilo, Jolo, Legaspi, Manila, Masao, Puerto Princesa, San Fernando, Subic Bay, Zamboanga

Airports:

total: 269

Defence Forces

Branches: Army, Navy (includes Coast Guard and Marine Corps),
Air Force