

## Introduction

Malaysia is a federation of 13 states and three federal territories in Southeast Asia. It consists of two regions separated by the South China Sea and is bordered by Brunei, Indonesia, and Thailand. Malaysia has a strategic location along the Strait of Malacca and the southern South China Sea. The government system is a constitutional monarchy; the chief of state is the king, and the head of government is the prime minister. Malaysia has a mixed economic system which includes a variety of private freedom, combined with centralized economic planning and government regulation. Malaysia is a member of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).



**Location:** South-Eastern Asia

**Capital City:** Kuala Lumpur (+8 GMT)

**Chief of State:** King Sultan Ibrahim ibni al-Marhum Sultan Iskandar

**Head of Govt.:** Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim

**Currency:** Malaysian ringgit (MYR)

**Major Languages:** Bahasa Malaysia (official), English, Chinese (Cantonese, Mandarin, Hokkien, Hakka, Hainan, Foochow), Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Panjabi, Thai; note - Malaysia has 134 living languages - 112 indigenous languages and 22 non-indigenous languages; in East Malaysia, there are several indigenous languages; the most widely spoken are Iban and Kadazan

**Primary Religions:** Muslim (official) 61.3%, Buddhist 19.8%, Christian 9.2%, Hindu 6.3%, Confucianism, Taoism, other traditional Chinese religions 1.3%, other 0.4%, none 0.8%, unspecified 1%

**Calling Code:** 60

**Voltage:** 240

## Key Websites

Commerce Ministry: [miti.gov.my](http://miti.gov.my)

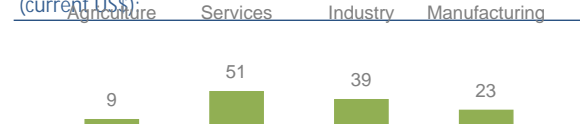
Export Promotion Agency: [matrade.gov.my](http://matrade.gov.my)

Investment Promotion [mida.gov.my](http://mida.gov.my)  
Agency:

## Key Economic Facts

|  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Income Level (by per capita GNI):                                    | Upper Middle Income         |
| Level of Development:  | Developing                  |
| GDP, PPP (current international \$):                                 | \$1,134.68 billion (2022)   |
| GDP growth (annual %):   | 8.69% (2022)                |
| GDP per capita, PPP (current international \$):                      | \$33,433.62 (2022)          |
| External debt stocks, total (DOD, current US\$):                     | \$200,364,305,000.00 (2016) |
| Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP):                               | 23.46% (2022)               |
| Current account balance (BoP, current US\$):                         | \$10.49 billion (2022)      |
| Inflation, consumer prices (annual %):                               | 3.38% (2022)                |
| Labor force, total:  | 17,309,921 (2022)           |
| Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate): | 3.73% (2022)                |
| Imports of goods and services (current US\$):                        | \$271.86 billion (2022)     |
| Exports of goods and services (current US\$):                        | \$300.60 billion (2022)     |

## GDP Composition %



*\*Although Manufacturing is included in the Industry figures, it is also separately reported because it plays a critical role in economy.*

## Rankings

| Index   | Rank     |
|---|----------|
| Corruption Perceptions Index                      | 61 / 178 |
| EY Globalization Index                            | 26 / 60  |
| Global Competitiveness Index                      | 27 / 141 |
| Global Enabling Trade Index                       | 37 / 136 |
| Global Manufacturing Competitiveness Index (GMCI) | 16 / 40  |
| Global Services Location Index                    | 3 / 60   |
| Index of Economic Freedom                         | 42 / 176 |
| International Logistics Performance Index (LPI)   | 41 / 160 |
| Inward FDI Potential Index                        | 40 / 139 |
| KOF Index of Globalization                        | 31 / 185 |
| Networked Readiness Index (NRI)                   | 31 / 139 |
| Open Budget Index                                 | 51 / 114 |

## Risk Assessment (Provided by Coface)

**Country rating: A4** - A somewhat shaky political and economic outlook and a relatively volatile business environment can affect corporate payment behavior. Corporate default probability is still acceptable on average.

**Business Climate rating: A3** - The business environment is relatively good. Although not always available, corporate financial information is usually reliable. Debt collection and the institutional framework may have some shortcomings. Intercompany transactions may run into occasional difficulties in the otherwise secure environments rated A3.

### Strengths

- Diversified exports
- Large domestic demand mitigates external headwinds
- Dynamic services sector
- High R&D
- Investment supported by the expansion of the local financial market and access to FDIs
- Exchange rate flexibility
- High per capita income
- Travel hub

### Weaknesses

- Budget income highly dependent on performances in the oil and gas sector (16% of revenues)
- Low fiscal revenues (15.9%), lack of transparency in budget spending
- Very high household debt levels (80% of GDP)
- Erosion of price competitiveness due to increasing labor costs
- Persistent regional disparities
- Ethnic and religious disputes
- Political uncertainties and instability

## U.S. Embassy

U.S. Embassy Kuala Lumpur  
376 Jalan Tun Razak  
50400 Kuala Lumpur  
Phone: 60-3-2168-5000

<https://my.usembassy.gov>