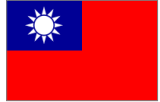


## Introduction

Taiwan, a territory of the Republic of China, is an island in East Asia in the Western Pacific Ocean. It is surrounded by the East China Sea, Philippine Sea, and the Taiwan Strait.



Proximate countries include mainland China, the islands of Japan, and the Philippines. The geography of Taiwan is rugged mountains in the east. The government system is a multiparty

democracy; the chief of state is the president, and the head of government is the premier. Taiwan has a free market economy in which the prices of goods and services are determined in a free price system, and there is little government involvement. Taiwan is a member of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).



**Location:** Eastern Asia

**Capital City:** Taipei (+8 GMT)

**Chief of State:** President Tsai Ing-wen

**Head of Govt.:** Premier Lai Ching-te

**Currency:** New Taiwan dollar (TWD)

**Major Languages:** Mandarin Chinese (official), Taiwanese (Min), Hakka dialects

**Primary Religions:** Buddhist 35.3%, Taoist 33.2%, Christian 3.9%, Taoist or Confucian folk religionist approximately 10%, none or unspecified 18.2%

**Calling Code:** 886

**Voltage:** 110

## Key Websites

Main Government Page: [taiwan.gov.tw](http://taiwan.gov.tw)

Commerce Ministry: [moea.gov.tw](http://moea.gov.tw)

Investment Promotion Agency: [investtaiwan.nat.gov.tw](http://investtaiwan.nat.gov.tw)

## Key Economic Facts

Level of Development: Developing

## GDP Composition %

Agriculture    Services    Industry    Manufacturing

0                    0                    0                    0

*\*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                      | 29 / 178 |
| EY Globalization Index                            | 15 / 60  |
| Global Competitiveness Index                      | 13 / 139 |
| Global Enabling Trade Index                       | 35 / 136 |
| Global Manufacturing Competitiveness Index (GMCI) | 7 / 40   |
| Index of Economic Freedom                         | 10 / 179 |
| International Logistics Performance Index (LPI)   | 27 / 160 |
| Inward FDI Potential Index                        | 17 / 139 |
| Networked Readiness Index (NRI)                   | 19 / 139 |

## Risk Assessment (Provided by Coface)

**Country rating: A2** - The political and economic situation is good. A basically stable and efficient business environment nonetheless leaves room for improvement. Corporate default probability is low on average.

**Business Climate rating: A2** - The business environment is good. When available, corporate financial information is reliable. Debt collection is reasonably efficient. Institutions generally perform efficiently. Intercompany transactions usually run smoothly in the relatively stable environment rated A2.

### Strengths

- Robust external financial position
- Support for R&D through public expenditure
- Consensus on democratic achievements
- 4th largest electronics producer in the world

### Weaknesses

- Foreign trade vulnerable to economic conditions in mainland China and the United States
- Massive relocations weakening industrial employment
- Lack of competitiveness of the service sector
- Infrastructure gap compared to other advanced Asian economies
- Growing isolation on the international diplomatic scene

## U.S. Embassy

The U.S. maintains unofficial ties with the people in Taiwan through the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT), a private nonprofit corporation, which performs citizen and consular services. Visit [www.ait.org.tw/en/](http://www.ait.org.tw/en/) for more information.