

Singapore

Singapore is a sovereign island city-state in Southeast Asia.

It lies north of the equator, bordering the Straits of Malacca to the west, the Riau Islands to the south, and the South China Sea to the east.

Overview

Official Name

Republic of Singapore

Capital

Singapore

Independence Day

9 August 1965

The Flag

The Singapore flag consists of 2 equal horizontal sections, red above white. A crescent moon occupies the upper left section, and next to it are 5 stars arranged in a circle. The red stands for universal brotherhood and equality of man. White symbolises everlasting purity and virtue. The crescent moon represents a young nation on the ascendant, and the stars each depict the country's ideals of democracy, peace, progress, justice and equality.



Population, Territory and Currency

Population & total area

5,975,383 (2023 est.)

728.3 square km

Source: CIA World Factbook

Currency

Singapore Dollar (SGD)

Average price per meal:

SGD 6-10

Key Historical Events

1819

Stamford Raffles

establishes trading post on Singapore.

1942-1945

Japanese occupation.

1963

Becomes part of Malaysia, following its merger with the Federation of Malaya, Sabah and Sarawak.

1826

British colonial rule under the Straits Settlement.

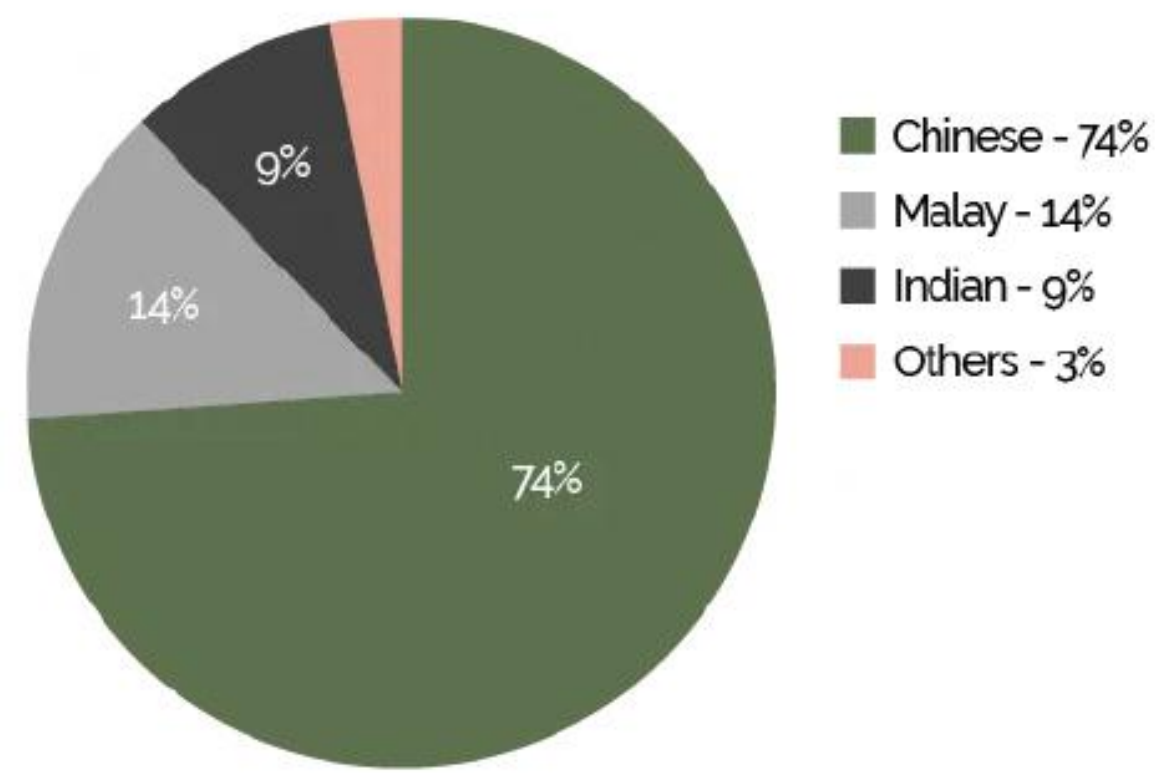
1959

Singapore holds its first general election.

1965

Gains independence following its separation from Malaysia.

Demographics



Male-Female:
50%-50%

Urban Population:
100%

**Youth aged 15-24
years: 15.01%**

*Source: CIA World
Factbook (2023)*

Economic Profile

Singapore has a highly developed market-based economy. Together with Hong Kong, South Korea and Taiwan, they make up the Four Asian Tigers. The Singapore economy is known as one of the freest, most innovative and business-friendly economy in the world, with a high real GDP growth rate of 7.6% in 2021. Close to 70% of the nominal value added in Singapore was generated by the services industries. Singapore's economy is also heavily dependent on trade, with key exports including electronics, petroleum products, pharmaceuticals, transportation, and financial services. In the fourth quarter of 2023, Singapore's economy grew by 2.8% on a year-on-year basis.

Key Industries

Investment

Singapore attracted over SGD 2,141.8 billion worth of Foreign Direct Investment in 2021. The country is an attractive country for investment due to its location, corruption-free environment, skilled workforce, low tax rates and advanced physical and digital infrastructure.

Financial and Insurance Services

Enjoying stable growth, Singapore is a regional hub of choice for many global financial services firms, facilitating the transfer of knowledge, technology and skills. This sector made up 14.6% of Singapore's 2021 nominal GDP and is also a fast-growing sector.

Manufacturing

The manufacturing sector contributed 22.3% to Singapore's nominal GDP in 2021, with key clusters in electronics, chemicals, biomedical sciences, logistics and transport engineering.



Chicken Rice

Local Food

Chicken Rice

Considered one of Singapore's national dishes, it consists of poached chicken and rice, served with cucumber and chilli sauce.



Chili Crab

Chili Crab

Despite its name, chili crab is not a very spicy dish. Mud crabs are stir-fried in a semi-thick, sweet and savoury tomato and chili-based sauce.



Laksa

Laksa

This dish consists of thick vermicelli with chicken/prawn/fish served in a spicy soup based on curry coconut milk.

Places of Interest

Gardens By The Bay

City in a Garden

Built with the aim of raising the quality of life by enhancing greenery and flora, the nature park consists of 3 waterfront gardens, one of which houses the Flower Dome, the largest glass greenhouse in the world.



Gardens By The Bay



Sentosa

Sentosa

Island on Southern Coast

Separated from the main island of Singapore, it is a popular resort with 20 million visitors per year. Attractions include a 2km sheltered beach, Madame Tussauds, cable car, golf courses, Universal Studios theme park, hotels, and a casino.

Major Festivals

National Day

The annual celebration of Singapore's independence from Malaysia on 9 August 1965. Celebratory activities include the National Day Parade and fireworks displays.



National Day Celebration