



THE PHILIPPINES MATTERS FOR AMERICA MATTERS FOR THE PHILIPPINES



AsiaMattersforAmerica.org/PHILIPPINES

The East-West Center promotes better relations and understanding among the people and nations of the United States, Asia, and the Pacific through cooperative study, research, and dialogue. Established by the US Congress in 1960, the Center serves as a resource for information and analysis on critical issues of common concern, bringing people together to exchange views, build expertise, and develop policy options.

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Since the Republic of the Philippines gained its independence in 1946, the United States government has been represented by the **US Embassy in the Philippines**. The Embassy exercises many different functions in its official representation to the Philippine government. These include political, administrative, economic, public diplomacy, and consular affairs managed under the Ambassador by counselors from the Department of State. The US Agency for International Development manages bilateral development projects. Military affairs are handled by the Defense Attaché's office at the Embassy. The US Veterans Administration has its only overseas office at the Embassy in Manila. This office takes care of veterans affairs for the many American and Filipino veterans residing in the Philippines. Find more information about the US Embassy and its work on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

THE PHILIPPINES MATTERS FOR AMERICA/AMERICA MATTERS FOR THE PHILIPPINES

This project maps the trade, investment, employment, business, diplomacy, security, education, tourism, and people-to-people connections between the United States and the Philippines at the national, state, and local levels. Part of the *Asia Matters for America* initiative, this publication and the AsiaMattersforAmerica.org website are resources for understanding the robust and dynamic US-Philippines relationship.

AsiaMattersforAmerica.org/Philippines

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Highlights

THE US AND THE PHILIPPINES IN PROFILE

The United States and the Republic of the Philippines Have Shared a Robust Relationship for 75 Years

Official diplomatic relations between the United States and the Philippines began after the Philippines gained independence on July 4, 1946.

ALLIANCE

US-Philippines Security Relations Remain Strong

The United States and the Philippines became formal allies 70 years ago with the signing of the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty. It is the United States' oldest alliance in the Indo-Pacific.

TRADE

The United States Is the Philippines' Largest Export Destination

Bilateral trade between the United States and the Philippines is valued at over \$25 billion.

INVESTMENT

California Is the Most Popular Destination for Greenfield Investment from the Philippines

Between 2005 and 2021, 10 US states and two territories received greenfield investment from the Philippines.

JOBS

Exports to the Philippines Support More Than 53,000 US Jobs

California, Washington, and Texas have the largest number of jobs supported by exports to the Philippines.

HEALTH COOPERATION

The United States Has Donated More Than 33 Million COVID Vaccine Doses to the Philippines

The United States also trained 34,000 Filipino health workers in contact tracing, waste management, risk communication, and more in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND PROTECTION

The United States and the Philippines are Longstanding Partners in Environmental Stewardship

Since 2001, USAID has contributed nearly \$300 million to the Philippines to support environmental stewardship.

Highlights

AID

The United States has Long Supported the Philippines with Development Aid

Over the last 20 years, US development aid to the Philippines has tripled.

POPULATION

More Than 4.2 Million Filipinos Live in the United States

Filipino Americans are the 3rd largest Asian ethnic group in the United States, following Chinese Americans and Indian Americans.

CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

The United States and the Philippines Have Influenced Each Other's Cultures

Filipino Americans have made significant contributions to both Filipino and American culture in areas including sports, food, and music.

FILIPINO-AMERICANS IN ELECTED OFFICE

Filipino Americans Are Represented in Public Office at the Federal, State, and Local Levels

Nearly 66% of Filipino Americans serving in public office in the United States reside in California, which is also home to the most Filipino Americans in the country.

EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE

The Philippines and the United States Share Robust Educational Exchanges

During the 2019-2020 academic year, more than 3,200 international students from the Philippines studied abroad in the United States. Approximately 300 American students studied abroad in the Philippines.

SISTER PARTNERSHIPS

The United States and the Philippines Share 65 Sister Relationships

Hawai'i and California share the majority of the sister connections with the Philippines.

TRAVEL AND TOURISM

The Philippines Is a Top Destination for US Tourists

The growth of US tourism to the Philippines was especially prominent between 2015 and 2019, rising by approximately 50% within four years.

The United States and the Republic of the Philippines Have Shared a Robust Relationship for 75 Years

The United States and the Republic of the Philippines have shared a robust relationship for 75 years as friends, partners, and allies with a strong commitment to democracy and development cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.

Following the Spanish-American War in 1898, the Philippines was ceded to the United States as a colonial territory. Official diplomatic relations between the United States and the Philippines began after the Philippines gained independence on July 4, 1946 following Japanese occupation during World War II.

Since then, the two countries have expanded and deepened bilateral cooperation in many areas, most notably in defense and security, trade, culture, and education. The Philippines is the United States' oldest treaty ally in the Indo-Pacific, with a Mutual Defense Treaty signed in 1951.

The United States and the Philippines have a strong trade and investment relationship, with over \$25 billion in goods and services traded in 2020. As the Philippines' 3rd-largest trading partner, the United States is one of the largest foreign investors in the Philippines.

The Philippines and the United States belong to many of the same international organizations, including the United Nations, ASEAN Regional Forum, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and the World Trade Organization.

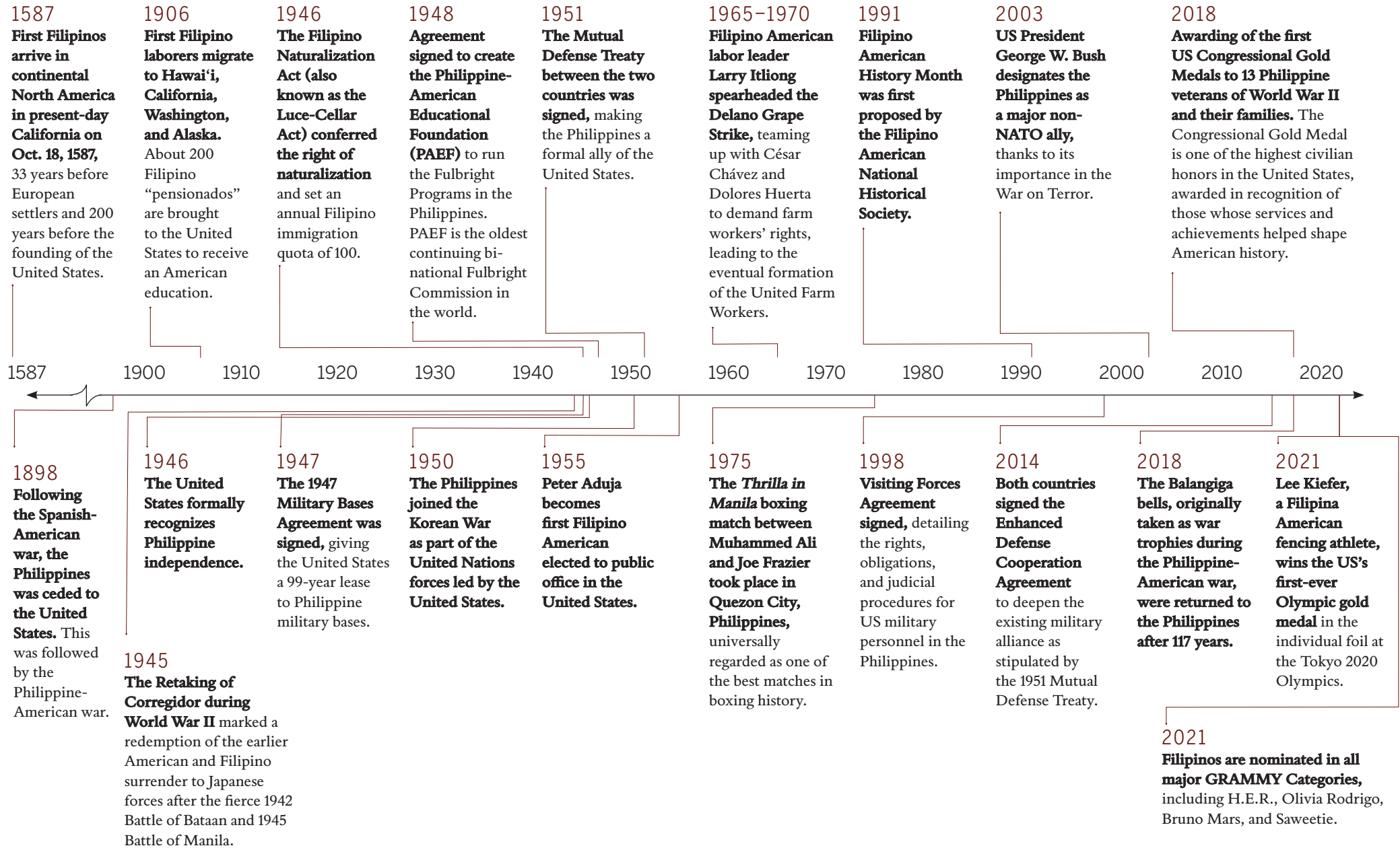
INDICATOR	UNITED STATES	PHILIPPINES
Population	337m	115m
GDP	\$19.85t	\$871.6b
GDP per capita	\$60,200	\$8,000
Exports of goods and services (% of GDP)	12.1%	31%
FDI, net inflows (BoP)	\$211.3b	\$6.6b
FDI, net outflows (BoP)	\$311.7b	\$3.5b
Military expenditures (% of GDP)	3.7%	1.1%
Life expectancy	81	70

MAP OF THE INDO-PACIFIC



Sources: CIA World Factbook, World Bank, Trade Partnership, 2020 data unless otherwise noted. Numbers rounded throughout publication. All monetary values are in current US\$ unless otherwise noted. Whenever possible, most recent available data is used.

Timeline



US-Philippines Security Relations Remain Strong

The United States and the Philippines became formal allies 70 years ago with the signing of the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty. It is the United States' oldest alliance in the Indo-Pacific. Additionally, the Philippines has Major Non-NATO Ally status with the United States, which provides benefits in defense, trade, and security cooperation. Security-related agreements make up more than a quarter of US-Philippines bilateral agreements.

The United States and the Philippines have an extensive history of security cooperation. 2019 marked the 25th anniversary of the Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training Exercise (Exercise CARAT), of which the Philippines was a founding partner. Since the first Balikatan “shoulder to shoulder” exercise occurred in 1991, the United States and the Philippines have conducted 37 joint military exercises. Since 2012, the Philippines has been a key participant of the Rim of the Pacific Exercise (RIMPAC). These exercises have grown in scope to include counter-terrorism operations and war games.

Since the passage of the US National Defense Authorization Act of 2015, these exercises have also grown to include training to promote respect for the rule of law and human rights. A key aspect of this training is Leahy vetting, a process that ensures that US government assistance is only provided to units of foreign security forces that are not implicated in gross human rights violations, part of the US commitment to human rights around the world.

The United States and the Philippines have also continued to strengthen their relationship through major investment and cooperation between the United States and Philippine Coast Guards. At least half of the 148,000 Filipinos in San Diego came to the city because of the US Navy, demonstrating how the US-Philippines security relationship also established one of the largest and oldest Filipino diaspora communities in the world.

Manila is home to the only Veterans Administration regional office outside the United States, and the American Cemetery in Manila is the largest American military cemetery outside the United States.

Sources: Various government and military sources including the US Department of State; US Navy; INDOPACOM; San Diego-Union Tribune

KEY EVENTS IN US-PHILIPPINES SECURITY



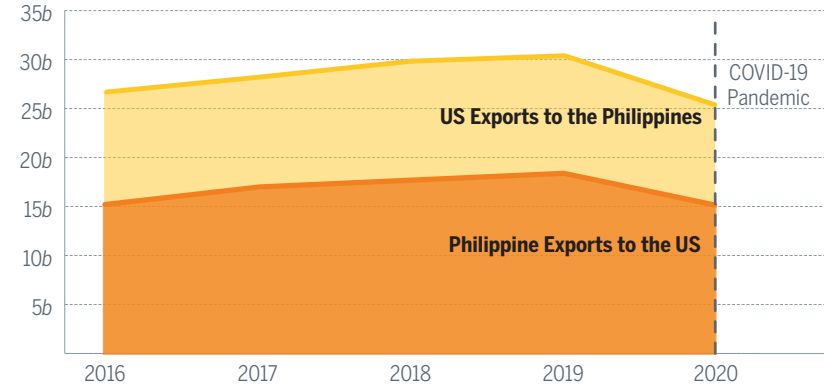
Photo: US Marine Corps; US and Philippine soldiers during the Balikatan 22 Exercise, the largest joint military exercise to date.

The United States Is the Philippines' Largest Export Destination

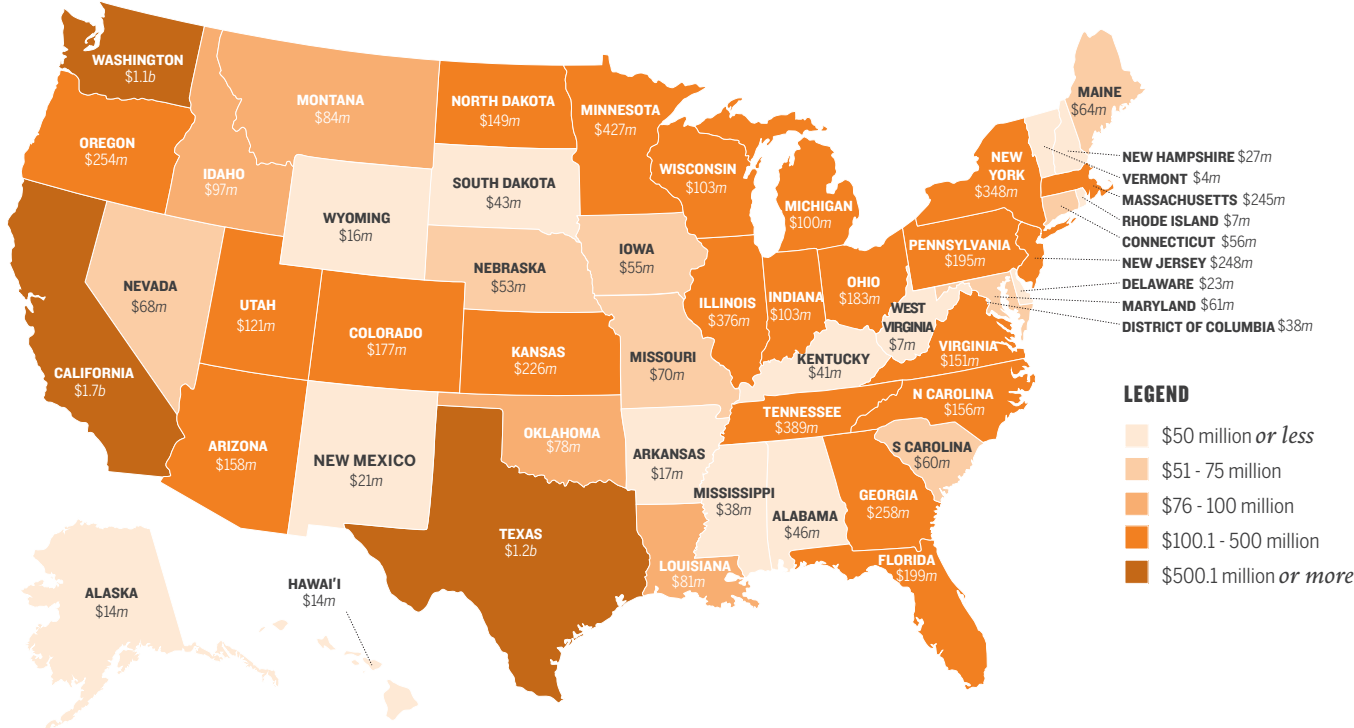
Bilateral trade between the United States and the Philippines is valued at over \$25 billion as of 2020. The Philippines has a large trade surplus with the United States, at \$5.1 billion. Since 2010, Philippine exports to the United States have enjoyed steady growth, growing 18.3% between 2016 and 2019. In 2019, just before the pandemic, the value of the Philippines' goods and services exports to the United States stood at over \$18 billion, while the United States' exports to the Philippines stood at over \$12 billion.

Approximately half of American states exported more than \$100 million each to the Philippines. California was the largest exporter of goods to the Philippines in 2020 with \$1.7 billion, followed by Texas with \$1.2 billion.

BILATERAL TRADE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE PHILIPPINES



GOODS AND SERVICES EXPORTS TO THE PHILIPPINES



Sources: Trade Partnership, 2020 data; Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2020 data; US International Trade Administration, 2020 data; UN Comtrade, 2019 data

TOP 10 EXPORT MARKETS OF THE PHILIPPINES

PARTNER	EXPORT (\$)	EXPORT (%)
United States	\$11.6b	16%
Japan	\$10.7b	15%
China	\$9.8b	14%
Hong Kong	\$9.6b	14%
Singapore	\$3.8b	5%
South Korea	\$3.2b	5%
Thailand	\$3b	4%
Germany	\$2.7b	4%
Netherlands	\$2.3b	3%
Malaysia	\$1.8b	3%

TOP 5 STATES IN GOODS AND SERVICES EXPORTS TO THE PHILIPPINES

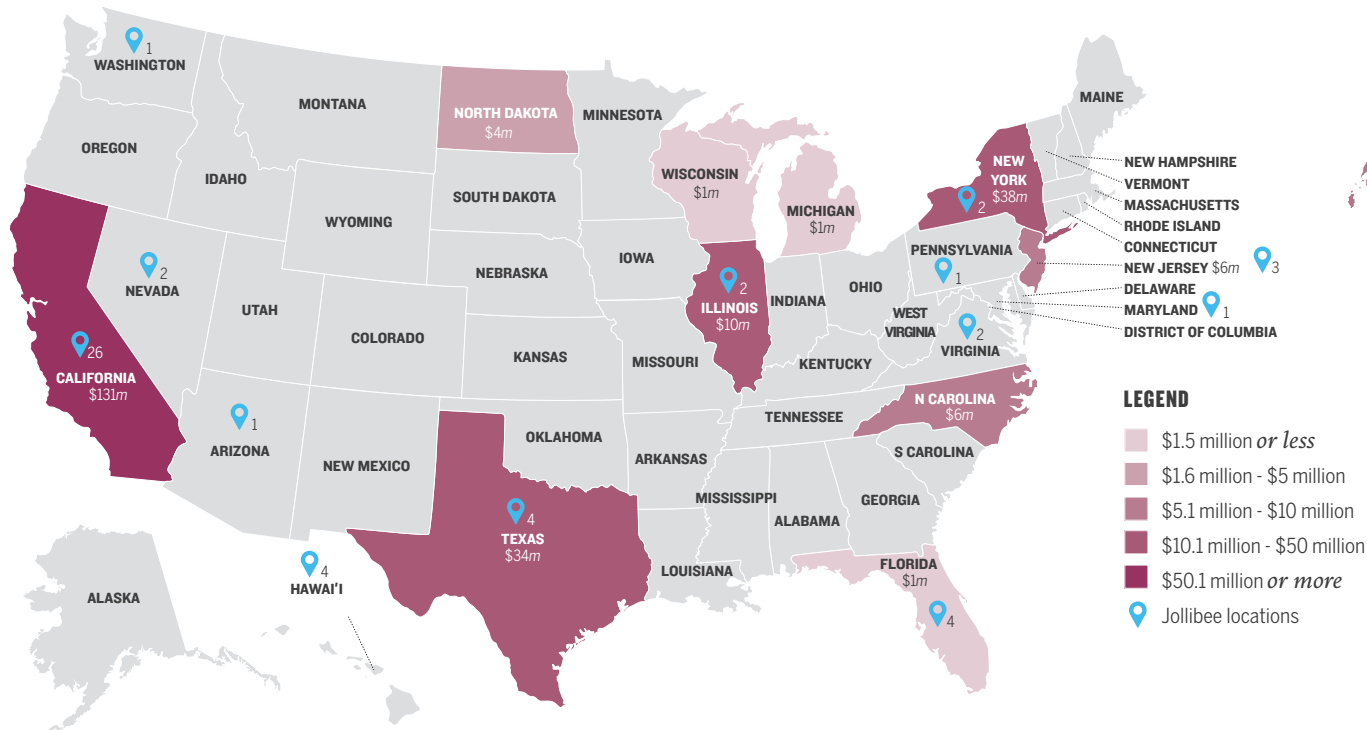
1	California	\$1.7b
2	Texas	\$1.2b
3	Washington	\$1.1b
4	Minnesota	\$427m
5	Tennessee	\$389m

California Is the Most Popular Destination for Greenfield Investment from the Philippines

Since 2005, California has received the most greenfield investment* from the Philippines with \$131 million—29% of the total Philippine greenfield investment in the United States. Of that, the largest investment came from Philippine fast food giant Jollibee, which invested \$21 million to build a new headquarters to support its widespread expansion across North America.

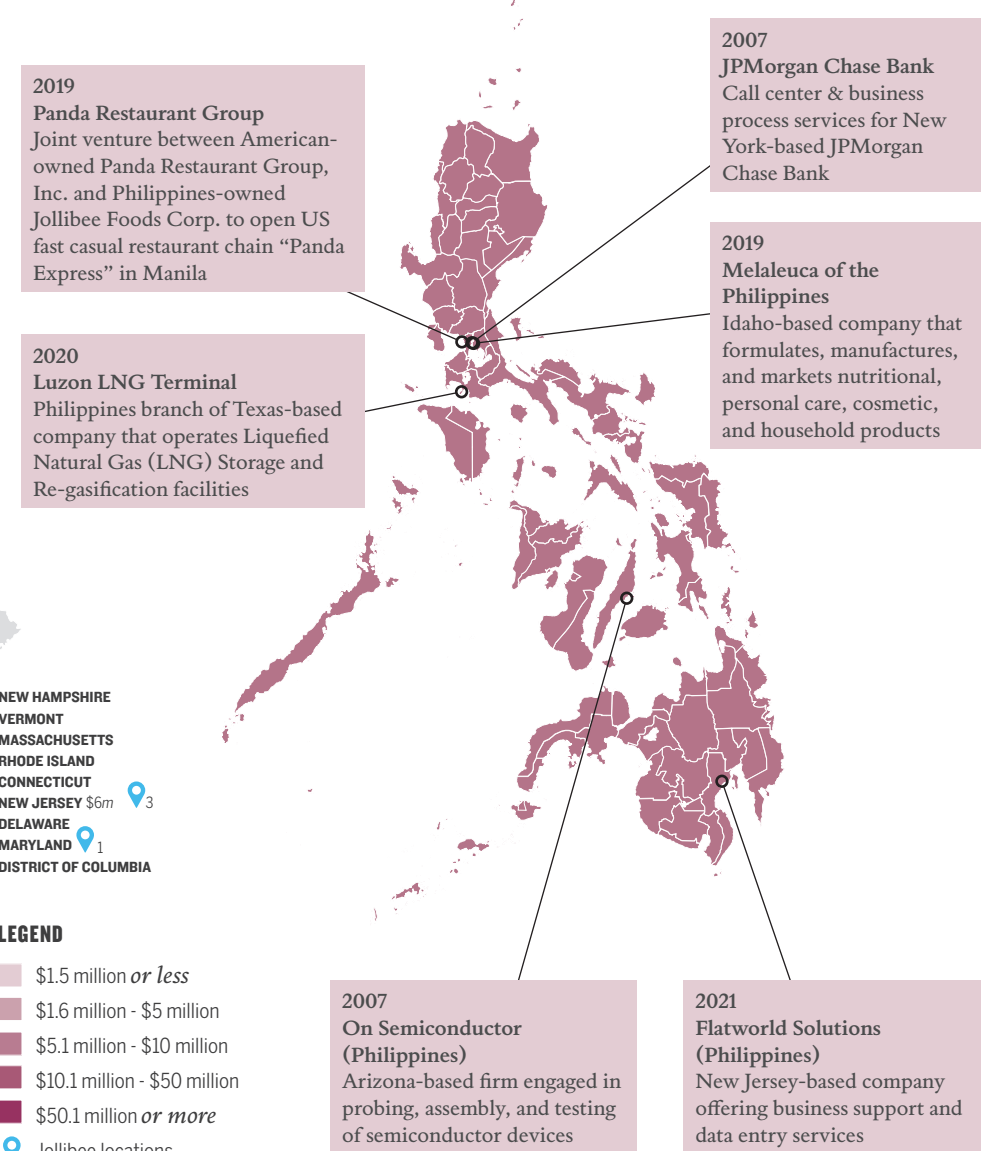
The territory of American Samoa came relatively close behind with about \$100 million or 31%. This puts the territory far ahead of New York at \$38 million. Ten US states and the territories of American Samoa and Guam received greenfield investment from the Philippines between 2005 and 2021.

PHILIPPINE GREENFIELD INVESTMENT IN THE US



*Greenfield investment refers to the building or expansion of new facilities rather than purchases or mergers with existing companies

SELECTED RECENT MAJOR INVESTMENTS OF US MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES IN THE PHILIPPINES



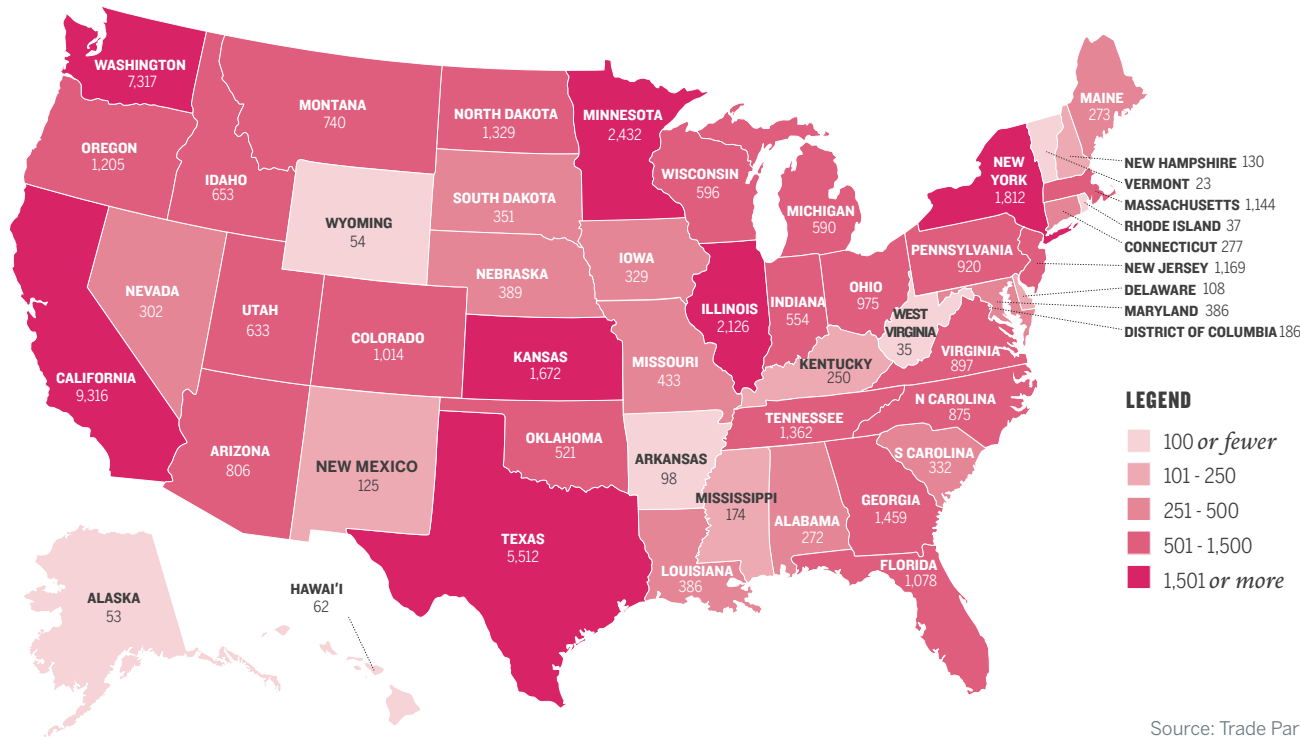
Source: fDi Markets, 2005-2021 data; Jollibee Foods; Department of Trade and Industry Philippines

Exports to the Philippines Support More Than 53,000 US Jobs

In 2020, California was the state with the highest number of jobs supported by exports to the Philippines with 9,316. Washington and Texas were closely matched with 7,317 and 5,512, respectively.

In terms of jobs supported by greenfield investments, Texas took the first place between 2005 and 2021 with 574 jobs. California was second with 296, followed by Florida at 118 jobs. Overall, ten states had jobs supported by greenfield investments from the Philippines between 2005 and 2021.

NUMBER OF JOBS SUPPORTED BY EXPORTS TO THE PHILIPPINES



Source: Trade Partnership, 2020; fDi Markets, 2005-2021 data

STATES WITH THE HIGHEST TOTAL JOBS CREATED BY EXPORTS TO THE PHILIPPINES SINCE 2016

California	56,489
Texas	35,863
Washington	33,469
New York	13,876
Minnesota	13,871
Illinois	12,962
Georgia	9,737
Massachusetts	8,868
Florida	8,754
Kansas	7,611

STATES WITH JOBS CREATED BY PHILIPPINE GREENFIELD INVESTMENT SINCE 2005

Texas	574
California	296
Florida	118
North Dakota	100
Wisconsin	100
North Carolina	91
New York	64
Illinois	59
Michigan	20
New Jersey	15

The United States Has Donated More Than 33 Million COVID Vaccine Doses to the Philippines

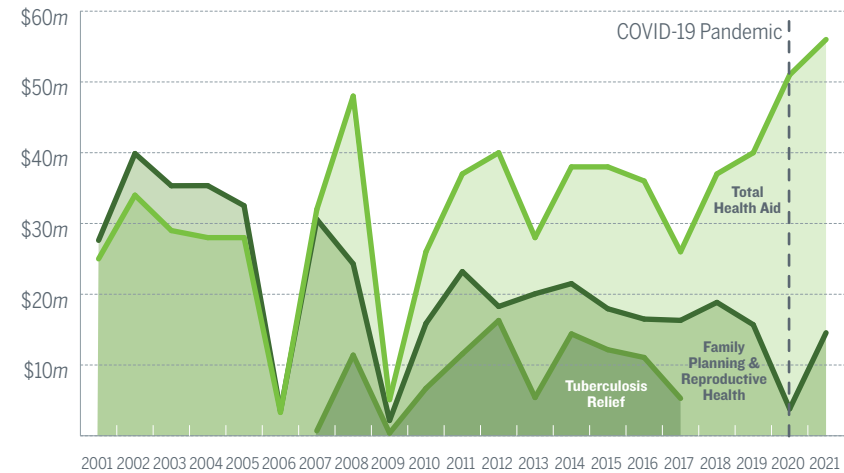
Aside from donating millions of COVID vaccine doses to the Philippines, the United States also donated substantial amounts of medical equipment including ventilators, cots, ICU beds, and more. The United States trained more than 34,000 Filipino health workers in areas such as contact tracing, waste management, and risk communication. As of June 2022, the United States has provided more than \$39 million to support the COVID-19 response in the Philippines.

US medical aid to the Philippines goes far beyond fighting COVID-19. Since the beginning of the 21st century, the United States has consistently donated millions of dollars to the Philippine healthcare system. US donations have risen from \$1 million in 2000 to nearly \$50 million in 2020.

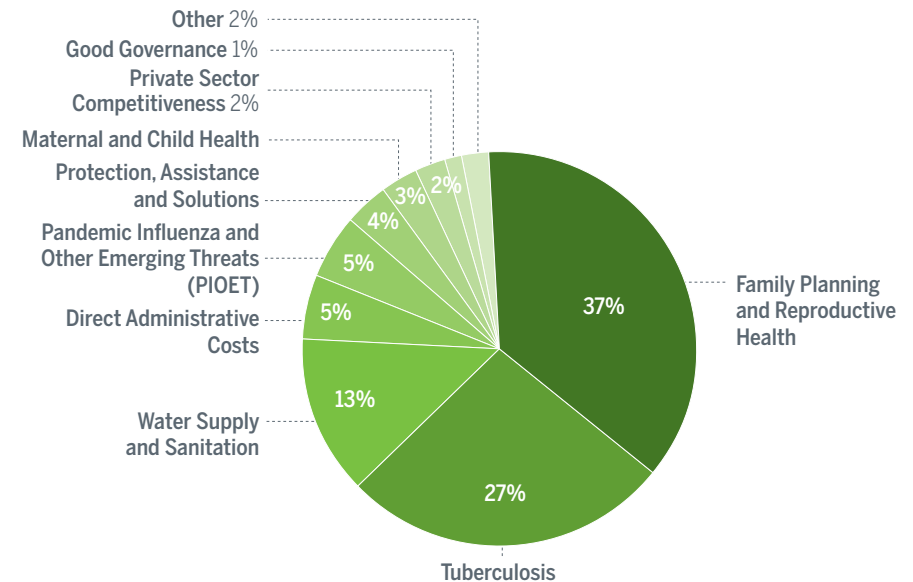
About 37% of US medical donations since 2016 have been reserved for family planning and reproductive health, followed by 27% for tuberculosis relief.

In the United States, one in 20 registered nurses received their training in the Philippines. Immigrants from the Philippines make up more than 13% of all foreign-born healthcare workers. Overall, 357,300 Filipino immigrants are working in the US healthcare system today.

US HEALTHCARE AID TO THE PHILIPPINES BY YEAR



BREAKDOWN OF HEALTH AID TO THE PHILIPPINES SINCE 2016

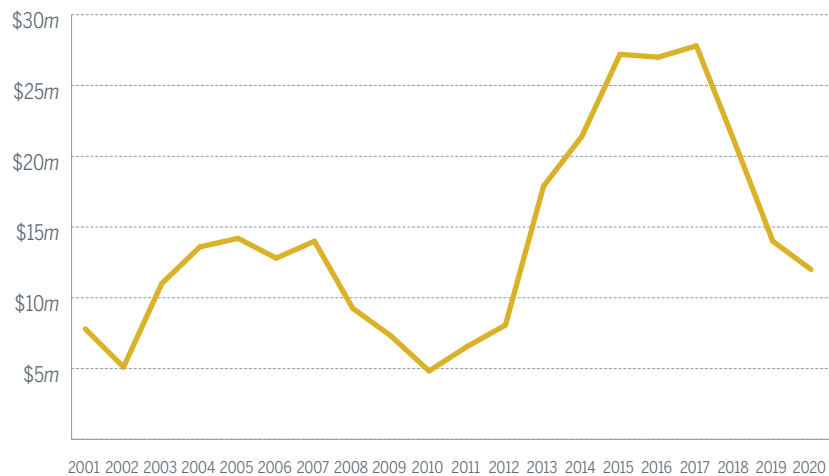


Source: Foreign Assistance.gov; Migration Policy Institute; National Nurses United; Gender, Work & Organization Journal, Vol. 28, Issue 4, US Department of State; US Embassy in the Philippines

The United States and the Philippines are Longstanding Partners in Environmental Stewardship

The United States and the Philippines are longstanding partners in promoting bilateral and regional cooperation on environmental issues. Since 2001, USAID has contributed nearly \$300 million to the Philippines to support environmental stewardship. USAID is also planning to fund up to \$5.5 million in the Philippines between 2020 to 2025 to improve natural resource governance in marine landscapes, stimulate public and private sector investments in natural resource management, and reduce environmental crimes and unsustainable practices. The US Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs has supported trainings with the Philippine Coast Guard, and partnered with NOAA to combat illegal fishing.

USAID ENVIRONMENTAL AID TO THE PHILIPPINES



Sources: Foreign Assistance.gov; USAID

The Philippines is one of the 20 most biodiverse countries in the world, with 5% of the world's flora as well as more than 700 threatened species and 100 fish species unique to the country. The United States invests heavily in Philippine biodiversity, with numerous programs focused on sustainability, renewable energy, natural disaster risk reduction, conservation, and natural resource management.

MAJOR USAID ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMS IN THE PHILIPPINES

The Sustainable Interventions for Biodiversity, Oceans and Landscapes (SIBOL) and Safe Water Project
Buy-in to the U.S. Forest Service Participating Agency Program Agreement (PAPA) for Sustainable Forest Management
Municipal Waste Recycling Program (MWRP)
USAID Fish Right
Partnership for Biodiversity Conservation III (PBC)
Protect Wildlife
Toxic Site Identification Program
U.S. Peace Corps Small Project Assistance

SELECTED STORY



Photo: Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu and USAID Deputy Mission Director Sean Callahan sign a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen partnership between the US and Philippine governments on protecting the country's natural resources

As the United States and the Philippines celebrated 75 years of diplomatic relations in 2021, USAID and the Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) agreed to advance their cooperation to protect the Philippines' rich natural resources and improve access to clean water and sanitation by signing a four-year \$150 million agreement to protect the environment, promote sustainable use of natural resources, and reduce risks from natural disasters. On May 27, USAID and the DENR signed the sub-agreements to implement two projects under that agreement: the Sustainable Interventions for Biodiversity, Oceans and Landscapes (SIBOL) and Safe Water Project.

The United States Has Long Supported the Philippines with Development Aid

The United States has consistently provided development aid to the Philippines since 1949 when it donated \$1.9 billion to post-World War II rehabilitation efforts. Since 1961, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has worked with the Philippine government and local organizations to invest more than \$5 billion total to support the Philippines.

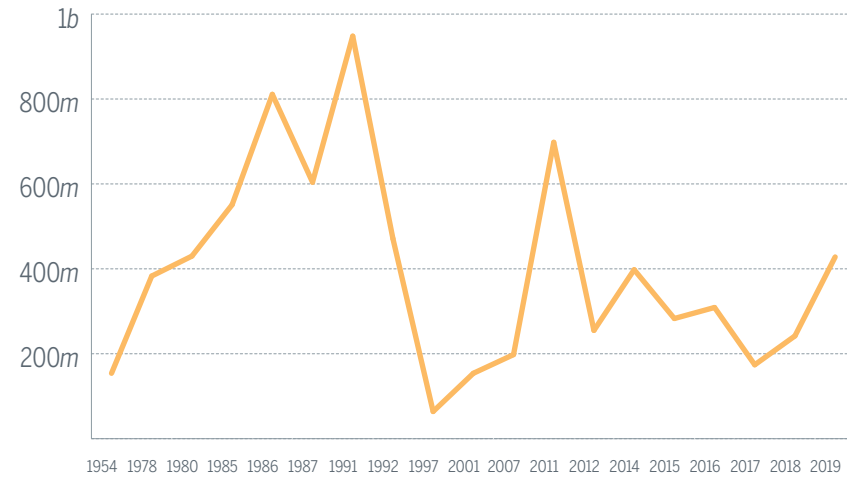
PEACE CORPS

The United States has had a Peace Corps program in the Philippines for more than 60 years. The Peace Corps program in the Philippines is the agency's second-oldest, founded in October 1961. More than 8,800 Peace Corps Volunteers have served in the Philippines since the program's launch. In the 1970s, the Peace Corps program decreased its education component to focus on social and economic development in rural areas. However, from the mid-1980s through the 1990s, the program returned to focus on educational projects. On average, more than 180 volunteers work with Filipino counterparts in sectors like education management and conservation of coastal resources. Over the last decade, disaster relief and recovery has also become an increasingly important area of assistance to the Philippines.

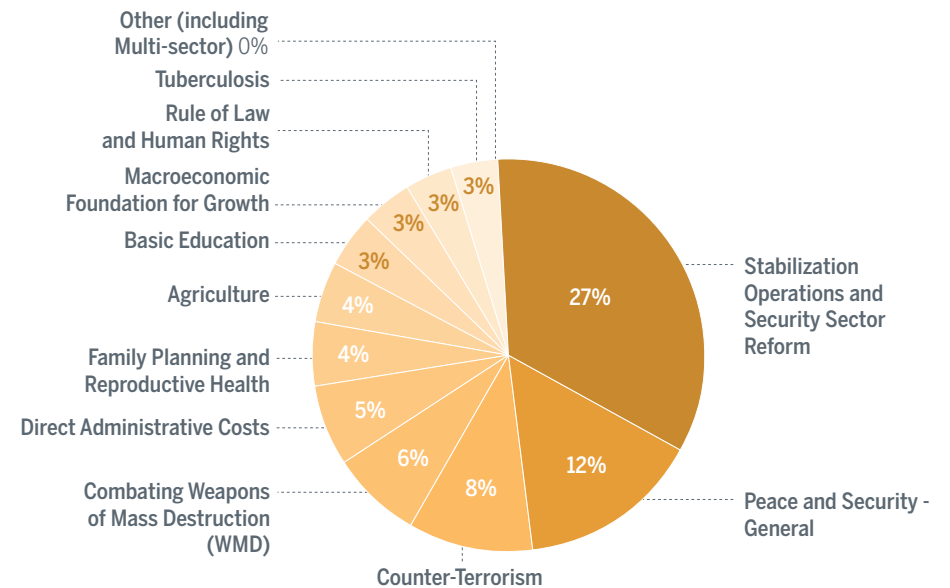
DISASTER RELIEF

The Philippines was ranked 3rd among countries with the highest disaster risk in 2018, and the country is regularly affected by various natural disasters from typhoons to volcanic eruptions. The United States has also contributed aid for disaster relief in the Philippines. Since 1990, USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) has responded to 50 disasters. USAID contributed \$250,000 in immediate cash assistance after Typhoon Durian (Reming) in 2006, \$87 million in relief aid after Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) in 2013, and \$100,000 in relief aid for those affected by the Taal volcanic eruption in 2020. USAID more recently provided \$200,000 in immediate assistance to the Philippines after Typhoon Odette (Rai) in 2021. Since 2010, USAID has provided more than \$342 million in disaster relief and recovery aid and projects to boost disaster risk capacity in the Philippines. Many capacity building efforts are supported by USAID and carried out by other organizations like the Catholic Relief Services, the World Food Program, the Philippine Disaster Relief Resilience Foundation, and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

US AID TO THE PHILIPPINES BY YEAR



SECTOR BREAKDOWN OF AID TO THE PHILIPPINES

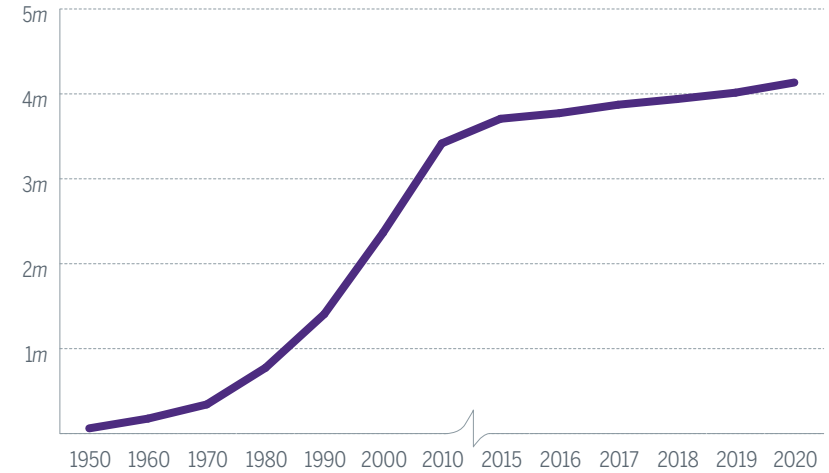


Source: Foreign Assistance.gov; Peace Corps; USAID

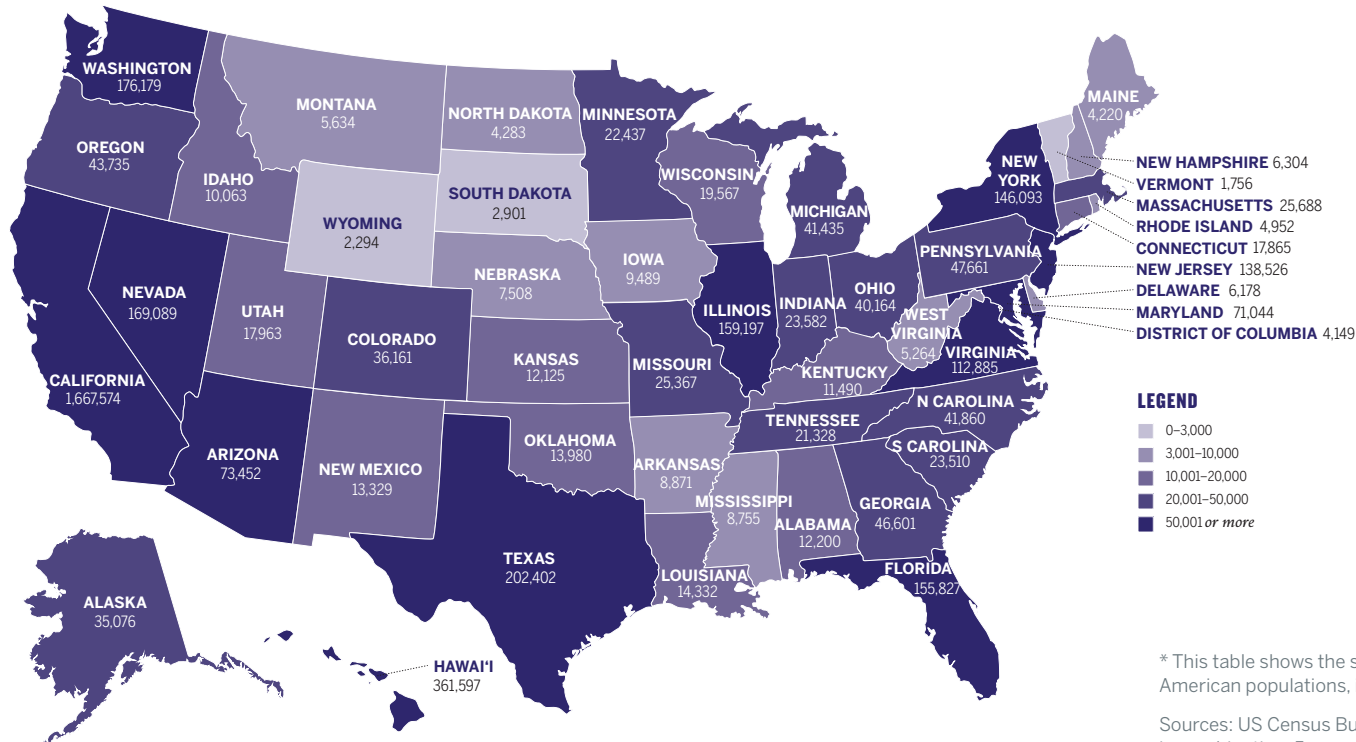
More Than 4.2 Million Filipino Americans Live in the United States

Filipino Americans are the 3rd largest Asian ethnic group in the United States, following Chinese and Indian Americans. With a population of more than 4.2 million, Filipino Americans make up approximately 18% of the total Asian American population in the United States. California, Hawai'i, Texas, Washington, and Nevada have the largest Filipino American populations. The United States is also the largest source of remittances to the Philippines with \$11.9 billion sent in 2020. More than 350,000 US citizens live in the Philippines.

FILIPINO AMERICAN POPULATION GROWTH

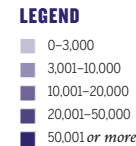


FILIPINO AMERICAN POPULATION BY STATE



PERCENTAGE OF FILIPINO AMERICANS WITHIN TOTAL ASIAN AMERICAN POPULATION*

1	Nevada	50%
2	Hawai'i	37%
3	California	24%
4	Washington	20%
5	Texas	12%



* This table shows the states with the highest percentage of Filipino Americans within their Asian American populations, i.e. In Nevada, 50% of the total Asian American population is Filipino American.

Sources: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2020 (Note: Data refers to Asian alone or in combination, 5-year estimates by selected group); Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

The United States and the Philippines Have Influenced Each Other's Cultures

Filipino Americans have made significant contributions to American culture. These contributions have left a mark on a variety of cultural fields from sports to food to music.

SPORTS

Modern major league sports in the Philippines have significant ties to the United States. One of the most notable was the 1910 introduction of basketball into the Philippines public school system by American teachers. Its widespread popularity led to the creation of the Philippine Men's National Basketball Team—known as *Gilas Pilipinas*—which won the first Basketball Gold Medal at the Far Eastern Championship Game in 1913. Today, Filipino Americans play significant roles in the US National Basketball Association (NBA), including Erik Jon Spoelstra who is currently serving as the first Asian American Head Coach in the major North American Sports Leagues, working with his former team, the Miami Heat.

Filipino Americans have also played in US Major League Baseball (MLB), the National Hockey League (NHL), the National Football League (NFL), the Professional Golfer's Association (PGA), and the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC). Filipino Americans have also represented the United States on the international stage. In the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, 15 Filipino Americans represented Team USA, such as Gold Medalist Fencer Lee Kiefer and Silver Medalist Swimmer Bella Sims. Filipino American Alpine Skier Asa Miller was also the sole competitor for the Philippines in the 2022 Winter Olympics.

FOOD

Filipino food has become increasingly popular in the United States since the 2010s with growing coverage on news media and on culinary television.

Perhaps the most iconic Filipino fast food chain, Jollibee entered the United States in 1998 in California. The chain currently hosts over 60 locations throughout the United States, and plans to expand to over 150 locations by the end of 2023. The restaurant, offering Filipino-style spaghetti, pancit palabok, and adobo rice, offers many Americans their first forays into Filipino food, and for many Filipino Americans, a familiar taste from home. One major Filipino supermarket, known as Seafood City, has expanded throughout both the United States, with 28 locations in Illinois, Hawai'i, Nevada, Washington, and California.

Notable Filipino American chefs include Cristeta Pasia Comerford, the White House Executive Chef since 2005, and Tom Cunanan, winner of the coveted James Beard Award in 2019.

FILIPINO AMERICAN GRAMMY AWARD WINNERS

Filipino Americans have been well-represented in American music since the early 2000s and have continued to top music charts in various genres

Artist	Number of Grammy Awards	Grammy Wins
Allan Pineda Lindo / apl.de.ap - Black Eyed Peas	6	2005 (Best Rap Performance by a Duo or Group), 2006 (Best Rap Performance by a Duo or Group), 2007 (Best Rap Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocals), 2010 (Best Pop Vocal Album, Best Pop Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocals, Best Short Form Music Video)
Bruno Mars	14	2011 (Best Male Pop Vocal Performance), 2014 (Best Pop Vocal Album), 2016 (Record of the Year, Best Pop Duo/Group Performance), 2017 (Album of the Year), 2018 (Album of the Year, Best R&B Album, Record of the Year, Song of the Year, Best R&B Performance, Best R&B Song), 2022 (Record of the Year, Song of the Year, Best R&B Song)
Charles Edward Hugo - The Neptunes, with Pharrell Williams	4	2004 (Producer of the Year [Non-Classical], Best Pop Vocal Album), 2006 (Best Contemporary R&B Album), 2007 (Best Rap Song)
Enrique Iglesias	1	1997 (Best Latin Pop Performance)
H.E.R.	5	2019 (Best R&B Performance, Best R&B Album), 2021 (Song of the Year, Best R&B Song), 2022 (Best Traditional R&B Performance)
Kirk Hammett - Metallica's Lead Guitarist	10	1990 (Best Metal Performance), 1991 (Best Metal Performance), 1992 (Best Metal Performance), 1999 (Best Metal Performance), 2000 (Best Hard Rock Performance), 2001 (Best Rock Instrumental Performance), 2004 (Best Metal Performance), 2009 (Best Recording Package, Best Metal Performance)
Olivia Rodrigo	3	2022 (Best Pop Vocal Album, Best Pop Solo Performance, Best New Artist)
Robert Lopez	3	2012 (Best Musical Theater Album), 2015 (Best Compilation Soundtrack for Visual Media, Best Song Written for Visual Media)
Tia Carrere	2	2008 (Best Hawaiian Music Album), 2010 (Best Hawaiian Music Album)

Sources: Various news outlets including The New York Times, GMA, ABS-CBN; Jollibee Foods; Seafood City; Grammy Awards

Filipino Americans Are Represented in Public Office at the Federal, State, and Local Levels

Filipino Americans are represented in public office at the federal, state, and local levels.

Nearly 66% of Filipino Americans serving in public office in the United States reside in California, which is also the state with the largest Filipino American population. Hawai'i has the 2nd largest percentage with 22% of Filipino American elected officials residing in the state.

In 1954, Peter Aduja was the first Filipino American to be elected to public office in the United States as a representative in the Hawai'i State Legislature. Nearly 20 years later, Larry Asera of Vallejo, California became the first Filipino American to be elected to public office in the mainland United States.

SELECTED STORY



Photo: Virginia Representative Bobby Scott speaking at a press conference. US Department of Labor

Representative Robert C. “Bobby” Scott is the longest currently serving Filipino-American in the House of Representatives. He has represented Virginia since 1993, and has sponsored bills such as the RISE Act, the Supporting Positive Outcomes After Release Act, and the Direct CARE Opportunity Act. He was also a co-sponsor, including 35 other representatives, of a landmark bill to recognize October as Filipino-American History Month, meant to celebrate the history and culture of Filipino Americans and their immense contributions to the United States.

Sources: Individual state representative websites

SELECTED RECENT FILIPINO AMERICAN ELECTED OFFICIALS

	NAME	STATE	OFFICE
	Marvin Lim	Georgia	Georgia State Representative (2021-present)
	Joy San Buenaventura	Hawai'i	Member of the Hawai'i State Senate (2020-present)
	Kelly Convirs-Fowler	Virginia	Virginia State Representative (2018-present)
	Lorraine Inouye	Hawai'i	Member of the Hawai'i State Senate (2014-present)
	Will Espero	Hawai'i	Former Member of the Hawai'i State Senate (2002-2018)
	Donovan M. Dela Cruz	Hawai'i	Member of the Hawai'i State Senate (2011-present)
	Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran	Hawai'i	Member of the Hawai'i Senate (2013-present)
	Henry J.C. Aquino	Hawai'i	State Representative (2009-present)
	Tani Gorre Cantil-Sakauye	California	Chief Justice of California (2011-present)
	Sean Reyes	Utah	Utah Attorney General (2013-present)
	Ron Villanueva	Virginia	Former Member of the Virginia House of Delegates (2010-2018)
	Romy Cachola	Hawai'i	Former Member of the Hawai'i House of Representatives (2012-2020)
	Bobby Scott	Virginia	US House of Representatives (1993-present)
	Rob Bonta	California	Attorney General of California (2021-present)

The United States and the Philippines Share 65 Sister Relationships

Sister relationships are partnerships between cities, counties, and states with similar jurisdictions that work to build civic and people-to-people relationships and support commercial ties. Hawai'i and California share the majority of the sister connections in the United States with the Philippines. Both Hawai'i and California each have 26 sister relationships with the Philippines.

SELECTED STORY



SPOTLIGHT ON CAGAYAN DE ORO AND NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

Mindanao, the 2nd largest island in the Philippines, is home to the “Golden Friendship and Golden Opportunities” city of Cagayan de Oro, a sister city of Norfolk, Virginia. Norfolk and Cagayan de Oro became sister cities in 2008 at the urging of Dr. Juan Montero, a Norfolk Sister City Association board member and co-founder of the local nonprofit Physicians for Peace, which seeks to train and empower surgeons in developing countries. Dr. Montero, who is from a town near Cagayan de Oro, has done extensive humanitarian work there. According to sister city officials, the relationship between Cagayan de Oro and Norfolk blossomed in 2016 after a ten-member delegation from the Philippine city came to Norfolk for two weeks to discuss education issues. The two parties began to collaborate on best practices for teaching Math and English, and find new ways to provide for the professional development of K-12 teachers.

TABLE OF SISTER RELATIONSHIPS

CITY IN PHILIPPINES	US CITY	US STATE	CITY IN PHILIPPINES	US CITY	US STATE
Bolinao	Mobile	AL	Baguio	Honolulu	HI
Kalibo	Juneau	AK	Bangued	Kauai County	HI
Dumaguete	Alameda	CA	Davao	Kauai County	HI
Paranaque	Carson	CA	Santa	Kauai County	HI
La Carlota	Carson	CA	Urdaneta	Kauai County	HI
Cebu	Chula Vista	CA	Bacarra	Maui County	HI
Quezon	Daly City	CA	Badoc	Maui County	HI
Munoz	Davis	CA	Sarrat	Maui County	HI
Los Banos	Davis	CA	Cabugao	Maui County	HI
Kalibo	Delano	CA	Santa & San Juan	Maui County	HI
Makati	Los Angeles	CA	Manila	Maui County	HI
Dagupan	Milpitas	CA	Quezon	Maui County	HI
Palo	Palo Alto	CA	Puerto Princesa	Maui County	HI
Manila	Sacramento	CA	Zambales Province	Maui County	HI
Pasay	Sacramento	CA	Cebu Province	State of Hawai'i	HI
Cebu	Salinas	CA	Ilocos Norte Province	State of Hawai'i	HI
Roxas	San Bernardino	CA	Ilocos Sur Province	State of Hawai'i	HI
Cavite City	San Diego	CA	Isabela Province	State of Hawai'i	HI
Manila	San Francisco	CA	Pangasinan Province	State of Hawai'i	HI
Naga	San Leandro	CA	San Pablo City	Bolingbrook	IL
San Juan	Santa Barbara	CA	Legazpi	Sterling Heights	MI
Sariaya	Santa Clarita	CA	Sorsogon	Sterling Heights	MI
Pasig	South San Francisco	CA	General Santos City	Jersey City	NJ
Iloilo	Stockton	CA	Odiongan	Draper	UT
Baybay	Union City	CA	Cagayan de Oro	Norfolk	VA
Pasay	Union City	CA	Olongapo	Virginia Beach	VA
Baguio	Union City	CA	Bauang	Lakewood	WA
Calamba	Walnut	CA	Cebu	Seattle	WA
Quezon	Fort Walton Beach	FL	Davao	Tacoma	WA
Ormoc	Hawai'i County	HI			
Cebu	Honolulu	HI			
Laoag	Honolulu	HI			
Candon	Honolulu	HI			
Vigan	Honolulu	HI			
Mandaluyong	Honolulu	HI			
Manila	Honolulu	HI			

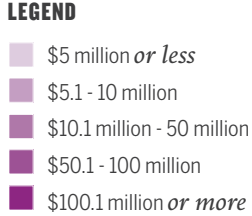
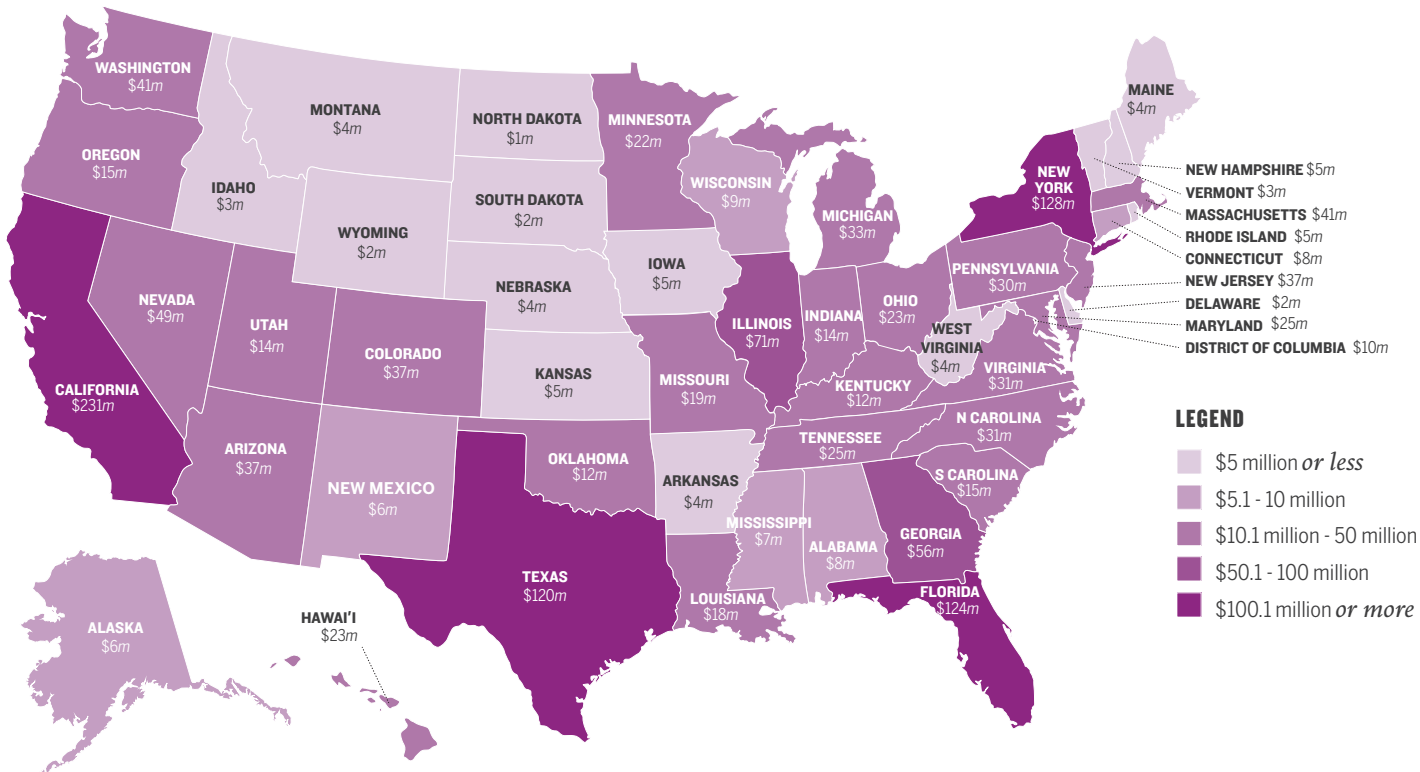
Sources: Sister Cities International; individual sister city associations

The Philippines Is a Top Tourist Destination for US Tourists

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the growth of US tourism to the Philippines was especially prominent between 2015 and 2019 when the figure rose by about 50% within four years. Within the Indo-Pacific, the Philippines was the third most common destination for US tourists in 2019. The Philippines was visited by 1,064,440 American tourists in 2019 making it the third most popular tourist destination in the Indo-Pacific, closely behind Thailand.

Filipino tourist spending in the United States was most concentrated in California and New York in 2019. Overall, the top four states in terms of tourist spending were California, New York, Texas, and Florida.

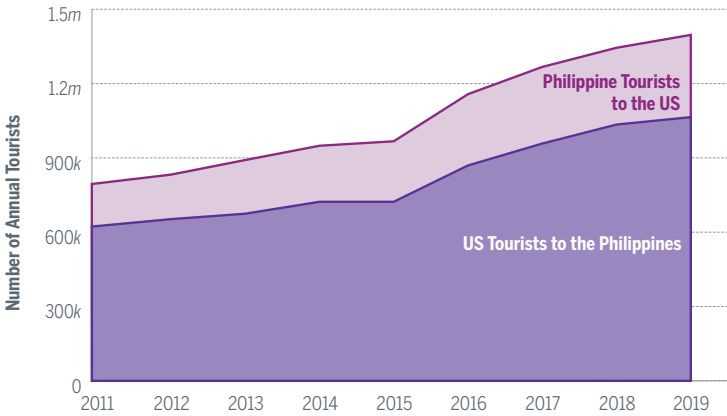
TOTAL SPENDING BY FILIPINO TOURISTS BY STATE



TOP 10 COUNTRIES

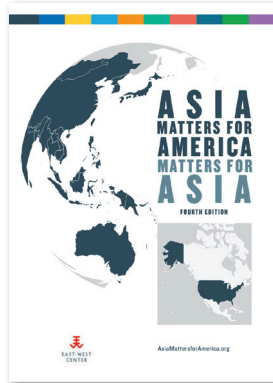
Rank	Country	Number of Tourists
1	Japan	1,723,861
2	Thailand	1,167,845
3	Philippines	1,064,440
4	South Korea	1,044,038
5	Australia	817,900
6	Singapore	729,260
7	Taiwan	620,077
8	Indonesia	457,800
9	New Zealand	367,958
10	Malaysia	269,928

BILATERAL TOURISM BY YEAR



Sources: Trade Partnership, 2019 data; various country Ministries of Travel and Tourism; Philippine Department of Tourism, 2011-2019 data; International Trade Administration, 2011-2019 data; US Department of Commerce

Notes



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This project maps the trade, investment, employment, business, diplomacy, security, education, tourism, and people-to-people connections between the United States and the Philippines at the national, state, and local levels. Part of the *Asia Matters for America* initiative, this publication and the AsiaMattersforAmerica.org website are resources for understanding the robust and dynamic US-Philippines relationship.

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