



ASEAN MATTERS FOR AMERICA MATTERS FOR ASEAN

SEVENTH EDITION



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. The **East-West Center in Washington** provides US and Indo-Pacific government stakeholders and program partners with innovative training, analytical, dialogue, exchange, and public diplomacy initiatives to meet policy priorities.

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 180 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 eight offices around the globe: Washington, D.C.; Bangkok, Thailand; Hanoi, Vietnam; Jakarta, Indonesia; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Manila, Philippines; Singapore; and New York, NY, primarily for engagements during the United Nations General Assembly. 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.

First Edition: 2010
Second Edition: 2014
Third Edition: 2017
Fourth Edition: 2019
Fifth Edition: 2021
Sixth Edition: 2023
Seventh Edition: 2025

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 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

Director: Satu Limaye, PhD

Program Manager: Amy Namur

Program Coordinator: Charissa Yong

Research & Content: Nurul Ashiqin Ariffin, Tommis Meyer, Nanami Nishimoto, Emma Potts, Hoang Trung “Alex” Vu

US-ASEAN Business Council

President & CEO: Amb. Brian McFeeters

CPO & EVP: Marc Mealy

COO: Maggie Hanson-Muse

Coordinator: Max Knight

Contributor: Andrew Koch, Chris Zoromski

ASEAN Studies Centre, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute

Director: Choi Shing Kwok, Head of ASEAN Studies Centre

Coordinator: Joanne Lin

Contributors: Kristina Fong, Melinda Martinus, Pham Thi Phuong Thao, Indira Zahra Aridati, Sasitharan Gauri

Copyright © 2025 East-West Center

Highlights

ASEAN IN PROFILE

ASEAN Has the World's 3rd Largest Population

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a 10-member regional bloc with a population of 694 million. Strategically located in the heart of the Indo-Pacific, ASEAN sits astride critical waterways for global commerce and security, such as the South China Sea and the Strait of Malacca.

THE UNITED STATES AND ASEAN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

ASEAN and the United States Are Key Diplomatic and Security Partners

The United States and ASEAN elevated their relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2022. The Philippines and Thailand are US treaty allies and Singapore has an Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement with the United States.

ASEAN ECONOMY

ASEAN Is Currently the 5th Largest Economy in the World

ASEAN has a combined GDP of \$4 trillion and is the 3rd fastest-growing major Indo-Pacific economy, after China and India.

ASEAN ECONOMIC GROWTH PROJECTIONS

ASEAN Is Projected to Become the 4th Largest Economy in the World by 2030

The ASEAN economy is forecast to grow 4.3% annually between 2025 and 2030. By 2030, it will rank right behind the United States, China, and India.

TRADE

The United States and ASEAN Bilateral Trade in Goods and Services Is \$553 Billion Annually

ASEAN is the 4th largest export market for American goods after Canada, Mexico, and China, and the United States is ASEAN's 2nd largest trading partner after China.

DIGITAL ECONOMY

ASEAN'S Digital Economy Is Estimated to Reach \$1 Trillion by 2030

In 2024, US technology giants including Amazon, Google, Microsoft, Nvidia, and Oracle pledged \$29 billion in new investments in ASEAN data centers.

AGRICULTURE

ASEAN Is the 4th Largest Importer of US Food and Agricultural Exports

The United States exports \$13 billion in food and agricultural products to ASEAN.

JOBS

ASEAN Trade and Investment Supports Over 714,000 Jobs Across the United States

Twenty states have over 10,000 jobs that rely on exports to ASEAN member states.

INVESTMENT

ASEAN Is the Number One Destination for US Investment in the Indo-Pacific

ASEAN received \$532 billion in investment from the United States, more than the United States has directed to China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan combined. ASEAN has invested more than \$55 billion into the United States.

Highlights

SUPPLY CHAINS

US-ASEAN Partnership in Chip Supply Chains Are Critical for American Goods and Consumers

ASEAN supplies 45% of all US chip imports, double its share from a decade ago. ASEAN countries combined are the top importer of US semiconductor chips, importing \$14.7b worth in 2024.

HEALTH AND LIFE SCIENCES

ASEAN and the United States Are Partners and Investors in Each Other's Healthcare Systems and Medical Supply Chains

ASEAN is the 4th largest exporter of pharmaceutical products to the United States. Since 2003, ASEAN countries have together invested \$1.2 billion in America's life sciences sector, creating 3,900 jobs across 10 states.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE

The United States and ASEAN Are Collaborating on Environmental Resilience

At the 16th Meeting of the ASEAN-US Joint Cooperation Committee in May 2025, the United States and ASEAN pledged to strengthen cooperation on the environment, among other areas.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENERGY

The United States Is a Key Partner for Infrastructure Development in ASEAN

The United States International Development Finance Corporation has committed \$3.5 billion since 2007 to support projects in ASEAN countries.

TRAVEL AND TOURISM

ASEAN Visitors Add \$6.9 Billion to the US Economy Annually

In 2024, 4.5 million Americans visited ASEAN, and just under 1 million ASEAN travelers visited the United States.

EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE

ASEAN Students Contribute Over \$2.1 Billion to the US Economy Annually

Over 53,000 students from ASEAN member states study in the United States, making up 5% of all international students.

ASEAN AMERICAN POPULATION

Over Eight Million Americans Identify Themselves With an ASEAN Ethnicity

Tagalog and Vietnamese respectively are the 3rd and 4th most spoken non-English languages in American households.

SISTER PARTNERSHIPS

The United States and ASEAN Share 110 Sister Partnerships and 5 Friendship Cities

Eight ASEAN nations have established ties with 24 US states and the District of Columbia, including 81 sister city, 19 sister county, 10 sister state, and five friendship city connections.

ASEAN Has the World’s 3rd Largest Population

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a 10-member regional grouping and organization with a combined GDP of \$4 trillion, a population of 694 million, and a land mass covering more than 1.7 million square miles. Strategically located in the heart of the Indo-Pacific, ASEAN sits astride critical waterways for global commerce and security, such as the South China Sea and the Strait of Malacca. Founded in 1967 by Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand, ASEAN has since expanded to include Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam. In 2022, ASEAN leaders agreed in principle to admit Timor-Leste as the 11th member of ASEAN. Timor-Leste is expected to achieve full membership of ASEAN at the 47th ASEAN Summit in October 2025. ASEAN’s community-building effort comprises three pillars: the Political-Security Community; Economic Community; and Socio-Cultural Community. ASEAN holds two ASEAN Summits annually 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 ASEAN Charter and instruments of governance. These agreements include the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation, to which 57 countries, including the United States, have acceded. By combining their efforts and influence, ASEAN member states have helped to shape the Indo-Pacific’s economic, political, and security trends and discussions by convening key Indo-Pacific countries to discuss political and security issues at an annual East Asia Summit and other ASEAN-led fora, such as the ASEAN Regional Forum and the ASEAN Defense Ministers’ Meeting-Plus.

ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN) Chair rotates annually among member states Population: 694 million ASEAN Secretariat: Jakarta, Indonesia			
BRUNEI Capital: Bandar Seri Begawan Population: 462 thousand Member Since: 1984 In 2024, the United States became one of the top 10 source countries of tourist arrivals to Brunei, with Brunei receiving 6,200 US visitor arrivals that year.		INDONESIA Capital: Jakarta Population: 283.5 million Member Since: 1967 Indonesia is the largest exporter of palm oil to the United States, accounting for 64% of all US palm oil imports.	
CAMBODIA Capital: Phnom Penh Population: 17.6 million Member Since: 1999 Cambodia made its first recorded greenfield investment in the United States in 2024, with the opening of a solar panel assembly factory in Texas.		LAOS Capital: Vientiane Population: 7.8 million Member Since: 1997 The United States International Development Finance Corporation committed \$4.2 million in 2024 to support technical assistance projects in Laos.	

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 AT THE CENTER OF A DYNAMIC INDO-PACIFIC REGION



MALAYSIA Capital: Kuala Lumpur Population: 35.6 million Member Since: 1967 Malaysia is the largest supplier of semiconductor chips to the United States, accounting for 20% of total US chip imports.		SINGAPORE Capital: Singapore Population: 6 million Member Since: 1967 Singapore is the largest ASEAN investor in the United States with over \$37 billion invested, and contributes to 56% of all jobs created in the United States from ASEAN greenfield investment.	
MYANMAR Capital: Nay Pyi Taw Population: 54.5 million Member Since: 1997 Nearly 200 students from Myanmar have visited the United States since 2007 under the Fulbright Foreign Student Program.		THAILAND Capital: Bangkok Population: 71.7 million Member Since: 1967 Thailand is the top ASEAN destination for American tourists, receiving over 1 million American visitor arrivals in 2024.	
PHILIPPINES Capital: Manila Population: 115.8 million Member Since: 1967 The Philippines, a United States treaty ally, has the most major military exercises with the United States of any ASEAN country, with at least 19 exercises between June 2023 and June 2025.		VIETNAM Capital: Hanoi Population: 101 million Member Since: 1995 Vietnam is the 6 th largest source of international students to the United States, with more than 22,000 in 2024.	

Sources: World Bank, GDP (constant 2015 US\$) 2024 data, Population, 2024 data; ASEAN Secretariat

ASEAN and the United States Are Key Diplomatic and Security Partners

The United States began engaging with ASEAN as a dialogue partner in 1977, and their relationship 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 in 2010. The United States joined the East Asia Summit in 2011 and began to hold annual US-ASEAN Summits in 2012. In 2020, the parties adopted a new ASEAN-US Plan of Action (2021-2025) to guide the US-ASEAN Strategic Partnership. In 2022, the United States and ASEAN elevated relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, and the United States became an observer to the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly. The United States and ASEAN discuss and coordinate security activities through the ASEAN Regional Forum and the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting-Plus.

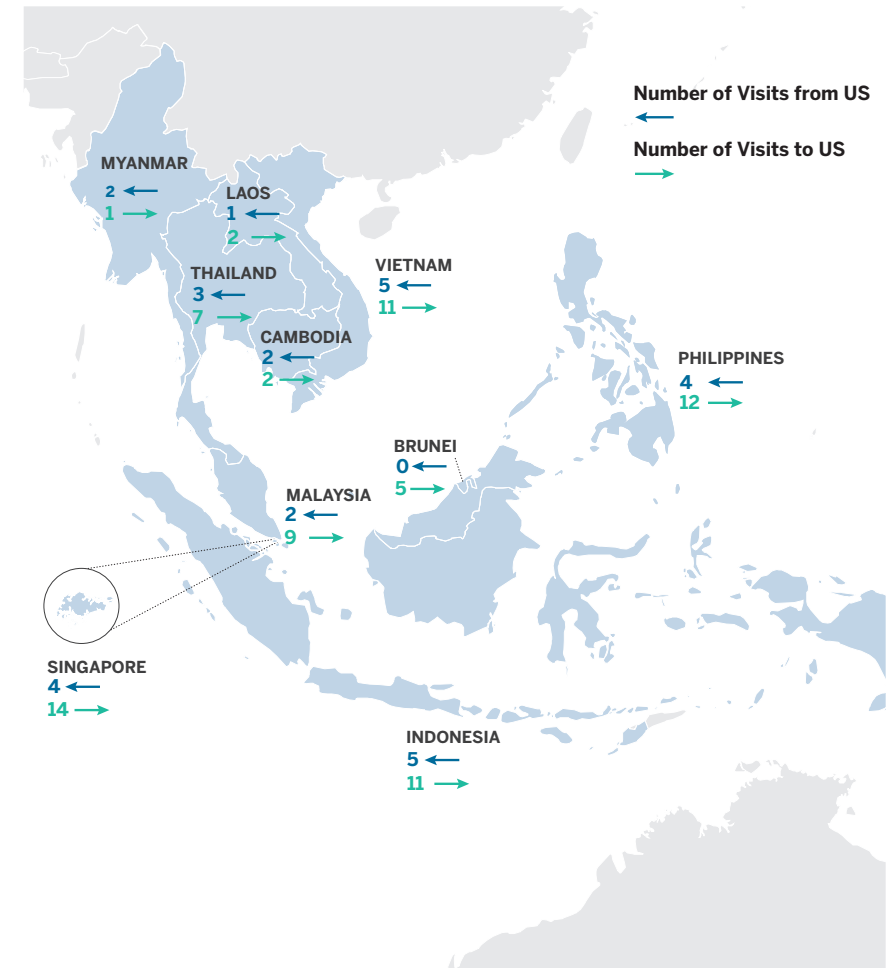
At the congressional level, there is strong diplomatic and legislative support for ASEAN. The Congressional Caucus on ASEAN was established in 2017 as a bipartisan initiative by Representatives Joaquin Castro and Ann Wagner. The Caucus focuses on innovation and capacity-building efforts in the areas of technology, education, disaster management, food security, human rights, and economic engagement. In 2021, Congress passed the Southeast Asia Strategy Act, directing the United States to develop a comprehensive strategy for engagement in the region. In 2023, the US-ASEAN Center in Washington DC was established by the State Department in partnership with Arizona State University. The Center serves as a hub for US-ASEAN engagement by hosting events such as the US-ASEAN Center's Speaker Series, launched in June 2024 by ASEAN Secretary-General Dr Kao Kim Hourn.

Since 2023, at least 21 congressional delegations (CODELs) have traveled to ASEAN member states. In February 2025, Representative Jimmy Panetta led a bipartisan CODEL to Singapore, discussing the close economic and security cooperation between the two countries. In April 2025, Senator Pete Ricketts, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy, led a bipartisan CODEL to the Philippines to discuss opportunities to further develop US-Philippines security cooperation and resilient economic security.

US-ASEAN cooperation continues to advance under the Trump administration. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth visited the Philippines as part of his inaugural tour in Asia in March 2025. He spoke with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and Secretary of National Defense Gilbert Teodoro regarding defense cooperation, including the launch of a cybersecurity campaign strengthening deterrence and interoperability. The US-ASEAN partnership remains robust and will continue to deliver key benefits to both sides.

HEADS OF STATE VISITS 2003-2024*

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.

Sources: US Mission to ASEAN; US Office of the Historian; individual Representatives' and Senators' websites

SECURITY COOPERATION

ASEAN countries occupy a key geopolitical position, straddling the sea lanes between the Indian Ocean to the west and the Pacific Ocean to the east. A third of global shipping passes through the contested waters of the South China Sea each year, making maritime security 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, the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum, and the ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting-Plus.

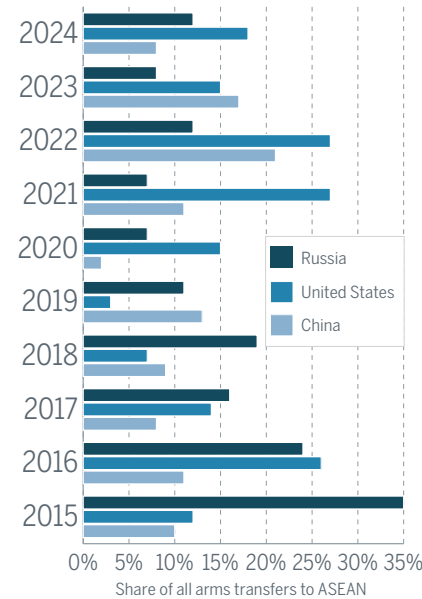
The Philippines and Thailand have been treaty allies of the United States since 1951 and 1954 respectively. In 2003, both countries were designated major non-NATO allies of the United States, a status awarded to just 19 countries and that provides military and economic benefits. Singapore, which has an Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement with the United States, has almost 1,000 Singapore Armed Forces personnel training in the United States at any one time. The United States regularly takes part in major multinational military drills in the region, including Balikatan hosted by the Philippines, Cobra Gold by Thailand, and Super Garuda Shield by Indonesia. The United States has held at least 40 bilateral and multilateral major military exercises with ASEAN nations over the past two years.

MAJOR MILITARY EXERCISES

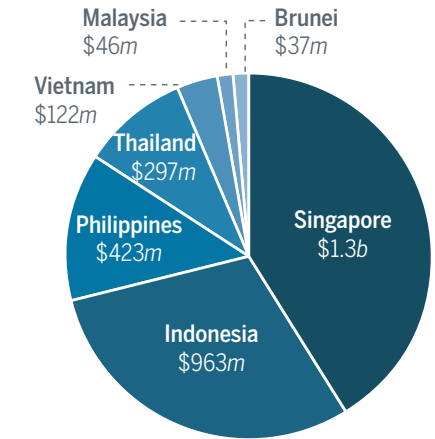
Annual and biennial exercises involving the United States and ASEAN member states from June 2023 to June 2025



ASEAN'S TOP DEFENSE SUPPLIERS 2015-2024



US ARMS TRANSFERS TO SOUTHEAST ASIA 2015-2024



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. The United States' Indo-Pacific Maritime Security Initiative has also provided more than \$475 million to enhance information sharing, interoperability, and maritime cooperation between the United States and ASEAN member states. The first ASEAN-US Maritime Exercise was held in the South China Sea in 2019, and the United States and Indonesia plan to cohost the exercise's second iteration in 2025. In 2024, the US government partnered with the defense industry to launch the private-public Maritime Security Consortium, which will commit \$95 million annually toward low-cost, commercially available ways of strengthening maritime security in Southeast Asia.

Military spending within ASEAN accounts for about 2% on average of the bloc's annual GDP. The United States was the second-largest supplier of defense equipment to ASEAN after Russia from 2015 to 2024, with \$3.2 billion in weapons deliveries. America's share of arms transfers to ASEAN countries has risen over the past decade amid a decline of arms transfers from Russia. Singapore is the top ASEAN buyer of American defense equipment, accounting for 41% of all US arms transfers to ASEAN countries over the past decade, followed by Indonesia (30%) and the Philippines (13%).

Source: World Bank, Military expenditure (% of GDP), 2023 data; US Indo-Pacific Command; US Pacific Fleet; US Pacific Air Forces; Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) Arms Transfer Database, 2015-2024 data

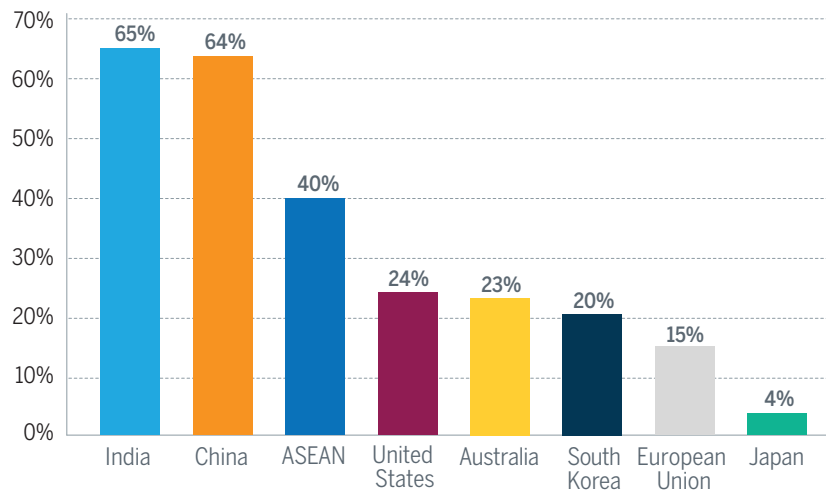
ASEAN is Currently the 5th Largest Economy in the World

The ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), formed in 2015, has a combined GDP of \$4 trillion. ASEAN is the 3rd largest economy in the Indo-Pacific, after China and Japan, and it has been the 3rd fastest-growing major Indo-Pacific economy in the past decade, after China and India. ASEAN is a critical hub for global trade, with over \$3.8 trillion in global trade transiting through the region in 2024.

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 live operation.

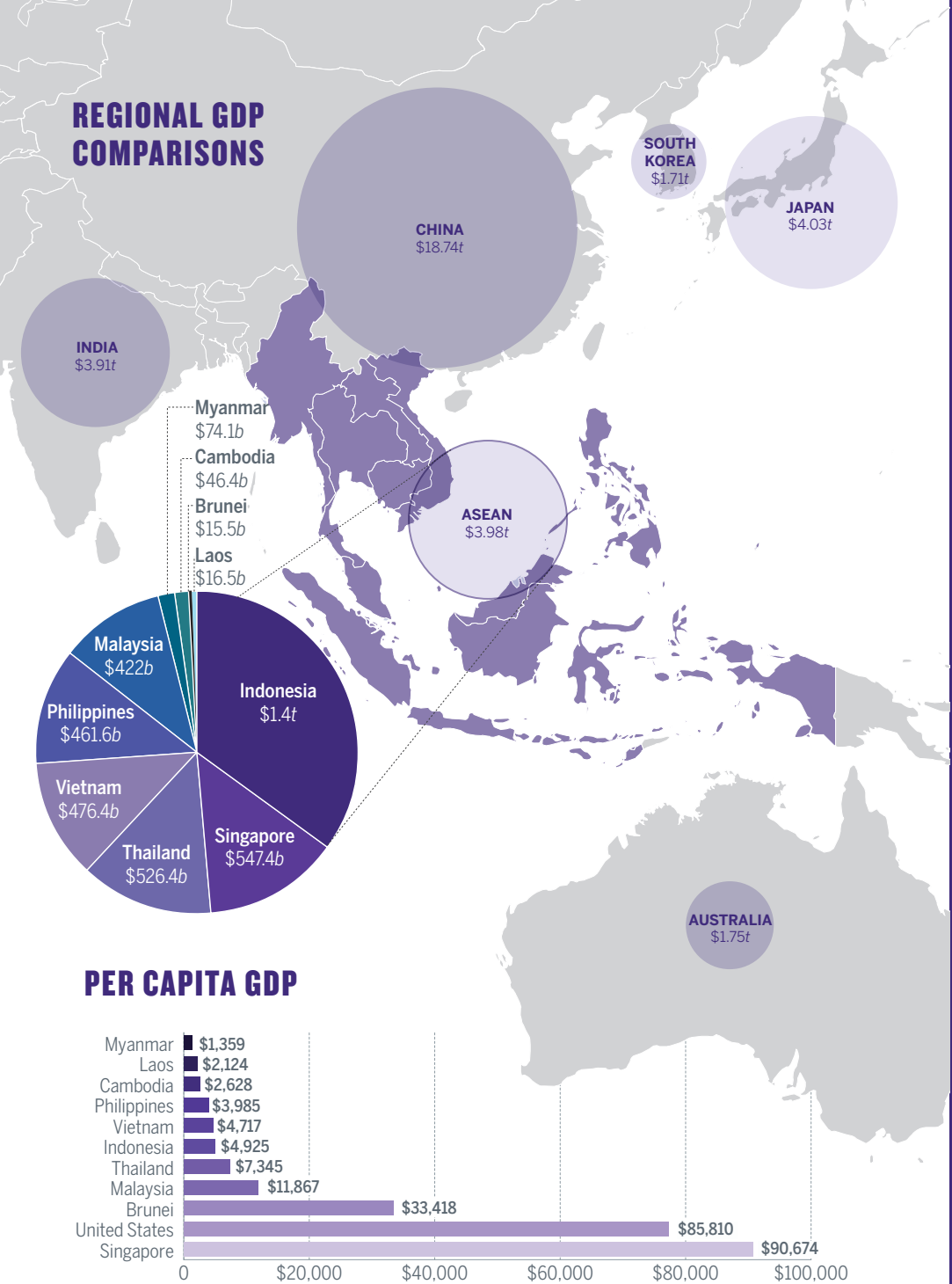
The AEC Strategic Plan 2026-2030 lays out a roadmap for ASEAN to continue its aspirations to achieve full economic integration. This strategy will steer the AEC through the first five years of the broader ASEAN Community Vision 2045.

REAL GDP INCREASE FROM 2015 TO 2024*



*South Korea data is from 2023 and its real GDP growth comparison is from 2015 to 2023.

Sources: World Bank, GDP (constant 2015 US\$) 2015, 2023 and 2024 data, GDP (current US\$) 2024 data, GDP per capita (current US\$) 2024 data; UNCTAD, Merchandise: Total Trade and Share, 2024 data



TRADE AGREEMENTS AND FRAMEWORKS

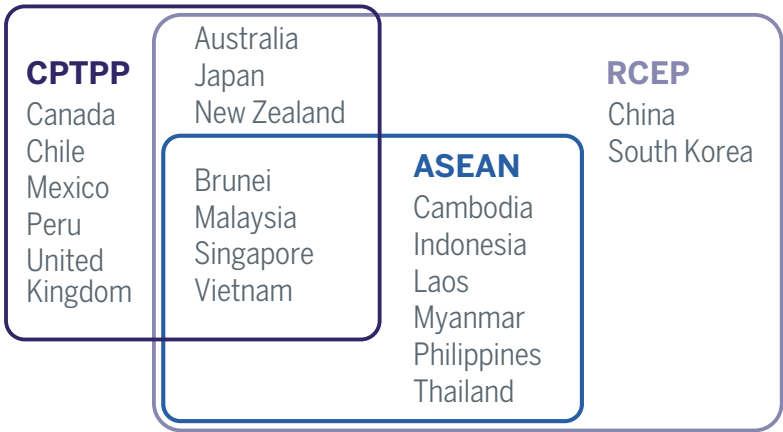
ASEAN is at the heart of a network of multilateral and bilateral free trade agreements (FTAs) in the Indo-Pacific region. ASEAN has FTAs in place with the region’s biggest economies including China, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia and New Zealand, and Hong Kong. ASEAN continues to negotiate FTAs with other economies, such as Canada.

While the United States does not have an FTA with ASEAN as a whole, US-ASEAN economic ties were formalized with the US-ASEAN Trade and Investment Framework Agreement in 2006 and supported by the Expanded Economic Engagement Work Plan in 2012. The US Trade Representative also participates in annual consultations during the ASEAN Economic Ministers’ Meetings. The 2004 US-Singapore Free Trade Agreement was America’s first FTA in the Indo-Pacific and its only bilateral FTA in ASEAN. Currently, most ASEAN countries have struck agreements or are in talks with the Trump administration to address tariff and other issues in bilateral trade relations.

Outside of multilateral FTAs, the 10 ASEAN member states are individually a part of 62 active FTAs. Given this, ASEAN member states are viewed as trusted trade partners playing vital roles in the global and regional supply chains.

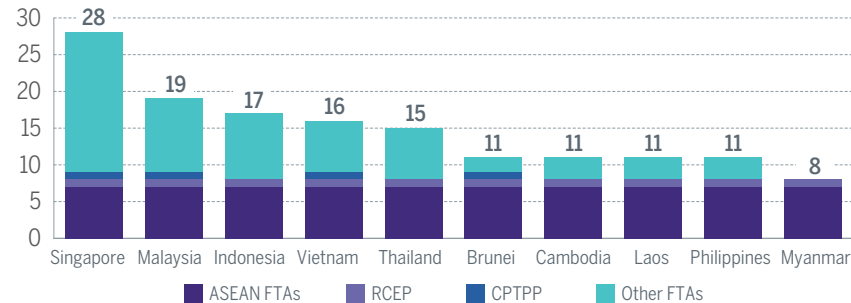
ASEAN is central to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP), which includes all 10 ASEAN members and five Indo-Pacific partners. Four ASEAN countries (Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore, and Vietnam) are also members of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

ASEAN PARTICIPATION IN MULTILATERAL TRADE FRAMEWORKS



Sources: Asia Regional Integration Center, 1976 - June 2025 data; ASEAN Economic Community Strategic Plan 2026-2030; Asian Development Bank Asia SME Monitor 2024

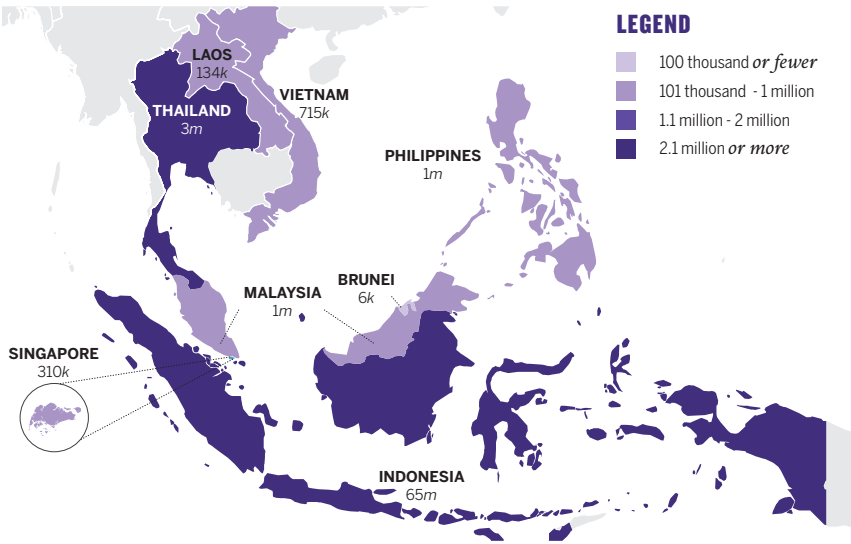
NUMBER OF ASEAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS SIGNED AND IN EFFECT



MICRO, SMALL, AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES

Micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are fundamental to ASEAN’s economic growth. MSMEs make up between 97.2 to 99.9% of all enterprises in each ASEAN member state. ASEAN is home to over 72 million MSMEs* across eight member states (excluding Cambodia and Myanmar), employing a total of over 155 million people. MSMEs contribute 85% of ASEAN’s employment, 45% of GDP and 18% of national exports. The sectors they are predominant in are wholesale and retail trade, and other services. In 2023, the number of MSMEs increased by 12% from the previous year in the Philippines, 3% in Singapore and Malaysia, and 1% in Thailand. The ASEAN SME Academy, a program run by the US-ASEAN Business Council along with US and ASEAN governments, provides training courses to ASEAN SMEs in e-commerce, management, operations, and other areas.

MSMEs IN ASEAN*



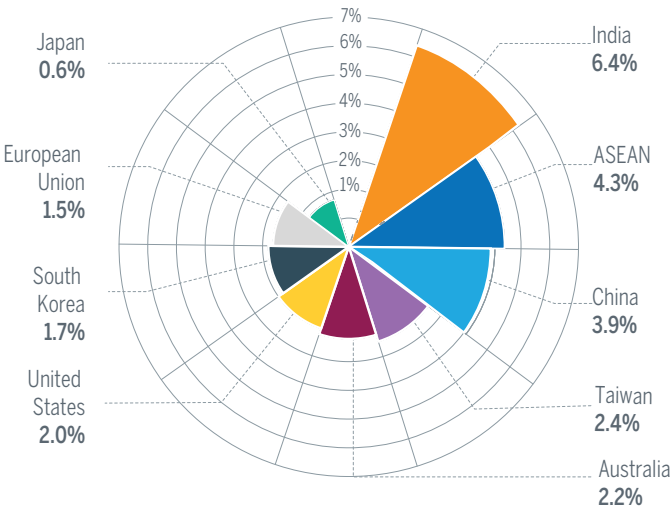
*Indonesia data from 2019; Laos data from 2020; Brunei and Vietnam data from 2022; Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand data from 2023. Data not available for Cambodia and Myanmar.

ASEAN Is Projected to Become the 4th Largest Economy in the World by 2030

The ASEAN economy is poised to become the 4th largest economy in the world by 2030, behind the United States, China, and India. Riding on a growth rate of 4.8% in 2024, Southeast Asia’s* economy is projected to grow by 4.1% in 2025 and 3.9% in 2026. Between 2025 and 2030, ASEAN’s forecasted average annual GDP growth rate is 4.3%, making it the 2nd fastest growing major economy in the Indo-Pacific after India.

Over 385 million people in ASEAN are under the age of 35 (56% of the population), roughly 13% larger than the entire population of the United States. ASEAN also has the world’s 3rd largest labor force – almost double the size of the US workforce – trailing only China and India. Excluding ASEAN and after the United States, Indonesia alone has the world’s 4th largest labor force of 142 million people. ASEAN’s middle class** is projected to grow from 249 million residents in 2024 to over 334 million by 2030. Just over half (52%) of the ASEAN population lives in urban areas, and the urban population is expected to increase to 66% by 2050.

PROJECTED AVERAGE ANNUAL GDP GROWTH RATE (2025-2030)



*IMF data for Southeast Asia’s economy includes Timor-Leste, which is not currently a member of ASEAN.
**Data for ASEAN’s middle class does not include Brunei, Laos, and Myanmar.
Sources: International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook database (April 2025), 2025-2030 data; United Nations, World Population Prospects 2024; World Bank, Labor Force, 2024 data; Statistics Indonesia, 2024 data; Brookings Institution, Development, Aid and Governance Indicators (no data available for Brunei, Laos and Myanmar); World Bank, Urban Population, 2024 data; United Nations, World Urbanization Prospects 2018

MSME DIGITAL ECONOMY INTEGRATION

Integrating MSMEs into the digital economy can help ASEAN’s digital economy grow to a projected \$1 trillion by 2030. Many MSMEs in ASEAN are eager to export their products and services and increase their use of digital technologies, but face barriers such as insufficient business knowledge and digital skills. Lack of access to infrastructure such as electricity and internet connection also continues to hamper some MSMEs. A majority, or 72-85%, of MSMEs in ASEAN are located in rural regions and may struggle to maintain consistent internet connections.

While the COVID-19 pandemic spurred companies of all sizes to adopt more digital tools, the digital gap between larger and smaller companies persists. A largescale survey of MSMEs in Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam showed that while 70-95% of medium companies use digital tools in sales and marketing and procurement, as few as 6% of micro companies and 13% of small companies do the same.

Most ASEAN member state governments have dedicated programs supporting MSME digitization, typically as part of their national digital strategies. For instance, the Tourism Authority of Thailand has a project to align MSMEs’ payment methods with tourist preferences. Malaysia’s RHB Bank has introduced an application programming interface to help MSMEs automate payments, and Malaysia’s government introduced the MSME Digital Grant in 2021.

The ASEAN SME Academy, run by the US-ASEAN Business Council along with US and ASEAN governments, is also a major player in supporting MSME digitization. The Academy, which offers online training modules in finance, branding, marketing, trade, and technology, was redesigned in 2022. The updated SME Academy offers 10 courses and 375 online resources to support ASEAN’s MSMEs and has nearly 6,000 active users.

PROJECTED AVERAGE ANNUAL GDP GROWTH RATE (2025-2029) BY ASEAN COUNTRY

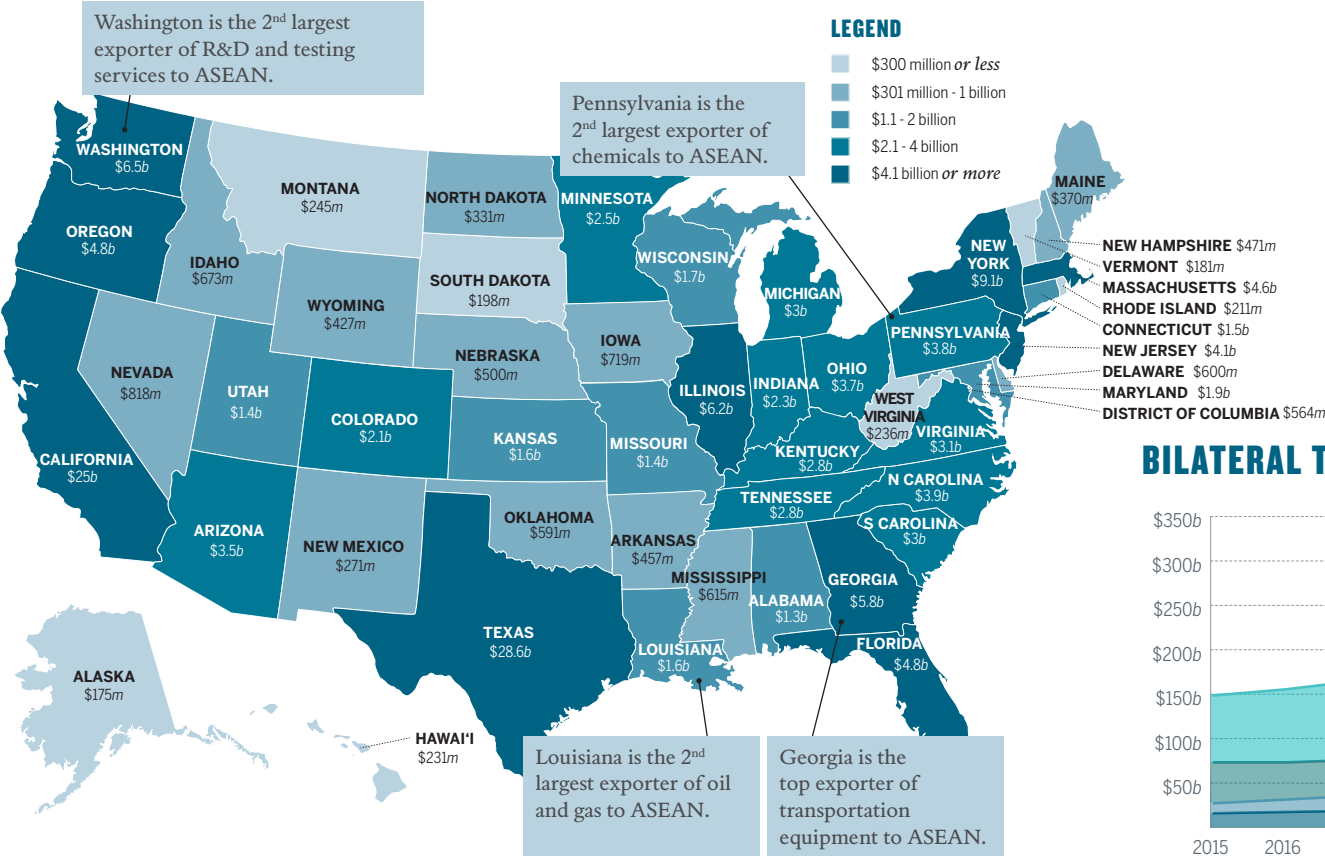
	AVERAGE GDP GROWTH RATE (%)
Philippines	6.0%
Vietnam	5.1%
Indonesia	4.9%
Cambodia	4.5%
Malaysia	4.0%
Brunei	2.8%
Singapore	2.3%
Laos	2.1%
Thailand	2.0%
Myanmar	1.9%

Sources: Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia, SME Policy Index: ASEAN 2024 – Enabling Sustainable Growth and Digitalization report, The Digital Divide Amongst MSMEs in ASEAN report, 2024; ICC-Google MSME Digital Exports in Southeast Asia survey, 2022

The United States and ASEAN Bilateral Trade in Goods and Services Is \$553 Billion Annually

ASEAN is the 4th largest export market for American goods after Canada, Mexico and China, and the United States is ASEAN's 2nd largest trading partner after China. The United States exported \$183 billion in goods and services to ASEAN, including \$124 billion in goods and \$59 billion in services. Thirty US states export over \$1 billion in goods and services to ASEAN each year, with the largest exporters being Texas (\$29b), the top exporter of goods to ASEAN, and California (\$25b), the top exporter of services to ASEAN.

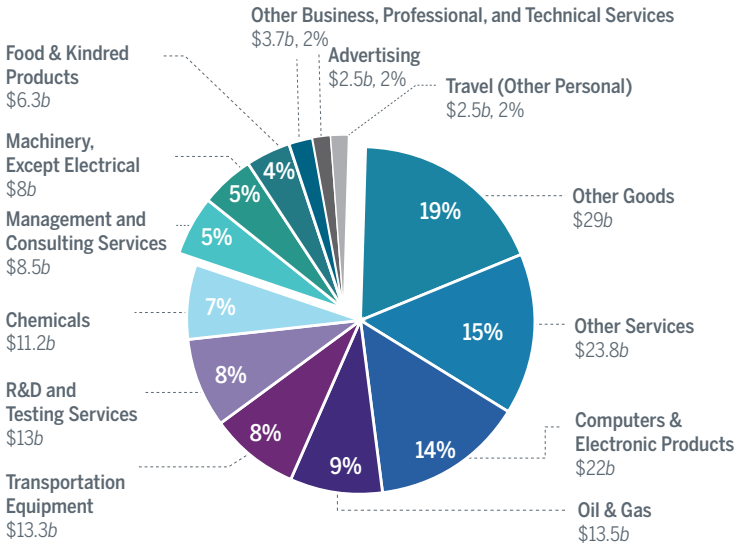
US GOODS AND SERVICES EXPORTS TO ASEAN



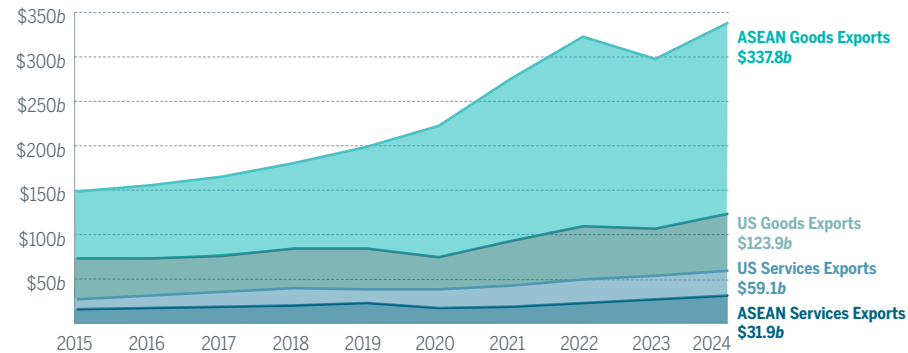
Sources: ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Key Figures 2024; Trade Partnership (Washington, DC), 2023 data; Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2015-2024 data; ASEAN Key Figures 2024 report

The total value of US-ASEAN bilateral trade has doubled from \$267 billion to \$553 billion in the past decade. In particular, US imports of Vietnamese goods have almost tripled since 2017, as America diversified its supply chains amid trade tensions with China. The United States imported \$352 billion in goods from ASEAN in 2024, 13% more than the year before. In 2024, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam were among the United States' top 20 goods trading partners. In 2023, the United States accounted for 15% of total ASEAN goods exports, just behind intra-ASEAN trade (22%) and China (16%).

COMPOSITION OF US GOODS AND SERVICES EXPORTS TO ASEAN



BILATERAL TRADE BETWEEN THE US AND ASEAN*



*Data not available for Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar.

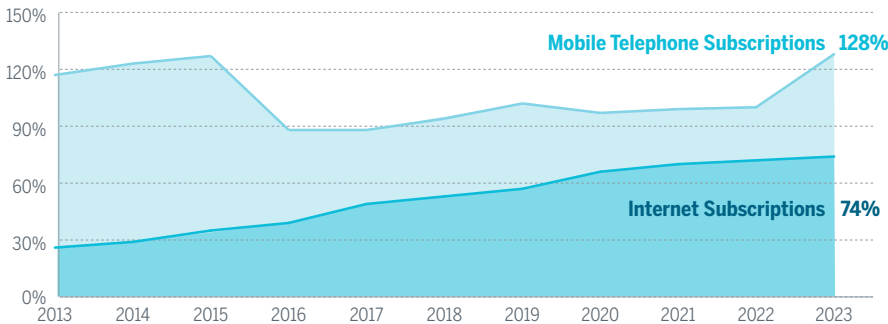
The ASEAN Digital Economy Could Be Worth up to \$1 Trillion by 2030

ASEAN is one of the world’s fastest-growing internet markets, achieving double-digit growth in recent years. The ASEAN digital economy was worth \$263 billion in 2024 – a 15% increase from 2023 – and is projected to reach up to \$1 trillion by 2030. This growth is fueled by high internet and mobile penetration rates, booming e-commerce activity, and the growing popularity of digital payments among the digitally savvy who have reliable internet and mobile connections. Significant investments are being made in ASEAN’s digital infrastructure including in data centers and cybersecurity, to help meet future demand while keeping growth sustainable and inclusive.

ASEAN has over 520 million active internet users, about 75% of its population. The region is predominantly mobile-first with 891 million active mobile subscriptions, about 1.3 times its population. However, one-quarter of the region’s population remains offline, highlighting a need to further expand internet access. A digital divide also exists between ASEAN countries – while most people in Brunei, Malaysia and Singapore can access the internet from any location, around 40% in Cambodia, Myanmar, and Laos do not use the internet at all, whether via a fixed or mobile network.

The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the region’s adoption of e-commerce and shift towards digital payments. ASEAN’s* e-commerce sector was worth \$159 billion in 2024 and is projected to more than double to \$375 billion in 2030. Food and transport services, travel platforms, and online media are also expanding rapidly. Cashless transactions now surpass the use of cash in Southeast Asia, with 52% of transactions in 2023 taking place via digital payments, which include credit, debit, prepaid card, account-to-account and e-wallet transactions – a ratio expected to rise to 72% in 2030. Most ASEAN countries are also working to link their national QR code payment systems with their neighbors, to enable smoother cross-border payments between the region’s businesses, customers, and tourists.

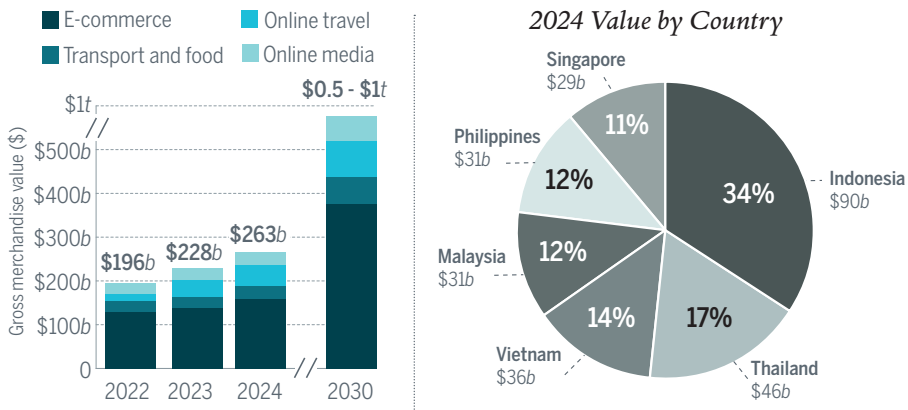
INTERNET AND MOBILE SUBSCRIPTIONS IN ASEAN



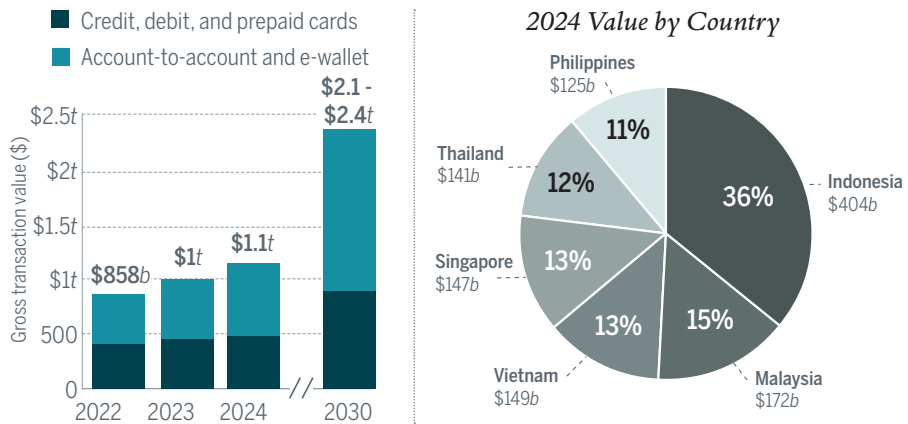
*Data limited to Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore.

ASEAN is the world’s 4th largest exporter of digital services in the world, behind the United States, United Kingdom, and Ireland. These services are traded remotely over computer networks and include a wide range of products such as streaming videos or music, brokerage and insurance services, and telehealth services. ASEAN is negotiating within the grouping a Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA), which could double the value of its digital economy to \$2 trillion by 2030 by harmonizing digital rules across the region and thereby boosting ASEAN’s digital trade. DEFA will outline regulations for ASEAN’s digital economy, tackling topics such as digital trade, cross-border e-commerce, cybersecurity, digital identification, and digital payments.

VALUE OF ASEAN’S* DIGITAL ECONOMY



GROWTH OF DIGITAL PAYMENTS IN ASEAN*



Sources: Google, Temasek and Bain, e-Conomy SEA 2024; ASEAN Statistical Highlights 2024; ASEAN Statistical Yearbook 2023; World Bank, Individuals using the Internet (% of population), 2023 data; ITU DataHub, Mobile-cellular subscriptions, 2023 data; World Trade Organization Digitally Delivered Services Trade Dataset, 2024 data

DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND DATA CENTERS

Foreign investment in ASEAN’s digital economy, which includes e-commerce, fintech, and digital infrastructure, continues to rise, a sign of investor confidence in the sector. The annual average announced greenfield investment* in communication, data processing, and hosting in ASEAN grew nearly six times during the past decade, from \$777 million in 2006-2015 to \$4.4 billion in 2016-2023. Growth has been especially rapid since 2020.

ASEAN is emerging as a data center hub for Asia and the world. Data centers – critical infrastructure that support AI, cloud computing and other digital services – are a key focus of long-term investment in the region, attracting pledges of at least \$29 billion in new investments from US technology giants in 2024 alone.

Malaysia drew the most investments, with an announced \$16.9 billion in total. This includes \$6.5 billion from Oracle to set up its first public cloud region in the country, \$6.2 billion from Amazon Web Services (AWS), \$2.2 billion from Microsoft for new cloud and AI infrastructure, and \$2 billion from Google for its first data center and Google Cloud region in the country. Singapore drew the largest single investment of \$9 billion, with AWS announcing it would invest \$9 billion into its existing cloud infrastructure in the country by 2028. Microsoft is also investing in Indonesia and Thailand, pledging to invest \$1.7 billion in Indonesia to build new cloud and AI infrastructure over the next four years, and announcing plans to build a new regional data center in Thailand. Google has also announced a \$1 billion investment to build a data center and cloud region in Thailand.

SELECTED STORY

MICRON TECHNOLOGY

Micron Technology is a world leader in innovative memory and storage solutions that transform how the world uses information to enrich life for all. For over 47 years, Micron has been instrumental in the world’s most significant technological advancements - including high bandwidth memory (HBM) - delivering optimal memory and storage systems for a broad range of applications. A manufacturer of all of today’s major memory and storage technologies, Micron’s products are critical for smartphones, autos, data centers, satellites, and beyond. From its roots in Boise, Idaho, Micron has grown into a global leader with a presence across the Indo-Pacific, including in Southeast Asia where its Malaysia and Singapore operations are producing leading-edge technologies to drive the ongoing AI revolution. Micron regularly earns accolades for implementing the most sustainable advanced manufacturing practices and giving back to the communities where it operates.

*Greenfield investment refers to the building or expansion of new facilities rather than purchases or mergers with existing companies.

Sources: ASEAN Investment Report 2024; company websites and media reports; Maybank IBG Research, September 2024 and January 2025; Cloudscene, data as of June 2025; IBM, Cost of a Data Breach Report 2025

The region’s data center market is forecast to increase at a 20% compound annual growth rate and be worth \$11 billion by 2028. The region has nearly 400 data centers in total, a 33% increase from 2021.

As ASEAN’s digital economy grows, so does the importance of strengthening cybersecurity in the region. Cybercrimes in ASEAN are on the rise, with an average data breach estimated to cost \$3.67 million in 2025. Companies and organizations in Southeast Asia saw more than 330,000 financial phishing attacks during the first half of 2024, a 41% increase from 2023. ASEAN’s Cybersecurity Cooperation Strategy 2021-2025 focuses on advancing cooperation on cyber readiness, strengthening cyber-policy coordination, and boosting capacity building in the region. It will be updated for 2026-2030. The United States and ASEAN are also deepening their cooperation in cybersecurity, such as through the annual ASEAN-US Cyber Policy Dialogue. The ADMM Cybersecurity and Information Centre of Excellence, which opened in 2023 in Singapore, also brings together the United States and ASEAN for cybersecurity training courses and table-top exercises simulating regional responses to cyber threats.

DATA CENTERS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA



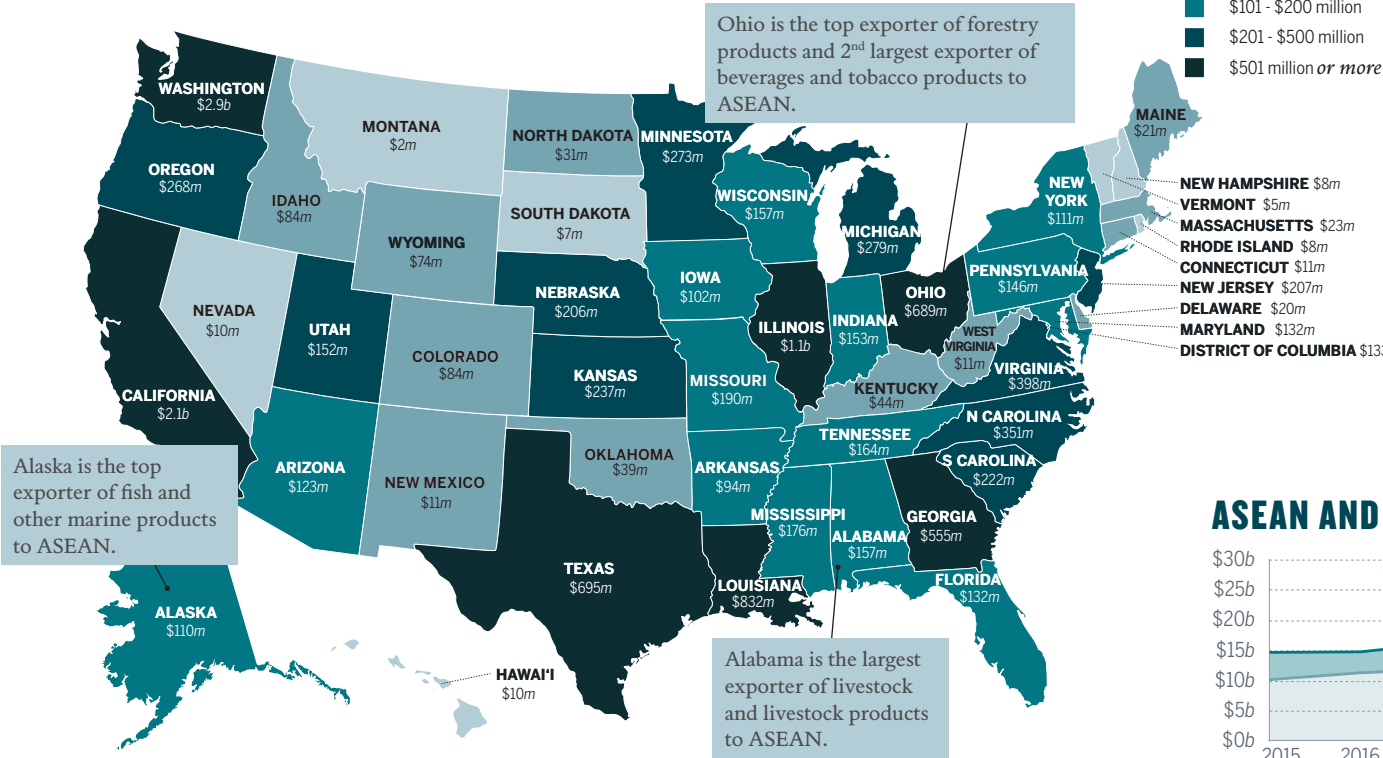
Source: Cloudscene, as of June 2025

ASEAN Is the 4th Largest Importer of US Food and Agricultural Exports

The United States exports \$13 billion in food and agricultural products to ASEAN, including \$2.3 billion in soybeans, \$1.5 billion in meat products, and \$1 billion in dairy products. ASEAN is the 4th largest global importer of US food and agricultural goods, accounting for 7% of global imports, and the 2nd largest importer of US food and agricultural products in the Indo-Pacific after China. Thirty-two states export over \$100 million worth of food and agricultural goods to ASEAN, with Washington, California, and Illinois exporting over \$1 billion each.

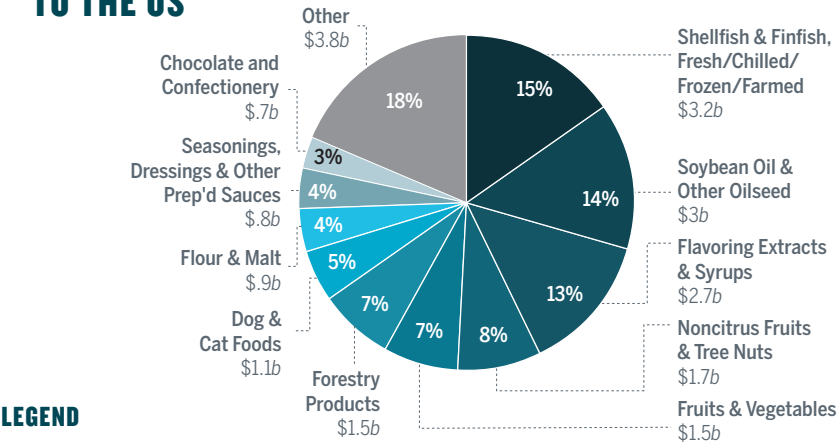
ASEAN is the 3rd largest exporter of food and agricultural goods to the United States after Mexico and Canada. Top exports from ASEAN include shellfish/finfish and marine products (\$3.2b), soybean oil (\$3b), and flavoring extracts and syrups (\$2.7b). ASEAN is also the top global natural rubber and palm oil exporter, responsible for 70% and 83% of global production in 2023, respectively. Indonesia and Malaysia together account for 94% of all palm oil exports to the United States.

US FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO ASEAN



Sources: US Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service, 2024 data; US Census Bureau, 2024 data; United Nations Comtrade database, 2023 data

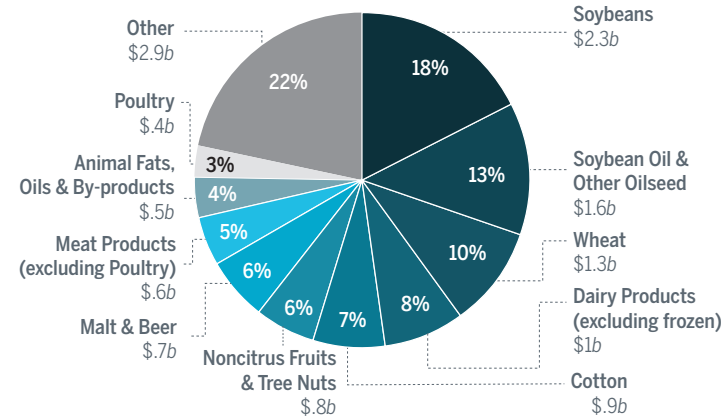
COMPOSITION OF ASEAN FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO THE US



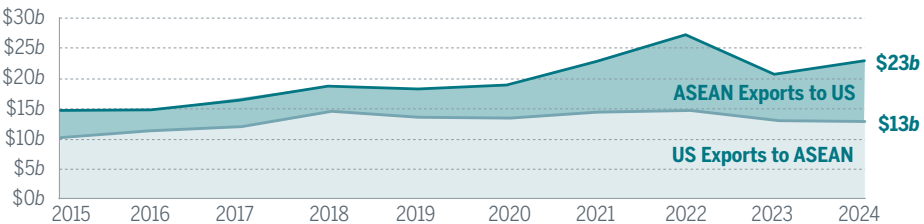
LEGEND

- \$10 million or less
- \$11 - \$100 million
- \$101 - \$200 million
- \$201 - \$500 million
- \$501 million or more

COMPOSITION OF US FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO ASEAN



ASEAN AND US FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS 2015-2024

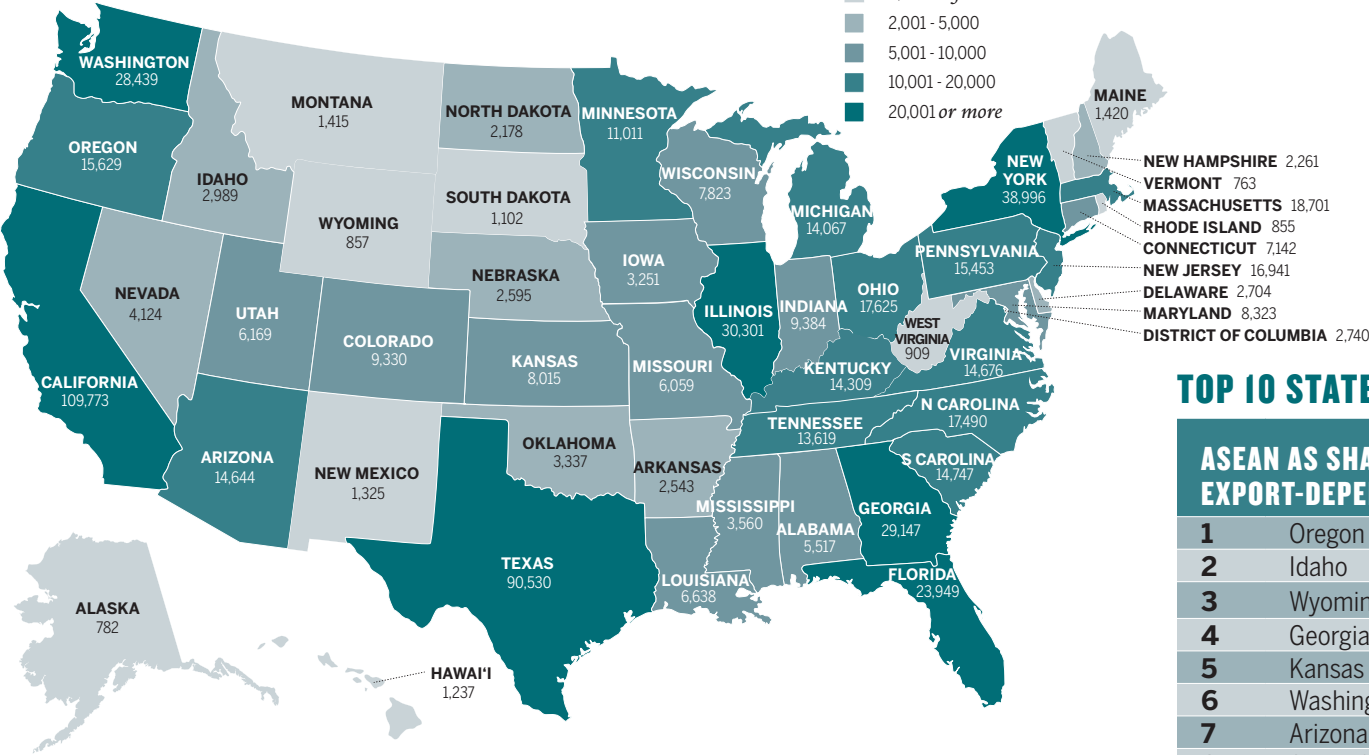
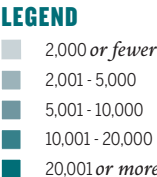


ASEAN Trade and Investment Supports Over 714,000 Jobs Across the United States

Almost 37,000 companies across the United States export to ASEAN. These goods and services exports support, directly or indirectly, more than 668,000 US jobs.

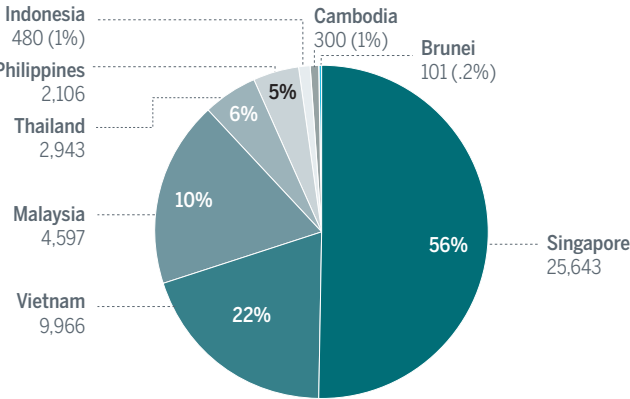
Twenty states have over 10,000 jobs that rely on exports to ASEAN member states. In 25 US states and the District of Columbia, ASEAN accounts for 20% of jobs dependent on exports to the Indo-Pacific. Since 2019, ASEAN trade-supported jobs have increased by more than 50% in Kentucky, Delaware, and Florida. In 2023, 26 states exported over \$1 billion worth of goods to ASEAN. In per capita terms, trade with the 10 ASEAN member states creates the most jobs in Alaska, the District of Columbia, Oregon, Washington, and Kentucky.

US JOBS SUPPORTED BY EXPORTS TO ASEAN



Sources: Estimated by the Trade Partnership (Washington, DC), 2023 data; fDi Markets, 2003-2024 data

JOBS CREATED BY GREENFIELD INVESTMENT INTO THE US 2003-2024



Greenfield investment from businesses within eight ASEAN member states has created an estimated 46,000 jobs in the United States since 2003, including over 6,000 jobs each in California, North Carolina, and Texas. Over half of these jobs were created by Singapore-based companies. In 2024, Brunei and Cambodia made their first recorded greenfield investments in the United States, with Bruneian telecommunications provider ULAP Networks’ expansion into Silicon Valley and Cambodian solar panel manufacturer Imperial Star Solar’s opening of an assembly factory in Texas.

TOP 10 STATES

ASEAN AS SHARE OF ALL EXPORT-DEPENDENT JOBS			% INCREASE IN ASEAN TRADE-SUPPORTED JOBS SINCE 2019		
1	Oregon	9%	1	Kentucky	77%
2	Idaho	9%	2	Delaware	58%
3	Wyoming	9%	3	Florida	53%
4	Georgia	8%	4	Missouri	46%
5	Kansas	7%	5	Alabama	40%
6	Washington	7%	6	Utah	39%
7	Arizona	7%	7	Pennsylvania	36%
8	South Carolina	7%	8	Maryland	32%
9	Delaware	7%	9	District of Columbia	30%
10	Kentucky	7%	10	Massachusetts	28%

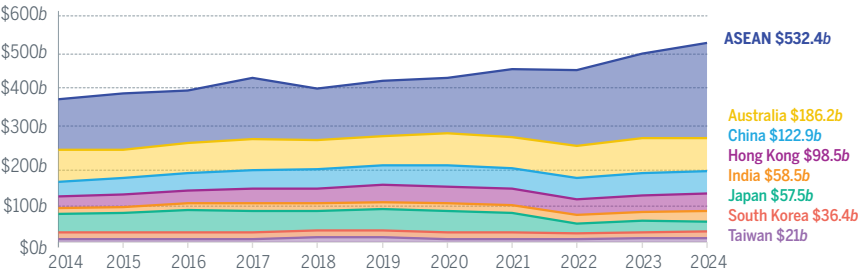
ASEAN Is the Number One Destination for US Investment in the Indo-Pacific

ASEAN received \$532 billion in investment from the United States, more than the United States has invested in China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan combined. Of this, the United States invested nearly 90% or \$468 billion in Singapore alone, making Singapore the 4th largest country recipient of US investment worldwide – behind only the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg. US direct investment in ASEAN has grown by 71% in the past decade, and accounts for 47% of all US investment in the Indo-Pacific.

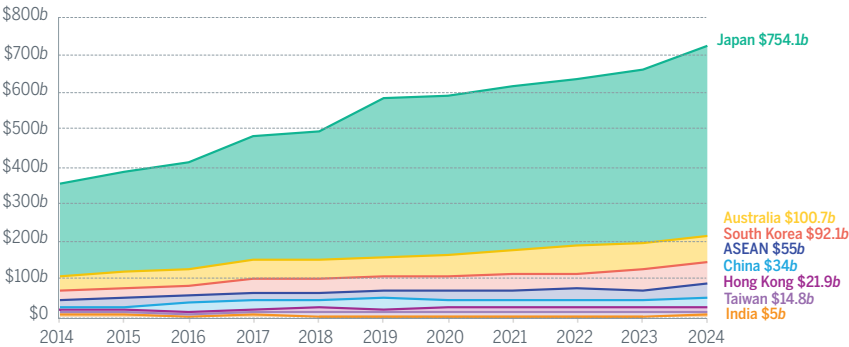
ASEAN member states together have invested \$55 billion into the United States, making ASEAN the 17th largest investor into the United States. Singapore is the largest investor among ASEAN member states, with over \$50 billion invested, followed by Thailand (\$1.4 billion) and Malaysia (\$1.2 billion).

ASEAN FDI INTO THE US BY COUNTRY*	
Singapore	\$50.5b
Thailand	\$1.4b
Malaysia	\$1.2b
Vietnam	\$948m
Philippines	\$532m
Indonesia	\$326m
Cambodia	\$11m
Laos	\$0

US DIRECT INVESTMENT POSITION IN THE INDO-PACIFIC



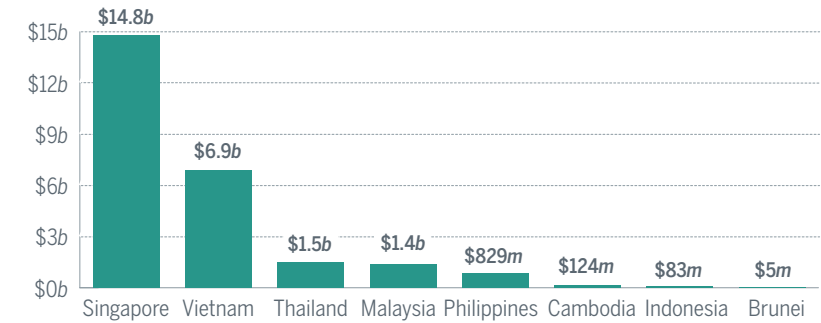
INDO-PACIFIC DIRECT INVESTMENT POSITION IN THE US



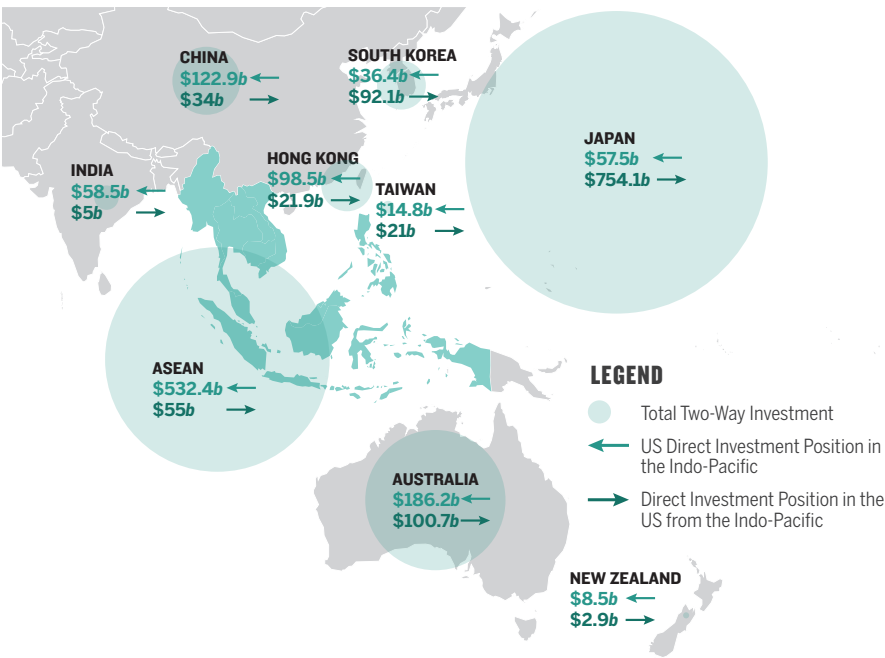
* Data not available for Brunei and Myanmar

Since 2003, businesses located in eight ASEAN countries have invested \$25.6 billion in greenfield projects in at least 36 states and the District of Columbia. The states that have received the most greenfield investment from ASEAN businesses are North Carolina (\$6.2 billion) and West Virginia (\$3 billion).

GREENFIELD INVESTMENT INTO THE US BY ASEAN COUNTRIES SINCE 2003



US-ASEAN DIRECT INVESTMENT POSITION IN A REGIONAL CONTEXT



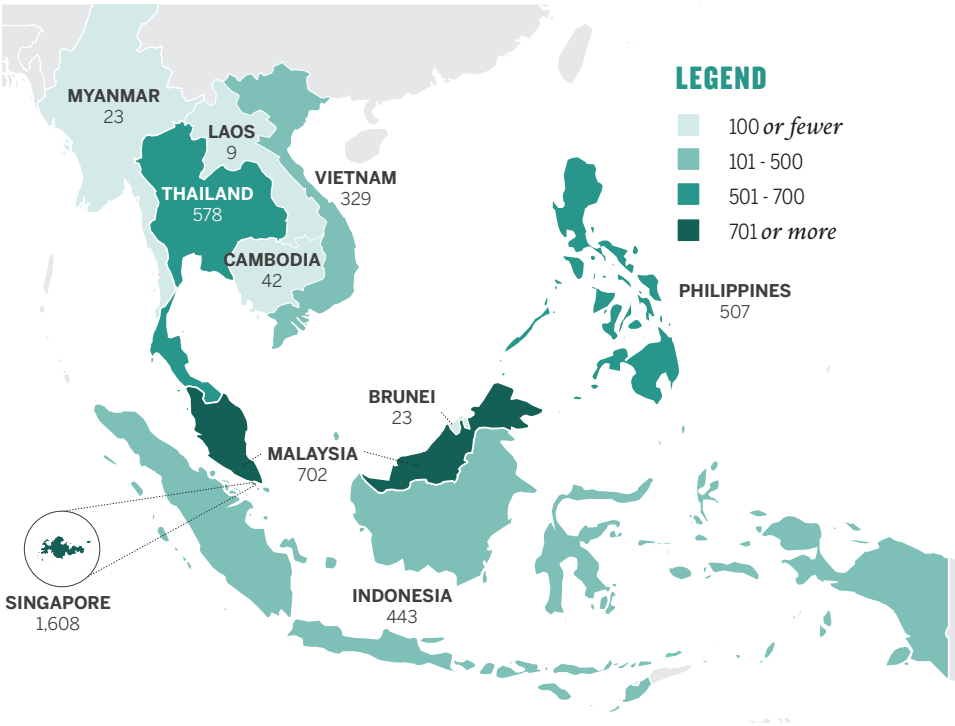
Sources: US Bureau of Economic Analysis, US Direct Investment Position Abroad and Foreign Direct Investment in the US on a Historical Cost Basis, 2015-2024 data; fDi Markets, 2003-2024 data

CORPORATE INVESTMENT

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

A total of 119 companies from six ASEAN member states operate in the United States. A large majority (74 companies) are headquartered in Singapore, with Malaysia (16 companies) and Thailand (15 companies) ranked the next highest. These ASEAN companies operate in 44 US states and the District of Columbia. They are concentrated in California (60 companies), New York (32 companies), and Texas (29 companies).

US COMPANIES* OPERATING IN ASEAN MEMBER STATES



* Companies indicate US parent companies with subsidiaries in ASEAN member states as recognized by Uniworld.
** Companies indicate ASEAN parent companies with subsidiaries in the US as recognized by Uniworld.

Sources: US Mission to ASEAN; Uniworld Business Publications (accessed July 2025)

SELECTED STORIES

ASEAN COMPANIES** OPERATING IN THE US

Singapore	74
Malaysia	16
Thailand	15
Indonesia	6
Philippines	6
Vietnam	2

AIG

AIG is a leading global insurance organization. With almost 100 years in Southeast Asia, AIG’s combined global perspectives and local insights continue to help its ASEAN clients reduce risks and recover from setbacks. AIG has never wavered from its commitment to stand behind its customers at their time of need and support the communities where it conducts business. Today, AIG continues to offer innovative solutions, capacity and capabilities via its distribution channels and partners, and a responsive and tailored claims service. AIG has local offices in Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines and Vietnam. Customers in Brunei, Cambodia and Laos are served through AIG Network Partners.

ATLAS AIR WORLDWIDE

Atlas Air Worldwide (“Atlas”) is the leading global provider of outsourced aviation logistics solutions including integrated air cargo services. Atlas powers global trade and connects people, communities, and businesses across continents. With a focus on safety, reliability, and flexibility, Atlas operates advanced aircraft and delivers critical capacity for a premier roster of shippers, e-commerce platforms, logistics providers, express carriers, airlines, and leading sports and entertainment organizations.

Atlas is the parent company of Atlas Air, Inc., Titan Aviation Holdings, Inc., and Polar Air Cargo Worldwide, Inc. Together, Atlas operates the world’s largest fleet of 747 freighters and the broadest array of Boeing 747, 777 and 767 aircraft, serving more than 330 destinations in over 80 countries.

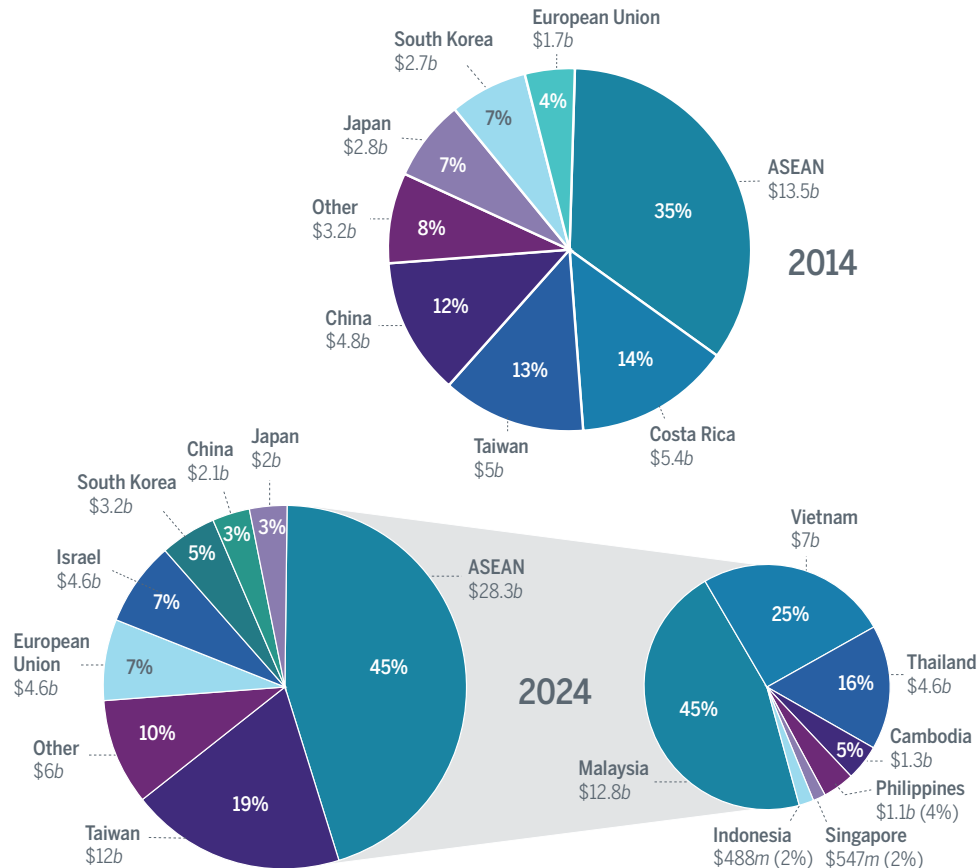
Southeast Asia is a vital component to Atlas’ global network. The Company serves nearly every major market in the region, moving critical freight such as electronics, apparel, and perishables. Through partnerships with leading forwarders, global corporations, and local partners, Atlas supports innovators worldwide and strengthens economic ties between Southeast Asia, the United States, and the broader global marketplace.

US-ASEAN Partnership in Chip Supply Chains Are Critical for American Goods and Consumers

The United States has been actively diversifying its semiconductor supply sources to reduce dependence on traditional centers. This strategy has led to rising US investment in ASEAN countries, strengthening their roles in the global semiconductor supply chain.

ASEAN supplies nearly half (45%) of all US chip imports, doubling its share from a decade ago. Malaysia is the largest supplier of chips to the United States, accounting for 20% of total US chip imports. Taiwan ranks 2nd with 19%, followed by Vietnam with 11%. Israel, Thailand, and the European Union each account for 7%.

CHIP EXPORTS TO THE US 2014 VS. 2024



As ASEAN continues to develop its semiconductor capabilities, it is poised to play an even more critical role in meeting global demand and supporting US technologies. Since 2014, US chip imports from China have declined, while imports from ASEAN countries have surged by 110%. Cambodia in particular has experienced explosive growth in chip exports to the United States — skyrocketing from less than \$1 million in 2014 to over \$1.3 billion in 2024, an increase of more than 214,000-fold. In 2024, the United States was ASEAN's number one import market for semiconductors, which was three times larger than ASEAN's 2nd largest import market, Hong Kong.

Semiconductors are the United States' top export to ASEAN, totaling \$14.7b worth in 2024 — a quarter of all US semiconductor exports worldwide. ASEAN countries combined are the top importer of US semiconductor chips.

CRITICAL MINERALS AND ELECTRIC VEHICLE SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE

Southeast Asia is a key global source of critical minerals, particularly nickel, tin, rare-earth elements, and bauxite. ASEAN is rich in nickel, a critical mineral used in electronics, new energy technologies, and lithium ion batteries for electric vehicles (EVs). Indonesia and the Philippines are the top global producers of nickel, producing 60% and 9% of the world's nickel respectively. Indonesia also holds over 40% of the world's nickel reserves. In contrast, the United States accounts for 0.2% of global nickel production and reserves, making it dependent on nickel imports.

On top of possessing the necessary critical minerals, ASEAN countries also have the manufacturing capabilities to assemble EVs, giving them an edge over competitors. This competitive advantage is reflected in market projections: the ASEAN EV market is expected to grow from \$1.5 billion in 2025 to \$6.2 billion in 2030.

In 2023, ASEAN leaders publicly committed to building a comprehensive EV ecosystem, agreeing to enhance EV infrastructure including charging stations, and foster a conducive business environment for attracting foreign investment. This collaborative effort aims to position ASEAN as a global leader in EV production and adoption, in anticipation of projections that EVs will make up 80% of global vehicle sales by 2050. Indonesia, for instance, aims to produce 600,000 EVs and establish 2,400 charging stations by 2030, a substantial increase from 195 stations in 2022. Challenges however remain, with inconsistent regulations across ASEAN countries, gaps in the development of charging infrastructure, and various levels of policy support. Addressing these hurdles will require regional coordination and continued investment to realize a sustainable and interconnected EV future.

Increasing EV investments in the region will be key to solidifying long-term supply chain partnerships. In Indonesia, Ford Motor Co has already partnered with PT Vale Indonesia and China's Zhejiang Huayou Cobalt Co on a \$4.5 billion nickel production agreement. In Malaysia, Graphjet Technology, backed by US investors, plans to build a green graphite facility in Nevada by 2026, with aims to produce enough recycled graphite for 100,000 EVs annually. Meanwhile, Tesla opened its first regional headquarters right outside of Kuala Lumpur in 2023, joining centers in the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand. These investments highlight the untapped potential for US companies to deepen their presence in ASEAN's rapidly expanding EV market.

Sources: US Census Bureau, HS Code 8541 and 8542, 2014-2024 data; US Geological Survey, Mineral Commodity Summaries 2025; Mordor Intelligence, 2025; US-ASEAN Business Council, Electric Vehicle Ecosystem in ASEAN 2023

ASEAN and the United States Are Partners and Investors in Each Other’s Healthcare Systems and Medical Supply Chains

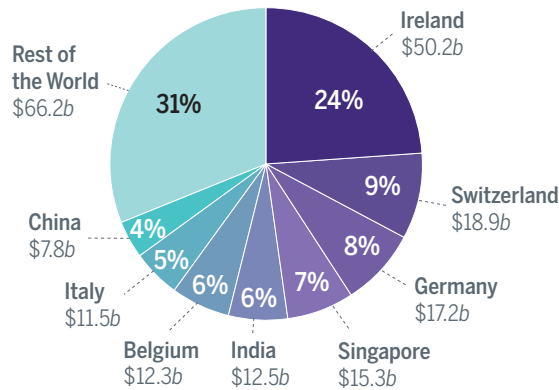
ASEAN plays a key role in the United States medical supply chain. Singapore – and by extension ASEAN – is the 4th largest exporter of pharmaceutical products to the United States, exporting \$15.2 billion in pharmaceutical products including medicines and vaccines to the United States in 2024 – representing 7% of all US pharmaceutical imports, and 35% of all Singapore exports to the United States. Singapore’s pharmaceutical exports to the United States have grown 54% in the past year and nearly 10 times over the past decade, during which the city-state has emerged as a global hub for pharmaceutical manufacturing. ASEAN is also the 3rd largest supplier of optical, medical, and surgical tools to the United States, exporting \$13.4 billion worth of equipment in 2024. Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam rank among the top 20 exporters of medical equipment to the United States.

Since 2003, ASEAN countries have together invested \$1.2 billion in America’s life sciences sector, creating 3,900 jobs across 10 states. Half of this greenfield investment is in research and development, from cancer-screening tests and gene therapies to surgical robotics and medical devices that will benefit American patients.

US companies are also increasingly investing in ASEAN’s health and life sciences sector, particularly in pharmaceutical manufacturing. In Singapore, Pfizer opened a \$743 million plant in July 2024 to produce active pharmaceutical ingredients for cancer, pain, and antibiotic medicines. In May 2024, AstraZeneca announced a \$1.5 billion manufacturing facility in Singapore that will make targeted cancer-killing drugs. American pharmaceutical companies Amgen, Lilly, and Merck also have manufacturing plants in Singapore.

ASEAN countries have made significant contributions to the healthcare system in the United States. The Philippines is the number one country of origin of all immigrant healthcare professionals in the United States with 425,000 healthcare workers, including 14,600 physicians and surgeons, and 171,000 registered nurses. Over 91,000 Vietnamese Americans work in healthcare in the United States, making up the 10th largest group of immigrant healthcare workers.

TOP EXPORTERS OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS TO THE US



HEALTHCARE IN ASEAN

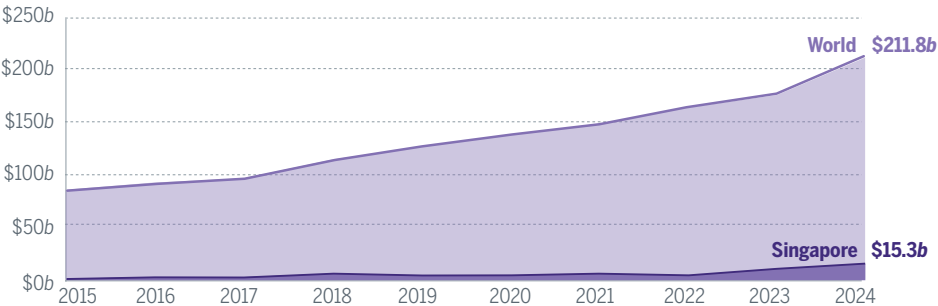
Between 2020 and 2025, the United States committed \$1.4 billion to support public health in ASEAN across nearly 2,000 projects. In 2021, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention opened a Southeast Asia regional office in Hanoi, Vietnam, to help build core public health capacities across Southeast Asia.

Healthcare spending and access is highly unequal across ASEAN, reflecting the region’s income disparities. Singapore has a healthcare expenditure per capita of \$4,321, more than 100 times Laos’ rate of \$41. Similarly, Singapore and Malaysia have 28 and 23 physicians respectively for every 10,000 people, more than double that in the Philippines and Myanmar, where there are eight physicians per 10,000 people. Some ASEAN countries also face the double burden of communicable diseases – such as tuberculosis and malaria – as well as non-communicable diseases such as cancer, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes, which are on the rise across the region.

ASEAN HEALTHCARE EXPENDITURE PER CAPITA	
Singapore	\$4,321
Brunei	\$666
Malaysia	\$458
Thailand	\$370
Vietnam	\$189
Philippines	\$183
Indonesia	\$127
Cambodia	\$110
Myanmar	\$58
Laos	\$41

Spurred on by the COVID-19 pandemic, ASEAN governments are increasingly adopting digital healthcare technologies – from online consultation programs to the use of AI for early disease detection and diagnosis – to improve regional health. The ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda also promotes digital health technologies as a strategy to strengthen health systems and access to care. ASEAN’s telehealth services market is worth \$2.8 billion and is forecast to grow to \$7.7 billion in 2030, with a compound annual growth rate of 22%.

PHARMACEUTICAL EXPORTS TO THE US



Sources: US Census Bureau, State Imports by HS Commodities, 2015-2024 data, HS Codes 30 and 90, 2024 data; Singapore Economic Development Board; fDi Markets, 2003-July 2025 data; American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Public Use Microdata Sample (2023); ForeignAssistance.gov, 2020-July 2025 data; World Health Organization, Global Health Expenditure Database, Current health expenditure per capita (current US\$), 2022 data; World Health Organization, National Health Workforce Accounts data portal, 2019-2023 data; US-ASEAN Business Council, Driving ASEAN Unity: Malaysia’s Vision for 2025; ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Policy Brief #6, 2023; Mordor Intelligence, July 2025

The United States and ASEAN Are Collaborating on Environmental Resilience

Without serious action to mitigate climate change, Southeast Asian countries are at risk of losing up to 41-68% of their GDP by 2100, with Vietnam and Indonesia feeling the biggest impact. At the 16th Meeting of the ASEAN-US Joint Cooperation Committee in May 2025, the United States and ASEAN pledged to strengthen cooperation on the environment, energy, disaster preparedness, and other areas.

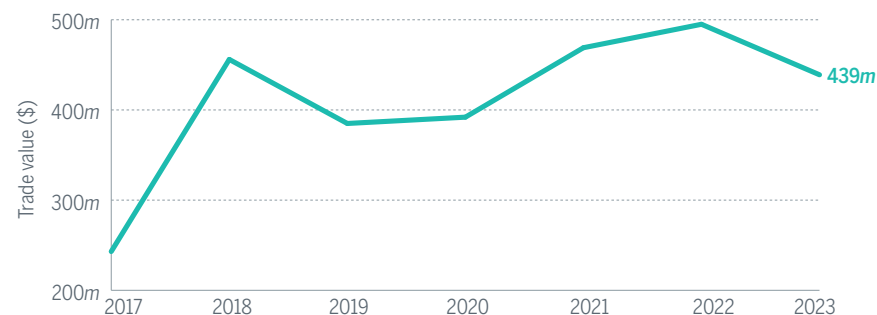
ADDRESSING ASEAN'S PLASTIC WASTE CHALLENGE

Plastic pollution is a significant contributor to contemporary climate challenges. ASEAN countries together generate over 31 million tons of plastic waste a year, of which an estimated 16.8 tons is never collected.

Since China began banning most plastic waste imports in 2018, much of the world's plastic waste exports have been redirected to ASEAN. Between 2017 and 2023, ASEAN plastic waste imports increased by 81%. The United States is the top exporter of plastic waste to ASEAN, and Malaysia, Vietnam and Indonesia are among the top 10 global importers of plastic waste. In addition to being the largest global importers, Southeast Asian countries also have high mismanagement rates of plastic, meaning plastic waste often ends up in dumping sites and uncontrolled landfills. Vietnam and Indonesia record plastic mismanagement rates of 54%, while Malaysia's is 26%.

The ASEAN Regional Action Plan for Combating Marine Debris 2021-2025 urges ASEAN member states to implement stricter regulations on the use of plastic, develop quality standards for recycled plastic, and address the plastic waste trade. The ASEAN

ASEAN PLASTIC WASTE IMPORTS 2017-2023



Sources: Asian Development Bank, Asia-Pacific Climate Report 2024; UN Comtrade Database, 2017-2023 data; Plastic Bank, Mismanaged Waste Index 2024

Declaration on Plastic Circularity adopted in 2024 called for reducing the use of single-use plastics and improving environmentally-sound plastic waste management systems, among other ways to address plastic pollution. ASEAN countries are also involved in negotiations of a new global plastics treaty to stop plastic pollution.

Some ASEAN countries have implemented national policies to limit plastic waste imports, including Thailand, which stopped importing plastic waste in 2025.

PROMOTING A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

A circular economy reduces waste and resource consumption by encouraging reuse and promoting product redesigns that are less resource intensive. ASEAN's rapid growth over the past two decades has fueled large-scale production and consumption. In 2021, ASEAN adopted a Framework for Circular Economy, which outlines a path towards a new economic model that emphasizes resource efficiency and sustainable growth. This includes promoting the development of regional value chains, technology sharing among ASEAN member states, trade openness, and digitalization.

At the national level, ASEAN countries have begun implementing plans for waste management and promoting a circular economy. Six ASEAN countries – Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam – have implemented environmental, social, and governance risk disclosure requirements for listed companies. Malaysia has launched a Circular Economy Blueprint for Solid Waste (2025-2035) to reduce waste that ends up in landfills. This includes measures such as introducing a zero waste to landfill certification for manufacturers and holding producers responsible for managing the end-of-life of products.



Photo source: People disposing waste materials and garbage in a landfill site next to a modern district with skyscrapers in Jakarta, Indonesia. (Photo by Kzenon, Canva)

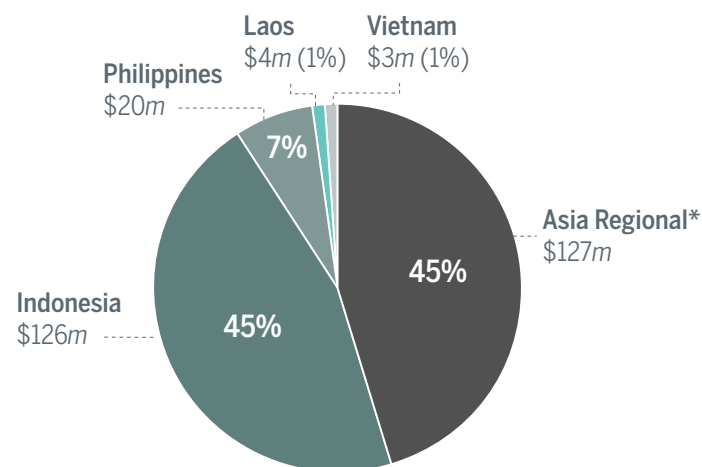
The United States Is a Key Partner for Infrastructure Development in ASEAN

ASEAN requires \$210 billion annually in infrastructure investment, or 5.7% of its GDP, to meet its infrastructure needs and continue its economic growth, according to the Asian Development Bank. In total, the region's infrastructure investment needs from 2016 to 2030 are estimated to be between \$2.8 trillion and \$3.1 trillion.

Although the number of internationally financed infrastructure projects in ASEAN grew by 34% between 2015 and 2023, this growth has been lower than the average of 40% for developing countries. International project finance for infrastructure overall dropped by 55% to \$31 billion in 2023, with the power generation, telecommunication, transportation, and water and sanitation sectors declining significantly.

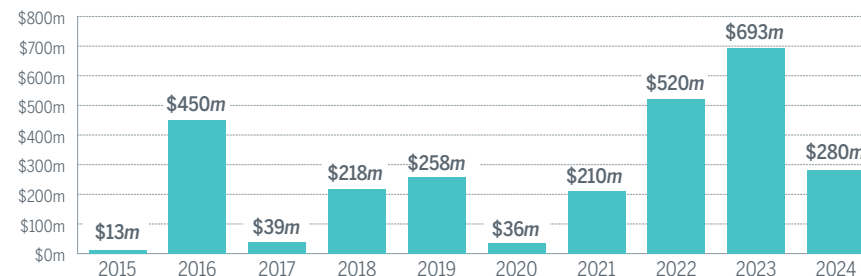
The United States continues to support ASEAN in addressing its infrastructure needs. The US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) has committed \$3.5 billion since 2007 to support projects in ASEAN countries. In the 2024 fiscal year, there were 13 active DFC projects in ASEAN, with \$280 million in committed funds. The US-ASEAN Transportation Dialogue Partnership's Four-Year Work Plan (2022-2025) also supports new air, land, and maritime transportation programs that promote sustainable and resilient infrastructure, regional connectivity, and emerging transport technologies.

US INTERNATIONAL FINANCE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ACTIVE COMMITMENTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA



*Asia Regional consists of projects that span multiple countries in Southeast Asia and neighboring regions.

US INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION ACTIVE COMMITMENTS 2015-2024



ENERGY SECURITY IN ASEAN

ASEAN's energy demand is rising at 3% annually, driven by its economic and population growth. The region's current reliance on fossil fuels such as coal, gas and oil for nearly 80% of its energy leaves it vulnerable to global price volatility and supply disruptions. To strengthen its energy security and sustainability, ASEAN aims to increase its renewable energy share to 23% of total consumption by 2025 and 66% by 2050. In 2022, renewable energy comprised 15.6% of ASEAN's total primary energy supply. To meet its 23% target by 2025, ASEAN requires an estimated \$27 billion in annual investment to improve its renewable power capacity, power grids, infrastructure, and energy efficiency – far beyond the \$8 billion it attracted annually from 2016 to 2021.

ASEAN recognizes the critical role of the ASEAN Power Grid (APG), an initiative to integrate the national electricity networks of its 10 member states by 2045, enabling cross-border trade in electricity. Half of the 18 key interconnection projects under the APG have been completed so far. ASEAN's first multilateral power trading project, the Laos-Thailand-Malaysia-Singapore Power Integration Project, began a two-year trial import in 2022 of 100 MW of renewable hydropower from Laos to Singapore via Thailand and Malaysia. Plans are underway for a similar Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines Power Integration Project. In 2025, Malaysia, Singapore, and Vietnam signed an agreement to explore importing offshore wind from Vietnam to Malaysia and then Singapore via subsea cables. The Asian Development Bank estimates that ASEAN will need more than \$100 billion over the next two decades for investments for transmission infrastructure.

The ASEAN Infrastructure Fund, which promotes regional financing to meet ASEAN's infrastructure development needs, launched its Action Plan for 2025-2028 to drive sustainable infrastructure projects across the region. The fund has committed \$520 million to date toward energy, transport, water, and urban infrastructure projects in six ASEAN countries.

Sources: DFC Active Projects Database, 2007-2024 data; ASEAN Investment Report 2024; ASEAN Energy Investment 2024 report; International Energy Agency, Southeast Asia Energy Outlook 2024; Asian Development Bank; 8th ASEAN Energy Outlook

ASEAN Visitors Add \$6.9 Billion to the US Economy Annually

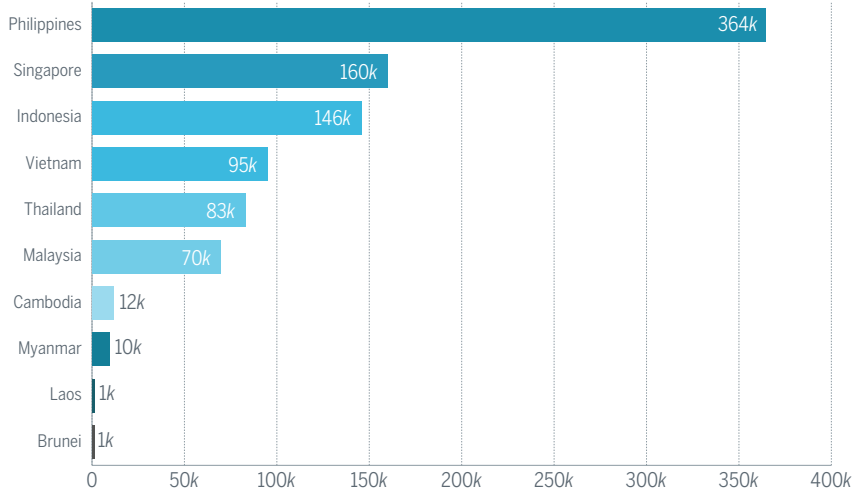
Tourism between the United States and ASEAN has largely recovered from the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2024, 4.5 million Americans visited ASEAN, and just under 1 million ASEAN travelers visited the United States – both around 95% of pre-pandemic visitor levels. US visitor arrivals to all ASEAN countries, except for Myanmar, have recovered to at least 85% of pre-pandemic levels in each country. ASEAN visitor spending in the United States reached \$6.9 billion in 2023, 4% higher than in 2019 before the pandemic and the highest recorded in the past 10 years.

US VISITOR ARRIVALS IN ASEAN



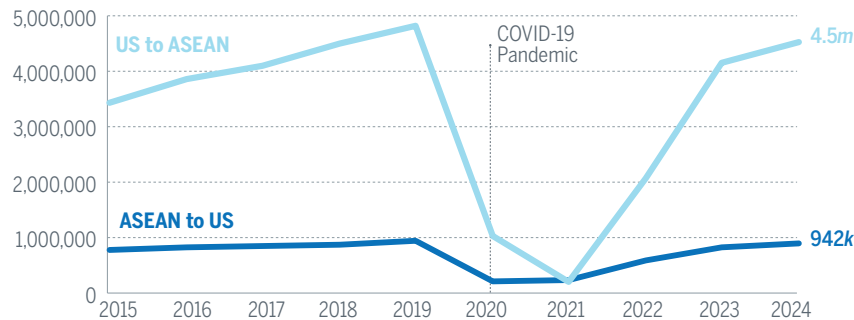
ASEAN VISITOR SPENDING IN THE US		
1	California	\$1b
2	New York	\$694m
3	Florida	\$562m
4	Texas	\$483m
5	Illinois	\$359m
6	Massachusetts	\$297m
7	Georgia	\$218m
8	Pennsylvania	\$216m
9	North Carolina	\$198m
10	Arizona	\$176m

ASEAN VISITOR ARRIVALS IN THE US



There are 11 direct flights between the United States and ASEAN, connecting six American cities and three ASEAN cities. The Philippines, Singapore, and Vietnam, which are the three ASEAN countries with nonstop flights to the United States, have also been the top three sources of ASEAN visitors to the United States for most of the past decade.

ANNUAL ASEAN AND US TOURISTS

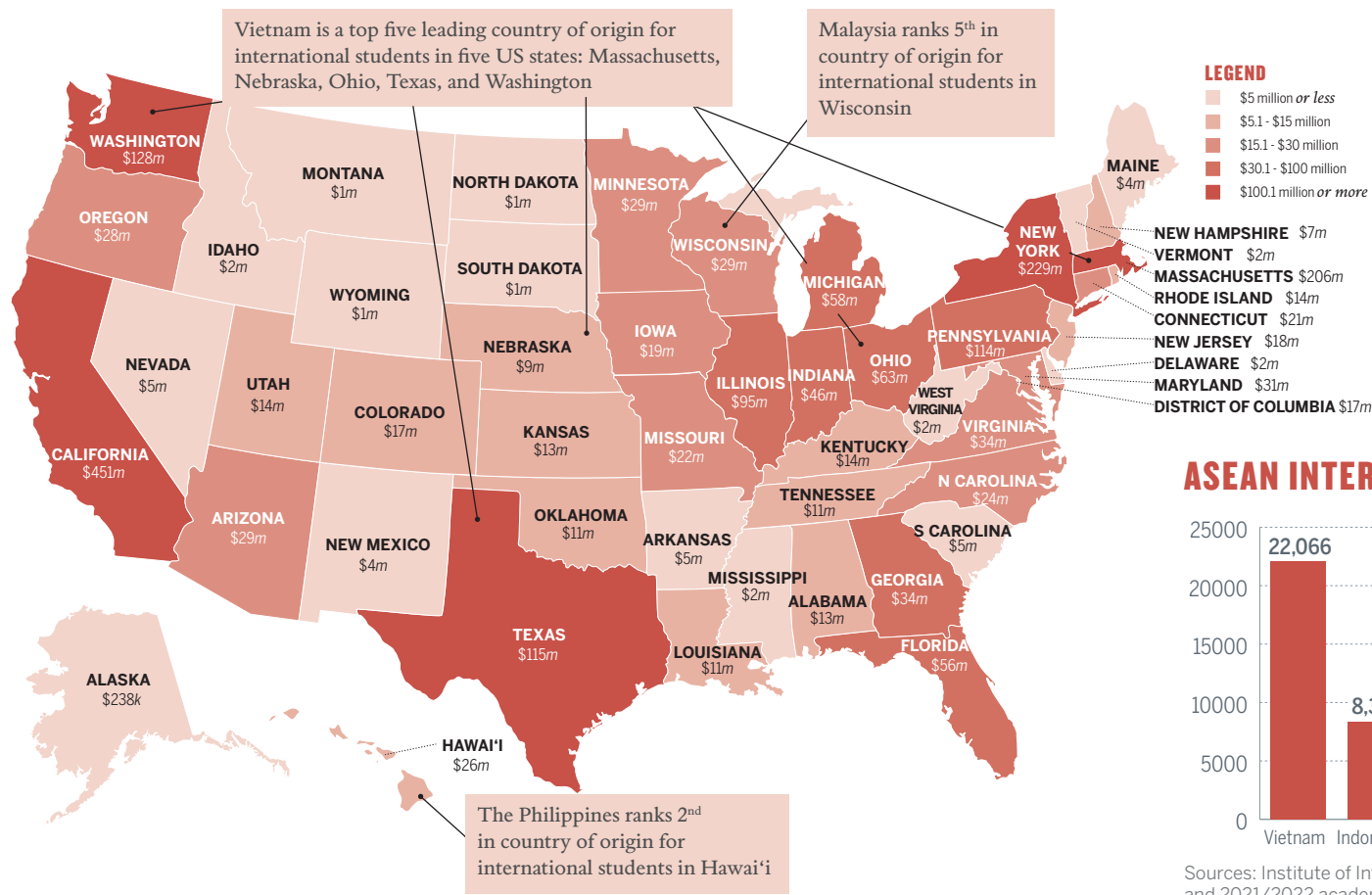


Sources: Visitor spending estimated by Trade Partnership, 2023 data; International Trade Administration, ADIS/I-94 Visitors Arrivals Data (Country of Residence); Brunei Ministry of Finance and Economy; Cambodia Ministry of Tourism; Statistics Indonesia; Laos Ministry of Information, Culture, and Tourism; Tourism Malaysia; Myanmar Ministry of Hotels & Tourism; Philippines Department of Tourism; Singapore Tourism Board; Thai Ministry of Tourism & Sports; Vietnam National Administration of Tourism; Google Flights

ASEAN Students Contribute \$2.1 Billion to the US Economy Annually

Over 53,000 students from ASEAN member states study in the United States, making up 5% of all international students. More than 22,000 students come from Vietnam alone, the most of any ASEAN member state and the 6th largest amount from any country globally. Over 8,300 students from Indonesia and 5,300 students from Thailand study in the United States.

ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION OF ASEAN STUDENTS

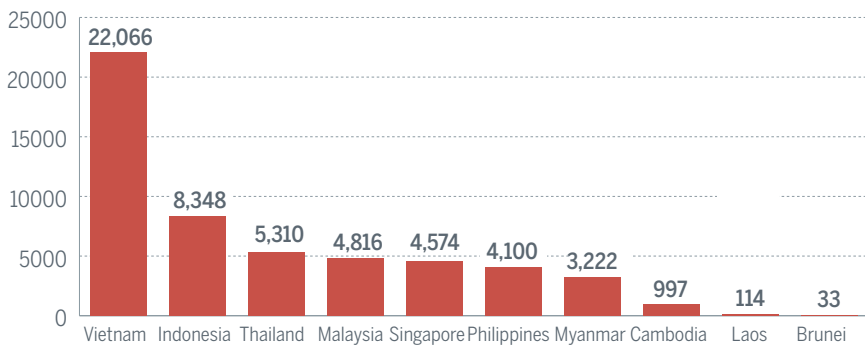


In the 2023/2024 academic year, the number of students from ASEAN countries rose by nearly 2% compared to the previous year and by 10% from the 2021/2022 academic year, reflecting a continued recovery from the decline caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The top destinations for ASEAN students in the United States are California, New York, Massachusetts, Texas, and Washington.

Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam are the top study abroad destinations in ASEAN for Americans, attracting 80% of US students in the ASEAN region. Singapore and Thailand rank as the 23rd and 24th most popular study abroad destination for US students, respectively. The number of US students studying in ASEAN has steadily increased to 6,094, nearly reaching pre-pandemic levels.

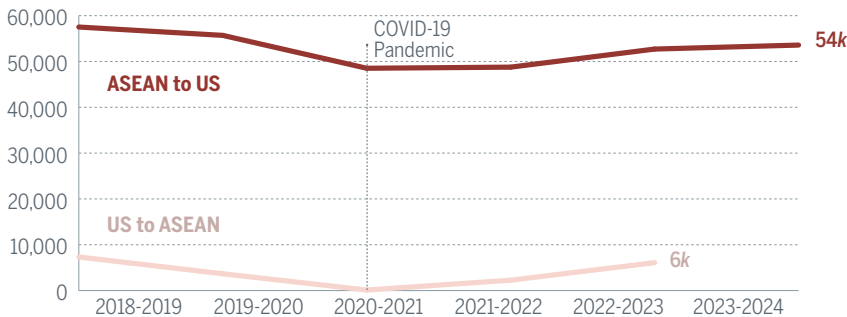
ASEAN STUDENTS AS A SHARE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS		
1	Washington	14%
2	Oregon	10%
3	Iowa	10%
4	California	9%
5	Nevada	9%
6	Maine	9%
7	Nebraska	8%
8	New Mexico	7%
9	Minnesota	6%
10	Virginia	6%

ASEAN INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN THE US



Sources: Institute of International Education (IIE) Open Doors report, 2023/2024, 2022/2023, and 2021/2022 academic year data; NAFFSA: Association of International Educators, 2023/2024 academic year data

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN THE US AND ASEAN



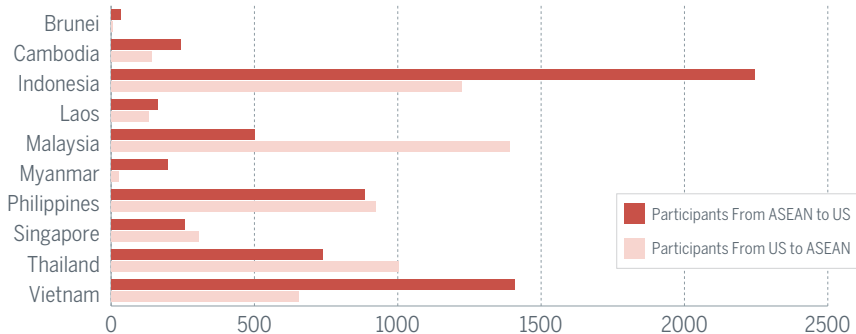
SOUTHEAST ASIA STUDIES AT US UNIVERSITIES

Around 30 universities across 18 US states and the District of Columbia offer Southeast Asia studies, ranging from degree programs to majors, minors, and certificate programs. California, the state with the largest Asian American population, is also home to the most universities (seven) with programs focusing on Southeast Asia.

The US Department of Education currently funds seven centers that serve as national resources on Southeast Asia. These National Resource Centers teach the languages of Southeast Asia and help further American research in and understanding of the region’s countries, culture, and history. They are housed at: Cornell University; Northern Illinois University; University of California, Berkeley and University of California, Los Angeles; University of Hawai’i, Manoa; University of Michigan; University of Washington; and University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Many American universities also offer Southeast Asian language courses. In 2021, there was a total of 4,477 enrollments in Southeast Asian language courses in 82 institutions of higher education across 28 US states. Vietnamese was the most popular course, followed by Filipino/Tagalog, and Indonesian.

US-ASEAN FULBRIGHT STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS SINCE 1949



Sources: Institute of International Education (IIE) Open Doors report, 2023/2024 academic year data; NAFSA: Association of International Educators, 2023/2024 academic year data

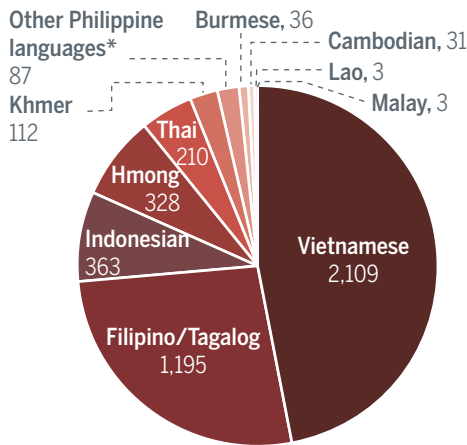
FULBRIGHT PROGRAM

Since the United States’ Fulbright Program was founded in 1949, more than 6,100 students and scholars from ASEAN have taken part, including 2,200 from Indonesia and 880 from the Philippines. Nearly 5,800 American students and scholars have also participated in the Fulbright Program, with Malaysia, Indonesia, and Thailand as their top destinations. Since the US-ASEAN Special Summit in 2022, the United States has doubled the number of annual scholarships under the Fulbright US–ASEAN Visiting Scholar Initiative to 20. In 2024, it added another two places for scholars from ASEAN observer Timor-Leste.

YOUNG SOUTHEAST ASIAN LEADERS INITIATIVE

The Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) is a US government program to develop leadership skills and professional networks among youth from ASEAN member states and Timor-Leste. Launched in 2013, YSEALI aims to empower youth to address regional challenges and further strengthen ties between the United States and ASEAN. It offers various exchanges, workshops, and grants focusing on civic engagement, innovation, natural resources, and governance. YSEALI programs have more than 6,000 alumni, and more than 160,000 young people are part of the YSEALI digital network.

SOUTHEAST ASIAN LANGUAGE ENROLLMENTS IN US INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING

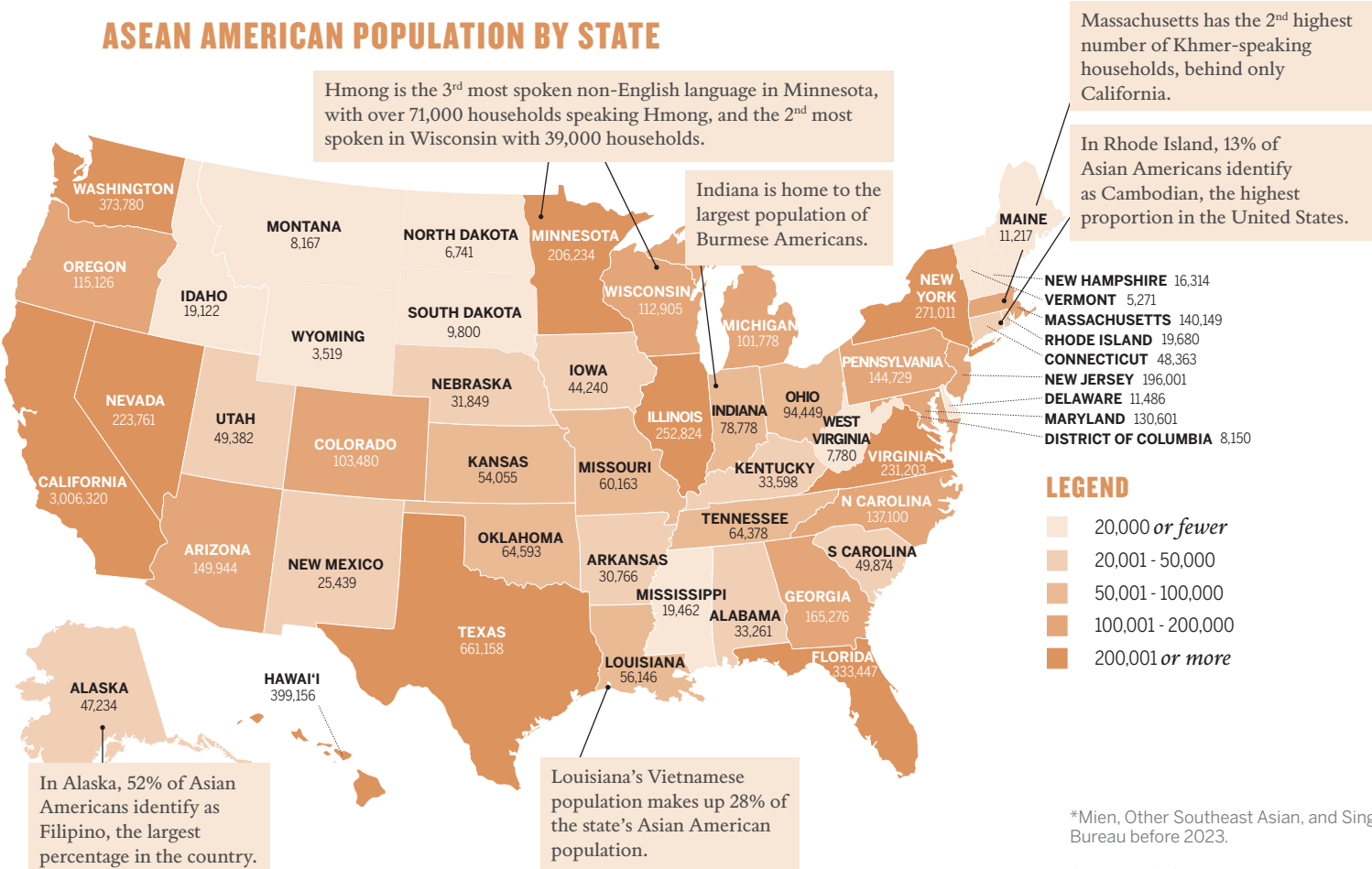


* Cebuano, Hiligaynon, Ilocano, Ilongot
Sources: Individual university websites; Association for Asian Studies; Modern Language Association, Language Enrollment Database, 2021 data, Enrollments in Languages Other Than English in US Institutions of Higher Education, Fall 2021 report; Fulbright Scholar Directory; Fulbright Grantee Directory; US Mission to ASEAN

Over Eight Million Americans Identify Themselves With an ASEAN Ethnicity

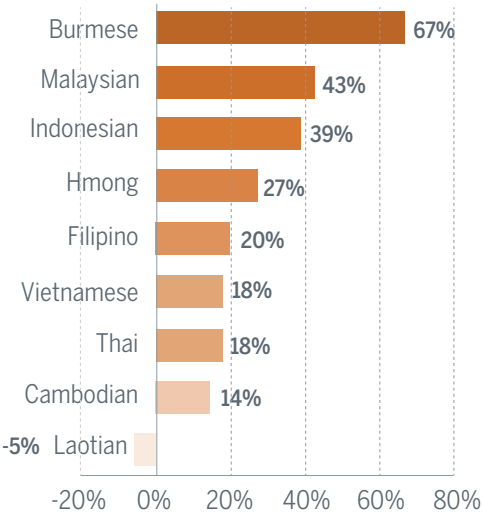
Of the estimated 25 million Asian Americans in the United States, 34% or more than 8 million identify themselves with one of 12 ASEAN ethnicities tracked by the US Census Bureau. Filipino Americans and Vietnamese Americans are the largest of those ethnic groups, with populations of 4 million and 2 million, respectively. Tagalog (including Filipino) is the 3rd most spoken non-English language in American households after Spanish and Chinese, and Vietnamese is the 4th most common. Hawai'i, California, Nevada, Alaska, and Washington have the highest percentage of populations who identify with an ASEAN ethnicity.

ASEAN AMERICAN POPULATION BY STATE



Immigrants from ASEAN member states account for over 11% of all naturalizations in the United States, and 31% of naturalizations by Asians. For the past decade, the Philippines and Vietnam have consistently been among the top seven countries of birth for new American citizens.

ASEAN ETHNICITY IN THE US POPULATION GROWTH SINCE 2015*



ASEAN AMERICAN SHARE OF STATE POPULATION		
1	Hawai'i	28%
2	California	8%
3	Nevada	7%
4	Alaska	6%
5	Washington	5%
6	Minnesota	4%
7	Oregon	3%
8	Virginia	3%
9	Texas	2%
10	Maryland	2%

*Mien, Other Southeast Asian, and Singaporean population groups were not tracked by the US Census Bureau before 2023.

Sources: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2023 Burmese, Cambodian, Filipino, Hmong, Indonesian, Laotian, Malaysian, Mien, Other Southeast Asian, Singaporean, Thai, and Vietnamese five-year estimates; DHS Bureau of Immigration Statistics, 2022 data

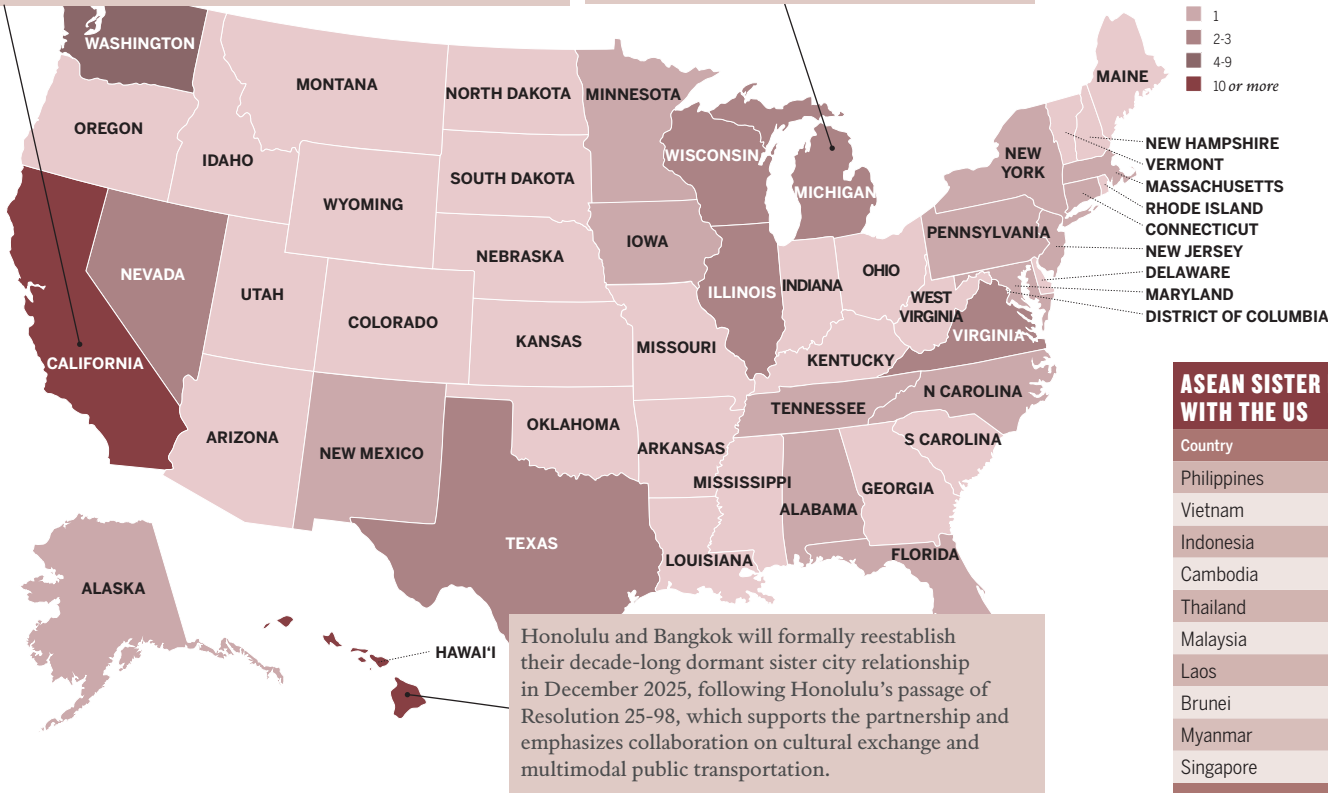
The United States and ASEAN Share 110 Sister Partnerships and 5 Friendship Cities

Sister partnerships are local collaborations formed between US cities, counties, provinces, or states with their counterparts abroad. These partnerships foster connections among communities and promote people-to-people, economic, and cultural exchanges. Across eight ASEAN nations, there are established ties with 24 US states and the District of Columbia, including 81 sister city, 19 sister county, 10 sister state, and five friendship city connections.

US SISTER RELATIONSHIPS WITH ASEAN

Long Beach, California — home to the largest Cambodian diaspora outside of ASEAN and a sister city to Phnom Penh since 1993 — hosts an annual Khmer New Year Parade. First held in 2005, it was the first Cambodian parade outside of Cambodia.

Sterling Heights has the highest number of sister cities of any city in Michigan. Among its eight sister city partnerships, two are with cities in the Philippines: Legazpi and Sorsogon.



Honolulu and Bangkok will formally reestablish their decade-long dormant sister city relationship in December 2025, following Honolulu's passage of Resolution 25-98, which supports the partnership and emphasizes collaboration on cultural exchange and multimodal public transportation.

Source: Visit Long Beach, The Guardian, Honolulu City Council, The Nation Thailand, and The Gander

SELECTED STORIES

FORT WAYNE, IN AND MAWLAMYINE, MYANMAR (FRIENDSHIP CITY EST. 2016)

Home to the largest Burmese population in the United States, Fort Wayne established a friendship city partnership with Mawlamyine in 2016 to reflect and strengthen its deep cultural ties with Myanmar. The collaboration has focused on educational exchange, including in-person English language instruction at Mawlamyine University, teacher and student exchanges, and a formal agreement signed with Purdue University Fort Wayne to expand academic cooperation. Despite the pandemic and political challenges in Myanmar, the cities have maintained virtual engagement, and in early 2024, a MOU was signed to deepen collaboration in education and civic projects. Opened in 2015, the city is also home to the first Burmese mosque in the United States, and at the time, the first new Burmese mosque built worldwide in over 40 years. Both cities continue to work towards formalizing a sister city relationship, which would mark the first such US partnership with a city in Myanmar.

FORT WORTH, TX AND BANDUNG, INDONESIA (SISTER CITY EST. 1990)

Founded in 1990, the sister-city partnership between Fort Worth and Bandung was the first ever between a US and Indonesian city. Originating from mutual economic interests involving aerospace trade, the relationship has grown beyond commerce to emphasize cultural exchange, youth dialogue, and international cooperation. Fort Worth has hosted biannual student delegations, youth summits, and educational programs like the Global Leadership Academy and Ambassador School Program since the initial agreement. The partnership also prioritizes disaster preparedness, with knowledge exchanges between emergency professionals resulting in national recognition for innovation in public safety. These efforts not only strengthened public health preparedness but also fostered meaningful diplomacy between American and Muslim communities in the post 9/11 era. In 2011, Bandung sent a delegation of firefighters to Fort Worth to observe best practices in emergency response and bring valuable insights back to Bandung, where just two fire stations serve over 2 million residents.

ASEAN SISTER RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE US

Country	Connections
Philippines	78
Vietnam	9
Indonesia	7
Cambodia	6
Thailand	6
Malaysia	3
Laos	1
Brunei	0
Myanmar	0
Singapore	0
TOTAL	110

ROCHESTER, MN AND TBOUNG-KHMUM PROVIDENCE, CAMBODIA (SISTER CITY EST. 2025)

Recognizing the growing and vibrant Cambodian American community, Rochester formalized a sister city relationship with Tboung Khmum Providence in April 2025 during the city's annual Cambodian New Year celebration. This partnership builds on years of engagement by Rochester-area non-profits and faith-based groups supporting public health, education, and humanitarian efforts in Cambodia, including the non-profit Creating Hope 4 Cambodia and Rochester Community and Technical College's annual service-learning trips. Delegations from Rochester have previously visited Cambodia to support teacher training programs, distribute school supplies, and explore youth exchange opportunities. An upcoming Cambodian Buddhist temple in Rochester also embodies the community's rich cultural heritage and connection to their sister city.

Sources: Fort Wayne Sister Cities International; Fort Worth Sister Cities; ABC 6 News; KIMT 3 News

The Asia Matters for America Series



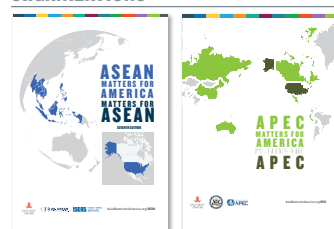
COUNTRIES



REGIONS



ORGANIZATIONS



OPINION POLLS



ASSOCIATED PUBLICATION



PUBLICATION DESIGN AND ILLUSTRATION

JEANETTE SIMMONS
Infographic and Design Specialist
East-West Center in Washington

THE ASIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA INITIATIVE

Asia Matters for America/America Matters for Asia is an interactive resource for credible and nonpartisan information, graphics, analysis, and news on US-Asia Pacific relations at the national, state, and local levels.

AsiaMattersforAmerica.org

Sources and Methodology can be found at:
AsiaMattersforAmerica.org/Sources-And-Methodology

ASEAN MATTERS FOR AMERICA/AMERICA MATTERS FOR ASEAN

US-ASEAN Business Council members contributed toward this initiative.



This project maps the trade, investment, employment, business, diplomacy, security, education, tourism, and people-to-people connections between the United States and ASEAN at the national, state, and local levels. Part of the *Asia Matters for America* initiative, this publication and the AsiaMattersforAmerica.org website are resources for understanding the robust and dynamic US-ASEAN relationship.

The *Asia Matters for America* initiative is coordinated by the East-West Center in Washington and can be contacted at:

Asia Matters for America
East-West Center in Washington
1828 L Street, NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20036 USA
Tel: (+1)202.293.3995
AsiaMatters@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 headquartered 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

