

Brunei

Geography

Location: Southeastern Asia, bordering the South China Sea and Malaysia

Map references: Southeast Asia

Area:

total area: 5,770 sq km

land area: 5,270 sq km

comparative area: slightly larger than Delaware

Land boundaries: total 381 km, Malaysia 381 km

Coastline: 161 km

Maritime claims:

exclusive economic zone: 200 nm or to median line

territorial sea: 12 nm

Climate: tropical; hot, humid, rainy

Terrain: flat coastal plain rises to mountains in east; hilly lowland in west

Natural resources: petroleum, natural gas, timber

Land use:

arable land: 1%

permanent crops: 1%

meadows and pastures: 1%

forest and woodland: 79%

other: 18%

Irrigated land: 10 sq km (1989 est.)

Environment:

current issues: NA

natural hazards: typhoons, earthquakes, and severe flooding are very rare

Note: close to vital sea lanes through South China Sea linking Indian and Pacific Oceans; two parts physically separated by Malaysia; almost an enclave of Malaysia

People

Population: 292,266 (July 1995 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 34% (female 48,458; male 50,624)

15-64 years: 62% (female 85,581; male 95,955)

65 years and over: 4% (female 5,172; male 6,476) (July 1995 est.)

Population growth rate: 2.63% (1995 est.)

Birth rate: 25.83 births/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Death rate: 5.07 deaths/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Net migration rate: 5.49 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Infant mortality rate: 24.7 deaths/1,000 live births (1995 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

total population: 71.24 years

male: 69.65 years

female: 72.91 years (1995 est.)

Total fertility rate: 3.41 children born/woman (1995 est.)

Nationality:

noun: Bruneian(s)

adjective: Bruneian

Ethnic divisions: Malay 64%, Chinese 20%, other 16%

Religions: Muslim (official) 63%, Buddhism 14%, Christian 8%, indigenous beliefs and other 15% (1981)

Languages: Malay (official), English, Chinese

Literacy: age 15 and over can read and write (1991)

total population: 88%

male: 92%

female: 82%

Labour force: 119,000 (1993 est.); note - includes members of the Army

by occupation: government 47.5%, production of oil, natural gas, services, and construction 41.9%, agriculture, forestry, and fishing 3.8% (1986)

note: 33% of labor force is foreign (1988)

Government

Names:

conventional long form: Negara Brunei Darussalam

conventional short form: Brunei

Type: constitutional sultanate

Capital: Bandar Seri Begawan

Administrative divisions: 4 districts (daerah-daerah, singular - daerah); Belait, Brunei and Muara, Temburong, Tutong

Independence: 1 January 1984 (from UK)

National holiday: National Day 23 February (1984)

Constitution: 29 September 1959 (some provisions suspended under a State of Emergency since December 1962, others since independence on 1 January 1984)

Legal system: based on Islamic law

Suffrage: none

Flag: yellow with two diagonal bands of white (top, almost double width) and black starting from the upper hoist side; the national emblem in red is superimposed at the center; the emblem includes a swallow-tailed flag on top of a winged column within an upturned crescent above a scroll and flanked by two upraised hands

Economy

Overview: The economy is a mixture of foreign and domestic entrepreneurship, government regulation and welfare measures, and village tradition. It is almost totally supported by exports of crude oil and natural gas, with revenues from the petroleum sector accounting for more than 40% of GDP. Per capita GDP is among the highest in the Third World, and substantial income from overseas investment supplements domestic production. The government provides for all medical services and subsidizes food and housing.

Industries: petroleum, petroleum refining, liquefied natural gas, construction

Agriculture: imports about 80% of its food needs; principal crops and livestock include rice, cassava, bananas, buffaloes, and pigs

Transportation

Railroads:

total: 13 km private line

Highways:

total: 1,090 km

Inland waterways: 209 km; navigable by craft drawing less than 1.2 meters

Pipelines: crude oil 135 km; petroleum products 418 km; natural gas 920 km

Ports: Bandar Seri Begawar, Kuala Belait, Muara, Seria, Tutong

Airports:

total: 5

Defence Forces

Branches: Land Forces, Navy, Air Force, Royal Brunei Police