

# COUNTRY PROFILE

## LAO PDR



**Location:** Southeastern Asia, northeast of Thailand, west of Vietnam

**Capital:** Vientiane

**Area:**

Total: 236,800 sq km

Land: 230,800 sq km

Water: 6,000 sq km

**Population:** 7,019,073 (July 2016 est.)

**Population Density:** (per sq KM) 29 (2015)

**Population Growth Rate:** 1.53% (2016 est.)

**Population below Poverty Line:** 22% (2013 est.)

**Ethnic Groups:** Lao 54.6%, Khmou 10.9%, Hmong 8%, Tai 3.8%, Phuthai 3.3%, Lue 2.2%, Katang 2.1%, Makong 2.1%, Akha 1.6%, other 10.4%, unspecified 1% (2005 est.)

**Climate:** Tropical monsoon; rainy season (May to November); dry season (December to April)

**Natural Resources:** timber, hydropower, gypsum, tin, gold, gemstones

**Languages:** Lao (official), French, English, various ethnic languages

**Religions:** Buddhist 66.8%, Christian 1.5%, other 31%, unspecified 0.7% (2005 est.)

**Land Use:**

Agricultural Land: 10.6% (arable land 6.2%; permanent crops 0.7%; permanent pasture 3.7%)

Forest: 67.9%

Other: 21.5% (2011 est.)

**Natural Hazards:** Floods, droughts

**Literacy:** 79.9%

**GDP - Real Growth Rate:** 7.5% (2016 est.)

**GDP - Per Capita (PPP):** \$5,700 (2016 est.)

**Exports:** \$3.075 billion (2016 est.)

**Export Commodities:** wood products, coffee, electricity, tin, copper, gold, cassava

**Improved Drinking Water Source:** 75.7% of population

**Improved Sanitation Facility Access:** 70.9% of population