

The Philippines Pays **Among the Most** for Common Medicines in Asia

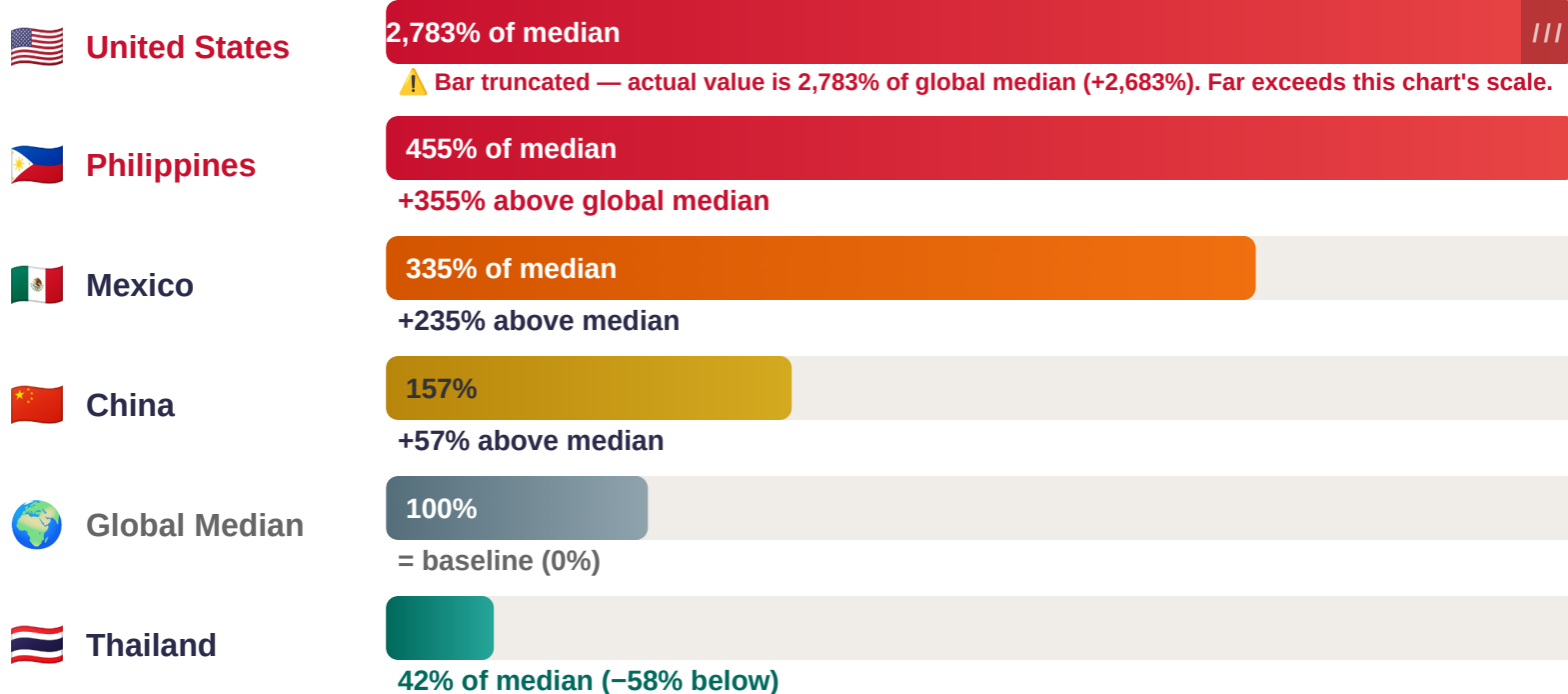
How the Philippines compares globally on three widely used drugs

Data source: Medbelle Medicine Price Index 2019 — a cross-country study of 50 countries and 13 drugs, widely cited in international health research. Bars show price relative to global median (median = 100%). Bars for values above 300% are truncated and labeled to preserve scale clarity. Prices may have shifted since 2019; the relative patterns remain consistent with WHO/HAI methodology surveys.

❤️ Lisinopril (Zestril) — Blood Pressure / Hypertension

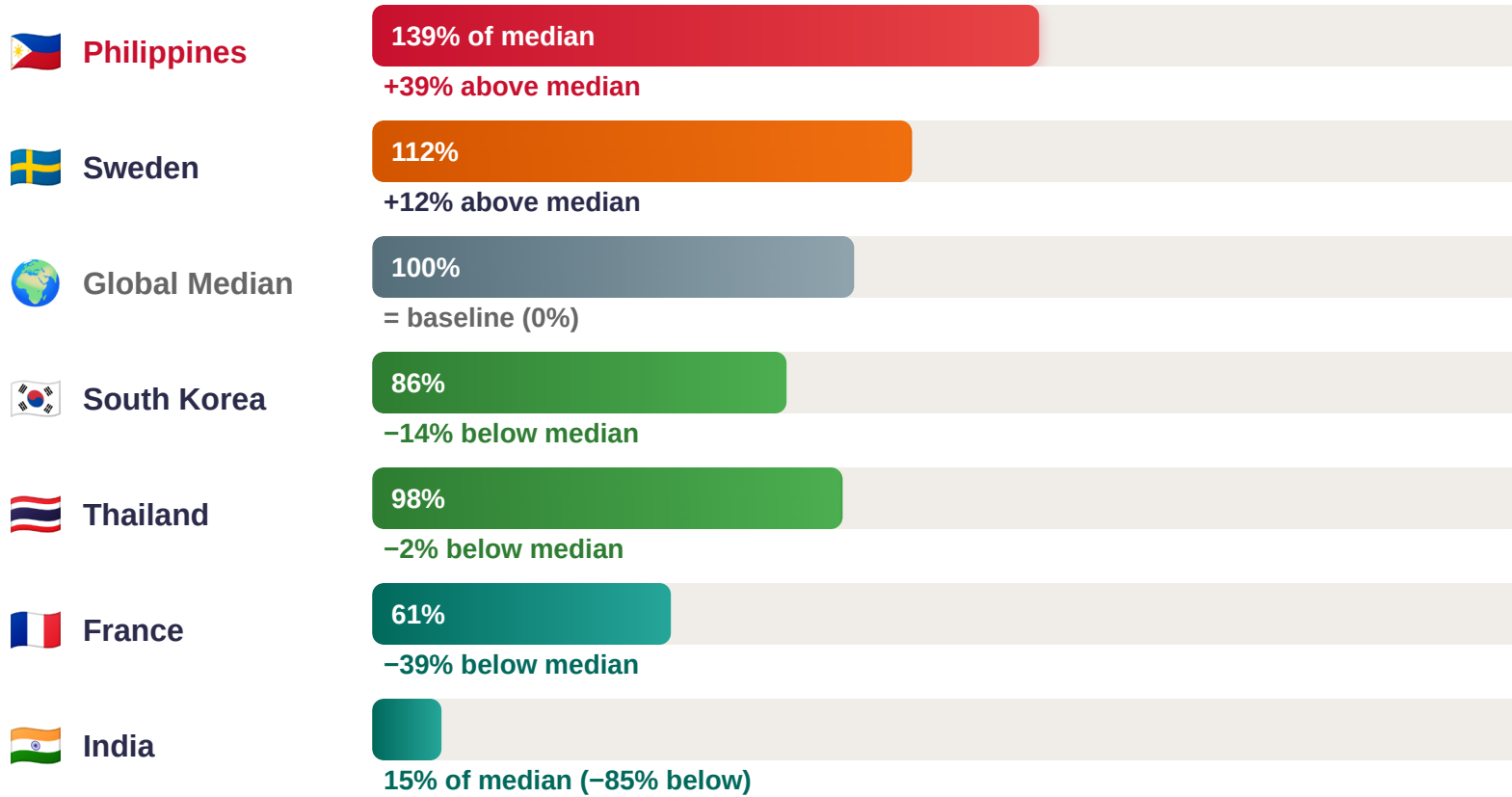
🇵🇭 +355% above global median

⚠️ Note: The US price for this drug (2,783% of median) is so extreme it cannot be shown on the same scale. Its bar is truncated; the actual value is labeled. All other bars use the same scale.



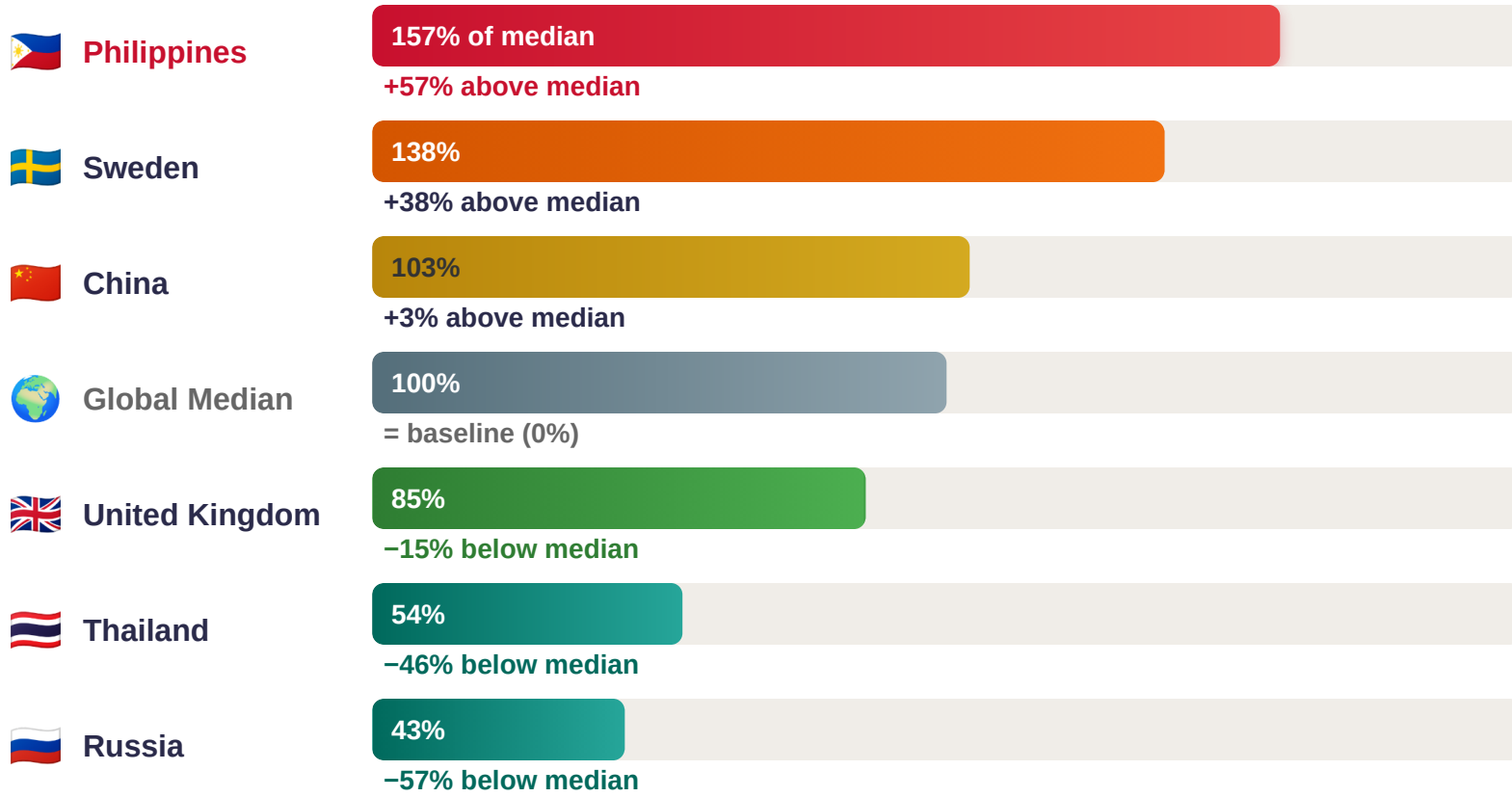
🩸 Atorvastatin (Lipitor) — High Cholesterol

🇵🇭 +39% above global median



🫁 Salbutamol (Ventolin) — Asthma / Breathing

🇵🇭 +57% above global median



30×

More expensive than international reference prices for branded medicines in the Philippines (WHO/HAI & IJERPH 2020)

10×

More expensive than international reference prices even for generics in the Philippines (WHO/HAI & IJERPH 2020)

19.3%

Medical inflation in Philippines in 2024 — 2nd highest in Asia Pacific (Willis Towers Watson Global Medical Trends Survey 2025)

Drug price comparison data: Medbelle Medicine Price Index 2019 (cross-country study of 50 countries and 13 drugs) · Cross-referenced by Pacific Prime International

The 2019 data reflects brand-name and generic prices at that time. Bar charts use percentage deviation from the global median price (median = 100%). Bars above 300% are truncated for readability; actual values are labeled.

Broader context sources: WHO/HAI Methodology Survey 2009 · IJERPH 2020 Peer-Reviewed Study (PMC7400398) · Willis Towers Watson Global Medical Trends Survey 2025 · Rights Report Philippines