

# Lao People's Democratic Republic



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Department of Peacekeeping Operations  
Cartographic Section

- Capital city: Vientiane (Viangchan)
- Official language: Lao

### **1) Geographical features:**

- Area: 236,800 sq km
- Geographical coordinates: 18 00 N, 105 00 E
- Climate: tropical monsoon; rainy season (May to November); dry season (December to April)
- Topography type: mostly rugged mountains; some plains and plateaus

### **2) Political features:**

- Government type: Communist state
- Head of state: President Choummali Saignason (since 8 June 2006)
- Head of government: Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong (since 24 December 2010)

### **3) Economic features:**

- Total GDP: \$11,771,725,797.6 (2014)
- GDP growth rate: 6.4% (2015) [provisional]
- GDP per capita: \$1,707.5 (2014)
- GNI (PPP): \$33,819,929,434 (2014)
- Sectoral composition of economy (2014 est.):
  - » Agriculture: 23.7%
  - » Industry: 32.2%
  - » Services: 44.1%
- Currency and exchange rate: kips (LAK) per US dollar - 8,052 (2014 est.)
- Exports: \$2.791 billion (2014 est.)
- Biggest exporting partners: Thailand 33.3%, China 25.1%, Vietnam 11.5% (2013)
- Imports: \$4.074 billion (2014 est.)
- Biggest importing partners: Thailand 56%, China 26.1%, Vietnam 6.7% (2013)

#### **4) Social and demographic features:**

- Population size: 6,894,098.0 (2014)
- Main languages spoken: Lao (official), French, English, various ethnic languages
- Main religions followed: Buddhist 66.8%, Christian 1.5%, other 31%, unspecified 0.7% (2005 est.)
- Biggest ethnic groups: Lao 54.6%, Khmou 10.9%, Hmong 8%, Tai 3.8%, Phuthai 3.3%, Leu 2.2%, Katang 2.1%, Makong 2.1%, Akha 1.6%, other 10.4%, unspecified 1% (2005 est.)
- Available working population (as a percentage of total population): 61% (2014)
- Sex ratio: 0.99 male(s)/female (2014 est.)

#### **5) Military and defense:**

- Total defense expenditure: \$20.3m (2012)
- Defense expenditure as a % of GDP: 0.2% (2012)
- Military obligation: Conscript service obligation- minimum 18 months
- Military strength (Active manpower):30,000 (2014)

#### **6) Important rankings:**

- GDP ranking (nominal): 135 (2014)
- HDI ranking: 139 (2014)
- Global peace index: 41 (2015)
- KOF Globalization index: 188 (2015)
- Military strength ranking: 117 (2015)
- Where-to-be-born index: not ranked (2013)