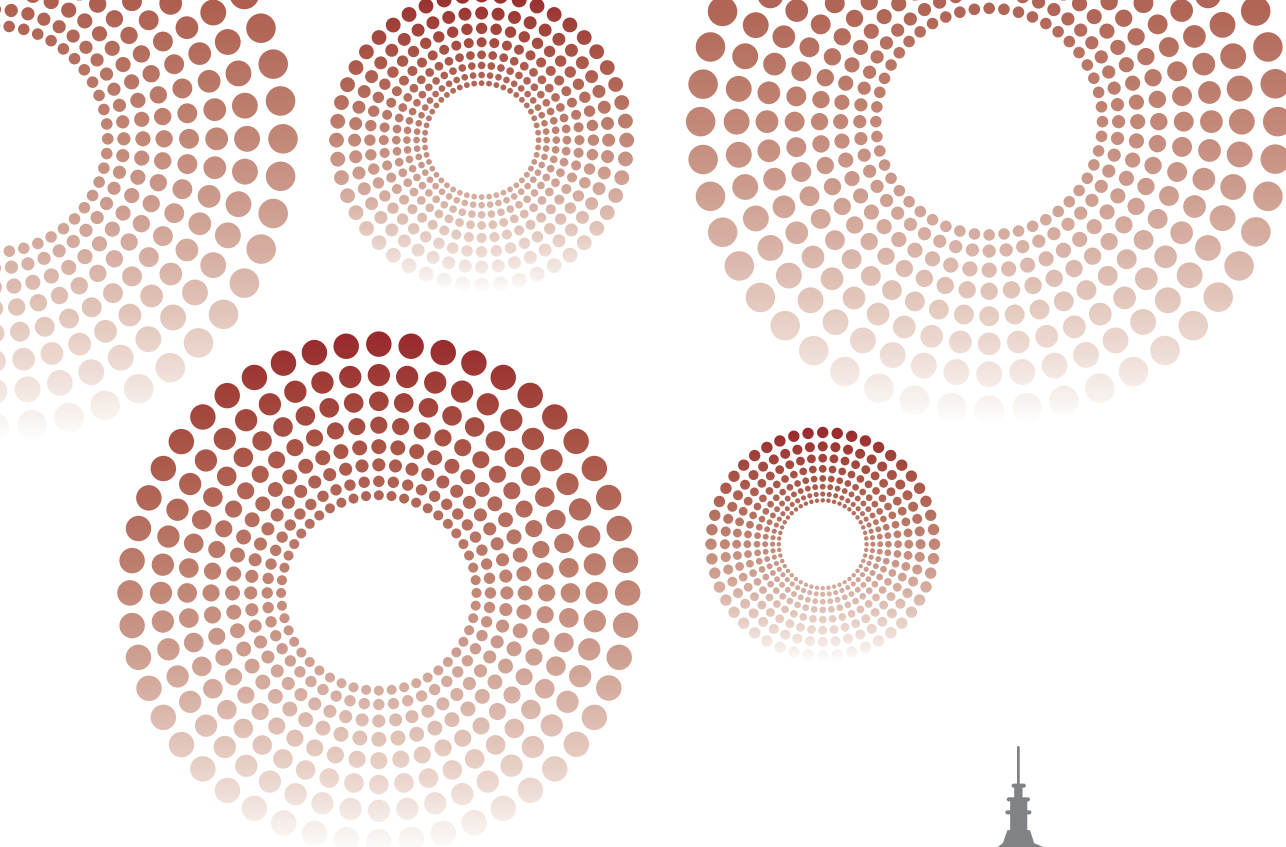


The Republic of China
At a Glance
2016



TAIWAN



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The ink drawing on the cover of the booklet, "Lily Taiwan," is part of a series titled "My Homeland" by Apex Lin, winner of the National Award for Arts in 2007. The image is intended to convey a feeling of harmony as lilies, which grow throughout the island, are a symbol of pluralism and tolerance, values cherished in Taiwan. The design of the cover features a simple layout and color arrangement, accentuating the image's strength and celebrating its originality.

TAIWAN SNAPSHOT

Official name	Republic of China
National Flag	
National Flower	
Area (Taiwan and associated islands)	36,192.8 square kilometers
Population	23.5 million (June 2016)
Appartenance ethnique	Over 95 percent Han Chinese (including Holo, Hakka and other groups that originated in mainland China), 2 percent indigenous Malayo-Polynesian peoples, 2 percent new immigrants, primarily from mainland China and Southeast Asia
Ethnicity	Multiparty democracy
President	Tsai Ing-wen
Capital	Taipei City
Special municipalities	Taipei City, New Taipei City, Taoyuan City, Taichung City, Tainan City, Kaohsiung City
National currency	New Taiwan Dollar (NT\$ or TWD)
Official language	Mandarin (Chinese)
Dialects and other languages	Holo (Taiwanese), Hakka, Austronesian languages
Major religions	Buddhism, Taoism, I-Kuan Tao, Chinese folk religions, Christianity, Islam



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TAIWAN

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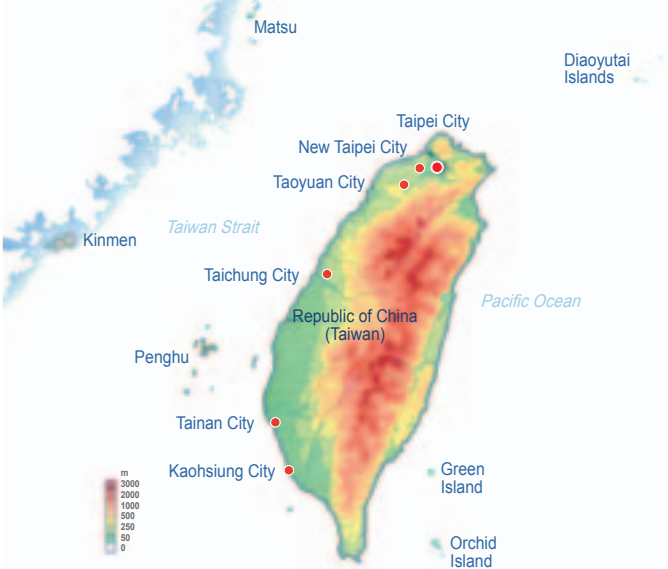
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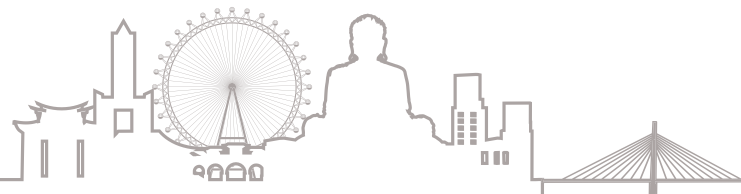
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ROC AT A GLANCE

NATURAL TAIWAN

Do You Know?

- Taiwan's Jade Mountain is the highest peak in East Asia.
 - Around 20 percent of the country's land area is protected.
-

>>>

Mt. Dabajian is located in Shei-pa National Park. Taiwan has more than 200 peaks rising to over 3,000 meters.

(Photo by Chiu Yu-hung, courtesy of Tourism Bureau)





The Republic of China, popularly known as Taiwan, is situated in the West Pacific between Japan and the Philippines. Its jurisdiction extends to the archipelagoes of Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu, as well as numerous other islets. The total area of Taiwan proper and its outlying islands is 36,192.8 square kilometers. At about the size of the Netherlands, but with a population of some 23 million, Taiwan is more populous than three-quarters of the world's nations. Taiwan proper has more than its share of natural splendor. Mountain ranges with many peaks reaching over 3,000 meters—including East Asia's highest, Jade Mountain (Yushan)—and forested foothills occupy more than half of its area. The island also features volcanic mountains, tablelands, coastal plains and basins. The Diaoyutai Islands, which lie northeast of Taiwan, and a number of islands in the South China Sea, including those in the Tungsha (Pratas), Nansha (Spratly), Shisha (Paracel) and Chungsha (Macclesfield Bank) islands, are also part of the territory of the ROC.

Sitting in the path of warm ocean currents off the east coast of continental Asia, Taiwan proper is uniquely blessed with a wide range of climatic zones from tropical to temperate. This, in combination with fertile soil and abundant rainfall, makes it an agricultural paradise, where virtually any kind of fruit or vegetable can be cultivated. It also makes the island a recreational wonderland. In the winter, one can watch the snow fall on the slopes of Hehuan Mountain in Nantou County and then travel a mere 200 kilometers to balmy Pingtung County to enjoy skin diving at coral reefs along the island's southern tip.



^^ The Taiwan yuhina is among the 670 bird species found on the island.
(Corry Chen)

The smaller islands, meanwhile, have their own unique natural features, such as the basaltic pillars on the Penghu Islands and the marine hot springs along the shores of Green Island and Guishan Island.

Flora and Fauna

Taiwan's tropical-to-temperate spectrum of climatic zones and wide range of topographies have endowed the island with a rich diversity of flora and fauna. Some 120 species of mammals, 670 species of birds, 141 species of reptiles, 65 species of amphibians,

SNAPSHOT

Land area : 36,192.8 square kilometers
Length of Taiwan : 395 kilometers
Width of Taiwan : 144 kilometers
Agricultural land : 7,998.3 square kilometers
Highest peak : Jade Mountain (3,952 meters)
Average temperature : 22°C
January : 18°C
July : 29°C

400 species of butterflies and 3,100 species of fish are known to inhabit Taiwan. The island's plant life comprises 674 species of ferns, 4,596 species of angiosperms and 34 species of gymnosperms. To protect the ecosystems in which these plants and animals reside, the government has reserved about 20 percent of the nation's land area as protected areas, comprising nine national parks and one national nature park, 22 nature reserves for special ecosystems, six forest reserve areas, 20 wildlife refuges and 37 major wildlife habitats. Among the most famous Taiwanese species of fauna is the Formosan landlocked salmon.

The fish is believed to have become trapped in the frigid mountain waters of central Taiwan during the last Ice Age when ocean levels dropped dramatically and the salmon could no longer migrate back and forth between fresh water and salt water. To protect the endangered species, the Formosan Landlocked Salmon Refuge was established in the upper reaches of the Dajia River in Shei-pa National Park.

NATIONAL PARKS



Kinmen
National Park



South Penghu Marine
National Park



Tungsha Atoll
National Park



Yangmingshan National Park

Shei-pa National Park

Taroko National Park

Yushan National Park

Taijiang National Park

Kenting National Park



ROC AT A GLANCE

PEOPLE

Do You Know?

- There are 16 officially recognized indigenous tribes in Taiwan.
 - The nation is home to more than 500,000 new immigrants, most of whom hail from mainland China and Southeast Asia.
-

>>>

Young people take a selfie on the grounds of Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memorial House in central Taipei.
(Huang Chung-hsin)



While Taiwan may be described as a predominantly Han Chinese society, with more than 95 percent of the population claiming Han ancestry, its heritage is actually much more complex than such a generalization implies. The successive waves of Chinese immigrants that began arriving in the 17th century belonged to a variety of subgroups with mutually unintelligible languages and different customs. Today in Taiwan, however, distinctions between them have become blurred as a result of extensive intermarriage and the universal use of the Mandarin Chinese language. Taiwan proper has been a melting pot not only of diverse Han subgroups, but also of indigenous Malayo-Polynesian peoples and immigrants from all over the world. Recent years, for example, have seen an influx of new arrivals from mainland China and Southeast Asia, mostly through cross-cultural marriages. Currently, the number of new immigrants is over 500,000.

There is a growing appreciation in Taiwan for the cultural legacies of the 16 officially recognized Austronesian-speaking subgroups, which constitute a little more than 2 percent of the population. Both public and private organizations are making efforts to revitalize their languages and cultures, as illustrated by the launching of Taiwan Indigenous Television and the passage of the Indigenous Peoples Basic Act.

This convergence and interplay of currents of humanity in Taiwan have helped transform it into an open-hearted, forward-looking society that has incorporated diverse elements of civilization from around the world in a distinctive and harmonious manner.

SNAPSHOT

Population : 23,508,362

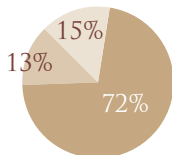
(June 2016)

Population structure :

0-14 years: 15 %

15-64 years: 72 %

65 and above: 13 %

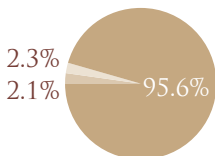


Ethnicity :

Han Chinese: 95.6 %

Indigenous peoples: 2.3 %

New immigrants: 2.1 %



Crude birth rate (2015) : 9

(per 1,000 people)

Crude death rate (2015) : 7

(per 1,000 people)

Life expectancy : 79.84 years

Male: 76.72 years



Female: 83.19 years





3-IN-1 COMMUNITY CARE

- Promote child care services in public and nonprofit facilities
- Advance community-based long-term care services for the elderly and disabled
- Create employment opportunities and promote local economies through the development of local care and medical services

SUSTAINABLE PENSIONS

- Organize national affairs conferences to discuss problems with major pension systems
- Satisfy two primary requirements, namely that the basic needs of all elderly citizens are met, and that pension schemes maintain a balance between income and expenditures
- Adhere to the following strategies: enact changes incrementally, streamline overly complex systems, appropriately raise the age of pension eligibility, and gradually move toward a reasonable income replacement ratio

PRESIDENT TSAI ING-WEN'S FIVE SOCIAL STABILITY PLEDGES

PUBLIC SAFETY



FOOD
SAFETY

- Adopt stricter food safety regulations that conform to international standards, such as ISO 22000 and the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points
- Establish a comprehensive tracking system for agricultural products
- Improve agricultural and food processing procedures

LIVING
AT EASE

- Organize or build 200,000 social housing rental units within eight years
- Ensure that new social housing units are suitable for elderly and disabled citizens
- Promote the renovation of existing homes and communities to improve accessibility for elderly residents

- Prioritize anti-drug and anti-fraud programs, as well as promote women and children's safety
- Combat organized crime and the illegal use of firearms
- Build transnational information exchange mechanisms to aid law enforcement authorities at home and abroad



ROC AT A GLANCE

HISTORY

Do You Know?

- Both Dutch and Spanish settlers established bases in Taiwan in the early 17th century.
 - Around 1.2 million people relocated from mainland China to Taiwan along with the ROC government in the late 1940s.
-

>>>

Built in 1665, the Tainan Confucius Temple is the oldest Confucian temple in Taiwan.

(Chang Su-ching)

金臺首學



The Republic of China was founded in 1912 on the Chinese mainland. At that time, Taiwan was under Japanese colonial rule as a result of the 1895 Treaty of Shimonoseki, by which the Qing court ceded Taiwan to Japan. The ROC government began exercising jurisdiction over Taiwan in 1945 after Japan surrendered at the end of World War II.

The ROC government relocated to Taiwan in 1949 after its defeat in the Chinese Civil War. Since then, the ROC has continued to exercise effective jurisdiction over the main island of Taiwan and a number of outlying islands, leaving Taiwan and the Chinese mainland each under the rule of a different government. The authorities in Beijing have never exercised sovereignty over Taiwan or other islands currently administered by the ROC.

Historical Timeline

The following timeline focuses on Taiwan's recorded history dating from about 400 years ago, although it has been home to Malayo-Polynesian peoples for many millennia.

1500s

It is commonly believed that Portuguese sailors passing Taiwan record the island's name for the Europeans as Ilha Formosa (Beautiful Island). Taiwan continues to experience visits by small numbers of mainland Chinese merchants, fishermen and pirates.

1624 The Dutch East India Company establishes a base in southwest Taiwan, employing mainland Chinese laborers to work on its rice and sugarcane plantations.

1626 Spanish adventurers establish bases in northern Taiwan, but are ousted by the Dutch in 1642.

1662 Fleeing the Manchurian conquest of Ming dynasty (1368-1644) China, Ming loyalists under Zheng Cheng-gong (Koxinga) drive out the Dutch from Taiwan and establish their authority over the island.

1683 Qing dynasty (1644-1912) forces take control of Taiwan's western and northern coastal areas.

1885 Taiwan is declared a province of the Qing Empire.

1895 Following defeat in the First Sino-Japanese War, the Qing government signs the Treaty of Shimonoseki, by which it cedes sovereignty over Taiwan to Japan, which rules the island until 1945.

1911~
1912 Chinese revolutionaries overthrow the Qing Empire and establish the Republic of China.

1943

During World War II, ROC leader Chiang Kai-shek meets with US President Franklin Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill in Cairo. After the conclusion of the conference, the Cairo Declaration is released, stating that Taiwan and the Penghu Islands should be restored to the Republic of China.

1945

The ROC, United Kingdom and United States jointly issue the Potsdam Declaration, calling for Japan's unconditional surrender and the carrying-out of the Cairo Declaration. After World War II, ROC government representatives accept the surrender of Japanese forces in Taiwan, and Taiwan is restored to the ROC.

1947

The ROC Constitution is promulgated on January 1 and is scheduled to take effect on December 25. In March and the following months, ROC troops dispatched from the mainland suppress a large-scale uprising of Taiwan residents sparked by the February 28 Incident.

1948

As civil war rages in China between the Kuomintang (KMT)-led ROC government and Chinese Communist Party rebels, the Temporary Provisions Effective During the Period of National Mobilization for Suppression of the Communist Rebellion are enacted, overriding the Constitution and greatly expanding presidential powers.

1949 The ROC central government relocates to Taipei, followed by 1.2 million people from mainland China.
October 25 sees the Battle of Kuningtou on Kinmen Island, in which the ROC Armed Forces defeat the Communists on the northwestern coast of Kinmen Island.
Martial law is declared in Taiwan and continues to be in force until 1987.

1952 The Treaty of Peace is signed between the ROC and Japan at the Taipei Guest House, formally ending the state of war between the two sides and reiterating Japan's position in renouncing all claims to Taiwan, Penghu and the Nansha (Spratly) and Shisha (Parcel) islands. The peace treaty states that the Treaty of Shimonoseki is null and void, and that the ROC has regained sovereignty over Taiwan.

1954 The ROC-US Mutual Defense Treaty is signed in Washington D.C.

1958 August 23 sees the start of an artillery duel between the ROC garrison on the Kinmen Islands and mainland Chinese forces that lasts more than 40 days.

1966 The first Export Processing Zone is established in Kaohsiung. The creation of such zones propels Taiwan toward becoming a developed nation, setting a paradigm for other countries to follow.

1968

The nine-year compulsory education system is launched at a time when fewer than nine countries globally have compulsory education systems of this length or more.

1971

The ROC loses its seat in the United Nations due to a General Assembly vote to give the China seat to the authorities in Beijing.

1979

Democracy activists demonstrating in the southern city of Kaohsiung are arrested and imprisoned following what is known as the Kaohsiung Incident, which eventually led to the formation and development of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) in 1986.

1987

Martial law, in effect since 1949, ends and bans on the formation of new political parties and news publications are lifted. Democratization goes into high gear. Cross-strait people-to-people exchanges begin.

1991

The Temporary Provisions Effective During the Period of National Mobilization for Suppression of the Communist Rebellion are abolished. From this year through 2005, the ROC Constitution undergoes seven rounds of revision. The ROC becomes a member of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation.

1992 Government-authorized representatives from across the Taiwan Strait meet for the first time in Hong Kong, and via subsequent communication reach an understanding that there exists one China, but subject to different interpretations.

1995 The National Health Insurance program begins.

1996 The ROC holds its first-ever direct presidential election, with the KMT's Lee Teng-hui and running mate Lien Chan garnering 54 percent of the vote.

2000 Chen Shui-bian and Annette Hsiu-lien Lu of the DPP are elected president and vice president, ending the KMT's more than 50-year rule and marking the first transfer of ROC government executive power in Taiwan between political parties.

2002 The ROC becomes a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

2003 The Legislative Yuan passes the Referendum Act, providing a legal basis for ROC citizens to vote directly on issues of local or national importance.

2004 The first national referendum is held in conjunction with the third direct presidential election, in which Chen and Lu are re-elected with a slight majority.

2005

The Legislative Yuan passes a constitutional amendment package, halving the number of its seats from 225 to 113 and introducing the “single-seat-district, two ballot” system for legislative elections.

2008

Ma Ying-jeou and Vincent C. Siew of the KMT are elected president and vice president of the ROC, garnering 58 percent of the vote and marking the second transfer of ROC government executive power in Taiwan between political parties.

2009

The ROC attends the World Health Assembly as an observer, marking its first participation in an activity of the United Nations since losing its seat in 1971.
President Ma Ying-jeou signs the instruments of ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

2010

The ROC inks the Cross-Straits Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement with mainland China to normalize economic and trade relations across the Taiwan Strait.

2011

The centennial of the ROC is celebrated in Taiwan.

2012

Incumbent Ma Ying-jeou and his new running mate Wu Den-yih, representing the KMT, win the election for president and vice president with 51.6 percent of the vote.

2013

The ROC signs an agreement on economic cooperation with New Zealand and an agreement on economic partnership with Singapore.

The ROC attends the 38th session of the International Civil Aviation Organization Assembly as the guest of the council's president.

2014

ROC Mainland Affairs Council Minister Wang Yu-chi holds a formal meeting with mainland China's Taiwan Affairs Office director Zhang Zhijun in Nanjing in February, marking the first official contact between the heads of the respective government agencies responsible for cross-strait relations.

A record 11,130 candidates are elected nationwide for nine categories of local government representatives in what are known as the "nine-in-one" local elections.

2015

ROC President Ma Ying-jeou and mainland Chinese leader Xi Jinping meet in Singapore in November, marking the first top-level meeting between the two sides in 66 years.

2016

DPP Chairperson Tsai Ing-wen and Chen Chien-jen are elected president and vice president of the ROC.

The DPP gains its first legislative majority after securing 68 of the 113 seats.



ROC AT A GLANCE

POLITICAL SYSTEM

Do You Know?

- In Taiwan, the president and vice president are directly elected every four years.
 - In Taiwan's legislative elections, each voter casts one ballot for their district and another for at-large seats.
-

>>>

President Tsai Ing-wen (left) and Vice President Chen Chien-jen wave to the crowd after taking their oaths of office May 20 in Taipei City.

(Ministry of Foreign Affairs)



The ROC Constitution, promulgated on January 1, 1947, did not begin to serve its intended purpose as the foundation for democratic governance and rule of law until after 1987, when martial law was lifted in Taiwan. Since then, it has undergone seven rounds of revision—in 1991, 1992, 1994, 1997, 1999, 2000 and 2005—in order to make it more relevant to the country's current condition.

One of the important consequences of these amendments is that since 1991 the ROC government has acknowledged that its jurisdiction extends only to the areas it controls. The ROC president and legislators, therefore, are elected by and accountable to the people of those areas only.

In accordance with constitutional amendments promulgated in June 2005, the number of seats in the Legislative Yuan was halved from 225 to 113 and legislators' terms were increased from three to four years. Under the new legislative election system, each electoral district elects just one seat. Each voter casts two ballots—one for the district and the other for at-large seats. The power to ratify constitutional amendments is now exercised by ROC citizens through referendums.

Levels of Government

The national government comprises the presidency and five major branches, or yuans. The local governments at present include those of six special municipalities,

13 counties and three autonomous municipalities with the same hierarchical status as counties. Beginning in 2014, all heads and representatives of local governments are popularly elected simultaneously in cities and counties across Taiwan every four years.

Special municipalities are top-level administrative entities that fall under the direct jurisdiction of the central government. The status carries with it access to greater funding and the opportunity to set up additional agencies and employ more civil servants. The six special municipalities are, in order of population, New Taipei, Kaohsiung, Taichung, Taipei, Taoyuan and Tainan.

Presidency and Premiership

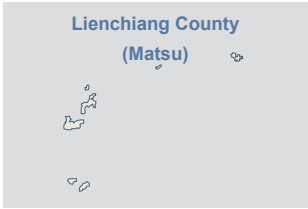
The president and vice president are directly elected, serve terms of four years and may be re-elected for one additional term. The president is head of state and commander-in-chief of the armed forces, represents the nation in foreign relations, and is empowered to appoint heads of four branches of the government, including the premier, who leads the Executive Yuan and must report regularly to the Legislative Yuan (Legislature). The heads of ministries, commissions and agencies under the Executive Yuan are appointed by the premier and form the Executive Yuan Council, commonly referred to as the Cabinet. To improve administrative effectiveness, the Executive Yuan is undergoing restructuring to reduce the number of Cabinet-level organizations from 37 to 29.

FIVE BRANCHES OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT




Executive Yuan
 Formulates and implements policies

Legislative Yuan
 Reviews and enacts legislation, conducts hearings on policy matters, examines budgetary bills and government operations

LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS



- New Taipei City
- Taoyuan City
- Hsinchu County
- Hsinchu City
- Miaoli County
- Taichung City
- Changhua County
- Penghu County 
- Tainan City
- Kaohsiung City
- Pingtung County

-  Special municipalities
-  Autonomous municipalities
-  Counties

Examination Yuan

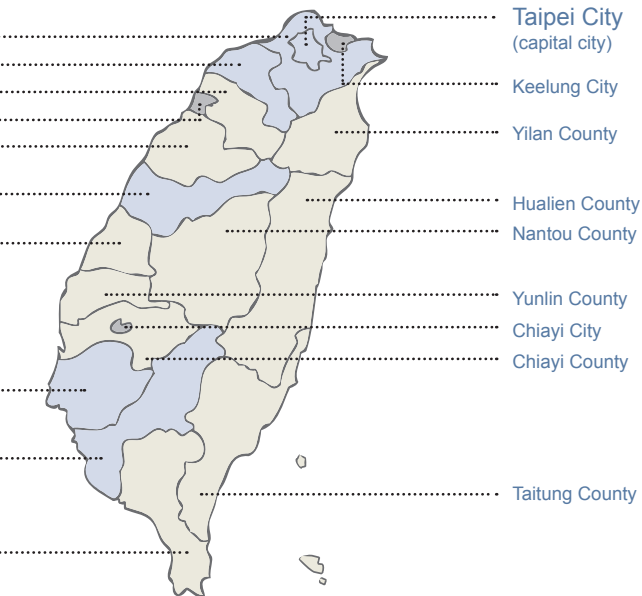
Manages the civil service system

Judicial Yuan

Operates the nation's court system

Control Yuan

Impeaches and censures officials and audits government agencies



After the reorganization, which commenced at the start of 2012, the Executive Yuan will consist of 14 ministries, eight councils, three independent agencies and four other organizations. Under the constitution, neither the president's appointment of the premier nor the premier's appointment of ministers is subject to legislative confirmation.

Presidential appointment of the members of the Control Yuan and the Examination Yuan, as well as justices of the Judicial Yuan, must be confirmed by the Legislature, however. Legislators elect the head of the Legislature, or speaker, from among their ranks.

Political Parties

Given the key role of the presidency in the overall functioning of the ROC government, the term “ruling party” denotes which political party occupies the Office of the President. The Kuomintang (KMT)—or Nationalist Party—held the presidency in Taiwan for more than five decades before the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) won the 2000 and 2004 presidential elections. The KMT regained power by winning the presidential race in 2008 and again in 2012. The DPP won the 2016 presidential election, marking the third transition of power since the country's democratization.

In the January 2016 legislative elections, the DPP gained 60 percent of the seats in the Legislature, while the KMT secured 31 percent. Other major parties that have a presence in the Legislature include the New Power Party and the People First Party.

PRESIDENT TSAI ING-WEN'S

FIVE MAJOR POLITICAL REFORMS

Generational Justice

- * Aid young people in finding employment opportunities and starting new businesses
- * Help alleviate the burdens that housing and care for family members place on young families
- * Promote pension reform, remove red tape and shore up fiscal policy for the benefit of current and future generations

Government Institutions

- * Improve communication with citizens regarding the motivations behind government policies as well as their intended effects
- * Make information in the government's possession available to opposition parties
- * Establish "one stop" service windows on pressing issues and review outmoded personnel and organizational structures

The Legislature

- * Promote constitutional reform that will allow the will of the people to be better reflected within the Legislature; lower the threshold for parties to win legislative seats
- * Ensure that the system guarantees a neutral legislative speaker
- * Bolster legislative staffing agencies' research capabilities as well as their professionalism and nonpartisanship

Transitional Justice

- * Offer an official apology on behalf of the government for the oppression and exploitation suffered by indigenous peoples
- * Restore historical truth about past administrations' use of violence and coercion
- * Work to guarantee that no political party can benefit from inappropriately acquired assets

An End to Partisanship

- * Put a stop to social antagonism and the malicious fighting between political parties
- * Bring together those who support progressive ideas to create a reform alliance
- * Foster internal solidarity so that the world will observe a united Taiwan

ROC AT A GLANCE

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Do You Know?

- More than 160 countries and territories accord visa-free, landing visa or e-visa privileges to ROC passport holders.
 - Taiwan is the only nation included in the US Visa Waiver Program that does not maintain official diplomatic relations with the United States.
-

>>>

President Tsai Ing-wen attends the inauguration of the expanded Panama Canal in June 2016. Tsai visited Panama and Paraguay on her first diplomatic tour after taking office in May.

(Courtesy of Office of the President)





The ROC is a sovereign and independent state that maintains its own national defense and conducts its own foreign affairs. As enshrined in the ROC Constitution, the country aims to “cultivate good-neighborliness with other nations, and respect treaties and the Charter of the United Nations ... promote international cooperation, protect international justice and ensure world peace.” The ultimate goal of the country’s foreign policy is to ensure a favorable environment for the nation’s preservation and long-term development.

The ROC currently has diplomatic relations with 21 countries and substantive ties with many others. From June 24 to July 2, 2016, President Tsai Ing-wen visited ROC diplomatic allies Panama and Paraguay, her first state trip after taking office, at the invitation of their heads of state. She attended the June 26 inauguration ceremony of the Panama Canal expansion project and addressed the Paraguayan congress, in addition to taking part in other major events.

The ROC has full membership in 37 intergovernmental organizations (IGO) and their subsidiary bodies, including the World Trade Organization, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and the Asian Development Bank. It also enjoys observer or other statuses in 22 IGOs and their subsidiary bodies, including the World Health Assembly, the supreme decision-making body of the World Health Organization, as well as the Inter-American Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and committees of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.



^ A specialist from Taiwan's International Cooperation and
 ^ Development Fund (right) offers medical services at a health
 station in Burkina Faso.

(Courtesy of TaiwanICDF)

In September 2013, the ROC received an invitation to attend the triennial assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), a U.N. specialized agency, after a 42-year hiatus. The United States, European nations and other major countries have backed Taiwan's participation in agencies such as ICAO and the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change. Meanwhile, as of March 25, 2016, 164 countries and territories have accorded visa-free, landing visa or e-visa privileges to ROC passport holders. Taiwan has also inked working holiday agreements with 15 countries to date.

Notably, among the 38 countries included in the US Visa Waiver Program, Taiwan is the only one that does not maintain diplomatic relations with the United States, indicating the otherwise close relationship between the

two sides. The Taiwan Relations Act passed by the US Congress in 1979 has continued to provide a strong foundation for Taiwan-US cooperation in the absence of formal diplomatic ties. In April 2014, Gina McCarthy, administrator of the US Environmental Protection Agency, came to Taiwan, marking the first visit by a US Cabinet-level official to the country in nearly 14 years.

On April 10, 2013, Taiwan signed a fisheries agreement with Japan after 17 rounds of negotiations since 1996, expanding the fishing grounds of Taiwanese vessels in waters surrounding the Diaoyutai Islands in the East China Sea. In November 2015, Taiwan and the Philippines concluded the Agreement Concerning the Facilitation of Cooperation on Law Enforcement in Fisheries Matters to safeguard the security of fishermen from both sides.

In July 2016, the Tribunal of the South China Sea Arbitration initiated by the Philippines rendered an award declaring Taiping Island a rock that does not generate an exclusive economic zone. Taiping Island is an inalienable part of the sovereign territory of the ROC and was not originally included in the Philippines' submissions for arbitration. However, the tribunal took it upon itself to expand its jurisdiction to cover the legal status of Taiping Island. Taiping, the largest naturally formed island in the Nansha (Spratly) Islands and the only one that has fresh water, can sustain human habitation and an economic life of its own. This is indisputable. The arbitral tribunal did not formally invite the ROC to participate in its proceedings, nor did it solicit the ROC's views. Therefore, the award has no legally binding force on the ROC. The ROC still

maintains full rights associated with territorial waters, a contiguous zone, an exclusive economic zone and a continental shelf in accordance with the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea. The ROC is willing to work with all States concerned to advance peace and stability in the region through multilateral negotiations conducted on the basis of equality.

Under President Tsai Ing-wen's New Southbound Policy, Taiwan is striving to broaden exchanges and cooperation with neighboring countries, in particular Association of Southeast Asian Nations member states and India, in such areas as commerce, culture and technology.

The ROC government is committed to its approach of steadfast diplomacy, which is characterized as "unwavering and fixed in direction," or seeking to expand Taiwan's international space through sure-footed means. The policy is also defined as "firm in purpose," and is aimed at building mutually beneficial ties with countries that share Taiwan's values of freedom and democracy.

As a model citizen in global society, Taiwan will continue to promote humanitarian aid and disease control while actively participating in international efforts to tackle climate change, terrorism and transnational crime. Going forward, the nation will build lasting partnerships with allied and friendly countries through fostering governmental interactions, business investment and people-to-people exchanges, and work with its partners around the world to uphold and promote the universal values of peace, freedom, democracy and human rights.

ROC AT A GLANCE

CROSS-STRAIT RELATIONS

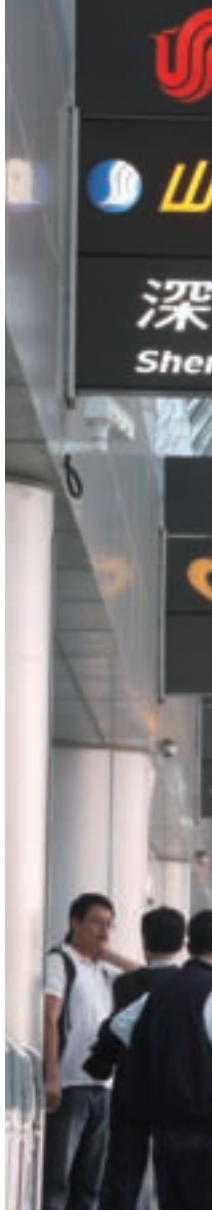
Do You Know?

- In December 1987, Taiwan lifted the ban on travel to mainland China for those with close relatives there.
 - The full relaxation of restrictions on Taiwanese travelers visiting mainland China came into effect in December 2008 with the opening of direct flights.
-

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Signs for airlines, many of which operate cross-strait routes, are pictured at Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport. Regularly scheduled cross-strait flights commenced in 2009.

(Chuang Kung-ju)




AIR CHINA
中国国际航空公司




CA

山东航空公司 SHANDONG AIRLINES **SC**

深圳航空
Shenzhen Airlines  **ZH**

中华航空
CHINA AIRLINES  **CI**


 **華信航空**
MANDARIN AIRLINES **AE**

UNI AIR
立榮航空  **B7**

 **AIR BUSAN**
釜山航空 **BX**

 **DRAGONAIR**
香港航空 **KA**

ANA  **NH**

Asyiah  **FD**



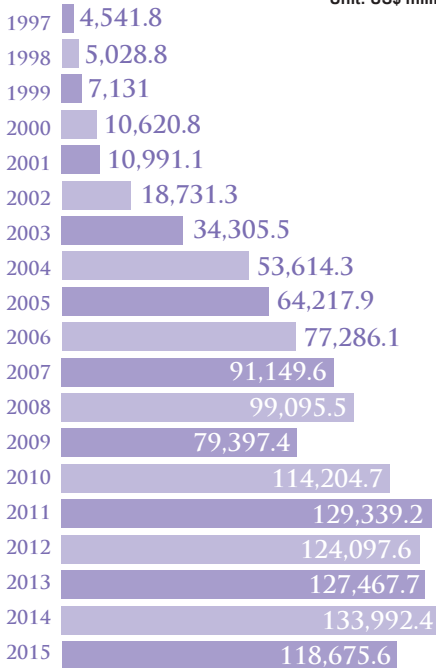
Since the ROC government relocated to Taiwan in 1949, it has exercised jurisdiction over Taiwan proper, the Penghu Islands, Kinmen Islands, Matsu Islands and a number of smaller islands, while the Chinese mainland has been under the control of the authorities in Beijing. Beginning with the acceleration of Taiwan's democratization in the late 1980s, many restrictions concerning civil exchanges with the Chinese mainland have been lifted. Today, Taiwan is one of the biggest investors in mainland China, and more than 1 million Taiwanese managerial and technical experts and their families live and work there. In 2015, mainland Chinese travelers made more than 4.1 million visits to Taiwan, compared to around 90,000 in 2008.

In June 2008, institutionalized talks between Taiwan's semi-official Straits Exchange Foundation and the mainland's Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits resumed after a 10-year hiatus. By August 2015, 11 rounds of negotiations had been held alternately on either side of the strait, producing 23 formal agreements and two consensuses. Most significant among the accords is the Cross-Straits Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA) concluded in June 2010, which aims to normalize trade and economic relations between Taiwan and the mainland.

On November 7, 2015, then President Ma Ying-jeou met with mainland Chinese leader Xi Jinping in Singapore, marking the first top-level meeting between the two sides since Taiwan and mainland China came under separate rule in 1949. Held under the principles of consolidating peace and maintaining the cross-strait status quo, the historic event bolstered efforts to

TRADE BETWEEN TAIWAN AND MAINLAND CHINA

Unit: US\$ million



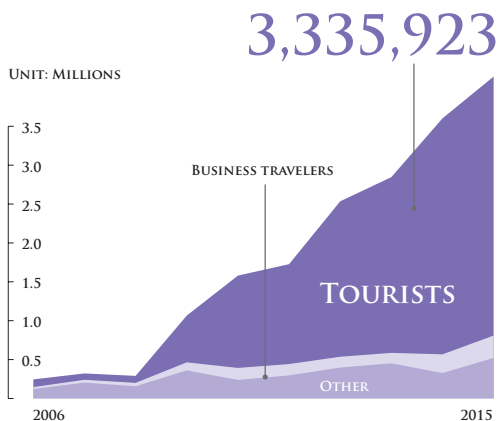
Source: ROC Customs Statistics

deepen exchanges and cooperation across the Taiwan Strait.

In order to promote thorough domestic reforms, the country requires a peaceful, stable external environment, especially with regard to relations with mainland China. President Tsai Ing-wen, since taking office in May 2016, has worked to build a consistent, predictable and sustainable cross-strait relationship based on existing realities and political foundations.

In 1992, the two institutions representing each side of the strait—Taiwan's Straits Exchange Foundation and mainland China's Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits—reached various joint acknowledgements and understandings. The accumulated outcomes that have resulted from interactions and talks since that time should be sustained by both sides.

The ROC government will continue to promote cross-strait ties based on the historical fact of the 1992 talks; the ROC constitutional order; the Act Governing Relations Between the People of the Taiwan Area and the Mainland Area; and the will of the Taiwanese people.

MAINLAND CHINESE
VISITORS TAIWAN

Source: National Immigration Agency, Ministry of the Interior, ROC

ROC AT A GLANCE

ECONOMY

Do You Know?

- Taiwan climbed three places to become the world's 17th largest exporter of merchandise in 2015.
 - The nation signed free trade deals with New Zealand and Singapore in 2013.
-

>>>

Taiwan, a major force in the global information and communications technology sector, is home to one of the world's tallest buildings, Taipei 101.

(Photo by Chiang Huei-mei, Courtesy of Tourism Bureau)



Taiwan occupies an important position in the global economy. It is a top player in the world's information and communications technology (ICT) industry as well as a major supplier of goods across the industrial spectrum.

According to the World Trade Organization, it was the 17th-largest exporter and 18th-largest importer of merchandise in 2015. It was also the fifth-largest holder of foreign exchange reserves as of March 2016. Taiwan's gross domestic product (GDP) per capita reached US\$22,317 in 2015. In terms of nominal GDP, Taiwan ranks close to Argentina and Sweden, while Taiwan's GDP per capita expressed as purchasing power parity is similar to that of Australia and Germany.

After weathering the global financial crisis through 2009, Taiwan's export-oriented economy took another hit in the second half of 2011 attributable to the eurozone debt crisis and financial deleveraging in developed countries. However, the situation has since improved, and statistics indicate that in 2014 Taiwan's overall exports and imports rose 2.7 percent and 1.6 percent, respectively, while its economy expanded 3.92 percent, the highest rate since 2012, over the previous year. Due to continued global economic headwinds, however, Taiwan's economy grew only 0.75 percent and its overall trade volume decreased by 13.2 percent in 2015.

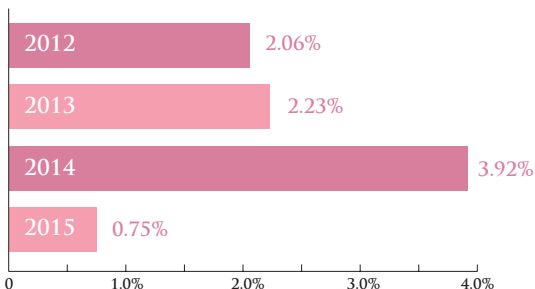
Authoritative annual surveys of the world's economies—including those conducted by the World Economic Forum, Business Environment Risk Intelligence and the Economist Intelligence Unit—have ranked Taiwan among the world's top nations year after year with respect to long-term growth and technological development. Results announced in

2015 were no exception (see table “Global Survey Rankings”).

In July 2013, the ROC signed the Agreement between New Zealand and the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu on Economic Cooperation (ANZTEC). The high-quality economic cooperation pact is Taiwan's first with a member of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. In November the same year, a similar pact, the Agreement between Singapore and the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu on Economic Partnership (ASTEP), was signed between the ROC and Singapore. It is Taiwan's first such accord with a trading partner in Southeast Asia. Both ANZTEC and ASTEP go beyond World Trade Organization requirements.

Taiwan has also completed research with both Indonesia and India on the feasibility of an economic cooperation agreement (ECA), with the results released

ECONOMIC GROWTH RATES



Source: Directorate-General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics

in Jakarta in December 2012 and in New Delhi in September 2013, respectively. Developments such as ANZTEC, ASTEP and the ECAs are expected to facilitate the country's participation in such regional economic integration blocks as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

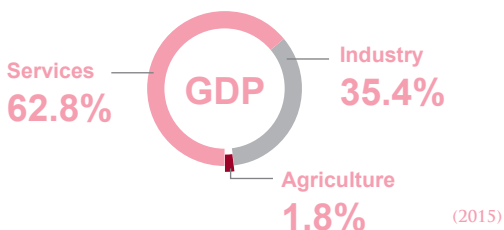
Since May 2016, Taiwan has adopted a “New Model for Economic Development” that seeks to boost the nation's growth by promoting innovation, increasing employment and ensuring the equitable distribution of economic benefits. Under this model, Taiwan is striving to strengthen its global and regional connections through initiatives such as the “New Southbound Policy,” which aims to diversify the nation's international markets by expanding links with members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations as well as countries in South Asia. Taiwan also intends to actively participate in

SNAPSHOT

GDP (nominal): US\$523 billion (22th in the world)

GDP per capita (nominal): US\$22,317 (33th in the world)

GDP (PPP) per capita (by IMF): US\$47,407 (16th in the world)



TRADE AND INVESTMENT PROFILE (2015)

Total trade volume: US\$522.5 billion

Exports: US\$285.3 billion

Imports: US\$237.2 billion

Trade balance: US\$48.1 billion surplus

TOP EXPORT DESTINATIONS:

ASEAN 18.1 %

United States 12.1 %

European Union 8.4 %

Japan 6.8 %

Mainland China
(including Hong Kong)

39.4 %

Others

TOP IMPORT SOURCES:

Japan 16.3 %

United States 12.3 %

ASEAN 12.2 %

European Union 9.9 %

Mainland China
(including Hong Kong)

19.7 %

Others

Foreign exchange reserves: US\$431.6 billion

(among the top five in the world as of March 2016)

Registered outward investment: US\$21.6 billion

• Top five destinations

US\$10.9 billion	Mainland China
US\$2.89 billion	British Territories in the Caribbean
US\$1.7 billion	United Kingdom
US\$1.22 billion	Vietnam
US\$774.9 million	Thailand

Registered inward investment: US\$5 billion

• Top five destinations

US\$1.46 billion	British territories in the Caribbean
US\$453.4 million	Japan
US\$422.6 million	United Kingdom
US\$422.1 million	Samoa
US\$371 million	Hong Kong

negotiations for free trade agreements including the TPP and RCEP.

In order to enhance the nation's global competitiveness, the New Model for Economic Development prioritizes the promotion of five major innovative industries, namely biotech and pharmaceuticals, green technology, national defense, smart machinery, and the development of the Asian Silicon Valley in northern Taiwan's Taoyuan City.

GLOBAL SURVEY RANKINGS

Topic of Survey (Date of Publication)	Rank
World Competitiveness Scoreboard (May 2016)	14
Investment climate (August 2016)	3
Networked Readiness Index 2014 (April 2016)	19
Index of Economic Freedom (January 2016)	14
2015 Legatum Prosperity Index (November 2015)	21
Ease of Doing Business (October 2015)	11
Global Competitiveness Index 2015-2016 (September 2015)	15

Under this approach, the government aims to boost wage levels and foster regional development. As it works to cultivate innovative industries, Taiwan's government is committed to protecting the environment. With this in mind, the new economic model seeks to fully integrate industrial restructuring, national land-use planning and regional growth strategies to foster sustainable development. It also promotes the use of green energy resources and sets the nation on a path toward achieving a circular economy.

**Countries
Surveyed**
Surveying Institution

61

**International Institute for
Management Development**

50

**Business Environment
Risk Intelligence**

139

World Economic Forum

186

**Heritage Foundation
& The Wall Street Journal**

142

Legatum Institute

189

World Bank

140

World Economic Forum



ROC AT A GLANCE

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Do You Know?

- Taiwan is one of the world's leading producers of information and communications technology products.
 - World Economic Forum ranks Taiwan 15th out of 140 economies in its most recent Global Competitiveness Report in September 2015.
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An employee at a functional beverage manufacturer in southern Taiwan's Pingtung Agricultural Biotechnology Park inspects some products. Taiwan's international competitiveness owes much to its research expertise.

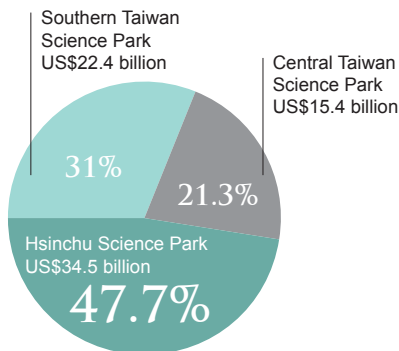
(Huang Chung-hsin)



In April 2014, the National Science Council, which was established to strengthen academia-industry links, support academic research and develop Taiwan's science parks, was reorganized and renamed as the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST). While continuing its predecessor's innovative measures and programs, the MOST aims to focus academic research on the needs of industry as Taiwan relies on the science and technology sector as a key driver of economic growth and national progress.

The success of Taiwan's high-tech enterprises is largely attributable to the government's generous funding for applied scientific development. With government

TURNOVER OF FIRMS IN TAIWAN'S THREE MAJOR SCIENCE PARKS (2015)



Source: Ministry of Science and Technology

support, the Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI), the National Applied Research Laboratories and the Institute for Information Industry (III) all played important roles in jumpstarting the nation's rise as a technological powerhouse by conducting research, supporting the establishment of science parks, aiding the private sector with R&D and exploring new technologies.

The ITRI has been instrumental in establishing several companies that have gone on to command prominent positions in the global marketplace, including Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. and United Microelectronics Corp., which are among the world's top custom integrated circuit chipmakers. The institute's innovative prowess is best illustrated by the fact that in the past eight years it has won a total of 22 R&D 100 Awards, highly prestigious honors given out by US-based R&D Magazine. Most of these award-winning technologies have been licensed to ITRI's partners, including Taiwan Cement Corp. and WiseChip Semiconductor Inc.

The III strives to boost Taiwan's global competitiveness by developing the country's information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure, and plays a key role in promoting ICT in both the public and private sectors. To that end, the III serves as a think tank on ICT policy, conducts extensive research and provides training. The institute has also played a role in facilitating the development of 226 tech startups through its annual IDEAS Show since 2008.

PRODUCTION VALUE & GLOBAL SHARE OF TAIWAN-MADE PRODUCTS & SERVICES (2014)

No. 1 Worldwide

Category	Production Value (US\$ million)	Quantity	Global Share (%)
Custom IC fabrication	28,863		68.54
IC testing & packaging	13,753		50.5
Fiberglass cloth	705		32.6
Chlorella		841 tons	49.3
Functional fabrics	4,548		28.18
High-end bicycles		3,470,000	44

No. 2 Worldwide

Category	Production Value (US\$ million)	Quantity	Global Share (%)
Personal navigation devices	1,174		48.67
IC substrates	2,242		25.7
Large-sized TFT-LCD panels	21,018		21.85
Electro-deposited copper foil	1,288		25.38
IC design	17,062		19.9
Silicon-based solar cells		9,611MW	21.3
Assistive devices (electric scooters and wheelchairs)		143,483units	21.4
Printed circuit boards	7,284		16.7

Source: Industry & Technology Intelligence Services Project, Ministry of Economic Affairs

After years of dedication by the public and private sectors toward developing technological expertise, Taiwan's science parks are now home to clusters of companies pursuing breakthroughs in fields such as ICT, biotechnology, precision machinery and nanotechnology. According to the *Global Competitiveness Report 2015-2016* released by the World Economic Forum, Taiwan ranked 28th among the 140 economies surveyed in the “technological readiness” category and 11th in the “innovation” category. It also ranked ninth in the categories of technological infrastructure and scientific infrastructure among the 61 top economies surveyed in the 2015 *World Competitiveness Yearbook*, which is compiled by the International Institute for Management Development.



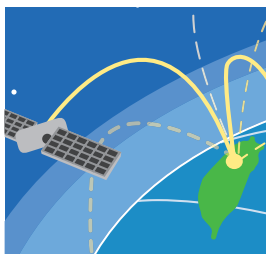
^
^
^ The world's first pink fluorescent ornamental angelfish was developed by a Taiwan public-private team in 2012 using gene transfer technology.
(Huang Chung-hsin)

FIVE MAJOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES



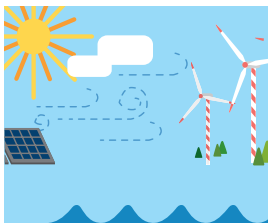
BIOTECH AND PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

- Bolster the research and development capabilities of firms in Taipei's Nangang Software Park, the Hsinchu Biomedical Science Park, Central Taiwan Science Park and Southern Taiwan Science Park, all connected via the high-speed railway system
- Utilize Taiwan's grasp of genetic structures, lifestyles and living environments in East Asia to boost the nation's position in the world's biomedical value chains
- Enhance cooperative efforts with the three major U.S. biomedical hubs of Boston, San Diego and the San Francisco Bay Area as well as with European countries such as Switzerland, Belgium, Sweden and the Netherlands



SMART MACHINERY INDUSTRY

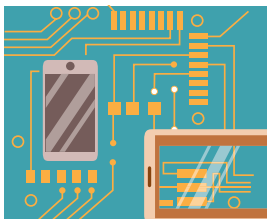
- Boost the development of the machine tools and smart machinery industries in and around Taichung City by providing assistance in areas such as talent recruitment, research and development, land acquisition and marketing
- Spur innovation so that sectors such as aviation, submarines, precision medicine and the Internet of Things can benefit from advances in smart machinery technology



GREEN TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY

- Build a sustainable energy technology park in Tainan City's Shalun area

- Facilitate energy saving through coordination among equipment suppliers, information and communications technology businesses and energy service providers
- Promote electricity generation from a wide variety of renewable sources, including solar, wind, geothermal, biofuel and marine
- Cultivate efficient energy storage through the promotion of lithium battery, fuel cell and hydrogen power use by local companies
- Help foster the creation of local businesses specializing in green energy system integration
- Make defense-related purchases that have social and economic benefits in areas such as employment, technological innovation and local business development
- Promote defense-related technologies that have applications in both the military and civilian sectors



ASIAN SILICON VALLEY

- Develop Taoyuan City into a smart technologies research and development hub
- Foster the growth of firms involved in producing Internet of Things technologies
- Enhance ties between local businesses and companies in California's Silicon Valley with a focus on technology, capital and talent
- Build an innovation and research talent exchange center near Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport that will maintain close ties with similar facilities in Silicon Valley



NATIONAL DEFENSE INDUSTRY

- Provide support to the information security industry cluster in northern Taiwan's Taipei, the aviation industry in central Taiwan's Taichung and the shipbuilding industry in southern Taiwan's Kaohsiung

ROC AT A GLANCE

EDUCATION

DO YOU KNOW?

- Taiwan implemented a 12-year compulsory education system in 2014.
 - There are 145 universities and colleges in Taiwan.
-

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A boy learns how to make shadow puppets. The handful of remaining shadow puppetry troupes in Taiwan endeavor to preserve the centuries-old art form by passing on related skills to the younger generation.

(Chin Hung-hao)



Education is strongly emphasized in the ROC and a large share of government expenditures is allocated for educational purposes. With an increasing portion of the public pursuing higher education, people with at least a junior college or university degree now account for 43 percent of Taiwan's population aged 15 and above, which is 11 percentage points more than a decade ago. To offer young students a longer period of basic learning, the Ministry of Education (MOE) in April 2012 announced plans to extend universal education in Taiwan from nine to 12 years. The new program, designed to ensure that students spend an additional three years at academically oriented senior high schools, vocational senior high schools or junior colleges, was implemented in 2014.

Every year in international competitions such as the International Science Olympiad, young people from Taiwan win distinctions in physics, chemistry, mathematics, biology and informatics.

Taiwan's successful high-tech sector continues to motivate the majority of university students to major in science and technology, but the last few years have seen a slight growth in interest in the arts, humanities and social sciences.

Taiwan's high-caliber human resources have contributed tremendously to enhancing economic prosperity and quality of life. In 2013, the MOE absorbed the former Sports Affairs Council as part of the government's efforts to promote sports for all. Taipei will host the 2017 Summer Universiade, the second-largest multi-sport competition after the Olympics.

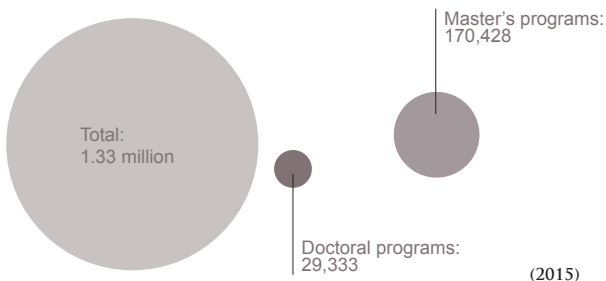
SNAPSHOT

Literacy rate (15 or older): 98.6 percent (2015)

Government outlays for education,
science and culture: 19.5 percent of central
government budget (2016)

Institutions of higher learning: 158
(145 universities and colleges, 13 junior colleges)

Students enrolled in institutions of higher learning:



Local universities, excluding those in the vocational education system, offer 135 degree programs taught in English. Both government and university scholarships are available for international students. The Taiwan Scholarship Program, for instance, offers grants to students interested in Mandarin Chinese studies as well as those who wish to pursue undergraduate or graduate degrees in diverse fields. Interested applicants may contact the ROC's embassies and representative offices or visit the MOE's website at *english.moe.gov.tw*.

A vertical strip on the left side of the page features a close-up of traditional Chinese calligraphy. The characters are written in bold, black ink on a light-colored background, showing the texture of the paper and the fluidity of the brush strokes.

ROC AT A GLANCE

CULTURE

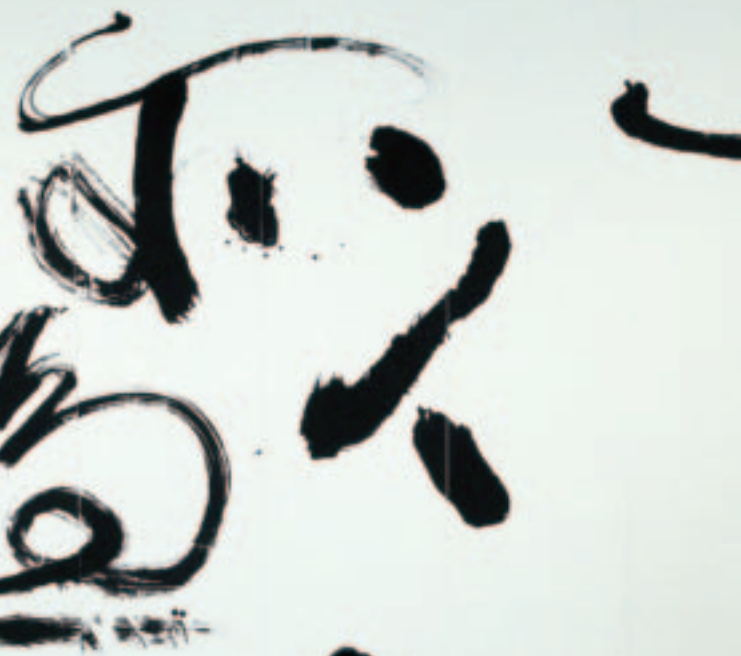
Do You Know?

- Taiwan is the center of the Mandarin-language pop music industry.
 - The National Palace Museum in Taipei contains one of the largest collections of ancient Chinese artifacts in the world.
-

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A visitor to the Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts in southern Taiwan studies a piece by prominent Taiwan calligraphy artist Tong Yang-tze.

(Huang Chung-hsin)



Taiwan is renowned for its fascinating blend of traditional and modern culture.

For a start, it is home to the National Palace Museum, famous for its collection of Chinese antiquities and one of the world's finest museums. Traditional architecture is another attraction, not only as seen in Taiwan's temples and historical residences, but also in the many old structures restored and repurposed as community centers, cafés, stores and other public spaces. In fact, many facets of traditional Chinese arts, crafts and customs are better preserved here than anywhere else in the world. Taiwan is one of the few places that still use traditional Chinese characters, for example, while calligraphy competitions and festivals are always popular events.

Traditional tenets of Buddhism, Confucianism and Taoism continue to be well represented in everything from temple celebrations to literature to the visual and performing arts. In addition, visitors can discover the heritage of the country's Holo, Hakka and indigenous peoples. Taiwan also shares its cultural riches throughout the world via programs such as the Taiwan Academy resource centers.

At the same time, Taiwan's larger cities are thriving metropolises that offer round-the-clock entertainment options. There are widely regarded modern dance troupes as well as a vibrant music scene, which is hardly surprising as Taiwan is the world capital of Mandarin-language pop music. The local television and movie industries have seen a resurgence in recent years, while the country's booming cultural and creative



^ A craftsman paints a dragon on a traditional paper lantern.
^
^ (Courtesy of Chen Wan-kun)

sector is evident in the many designer stores, markets and exhibitions that are growing in number every year.

From literary arts to folk festivals to the lively atmosphere of traditional night markets, Taiwan's traditions are closely intertwined with everyday life, forming a living culture in which the past adds vitality and depth to the present.

ROC AT A GLANCE

MASS MEDIA

DO YOU KNOW?

- There are more than 3,000 news agencies in Taiwan.
 - The nation's digital cable TV penetration rate reached 89.85 percent in 2015.
-

>>>

Taiwan's modern, spacious bookstores, some of which are open 24 hours, attract visitors from home and abroad.

(Chang Su-ching)



The diversity of Taiwan's media is reflected in the plethora of outlets and the intense competition within the industry. The vigorous press operates in a media environment that is one of the freest in Asia.

Most types of media are engaged in an industrywide transition to digital forms of distribution.

Print editions of magazines and newspapers, including the four major dailies, continue to lose ground to Internet competitors. Drawing on Taiwan's strengths in information and communications technologies, e-publishing is injecting fresh vitality into their development as well as that of the book industry, which releases over 40,000 new titles each year.

Terrestrial television switched from analog to digital broadcasting at the end of June 2012. Cable television service, available throughout all but the most mountainous areas of Taiwan, also provides digital programming.



^ Known for its dynamism and competitiveness, Taiwan's media
^ industry enjoys extensive press freedoms.
(Huang Chung-hsin)

SNAPSHOT

Radio stations: 170

Terrestrial television stations: 5

Cable television operators: 62

Satellite broadcasting companies:
116 (301 channels)

TV and radio program production and
distribution companies: 16,886

Audio (compact disc, etc.) production
companies: 15,745

Newspaper publishers: 2,628

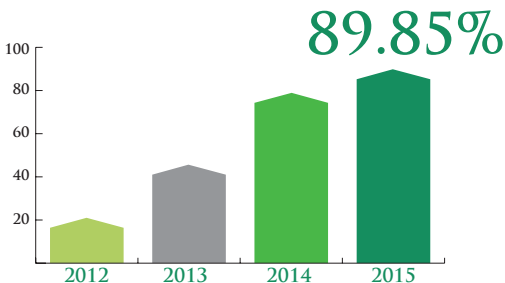
Magazine publishers: 13,350

Book publishers: 20,316

News agencies: 3,026

(2016)

DIGITAL CABLE TV PENETRATION RATE



Source: National Communications Commission

A vertical photograph of a field of Gaillardia pulchella flowers, also known as blanket flowers. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, showing vibrant red and yellow petals. The field is set against a backdrop of green trees and a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The image is split vertically, with the left side showing a blurred view of the flowers and the right side showing a sharper, more detailed view.

ROC AT A GLANCE

VISITING TAIWAN

Do You Know?

- Citizens of 48 countries can enter Taiwan visa-free for 30 or 90 days.
 - Taiwan has a 24-hour multilingual travel information hotline (0800-011-765).
-

>>>

Gaillardia pulchella, commonly known as blanket flowers, blossom in a field in Taiwan's outlying Penghu County.

(Yeh Ming-yuan)



With its unique fusion of cultures, breathtaking scenery, diverse cuisine, exciting city life and well-developed hospitality industry, Taiwan is the ideal destination for various types of travelers. Citizens of 48 countries are eligible for visa-exempt entry for a period of 30 or 90 days.

In addition to about 1,100 kilometers of conventional railway lines, Taiwan has a 345-kilometer high-speed rail system along its west coast. The high-speed trains allow travel between Taipei and Kaohsiung in 96 minutes. These two cities are also equipped with mass rapid transit systems that greatly help facilitate metropolitan transportation.



^ The bikeway circling Sun Moon Lake in Nantou County, central
^ Taiwan was named one of the world's most breathtaking cycling
routes by US-based travel website CNNGo in 2012.
(Huang Chung-hsin)

MAJOR FESTIVALS & EVENTS

Month	Location	Festival/Event*
Jan.	Islandwide	New Year's Eve Celebrations
Feb.	New Taipei City Tainan City Taoyuan City	Pingxi International Sky Lantern Festival Tainan Yanshui Beehive Fireworks Festival The Taiwan Lantern Festival
Apr.	Kaohsiung City Taichung City Islandwide Penghu County	Songjiang Battle Array(folk performances) Mazu International Festival (religious pilgrimage) Hakka Tung Blossom Festival Penghu Ocean Fireworks Festival
May	New Taipei City	Fulong Sand Sculpture Art Festival
June	Changhua County	Lukang Dragon Boat Festival
July	Taitung County New Taipei City Matsu Islands	Taiwan International Balloon Fiesta Hohaiyan Gongliao Rock Festival Matsu Tern-watching Tour
Aug.	Miaoli County	Sanyi International Woodcarving Art Festival
Sept.	Nantou County	Sun Moon Lake International Swimming Carnival
Oct.	Islandwide Tainan City	Taiwan Hot Spring & Fine-Cuisine Carnival Kunshen Wangye's Salt for Peace Festival (folk culture)
Nov.	Islandwide Taitung County Hualien County	Taiwan Cycling Festival Taiwan Open of Surfing Taroko Gorge Marathon
Dec.	Chiayi City	Chiayi City International Band Festival

*For more information, please visit the Tourism Bureau's website at www.taiwan.net.tw or eventaiwan.tw/en/.

**The Taiwan Lantern Festival is held in a different city or county each year. It will be held in Yunlin County in 2017.

MAJOR TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

Northern Taiwan

National Palace Museum: www.npm.gov.tw

Taipei 101: www.taipei-101.com.tw

Yingge Ceramics Museum: www.ceramics.ntpc.gov.tw

Shilin Night Market: eng.taiwan.net.tw

National Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall:

www.cksmh.gov.tw

Lungshan Temple: www.lungshan.org.tw

Yangmingshan National Scenic Area:

www.ymsnp.gov.tw

Northeast and Yilan Coast National Scenic Area:

www.necoast-nsa.gov.tw

North Coast and Guanyinshan National Scenic Area:

www.northguan-nsa.gov.tw

Central Taiwan

Sun Moon Lake National Scenic Area:

www.sunmoonlake.gov.tw

Formosan Aboriginal Culture Village:

www.nine.com.tw

Tri-Mountain National Scenic Area:

www.trimt-nsa.gov.tw

**National Taiwan Craft Research and
Development Institute:** www.ntcri.gov.tw

Lukang Township: www.lukang.gov.tw

National Museum of Natural Science:

www.nmns.edu.tw

Yushan (Jade Mountain) National Park:

www.ysnp.gov.tw

Eastern Taiwan

Taroko National Park: www.taroko.gov.tw

Taiwan Forest Recreation Areas:

recreation.forest.gov.tw

East Coast National Scenic Area:

www.eastcoast-nsa.gov.tw

East Rift Valley National Scenic Area:

www.erv-nsa.gov.tw

Southern Taiwan

Kenting National Park:

www.ktnp.gov.tw

Alishan (Mount Ali) National Scenic Area:

www.ali-nsa.net

Siraya National Scenic Area:

www.siraya-nsa.gov.tw

Outlying Islands

Penghu National Scenic Area:

www.penghu-nsa.gov.tw

Matsu National Scenic Area:

www.matsu-nsa.gov.tw

Green Island and Orchid Island:

tour.taitung.gov.tw

International Trade Shows

The Taiwan External Trade Development Council organizes trade shows throughout the year encompassing the entire spectrum of industries. Major venues include the Taipei World Trade Center Exhibition Halls in downtown Taipei and Nangang Exhibition Hall in suburban Taipei, and the Kaohsiung Exhibition Center in southern Taiwan. For more details, please see www.taiwantradeshows.com.tw

General Information for Visitors

The ROC government maintains numerous websites and hotlines to provide foreign nationals with information about traveling, living and working in Taiwan.

Website/Hotline	Languages
Taiwan Tourism Bureau <i>www.taiwan.net.tw</i>	Dutch, English, French, German, Japanese, Korean, Spanish
Travel Information Hotline 0800-011-765 (24 hours)	Mandarin, English, Japanese, Korean
Information for Foreigners <i>iff.immigration.gov.tw</i>	Chinese, English
International Community Service Hotline 0800-024-111 (24 hours)	Mandarin, English, Japanese

Currency

National currency: New Taiwan Dollar (NT\$ or TWD)

Exchange rate: NT\$32 per US\$1 (December 2015)

Time Differential

All territories in same time zone, UTC + 8 hours

(no seasonal adjustments)

Credit Cards & Travelers' Checks

Major credit cards are widely accepted. Travelers' checks can be cashed at foreign exchange banks, hotels and tourist-oriented stores.

Tipping

Tipping is not customary in Taiwan. A 10-percent service charge is often added to room rates and meals at hotels and restaurants.

Electricity

AC 110 V / 60 Hz

Visa Information

Bureau of Consular Affairs

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Phone: (+886-2) 2343-2888

Website: www.boca.gov.tw

Customs Regulations

Customs Administration

Ministry of Finance

Phone: (+886-2) 2550-5500 ext. 2116

Website: web.customs.gov.tw

ROC AT A GLANCE

LEARNING MANDARIN

Do You Know?

- The number of foreign students learning Mandarin in Taiwan has doubled over the past decade.
 - The government's Huayu Enrichment Scholarship offers financial support to foreign students who wish to study Mandarin in Taiwan.
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Foreign students practice calligraphy at National Taiwan Normal University's Mandarin Training Center in Taipei City. There are more than 40 such university language institutes in Taiwan.

(Chuang Kung-ju)





Taiwan is home to numerous high-level institutions that offer Mandarin-language classes to nonnative speakers. Since the establishment of the Mandarin Training Center at National Taiwan Normal University in Taipei City in 1956, more than 40 university language institutes have been set up across the country. The number of foreign students attending these centers increased from 7,647 in the 2004-05 school year to 15,526 in the 2014-15 school year, according to statistics from the Ministry of Education (MOE).

The MOE offers short-term study programs for groups of overseas Mandarin teachers as well as foreign students of the language. Under these initiatives, the MOE provides subsidies to groups of teachers from abroad who wish to visit the nation to enhance their professional development and/or observe Mandarin teaching in Taiwan. The MOE also offers subsidies to groups of students to study Mandarin in the country



^ The Ministry of Education has established scholarships for
^ international students who want to study Mandarin in Taiwan.
(Huang Chung-hsin)

during the summer and winter academic breaks. Students find that in addition to being able to enjoy the benefits of modern teaching facilities, they gain a great deal of knowledge about Chinese culture by experiencing Taiwan's unique blend of tradition and modernity. Students attending classes in Taiwan can also learn traditional and simplified Chinese characters while enjoying the advantages of living in a free and democratic society.

To encourage international students to learn Mandarin in Taiwan, the MOE established the Huayu Enrichment Scholarship. This program enables foreign students to undertake Mandarin courses at affiliated language training centers around the nation, while also boosting international awareness and understanding of Taiwanese culture and society. The scholarships are awarded by Republic of China (Taiwan) representative offices or embassies based on the merits of the applicants. A monthly stipend of NT\$25,000 (US\$800) is provided to scholarship recipients. Applicants may select the duration of the scholarship, which can last for two months (summer course), three months, six months, nine months, or a maximum of one year.

A list of university Mandarin training centers and information on learning Mandarin in Taiwan can be found on the websites of the MOE (<http://english.moe.gov.tw>), the Foundation for International Cooperation in Higher Education of Taiwan (www.fichet.org.tw), the World Chinese Language Association (www.wcla.org.tw), and the Association of Teaching Chinese as a Second Language (www.atcsl.org).

