

DISTRIBUTION

Manila acts as the national center for all of the Philippines, and provides the entire country with a variety of specialized central services. Manila also serves as an inter-regional center for all the northern provinces and a major center for a large immediate hinterland. Manila is the Philippine's nerve center of industrial activity, transportation and communications, trade, and educational services. Approximately 80 percent of Philippine foreign trade passes through the port of Manila; and 90 percent of all imports enter this port to be distributed to the other principal cities via truck and inter-island vessels.

Approximately 90 percent of all Philippine industries are located in the Greater Manila area in three major locations. The first, an area of heavy industry, is situated along the banks of the Pasig River, which flows through the city and the port area into Manila Bay. Cargo discharged from vessels in Manila Bay is often loaded onto barges etc. for transport via the Pasig to the industrial area.

The second industrial district, containing medium-sized plants, is located about fifteen miles outside of Manila at Antipolo, in the Marikina Valley. Supplies and raw materials are generally carried from the port area by truck.

The third major industrial area is located in Makati, currently the central business district in the country and the most prosperous of the Manila suburbs. In addition to small manufacturing plants, a considerable number of distribution centers, trading firms, and banks are located in this area. Makati is also known as a shopping area for the higher income Philippine citizens.

Inter-Regional Centers

In addition to Manila, the other major inter-regional centers are Cebu City, Iloilo, Davao, and Zamboanga. Cebu City, the third largest city in the Philippines, is the prime trading center in the southern part of the archipelago, and most of its hinterland is accessible by boat. Iloilo shares with Cebu City the servicing of the country's central area.

Davao, the second largest city in the Philippines, enjoys a trade monopoly in Southern Mindanao, due mainly to the presence of land and water linkages with its nearby provinces. Zamboanga functions partly as an inter-regional center, as transportation to the hinterland is almost entirely by water because there are few roads along the peninsula.

Major/Secondary Centers

Furnishing the Philippine archipelago with basic economic, political, and social services are approximately forty major and thirty-five secondary centres situated throughout the Philippines. These centers are similar to retail outlets and are relatively small, with populations of up to 60,000. The importance of these centers lies in the fact that they render essential urban services to their respective territories. A majority of these major and secondary centers are situated along the Philippine coastline and a number of them possess significant ports.