

DOING BUSINESS IN THE PHILIPPINES¹

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Philippines is an archipelagic state located in the heart of the Asia-Pacific region. It lies between the South China Sea and the Pacific Ocean. It consists of more than 7,107 islands divided into the Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao island groups. The biggest islands are Luzon and Mindanao. The country has a total land area of 298,170 square kilometers and a total coastline of 36,289 kilometers.ⁱ

The country has an estimated population of 112,729,484 as of July 2024.ⁱⁱ Out of the estimated population, some 48.62 million are in the labor force as of October 2025.ⁱⁱⁱ About 52.24% of the people are not more than 24 years of age, while another 37.11% are between the ages of 25 and 54.^{iv} The median age is 23.7 years.^v A majority of 88.8% of the people are Christian (predominantly Catholic), while about 5.6% are Muslim.^{vi}

The official languages are Filipino (based on Tagalog) and English. The major regional languages are Tagalog, Cebuano, Ilocano, Ilonggo, Bicol, Waray, Pampango and Pangasinan.

The Philippines is a democratic and republican state. It adopts the presidential form of government, with a bicameral legislature and independent judiciary.

The country's gross national income is PHP15,753,283,000,000 and gross domestic product at PHP13,056,948,000,000 for 2024.^{vii}

COMPANY REGISTRATION

The vehicles ordinarily used in business to engage in economic activity are the domestic corporation and the foreign branch office. A domestic corporation is one formed, organized and existing under Philippine laws, while a foreign branch office is the Philippine office of a foreign corporation formed, organized and existing under foreign laws.

The incorporation of a domestic corporation requires the submission of the following documents: (a) name reservation, (b) articles of incorporation, (c) by-laws, (d) treasurer's affidavit, (e) undertaking to change name, and (f) certificate of inward remittance in the proper cases. The registration fee is equivalent to 0.2% of the authorized capital stock. There is no minimum capital, unless otherwise provided by special law. There must be at least 1 but not more than 15 incorporators / directors who must be stockholders. The basic corporate officers are the president, secretary and treasurer. The president must be a director, the treasurer a resident, and the secretary a resident Filipino. The president however cannot be secretary or treasurer at the same time.

The registration of a foreign branch office requires the inward remittance of at least US\$200,000 and security deposit of PHP500,000. *Foreign Investments Act, as amended, Secs. 8 & 3(a). Revised Corporation Code, Sec. 143.* The process involves the submission of

¹ As of 31 December 2025.

the following documents: (a) name reservation, (b) board resolution certified by a responsible corporate officer, authorizing the establishment of a branch office in the Philippines, appointment of a Philippine resident agent and service upon the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) of any summons and legal process, in the absence of the appointed Philippine resident agent or upon cessation of operations in the Philippines, (c) financial statements of the foreign corporation, certified by an independent Certified Public Accountant in the home country, not exceeding 1 year immediately prior to the application, (d) certificate of registration or incorporation of the foreign corporation, (e) articles of incorporation (or memorandum of association), (f) by-laws (or articles of association), (g) acceptance of appointment by the Philippine resident agent, if said agent is not the signatory to the application for license to do business, and (h) affidavit of solvency executed by the President of the foreign corporation or the Philippine resident agent.

All documents executed outside the Philippines must be apostilled or authenticated by the Philippine consular office, as appropriate. All documents written in a language other than English must be translated to English. The application fee is equivalent to 1% of the inward remittance.

Details of the requirements for the registration of a domestic corporation and a foreign branch office may be viewed from the following link:

<http://www.sec.gov.ph/forms-and-fees/primary-registration/>

FOREIGN INVESTMENT REGULATION

The Philippines adopts the policy of promoting foreign investments in activities that contribute to national industrialization and socio-economic development. As a general rule, there are no limitations on foreign investments in “export enterprises”. By way of exception, there are some limitations on foreign investments in “domestic market enterprises”. *Foreign Investments Act, as amended, Sec. 2.*

For ready reference, the activities subject to foreign investment limitations are contained in the foreign investment negative list. The current negative list may be downloaded from the following link:

<https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/downloads/2022/06jun/20220627-EO-175-RRD.pdf>

The notable activities subject to foreign investment limitations are those provided in the Constitution. These activities pertain to the ownership of lands, development of natural resources, public utilities, education, mass media and advertising. *1987 Constitution, Art. XII, Secs. 2, 3 & 11; Art. XIV, Sec. 4; and Article XVI, Sec. 11.*

Apart from the foregoing, small and medium “domestic market enterprises”, with paid-up equity capital of less than US\$200,000, are reserved to Philippine nationals defined as Filipinos or domestic corporations at least 60% of the capital stock outstanding and entitled to vote is owned by Filipinos. *Foreign Investments Act, as amended, Secs. 8 & 3(a).*

These limitations notwithstanding, there are various ways to legally moderate its effects on foreign investments. The lawful ways of liberalizing foreign investments include the following:

(1) The issuance of preferred voting shares for the portion of the equity (i.e. 40%) open to foreign nationals, and common voting shares for the portion of the equity (i.e. 60%) reserved to Philippine nationals, with higher par value for the preferred shares and lower par value for the common shares;

(2) The intermediation of a holding company owned in part (i.e. 40%) by foreign nationals, to hold the portion of the equity (i.e. 60%) in the operating company reserved to Philippine nationals;

(3) The provision of a foreign loan with variable interest based on the income of the borrower;

(4) The foreign ownership and lease of equipment and improvements on land with variable rent based on the income of the lessee; and

(5) The long-term lease of 99 years by foreign investors of private land for industrial or agricultural activities; *Rep. Act No. 12252 (2025)*.

FOREIGN CURRENCY REGULATION

There are no foreign currency restrictions in the Philippines, except regulations for anti-money laundering. The registration of foreign investments and foreign loans with the central bank is optional. *BSP Manual of Regulations on Foreign Exchange Transactions, Part III, Chapters 1 and 2 (2014)*. Details of the requirements for the registration of foreign investments and foreign loans may be downloaded from the following link:

<https://www.bsp.gov.ph/Pages/Regulations/ForeignExchangeRegulations/InwardInvestmentsRegistration.aspx>

ACCOUNTING SYSTEM

The Philippine Financial Reporting Standards (PFRS) adopts the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) with several limited modifications.

<http://www.sec.gov.ph/accountants-information/financial-reporting-standards/>

ECONOMIC ZONE

The Philippines provides for economic zones where domestic and foreign investors may do business. Economic zones are selected areas intended for operation as agro-industrial, industrial, tourist, recreational, commercial, banking, investment and financial centers. An economic zone may contain industrial estates, export processing zones, free trade zones and tourist/recreational centers. *Special Economic Zone Act, Sec. 4a (1995)*.

The activities eligible for registration with the **Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA)** include the following: export manufacturing, information technology (IT) service export, tourism, medical tourism, agro-industrial export manufacturing, agro-industrial bio-fuel manufacturing, logistics and warehousing, economic zone development and operation, facilities construction and operation, and utilities establishment and operation.

<https://www.peza.gov.ph/eligible-activities-and-incentives-category/eligible-activities>

The **Subic Bay Freeport and Special Economic Zone** is a government managed and operated zone located in the Central Luzon region. Its investment priority areas include education, information and communications technology, logistics, manufacturing, shipbuilding, ship repair and tourism.

The **Clark Freeport and Special Economic Zone** is also a government managed and operated zone located in the Central Luzon region. Its investment priority areas include manufacturing, industrial park development, commerce, tourism, leisure, information and communications technology, aviation / airport related projects, agriculture and agro-industrial projects.

Subject to conditions and period of availment, the incentives that may be granted to registered projects or activities include the following: (1) income tax holiday, (2) special corporate income tax, (3) enhanced deductions, (4) duty exemption on importation of capital equipment, raw materials, spare parts, or accessories, and (5) value-added tax exemption on importation and VAT zero-rating on local purchases. *Rep. Act No. 11534, Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises, Sec. 16, incorporating new Secs. 294, 295 & 296 in the National Internal Revenue Code (2021).*

PREFERRED INVESTMENTS

The **Board of Investments (BOI)** provides fiscal and non-fiscal incentives for investments in priority areas, subject to certain nationality, pioneer technology and export requirements. Details of the priority areas in manufacturing including agro-processing, agriculture, fishery and forestry, strategic services, healthcare including drug rehabilitation services, mass housing, infrastructure and logistics including LGU-PPPs, innovation drivers, inclusive business models, environment or climate change-related projects, and energy, may be downloaded from the following link:

<https://boi.gov.ph/strategic-investment-priority-plan/>

The incentives that may be granted to activities registered with the BOI include the following: (1) Income tax holiday, (2) special corporate income tax, (3) enhanced deductions, (4) duty exemption on importation of capital equipment, raw materials, spare parts, or accessories, and (5) value-added tax exemption on importation and VAT zero-rating on local purchases. *Rep. Act No. 11534, Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises, Sec. 16, incorporating new Secs. 294, 295 & 296 in the National Internal Revenue Code (2021).*

TAXATION

The basic taxes imposed on doing business are the income tax and the value added tax. The other taxes that usually apply in the ordinary course of business are summarized in Table “1” on Taxation.

Table “1”, Taxation

Tax	Taxpayer	Rate
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Income Tax	Domestic Corporation	<i>Taxable income</i> derived from all sources <i>within and without</i> the Philippines is subject to 20% to 25% income tax. <i>NIRC, Secs. 27(A) & 31.</i>
Income Tax	Resident Foreign Corporation	<i>Taxable income</i> derived from all sources <i>within</i> the Philippines is subject to 25% income tax. <i>NIRC, Sec. 28(A)(1) & 31.</i>
Income Tax	Nonresident Foreign Corporation	<i>Gross Income</i> derived from all sources within the Philippines is subject to 25% income tax. <i>NIRC, Sec. 28(B)(1).</i>
Minimum Corporate Income Tax (MCIT)	Domestic Corporation & Resident Foreign Corporation	Starting on the 4 th taxable year, a minimum corporate income tax of 2% is imposed, if the MCIT is greater than the net income tax. <i>NIRC, Secs. 27(E)(1) & 28(A)(2).</i>
Exemption of Dividends	Domestic Corporation & Resident Foreign Corporation	<i>Dividends</i> received are <i>not</i> subject to tax, provided that foreign source dividends are exempt under to certain conditions. <i>NIRC, Sec. 27(D)(4) & 28(A)(7)(d).</i>
Tax on Dividends	Nonresident Foreign Corporation	<i>Dividends</i> received from a domestic corporation are subject to a final tax of 15%, provided that the country in which the nonresident foreign corporation is domiciled, allows a credit against the tax due from the nonresident foreign corporation, taxes deemed to have been paid in the Philippines equivalent to 10%. <i>NIRC, Sec.</i>

		<i>28(B)(5)(b). Otherwise, the tax rate is 25%. NIRC, Sec. 28(B)(1).</i>
Tax on Branch Profits Remittances	Resident Foreign Corporation	<i>Profits remitted by a foreign branch office to its head office are subject to a tax of 15%. NIRC, Sec. 28(A)(5).</i>
Tax on Dividends	Citizen, Resident Alien	<i>Dividends received from a domestic corporation are subject to a final tax of 10%. NIRC, Secs. 24(B)(2) & 25(A)(1).</i>
Tax on Dividends	Nonresident Alien Engaged in Business in the Philippines	<i>Dividends received from a domestic corporation are subject to a final tax of 20%. NIRC, Sec. 25(A)(2).</i>
Tax on Dividends	Nonresident Alien Not Engaged in Business in the Philippines	<i>Dividends received from a domestic corporation are subject to a final tax of 25%. NIRC, Sec. 25(B).</i>
Value Added Tax (VAT)	Seller, Importer, Contractor & Lessor	<i>Sales of goods and properties, importation of goods, provision of services, and lease of properties, in the course of trade or business, are generally subject to a transaction tax of 12% of the gross value of the transaction. The threshold value for the mandatory application of the VAT is Php3,000,000.00. NIRC, Secs. 106, 107 & 108.</i>
0% Rated VAT	Seller, Contractor & Lessor	<i>Actual export sales of goods, certain indirect export sales of goods, foreign currency denominated sales of services, transport of passengers and cargo by air or sea from the Philippines to a foreign</i>

		country, and sale of renewable sources of energy are subject to 0% rated VAT. Sales of goods and services to registered enterprises within a separate customs territory are subject to 12% VAT upon implementation of the enhanced VAT refund system. <i>NIRC, Secs. 106(A)(2)(a), 106(A)(2)(b) & 108(B).</i>
Capital Gains Tax (CGT) on sale of shares of stock not listed and traded through the local stock exchange	Domestic Corporation, Resident Foreign Corporation, Nonresident Foreign Corporation, Citizen, Resident Alien & Nonresident Alien	<i>Net capital gains</i> during the taxable year from the sale of shares of stock in a domestic corporation, not traded in the stock exchange, are subject to a final tax of 15%. <i>NIRC, Secs. 27(D)(2), 28(A)(7)(c), 28(B)(5)(c), 24(C), 25(A)(3) & 25(B).</i>
Documentary Stamp Tax (DST) on original issue of shares of stock	Issuer / Shareholder	Original <i>issue of shares</i> of stock, when the right or obligation arises from Philippine sources, is subject to DST of PHP2.00 for every PHP200.00 or fraction thereof of the par value. <i>NIRC, Secs. 173 & 174.</i>
DST on transfer of shares of stock not listed and traded through the local stock exchange	Shareholder / Transferee	<i>Transfer of shares</i> of stock, when the right or obligation arises from Philippine sources, is subject to DST of PHP1.50 for every PHP200 or fraction thereof of the par value. <i>NIRC, Secs. 173 & 175.</i>
Exemption of DST on transfer of shares of stock listed and traded through local stock exchange	Shareholder / Transferee	<i>Transfer of shares</i> of listed and traded through local stock exchange is exempt from DST. <i>NIRC, Sec. 199 (e).</i>

Stock Transaction Tax (STT)	Shareholder	<i>Transfer of shares</i> of stock listed and traded in the local stock exchange is subject to STT of 60% of 1% of the gross selling price. <i>NIRC, Sec. 127.</i>
CGT on sale of real property	Domestic Corporation, Individual Citizen, Individual Resident Alien & Nonresident Alien	<i>Presumed capital gains</i> from the sale of real property not used in business are subject to a final tax of 6% based on the gross selling price or fair market value, whichever is higher. <i>NIRC, Secs. 27(D)(5), 24(D) 25(A)(1) & 25(B).</i>
DST on sale of real property	Seller / Buyer	<i>Sales</i> of land, building or other real property, are subject to DST of PHP15 for every PHP1000 or fraction thereof, based on the contract price or fair market value whichever is higher. <i>NIRC, Secs. 173 & 196.</i>
Tax on transfer of real property	Transferor / Transferee	<i>Transfers</i> of real property are subject to tax of 0.5% of the contract price or fair market value whichever is higher. <i>Local Government Code, Sec. 135.</i>
DST on lease of real property	Lessor / Lessee	<i>Lease</i> of lands, buildings or portions thereof, is subject to DST of PHP6.00 for the 1 st PHP2000.00 or fraction thereof, and additional PHP2.00 for every PHP1000.00 or fraction thereof in excess, of the rent for each year of the agreement. <i>NIRC, Secs. 173 & 194.</i>
DST on debts	Creditor / Debtor	Original issue of <i>debt</i> instruments is subject to

		DST of PHP1.50 for every PHP200.00 or fraction thereof of the issue value. <i>NIRC, Secs. 173 & 179.</i>
DST on mortgage	Mortgagor / Mortgagee	Mortgage or pledge of real or personal property, as security for payment of debt, is subject to DST of PHP40.00 for the 1 st PHP5000.00 or fraction thereof, and additional PHP20.00 for every PHP5000.00 or fraction thereof in excess, of the debt secured. <i>NIRC, Sec. 195.</i>
Business License Tax	Manufacturer, Exporter, Wholesaler, Retailer & Contractor	Gross sales derived from local operations are subject to a tax on business of about 0.5% to 2%, depending on the activity and the local government unit. <i>Local Government Code, Secs. 143 & 151.</i>
Real Property Tax	Property Owner	Lands, buildings, machineries and other improvements are subject to real property tax of about 1% to 2% of the assessed value. <i>Local Government Code, Secs. 232 & 233.</i>
Levy on Real Property (Special Education Fund)	Property Owner	Lands, buildings, machineries and other improvements are subject to the SEF levy of 1% of the assessed value. <i>Local Government Code, Sec. 235.</i>
Income Tax	Individual Resident Citizen	<i>Taxable Income</i> (i.e. gross income less allowed deductions) derived from all sources <i>within and without</i> the Philippines is subject to tax of 0% to

		35%. <i>NIRC, Secs. 24(A)(1)(a), 24(A)(2)(a) & 31.</i>
Income Tax	Individual Resident Alien	<i>Taxable Income</i> (i.e. gross income less allowed deductions) derived from all sources <i>within</i> the Philippines is subject to tax of 0% to 35%. <i>NIRC, Secs. 24(A)(1)(c), 24(A)(2)(a) & 31.</i>
Customs Duty	Importer	Goods imported into the Philippines are generally subject to customs duty based on the transaction value with certain adjustments. <i>Tariff and Customs Code, Sec. 201.</i>

Certain types of income are exempt from income tax or subject to preferential tax rates under treaties entered into by the Philippine government. The tax treaties of the Philippines may be viewed and downloaded from the following link:

<http://www.bir.gov.ph/index.php/international-tax-matters/international-tax-agreements.html>

Importations from Southeast Asian nations are generally subject to lower preferential rates under the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA). The ATIGA may be downloaded from the following link:

<http://finder.tariffcommission.gov.ph/index.php?page=atiga>

EMPLOYMENT

The terms and conditions of the employment of managers, supervisors and rank-and-file workers are generally subject to the agreement of the parties. *Civil Code, Art. 1306.* Nonetheless, the labor laws and social legislation provide for minimum benefits and protection of employees.

The basic minimum mandatory benefits required by the labor laws are summarized in Table “2” on Employment.

Table “2”, Employment

Salaries and Benefits	Rates and Periods
Minimum Wage	PHP695 for Metro Manila (National Capital Region)

	<p>PHP570 for Central Luzon (Region III) including Subic Bay and Clark Field</p> <p>PHP600 for Southern Tagalog (Region IVA) covering Calabarzon</p> <p>PHP540 for Central Visayas (Region VII) including Cebu City</p> <p>PHP510 for Southern Mindanao (Region XI) including Davao City</p>
Payment of Wages	Wages are to be paid at least once every 2 weeks or twice a month at intervals not exceeding 16 days. <i>Labor Code, Art. 103.</i>
Work Hours*	The normal work hours is 8 hours per day. <i>Labor Code, Art. 83.</i>
Work Days*	The normal work days is generally 6 days per week. <i>Labor Code, Art. 91.</i>
Meal Periods*	Employees are entitled to at least 60 minutes time-off for regular meals. <i>Labor Code, 85.</i>
Overtime Pay*	Work performed beyond 8 hours per day is subject to additional compensation of 25% of the regular wage. <i>Labor Code, Art. 87.</i>
Rest Day Pay*	Work performed on a rest day is subject to additional compensation of 30% of the regular wage. Employees are entitled to 1 rest day per week. <i>Labor Code, Arts. 91 & 93.</i>
Night Shift Differential*	Work on night shift from 10pm to 6am is subject to additional compensation of 10% of the regular wage. <i>Labor Code, Art. 86.</i>
Special Holiday Pay*	Work on special holidays is subject to additional compensation of 30% of the regular wage. <i>Labor Code, Art. 93(c).</i>
Regular Holiday Pay*/**	Work on regular holidays is subject to additional compensation of 100% of the regular wage. <i>Labor Code, Art. 94(b).</i>

Service Incentive Leave*/**	Employees who have rendered at least 1 year of service are entitled to a yearly service incentive leave of 5 days with pay. <i>Labor Code, Art. 95(a)</i> .
13 th Month Pay	Rank-and-file employees, regardless of status and method of payment of wages, who have worked at least 1 month in a calendar year, are entitled to 13 th month pay of 1/12 of the total basic salary within the year, payable on or before December 24 of every year. <i>Revised Guidelines on the Implementation of the 13th Month Pay (1987)</i> .
Retirement Pay***	Employees who reach the age of 60 years or more, but not beyond the compulsory retirement age of 65 years, and have served the employer for at least 5 years, are entitled to retirement pay of ½ month salary for every year of service or a fraction of at least 6 months thereof. ½ month means compensation for ½ month, plus 1/12 of the 13 th month pay and the cash equivalent of 5 days service incentive leave. <i>Labor Code, Art. 293</i> .

* The provisions on working conditions do not apply to managerial employees and field personnel. *Labor Code, Art. 82*.

** The provision on regular holiday pay does not apply to retail and service enterprises that employ less than 10 employees. *Labor Code, Art. 94(a)*. The provision on service incentive leave does not apply to enterprises that employ less than 10 employees. *Labor Code, Art. 95*.

*** The provision on retirement pay does not apply to retail, service and agricultural enterprises that employ not more than 10 employees. *Labor Code, Art. 293*.

A complete summary of the wage orders issued by the regional wage boards setting the minimum wage in the various regions may be viewed from the following link:

<https://nwpc.dole.gov.ph/#dmwr>

A list of the regular holidays and special holidays may be viewed from the following link:

<https://pco.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/20231011-PROC-368-FRM.pdf>

Employers and employees are subject to compulsory coverage under the social security program, employees' compensation program, health insurance program and home development program. Premium contributions are generally shared between the employer and the employee, except for employees' compensation where the premiums are for the sole account of the employer. Details of the premium rates may be viewed from the following links: social security & employees' compensation –

<https://ssscontributioncalculator.com/new-sss-contribution->

[table/#:~:text=The%20new%20contribution%20rate%20will,literacy%20and%20responsible%20financial%20planning;](#)

health insurance –

https://www.philhealth.gov.ph/partners/employers/ContributionTable_v2.pdf

home development –

<https://pagibiginquiries.online/pag-ibig-contribution-table/>.

Instead of hiring employees directly, enterprises are vested with the management prerogative to engage independent contractors to service its work requirements. In this case, the enterprise engaging the contractor is considered as the indirect employer of the employees of the contractor, and held jointly and severally liable with the contractor if it fails to pay the wages of its direct employees. *Labor Code, Arts. 106 & 107.*

Employees are entitled to security of tenure. Employers however are entitled to terminate the services of its employees for just or authorized cause, upon compliance with the requirements of due process and payment of separation pay when applicable. *Labor Code, Arts. 285, 283(b), 288 & 289.*

Just causes include serious misconduct, willful disobedience, gross and habitual neglect of duty, fraud, breach of trust and other analogous causes. *Labor Code, Art 288.* Authorized causes include the installation of labor-saving devices, redundancy, retrenchment to prevent losses, closure or cessation of operations or undertaking. *Labor Code, Art. 289.*

For termination based on just cause, due process requires the following: a written notice containing the causes of termination, ample opportunity to be heard, the assistance of a representative if he so desires, and a written decision to dismiss. *Labor Code, Art. 283(b).*

For termination based on authorized cause, due process generally requires a 1-month prior written notice to both the employee and the government agency on labor. Apart from the prior notice, separation pay is also required: (a) 1 month pay or 1 month pay for every year of service whichever is higher, in case of installation of labor-saving devices or redundancy; (b) 1 month pay or ½ month pay for every year of service whichever is higher, in case of retrenchment to prevent losses or closure or cessation of operations or undertaking not due to serious business losses. In both cases, a fraction of at least 6 months is considered as 1 year. *Labor Code, Art. 289.*

Disease may also constitute authorized cause, if continued employment is prohibited by law or prejudicial to his health and his co-employees. *Labor Code, Art. 290.* In this case, the 1-month prior notice does not apply, and only separation pay is required at 1 month pay or ½ month pay for every year of service whichever is higher, a fraction of at least 6 months being considered as 1 year. *Labor Code, Art. 290.*

Employers may create a pool of trained operators, craftsmen and technicians with appropriate skills and desirable work attitudes under the dual training system. The system combines in-plant training and in-school training based on a training plan collaboratively designed and implemented by an accredited training center and an accredited agricultural or industrial business establishment. Under the system, the trainee is not considered an employee of the business establishment, but rather a trainee of both the training center and the said establishment. The trainee is entitled to an allowance equivalent to at least 75% of the applicable minimum wage for days spent in the establishment, as well as to life/accident

insurance, at the cost of the business establishment. *Dual Training System Act, Secs. 2, 4(b), 8, 14(e) & 15.*

IMMIGRATION

Foreigners may work in the Philippines upon securing an alien employment permit from the labor agency and appropriate working visa from the immigration agency. The usual permit and visas relevant to the conduct of business are summarized in Table “3” on Immigration.

Table “3”, Immigration

Permit and Visa	Notes
Alien Employment Permit (AEP)	The AEP is issued by the labor agency to a non-resident alien after a determination of the non-availability of a person in the Philippines who is competent, able and willing to perform the services for which the alien is desired, at the time of the application. The AEP is usually for periods of 1-3 years. <i>Labor Code, Art. 40.</i>
9g Working Visa (9g Visa)	The 9g Visa is issued by the immigration agency to an alien coming for employment after a determination that the issuance is beneficial to public interest. It covers the spouse and dependent unmarried minor children under 21 years of age of the alien. The AEP is a requirement for the issuance of a 9g Visa. The 9g Visa is co-terminus with the AEP. <i>Philippine Immigration Act, Secs. 9g & 20.</i>
47a2 Special Visa (47a2 Visa)	The 47a2 Visa is issued to an alien coming as nonimmigrant for a temporary period, when the public interest warrants. It is issued to aliens working with enterprises registered with PEZA and the BOI. The 47a2 Visa covers the spouse and dependent minor children of the alien. <i>Philippine Immigration Act, Sec. 47a2.</i>
Special Investor’s Resident Visa (SIRV)	The SIRV is issued to an alien coming to invest US\$75,000. It grants permanent resident status for the subsistence of the investment. The SIRV covers the spouse and dependent unmarried children under 21 years of age of the alien. <i>Omnibus Investment Code, as amended, Arts. 74.</i>

Treaty Traders's / Investor's Visa (9d Visa)	The 9d Visa is issued to an alien coming to carry out substantial trade between the Philippines, and Germany, Japan or United States, to develop and direct the operations of enterprises in the Philippines with substantial investments, or to work for a trader or investor. It covers the spouse and dependent unmarried minor children under 21 years of age of the alien. <i>Philippine Immigration Act, Sec. 9d.</i>
Subic-Clark Working Visa (SCWV)	The SCWV is issued to an alien coming to work as an executive or technical personnel. It is renewable every 2 years. The SCWV covers the spouse and dependent unmarried children under 21 years of age of the alien. <i>Bases Conversion and Development Act, as amended, Sec. 12(g).</i>
Subic-Clark Investor's Visa (SCIV)	The SCIV is issued to an alien coming to invest at least US\$250,000. It grants permanent resident status within the zone. The SCIV covers the spouse and dependent unmarried children under 21 years of age of the alien. <i>Bases Conversion and Development Act, as amended, Sec. 12(g).</i>
9a Business/Tourist Visa (9a Visa)	The 9a Visa is issued to an alien coming as temporary visitor for business, pleasure or health. <i>Philippine Immigration Act, Sec. 9a.</i>

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ⁱ Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), The World Factbook: Philippines.
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/rp.html>

ⁱⁱ Proclamation No. 973, 2024 Census of Population (2025).

ⁱⁱⁱ PSA Philippine Labor and Employment Indicators, 2025 October Labor Force Survey,
<https://psa.gov.ph/statistics/labor-force-survey/released/2025>.

^{iv} Supra World Factbook.

^v Id.

^{vi} Id.

^{vii} PSA Q2 2025 National Accounts of the Philippines (NAP), Table 1.1.

DISCLAIMER