

Philippines

Archetype **Conditional demographic giants**GDP / person **\$4k**Population **117M**10-yr trend **4.8%**Gradual **13%** · **#29**Fast **17.3%** · **#40**

WHERE THE PHILIPPINES STARTS

The Philippines is a conditional demographic giant: its scale and youth are the asset, but only if power, connectivity and capital arrive in time. The scores explain the label. Demographics and migration score 4.4, a young workforce with its dividend still ahead. Physical build speed is 4.6, and catch-up headroom is 3.9. English underpins one of the world's largest business-process outsourcing sectors, and language inclusion scores 3.1. The binding constraints sit elsewhere. Compute and energy access is 1.7: little domestic data-center capacity and some of Asia's costliest, least reliable power. Climate resilience is 1.9 in one of the world's most typhoon-exposed countries. At about \$4,171 GDP per person, this is a lower-middle-income economy. Ten-year trend growth of 4.8% a year is strong, but the AI question is whether the power and chips follow the people.

THE THREE PATHS

These are simulations, not forecasts. The Modest path is the baseline, and the two AGI scenarios fork from it. Under the **Modest** scenario, AI stays a normal technology. The Philippines would grow at 5.1% growth a year, 22nd of 157, roughly its recent pace with a small lift. Its young workforce and services exports would keep carrying the economy. Under **Gradual** takeoff, growth would climb over two decades and reach 13% growth a year once AGI matures around 2045, ranking 29th. An economy growing at 13% doubles in under six years. The long ramp gives Filipino firms time to move up from back-office work into higher-value AI-enabled services. Under **Fast** takeoff, growth would reach 17.3% growth a year from the early 2030s, a doubling about every four years. Yet the rank would slip to 40th, because a fast world rewards the compute and energy access the Philippines does not yet hold. Regulation and politics could slow or redirect any path, depending on how Filipinos and their leaders respond to transformative AI — a variable the model holds constant.

HOW YOU WOULD KNOW WHICH WORLD YOU ARE IN

The three scenarios look almost identical until about 2030. So watch leading indicators, not GDP, and check them live rather than trust any snapshot. Three global signals matter most. First, whether the METR task-horizon curve keeps doubling every four to five months through 2027–28; METR publishes it at metr.org. Second, whether frontier-lab revenue and capital spending keep compounding; Epoch AI tracks both at epoch.ai. Third, whether growth in the ten to twenty most-ready economies — the United States and China above all — breaks above trend in the early 2030s. Double-digit growth there within a couple of years of 2030 would

point to a fast world; a point or two above trend by the mid-2030s to a gradual one; a fade back to trend to a modest one. The Philippines' own tells would arrive sooner: hyperscaler data-center commitments on Philippine soil, new submarine-cable landings, firm additions of reliable generation, and whether the outsourcing sector's order books show AI adding seats or removing them.

IF GROWTH GOES EXPLOSIVE

Explosive is relative. At 13% growth a year, the Philippines would run well ahead of its region, where the median is 10%, and far ahead of its own 4.8% trend. But it would still trail the frontier, where the United States would be compounding at nearly 20%. The economy would double in under six years, so a child starting school now would finish in a country several times richer. Services and construction would swell, and wages would rise. Higher labor demand at home would ease the pressure that pushes Filipino workers overseas. There is an honest downside worth naming. Hosted compute is an asset only if the Philippines owns it rather than rents it. Data centers financed and run from abroad can be repriced or throttled by decisions made elsewhere. The hedge is to own capacity and build local skills, not merely host machines. Even then, the pace-setter would move to the state, testing the Energy Regulatory Commission, the national grid operator, local permitting offices and the courts.

WHAT THE PHILIPPINES CAN DO NOW

Three levers follow from the scores, and two pay off whether or not AGI arrives. The first is AI diffusion capacity, at 2.9. Digital skills, deployment-permissive rules and digital government carry real weight even in the skeptic's world, and the country's English fluency gives adoption a head start. Building on it is a no-regret move. The second is climate and water resilience, low at 1.9. Flood, heat and water defense protects a typhoon-exposed economy under every scenario, and cooling and water are the very inputs a data-center build would need. That makes it no-regret too. The third lever is the bet. Compute and energy access, at 1.7, barely moves growth if AI stays ordinary, but under a fast takeoff it becomes the single biggest lever. Closing it means fast-tracking generation and grid links and packaging power, land and permits to attract hyperscale investment. India shows one route: its IndiaAI Mission pools subsidized GPU capacity so firms and researchers can rent compute cheaply. A cautious government can act on the two no-regret levers today and lose nothing if the skeptics are right. Open the atlas's [policy editor](#) to see how moving each score reshapes the Philippines' path under the three scenarios.

The three levers — and which pay off regardless

AI diffusion capacity

score 2.9 / 5 · weight 24 under skeptic → 13 under fast takeoff

Counts under the Modest scenario too (24→13). Closing this gap pays off whether or not AGI arrives.

No-regret

Climate & water resilience

score 1.9 / 5 · weight 8 under skeptic → 7 under fast takeoff

Counts under the Modest scenario too (8→7). Closing this gap pays off whether or not AGI arrives.

No-regret

Compute & energy access

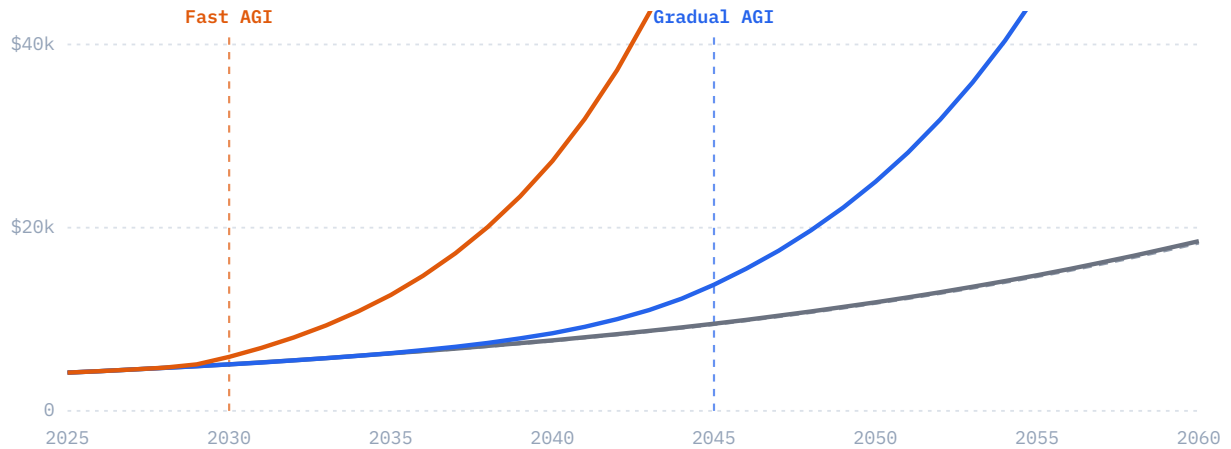
score 1.7 / 5 · weight 8 under skeptic → 24 under fast takeoff

Weight climbs from 8 to 24 as takeoff nears. It barely moves growth if AI stays ordinary — the lever that needs a view on the takeoff.

AGI bet

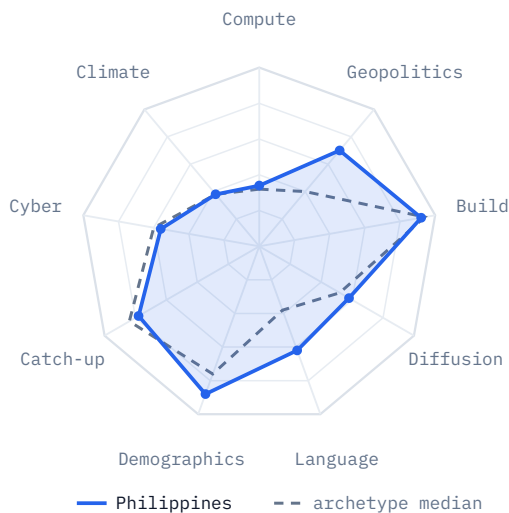
The no-regret levers pay off in every scenario, so a cautious government can act on them today. The AGI bet becomes decisive only if takeoff is real.

GDP per person to 2060, by scenario



Linear scale; solid lines are the three scenarios, dashed grey the no-AI baseline. Growth ramps from 2027 to each scenario's rate at its AGI year (Fast ~2030, Gradual ~2045), then holds. Timing and divergence are the point, not end levels; steep paths exit the top of the capped axis.

The nine factors



Solid: Philippines. Dashed: the median of its archetype. Scores are relative to the other 156 countries (3 ≈ global median, 5 = leading today).

Outcomes under each scenario

SCENARIO	GROWTH / YR	WORLD RANK	INDEX	DOUBLING
Modest	5.1%	22 / 157	65.1	13.9 yrs
Gradual	13%	29 / 157	63.6	5.7 yrs
Fast	17.3%	40 / 157	61.2	4.3 yrs

Post-AGI growth rate, rank among 157 countries, AGI Growth Index (0–100, scenario-weighted), and the implied economy doubling time. The Modest path is the baseline the AGI scenarios fork from.

THE THREE SCENARIOS

Modest the Acemoglu view

AI as a normal productivity tool

Intelligence was never the binding constraint on growth, so AI delivers real but ordinary gains. Each country gets a one-time boost of a couple of percent of GDP, phased in through 2035; growth then returns to trend. The mainstream-economics view.

≤0.66% TFP over a decade – a one-time gain

Philippines: 5.1% growth a year · #22 of 157

Gradual Erdil & Besiroglu, base case

Broad automation, on a long timeline

Broad automation of remote work arrives around 2045, with gains building slowly from the late 2020s. Growth then reaches up to ~20% a year for the best-positioned countries — ten times today's frontier trend. A slow arrival gives countries time to adapt, so the gains are wide but uneven.

up to ~20%/yr after 2045 – 10× the frontier trend

Philippines: 13% growth a year · #29 of 157

Fast Erdil & Besiroglu, fast takeoff

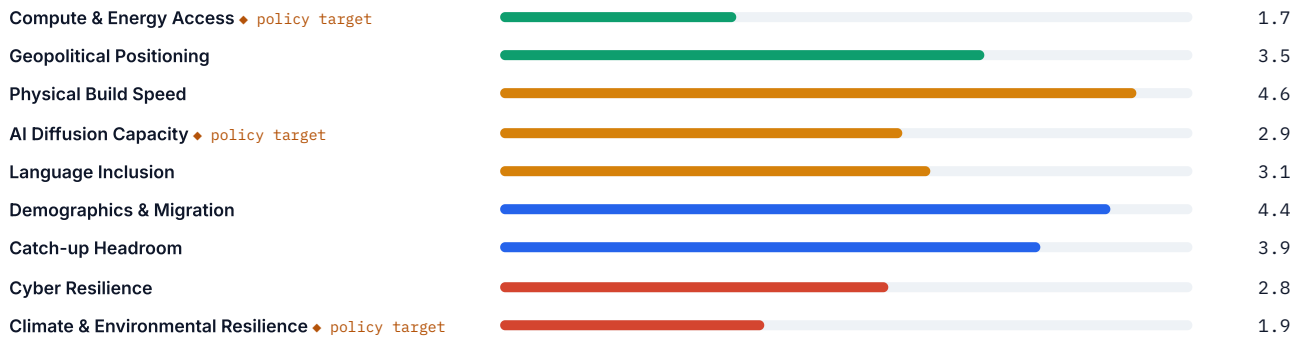
Fast takeoff — today's infrastructure decides

Transformation lands around 2030, before countries can adjust. Whoever already owns compute, capital and the ability to build wins; the gap between countries widens dramatically — and some are left growing slower than they would have without AGI.

up to ~40%/yr from 2030

Philippines: 17.3% growth a year · #40 of 157

Factor scores — and where policy bites



♦ marks this country's highest-leverage policy targets: the weakest factors carrying the most weight under the AGI scenarios. The atlas's interactive policy editor (agigrowth.org/#editor) simulates how raising any score changes growth under each scenario.

Archetype: Conditional demographic giants

Scale and youth are the asset — if power, connectivity and capital arrive in time. Every member is already climbing, or has its demographic dividend still ahead.

Wins: Mid-to-late, and only conditionally.

Watch: The dividend is the very labor AI substitutes for; the export ladder can be kicked away.

India **14.7%** · #16

Vietnam **13.3%** · #23

Indonesia **12.4%** · #35

Uzbekistan **11%** · #44

Kenya **10.3%** · #51

Bangladesh **10.3%** · #52

Egypt **10.2%** · #53

Tanzania **9.4%** · #62

Ethiopia **8.6%** · #76

Uganda **7.6%** · #86

The regional picture — The build-out's second front.

This is the AI build-out's second front. Malaysia's Johor corridor has become one of the world's fastest-growing data-center clusters — overflow capacity for Singapore and inference for hire for everyone — and Singapore itself pairs the region's strongest institutions with a deliberate role as neutral ground between the American and Chinese technology spheres. That neutrality is the region's defining bet: most members buy Chinese infrastructure and use American or Chinese models as price and access dictate, and their room to keep doing both depends on the rivalry staying commercial rather than exclusionary. Vietnam, Indonesia and the Philippines pair young workforces with real construction momentum, and Thailand builds at scale while aging faster than it grows; these are also the countries whose export-manufacturing ladder a fast takeoff most directly threatens, because factory automation competes head-on with their cost advantage. Myanmar is cut off by conflict and sanctions; Timor-Leste is barely connected. Over twenty years the spread here could rival Europe's — Singapore near the top of the world table, Myanmar near the bottom.

Method, in brief

Each country is scored 1–5 on nine factors from public data (World Bank, Epoch AI, ITU, IMF and national sources). A scenario-weighted average forms the AGI Growth Index (0–100), which maps to a post-AGI growth rate inside ceilings derived from Erdil & Besiroglu (2023): ~20% growth a year for the best-positioned country under Gradual takeoff (AGI ~2045), ~40% under Fast (AGI ~2030); growth ramps convexly from 2027. The scenario sets the growth rates on offer; the index only decides where each country sits within them. The Modest scenario is the skeptics' baseline — a small uplift on each country's own ten-year trend. These are simulations for structured thinking, not forecasts; no probabilities are attached to any scenario.

Watch the global signals live: the METR task-horizon curve at metr.org/time-horizons · frontier-lab revenue at epoch.ai/ai-companies · AI-chip spending at epoch.ai/ai-chip-sales.

Explore further: full methodology agigrowth.org/#methodology · map & rankings agigrowth.org/#explore · country profiles agigrowth.org/#countries · policy editor agigrowth.org/#editor