

Lao PDR - Country Brief

Global Talent Competitiveness Index (GTCI) 2025

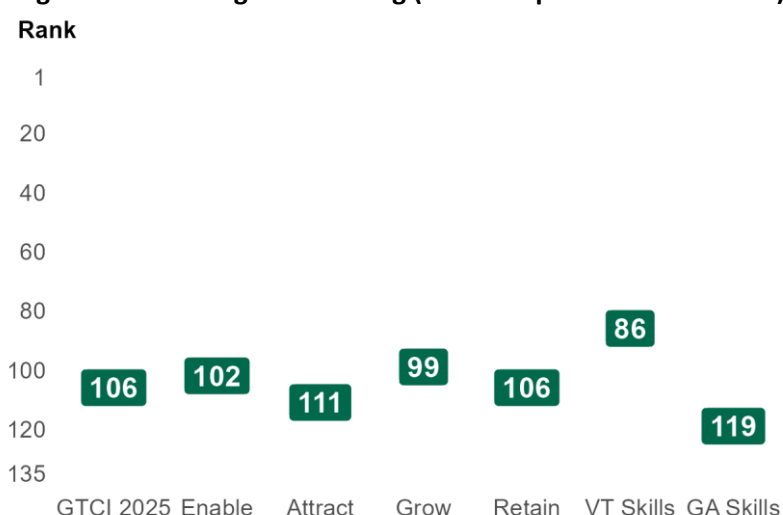


Total population:	7.77 million
GDP:	US\$ 15.879 billion
GDP (PPP) per capita:	US\$ 8,735 (100 out of 135 countries)
Country income level:	Lower-middle income
GTCI 2025 ranking:	106 (out of 135)

Global GTCI position

In GTCI 2025, Lao PDR is ranked 106th out of a sample of 135 countries (Figure 1). When it comes to sub-pillars, the strongest showings of Lao PDR relate to Lifelong Learning, Employability and Regulatory Landscape, among others. Still, more could be done to improve the economy's performances in the External Openness, Formal Education and Talent Impact sub-pillars.

Figure 1: Lao PDR global ranking (GTCI sample of 135 countries)



Note: VT Skills = Vocational and Technical Skills; GA Skills = Generalist Adaptive Skills.

Comparison with different groups of countries

Lao PDR is situated in Eastern, Southeastern Asia and Oceania and is classified as Lower-middle income. Within its region, the country is ranked 14th out of 16 countries (Table 1).

Lao PDR is ranked 18th within the group of Lower-middle income countries (implying that 49 percent of countries rank lower).

Table 1: Lao PDR performance vs. income groups and regions

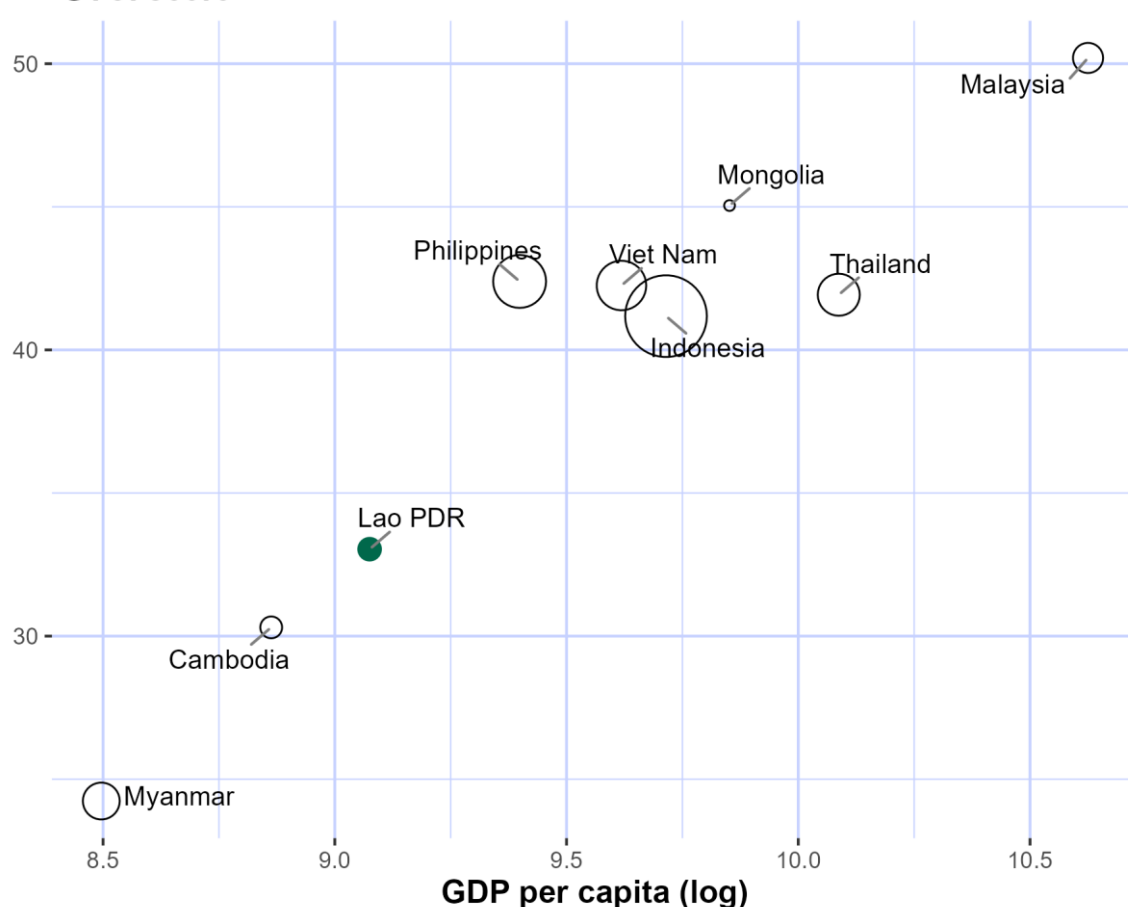
Comparison group	Top 3 scorers of the group	Score GAP: Lao PDR score minus group highest score	Share of countries in the group ranked below Lao PDR
Region			
Central and Southern Asia	Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan	-10.3	30%
Eastern, Southeastern Asia and Oceania	Singapore, Australia, New Zealand	-40.3	12%
Europe	Switzerland, Denmark, Finland	-40.1	0%
Latin America and the Caribbean	Chile, Uruguay, Costa Rica	-19.6	6%
Northern Africa and Western Asia	Israel, United Arab Emirates, Cyprus	-27.1	5%
Northern America	United States of America, Canada	-36.4	0%
Sub-Saharan Africa	Mauritius, Seychelles, South Africa	-16.7	71%
Income group			
High income	Singapore, Switzerland, Denmark	-40.3	0%
Upper-middle income	Georgia, Malaysia, Mauritius	-17.9	0%
Lower-middle income	Uzbekistan, Jordan, Philippines	-10.3	49%
Low income	Rwanda, Malawi, Gambia	-0.9	92%

Comparison with group of competitors

Laos's group of competitors is defined as upper-middle-income and lower-middle-income countries located in Eastern, Southeastern Asia and Oceania. It comprises a group of 9 economies. Figure 2 plots how Lao PDR fares against each competitor in terms of GTCI score and GDP per capita.

As can be seen, Lao PDR's GTCI score and GDP per capita are both lower than the corresponding medians of its group of competitors. Thus, the country's talent competitiveness is not in line with what would be expected given its income level.

Figure 2: GTCI score and GDP per capita (log) of Lao PDR and its identified competitors



Note: Bubble size indicates country population.

Performance against its income group and region

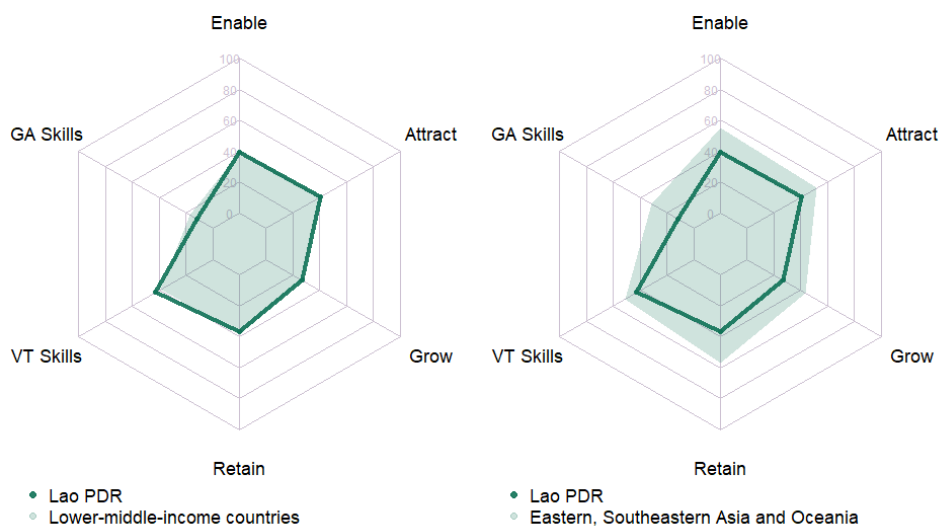
Lower-middle-income countries

Lao PDR is ranked 18th in the group of lower-middle-income countries (Figure 3, left panel). In terms of pillar performance, it has a higher score than the income group average in three of the six pillars: Enable, Grow and VT. At the sub-pillar level, it outperforms lower-middle-income countries in six of the fourteen sub-pillars: Regulatory Landscape, Internal Openness, Lifelong Learning, Access Growth Opportunities, Employability and Highlevel Skills.

Eastern, Southeastern Asia and Oceania

Lao PDR is ranked 14th within Eastern, Southeastern Asia and Oceania (Figure 3, right panel). It lags behind its region in each of the six pillars. With regard to sub-pillars, it trails the regional average in each of them.

Figure 3: Lao PDR pillar scores vs. averages of relevant income group and region



Note: VT Skills = Vocational and Technical Skills; GA Skills = Generalist Adaptive Skills.

Longer-term trends in talent competitiveness

Across all GTCI editions from 2015 to 2025, Lao PDR's ranking ranges from 101st to 99th place (see Figure 4). During GTCI 2020-GTCI 2025, Lao PDR ranks 102 out of a total 134 countries (on average), which is a decline from the average rank of 93 in GTCI 2015-GTCI 2019.

Figure 4: Evolution of GTCI rank for Lao PDR, 2015-2025





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