



Taiwan



Background First inhabited by Austronesian people, Taiwan became home to Han immigrants beginning in the late Ming Dynasty (17th century). With the communist victory in the Chinese civil war in 1949, the Nationalist-controlled Republic of China government and 2 million Nationalists fled to Taiwan and continued to claim to be the legitimate government for mainland China and Taiwan based on a 1947 Constitution. Taiwan has since had several democratic transfers of power and has a strong economy.

Capital name: Taipei

Government type semi-presidential republic

Area total : 35,980 sq km
land: 32,260 sq km
water: 3,720 sq km

Climate tropical; marine; rainy season during southwest monsoon (June to August); persistent and extensive cloudiness all year

Natural resources small deposits of coal, natural gas, limestone, marble, asbestos, arable land

Population total: 23,595,274 (2024 est.)

Population growth rate 0.03% (2024 est.)

Ethnic groups Han Chinese (including Holo, who compose approximately 70% of Taiwan's population, Hakka, and other groups originating in mainland China) more than 95%, indigenous Malayo-Polynesian peoples 2.3%

Religions Buddhist 35.3%, Taoist 33.2%, Christian 3.9%, folk religion (includes Confucian) approximately 10%, none or unspecified 18.2% (2005 est.)

Languages Mandarin (official), Min Nan, Hakka dialects, approximately 16 indigenous languages

Executive branch chief of state: President LAI Ching-te (since 20 May 2024)

head of government: Premier CHO Jung-tai (President of the Executive Yuan) (since 20 May 2024)

chief of mission: none

Diplomatic representation in the US chief of mission: the US does not have an embassy in Taiwan; commercial and cultural relations with the people of Taiwan are maintained through an unofficial instrumentality, the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT), a private nonprofit corporation that performs citizen and consular services similar to those at diplomatic posts; it is managed by Director Raymond F. GREENE (since 8 July 2024)

Diplomatic representation from the US

Economic overview high-income East Asian economy; most technologically advanced computer microchip manufacturing; increasing Chinese interference threatens market capabilities; minimum wages rising; longstanding regional socioeconomic inequality

Real GDP (purchasing power parity)	\$1.743 trillion (2023 est.) \$1.664 trillion (2022 est.) \$1.512 trillion (2021 est.)
Real GDP per capita	\$32,300 (2023 est.) \$32,600 (2022 est.) \$32,900 (2021 est.)
Exports	\$432.432 billion (2023 est.) \$479.415 billion (2022 est.) \$446.371 billion (2021 est.)
Exports - partners	China 20%, USA 17%, Hong Kong 13%, Singapore 9%, Japan 7% (2023)
Exports - commodities	integrated circuits, machine parts, broadcasting equipment, computers, plastics (2023)
Imports	\$351.441 billion (2023 est.) \$428.083 billion (2022 est.) \$381.958 billion (2021 est.)
Imports - partners	China 21%, Japan 13%, USA 11%, S. Korea 9%, Australia 5% (2023)
Imports - commodities	integrated circuits, crude petroleum, machinery, natural gas, coal (2023)

Population Pyramid

