

VIETNAM

Population: 95 million

Though it has one of the highest population density in the world, the population is not evenly dispersed; clustering is heaviest along the South China Sea and Gulf of Tonkin, with the Mekong Delta (in the south) and the Red River Valley (in the north) having the largest concentrations of people.

Life expectancy is 73,4 and the median age is 30,1.

The country has 54 ethnic groups. 40,5% of the population is under 25 and 6,01% of the population is above 65. There are 1,18 physicians per 1000 habitants.

Climate: Tropical in the south; monsoonal in north with hot, rainy season (May to September) and warm, dry season (October to March).

Spoken languages and religion: Vietnamese is the national and official language and English is widely spoken. French is the most spoken foreign language in Vietnam.

According to official statistics from the government, as of 2014 there are 24 million people identified with one of the recognized organized religions, such as Buddhist 12,2%; Catholic 6,8%, Caodaism 4,4% and 1,6% Protestant.

Non-working days and holidays: Every employee is entitled to at least 24 consecutive hours of rest in the week. On average, there are 10 days of public holiday and generally 12 days of paid leave a year.

The state encourages employers to implement a 40-hour working week and generally, the maximum working time is 8 hours a day or 48 hours a week.

Monday to Friday are full workdays and Saturday is a partial day. Work typically begins at 8:00 am and lasts until 5:00 pm from Monday to Friday and until 12:00 PM on Saturdays. This includes a one-hour lunch break. Government offices and banks follow a five-day workweek and are thus closed on Saturday.

Health care sector: The Vietnamese government wants to develop a universal healthcare system to provide each resident with basic healthcare. For that, it follows Thailand's example. In July 2015, 71,4% of the population was covered but, in 2020 the government's aim is to achieve 80% of the population¹.

Concerning outpatient care, the public sector takes charge of 40% of patients against 60% for the private sector. In return, for inpatient care, the public sector takes charge of 96% against 4% for the private sector.

¹ InterNations: Living in Vietnam? (<https://www.internations.org/vietnam-expats/guide/living-in-vietnam-15470/healthcare-in-Vietnam-2>)

Doctors:

The practice of medicine is regulated by the law on medical examination and treatment which was passed on November 23, 2009.

• National Doctors:

A Vietnamese doctor must obtain a **medical practice certificate**.

• Foreign Doctors:

As for national doctors, a foreign doctor can practice in Vietnam after obtaining a **medical practice certificate**, for that, he/she needs to:

- Meet all the conditions specified for a Vietnamese doctor;
- Meet requirements on language skills in medical examination and treatment. However, when a doctor is not proficient in Vietnamese, he/she shall register the language he/she uses in medical examination and treatment and have a translator. It is the same for the prescriptions ;
- Have judicial history records certified by competent authorities of their own countries;
- Possess a work permit granted by a competent Vietnamese state agency in charge of labor under the labor law.

More information:

• Vietnam Medical Association:

- <http://tonghoiyhoc.vn>
- +84 43 9439323

• Ministry of Health:

- <http://moh.gov.vn/sites/en-us/pages/home.aspx>