

General background information on the Philippines

	The Philippines	UK
Population (millions):	91	60.8
Poverty (% of population below national poverty line):	40.6%	17%
Age structure:	0-14 years (34.5%), 15-64 years (61.3%), 65 years + (4.1%)	0-14 years (17.2%), 15-64 years (67%), 65 years + (15.8%)
Life expectancy:	70.5 years	78.7 years
Population growth rate:	1.8%	0.28%
HIV/AIDS (% of adult population infected) :	less than 0.1%	0.2%
Religions:	Roman Catholic 80.9%, Muslim 5%, Evangelical 2.8%, Iglesia ni Kristo 2.3%, Aglipayan 2%, other Christian 4.5%, other 1.8%, unspecified 0.6%, none 0.1%	Christian (71.6%), Muslim (2.7%), Hindu (1%), other (1.6%), unspecified or none (23.1%)
Literacy:	92.6%	99%
Gross Domestic Product ¹	\$449.8 billion	\$2.346 trillion
Gross National Income per capita ² :	\$1,170	\$33,630
Labour force by occupation:	Agriculture (36%), Industry (15%), Services (49%)	Agriculture (1%), Industry (25.6%), Services (73.4%)
Unemployment rate:	7.9%	2.9%
Household income consumption ³ :	Lowest 10% (2.3%), Highest 10% (31.1%)	Lowest 10% (2.1%), Highest 10% (28.5%)

The Republic of the Philippines consists of more than 7000 islands, inhabited by a population of 91 million descendants of predominately Malays, Chinese and Muslim minorities and Mestizos (Filipino-Spanish or Filipino-Americans).

Today, there are some 60 ethnological groups, which speak over 80 different dialects. The Philippines is the only Christian country in Asia, with over 90% of the population claiming to follow Christian faiths.

In 2000 a Brussels-based research centre declared the Philippines the most disaster prone country on earth. It named typhoons, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, floods, garbage landslides and military action against Muslim insurgents as just some of the problems both Filipinos and tourists have had to deal with.

Notes

1: GDP is the value of goods and services that a country's citizens produce. GNP is one measure of the economic condition of a country.

2: GNI is a country's gross national income. GNI divided by total population gives GNI per capita. This indicator represents the well being of the population. However, it is an average that does not take into account inequalities of income within a country.

3: The percentage of total national household income held by the bottom 10% of households compared to the top 10% of households.