INTRODUCTION
The British secured and colonized the area that is now Malaysia during the late 18th and 19th centuries. In 1948, the British-ruled territories on the Malay Peninsula except Singapore formed the Federation of Malaya, which became independent in 1957. Malaysia was formed in 1963 when the former British colonies of Singapore, as well as Sabah and Sarawak on the northern coast of Borneo, joined the Federation. Singapore was expelled in 1965.

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
King Sultan ABDULLAH Sultan Ahmad Shah
Head of Government
Prime Minister ISMAIL SABRI Yaakob
Government Type
federal parliamentary constitutional monarchy
Capital
Kuala Lumpur
Legislature
bicameral Parliament or Parlimen consists of: Senate or Dewan Negara (70 seats) and House of Representatives or Dewan Rakyat (222 seats)

GEOGRAPHY
Area
total: 329,847 sq km
Land: 328,657 sq km
water: 1,190 sq km
Climate
tropical; annual southwest (April to October) and northeast (October to February) monsoons
Natural Resources
tin, petroleum, timber, copper, iron ore, natural gas, bauxite

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
upper middle-income Southeast Asian economy; implementing key anticorruption policies; major electronics, oil, and chemicals exporter; trade sector employs over 40% of jobs; key economic initiative: high labor productivity
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $855.6 billion (2020 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $26,400 (2020 est.)
Industries - rubber and oil palm processing and manufacturing, petroleum, natural gas, light manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, medical technology, electronics and semiconductors
Agricultural products - oil palm fruit, rice, poultry, eggs, vegetables, rubber, coconuts, bananas, pineapples, pork
Exports $207.4 billion (2020 est.)
integrated circuits, refined petroleum, natural gas, semiconductors, palm oil (2019)
partners: Singapore 13%, China 13%, US 11%, Hong Kong 6%, Japan 6%, Thailand 5% (2019)
Imports $185.6 billion (2020 est.)
integrated circuits, refined petroleum, crude petroleum, broadcasting equipment, coal (2019)
partners: China 24%, Singapore 14%, Japan 6%, US 6%, Taiwan 5%, Thailand 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
33.5 million (July 2021 est.)
Population Growth
1.06% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity
Bumiputera 62.5%
(Malays and indigenous peoples), Chinese 20.6%, Indian 6.2%, other 0.9%, non-citizens 9.8% (2019 est.)
Language
Bahasa Malaysia (official), English, Chinese (Cantonese, Mandarin, Hokkien, Hakka, Hainan, Foochow), Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Panjabi, Thai
Religion
Muslim (official) 61.3%, Buddhist 19.8%, Christian 9.2%, Hindu 6.3%, traditional Chinese religions 1.3%, other 0.4%, none 0.8%, unspecified 1% (2010 est.)