Metro Manila

Metro Manila Quick Facts

- Also known as the National Capital Region (NCR) of the Philippines
- Most populous region in the Philippines with a total population of 11,855, 975 (7th most populous metropolitan area in Asia and 3rd most populous urban area in the world)
- Composed of 17 cities which include: Manila, Quezon City, Pateros, Caloocan, Las Piñas, Makati, Malabon, Mandaluyong, Marikina, Muntinlupa, Navotas, Parañaque, Pasay, Pasig, San Juan, Taguig and Valenzuela
- Center of culture, economy, education and government of the Philippines - exerting significant impact on commerce, finance, media, art, fashion, research, technology and entertainment, both locally and internationally
- Home to all the consulates and embassies in the Philippines, thereby making it an important center for international diplomacy in the country
- Accounts for 36.3% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2014

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Economics and Labor

- Highest per capita GDP at PHP203,132 in 2014
- Vacancy rate for office spaces remains low at less than 3% in 2014
- Manila remains least expensive capital city in Asia Pacific to occupy prime office space
- Expected to add 1.85M square meters of office spaces between 2015 and 2017 in the central business districts such as Quezon City
- Metro Manila cited as Global Top 30 Cities according to property consultancy firm Jones Lang Lasalle for its economic scale, vast population, large GDP and BPO specialization as its competitive edge
- Ranks 3rd for top BPO global destinations next to Bangalore and Mumbai
- Retail sector remains strong bolstered by remittances abroad, BPOs and tourism
- Manila Employment Rate is at 92.8% in October 2015.
- Overall accession rate for Metro Manila in June 2015 was 9.31%. Services sector accession rate was 9.2%.

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Tourism

- Serves as main gateway to the Philippines with 4 airport terminals serving local and international flights (45 minutes away from Boracay, Cebu, Bohol and other islands)
- Named top overnight tourist destination of the country with 979,379 overnight visitors in 2012; registered 3,139,756 international arrivals in 2012
- Opened 4,612 new hotel rooms in 2015 and is expected to exceed annual addition of rooms in the next 2 years
- Ranked one of the “Best Shopping Destinations” in Asia by Global Blue and is home to some of the largest malls in the world (SM Megamall, SM Mall of Asia, Greenbelt, SM Aura Premiere, Glorietta, TriNoMa, etc.)
- Also a popular gaming destination in Asia featuring luxurious casino hotels and integrated resorts (City of Dreams, Solaire, Newport City, etc.) rivaling Macau and Singapore

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Fun Things to do in Metro Manila

Sight Seeing Tours - Visit the shrine of the country's national hero in Luneta and walk the old fort's walls of Intramuros which contains the UNESCO World Heritage Site San Agustin Church and the San Agustin Museum. The compound contains fine religious artifacts and relics from the Galleon Trade — from treasure chests to ivory *santos* (saints) to gold embroidered vestments. Visit old churches while riding the calesa (a horse-drawn carriage)

Museums – Metro Manila is home to a number of noteworthy museums and art galleries showcasing its rich history and culture, Ayala Museum, Bahay Tsinoy, Museo Pambata, to name a few.

Eco Parks – if you're looking for refreshing alternatives, you may visit any of Manila's natural and man made parks.

Buffets – Filipino's love for food is very evident with the number of buffet restaurants within the city.

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Education

- Home to 511 public elementary schools (1,219,333 enrollees), 220 public secondary schools (661,019 enrollees) and 309 tertiary institutions (687,096 enrollees) in 2009
- Highest concentration of colleges and universities making Manila the center of higher learning in the country
- Highest literacy rate among all PH regions at 99.2% in 2008, literacy for males is at 99.0% and 99.4% for females
- 553,706 estimated graduates in 2014:
  Business Administration and related courses (142,061); Medical and Allied disciplines (110,280); Information Technology (68,178); Education and Teacher Training (65,092); Engineering and Technology (61,786) and other disciplines (26,298); Maritime (18,725); Social and Behavioral Science (13,144); Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Veterinary Medicine (9,109); Service Trades (8,283); Mass Communication and Documentation (6,153); Humanities (5,362); Natural Science (4,171); and Law and Jurisprudence (2,870); Architectural and Town Planning (2,268); Mathematics (2,094), General courses (1,863), Religion and Theology (1,280) and Trade, Craft and Industrial (403).

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Education

Major Universities in Metro Manila:

- AMA Computer University
- Angelicum College
- Assumption College San Lorenzo
- Ateneo de Manila University
- Centro Escolar University
- Chiang Kai Shek College
- Colegio de San Juan de Letran
- De La Salle Philippines
- Far Eastern University
- La Consolacion College
- Lyceum of the Philippines University
- Mapúa Institute of Technology
- National University
- New Era University
- Operation Brotherhood Montessori Center
- Polytechnic University of the Philippines
- San Beda College
- San Sebastian College – Recoletos de Manila
- Saint Pedro Poveda College
- University of Santo Tomas
- University of the Philippines

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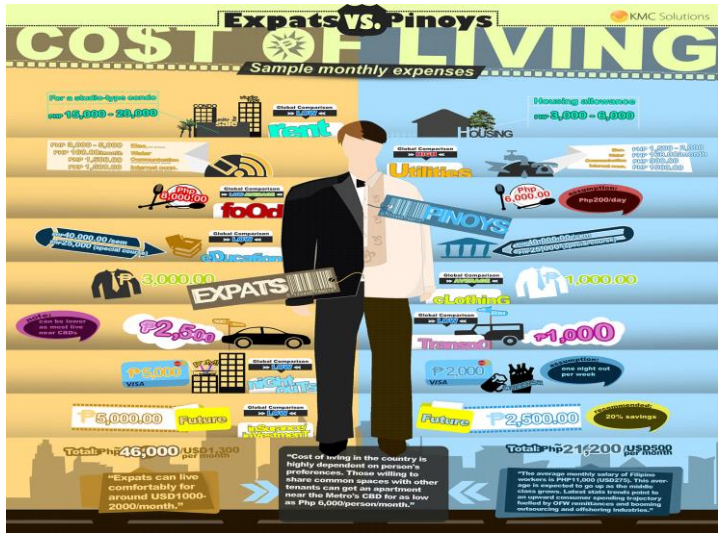
Cost of Living and Transportation



- NCR minimum wage now at PHP466 per day after PHP15 increase in 2014 highest among other PH regions (ranging from PHP219 to PHP362 per day)
- Cost of living remains relatively low at an estimated monthly expense for a single person of PHP23,348.46 including decent rent, about 58.85% lower than in New York and other major cities
- Public transportation is highly accessible and generally affordable (LRT fare starts USD0.4 depending on the distance)
- Wide array of food and retail choices to suit each budget (Fast food meals start at USD1.7)
- Public hospitals offer free general check ups and even dental check ups, private doctor rates start at USD10 depending on specialization
- Cost of utilities highly vary depending on consumption (electricity rates start at USD20, water rates start at USD10)

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