

Malaysia

Malaysia comprises of two regions: the Peninsular Malaysia and the states of Sabah and Sarawak. It is a multi-ethnic and multi-religious federation of 13 states and 3 federal territories.

Overview

Official Name

Federation of Malaysia

Capital

Kuala Lumpur

Independence Day

31 August 1957

The Flag

The Malaysian flag composes of a field of 14 alternating red and white stripes signifying the membership of the 13 states and a federal territory. The red strips reflect heroic bravery while the white illustrates purity, and the blue symbolizes the unity of the Malaysian people. The crescent represents Islam and the 14 points of the star indicate the unity of the 14 entities.



Population, Territory and Currency

Population & total area

34,219,975 (2023 est.)

329,847 square km

Source: CIA World Factbook

Currency

Malaysian Ringgit (RM)

Average price per meal:

SGD 3

Key Historical Events

1826-1946

Establishment of British rule under the Straits Settlements.

1948

Creation of the Federation of Malaya under British rule.

1963

British colonies of Sabah, Sarawak and Singapore join the Federation of Malaya, forming the Federation of Malaysia.

1942-1945

Japanese occupation.

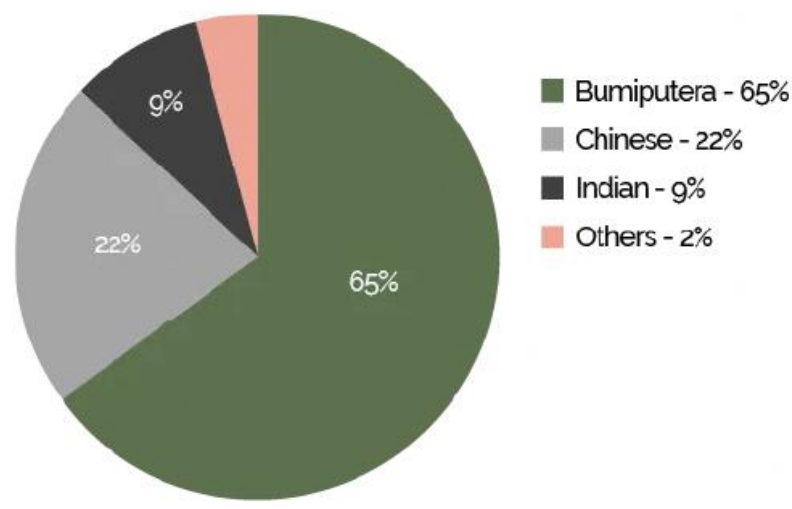
1957

Following years of guerilla warfare against the British, the Federation of Malaya gained independence.

1965

Singapore withdraws from Malaysia, which is then reduced to 13 states.

Demographics



Male-Female:
51.2%-48.8%

Urban Population:
78.2%

Youth aged 15-24 years: **16.63%**

Source: CIA World Factbook (2023)

Economic Profile

Malaysia is an upper middle-income country and has transformed itself from a producer of raw materials into a multi-sector economy. The economy achieved a commendable growth of 3.1% in 2021, rebounded from the pandemic and attained a GDP of RM 1.39 trillion. The Malaysian economy expanded by 5.6% in the first quarter of 2023, it was underpinned by broad-based growth across all sectors especially in services and manufacturing, which grew by 7.3% and 3.2% respectively (MOF, 2023).

SG X MY

In 2021, Malaysia was Singapore's second-largest trading partner and vice versa. Singapore's total trade with Malaysia was SGD 128.7 billion in 2021, which accounted for 11% of Singapore's total trade and 5% of Malaysia's total trade.

Key Industries

Digital Economy

Malaysia's traditional focus on consumer electronics manufacturing has anchored related functions such as computer programming and IT consultancies within the country. This has enabled the growth of Malaysia's digital economy and bolstered digital entrepreneurship, particularly in technology start-ups. The major sub-sectors of electrical and electronic products have also boosted manufacturing output and growth.

Agriculture

Agriculture is an important sector that provides rural employment, uplifts income and ensures national food security 6.3% of Malaysia's production in the first quarter of 2022 came from the agricultural industry. Key products include palm oil, fishing and livestock.

Lifestyle & Consumer Goods

With a large middle-class and urban population, consumer-facing industries contribute significantly to Malaysia's economy. Household consumption has rebounded following the COVID-19 pandemic, contributing a high growth rate of 6.5% in the first quarter of 2022.



Bak Kut Teh

Local Food

Bak Kut Teh

Literally meaning 'meatbone tea', this dish comprises of broth made from pork ribs with herbs, garlic and spices.



Nasi Lemak

Nasi Lemak

A national dish consisting of rice soaked in coconut cream then steamed with pandan leaves, served with cucumbers, peanuts, egg, anchovies and sambal sauce.



Laksa

Laksa

A popular spicy noodle soup with Malay and Chinese influences. Different regions feature variations of this dish, such as Assam laksa in Penang, where the broth is tamarind-based and filled with noodles, cucumber, pineapple and lemongrass.



Petronas Twin Towers

Places of Interest

Petronas Twin Towers

Landmark of Kuala Lumpur

Twin skyscrapers, they remain the tallest twin towers in the world. The towers feature an Islamic-inspired architecture.



Resorts World Genting

Resorts World Genting

Genting Highlands

An integrated hill resort development comprising of hotels, shopping malls, theme parks and casinos perched on the peak of Mount Ulu Kali remains a popular tourist destination.



Hari Merdeka Celebration

Major Festivals

Hari Merdeka

The annual celebration of independence from the British rule on 31 August 1957. Celebrations feature a grand parade, spectacular fireworks and stage performances.



Istana Negara

Agong's Birthday

Agong's Birthday celebrates the birthday of the King, known as the Yang di-Pertuan Agong. A nationwide speech is delivered by the Agong, followed by a ceremony held at the Istana Negara in Kuala Lumpur to honour commendable citizens. A massive parade also takes place at Merdeka Square to honour the Agong.