

# LAOS PDR



- **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 Bounnyang Vorachit (since April 20, 2016)
- Head of Government: Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulit (since April 20, 2016)

## 3) Economic Features:

- Total GDP: \$16.97 billion (2017 est.)
- GDP Growth Rate: 6.9% (2017 est.)
- GDP per Capita: \$7,400 (2017 est.)
- GDP (PPP): \$49.34 billion (2017 est.)
- Sectoral Composition of Economy (2017 est.):
  - » Agriculture: 20.9%
  - » Industry: 33.2%
  - » Services: 45.9%
- Currency and Exchange Rate: kips (LAK) per US dollar – 8,231.1 (2017 est.)
- Exports: \$3.654 billion (2017 est.)
- Biggest Exporting Partners: Thailand 42.6%, China 28.7%, Vietnam 10.4%, India 4.4% (2017)
- Imports: \$4.976 billion (2017 est.)
- Biggest Importing Partners: Thailand 59.1%, China 21.5%, Vietnam 9.8% (2017)

## 4) Social and Demographic Features:

- Population Size: 7,234,171 (2018 est.)
- Main Languages Spoken: Lao (official), French, English, various ethnic languages
- Main Religions Followed: Buddhist 64.7%, Christian 1.7%, none 31.4%, unspecified 2.1% (2015 est.)
- Biggest Ethnic Groups: Lao 53.2%, Khmou 11%, Hmong 9.2%, Tai 3.1%, Phouthay 3.4%, Leu 2%, Katang 2.2%, Makong 2.5%, Akha 1.8%, other 11.6% (2015 est.)
- Total Employment (millions; ages 15+): 3.5 (2016)
- Sex Ratio: 0.99 male(s)/female (2018 est.)

## 5) Military and Defense:

- Total Defense Expenditure: Not Available (2018)
- Defense Expenditure as a % of GDP: 0.2% (2018)
- Military Obligation: Conscript service obligation- minimum 18 months
- Military Strength (Active Manpower):30,000 (2018)

**6) Important Rankings:**

- GDP Ranking (Nominal): 117 (2018)
- HDI Ranking: 139 (2018)
- Global Peace Index: 46 (2018)
- KOF Globalization Index: 177 (2018)
- Military Strength Ranking: 127 (2018)
- Where-To-Be-Born Index: Not Ranked (2013)