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	<i>TITLE :</i> 148		
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WRITTEN BY		August 10, 2024	

REVISION HISTORY

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

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Chapter 1

148

1.1 148.guide

Texified version of data for Malaysia.

Texified using wfact from

Gerhard Leibrock
Neuhäuselerstr. 12
D-66459 Kirkel
Germany

Tel.: 06849 / 6134
INTERNET: leibrock@fsinfo.cs.uni-sb.de
fach5@cipsol.cs.uni-sb.de

Project Gutenberg

P. O. Box 2782

Champaign, IL 61825

When all other email fails try our Michael S. Hart, Executive Director:

hart@vmd.cso.uiuc.edu (internet) hart@uiucvmd (bitnet)

We would prefer to send you this information by email (Internet, Bitnet, Compuserve, ATTMAIL or MCImail).

Malaysia

1.2 148.guide/Malaysia

Malaysia

Geography (Malaysia)
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 Economy (Malaysia)
 Economy (Malaysia 2. usage)
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 Defense Forces (Malaysia)

1.3 148.guide/Geography (Malaysia)

Geography (Malaysia)

=====

Location:

Southeast Asia, bordering the South China Sea, between Vietnam and ↔
Indonesia

Map references:

Asia, Oceania, Southeast Asia, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

329,750 km²

land area:

328,550 km²

comparative area:

slightly larger than New Mexico

Land boundaries:

total 2,669 km, Brunei 381 km, Indonesia 1,782 km, Thailand 506 km

Coastline:

4,675 km (Peninsular Malaysia 2,068 km, East Malaysia 2,607 km)

Maritime claims:

continental shelf:

200 m depth or to depth of exploitation; specified boundary in the South China Sea

exclusive fishing zone:

200 nm

exclusive economic zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

involved in a complex dispute over the Spratly Islands with China, Philippines, Taiwan, Vietnam, and possibly Brunei; State of Sabah claimed ↔
by
the Philippines; Brunei may wish to purchase the Malaysian salient that divides Brunei into two parts; two islands in dispute with Singapore; two islands in dispute with Indonesia

Climate:

tropical; annual southwest (April to October) and northeast (October to February) monsoons

Terrain: coastal plains rising to hills and mountains

Natural resources:

tin, petroleum, timber, copper, iron ore, natural gas, bauxite

Land use:

arable land:

3%

permanent crops:

10%

meadows and pastures:

0%

forest and woodland:

63%

other:

24%

Irrigated land:

3,420 km² (1989 est.)

Environment:

subject to flooding; air and water pollution

Note:

strategic location along Strait of Malacca and southern South China Sea

1.4 148.guide/People (Malaysia)

People (Malaysia)

=====

Population:

18,845,340 (July 1993 est.)

Population growth rate:

2.32% (1993 est.)

Birth rate:

28.93 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Death rate:

5.77 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Net migration rate:

0 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Infant mortality rate:

26.5 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

total population:

68.82 years

male:

65.96 years

female:

71.81 years (1993 est.)

Total fertility rate:

3.54 children born/woman (1993 est.)

Nationality:

noun:

Malaysian(s)

adjective:

Malaysian

Ethnic divisions:

Malay and other indigenous 59%, Chinese 32%, Indian 9%

Religions:**Peninsular Malaysia:**

Muslim (Malays)

Buddhist (Chinese), Hindu (Indians)

Sabah:

Muslim 38%

Christian 17%, other 45%

Sarawak:

tribal religion 35%

Buddhist and Confucianist 24%, Muslim 20%, Christian 16%, other 5%

Languages:**Peninsular Malaysia:**

Malay (official)

English, Chinese dialects, Tamil

State of Sabah:

English

Malay, numerous tribal dialects, Chinese (Mandarin and Hakka dialects predominate)

State of Sarawak:

English

Malay, Mandarin, numerous tribal languages,

Literacy:

age 15 and over can read and write (1990)

total population:

78%

male:

86%

female:

70%

Labor force:

7.258 million (1991 est.)

1.5 148.guide/Government (Malaysia)

Government (Malaysia)

=====

Names:

conventional long form:

none

conventional short form:

Malaysia

former:

Malayan Union

Digraph:

MY

Type:

constitutional monarchy

note:Federation of Malaysia formed 9 July 1963; nominally headed by the ↔
paramountruler (king) and a bicameral Parliament; Peninsular Malaysian states -
hereditary rulers in all but Melaka, where governors are appointed by

Malaysian Pulau Pinang Government; powers of state governments are limited by federal Constitution; Sabah – self-governing state, holds 20 seats in House of Representatives, with foreign affairs, defense, internal security, and other powers delegated to federal government; Sarawak – self-governing state within Malaysia, holds 27 seats in House of Representatives, with foreign affairs, defense, internal security, and other powers delegated to federal government

Capital: Kuala Lumpur

Administrative divisions:
 13 states (negeri-negeri, singular – negeri) and 2 federal territories*, ←
 (wilayah-wilayah persekutuan, singular – wilayah persekutuan); Johor, Kedah, Kelantan, Labuan*, Melaka, Negeri Sembilan, Pahang, Perak, Perlis, Pulau, ←
 Pinang, Sabah, Sarawak, Selangor, Terengganu, Wilayah Persekutuan*, Independence:
 31 August 1957 (from UK)

Constitution:
 31 August 1957, amended 16 September 1963

Legal system:
 based on English common law; judicial review of legislative acts in the Supreme Court at request of supreme head of the federation; has not ←
 accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction

National holiday:
 National Day, 31 August (1957)

Political parties and leaders:
 Peninsular Malaysia:
 National Front, a confederation of 13 political parties dominated by United Malays National Organization Baru (UMNO Baru), MAHATHIR bin Mohamad; Malaysian Chinese Association (MCA), LING Liong Sik; Gerakan Rakyat Malaysia, Datuk LIM Keng Yaik; Malaysian Indian Congress (MIC), Datuk S. Samy VELLU

Sabah:
 Berjaya Party, Datuk Haji Mohammed NOOR Mansor; Bersatu Sabah (PBS), Joseph Pairin KITINGAN; United Sabah National Organizational (USNO), leader NA

Sarawak:
 coalition Sarawak National Front composed of the Party Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB), Datuk Patinggi Amar Haji Abdul TAIB Mahmud; Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP), Datuk Amar James WONG Soon Kai; Sarawak National Party (SNAP), Datuk Amar James WONG; Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak (PBDS), ←
 Datuk Leo MOGGIE; major opposition parties are Democratic Action Party (DAP), LIM Kit Siang and Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party (PAS), Fadzil NOOR

Suffrage:
 21 years of age; universal

1.6 148.guide/Government (Malaysia 2. usage)

Government (Malaysia 2. usage)

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Elections:
 House of Representatives:

last held 21 October 1990 (next to be held by August 1995); results - National Front 52%, other 48%; seats - (180 total) National Front 127, DAP 20, PAS 7, independents 4, other 22; note - within the National Front, UMNO got 71 seats and MCA 18 seats

Executive branch:

paramount ruler, deputy paramount ruler, prime minister, deputy prime minister, Cabinet

Legislative branch:

bicameral Parliament (Parlimen) consists of an upper house or Senate (Dewan Negara) and a lower house or House of Representatives (Dewan Rakyat)

Judicial branch:

Supreme Court

Leaders:

Chief of State: Paramount Ruler AZLAN Muhibbuddin Shah ibni Sultan Yusof Izzudin (since 26 April 1989); Deputy Paramount Ruler JA'AFAR ibni Abdul Rahman (since 26 April 1989)

Head of Government:

Prime Minister Dr. MAHATHIR bin Mohamad (since 16 July 1981); Deputy Prime Minister Abdul GHAFAR Bin Baba (since 7 May 1986)

Member of:

APEC, AsDB, ASEAN, C, CCC, CP, ESCAP, FAO, G-15, G-77, GATT, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICFTU, IDA, IDB, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO, INMARSAT, INTELSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, ISO, ITU, LORCS, MINURSO, NAM, OIC, UN, UNAVEM II, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNIKOM, UNOMOT, UNTAC, UPU, WCL, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

Diplomatic representation in US:

chief of mission:

Ambassador Abdul MAJID Mohamed

chancery:

2401 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008

telephone:

(202) 328-2700

consulates general:

Los Angeles and New York

US diplomatic representation:

chief of mission:

Ambassador John S. WOLF

embassy:

376 Jalan Tun Razak, 50400 Kuala Lumpur

mailing address:

P. O. Box No. 10035, 50700 Kuala Lumpur

telephone:

[60] (3) 248-9011

FAX:

[60] (3) 242-2207

Flag:

fourteen equal horizontal stripes of red (top) alternating with white (bottom); there is a blue rectangle in the upper hoist-side corner bearing a yellow crescent and a yellow fourteen-pointed star; the crescent and the star are traditional symbols of Islam; the design was based on the flag of the US

1.7 148.guide/Economy (Malaysia)

Economy (Malaysia)

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Overview:

The Malaysian economy, a mixture of private enterprise and a soundly managed ←
public sector, has posted a remarkable record of 8%-9% average growth in 1987-92. This growth has resulted in a substantial reduction in poverty and a marked rise in real wages. Despite sluggish growth in the major world economies in 1992, demand for Malaysian goods remained strong and foreign investors continued to commit large sums in the economy. The government is aware of the inflationary potential of this rapid development and is ←
closely
monitoring fiscal and monetary policies.

National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$54.5 billion (1992 est.)

National product real growth rate:

8% (1992 est.)

National product per capita:

\$2,960 (1992 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

4.7% (1992 est.)

Unemployment rate:

4.1% (1992 est.)

Budget:

revenues \$15.6 billion; expenditures \$18.0 billion, including capital expenditures of \$4.5 billion (1992 est.)

Exports:

\$39.8 billion (f.o.b., 1992)

commodities:

electronic equipment, palm oil, petroleum and petroleum products, wood and wood products, rubber, textiles

partners:

Singapore 23%, US 18.6%, Japan 13.2%, UK 4%, Germany 4%

Imports:

\$39.1 billion (f.o.b., 1992)

commodities:

food, consumer goods, petroleum products, chemicals, capital equipment

partners:

Japan 26%, US 15.8%, Singapore 15.7%, Taiwan 5.6%, Germany 4.2%

External debt:

\$25.7 billion (1992 est.)

Industrial production:

growth rate 13% (1992); accounts for NA% of GDP

Electricity:

8,000,000 kW capacity; 30,000 million kWh produced, 1,610 kWh per capita (1992)

Industries:

Peninsular Malaysia:

rubber and oil palm processing and manufacturing, light manufacturing industry, electronics, tin mining and smelting, logging and processing timber

Sabah:

logging, petroleum production

Sarawak:
 agriculture processing, petroleum production and refining, logging
 Agriculture:
 accounts for 20% of GDP
 Peninsular Malaysia:
 natural rubber, palm oil, rice
 Sabah:
 mainly subsistence, but also rubber, timber, coconut, rice

1.8 148.guide/Economy (Malaysia 2. usage)

Economy (Malaysia 2. usage)

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Sarawak:
 rubber, timber, pepper; deficit of rice in all areas; fish catch of 608,000
 metric tons in 1987
 Illicit drugs:
 transit point for Golden Triangle heroin going to the US, Western Europe,
 and the Third World
 Economic aid:
 US commitments, including Ex-Im (FY70-84), \$170 million; Western (non-US)
 countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-89), \$4.7 million; OPEC
 bilateral aid (1979-89), \$42 million
 Currency:
 1 ringgit (M\$) = 100 sen
 Exchange rates:
 ringgits (M\$) per US\$1 - 2.6238 (January 1993), 2.5475 (1992), 2.7501
 (1991), 1.7048 (1990), 2.7088 (1989), 2.6188 (1988)
 Fiscal year:
 calendar year

1.9 148.guide/Communications (Malaysia)

Communications (Malaysia)

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Railroads:
 Peninsular Malaysia:
 1,665 km 1.04-meter gauge; 13 km double track, government owned
 Sabah:
 136 km 1.000-meter gauge
 Sarawak:
 none
 Highways:
 Peninsular Malaysia:
 23,600 km; 19,352 km hard surfaced, mostly bituminous surface treatment, ←
 and

4,248 km unpaved
 Sabah:
 3,782 km
 Sarawak:
 1,644 km
 Inland waterways:
 Peninsular Malaysia:
 3,209 km
 Sabah:
 1,569 km
 Sarawak:
 2,518 km
 Pipelines:
 crude oil 1,307 km; natural gas 379 km
 Ports:
 Tanjong Kidurong, Kota Kinabalu, Kuching, Pasir Gudang, Penang, Port Kelang ↔
 ,
 Sandakan, Tawau
 Merchant marine:
 184 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 1,869,817 GRT/2,786,765 DWT; ↔
 includes
 1 passenger-cargo, 2 short-sea passenger, 71 cargo, 28 container, 2 vehicle
 carrier, 2 roll-on/roll-off, 1 livestock carrier, 38 oil tanker, 6 chemical
 tanker, 6 liquefied gas, 27 bulk
 Airports:
 total:
 111
 usable:
 102
 with permanent-surface runways:
 32
 with runways over 3,659 m:
 1
 with runways 2,440-3,659 m: 7
 with runways 1,220-2,439 m:
 18
 Telecommunications:
 good intercity service provided on Peninsular Malaysia mainly by microwave
 radio relay; adequate intercity microwave radio relay network between Sabah
 and Sarawak via Brunei; international service good; good coverage by radio
 and television broadcasts; 994,860 telephones (1984); broadcast stations -
 28 AM, 3 FM, 33 TV; submarine cables extend to India and Sarawak; SEACOM
 submarine cable links to Hong Kong and Singapore; satellite earth stations ↔
 -
 1 Indian Ocean INTELSAT, 1 Pacific Ocean INTELSAT, and 2 domestic

1.10 148.guide/Defense Forces (Malaysia)

Defense Forces (Malaysia)

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Branches:

Malaysian Army, Royal Malaysian Navy, Royal Malaysian Air Force, Royal

Malaysian Police Force, Marine Police, Sarawak Border Scouts

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 4,837,256; fit for military service 2,941,577; reach
military age (21) annually 181,435 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$2.4 billion, about 5% of GDP (1992)