

BURMA/MYANMAR



INTRODUCTION

Burma was a province of British India until 1937 and then a self-governing colony until independence in 1948. Military governments have generally led the country since. Recent years have seen a series of reforms leading to a substantial opening of the long-isolated country.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State/Head of Government

Prime Minister, State Administration Council Chair, Sr. Gen. MIN AUNG HLAING

Government Type

military dictatorship; previously parliamentary republic

Capital

Rangoon (aka Yangon, US Government recognizes as the primary Burmese capital); Nay Pyi Taw is the administrative capital

Legislature

dissolved February 2021; previously a bicameral Assembly of the Union or Pyidaungsu consisted of the House of Nationalities or Amyotha Hluttaw (224 seats) and the House of Representatives or Pyithu Hluttaw (440 seats)

Ambassador to US

Charge d'Affaires WIN Thet

US Ambassador

Charge d'Affaires Susan N. STEVENSON

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 676,578 sq km
Land: 653,508 sq km
Water: 23,070 sq km

Climate

tropical monsoon; cloudy, rainy, hot, humid summers; less cloudy, scant rainfall, mild temperatures, lower humidity during winter

Natural Resources

petroleum, timber, tin, antimony, zinc, copper, tungsten, lead, coal, marble, limestone, precious stones, natural gas, hydropower, arable land

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

slowly recovering Southeast Asian economy; household incomes weaken domestic consumption; growing trade deficit; declining employment; high inflation and reduced currency power; agriculture sector remains most stable

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$216.9 billion (2021 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$4,000 (2021 est.)

Industries - agricultural processing; wood and wood products; copper, tin, tungsten, iron; cement, construction materials; pharmaceuticals; fertilizer; oil and natural gas; garments; jade and gems

Agricultural products - rice, sugar cane, beans, vegetables, milk, maize, poultry, groundnuts, fruit, plantains

Exports \$20.4 billion (2021 est.)

natural gas, clothing products, dried legumes, precious stones, yttrium, scandium, rice, corn (2021)

partners: China 34%, Thailand 14%, Germany 6%, Japan 5%, United States 5% (2021)

Imports \$23.1 billion (2021 est.)

refined petroleum, palm oil, fabrics, packaged medicines, broadcasting equipment, cars (2021)

partners: China 41%, Thailand 19%, Singapore 13%, Indonesia 5%, India 3% (2021)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

58 million (2023 est.)

Population Growth

0.75% (2023 est.)

Ethnicity

Burman (Bamar) 68%, Shan 9%, Karen 7%, Rakhine 4%, Chinese 3%, Indian 2%, Mon 2%, other 5%

Language

Burmese (official); minority ethnic groups use their own languages

Religion

Buddhist 87.9%, Christian 6.2%, Muslim 4.3%, Animist 0.8%, Hindu 0.5%, other 0.2%, none 0.1% (2014 est.)