INTRODUCTION
The Philippine Islands became a Spanish colony during the 16th century and were ceded to the US in 1898 following the Spanish-American War. In 1935, the Philippines became a self-governing commonwealth. Following Japanese occupation during World War II, the Republic of the Philippines attained its independence on July 4, 1946.

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
President Rodrigo DUTERTE
Head of Government
President Rodrigo DUTERTE
Government Type
presidential republic
Capital
Manila
Legislature
bicameral Congress or Kongreso consists of the Senate or Senado (24 seats) and the House of Representatives or Kapulungan Ng Mga Kinatawan (297 seats)

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
diversified, growing East Asian economy; major semiconductor, ship-building, and electronics exporter; significant remittances; COVID-19 hit consumption and investments hard; regional tensions with China; major geothermal energy user
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $871.6 billion (2020 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $8,000 (2020 est.)
Industries - semiconductors, electronics assembly, business process outsourcing, food/beverage manufacturing, construction
Agricultural products - sugarcane, rice, coconuts, maize, bananas, vegetables, tropical fruit, plantains, pineapples, cassava
Exports $78.82 billion (2020 est.)
integrated circuits, office machinery/parts, insulated wiring, semiconductors, transformers (2019)
partners: China 16%, US 15%, Japan 13%, Hong Kong 12%, Singapore 7%, Germany 5% (2019)
Imports $97.58 billion (2020 est.)
integrated circuits, refined petroleum, cars, crude petroleum, broadcasting equipment (2019)
partners: China 29%, Japan 8%, South Korea 7%, US 6%, Singapore 6%, Indonesia 6%, Thailand 5%, Taiwan 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
110.8 million (July 2021 est.)
Population Growth
1.49% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity
Tagalog 24.4%, Bisaya/Binisaya 11.4%, Cebuano 9.9%, Ilocano 8.8%, Hiligaynon/Ilonggo 8.4%, Bikol/Bicol 6.8%, Waray 4%, other local ethnicity 26.1%, other foreign ethnicity .1% (2010 est.)
Language
unspecified Filipino (official) and English (official); eight major dialects - Tagalog, Cebuano, Ilocano, Hiligaynon or Ilonggo, Bicol, Waray, Pampango, and Pangasinan
Religion
Roman Catholic 79.5%, Muslim 6%, Iglesia ni Cristo 2.6%, Evangelical 2.4%, National Council of Churches in the Philippines 1.1%, other 7.4%, none <0.1% (2015 est.)

as of December 2021