



Malaysia



Background The British secured and colonized the area that is now Malaysia during the late 18th and 19th centuries. In 1948, the British-ruled territories on the Malay Peninsula (except Singapore) formed the Federation of Malaya, which became independent in 1957. Malaysia was formed in 1963 when the former British colonies of Singapore, as well as Sabah and Sarawak on the northern coast of Borneo, joined the Federation. Singapore was expelled in 1965.

Capital name: Kuala Lumpur; note - nearby Putrajaya is referred to as a federal government administrative center but not the capital; Parliament meets in Kuala Lumpur

Government type federal parliamentary constitutional monarchy

Area total : 329,847 sq km
land: 328,657 sq km
water: 1,190 sq km

Climate tropical; annual southwest (April to October) and northeast (October to February) monsoons

Natural resources tin, petroleum, timber, copper, iron ore, natural gas, bauxite

Population total: 34,564,810

Population growth rate 0.99% (2024 est.)

Ethnic groups Bumiputera 63.8% (Malay 52.8% and indigenous peoples, including Orang Asli, Dayak, Anak Negeri, 11%), Chinese 20.6%, Indian 6%, other 0.6%, non-citizens 9% (2023 est.)

Religions Muslim (official) 63.5%, Buddhist 18.7%, Christian 9.1%, Hindu 6.1%, other (Confucianism, Taoism, other traditional Chinese religions) 0.9%, none/unspecified 1.8% (2020 est.)

Languages Bahasa Malaysia (official), English, Chinese (Cantonese, Mandarin, Hokkien, Hakka, Hainan, Foochow), Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Panjabi, Thai

Executive branch chief of state: King Sultan IBRAHIM ibni al-Marhum Sultan Iskandar (since 31 January 2024)
head of government: Prime Minister ANWAR Ibrahim (since 25 November 2022)

Diplomatic representation in the US chief of mission: Ambassador (vacant); Chargé d'Affaires KHAERIAH Zaehera Abd Kayyum (since 9 February 2025)

Diplomatic representation from the US chief of mission: Ambassador Edgard D. KAGAN (since 20 March 2024)

Economic overview upper middle-income Southeast Asian economy; implementing key anticorruption policies; major electronics, oil, and chemicals exporter; trade sector employs over 40% of jobs; key economic equity initiative; high labor productivity

Real GDP (purchasing power parity) \$1.153 trillion (2023 est.)
\$1.113 trillion (2022 est.)
\$1.022 trillion (2021 est.)

Real GDP per capita \$32,800 (2023 est.)
\$32,100 (2022 est.)
\$29,800 (2021 est.)

Exports	\$274.1 billion (2023 est.) \$312.88 billion (2022 est.) \$263.836 billion (2021 est.)
Exports - partners	China 21%, Singapore 12%, USA 12%, Japan 5%, Hong Kong 5% (2023)
Exports - commodities	integrated circuits, refined petroleum, crude petroleum, natural gas, palm oil (2023)
Imports	\$253.665 billion (2023 est.) \$283.758 billion (2022 est.) \$236.855 billion (2021 est.)
Imports - partners	China 24%, Singapore 11%, USA 7%, Japan 5%, Taiwan 5% (2023)
Imports - commodities	integrated circuits, refined petroleum, crude petroleum, coal, broadcasting equipment (2023)