

# Singapore

## Geography

Location: Southeastern Asia, islands between Malaysia and Indonesia

Area:

total area: 632.6 sq km

land area: 622.6 sq km

Land boundaries: 0 km

Coastline: 193 km

Maritime claims:

exclusive fishing zone: within and beyond territorial sea, as defined in treaties and practice

territorial sea: 3 nm

Climate: tropical; hot, humid, rainy; no pronounced rainy or dry seasons; thunderstorms occur on 40% of all days (67% of days in April)

Terrain: lowland; gently undulating central plateau contains water catchment area and nature preserve

Natural resources: fish, deepwater ports

Land use:

arable land: 4%

permanent crops: 7%

meadows and pastures: 0%

forest and woodland: 5%

other: 84%

Environment:

current issues: industrial pollution; limited natural fresh water resources; limited land availability presents waste disposal problems

natural hazards: NA

Note: focal point for Southeast Asian sea routes

# People

Population: 2,890,468 (July 1995 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 23% (female 327,417; male 348,345)

15-64 years: 70% (female 991,015; male 1,030,668)

65 years and over: 7% (female 105,081; male 87,942) (July 1995 est.)

Population growth rate: 1.06% (1995 est.)

Birth rate: 15.93 births/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Death rate: 5.35 deaths/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Net migration rate: 0 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Infant mortality rate: 5.7 deaths/1,000 live births (1995 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

total population: 76.16 years

male: 73.28 years  
female: 79.25 years (1995 est.)

Total fertility rate: 1.87 children born/woman (1995 est.)

Nationality:  
noun: Singaporean(s)  
adjective: Singapore

Ethnic divisions: Chinese 76.4%, Malay 14.9%, Indian 6.4%, other 2.3%

Religions: Buddhist (Chinese), Muslim (Malays), Christian, Hindu, Sikh, Taoist, Confucianist

Languages: Chinese (official), Malay (official and national), Tamil (official), English (official)

Literacy: age 15 and over can read and write (1990)  
total population: 89%  
male: 95%  
female: 83%

# Government

Names:

conventional long form: Republic of Singapore

conventional short form: Singapore

Type: republic within Commonwealth

Capital: Singapore

Independence: 9 August 1965 (from Malaysia)

National holiday: National Day, 9 August (1965)

Suffrage: 20 years of age; universal and compulsory

Flag: two equal horizontal bands of red (top) and white; near the hoist side of the red band, there is a vertical, white crescent (closed portion is toward the hoist side) partially enclosing five white five-pointed stars arranged in a circle

# Economy

Industries: petroleum refining, electronics, oil drilling equipment, rubber processing and rubber products, processed food and beverages, ship repair, entrepot trade, financial services, biotechnology

Agriculture: minor importance in the economy; self-sufficient in poultry and eggs; must import much of other food; major crops - rubber, copra, fruit, vegetables

Illicit drugs: transit point for Golden Triangle heroin going to the US, Western Europe, and the Third World; also a major money-laundering center

Transportation

Railroads:

total: 38.6 km

Highways:

total: 2,883 km

Ports: Singapore

Airports:

total: 10

Defence Forces

Branches: Army, Navy, Air Force, People's Defence Force, Police Force