

TAIWAN

THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA AT A GLANCE

2017

TAIWAN SNAPSHOT

Official name	Republic of China (Taiwan)
National Flag	
National Flower	
Area (Taiwan and outlying islands)	36,197 square kilometers
Population	23.55 million (April 2017)
Ethnicity	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
Government	Multiparty democracy
President	Tsai Ing-wen
Capital	Taipei City
Special municipalities	Taipei, New Taipei, Taoyuan, Taichung, Tainan, Kaohsiung cities
National currency	New Taiwan dollar (NT\$ or TWD)
Languages	Mandarin (Chinese), Holo (Taiwanese), Hakka, Austronesian languages
Major religions	Buddhism, Taoism, I-Kuan Tao, Chinese folk religions, Christianity, Islam

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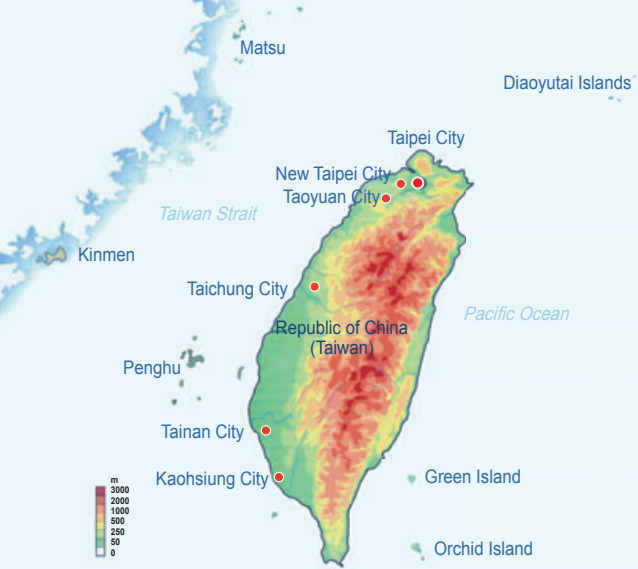
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NATURAL TAIWAN

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.

The Republic of China (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 around 36,197 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

**The golden birdwing, *Troides aeacus formosanus*,
an endemic butterfly species (Yeh Ming-yuan)**



SNAPSHOT

Land area: 36,197 square kilometers

Length of Taiwan: 395 kilometers

Width of Taiwan: 144 kilometers

Agricultural land: 7,966.2 square kilometers

Highest peak: Jade Mountain (3,952 meters)

Average temperature: 22 C

January: 18 C

July: 29 C

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 smaller islands, meanwhile, have their own unique natural features, such as the basalt 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, 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 Taiwan species of fauna is the Formosan landlocked salmon (*Oncorhynchus masou formosanus*). 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



PEOPLE

DO YOU KNOW?

- There are 16 officially recognized indigenous tribes in Taiwan.
- The nation is home to more than 520,000 new immigrants, most of whom hail from mainland China and Southeast Asia.

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. The successive waves of Chinese immigrants that began

An early morning exercise group at Xinzhuang Sports Park in New Taipei City
(Chen Mei-ling)





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 Mandarin. Taiwan 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 520,000.

There is 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 launch 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.

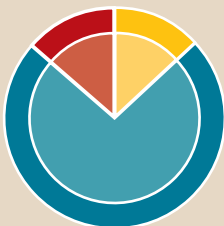
SNAPSHOT

Population: **23,547,448**

(April 2017)

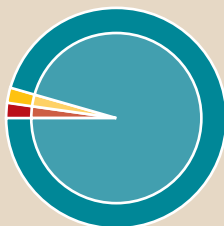
Population structure :

- 0-14 years: 13.3 %
- 15-64 years: 73.31 %
- 65 and above: 13.39 %



Ethnicity :

- Han Chinese: 95.4 %
- Indigenous peoples: 2.4 %
- New immigrants: 2.2 %



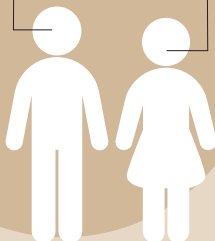
Crude birth rate (2016): **8.86** (per 1,000 people)

Crude death rate (2016): **7.33** (per 1,000 people)

Life expectancy: **80.2 years**

Male: **77.01 years**

Female: **83.62 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 care and medical services

Sustainable Pensions

- Organize national affairs conferences to discuss 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



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

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



- 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





HISTORY

DO YOU KNOW?

- 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.

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

Tainan Confucius Temple in southern Taiwan's Tainan City dates back to 1665. (Chen Mei-ling)

The ROC government relocated to Taiwan in 1949 while fighting a civil war with the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). 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 mainland China 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 European sailors passing Taiwan record the island's name 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 southwestern 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 the Ming dynasty (1368-1644), Ming loyalists under Zheng Cheng-gong (Koxinga) drive out the Dutch from Taiwan and establish 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 (1894-1895), the Qing government signs the Treaty of Shimonoseki, by which it cedes sovereignty over Taiwan to Japan, which rules the island until 1945.

1911~

Chinese revolutionaries overthrow the Qing Empire

1912

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 "...Formosa [Taiwan], and the Pescadores [the Penghu Islands], shall 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. The Chief Executive of Taiwan Province Chen Yi sends a memorandum to the Japanese governor-general of Taiwan, stating that "As the Chief Executive of Taiwan Province of the ROC, ...I restore all legal territory, people, administration, political, economic, and cultural facilities and assets of Taiwan (including the Penghu Islands)."

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 full-scale civil war rages on the mainland between the Kuomintang (KMT)-led ROC government and CCP, the Temporary Provisions Effective During the Period of National Mobilization for Suppression of the Communist Rebellion are enacted, overriding the ROC Constitution and greatly expanding presidential powers.

1949 The ROC 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 parties. It is recognized that under Article 2 of the 1951 San Francisco Treaty, Japan has renounced all rights, titles and claims to Taiwan (Formosa) and Penghu (the Pescadores) as well as the Spratly Islands and the Paracel Islands. All treaties, conventions and agreements concluded before December 9, 1941, between China and Japan have become null and void as a consequence of the war.

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 withdraws from the United Nations.

1979 Democracy activists demonstrating in the southern city of Kaohsiung are arrested and imprisoned following what is known as the Kaohsiung Incident, which eventually leads 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 and negotiations arrive at various joint acknowledgements and understandings.

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-district, two-votes 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 its withdrawal 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 (ECFA) with mainland China to institutionalize 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. Taiwan signs WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement and submits its instrument of acceptance to the organization.

2016 DPP Chairperson Tsai Ing-wen and academic 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.

POLITICAL SYSTEM

DO YOU KNOW?

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

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,

President Tsai Ing-wen, center, Premier Lin Chuan, left, and President of the Legislative Yuan Su Jia-chyuan wave to crowds during National Day celebrations Oct. 10, 2016.

(Courtesy of Office of the President)



祝中華民國 95年國慶



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 cities.

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 (Cabinet) 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. To improve administrative effectiveness, the Executive Yuan is undergoing restructuring to reduce the number of Cabinet-level organizations from 37 to 29.

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 ROC 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. Lawmakers elect the president 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) 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

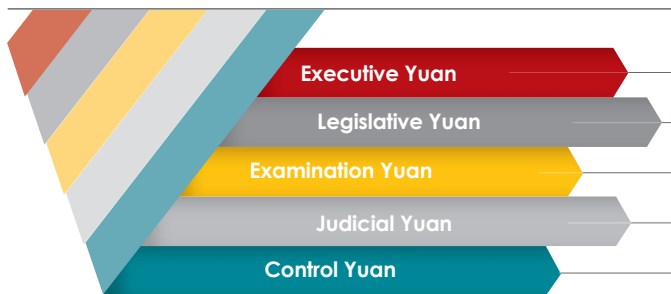
Transitional Justice

- 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

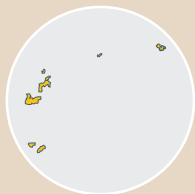
- Put a stop to social antagonism and the malicious fighting between political parties
- Bring together those who support progressive ideas to create a reform alliance
- Foster internal solidarity so that the world will observe a united Taiwan

FIVE BRANCHES OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT



LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS

Lienchiang County



Kinmen County



New Taipei City

Taoyuan City

Hsinchu County

Hsinchu City

Miaoli County

Taichung City

Changhua County

Penghu County



Tainan City

Kaohsiung City

Pingtung County

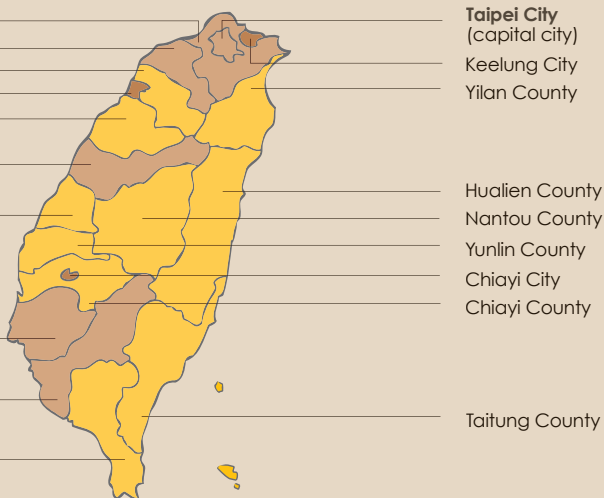
Formulates and implements policies

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

Manages the civil service system

Oversees the nation's court system

Impeaches and censures officials, audits government agencies







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.

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

President Tsai Ing-wen, left, and Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales greet the media during her state visit to the ROC diplomatic ally in January 2017.
(Courtesy of Office of the President)

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 has diplomatic relations with 20 countries and substantive ties with many others. From January 7-15, 2017, President Tsai Ing-wen visited four ROC diplomatic allies in Central America: Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala and El Salvador. During this trip, she attended the inauguration ceremony of Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and held bilateral talks with the heads of state of these countries.

The ROC has full membership in 37 intergovernmental organizations (IGO) and their subsidiary bodies, including the World Trade Organization, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, Asian Development Bank and Central American Bank for Economic Integration. It also enjoys observer or other statuses in 21 IGOs and their subsidiary bodies, including the Inter-American Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and committees of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

The ROC will, while upholding national sovereignty and dignity and advancing the welfare of the people,

engage with the international community pragmatically and professionally to contribute wherever possible. It will also seek support for its participation in United Nations specialized agencies and mechanisms focused on welfare and development such as the WHO, International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The United States, European nations and other countries have voiced support for Taiwan's participation in United Nations specialized agencies and mechanisms such as ICAO and UNFCCC.

A panel of international experts was invited to conduct a review of the second report on the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Taiwan January 16-20, 2017. The experts offered 78 opinions and recommendations with regard to the development of human rights over the past four years. International media representatives were also invited to attend and report on this process.

As of December 13, 2016, 165 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.

Notably, among the 38 countries included in the US Visa Waiver Program, Taiwan is the only one that does not

maintain official diplomatic relations with the United States, highlighting the otherwise close relationship between the two sides. The Taiwan Relations Act (TRA), 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. US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson reaffirmed the importance of the TRA by stating the US commitment to Taiwan is both a legal commitment and moral imperative in his confirmation hearing before the US Senate Committee on Foreign Relations in January 2017. Secretary Tillerson also reiterated that the US has commitments to Taiwan under the TRA and Six Assurances in response to US Sen. Marco Rubio's written question.

The ROC and the Holy See enjoy long-standing diplomatic relations and possess a shared commitment to religious freedom and humanitarian relief. Acting in line with the universal values of peace, freedom, democracy and respect for human rights, Taiwan will continue to be an indispensable partner to the Holy See and other countries in their efforts to promote love, charity and world peace.

Likewise, sharing common values such as democracy, freedom and the rule of law, Taiwan and the European Union (EU), together with other European countries, have expanded cooperation and exchanges across numerous fields such as economics, technology and culture. For instance, economic and trade ties between Taiwan and

European countries are stable and close. The EU is Taiwan's fifth-largest trading partner and largest source of foreign direct investment, with accumulated investment reaching US\$41.3 billion as of January 2017.

On April 10, 2013, Taiwan signed a fisheries agreement with Japan after 17 rounds of negotiations since 1996, expanding the fishing grounds of Taiwan 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 unilaterally declaring Taiping Island a rock that does not generate an exclusive economic zone. Taiping Island is part of the integral 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 United Nations 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's New Southbound Policy, Taiwan is striving to broaden exchanges and cooperation with the 10 Association of Southeast Asian Nations member states, six South Asian countries, Australia and New Zealand in economic and trade cooperation, talent cultivation, resource sharing and regional links. The long-term goal is to create a new type of cooperation based on mutual benefits.

The ROC government is committed to its approach of steadfast diplomacy, which aims to advance mutual assistance for mutual benefits. The policy is also defined as firm in purpose and is targeted at building robust relationships with diplomatic allies and countries that share the common values of freedom and democracy. Under this approach, the focus of ROC diplomatic work is shifting from the one-way provision of foreign aid to two-way dialogue, with bilateral cooperation projects taking into consideration the development of both industries and markets.

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 like-minded 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.

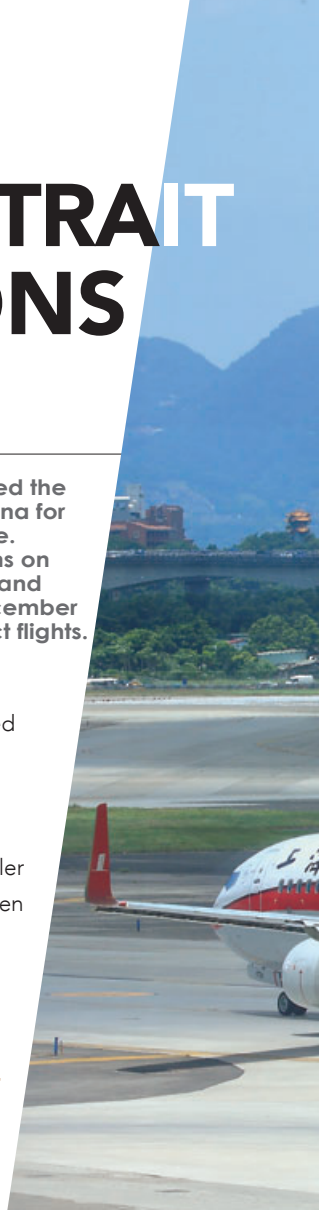
CROSS-STRAIT RELATIONS

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 Taiwan travelers visiting mainland China came into effect in December 2008 with the opening of direct flights.

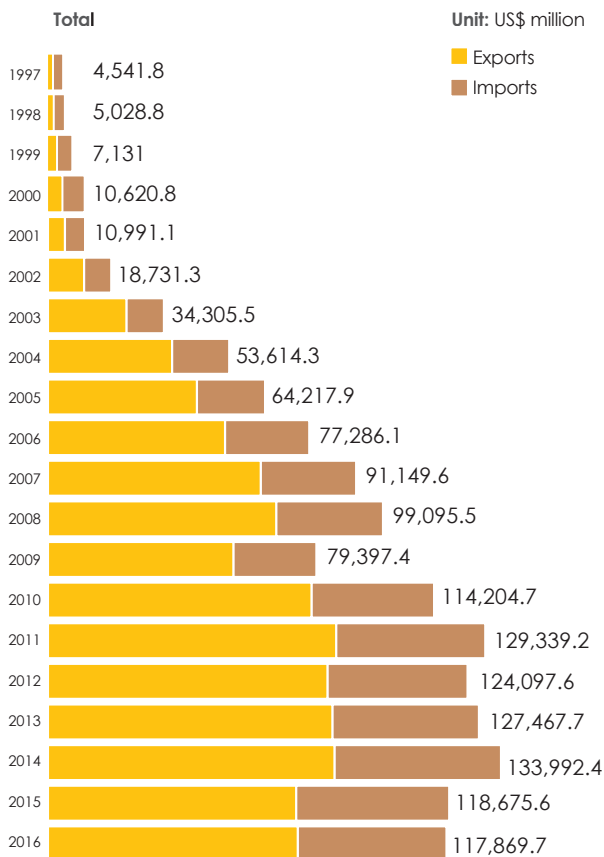
Since the ROC government relocated to Taiwan in 1949, it has exercised jurisdiction over Taiwan proper, Penghu Islands, Kinmen Islands, Matsu Islands and a number of smaller islands, while mainland China has been

A passenger aircraft from mainland China at Taipei Songshan Airport. Direct cross-strait flights were launched in 2008. (Huang Chung-hsin)





CROSS-STRAIT TRADE



Source: Customs Administration, Ministry of Finance

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 mainland China have been lifted. Today, Taiwan is one of the biggest investors in mainland China. In 2016, the value of cross-strait bilateral trade was US\$117.9 billion. In that year, travelers from mainland China made more than 3.5 million visits to Taiwan, up from 329,204 in 2008.

In June 2008, institutionalized talks between Taiwan's semi-official Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) and mainland China's Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits (ARATS) 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 institutionalize trade and economic relations between Taiwan and mainland China.

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, the SEF and ARATS, through communication and negotiations, arrived at various joint acknowledgements and understandings. This was done in a spirit of mutual understanding and a political attitude of seeking common ground while setting aside differences. The ROC government respects this historical fact. Since 1992, over 20 years of interactions and negotiations across the strait have enabled and accumulated outcomes that both sides must collectively cherish and sustain; and it is based on such existing realities and political foundations that the stable and peaceful development of the cross-strait relationship must be continuously promoted.

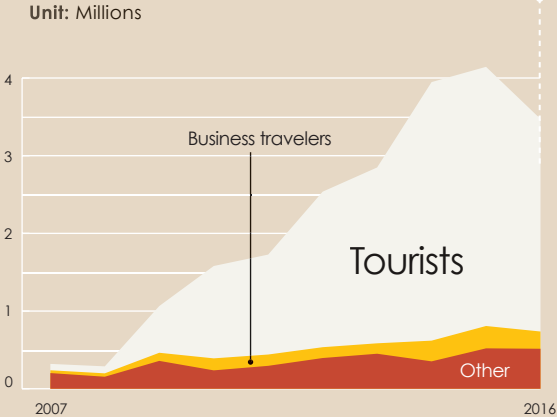
The ROC government will continue to address cross-strait ties based on the historical fact of the 1992 talks, the ROC Constitution, the Act Governing Relations Between the People of the Taiwan Area and the Mainland Area, and the will of the Taiwan people.

In addition, the ROC government calls upon the authorities of mainland China to face up to the reality that the ROC exists and that the people of Taiwan have an unshakable faith in the democratic system. The two sides of the strait should sit down and talk as soon as possible. Anything can be included for discussion, as long as it is conducive to the development of cross-

strait peace and the welfare of people on both sides. Both sides of the strait should jointly display wisdom and flexibility and, with a calm attitude, bring together a divided present toward a win-win future.

VISITORS FROM MAINLAND CHINA TO TAIWAN

3,472,673 visits



Source: National Immigration Agency, Ministry of the Interior



TAIWAN EXCO

↑ TAXI B1 metro

TAIWAN EXCELLENCE

Let your best friend go
right to your destination
with the right bike.

WHERE ASSETS MEET THE



ECONOMY

DO YOU KNOW?

- Taiwan was the world's 18th largest exporter of merchandise in 2016.
- The nation signed free trade deals with New Zealand and Singapore in 2013.

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

Taiwan is implementing a New Model for Economic Development that seeks to foster innovation-based growth. (Chen Mei-ling)

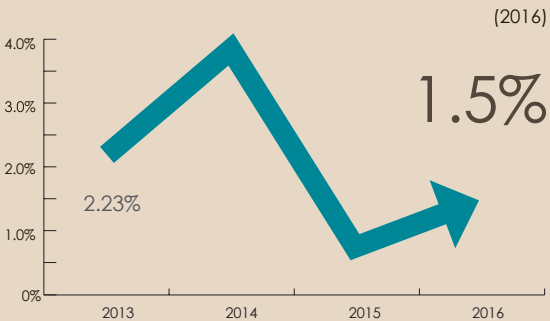
According to the World Trade Organization (WTO), Taiwan was the 18th largest exporter and 18th largest importer of merchandise in 2016. It was also the fifth largest holder of foreign exchange reserves as of March 2017. Taiwan's gross domestic product (GDP) per capita reached US\$22,530 in 2016. In terms 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 Austria and Denmark.

After weathering the global financial crisis of 2009, Taiwan's export-oriented economy took another hit in 2015, mainly due to the weak demand for global consumer electronics products, coupled with the falling price of crude oil. Taiwan's economy grew only 0.72 percent and its overall trade volume decreased by 13.2 percent in 2015. The situation has since improved, and statistics indicate that in 2016 Taiwan's overall exports and imports decreased 2.7 percent and 1.7 percent, respectively, while its economy expanded 1.5 percent, higher than 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 top nations year after year with respect to long-term growth and technological development. Results announced in 2016 were no exception (see table "Global Survey Rankings").

In July 2013, Taiwan signed the Agreement between New Zealand and the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu on Economic Cooperation (ANZTEC). This 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 Taiwan and Singapore. It is Taiwan's first such accord with a trading partner in Southeast Asia. Both ANZTEC and ASTEP go beyond WTO requirements.

ECONOMIC GROWTH RATES



Source: Directorate-General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics

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

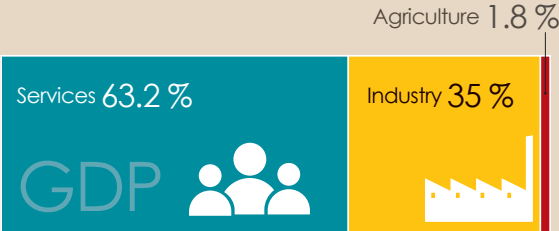
Since May 2016, Taiwan has adopted a New Model for Economic Development that seeks to boost the nation's

GDP SNAPSHOT (2016)

Nominal: US\$529 billion (22nd in the world)

Per capita (nominal): US\$22,530 (34th in the world)

PPP per capita (by IMF): US\$48,094 (21st in the world)



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 (ASEAN), as well as South Asia, Australia and New Zealand. Taiwan will continue monitoring the development of regional economic integration and seek all possible opportunities to participate in it.

In order to enhance the nation's global competitiveness, the New Model for Economic Development prioritizes the promotion of the five-plus-two innovative industries initiative, which targets the five emerging and high-growth sectors of biotech and pharmaceuticals, green energy, national defense, smart machinery and Internet of Things, as well as focuses on promotion of two core concepts: circular economy and a new paradigm for agricultural development. It also centers on the development of the Asian Silicon Valley in northern Taiwan's Taoyuan City.

To fulfill the needs of national development over the next 30 years, the government is promoting the Forward-looking Infrastructure Program to drive overall economic growth. The program contains eight major elements: railway development, digital infrastructure, aquatic environment,

TRADE AND INVESTMENT PROFILE (2016)

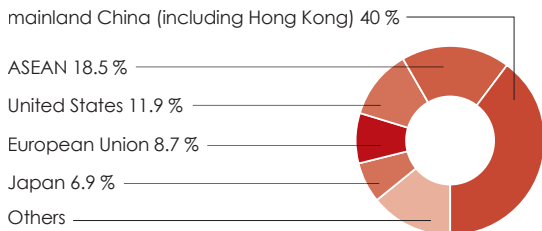
Total trade volume: US\$510.8 billion

Exports: US\$280.3 billion

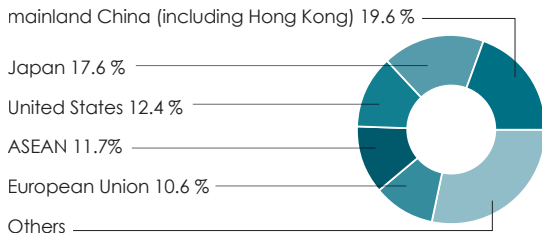
Imports: US\$230.5 billion

Trade balance: US\$49.8 billion surplus

Top export destinations:



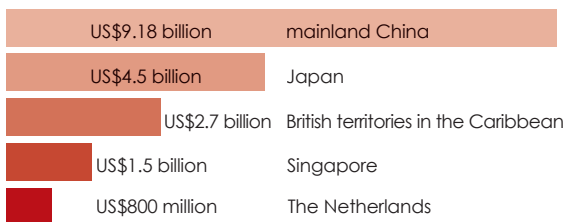
Top import sources:



Foreign exchange reserves: US\$ **437.5** billion
(fifth in the world as of March 2017)

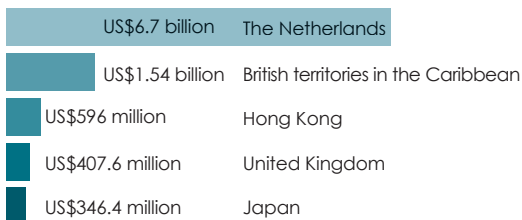
Registered outward investment: US\$21.3 billion

• **Top five destinations**



Registered inward investment: US\$11.2 billion

• **Top five sources**



food safety, green energy, urban-rural development, boosting birth rates and childcare facilities, and nurturing talent and employment.

Under this approach, the ROC government aims to boost wage levels and foster regional development. As it works

GLOBAL SURVEY RANKINGS

Topic of Survey (Date of Publication)	Rank
World Competitiveness Scoreboard (May 2017)	14
Investment climate (August 2016)	3
Networked Readiness Index 2014 (July 2016)	19
Index of Economic Freedom (February 2017)	11
Legatum Prosperity Index (November 2015)	21
Ease of Doing Business (October 2016)	11
Global Competitiveness Index 2016-2017 (September 2016)	14

to cultivate innovative industries, the ROC 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 while promoting the use of green energy resources.

Countries Surveyed	Surveying Institution
63	International Institute for Management Development
50	Business Environment Risk Intelligence
139	World Economic Forum
180	Heritage Foundation & The Wall Street Journal
142	Legatum Institute
190	World Bank
138	World Economic Forum





SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

DO YOU KNOW?

- Taiwan is one of the world's leading producers of information and communication technology products.
- World Economic Forum ranks Taiwan 14th out of 138 economies in its most recent Global Competitiveness Report in September 2016.

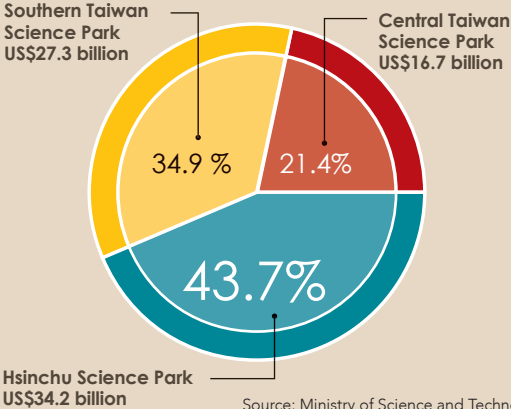
In April 2014, the National Science Council—the government's dedicated agency charged with advancing national science and technology development, supporting academic research and promoting the nation's three science

An unmanned aerial vehicle developed by National Chung-Shan Institute of Science and Technology in northern Taiwan's Taoyuan City (Huang Chung-hsin)

parks—was reorganized and renamed as the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST). While continuing its predecessor’s innovative measures and programs, the MOST, with a new organizational structure, aims to focus academic research on the needs of industry as Taiwan relies on science and technology innovations 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 support,

TURNOVER OF FIRMS IN TAIWAN’S THREE MAJOR SCIENCE PARKS (2016)



Source: Ministry of Science and Technology

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, 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 nine years it has won a total of 27 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 communication 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 has trained over 460,000 ICT-related professionals during the past three decades.

PRODUCTION VALUE & GLOBAL SHARE OF TAIWAN-MADE PRODUCTS & SERVICES (2015)

No. 1 Worldwide

Category	Production Value	Quantity	Global Share
	(US\$ million)		(%)
Custom IC fabrication	30,272		67.27
IC testing & packaging	12,253		48
Fiberglass cloth	629		32
Chlorella		841 tons	49.4
Functional fabrics	4,266		27.25
High-end bicycles		3,764,900	47
Personal navigation devices	1,227		54.7

No. 2 Worldwide

IC substrates	2,745		24
Electro-deposited copper foil	962		21.8
IC design	16,724		19.9
Silicon-based solar cells		8,549 MW	15.9
Assistive devices (electric scooters and wheelchairs)		164,000 units	23.1
Printed circuit boards	7,801		13.1
Ball screws	356		15.1

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

The III is also dedicated to promoting Taiwan tech startups by organizing a contest for them called IDEAS Show since 2008. This has led to five international mergers and winning contestants attracting investment of NT\$8.2 billion (US\$270 million). In 2016, the IDEAS Show started to build stronger connections with the world as it became an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) event attracting participants from 15 nations. This year, the IDEAS Show @APEC Innovation is taking place July 17-18 in Taipei with a focus on creating a better entrepreneurial ecosystem for the digital economy in the future.

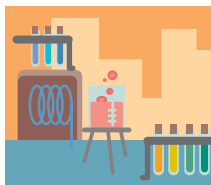
After years of dedication by the public and private sectors toward developing technological expertise, Taiwan's science parks are now home to clusters of companies pursuing breakthroughs in fields such as integrated circuits, nanotechnology, optoelectronics and precision machinery. According to the Global Competitiveness Report 2016-2017 released by World Economic Forum, Taiwan ranked 30th among the 138 economies surveyed in the technological readiness category and 11th in the innovation category. Furthermore, among 61 top economies surveyed in the 2016 World Competitiveness Yearbook, in terms of technological infrastructure and scientific infrastructure, Taiwan ranked 12th and 10th, respectively.

President Tsai Ing-wen's

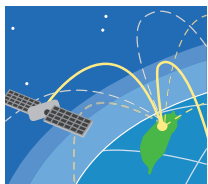
FIVE-PLUS-TWO INNOVATIVE INDUSTRIES INITIATIVE

Biotech and Pharmaceutical Industry

- Bolster the research and development capabilities of firms in Taipei's Nangang Software Park, 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 US biomedical hubs of Boston, San Diego and the San Francisco Bay Area, as well as with European countries such as Belgium, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland



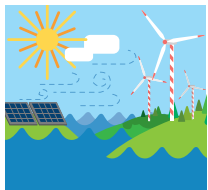
Smart Machinery Industry



- 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 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, ICT businesses and energy service providers



- Promote electricity generation from a wide variety of renewable sources, including solar, wind, geothermal, biofuel, wave and tidal
- 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

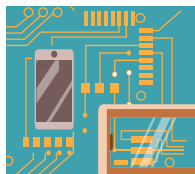
National Defense Industry

- 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
- 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 with applications in 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



New Agriculture

- Protect farmers, foster agricultural development and ensure environmental sustainability
- Safeguard product safety and quality and build a trustworthy label certification system consistent with international standards
- Make the industry profitable and sustainable, diversify domestic and external sales channels and increase the added value of agricultural industries



Circular Economy



- Allow the circulation and reutilization of energy, improving resource efficiency, reducing carbon emissions and ensuring the waste energy and materials of a factory become the input resources of a neighboring one
- Ensure new industrial parks are designed according to the concept of the circular economy





EDUCATION

DO YOU KNOW?

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

Education is an important component of ROC government policymaking and accounts for a large portion of the budget. With an increasing emphasis on the importance of attaining tertiary education, those with at least a technical college or university degree account for 44 percent of Taiwan's population aged 15 and above, an 11 percent increase

A group of elementary school students visits Taitung Art Museum in southeastern Taiwan's Taitung County. (Chuang Kung-ju)

over the past decade. To offer students a longer period of basic learning, the Ministry of Education (MOE) announced plans in April 2012 to extend compulsory education in Taiwan from nine to 12 years. The new program, designed to ensure 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 competitions such as the International Science Olympiad, young students from Taiwan win distinctions in biology, chemistry, informatics, mathematics and physics. The talent in Taiwan's workforce has contributed tremendously to enhancing economic prosperity and quality of life.

In 2013, the MOE absorbed the Sports Affairs Council as part of the government's efforts to promote sport for all. Taipei will host the 2017 Summer Universiade, the biggest global sporting event ever staged in Taiwan.

A total of 54 local universities and colleges, including those in the vocational education system, offered 229 degree programs taught in English in the 2014-2015 academic year. Both government and university scholarships are available for international students. The Taiwan Scholarship Program, for instance, offers grants to students interested in 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: www.edu.tw.

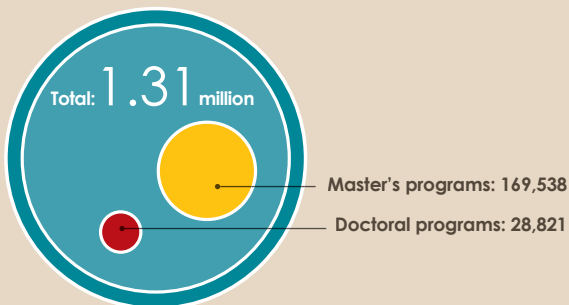
SNAPSHOT

Literacy rate (15 or older): 98.7 percent (2016)

Government outlays for education, science and culture: 20.8 percent of central government budget (2017)

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

Students enrolled in institutions of higher learning:



(2016 academic year)





CULTURE

DO YOU KNOW?

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

Taiwan is renowned for its fascinating blend of traditional and modern culture. To showcase the nation's history and cultural diversity, museums have been established across Taiwan, including the National Palace Museum, National Taiwan Museum and National

Glove puppet heads carved by Lin Chao-yi, one of the few remaining craftspeople producing the items by hand (Huang Chung-hsin)

Museum of History. Traditional architecture abounds, not only in the country's magnificent temples, but also in the many old structures that have been revitalized for use as community centers, cafes, stores and other public spaces. In fact, many aspects of traditional Chinese arts, crafts and customs are better preserved in Taiwan than anywhere else. For example, Taiwan is one of the few places that still uses traditional Chinese characters, and calligraphy competitions are always popular events.

Traditional tenets of Buddhism, Confucianism and Taoism continue to be well represented in everything from temple celebrations and literature to the visual and performing arts. In addition, visitors can learn about the heritages of the country's Hakka, Holo 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 highly regarded modern dance troupes, as well as a vibrant music scene, which is hardly surprising as Taiwan is the world capital of Mandopop, or Mandarin pop music. The local television and film industries have seen a resurgence in recent years, while the country's booming cultural and creative sector is evident in the many designer stores, markets and exhibitions that are growing in number every year.

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

**National Taichung Theater in central Taiwan's
Taichung City (Huang Chung-hsin)**



MASS MEDIA

DO YOU KNOW?

- There are more than 3,000 news agencies in Taiwan.
- The nation's digital cable TV penetration rate reached 95.84 percent in 2016.

The diversity of Taiwan's media is reflected in the plethora of outlets and intense competition within the industry. The nation's 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.

Publishing houses in Taiwan released more than 38,000 new titles in 2016. (Chang Su-ching)



Bestsellers

誠品書店暢銷榜



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 communication technologies, e-publishing is injecting fresh vitality into their development as well as that of the local book publishing industry, which released 38,807 new titles last year.

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

SNAPSHOT

Radio stations: 170

Terrestrial television stations: 5

Cable television operators: 65

Satellite broadcasting program providers: 118
(302 channels)

TV and radio program production and distribution companies: 988

Audio (compact disc, etc.) production companies: 15,754

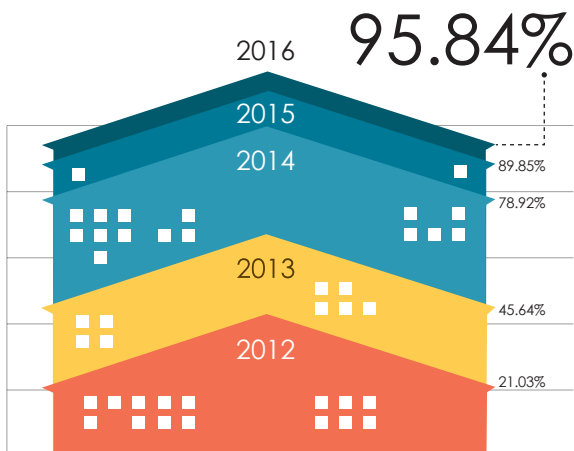
Newspaper publishers: 241

Magazine publishers: 1,238

News agencies: 3,026

(2016 statistics)

DIGITAL TV HOUSEHOLD PENETRATION RATE



Source: National Communications Commission

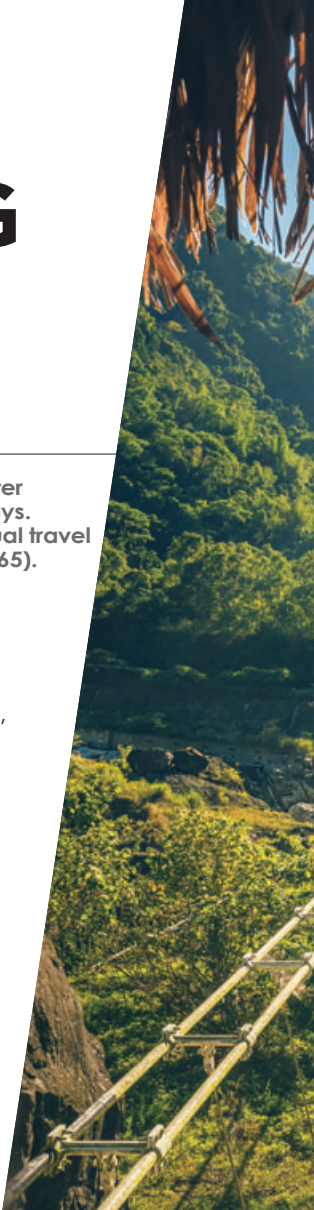
VISITING TAIWAN

DO YOU KNOW?

- Citizens of 59 countries can enter Taiwan visa-free for 30 or 90 days.
- Taiwan has a 24-hour multilingual travel information hotline (0800-011-765).

With its unique fusion of cultures, breathtaking scenery, diverse cuisine, exciting city life and well-developed hospitality industry, Taiwan is an ideal destination for many types of travelers. Citizens of 59 countries are eligible for visa-exempt entry for a period of 30 or 90 days.

**A suspension bridge at
Dannayiku Ecology Park in
southern Taiwan's Chiayi
County** (Ray Chang, Courtesy of
Tourism Bureau)





In addition to about 1,100 kilometers of conventional railway lines, Taiwan has a 348.5-kilometer high-speed rail system along its west coast. The high-speed trains allow travel between Taipei and Kaohsiung in 94 minutes. These two cities are also equipped with state-of-the-art mass rapid transit systems.

International Trade Shows

Throughout the year, the Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA) organizes trade shows covering the entire spectrum of industries. Major venues include Taipei World Trade Center Exhibition Halls No. 1 and No. 3, in addition to Nangang Exhibition Hall, and Kaohsiung Exhibition Center in southern Taiwan.

For more details, visit 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 www.taiwan.net.tw	English, French, German, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Malaysian, Spanish, Thai, Vietnamese
Travel Information Hotline 0800-011-765 (24 hours)	Mandarin, English, Japanese, Korean
Information for Foreigners iff.immigration.gov.tw	Mandarin, English
International Community Service Hotline 0800-024-111 (24 hours)	Mandarin, English, Japanese

MAJOR FESTIVALS & EVENTS

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

*For more information, 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 Chiayi County in 2018.

Currency

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

Exchange rate: NT\$30.35 per US\$1 (April 2017)

Time Zone

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, as well as many 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



Persimmons dry in the sun in northern Taiwan's Hsinchu County. (Huang Chung-hsin)

Customs Regulations

Customs Administration

Ministry of Finance

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

Website: web.customs.gov.tw

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 Park: 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

Kinmen National Park: www.kmnp.gov.tw

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

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.

Traditional Chinese characters are a treasured cultural legacy and product of thousands of years of linguistic evolution. In modern Taiwan, traditional Chinese characters are utilized as the written form of Mandarin, one of the nation's official languages.

**International students
outside the Mandarin
Training Center at National
Taiwan Normal University in
Taipei City (Chuang Kung-ju)**





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Taiwan is home to numerous high-level institutions that offer Mandarin language classes to non-native speakers. Since the establishment of the Mandarin Training Center at National Taiwan Normal University in Taipei City in 1956, 52 university language institutes have been set up across the country. The number of foreign students attending these centers increased from 9,135 in the 2005-06 school year to 19,977 in the 2015-16 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 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 Taiwan culture and society. The scholarships are awarded by ROC representative offices or embassies based on the merits of the applicants. A monthly stipend of NT\$25,000 (US\$825) 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 (www.edu.tw), Study in Taiwan (www.studyintaiwan.org) and the Office of Global Mandarin Education (gmeo.org/gcle).

In addition, the Overseas Community Affairs Council has created the website www.huayuworld.org to offer a friendly, convenient digital learning platform for overseas Chinese/Taiwan communities and those interested in traditional Chinese characters. Teacher training programs are also held annually to promote the use of traditional Chinese characters so that their beauty can be appreciated worldwide.



Cover photo:

**Lantern Festival is celebrated
on the 15th day of the first
month on the lunar calendar.**

(Hsueh Chi-kuang)