



Brunei



Background	The Sultanate of Brunei's influence peaked between the 15th and 17th centuries, when its control extended over coastal areas of northwest Borneo and the southern Philippines. Internal strife over royal succession, colonial expansion of European powers, and piracy subsequently brought on a period of decline. In 1888, Brunei became a British protectorate; independence was achieved in 1984. The same family has ruled Brunei for over six centuries, and in 2017, the country celebrated the 50th anniversary of Sultan Hassanal BOLKIAH's accession to the throne. Brunei has one of the highest per-capita GDPs in the world, thanks to extensive petroleum and natural gas fields.
Capital	name: Bandar Seri Begawan
Government type	absolute monarchy or sultanate
Area	total : 5,765 sq km land: 5,265 sq km water: 500 sq km
Climate	tropical; hot, humid, rainy
Natural resources	petroleum, natural gas, timber
Population	total: 491,900 (2024 est.)
Population growth rate	1.4% (2024 est.)
Ethnic groups	Malay 67.4%, Chinese 9.6%, other 23% (2021 est.)
Religions	Muslim (official) 82.1%, Christian 6.7%, Buddhist 6.3%, other 4.9% (2021 est.)
Languages	Malay (Bahasa Melayu) (official), English, Chinese dialects
Executive branch	chief of state: Sultan and Prime Minister Sir HASSANAL Bolkiah (since 5 October 1967) head of government: Sultan and Prime Minister Sir HASSANAL Bolkiah (since 5 October 1967) legislature name: Legislative Council (Majlis Mesyuarat Negara)
Legislative branch	chief of mission: Ambassador (vacant); Chargé d'Affaires IZZATI Baharuddin (since 6 May 2025)
Diplomatic representation in the US	chief of mission: Ambassador Caryn R. McCLELLAND (since December 2021)
Diplomatic representation from the US	
Economic overview	almost exclusively an oil and gas economy; high income country; expansive and robust welfare system; the majority of the population works for the government; promulgating a nationalized halal brand; considering establishment of a bond market and stock exchange

Real GDP (purchasing power parity)	\$36.64 billion (2024 est.) \$35.163 billion (2023 est.) \$34.771 billion (2022 est.)
Real GDP per capita	\$79,200 (2024 est.) \$76,600 (2023 est.) \$76,400 (2022 est.)
Exports	\$11.483 billion (2024 est.) \$11.573 billion (2023 est.) \$14.405 billion (2022 est.)
Exports - partners	Australia 21%, Japan 17%, China 17%, Singapore 16%, Malaysia 6% (2023)
Exports - commodities	refined petroleum, natural gas, crude petroleum, hydrocarbons, fertilizers (2023)
Imports	\$9.11 billion (2024 est.) \$9.077 billion (2023 est.) \$10.099 billion (2022 est.)
Imports - partners	Malaysia 23%, UAE 10%, China 10%, UK 10%, Australia 6% (2023)
Imports - commodities	crude petroleum, gold, refined petroleum, coal, cars (2023)

Population Pyramid

