Southeast Asia



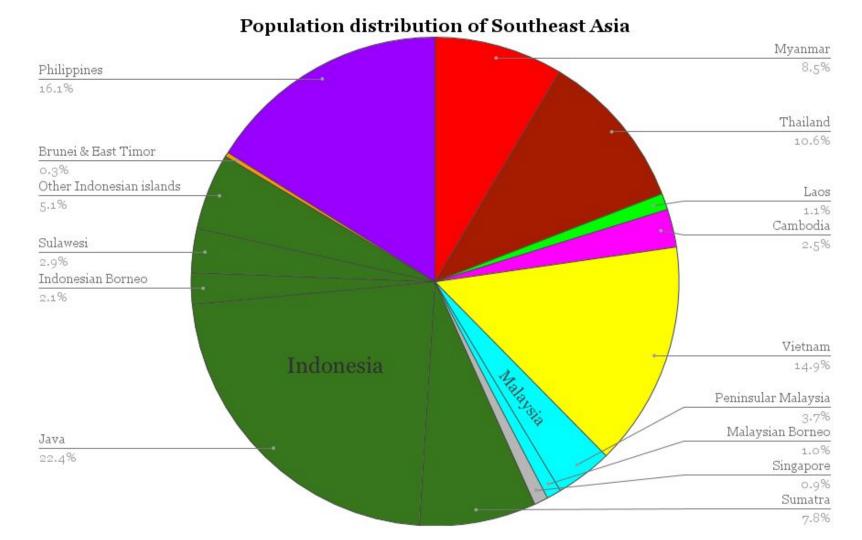
Hendrix Zentil



ASEAN Demographics

- Tropical weather, hot and humid year-round.
- The seasons are monsoon season and hot.
- Historically significant for being the origins of pepper, ginger, cloves, and nutmeg¹.
- Half of the top ten rice-producing countries.

¹.Baten, Jörg (2016). A History of the Global Economy. From 1500 to the Present. Cambridge University Press. p. 287.



Southeast Asian Economy - Strengths

Tourism Thailand, Vietnam Manufacturing
Electronics - Malaysia, Vietnam

Automobiles - Thailand Machinery - Indonesia

Agriculture

Palm Oil - Malaysia, Indonesia Rice - Vietnam, Thailand Fruits - Philippines

Raw Materials

Rubber
Tin - Malaysia, Indonesia
Bauxite - Indonesia
Copper & Gold - Philippines,
Indonesia

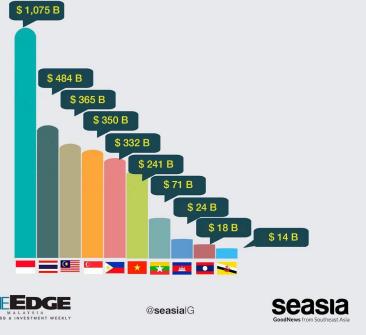




Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ASEAN Countries 2018



Correlations & Inferences



- -GDP shows correlation relative to population, but not exactly GDP per capita
- -Higher the GDP-per capita, the less close it is to agriculture (Singapore and technology, Brunei and oil.)

Southeast Asia Economy in Recent Years								
Year rate	rGDP (Billions)	rGDP per	capita	Real grow	th (%)	Inflation (%) 🔻		
201	8 294	.23 1	2,454.	14	5.20%	2.9		
201	9 308	.06	2,654.	68	4.71%	2.2		
202	0 296	.57 1	2,338.	71	-3.73%	1.4		
202	1 30	7.4	3,004.	62	3.64%	2		
202	2 323	.52 1	13,365.	55	5.25%	5,		

How does Government relate to Southeast Asia's economy?

Diverse Political Systems						
Democracy	Electored Authority	One-Party				
Philippines Indonesia	Cambodia Singapore	Brunei Laos Malaysia Myanmar Thailand Vietnam				

Use Export Profits on Infrastructure (>20% gov't spending)						
Education	Physical	Digital				
Singapore Malaysia Vietnam Thailand	Indonesia Viet Malay Singa	Singapore Malay Thailand				

Policy led export-oriented growth strategy						
Electronics Automotive		Textiles				
Vietnam Malaysia Singapore Philippines	Thailand Indonesia	Cambodia Laos Brunei Myanmar				

Combine Infrastructure for Intra-Regional Integration

ASEAN Economic Community founded 2015 ASEAN Trade In Goods Agreement, 98% trades 0% tariff Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership in 2022 Investment liberalization, labor mobility, digitally integrated

Challenges

Opportunities

Political Instability

Certain countries in Southeast Asia face political challenges, including governance issues, corruption, and occasional civil unrest. Political instability can deter foreign investment and disrupt economic growth.

Economic Disparities

There are significant economic disparities both within and between countries in the region. Rural-urban divides, income inequality, and uneven development can hinder inclusive growth and social cohesion.

Environmental Concerns

Southeast Asia is highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, such as rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and loss of biodiversity. Environmental degradation, including deforestation and pollution, poses a long-term threat to sustainable development.

Impact of Global Economic Trends

The region's economies, being heavily export-oriented and integrated into global supply chains, are susceptible to global economic fluctuations, trade disputes, and shifts in international market demand.

Digital Economy Boom

There's a rapid growth in the digital economy across Southeast Asia, driven by a young, tech-savvy population. E-commerce, fintech, and online services are booming sectors, offering new business and employment opportunities.

Infrastructure Development

Many countries are investing in infrastructure, which opens opportunities for foreign investment and collaboration in areas like transportation, telecommunications, and urban development.

Regional Integration

ASEAN's initiatives towards economic integration present opportunities for greater intra-regional trade, investment, and economic cooperation, potentially making the region more resilient to external economic shocks.

Strategic Location

Southeast Asia's strategic location as a gateway between the Indian and Pacific Oceans makes it a critical region for global trade and maritime activities. This geography positions it as a hub for trade, manufacturing, and logistics.

Impact of Global Events

COVID-19

The pandemic severely disrupted ASEAN's regional economic integration efforts, damaged supply chains, and forced member countries to divert resources toward public health initiatives and economic recovery.



Reduced GDP and tourism industry

The collapse of tourism in 2020-2021 devastated economies like Thailand and the Philippines, which rely heavily on tourist arrivals, resulting in widespread job losses and business closures across the region.



2020 Oil Crash

The dramatic drop in oil prices destabilized Brunei's economy and reduced government revenues in other energy-exporting ASEAN members, forcing budget cuts and delaying infrastructure projects.



Brunei's heavy dependence on oil and gas exports (making up about 90% of exports and 60% of GDP) made it particularly vulnerable to the price crash, triggering budget deficits and accelerating the country's economic diversification efforts.



Reduced foreign investment

The economic uncertainty caused by these multiple crises prompted investors to adopt a more cautious approach toward ASEAN markets, slowing down the pace of major investments and regional infrastructure projects.

Russia/Ukraine War

The conflict drove up energy and food prices across ASEAN, particularly affecting rice importers like the Philippines and Indonesia, while disrupting trade routes and exacerbating existing supply chain issues.



Future outlook

Overall, the economy of Southeast Asia is **slowly improving** and **nearing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8** according to the collected data on GDP, rGDP, unemployment rates, material footprints, and the spillover index. The **upwards trend in GDP** and rGDP over the past 5 years indicate an **expanding economy** with **room to grow.**

Lowering unemployment rates after the COVID-19 pandemic is one step closer to full and productive work for all. Low material footprints indicate sustainable recycling methods and an **efficient usage of raw materials.** High spillover indices from the majority of Southeast Asian countries imply continued growth towards SDG 8 as a **collective region rather than competitive and isolated countries.**



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