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**Title:** Socio-Economic Atlas of the Lao PDR – Patterns and Trends from 2005 to 2015

**Edition:** 1<sup>st</sup> edition

**Languages:** Printed in Lao and in English

**Institutions:** Lao Statistics Bureau (LSB), Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI), Lao PDR  
Centre for Development and Environment (CDE), University of Bern, Switzerland

**Size:** A3

**Total pages:** 124

**Registration number:** 254-255/ພຸງ23112018

**Printed at:** Pankham Jampa Printing, Vientiane, Lao PDR

# Socio-Economic Atlas of the Lao PDR

Patterns and Trends from  
2005 to **2015**

The past decades brought about significant changes to the population of the Lao PDR. Living standards have improved in many aspects throughout the country, and poverty rates have fallen significantly. With improved infrastructure and more disposable income, the mobility of the population has increased drastically, resulting in even more dynamic changes to the country.

The Population and Housing Censuses of the Lao PDR, conducted every decade, represent one of the most invaluable sources of information on these increasingly dynamic demographic, social and economic changes in the country. By combining the latest two censuses of 2005 and 2015 with detailed geographic information, a multifunctional tool for enhancing the planning and monitoring of socio-economic development programs and policies in the country has been developed.

This new Socio-Economic Atlas of the Lao PDR provides readers with a highly detailed, multidimensional set of insights through the inclusion not only of multiple censuses for comparison, but also of new visual representations of the data. The demographic, social, and economic characteristics of the population of the Lao PDR are presented as a large set of key indicators depicted in detailed maps accompanied with text descriptions. This allows readers to rapidly discern complex variations, trends, and disparities across the Lao population and its territory.

The atlas was developed by the Centre for Development and Environment (CDE) of the University of Bern, Switzerland, jointly with the Lao Statistics Bureau (LSB), within the framework of the Lao DECIDE info initiative. The initiative is funded by the Government of Switzerland through the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), and aims at promoting information sharing and integration towards enhanced development analysis and planning.



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