



Laos is a mountainous, landlocked country in Southeast Asia. It shares borders with China and Myanmar to the north, Cambodia to the south, Vietnam to the east, and Thailand to the west. The country is largely mountainous and densely forested, with the Mekong River forming a significant portion of its western boundary with Thailand.

Highlights

Income group: Lower middle income

Region: Southeast Asia

Capital: Vientiane

Currency: Laotian Kips (LAK)

Administrative divisions: 17 provinces and one prefecture (the capital city Vientiane)

Mainland area: 236,800 km²

Internet penetration rate: 66.2%

Mobile phone penetration rate: 88.5%

Demographic profile

<p>Population: 7.7M (2023)</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Baby boomer 8%</td> <td>Gen X 15%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gen Y 25%</td> <td>Gen Z 31%</td> </tr> </table>	Baby boomer 8%	Gen X 15%	Gen Y 25%	Gen Z 31%	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Urban population 38.6% (2023)</td> <td>Rural population 61.4% (2023)</td> </tr> </table>	Urban population 38.6% (2023)	Rural population 61.4% (2023)
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<p>Most crowded city Vientiane</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Male 50.4% (2023)</td> <td>Female 49.6% (2023)</td> </tr> </table>	Male 50.4% (2023)	Female 49.6% (2023)					
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Employment profile







<p>Labour force 3.17M (2023) <i>(participation rate: 59.6%)</i></p> <p>Labour force at SMEs 82.4% (2018)</p> <p>High-skilled labour ratio 5.1% (2017)</p>	<p>Employment rate 97.6% (2022)</p> <p>Monthly average household income US\$ 177 (2023)</p> <p>Turnover rate/month 3.5% - 6% (2022)</p>	<p>Employment in Agriculture 69.6% (2022)</p> <p>Employment in Industry 7.2% (2022)</p> <p>Employment in Services 23.3% (2022)</p>
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Economic profile

<p>GDP US\$ 15.2B (2023) <i>Rank #10 in SEA</i></p> <p>GDP per capita US\$ 2000 (2023)</p>	<p>Digital economy revenue US\$ 1B (2023)</p> <p>IT services market revenue US\$ 142.1M (2024P)</p>	<p>Percentage of SMEs 99.8% (2020)</p> <p>Total capital raised in the VC market US\$ 53.9M (2024P)</p>
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Export turnovers
US\$ 8.37B (2023)

Top exports

	Electrical energy	28.6%
	Gold	8.4%
	Paper and articles thereof	5.6%
	Copper ores	5.1%
	Potassium chloride	4.8%
	Iron ores	4.9%

Top countries

Thailand	34.5%
China	29.9%
Vietnam	16.6%
Australia	4.6%
Cambodia	2.4%
United States of America	1.4%

Enterprise registration

18,076 (2022)






2022's GDP, by industry

US\$ 15.1B (2022)

Top industries

	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	51.8%
	Transportation and storage	9.17%
	Accommodation and food service activities	8.2%
	Manufacturing	7.1%
	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	4.2%

Top industries

	Agricultural cropping	11.8%
	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	11.5%
	Electricity	11.4%
	Taxes on products and import duties, net	11.1%
	Construction	9.4%

Doing business in Laos

Opportunities

- Diversification of the economy
- Abundant natural resources, agricultural commodities, & forestry
- Foreign investment in the commodities and energy sectors
- Expansion of the hydroelectric sector

Challenges

- Persistent and increasing current account deficit
- Governance shortcomings, high levels of corruption and major inequalities
- Very low foreign exchange reserves
- Significant sovereign risk, fragile banking sector