The East-West Center promotes better relations and understanding among the people and nations of the United States, Asia, and the Pacific through cooperative study, research, and dialogue. Established by the US Congress in 1960, the Center serves as a resource for information and analysis on critical issues of common concern, bringing people together to exchange views, build expertise, and develop policy options.

Since 1984, the US-ASEAN Business Council has been the premier advocacy organization for US corporations operating within the dynamic Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Worldwide, the Council’s membership of more than 165 companies generates almost US$7 trillion in revenue and employs nearly 15 million people. Today our members include the largest US companies conducting business in ASEAN, and range from newcomers to the region to companies that have been working in Southeast Asia for more than 100 years. The Council has nine offices around the globe, in Washington, DC; New York, NY; Bangkok, Thailand; Hanoi, Vietnam; Jakarta, Indonesia; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Manila, Philippines; Singapore; and Yangon, Myanmar. For more information, please visit www.usasean.org.

ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute (formerly Institute of Southeast Asian Studies) is an autonomous organization established in 1968. It is a regional centre dedicated to the study of socio-political, security, and economic trends and developments in Southeast Asia and its wider geostrategic and economic environment. The ASEAN Studies Centre (ASC) was established in 2008 under the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute to research on issues pertaining to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as an institution and a process. The ASC is the first Institutional Recipient of the ASEAN Prize in 2020, a prestigious award to honour the outstanding achievements of individuals or organisations who have made meaningful contribution to ASEAN.

ASEAN MATTERS FOR AMERICA/AMERICA MATTERS FOR ASEAN

This project maps the trade, investment, employment, business, diplomacy, security, education, tourism, and people-to-people connections between the United States and the 10 member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) at the national, state, and local levels. Part of the Asia Matters for America initiative, this publication, the one-page connections summaries for states, and the AsiaMattersforAmerica.org website are resources for understanding the robust and dynamic US-ASEAN relationship.

AsiaMattersforAmerica.org/ASEAN

Project Team

EAST-WEST CENTER IN WASHINGTON

Vice President, East-West Center & Director, East-West Center in Washington: Satu Limaye, PhD

Coordinators: Caitlin Brophy & Michele Helen Reyes

Research & Content: Isabel Ayala, Natasia Engeline, Kyoko Imai, Angus Lam, Patrick Madaj, Clayton Russo, Matthew Sullivan, Ross Tokola, Lam Tran, Peter Valente, Sarah Wang, Kristin Wilson, Ryan Woock

US-ASEAN BUSINESS COUNCIL

President & CEO: Alexander C. Feldman

Coordinator: Bernard Baskin

Contributors: Amb. Michael Michalak, Marc Mealy, Elizabeth Dugan, Hai Pham, Marcella Suwandhi, Dyan Kean, Ryan DelGaudio

ASEAN STUDIES CENTRE, ISEAS-YUSOF ISHAK INSTITUTE

Director: Choi Shing Kwok

Coordinator: Sharon Seah

Contributors: Melinda Martinus, Pham Thi Phuong Thao, Farah Nadine Seth, Qiu Jiahui, Kevin Neo

Copyright © 2021 East-West Center
ASEAN IN PROFILE
With More Than 662 Million People, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has the 3rd Largest Population in the World and a GDP of $3.2 Trillion
ASEAN seeks to promote economic growth and regional stability among its members through consultation, consensus, and cooperation based on the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC) to which 43 countries including the United States (US) have acceded.

ASEAN ECONOMY
ASEAN is currently the 3rd Largest Economy in the Indo-Pacific and the 5th Largest in the World
The ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), established in 2015, has a combined GDP of $3.2 trillion, and is also the 3rd fastest-growing major Indo-Pacific economy in the past decade, after China and India.

ASEAN HEALTH
Universal Healthcare is Being Adopted by ASEAN Member States
Indonesia has one of the world’s largest free healthcare programs, covering approximately 180 million people.

ASEAN ECONOMIC GROWTH PROJECTIONS
ASEAN’s Economy is Projected to Grow by Over 5.5% Per Year and Become the 4th Largest Economy in the World by 2030
With a projected annual growth rate of over 5.5% per year, ASEAN is forecast to overtake India and Japan to become the 4th largest economy in the world by 2030.

THE UNITED STATES AND ASEAN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP
ASEAN Member States are Key Diplomatic, Economic, and Security Partners for the United States
The US-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (FTA), which went into force in 2004, was America’s first FTA in the Indo-Pacific, and the US currently has a trade surplus with Singapore.

TRADE
The United States Exports More Than $122 Billion in Goods and Services to ASEAN
ASEAN ranks 4th after Canada, Mexico, and China as a goods export market for the United States, and the United States is the 2nd largest trading partner for ASEAN.

AGRICULTURE
ASEAN is a Top Five Destination for US Food and Agricultural Exports
The United States exports $13.7 billion in food and agricultural goods to ASEAN, including over $2 billion in soybeans and $1.6 billion in cotton.
With More Than 662 Million People, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has the 3rd Largest Population in the World and a GDP of $3.2 Trillion

ASEAN is a 10-member regional bloc with a combined GDP of $3.2 trillion, a population of 662 million, and a land mass covering more than 1.7 million square miles (larger than the land area of India). Founded in 1967 by Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand, ASEAN has since expanded to include Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam. ASEAN’s community-building effort comprises three pillars: the Political Security Community; Economic Community; and Socio-Cultural Community. ASEAN holds semiannual ASEAN Summits and numerous ministerial and working-level meetings in support of its community-building objectives.

ASEAN seeks to promote economic growth and regional stability among its members through consultation, consensus, and cooperation based on the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation to which 43 countries, including the United States, have acceded. ASEAN member states are helping to shape important regional economic, political and security initiatives by convening key Indo-Pacific countries at the annual East Asia Summit and other fora.

ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN)
ASEAN Secretariat: Jakarta, Indonesia
Population: 662 million
Chair rotates annually among member states. The ASEAN-US relationship began formally in 1977. The United States acceded to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia in 2009 and was the first non-ASEAN country to appoint a resident Ambassador to ASEAN in 2019. The United States joined the East Asia Summit in 2011 and institutionalized annual ASEAN-US summits in 2012. The ASEAN Community was realized on December 31, 2015. The United States elevated its relationship with ASEAN to a Strategic Partnership on November 21, 2015.

BRUNEI
Capital: Bandar Seri Begawan
Population: 463,000
Member Since: 1984
The United States and Brunei held their first bilateral army exercises in 2018, focusing on jungle and urban warfare.

INDONESIA
Capital: Jakarta
Population: 269.6 million
Member Since: 1967
Indonesia, the world’s 3rd largest democracy, and the United States upgraded their relations to a “strategic partnership” in 2016.

CAMBODIA
Capital: Phnom Penh
Population: 167.7 million
Member Since: 1999
The United States is the largest purchaser of Cambodia’s exports, including over $2 billion in apparel.

LAOS
Capital: Vientiane
Population: 7.3 million
Member Since: 1997
In 2006, then President Barack Obama became the first sitting US President to visit Laos.

PHILIPPINES
Capital: Manila
Population: 108.9 million
Member Since: 1997
The largest Filipino diaspora is in the United States, with over four million US citizens of Philippine ancestry—the third largest Asian population in the United States.

SINGAPORE
Capital: Singapore
Population: 5.8 million
Member Since: 1967
Singapore was the first US bilateral free trade partner in the Indo-Pacific, and in 2015 the two countries signed an enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement.

MALAYSIA
Capital: Kuala Lumpur
Population: 33 million
Member Since: 1967
US investments in Malaysia were $10.8 billion in 2019, making the United States one of the country’s largest sources of foreign direct investment that year.

THAILAND
Capital: Bangkok
Population: 69.8 million
Member Since: 1967
Thailand is the oldest US treaty partner in the Indo-Pacific, and in 2015 the two countries signed an enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement.

MYANMAR
Capital: Nay Pyi Taw
Population: 53.2 million
Member Since: 1997
The United States restored full diplomatic relations with Myanmar in 2022 and has invested over $285 million in the country to support private sector-led growth.

VIETNAM
Capital: Hanoi
Population: 97.4 million
Member Since: 1995
US trade with Vietnam has grown exponentially since 1994, reaching $77 billion in 2019—a 32% increase over the previous year.


Numbers rounded throughout publication. All monetary values are in US$ unless otherwise noted. Whenever possible, the most recent available data is used. For the most up-to-date data please visit AsiaMattersForAmerica.org/ASEAN
ASEAN is Currently the 3rd Largest Economy in the Indo-Pacific and the 5th Largest in the World

The ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), established in 2015, has a combined GDP of $3.2 trillion and is the 3rd fastest-growing major Indo-Pacific economy in the past decade, after China and India. As a critical hub for global trade, over $2.8 trillion in global trade transited the ASEAN region in 2019 alone.

The AEC seeks to reduce or remove trade barriers to facilitate the free movement of goods, services, capital, and skilled labor within the ASEAN region. A single customs window, known as the ASEAN Single Window, was developed to expedite cargo clearance and promote ASEAN economic integration. In December 2019, all 10 ASEAN member states joined the ASEAN Single Window.

REAL GDP GROWTH*

ASEAN’s GDP compared to other Indo-Pacific economies from 2011–2020

*Real GDP growth was calculated in constant US$ using World Bank methodology. For further information on our methodology please visit AsiaMattersforAmerica.org/sources-and-methodology

NOTE: Global GDP rankings include the EU as a single entity

Source: International Monetary Fund World Economic Outlook (April 2021), 2019 data, IMF

GDP COMPARISONS

ASEAN is Currently the 3rd Largest Economy in the Indo-Pacific and the 5th Largest in the World

The ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), established in 2015, has a combined GDP of $3.2 trillion and is the 3rd fastest-growing major Indo-Pacific economy in the past decade, after China and India. As a critical hub for global trade, over $2.8 trillion in global trade transited the ASEAN region in 2019 alone.

The AEC seeks to reduce or remove trade barriers to facilitate the free movement of goods, services, capital, and skilled labor within the ASEAN region. A single customs window, known as the ASEAN Single Window, was developed to expedite cargo clearance and promote ASEAN economic integration. In December 2019, all 10 ASEAN member states joined the ASEAN Single Window.

REAL GDP GROWTH*

ASEAN’s GDP compared to other Indo-Pacific economies from 2011–2020

*Real GDP growth was calculated in constant US$ using World Bank methodology. For further information on our methodology please visit AsiaMattersforAmerica.org/sources-and-methodology

NOTE: Global GDP rankings include the EU as a single entity

Source: International Monetary Fund World Economic Outlook (April 2021), 2019 data, IMF

GDP COMPARISONS
**FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS**

ASEAN is at the heart of a network of plurilateral and bilateral free trade agreements in the Indo-Pacific region. ASEAN has free trade agreements (FTAs) in place with the region’s biggest economies including China, Japan, South Korea, Australia & New Zealand, and Hong Kong. An ASEAN-Canada FTA is under discussion. The recently signed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP), which includes all ASEAN countries and five other Indo-Pacific partners, is expected to enter into force in 2022. Four ASEAN member states—Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore, and Vietnam—have signed the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) FTA which currently includes 11 members but may be expanded to include others. Singapore is the only ASEAN member state to conclude FTAs with both the United States and the European Union. These networks of FTAs are a key reason why several ASEAN member nations are viewed as trusted trade partners playing vital roles in the global and regional supply chains of numerous industry sectors.

**ASEAN-US COOPERATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

By 2100, temperatures in ASEAN are projected to increase between 0.8–3.2 degrees Celsius. In the United States, warming has accelerated over the past three decades with greater frequency of severe weather. Both the United States and ASEAN are vulnerable to the impact of climate change. Climate change patterns are expected to exacerbate conflicts in the South China Sea (SCS), where the region shares vast amounts of natural resources, and the Mekong Delta, where half of the arable land may be inundated by rising sea levels. Excessive resource extraction exacerbated by rising temperatures in the SCS has already depleted fish stocks by a third over the past 30 years, one of the primary sources of food for many communities, and a critical industry for the region. The ASEAN-US Joint Statement on Climate Change reflected a commitment to tackling climate change under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The United States works closely with ASEAN on a number of climate change initiatives. The region is hopeful that the United States re-joining of the Paris Agreement in 2021 will reinvigorate climate cooperation in Southeast Asia. For ASEAN to meet the ambitions of the Paris Agreement, the estimated financing requirement will be around $3 trillion by 2030. However, by 2019, annual financing had only reached $40 billion.

**EXAMPLES OF CLIMATE INITIATIVES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARTNERS/PROGRAMS</th>
<th>ACTIVITIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance</td>
<td>* Cooperation to improve climate-related disaster response coordination</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| US-Indonesia Climate Change Partnership* | * Focus on Net Zero Emissions, Land Use, Forestry, Mangroves, Marine, Renewable Energy and Energy Transition, Sustainable Finance  
  * Still in discussions as of the time of this publication |
| US-ASEAN Smart Cities Partnership | * Platform for the US government and private sector to share best practices on sustainable cities with the ASEAN Smart City Network |
| Science & Technology Fellows Program | * Provides opportunities for Southeast Asian scientists to tackle issues like climate change and biodiversity conservation |
| **USDAID** | **Clean Power Asia Program**: Promotes low-emission power systems, integrate renewable targets into national power development plans, support grid-connected renewable energy development, and secure finances for clean energy projects |
| **LESTART**: Sustainable forest management projects for reduction of greenhouse gases in Indonesia |
| **BIJAK**: Biodiversity conservation projects in Indonesia |
| **Food for Progress Program**: Improve agricultural productivity and trade in Laos, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam by deploying agricultural commodities |
| **Vietnam Forests and Delta Program**: Strategies for climate action in forestry and agriculture |
| **Mekong-US Partnership**: Focused on economic connectivity, human capital development, transboundary water and natural resources management, and non-traditional security, including collaboration on emerging threats such as health security, pandemic response, countering transnational crime, cyber security, and countering trafficking in people, drugs, and wildlife |
| **US International Development Finance Corporation**:  
  * Financed construction of Indonesia’s first utility-scale power plant (30 turbines connected to the grid) in Sulawesi  
  * Credit guarantor of Tridi Oasis in Jakarta to support plastic recycling  
  * Credit guarantor for sustainable fishing industry in Philippines |

Sources: The Greater Mekong and Climate Change (WWF); Asia & the Pacific Policy Society; US Environmental Protection Agency; US Embassy in Indonesia; CAIT; World Bank; ASEAN Climate Action: A Review of Nationally Determined Contributions Updated in 2020 (ASEAN Centre for Energy); Mekong-US Partnership
ASEAN MATTERS FOR AMERICA

ASEAN RENEWABLE ENERGY

Although ASEAN remains heavily dependent on coal and other fossil fuels for energy, the region has made strong renewable energy commitments, including 23% of energy through renewables by 2025 and 32% reduction in energy intensity from 2005 levels. ASEAN energy demands are expected to grow 38% by 2025 and 146% by 2040, mainly driven by increasing urban populations, transport, and industry. The ASEAN Center for Energy noted that to achieve the region's stated commitments, investments of more than $580 billion would be required. The climate-energy nexus and the transition to low-carbon economies is critical for both the United States and ASEAN countries to achieve their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement.

SHARE OF RENEWABLES IN ELECTRICITY GENERATION*

GREEN FINANCE

Green bonds fund projects that have positive environmental or climate benefits. The global volume of green bonds and loan issuance rose sharply by over 50% from $171 billion in 2018 to $258 billion in 2019, buoyed by strong interest from both investors and issuers. ASEAN green bonds represented only 3% of the global total in 2019. ASEAN's issuance of green bonds almost doubled, reaching $8.1 billion in 2019 from $4.1 billion in 2018, supported by new regulations and guidelines. In comparison, US green bonds reached $52.9 billion in 2019, 6.5 times the size of ASEAN's green bond market. Two-thirds of the proceeds are allocated to the Energy and Infrastructure sectors. Singapore contributed to 55% of the ASEAN green debt issuance in 2019, up from 29% in 2018, cementing its position as the region's leader in green bonds.

Universal Healthcare is Being Adopted by ASEAN Member States

Health care expenditure in ASEAN accounts for 4% of the region’s total GDP, lower than the global average of 10%, and relies heavily on public funding. Singapore has the highest healthcare expenditures per capita at $2,823 but also leads ASEAN in preventative care measures such as access to healthcare providers, sanitation, and vaccines. One-third of the 11 million global medical consumers travel to ASEAN annually. Singapore, Malaysia, and Thailand are major medical tourism destinations, with 40% of healthcare revenue in those countries coming from medical tourism. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for further investment in healthcare in the region, including in biotechnology, telehealth, biopharmaceuticals, medtech, and diagnostic medicine. Universal healthcare is also being adopted by ASEAN member states. Indonesia has one of the world’s largest free healthcare programs, covering approximately 180 million people.

UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE PERCENT OF POPULATION

HEALTH EXPENDITURE VS LIFE EXPECTANCY

ASEAN’s Economy is Projected to Grow by Over 5.5% per Year and Become the 4th Largest Economy in the World by 2030

With a projected annual growth rate of over 5.5%, ASEAN is forecast to overtake India and Japan to become the 4th largest economy in the world by 2030.

Over 380 million people in ASEAN are under age 35 (58% of the population), roughly 20% larger than the entire population of the United States. ASEAN also has the world’s 3rd largest labor force, trailing only China and India. ASEAN’s middle class is expected to more than double in size from 135 million (24% of ASEAN’s population) to 350 million (51% of the population) by 2030. Sustainable urbanization is a key part of this demographic growth, and it is estimated that nearly 70% of ASEAN’s population will live in urban areas by 2030.

Women’s economic empowerment is another key element to economic growth. With ASEAN’s female population equal to that of the total population of the United States, increased female participation in the workforce could add nearly $370 billion to ASEAN’s economy.

PROJECTED ANNUAL GDP GROWTH RATE

Average annual GDP growth (%)
ASEAN Member States are Key Diplomatic, Economic, and Security Partners for the United States

The US-ASEAN relationship began in 1977 and has since expanded significantly. The United States signed the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in 2009 and was the first non-ASEAN country to establish a dedicated resident ambassador and permanent mission to the organization. The United States joined the East Asia Summit in 2011 and began to hold annual ASEAN-US Summits in 2012. In 2015, the US-ASEAN relationship was raised to a strategic partnership and in 2020, the parties adopted a new ASEAN-US Plan of Action (2021-2025) to guide the US-ASEAN Strategic Partnership. The United States and ASEAN discuss and coordinate security activities through the ASEAN Regional Forum and the ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting Plus.

Economic ties were formalized with the US-ASEAN Trade and Investment Framework Agreement in 2006 and elaborated on with the Expanded Economic Engagement Work Plan in 2012. The US Trade Representative also participates in annual consultations during the ASEAN Economic Ministers Meetings. The US-Singapore Free Trade Agreement, which went into force in 2004, was America’s first FTA in the Indo-Pacific.

PUBLIC HEALTH COLLABORATION

The United States is working with ASEAN member states on public health issues and development cooperation. The United States has already provided more than $158 million in government assistance to fight COVID-19 in ASEAN member states. The COVID-19 pandemic has also exposed how fundamental health is to shared economic prosperity. In 2020 ASEAN’s GDP contracted by 4.2%. Over the past 20 years, the United States has invested over $3.5 billion in supporting public health in ASEAN. In 2019, the United States and ASEAN launched the US-ASEAN Health Futures initiative which aims to accelerate joint health research, strengthen health capacity across the region, and develop the next generation of human capital. The United States, through USAID, has also provided access to clean drinking water to over 5.6 million people and invested $16 million in the One Health Workforce-Next Generation program to build a stronger multisectoral health workforce across the region. The United States and ASEAN have collaborated on more than 1,000 research projects over the last 10 years, including more than 300 active research projects in collaboration between ASEAN member states and over 20 institutes at the US National Institutes of Health.

HEADS OF STATE VISITS*

Total number of official visits by ASEAN Leaders to the United States and official visits by US Presidents to ASEAN Member States

*Only officially recognized heads of state/government are counted.
Source Heads of State Map: US Department of State, Office of the Historian
Source Health Aid: US Foreign Aid Explorer, FY2020 data
SECURITY COOPERATION

ASEAN is positioned as a critical geographic position straddling the sea lanes between the Indian Ocean to the west and the Pacific Ocean to the east. With over $3.37 trillion in trade passing through the disputed waters of the South China Sea each year, including $208 billion in US trade, maritime security is a priority for both the United States and ASEAN. The United States has supported regional efforts to increase security and awareness through trainings, workshops, and consultations within the frameworks of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF), and the ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus).

The US government has worked to increase maritime security capacity in ASEAN through the Southeast Asia Maritime Law Enforcement Initiative, which was expanded in 2018, and the Indo-Pacific Maritime Security Initiative, which has provided more than $250 million to enhance information sharing, interoperability, and maritime cooperation between the United States and ASEAN member states.

The US military participates in multilateral and bilateral military exercises with all 10 ASEAN member states. In 2019, the United States and ASEAN held their first Maritime Exercise (AUMX) in the South China Sea, and the Inaugural ASEAN-US Cyber Policy Dialogue in Singapore. As ASEAN is vulnerable to natural disasters such as typhoons, earthquakes, and tsunami, the US military has contributed to Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) missions in the region, with support from across the US government as well as the private sector.
The United States Exports More Than $122 Billion in Goods and Services to ASEAN

ASEAN ranks 4th after Canada, Mexico, and China as a goods export market for the United States, and the United States is the 2nd largest trading partner for ASEAN. The United States exported nearly $84 billion in goods and $38 billion in services to ASEAN. Twenty-nine US states individually account for more than $1 billion in exports to ASEAN, including California and Texas which contribute over $19 billion each in exports to ASEAN countries.

The total value of US-ASEAN bilateral trade has increased 98% from $177 billion to nearly $352 billion in the past decade. ASEAN’s surplus in goods with the United States totaled $120 billion, while the US surplus in services with ASEAN totaled $15.8 billion.

GOODS AND SERVICES EXPORTS TO ASEAN

California is the largest exporter of agricultural products to ASEAN.
Indonesia is Wyoming’s 3rd largest goods trading partner.
Texas is the largest US exporter of goods to ASEAN.

US EXPORTS TO THE INDO-PACIFIC

China $106b
ASEAN $86b
Japan $74b
South Korea $57b
India $34b
Taiwan $31b
Australia $26b

NOTE: Services data not available for Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar.
Source US Map and Pie Chart: Estimated by the Trade Partnership (Washington, DC), 2019 data
Source Line Chart: US International Trade Administration (ITC) and Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)
ASEAN is a Top Five Destination for US Food and Agricultural Exports

The United States exports $13.7 billion in food and agricultural goods to ASEAN, including over $2 billion in soybeans and $1.6 billion in cotton. ASEAN is the 4th largest global importer of US agricultural goods and the 2nd largest importer of US food and agricultural products in the Indo-Pacific after China. Thirty-two states export over $100 million in food and agricultural goods to ASEAN, with California, Washington, Illinois, and Texas each exporting over $1 billion.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO ASEAN

The top agricultural exports from ASEAN to the United States include shellfish/finfish & seafood products ($5.2 billion), soybean oil ($1.9 billion), and forestry products ($1.2 billion). ASEAN is also the top global natural rubber and palm oil exporter, responsible for 84% and 86% of global production, respectively.

COMPOSITION OF ASEAN FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES

SELECTED STORIES: US AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND BEVERAGE COMPANIES SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT IN ASEAN

CARGILL

Cargill’s 155,000 employees across 70 countries, including over 40,000 in ASEAN, work relentlessly to achieve the shared purpose of nourishing the world in a safe, responsible, and sustainable way. Every day, Cargill connects farmers with markets, customers with ingredients, and people and animals with the food they need to thrive. Cargill combines 150 years of experience with new technologies and insights to serve as a trusted partner for food, agriculture, financial, and industrial customers in more than 125 countries. Side-by-side, they are building a stronger, sustainable future for agriculture.

Coca-Cola

The Coca-Cola Company’s heritage in ASEAN dates back more than 100 years from its early days distributing one brand, to today where it proudly operates as a total beverage company that manufactures across the region. For the reasons outlined in this publication, ASEAN remains a top growth opportunity for its business. The Coca-Cola Company looks forward to continuing to invest in the region for a better shared future through initiatives including improving recycling and reducing packaging waste, providing access to clean drinking water for communities, and economically empowering women and youth.
All 50 US States Export to ASEAN, Supporting More Than 625,000 US Jobs

Almost 42,000 companies across the United States export to ASEAN. These goods and services exports support, directly or indirectly, more than 625,000 US jobs. Nineteen states have more than 10,000 jobs that rely on exports to ASEAN member states. In 13 US states—Arizona, Georgia, Kansas, Mississippi, Montana, North Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Wyoming, Oregon, Idaho, and Maine—ASEAN accounts for more than 20% of export-dependent jobs to the Indo-Pacific.

In 2020, 21 states had over $1 billion in goods exports to ASEAN. In per capita terms, trade with the 10 ASEAN member states creates the most jobs for Oregon, followed by North Dakota, Washington, the District of Columbia, South Carolina, Texas, and Kansas. Trade with ASEAN creates a quarter of a million combined jobs in California, Texas, Washington, New York, and Illinois.

Greenfield investment* from six ASEAN member states has created an estimated 23,000 jobs in the United States since 2003. Over half of these jobs were created by Singapore-based companies.

Under the US-ASEAN Connect framework, the United States launched the US-ASEAN Internship Program in 2018 to provide opportunities for ASEAN students to gain work experience in US companies based in ASEAN member states, and has increased its engagement with ASEAN entrepreneurs, investors, and businesses through Connect Centers in Jakarta, Bangkok, and Singapore.


TOP 10 STATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>ASEAN as a Share of Indo-Pacific Export-Dependent Jobs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#1 Wyoming</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#2 Idaho</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#3 Georgia</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#4 Mississippi</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#5 Maine</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#6 Arizona</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#7 North Dakota</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#8 Montana</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#9 Oregon</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#10 Tennessee</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ASEAN is the Number One Destination for US Investment in the Indo-Pacific

To date ASEAN has received almost $338 billion in investment from the United States, more than the United States has directed to China*, India, Japan, and South Korea combined. US direct investment in ASEAN accounts for over one-third of US investment into the Indo-Pacific.

ASEAN member states have invested over $24.9 billion into the United States. Singapore is the largest investor among ASEAN member states, with over $21 billion invested, followed by Thailand ($2 billion) and Malaysia ($1 billion). Since 2003, nearly $8 billion has been invested in greenfield projects in 34 states and the District of Columbia.

*Data for China does not include the Special Administrative Region of Hong Kong or Taiwan

CREDIT INVESTMENT
More than 6,200 US companies operate in ASEAN. Many of these companies use ASEAN as a production platform to export within the region and to other parts of the world, leveraging ASEAN’s free trade agreements with many other Indo-Pacific countries. US companies in ASEAN, many of whom operate in multiple ASEAN member states, create significant business linkages involving local suppliers and contractors in the region.

US COMPANIES IN ASEAN MEMBER STATES*

*Companies indicate US parent companies with subsidiaries in ASEAN member states as recognized by Uniworld. For more information on our methodology, please visit AsiaMattersforAmerica.org/sources-and-methodology

Source Map: Uniworld Business Publications (accessed February 2021)
Additional Sources: ASEAN Business Outlook Survey 2020, US Chamber of Commerce; Fortune; individual corporations

SELECTED STORIES

CHEVRON
Chevron is one of the world’s leading integrated energy companies and a proud partner with countries in ASEAN, where it has had a presence for nearly a century. Chevron believes affordable, reliable, and ever-cleaner energy is essential to achieving a more prosperous and sustainable world. Chevron produces crude oil, natural gas, and LNG; manufactures transportation fuels, lubricants, petrochemicals, and additives; and develops technologies that advance a lower-carbon future for ASEAN and the world more broadly. Chevron values being both a regional and global leader in health, safety, and environmental performance.

MSD
MSD, a leading global biopharmaceutical company, has been inventing for life for 130 years, bringing forward medicines and vaccines for many of the world’s most challenging diseases. MSD conducts business in the ASEAN region and examples are the regional headquarters, a translational medicine research center, an IT hub and a cutting-edge manufacturing site located in Singapore, as well as the regional finance function in Malaysia. Through MSD’s presence in ASEAN, the innovative solutions that it provides and its efforts in biomedical research, MSD is committed to improving the lives of the patients in the ASEAN region.

VIATRIS
Viatris sees healthcare not as it is, but as it should be. Viatris in ASEAN is committed to empowering people to live healthier at every stage of life. To drive change, Viatris brings a combination of strengths and qualities to open up equal access to healthcare for every person, regardless of geography or circumstance. Fueled by genuine care and passion, Viatris in ASEAN works hand in hand with patients, healthcare practitioners, and local governments and partners to get the best treatments into people’s hands at the right time – wherever they are.

AIG
AIG has a long history of serving customers across ASEAN and has remained a steadfast partner in the story of the region’s economic growth and prosperity. An industry pioneer and trusted brand, AIG offers a wide range of general insurance products and services through a diversified distribution network. With offices throughout ASEAN, AIG has an established reputation as a leading insurer to businesses and individuals, protecting them in the moments that matter.
Infrastructure Development in ASEAN is One of the Top Priorities for Member States

McKinsey has forecast the need for over $2 trillion in investment in road, rail, port, airport, power, water, and telecommunications infrastructure across ASEAN to maintain the current levels of economic growth. The United States has multiple initiatives to support such infrastructure investment including the US-ASEAN Connect framework’s Energy Connect pillar, which has pledged to invest in a five-year effort in ASEAN to increase the supply of grid-connected renewable energy. This investment includes at least 500MW of grid-tied renewable energy generation in the lower Mekong River countries of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam. The US government’s Asia EDGE has mobilized more than $800 million in private and public investment to fund 11 renewable energy projects in Indonesia and supported Vietnam’s growing solar energy market.

Additionally, the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) has invested more than $1 billion to support projects in ASEAN countries, and aims to generate up to $12 billion in new private sector investment by 2025. As of September 2020, there were 17 DFC projects in ASEAN, with over $748 million in committed funds.

The US-ASEAN Smart Cities Partnership (USASCP) promotes US private sector engagement in ASEAN to create smart, sustainable city solutions; shares best practices and encourages technical collaboration between US and ASEAN industry, municipal, and academic leaders; and strengthens the digital economy and cybersecurity capabilities of ASEAN cities. Programs have been implemented in various sectors, including transportation, water, trade, and technological innovation. In January 2020, US-ASEAN Water Smart Engagements (WiSE) paired three ASEAN Smart Cities Network cities with three US cities in a three-year program, during which both parties will engage in collective capacity building and innovative technology familiarization in water security.

Sources: US International Development Finance Corporation, 2020 Annual Report; US-ASEAN Smart Cities Partnership (usascp.org); McKinsey Global Institute (“Rule of Thumb” Need estimation based on 71% stock level), 2016-2030 projection
ASEAN’s Digital Economy is Projected to Exceed $300 Billion by 2025

ASEAN is the world’s fastest-growing internet market with over 400 million active internet connections, and growing at a double-digit pace. The region is predominantly mobile-first, with over 90% of its internet users connected via smartphone and 915 million active mobile connections, nearly 1.5 times its population. Online spending is expected to more than triple to $300 billion by 2025, fueled by e-commerce, ride hailing apps, online media, and an increasingly innovative online marketplace in part due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

There is ample room for ASEAN to grow its digital economy because of its many policy frameworks and because of how the region is also becoming a source of digital economy “innovation.” ASEAN has developed policy frameworks to realize a more interconnected and inclusive digital economy, including the AEC Blueprint 2025, Masterplan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025, and the e-ASEAN Framework Agreement. The World Economic Forum’s Digital ASEAN Initiative also works collaboratively with regional partners and the ASEAN Secretariat to create a pan-ASEAN data policy, build digital skills in the ASEAN workforce, create a common ASEAN e-payment framework, and nurture ASEAN cybersecurity cooperation and capacity building.

INTERNET PENETRATION AND MOBILE SUBSCRIPTIONS IN ASEAN

Mobile penetration outpaces traditional internet access across the region

US digital companies in the region are among the top mobile vendors (Apple, 23% market share), search engines (Google, 96%), and social media platforms (Facebook, 65%), edging out Chinese competitors. The US government and businesses have also provided support to over 120,000 ASEAN entrepreneurs since 2011 through various programs, including the US-ASEAN Business Alliance for Competitive SMEs and the online ASEAN SME Academy.

INTERNET ECONOMY AND DIGITAL PAYMENTS IN ASEAN

Comparison between 2020 and projected 2025

Source Internet Penetration: International Telecommunications Union (ITU), ASEAN Statistical Yearbook 2020; Source Merchandise and Digital Payments: e-Conomy SEA 2020 (Data limited to Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam)

SELECTED STORIES: BUILDING ENTREPRENEURIAL EXPERTISE

GOOGLE

Backed by funding from Google.org and support from the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (ACCMSME), The Asia Foundation announced a new grassroots program that will bring skills training to 200,000 people in marginalized communities across Southeast Asia. Through the Go Digital ASEAN initiative, MSMEs and underemployed youth across the region will learn how to better utilize the internet and relevant digital tools to grow their businesses and reduce vulnerability against cyber threats amidst the COVID-19 crisis. Training will be customized to local conditions and will cover modules such as digital marketing, business development, and online safety to enable participants to access the most relevant tools and skills to help them improve their livelihoods in the digital economy.
Visitors from ASEAN Add Nearly $8 Billion to the US Economy Annually

In 2019, nearly 1.3 million people from ASEAN countries visited the United States, while over 4.8 million Americans visited ASEAN. It is estimated that international travel fell by over 70% globally due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with the Indo-Pacific being the hardest hit location for tourism. Thailand, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Singapore are the top four destinations in ASEAN, with over 3.7 million annual visitors from the United States combined. US airlines serve cities in all four of these countries.

There are more than 1,000 direct flights between the Philippines and California each year.

ASEAN VISITORS TO THE UNITED STATES BY COUNTRY

ASEAN VISITOR SPENDING IN THE US

1. California $1.4b
2. New York $714m
3. Texas $618m
4. Florida $518m
5. Illinois $357m
6. Georgia $317m
7. Massachusetts $270m
8. Washington $244m
9. New Jersey $202m
10. Nevada $183m

Source Visitors from US: Cambodia Ministry of Tourism, Statistics Indonesia, Lao Tourism Development Department, Tourism Malaysia, Myanmar Ministry of Hotels & Tourism, Philippines Department of Tourism, Singapore Tourism Board, Thai Ministry of Tourism & Sports, Viet Nam National Administration of Tourism, UN World Tourism Organization, 2019 data
Source Visitor Spending: Estimated by the Trade Partnership (Washington, DC), 2019 data
Source Visitors from ASEAN to the US: US Customs and Border Patrol, 2019 data
ASEAN Students Contribute More Than $2 Billion to the US Economy

More than 55,000 students from ASEAN study in the United States, comprising 5% of all international students. More than 23,000 students come from Vietnam alone, the most of any ASEAN member state and the 6th largest amount from any country globally. In the 2019/2020 academic year, students from ASEAN countries declined by 3.2% from the previous year due to travel restrictions from the COVID-19 pandemic. The top US destination for ASEAN students is California, where eight universities have Southeast Asia studies programs, followed by Texas, New York, and Washington.

Over 7,000 US students study in ASEAN member states, an increase of 113% over the last decade. Thailand, Singapore, and Vietnam are the most popular destinations for study abroad, with over 75% of US students in ASEAN studying in these three countries. In contrast to global trends, US students studying in ASEAN increased 10% from the previous year.

ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION OF ASEAN STUDENTS


Source Top 10: IIE Open Doors report, 2019/20 academic year data

Source US Students: IIE Open Doors report, 2018/19 academic year data
FULBRIGHT PROGRAM

More than 650 students, teachers, and scholars participate in Fulbright exchanges between the United States and ASEAN. Participants from all 10 ASEAN member states take part in the program. Since the program’s founding in 1949, over 12,700 students, teachers, and scholars from ASEAN have participated, including over 3,600 from Indonesia and over 2,500 from the Philippines. Since 1949, there have been over 6,800 American Fulbright participants, with the greatest number engaged in the Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand programs.

FULBRIGHT PARTICIPANTS SINCE 1949

FULBRIGHT PARTICIPANTS SINCE 1949

YOUNG SOUTHEAST ASIAN LEADERS INITIATIVE (YSEALI)

YSEALI is the US government’s signature program to educate and provide skills training to the people of Southeast Asia. YSEALI is open to young people from all ASEAN member countries and Timor-Leste. Since 2013, YSEALI has offered exchanges, regional workshops, small grant funding, and other programs to develop ties between the United States and ASEAN. The YSEALI professional and academic fellowships, for example, connect young Southeast Asian leaders with US universities, businesses, and non-profits. YSEALI programs have more than 6,000 alumni, and more than 150,000 young people belong to the YSEALI Network.

At the September 2020 ASEAN-US Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, the United States announced the new YSEALI Academy at Fulbright University in Vietnam to expand YSEALI’s people-to-people engagement between the United States and ASEAN.

YSEALI PARTICIPATION BY COUNTRY

YSEALI PARTICIPATION BY COUNTRY

Source: Fulbright: US Department of State, Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, 1949-2020
Source: YSEALI: US Department of State, US Mission to ASEAN (as of April 2021)
More Than One-Third of Asian Americans Identify with an ASEAN Ethnicity

Of the estimated 22 million Asian Americans in the United States, 7.6 million identify with one of nine ASEAN ethnicities tracked by the US Census Bureau. Filipino and Vietnamese are the largest ethnic groups, with populations of 4 million and 2 million, respectively. Hawai’i, California, Nevada, Alaska, and Washington have the highest percentage of populations who identify with an ASEAN ethnicity.

Immigrants from ASEAN member states account for over 11% of all naturalizations in the United States, and almost 30% of naturalizations by Asians. Remittances—funds that immigrants send to individuals in their home countries—represent a major financial flow between the United States and ASEAN. The Philippines and Vietnam are the top receivers of remittances from the United States. In 2018, an estimated $11.4 billion was sent to the Philippines and $8.3 billion to Vietnam from the United States. With 38% of total remittance inflows, the United States is the primary source of remittances to the Philippines.
110 Sister Relationships between the United States and ASEAN Build People-to-People and Commercial Connections

Sister relationships are local partnerships between cities, counties, provinces, and states with similar jurisdictions. These relationships build ties between communities and support personal, commercial, and cultural initiatives. Seven ASEAN member states link to 23 US states through 81 sister city, nine sister county, and 20 sister state connections.

**US SISTER RELATIONSHIPS WITH ASEAN**

Maui County in Hawai'i has the most sister relationships in ASEAN of any US city with 12 sister relationships.

Elgin, Illinois is the only US city to share a sister relationship with a city in Laos.

Beaufort, North Carolina enjoys a sister city relationship with Beaufort, Malaysia.

---

### Legend

- **0**
- **1 - 3**
- **4 - 6**
- **7 - 10**
- **10 or more**

### Sources:
- Sister Cities International, 2020 data
- Individual sister city associations

**ASEAN SISTER RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE UNITED STATES**

No cities in Myanmar have a sister relationship with a US city, but Fort Wayne, Indiana has a friendship relationship with Mawlamyine, Myanmar.

---

**St. Louis, MO**, **Elgin, Illinois**, **Honolulu, Hawaii**, **Sacramento, CA**, **Manila, PH**, **Chicago, IL**, **Hanoi, VN**, **Bogor, ID**, **Bacolod, PH**, **Cebu, PH**, **Ho Chi Minh City, VN**, **Manila, PH**, **Bangkok, TH**, **Quezon City, PH**, **Quezon City, PH**, **Da Nang, VN**, **Cebu, PH**, **Manila, PH**, **Porto Princesa, PH**, **Hue City, VN**, **Cebu City, PH**, **Santander, PH**, **Batangas City, PH**, **Zambales Province, PH**, **Davao City, PH**, **Manila, PH**, **Davao City, PH**, **Cagayan de Oro, PH**, **Laoag City, PH**, **Davao City, PH**, **Cebu City, PH**, **Naga City, PH**, **Cagayan de Oro, PH**, **Quezon City, PH**, **Bacolod, PH**, **Medan, ID**, **Kandy, LI**, **Boracay, PH**, **Bogor, ID**, **Da Nang, VN**, **Kandy, LI**, **Quezon City, PH**, **Bacolod, PH**, **Davao City, PH**, **Quezon City, PH**, **Bacolod, PH**, **Quezon City, PH**, **Davao City, PH**, **Cebu City, PH**, **Quezon City, PH**

---

**LEGEND**

- Cambodia - KH; Indonesia - ID; Laos - LA; Malaysia - MY; Philippines - PH; Thailand - TH; Vietnam - VN

Sources: Sister Cities International, 2020 data; individual sister city associations
This project explores the important and multi-faceted relationship between the United States and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Part of the Asia Matters for America initiative, this publication and its corresponding website AsiaMattersforAmerica.org/ASEAN provide tools for a global audience to explore the increasing significance of the US-ASEAN relationship in the 21st century.

Asia Matters for America is an initiative of the East-West Center in Washington and can be contacted at:

**Asia Matters for America**
East-West Center in Washington
1819 L Street, NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20036 USA
Tel: (+1)202.293.3995
Fax: (+1)202.293.1402
Washington@EastWestCenter.org

The East-West Center headquarters is in Honolulu, Hawai‘i:

**East-West Center**
1601 East-West Road
Honolulu, HI 96848 USA
Main Telephone: (+1)808.944.7111
EastWestCenter.org

ISEAS - Yusof Ishak Institute is located in Singapore and can be contacted at:

**ISEAS - Yusof Ishak Institute**
30 Heng Mui Keng Terrace
Singapore 119614
Tel: (+65)6778.0955
ISEAS.edu.sg

The US-ASEAN Business Council headquarters is in Washington, DC and can be contacted at:

**US-ASEAN Business Council**
1101 17th Street, NW, Suite 411
Washington, DC 20036 USA
Tel: (+1)202.289.1911
USASEAN.org