



AUSTRALIA NEEDS SKILLS FACT SHEET

MANILA EXPO, THE PHILIPPINES

Manila is the capital city of the Philippines, an archipelago of over 7000 islands lying about 805 kilometres off the south east coast of Asia. The country's manufacturing sector is located in Manila, its largest metropolitan city and the focus of all government, commercial, industrial and cultural activities, making it an ideal location for an *Australia Needs Skills* expo.

Manila is located on the largest island in the archipelago, Luzon and is the country's chief port.

Luzon has important timber and mining industries. There are gold, chromite, nickel, copper, and iron deposits, and the bamboo on the Bataan peninsula has many commercial uses. Manufacturing is centred in Manila, where textiles, chemicals, and metal products are produced. Scattered throughout Luzon are fertilizer plants, oil refineries, cement factories, plywood mills and wood product plants.

Australian catering industries have expressed considerable interest in recruiting skilled workers from the Philippines. Filipino restaurant and catering workers skilled in a wide range of cuisines are attracted to Australia's vibrant and diverse mix of cultures.

Australian manufacturing, mining and resources industries have also shown keen interest in skilled workers from the Philippines. Electrical linesmen, shipwrights, electricians, welders, oil drillers and riggers, slaughtermen and meat processors are among the most recent skilled migration sponsorships to Australia. Filipinos are employed in the mining industries of Western Australia, Northern Territory and Queensland.

In 2004-05 skilled migration visas issued to citizens of the Philippines covered a range of occupations in demand. In addition to IT professions, the top 10 occupations in demand filled by migrants from the Philippines were:

1. accountants
2. nurses
3. motor mechanics
4. civil engineers
5. cooks
6. automotive electricians
7. chefs
8. metal fabricators
9. refrigeration and air-conditioning mechanics
10. electricians

OTHER FACTS ABOUT THE PHILIPPINES

Capital:	Manila, 13,790,900 (metro. area), 10,232,900 (city proper)
Largest cities:	Quezon City (2000 est.), 1,669,776 (part of Manila metro. area); Cebu (2003 est.), 761,900
Principal languages:	Filipino (based on Tagalog), English (both official); eight major dialects: Tagalog, Cebuano, Ilocano, Hiligaynon or Ilonggo, Bicol, Waray, Pampango, and Pangasinense
Ethnicity/race:	Christian Malay 91.5%, Muslim Malay 4%, Chinese 1.5%, other 3%
Religions:	Roman Catholic 83%, Protestant 9%, Islam 5%, Buddhist and other 3%
Literacy rate:	96% (2003 est.)
Economic summary:	GDP/PPP (2004 est.) \$430.6 billion; per capita \$5,000. Real growth rate: 5.9%. Inflation: 5.5%. Unemployment: 11.7%. Arable land: 19%. Agriculture: sugarcane, coconuts, rice, corn, bananas, cassavas, pineapples, fish, mangoes, pork, eggs, beef. Labour force: 35.86 million; agriculture 36%, industry 16%, services 48% (2004 est.).
Industries:	electronics assembly, garments, footwear, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, wood products, food processing, petroleum refining, fishing.
Natural resources:	timber, petroleum, nickel, cobalt, silver, gold, salt, copper.
Exports:	\$38.63 billion (f.o.b., 2004 est.) electronic equipment, machinery and transport equipment, garments, optical instruments, coconut products, fruits and nuts, copper products, chemicals.
Imports:	\$37.5 billion (f.o.b., 2004 est.) raw materials, machinery and equipment, fuels, vehicles and vehicle parts, plastic, chemicals, grains.
Major trading partners:	United States., Japan, Hong Kong, Netherlands, Taiwan, Malaysia, Singapore, China, South Korea (2003).