

A vibrant nighttime photograph of Taipei, Taiwan. The Taipei 101 skyscraper is the central focus, illuminated in green and white, with several large, colorful fireworks exploding around it. To the right, a large, illuminated light show in the shape of a map of Taiwan is visible against the dark sky. In the foreground, the modern, hexagonal architecture of the National Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall is lit up in pink and white. The silhouettes of people in the foreground are seen holding up their phones to capture the scene.

2022-2023

TAIWAN

at a Glance

Published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Republic of China (Taiwan)

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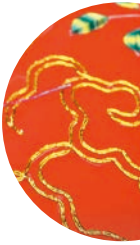
TAIWAN SNAPSHOT






Official name	Republic of China (Taiwan)
National Flag	
National Flower	Plum blossom
Area (Taiwan and outlying islands)	36,197 square kilometers
Population	23.2 million (June 2022)
Ethnicity	Over 95 percent Han people (including Holo, Hakka and other groups that originated in China), 2.5 percent indigenous Malayo-Polynesian peoples, 2.5 percent new immigrants, primarily from 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



CONTENTS

8	NATURAL TAIWAN	
14	PEOPLE	
18	HISTORY	
30	POLITICAL SYSTEM	
38	FOREIGN AFFAIRS	
50	CROSS-STRAIT RELATIONS	



58	ECONOMY	
68	SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	
76	EDUCATION	
80	CULTURE	
84	MASS MEDIA	
88	VISITING TAIWAN	

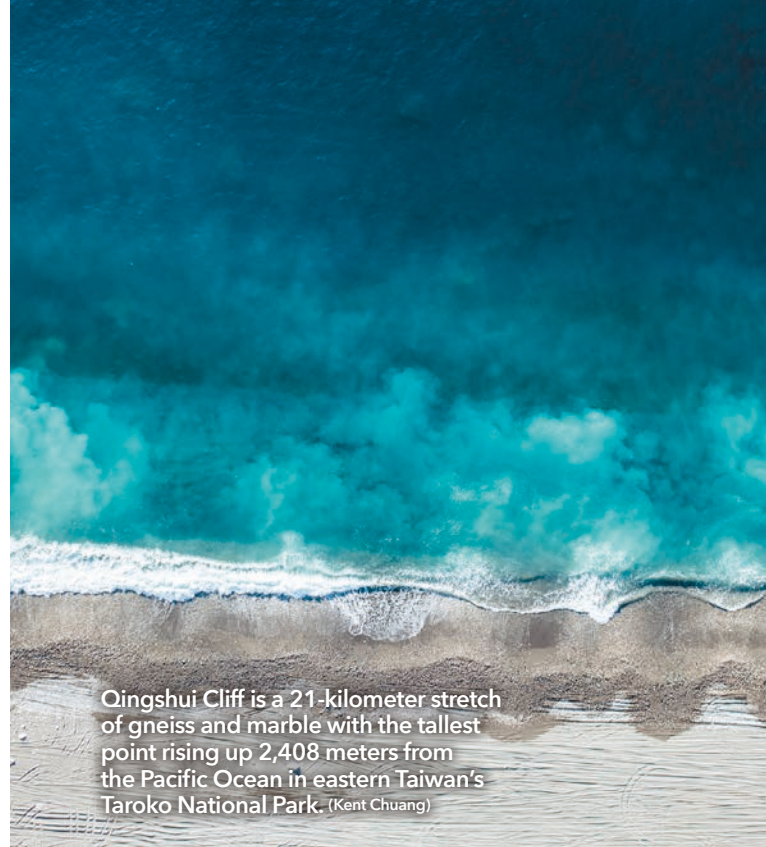
NATURAL TAIWAN

FACT FOCUS

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



Qingshui Cliff is a 21-kilometer stretch of gneiss and marble with the tallest point rising up 2,408 meters from the Pacific Ocean in eastern Taiwan's Taroko National Park. (Kent Chuang)

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



SNAPSHOT

Land area: **36,197** square kilometers

Length of Taiwan:
394 kilometers

Width of Taiwan:
144 kilometers

Agricultural land:
7,900
square kilometers

Highest peak:
Jade Mountain
(3,952 meters)

Average temperature: **22°C**

January: **18°C**

July: **29°C**

(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 Dongsha (Pratas), Nansha (Spratly), Xisha (Paracel) and Zhongsha (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.

Taiwan's tropical-to-temperate climate zones and wide range of topography support a rich diversity of flora and fauna such as the Formosan sika deer.
(Chin Hung-hao)



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

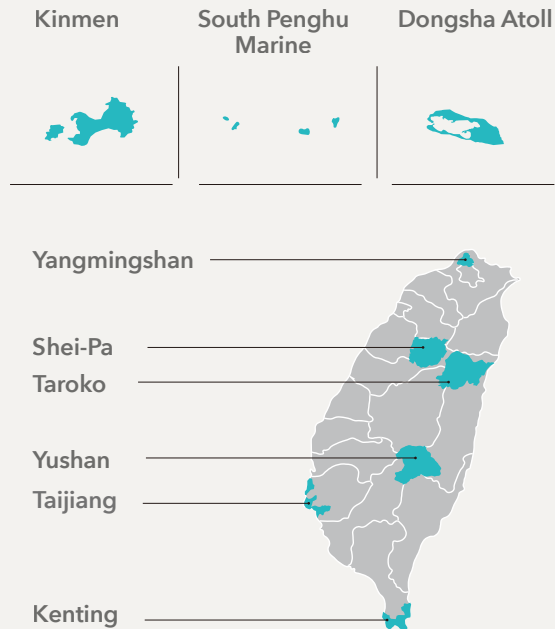
Flora and Fauna

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 119 species of mammals, 690 species of birds, 118 species of reptiles, 43 species of amphibians, 401 species of butterflies and 2,992 species of fish are known to inhabit Taiwan. The island's plant life comprises 788 species of ferns, 5,560 species of angiosperms and 111 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



NATIONAL PARKS



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.

PEOPLE

FACT FOCUS

There are 16 officially recognized indigenous tribes in Taiwan.

The nation is home to over 570,000 new immigrants, most of whom hail from 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 arriving in the 17th century belonged to a variety of



Singer 9m88 and Cloud Gate Dance Theatre perform at Chishang Autumn Harvest Festival in eastern Taiwan's Taitung County. (Chen Mei-ling)

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 is a multicultural society comprising diverse Han subgroups, as well

as indigenous Malayo-Polynesian peoples and immigrants from all over the world. Recent years, for example, have seen an influx of new arrivals from China and Southeast Asia, mostly through marriage. Currently, the number of new immigrants is over 570,000.

There is growing appreciation in Taiwan for the cultural legacies of the 16 officially recognized Austronesian-speaking tribes, which constitute a little more than 2 percent of the population. 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.

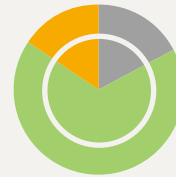


SNAPSHOT

Population: **23,186,278** (June 2022)

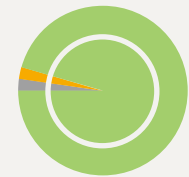
Population structure :

- 0-17 years: 15.8%
- 18-64 years: 67.1%
- 65 and above: 17.1%



Ethnicity :

- Han Chinese: 95%
- Indigenous peoples: 2.5%
- New immigrants: 2.5%



Crude birth rate (2021):

6.55
(per 1,000 people)

Crude death rate (2021):

7.83
(per 1,000 people)

Life expectancy (2020):

81.3 years

Male: **78.1** years

Female: **84.7** years

HISTORY

FACT FOCUS

Dutch and Spanish settlers established bases in Taiwan in the early 17th century.

Around 1.2 million people relocated from China to Taiwan along with the Republic of China (Taiwan) government in the late 1940s and early 1950s.



Tainan Confucius Temple in the southern Taiwan city dates back to 1665. (Pang Chia-shan)

The ROC was founded in 1912 in 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.

The ROC government relocated to Taiwan in 1949 while fighting a civil war with the Chinese Communist Party. 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 China each under the rule of a different

government. The authorities in Beijing have never exercised sovereignty over Taiwan or other islands 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 millenniums.

1500s It is commonly believed that European sailors passing Taiwan record the island's name as Ilha Formosa, or beautiful island.

Taiwan continues to experience visits by small numbers of Chinese merchants, fishermen and pirates.

1624 The Dutch East India Company establishes a base in southwestern Taiwan, initiating a transformation in aboriginal grain production practices and employing Chinese laborers to work on its rice and sugar 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, or 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.

1911-1912 Chinese revolutionaries overthrow the Qing Empire and establish the ROC.

1943 During World War II, ROC leader Chiang Kai-shek meets with U.S. 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, U.K. and U.S. 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 Jan. 1 and is scheduled to take effect Dec. 25. In March and the following months, ROC troops dispatched from China suppress a large-scale uprising of Taiwan residents sparked by the February 28 Incident.

1948 As full-scale civil war rages in China between the Kuomintang-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. This begins the period of White Terror that lasts until 1991 when the Temporary Provisions are lifted.

1949 The ROC government relocates to Taiwan, followed by 1.2 million people from China.

Oct. 25 sees the Battle of Kuningtou on Kinmen, in which the ROC armed forces defeat the CCP on the northwestern coast of the island.

Marital law is declared in Taiwan and continues to be in force until 1987.

1952 Following the 1951 San Francisco Peace Treaty with Japan signed by 48 Allied nations on behalf of the United Nations, the Treaty of Peace is signed between the ROC and Japan at Taipei Guest House, formally ending the state of war between the two parties. It is recognized that under Article 2 of the San Francisco Treaty, Japan has renounced all right, title, and claim to Taiwan (Formosa) and Penghu (the Pescadores) as well as the Spratly Islands and the Paracel Islands. All treaties, conventions and agreements concluded before Dec. 9, 1941, between China and Japan become null and void as a consequence of the war.

1954 The ROC-U.S. Mutual Defense Treaty is signed in Washington.

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

1966 The first Export Processing Zone is established in Kaohsiung City, southern Taiwan. 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 On Oct. 25, the United Nations General Assembly passes U.N. Resolution 2758 recognizing the People's Republic of China (PRC) as the only legitimate representative of China to the global body. The ROC withdraws from the U.N.

1979 Democracy activists demonstrating in 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 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. A complete re-election of all Congressional representatives, including members of the Legislature and National Assembly, takes place from 1991 to 1992, giving the people of Taiwan full representation. From 1991 through 2005, the ROC Constitution undergoes seven rounds of revision.

Taiwan 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 Taiwan becomes a member of the World Trade Organization.

Two national defense laws based upon the principle of unifying military policymaking and command are officially enforced on March 1. New subordinates of the Ministry of National Defense are established and organized with regulations to carry out the task of "nationalization of the armed forces."

2003 The Legislative Yuan passes the Referendum Act, providing a legal basis for 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.

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, marking the second transfer of ROC government executive power in Taiwan between political parties.

2009 Taiwan attends the World Health Assembly as an observer, marking its first participation in an activity of the U.N. since its withdrawal in 1971.

President Ma 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 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.

2013 Taiwan signs an agreement on economic cooperation with New Zealand and an agreement on economic partnership with Singapore.

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

2014 Mainland Affairs Council Minister Wang Yu-chi holds a formal meeting with 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.

Sunflower Movement protesters occupy the Legislature to oppose the passing of the Cross-Strait Service Trade Agreement, preventing its passage.

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

Taiwan signs the 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.

President Tsai Ing-wen officially apologizes on behalf of the government to the nation's indigenous peoples for the pain and mistreatment they endured for centuries.

2017 The Indigenous Languages Development Act is enacted to preserve and promote the native tongues of Taiwan's 16 officially recognized indigenous tribes.

Taiwan hosts the Taipei 2017 Summer Universiade.

FORMOSAT-5, the nation's first homegrown ultra-high resolution Earth observation satellite, is launched.

2018 Taiwan's Transitional Justice Commission is inaugurated May 31. President Tsai issues an apology to victims of political persecution during the country's White Terror period from 1949 to 1991 following the commission's decision to expunge their criminal records.

2019 A special law legalizing same-sex marriage is passed, making Taiwan the first country in Asia to allow LGBT unions.

2020 Tsai Ing-wen and running mate Lai Ching-te of the ruling DPP party win the 2020 presidential election. The DPP retains its legislative majority.

2022 The MND establishes Jan. 1 an All-out Defense Mobilization Agency for the purpose of utilizing military reserves and assisting with all related activities and affairs.

The Ministry of Digital Affairs is established Aug. 27 to facilitate the development of related industries, and coordinate the overall planning of digital governance and infrastructure.

POLITICAL SYSTEM

FACT FOCUS

The ROC 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.

The ROC Constitution, promulgated Jan. 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



A projection mapping light show at the Presidential Office celebrates ROC National Day on October 10. (Chin Hung-hao)

revision in 1991, 1992, 1994, 1997, 1999, 2000 and 2005 to make it more relevant to the country's current condition.

One of the important consequences of these amendments is that since 1991, the government

has acknowledged that its jurisdiction extends only to the areas it controls. The president and legislators, therefore, are elected by and accountable to the people of those areas only.



FIVE BRANCHES OF THE 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

Examination Yuan

Manages the civil service system

Judicial Yuan

Oversees the nation's court system

Control Yuan

Impeaches and censures officials, audits government agencies

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 citizens through referendums.

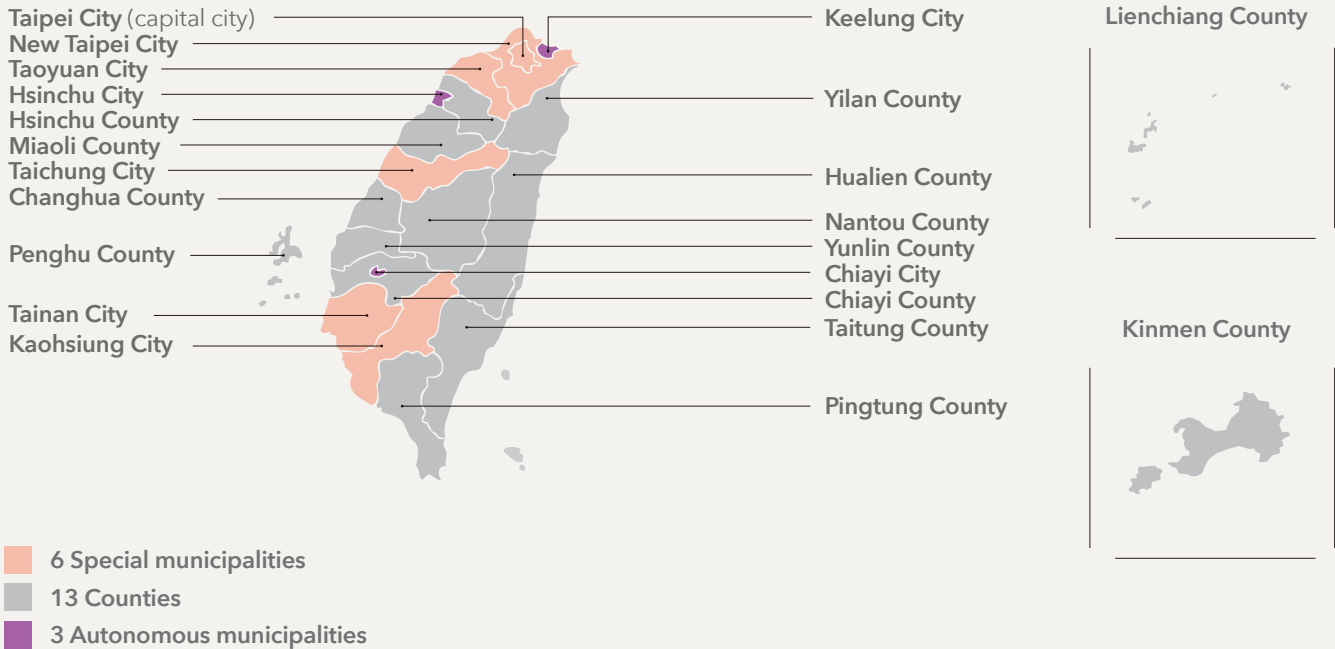
Levels of Government

The central 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. In addition, there are 198 county-administered townships and cities, as well as 170 districts—including six indigenous mountain districts—in autonomous and special municipalities.

Special municipalities are top-level administrative entities that fall under the direct jurisdiction of the central government. They play an important role in leading regional development. This status gives



LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS



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, Taichung, Kaohsiung, 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, or Cabinet, and must report regularly to the Legislative Yuan, or 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, nine 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 government, the term "ruling party" denotes which political party occupies the Presidential Office. The Kuomintang held the presidency in Taiwan for more than five decades before the Democratic Progressive Party won the 2000 and 2004 presidential elections. The KMT returned to power in 2008 and in 2012. The DPP won the 2016 and 2020 presidential elections, marking the third transition of power since the country's democratization.

In the January 2020 legislative elections, the DPP gained 54 percent of the seats in the Legislature, while the KMT secured 34 percent. Other major parties that have a presence in the Legislature include the Taiwan People's Party and the New Power Party.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

FACT FOCUS

A total of 170 countries and territories accord visa-free, landing visa or e-visa privileges to Republic of China (Taiwan) passport holders.

Taiwan is the only nation included in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program that does not maintain formal 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 other nations, and respect treaties and the Charter of the U.N. ... promote

President Tsai Ing-wen and ambassadors and representatives to Taiwan attend an International Women’s Day event held at the Taipei Guest House. (Courtesy of the Presidential Office)



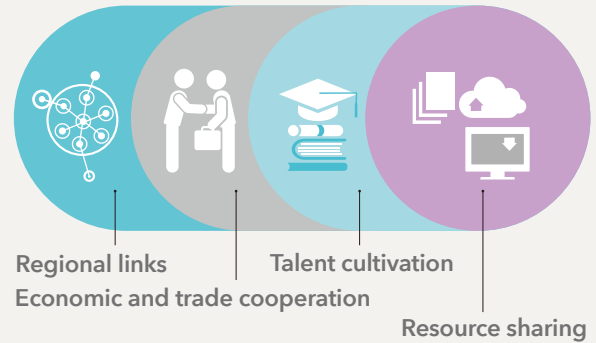
international cooperation, advance international justice and ensure world peace.” The ultimate goal of the country’s foreign policy is to ensure a favorable environment for the nation’s preservation and long-term development.

The 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 the country's 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.

Under President Tsai Ing-wen's New Southbound Policy, Taiwan is also striving to broaden exchanges with the 10 Association of Southeast Asian Nations member states, six South Asian countries, Australia and New Zealand on 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 shared benefits.

The ROC (Taiwan) has official relations with diplomatic allies and substantive ties with many others such as Australia, Canada, EU nations, Japan, New Zealand, the U.K. and the U.S. President Tsai visited diplomatic ally the Kingdom of Eswatini from April 17-21, 2018, for celebrations marking 50 years of independence for the African nation, the 50th birthday of H.M. King Mswati III and 50 years of bilateral ties. From Aug. 12-

NEW SOUTHBOUND POLICY



20 the same year, President Tsai traveled to Paraguay and Belize in South and Central America, respectively. During this trip, she attended the inauguration of Paraguay President Mario Abdo Benitez and held bilateral talks with the heads of state of these countries.

From March 21-28, 2019, the president went on her Oceans of Democracy visit to Palau, Nauru and the Marshall Islands. This followed on from her first trip to the Pacific in October 2017 to the Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu.

In April, September and December of 2021, President Tsai delivered special video messages respectively celebrating the 80th anniversary of diplomatic ties between Honduras and the ROC (Taiwan),

commemorating the bicentennial of Central America's independence and marking the 30th anniversary of the Central America Integration System.

From Jan. 25-30, 2022, Vice President Lai Ching-te traveled as special envoy to Honduras for the inauguration of President Xiomara Castro, engaging with heads and deputy heads of state as well as delegations from other allies and like-minded countries.

International Participation

Taiwan has full membership in 40 intergovernmental organizations and their subsidiary bodies, including the World Trade Organization, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, World Organisation for Animal Health and Central American Bank for Economic Integration. It also enjoys observer or other statuses in 25 IGOs and their subsidiary bodies, including the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and committees of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and Central American Integration System. In light of Taiwan's robust capital market and pivotal position in Asia, the Central American Bank of Economic Integration opened an office in Taiwan on July 6, 2021, making it the first new branch to be opened outside of Central America.

Taiwan 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. To this end, it seeks meaningful participation in intergovernmental organizations and mechanisms such as the World Health Organization, International Civil Aviation Organization, U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change and International Criminal Police Organization to safeguard and contribute to humanity and the welfare of all mankind. These efforts have won the staunch support of diplomatic allies and like-minded countries.

Strong Relations

As of March 8, 2022, 170 countries and territories have accorded visa-free, landing visa or e-visa privileges to ROC (Taiwan) passport holders. Taiwan has also inked working holiday agreements with 17 countries. Notably, among the 40 countries included in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program, Taiwan is the only one that does not maintain formal diplomatic relations with the United States, highlighting the otherwise close relationship between the two sides. The Taiwan Relations Act, passed by the U.S. Congress in 1979, has continued to provide a strong foundation for Taiwan-U.S. cooperation in the absence of formal diplomatic ties. The U.S. has repeatedly reiterated its security commitments to Taiwan under the TRA and the Six Assurances. In 2018, the Taiwan Travel Act was passed unanimously by the U.S. Congress and signed into law by then U.S. President

Donald J. Trump. This legislation encourages visits by officials at all levels from the two sides, underscoring the strong support for Taiwan from the executive and legislative branches of the U.S. government. In 2020, the Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative Act (TAIPEI Act) was also passed by the U.S. Congress and signed into law, expressing U.S. support for Taiwan's diplomatic alliances around the world and Taiwan's participation in international organizations. In 2021, the Biden administration reiterated the country's commitment to Taiwan, issued new guidelines for U.S. government interactions with Taiwan counterparts to encourage greater engagement. As Taiwan and the U.S. continue to expand the breadth of their cooperation, their bilateral partnership has grown into one of global cooperation.

The ROC (Taiwan) and the Holy See have long-standing diplomatic relations, entering into their 80th anniversary in 2022, 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, human rights and the rule of law, Taiwan and

the EU, together with other European countries, have developed close cooperation and exchanges across numerous fields. For instance, Taiwan and the EU have strengthened their robust and vibrant economic and trade ties, with the EU being Taiwan's fifth-largest trading partner and largest source of foreign direct investment, and the two sides are increasing cooperation in up-and-coming sectors such as green energy, new technologies, digital transformation and supply chain restructuring. Taiwan and the EU are also expanding cooperation in the field of human rights. Through the annual Taiwan-EU Human Rights Consultations, both sides are working together on topics of mutual concern and interest, including gender equality, LGBTI rights and migrant worker rights. In October 2021, the European Parliament adopted a report on EU-Taiwan political relations and cooperation for the first time.

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. Strong ties between the two sides are underscored by the renaming of Japan's representative office in Taiwan from the Interchange Association, Japan to the Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association in January 2017, as well as Taiwan's Association of East Asian Relations to the Taiwan-Japan Relations Association in May 2017.

Taiwan and Japan held their fourth annual meeting on maritime affairs in Taipei Dec. 2, 2019. Staged in accordance with a marine cooperation dialogue mechanism established in 2016, the forum explored opportunities for collaboration across a wide range of areas such as fisheries and research.

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 2021, over 4.2 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine donations from Japan contributed substantially to raising overall vaccination coverage in Taiwan.

On July 19, 2016, President Tsai put forth four principles and five actions pertaining to issues in the South China Sea. The four principles are: Firstly, disputes in the South China Sea should be settled peacefully in accordance with international law and the law of the sea, including the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea. Secondly, Taiwan should be included in multilateral mechanisms aimed at resolving disputes. Thirdly, states concerned have an obligation to safeguard freedom of navigation and overflight in the region. Lastly, disputes should be resolved by setting aside differences and promoting

joint development. Through negotiations conducted on the basis of equality, Taiwan is willing to work with all states concerned to advance peace and stability in the South China Sea, and to jointly conserve and develop resources in the region. The five actions encompass safeguarding the country's fishing rights, participating in multilateral consultations, promoting scientific cooperation, conducting humanitarian assistance and rescue operations and nurturing experts in the law of the sea.

The government is working to transform Taiping Island in the Nansha (Spratly) Islands into a base for humanitarian aid and supplies in the South China Sea. Since assuming responsibility in 2000 for maintaining the government's presence on Taiping Island as well as the Dongsha (Pratas) Islands, the Coast Guard Administration under the Cabinet-level Ocean Affairs Council has continued to carry out disaster response and humanitarian aid missions and assisted individuals from home and abroad. The CGA is committed to deepening collaboration with its counterparts from neighboring countries in line with the government's policy of working with all relevant parties to advance peace and stability in the South China Sea.

With an area of 0.51 square kilometers, Taiping Island has full capacity to sustain human habitation and

an economic life of its own. It meets the criteria of an island as defined in Article 121 of the UNCLOS, affording the ROC full rights associated with territorial waters, a contiguous zone, a 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zone and a continental shelf under the UNCLOS.

Win-Win Cooperation

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 investments 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.

Taiwan's reaction to the coronavirus pandemic, featuring high-tech contact tracing and transparent sharing of information, is now known globally as the Taiwan Model. Its success, as well as donations of masks and other medical supplies to over 80 countries, has opened the door for the country to collaborate closely with natural allies on coronavirus vaccine development and studies.

Widely celebrated for saving lives and strengthening the global response to COVID-19, the Taiwan Model was tested by the largest domestic outbreak of coronavirus of the pandemic. A swift response from all segments of society—supported by a virtuous circle of vaccine donations from home and abroad—saw Taiwan stage a successful COVID-19 fightback. Buoyed by this backing, Taiwan will continue to bolster cooperation with like-minded countries on public health so as to curb the pandemic and safeguard Health For All.

Changes in society, economic liberalization and democratic transformation in Taiwan have created a fertile environment for the private sector, and nongovernmental organizations have flourished. Civil society today plays a key role in ensuring good governance and enabling Taiwan to exert its soft power in the international arena. NGOs have raised Taiwan's profile by engaging in various international cooperation projects closely aligned with the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals. To better connect Taiwan's NGOs to the world, the government is devoted to helping them participate in international conferences and events while building their overall capacity. The government is also committed to facilitating international NGOs in their efforts to establish a presence in Taiwan, providing a welcoming environment for the further promotion of democracy, freedom, human rights and prosperity.

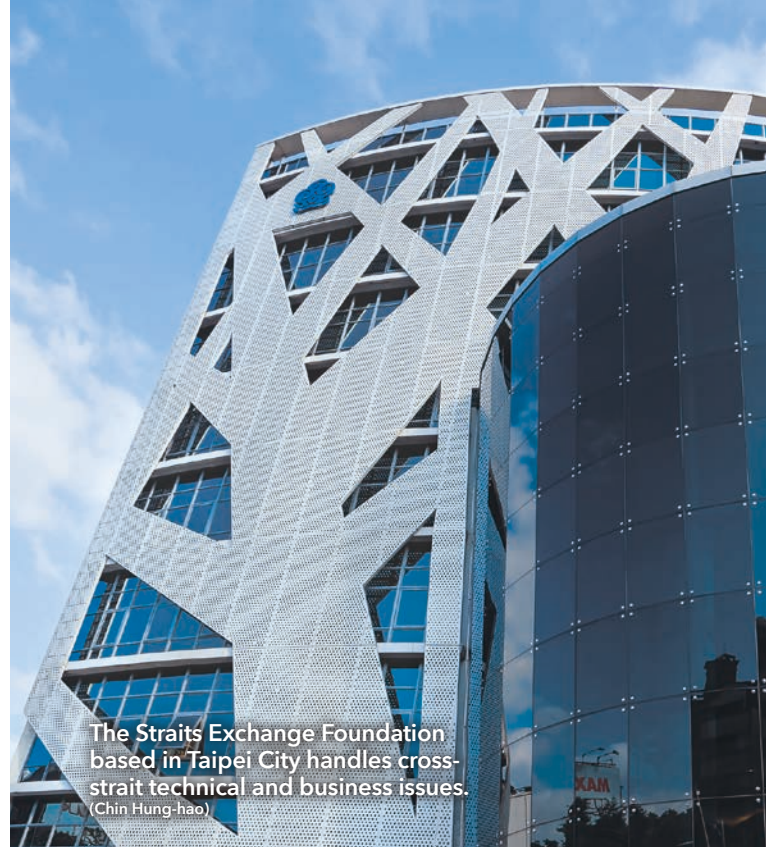
CROSS-STRAIT RELATIONS

FACT FOCUS

President Tsai Ing-wen's four commitments:

- The commitment to a free and democratic constitutional system;
- The commitment that the ROC (Taiwan) and the PRC should not be subordinate to each other;
 - The commitment to resist annexation or encroachment upon our sovereignty;
- The commitment that the future of the ROC (Taiwan) must be decided in accordance with the will of the Taiwanese people.

Since the 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 China has been under the control of the authorities in Beijing. Beginning with the



The Straits Exchange Foundation based in Taipei City handles cross-strait technical and business issues.
(Chin Hung-hao)

acceleration of Taiwan's democratization in the late 1980s, many restrictions concerning civil exchanges with China have been lifted. Today, Taiwan is one of the biggest investors in China. Between 1991 and the end of December 2021, approved investment in China comprised 44,823 cases totaling US\$198.28

billion. In 2021, the value of cross-strait trade was US\$273.06 billion.

In June 2008, institutionalized talks between Taiwan's semiofficial Straits Exchange Foundation and China'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 Taiwan Strait, producing 23 formal agreements, of which 21 have come into effect, and two consensuses. Most significant among the accords is the Cross-Straits Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement concluded in June 2010, which aims to institutionalize trade and economic relations between Taiwan and China.

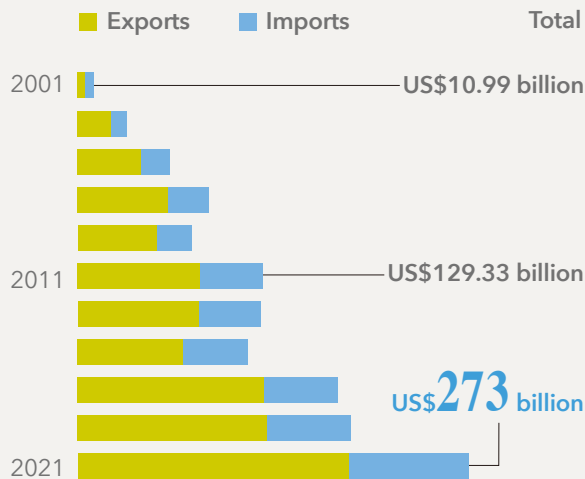
Peace and Stability

In order to promote thorough domestic reforms, the country requires a peaceful and stable external environment, especially with regard to relations with China. President Tsai Ing-wen, since taking office May 20, 2016, and following her reelection in 2020, has worked to build a consistent, predictable and sustainable cross-strait relationship based on existing realities and political foundations.

The government's unchanged position is to maintain the cross-strait status quo. This is Taiwan's commitment to the region and the world. Peace,



CROSS-STRAIT TRADE



Source: Customs Administration, Ministry of Finance

prosperity and development in Asia are common responsibilities of all countries in the region. Therefore, cross-strait issues are connected to regional peace. Taiwan will fulfill its responsibilities of safeguarding regional security by continuing to extend goodwill and maintaining stable, consistent and predictable cross-strait relations.

In recent years, however, China has set political preconditions for cross-strait exchanges, unilaterally

suspended official interactions, and continuously exerted political suppression and military coercion on Taiwan. On Jan. 2, 2019, China proposed exploration of the “one country, two systems” model for Taiwan, disrupting the status quo of regional peace and stability. In the face of China’s increasingly aggressive political agenda, President Tsai put forth guidelines March 11, 2019, aimed at strengthening national security measures, safeguarding national sovereignty and ensuring current and future generations have the right to decide Taiwan’s future. The Legislature also passed the Anti-Infiltration Act, which took effect on Jan. 15, 2020, to prevent interference in the country’s political processes by external hostile forces.

Furthermore, the government has actively pushed for amendments to the Act Governing Relations Between the People of the Taiwan Area and the Mainland Area. Those passed to date have established a democratic oversight mechanism for cross-strait political agreements under Article 5-3; enhanced management of civil servants’ trips to China under Articles 9, 9-3 and 91; and adjusted fines for unauthorized Chinese investment to reflect the severity of violations under Article 93-1.

The end of 2019 saw the first outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in Wuhan, China, which quickly spread across the world. To contain the pandemic,

Taiwan adopted strict border control measures that led to a sharp decline in cross-strait personnel exchanges. Once the pandemic abates, Taiwan will gradually adjust control measures on personnel exchanges in line with the COVID-19 prevention plans of the Central Epidemic Command Center.

The government will consider the development of the cross-strait situation in accordance with the principles and directions of President Tsai’s cross-strait policy. It will listen to voices from all sectors of society, strengthen management mechanisms for cross-strait exchanges, improve democracy and security defense mechanisms and coordinate with the relevant authorities to conduct amendments of laws and regulations when necessary. This is intended to promote positive cross-strait interactions and maintain normal and orderly exchanges between the two sides.

Consistent Approach

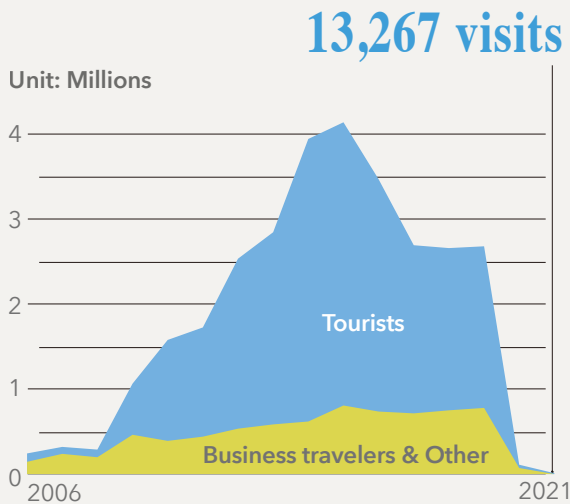
The government will continue to address cross-strait ties based on the ROC Constitution, the Act Governing Relations Between the People of the Taiwan Area and the Mainland Area, and the will of the people.

In addition, the government calls upon the authorities in 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. President Tsai presented the “four commitments” on her National Day address in 2021, namely the commitment to a free and democratic constitutional system, the commitment that the ROC and the PRC should not be subordinate to each other, the commitment to resist annexation

or encroachment upon our sovereignty, and the commitment that the future of the ROC (Taiwan) must be decided in accordance with the will of the Taiwan people. These commitments are supported by the mainstream public opinion in Taiwan and represent the bottom line we are determined to safeguard. China is encouraged to embrace President Tsai’s call for “peace, parity, democracy and dialogue,” thus fostering positive interactions that truly serve the well-being of people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait. As long as the Beijing authorities are willing to resolve cross-strait antagonism and improve cross-Strait relations, Taiwan is willing to jointly promote meaningful dialogue on the basis of parity and dignity. We also look forward to the gradual resumption of normal and orderly exchanges between the people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait when the pandemic is brought under control. Lastly, the government will continue deepening cooperation with the U.S., Japan and other like-minded countries to counter China’s threats to Taiwan, promote regional peace, stability and prosperity, and protect the nation’s interests.

VISITORS FROM CHINA TO TAIWAN



Source: Tourism Bureau, Ministry of Transportation and Communications

ECONOMY

FACT FOCUS

Taiwan was the world's 16th largest exporter of merchandise in 2021.

Under the New Southbound Policy, Taiwan is deepening ties across the board with the 10 Association of Southeast Asian Nations member states, six South Asian countries, Australia and New Zealand.

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



Cycle design, innovation and R&D are among Taiwan's many economic strengths. (Chin Hung-hao)

According to the World Trade Organization, Taiwan was the 16th largest exporter and 17th largest importer of merchandise in 2021. It was also one of the largest holders of foreign exchange reserves as of December 2021. Taiwan's gross domestic product per capita reached US\$33,011 in 2021. In

terms of nominal GDP, Taiwan ranks close to Poland and Sweden, while its GDP per capita expressed as purchasing power parity is similar to that of Austria and Netherland.

Trade Growth

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2020 the global economy decreased 3.4 percent, while Taiwan's exports and imports grew 4.9 percent and 0.2 percent, respectively. In 2021, as the pandemic slowly eased, global economic activity gradually returned to pre-pandemic levels. In addition, with the international spread of emerging technology products, higher prices for raw materials, and buttressed domestic and foreign demands, Taiwan's trade growth rebounded. In 2021, exports and imports increased by 29.4 percent and 33.2 percent, respectively, and overall trade value rose 31.1% year-on-year.

Annual surveys of the world's economies, including those conducted by the International Institute for Management Development and Business Environment Risk Intelligence have ranked Taiwan among the top nations year after year with respect to long-term growth and technological development. Results announced in 2021-2022 were no exception (see table "Global Survey Rankings" p. 66-67).

In July 2013, Taiwan signed an economic cooperation agreement with New Zealand, its first with a member of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. An economic partnership accord was also inked with Singapore in November the same year, marking Taiwan's first



GDP SNAPSHOT (2021)

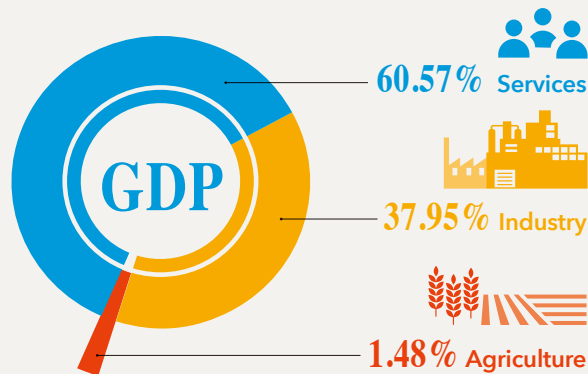
Nominal: **US\$775 billion**

Per capita (nominal):

US\$33,011

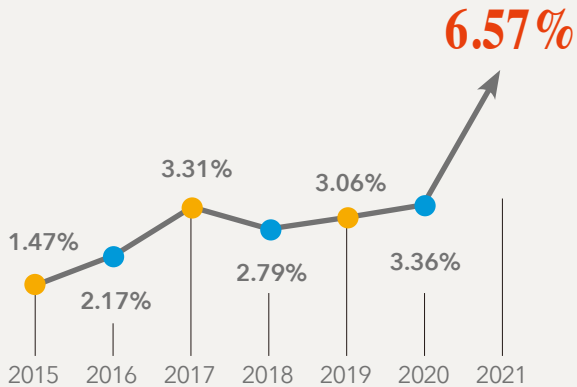
PPP per capita (by IMF):

US\$59,398





ECONOMIC GROWTH RATES



Source: Directorate-General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics

such pact with a trading partner in Southeast Asia. Both agreements go beyond WTO commitments. Developments like these are expected to facilitate the country's participation in regional economic integration blocs such as the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.

Taiwan and the U.S. held the second Taiwan-U.S. Economic Prosperity Partnership Dialogue in November 2021 and the inaugural meeting of the Taiwan-U.S. Initiative on 21st-Century Trade in June 2022. Taiwan also signed economic cooperation agreements with Paraguay, the Kingdom of Eswatini

and Belize in 2017, 2018 and 2020, respectively. These agreements are aimed at strengthening economic, investment, technological and trade ties while enhancing friendship with the three countries.

Development Approaches

Since May 2016, Taiwan has adopted the New Model for Economic Development. This seeks to boost growth by promoting innovation, increasing employment and ensuring the equitable distribution of economic benefits. Under the model, Taiwan is striving to strengthen 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 ASEAN member states, as well as South Asia, Australia and New Zealand. Taiwan will continue promoting its participation in regional and global economic integration processes.

To boost domestic investment and enhance the nation's global competitiveness, the New Model for Economic Development prioritizes the promotion of six core strategic industries. These comprise information and digital technology; cybersecurity; biotech and medical technology; national defense; green and renewable energy; and strategic stockpile industries. Through proactive policy built on the foundations of the five-plus-two innovative industries



TRADE AND INVESTMENT PROFILE (2021)

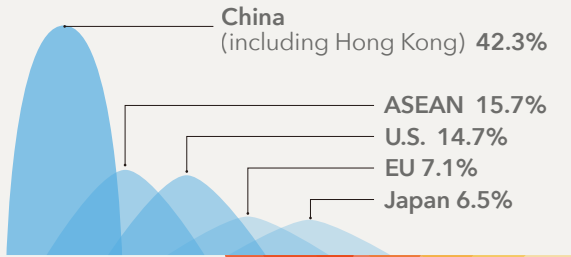
Total trade volume: US\$827.6 billion

Exports: US\$446.4 billion

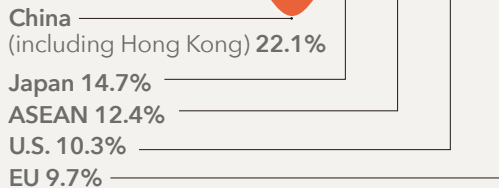
Imports: US\$381.2 billion

Trade balance: US\$65.3 billion surplus

Top export destinations:



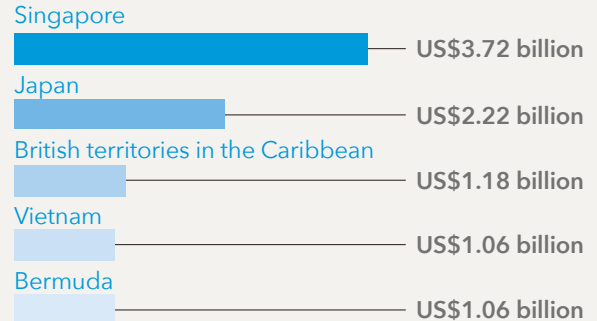
Top import sources:



Foreign exchange reserves: US\$548.4 billion
(As of December 2021)

Registered outward investment: US\$12.6 billion

Top five destinations



Registered inward investment: US\$7.5 billion

Top five sources





GLOBAL SURVEY RANKINGS

Topic of Survey (Date of Publication)	Rank	Countries Surveyed	Surveying Institution
World Competitiveness Yearbook (June 2022)	7	63	International Institute for Management Development
Profit Opportunity Recommendation (May 2022)	3	50	Business Environment Risk Intelligence
Index of Economic Freedom (February 2022)	6	184	The Heritage Foundation
Ease of Doing Business (December 2020)	15	190	World Bank

initiative, Taiwan will gain first-mover advantage, helping solidify the country's key position in global supply chains in the post-pandemic era.

The government is also promoting the Forward-looking Infrastructure Development Program to meet national infrastructure needs over the next 30 years. This program contains eight major elements: railway development, digital infrastructure, aquatic environments, food safety, green energy, urban-rural development, boosting birthrates and child care facilities, and nurturing talent and employment.

As it works to advance innovative industries, the government is also 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.

Under this approach, the government aims to raise wage levels and enhance regional development while mitigating the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the prolonged U.S.-China trade war. Measures are expected to improve industrial competitiveness and further bolster Taiwan's economy in 2022.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

FACT FOCUS

Taiwan is one of the world's leading producers of information and communication technology products.

International Institute for Management Development ranked Taiwan 7th out of 63 economies in the World Competitiveness Yearbook released in June 2022.

Taiwan is a leader in 5G availability, ranking fourth behind South Korea, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, according to a report released by U.K.-based Opensignal in March 2022.
(Chen Mei-ling)



To realize the government's Smart Taiwan 2030 vision, which aims to "Make Taiwan Innovative, Inclusive and Sustainable," the National Science and Technology Council is strengthening cooperation with other ministries as it works to better understand the needs of the country's

diverse populace, integrate innovative technologies into everyday life and open up opportunities for new eco-friendly industries. With science and technology serving as a key driver of economic growth and national progress, the NSTC strives to advance related development by nurturing

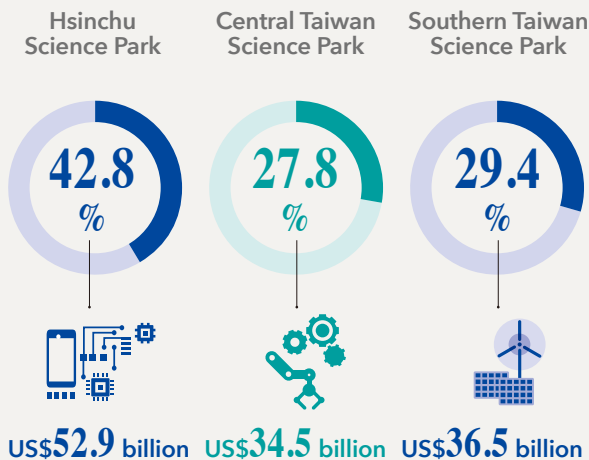
startups, promoting the nation's three science parks and supporting academic research. It also implements a range of measures and programs to foster creativity and ensure research focuses on the needs of industry.

The success of Taiwan's high-tech enterprises is largely attributable to the government's generous

funding of applied scientific development. With government support, the Industrial Technology Research Institute, National Applied Research Laboratories and Institute for Information Industry all played important roles in jump-starting the nation's rise as a technological powerhouse by conducting research, aiding the private sector with R&D and exploring new technologies.



TURNOVER OF FIRMS IN TAIWAN'S THREE MAJOR SCIENCE PARKS (2021)



Source: National Science and Technology Council

Supporting Innovation

ITRI's innovative prowess is best illustrated by the fact that it has won a total of 46 highly prestigious R&D 100 Awards over the past 14 years and received nine Edison Awards since 2017, in addition to being named a Clarivate Top 100 Global Innovator for the fifth consecutive year and the sixth time overall since 2015. The institute 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.

Hosting eight national research centers covering four major areas of earth and environment, information and communication technology, biomedical technology and technology policies, National Applied Research Laboratories seeks

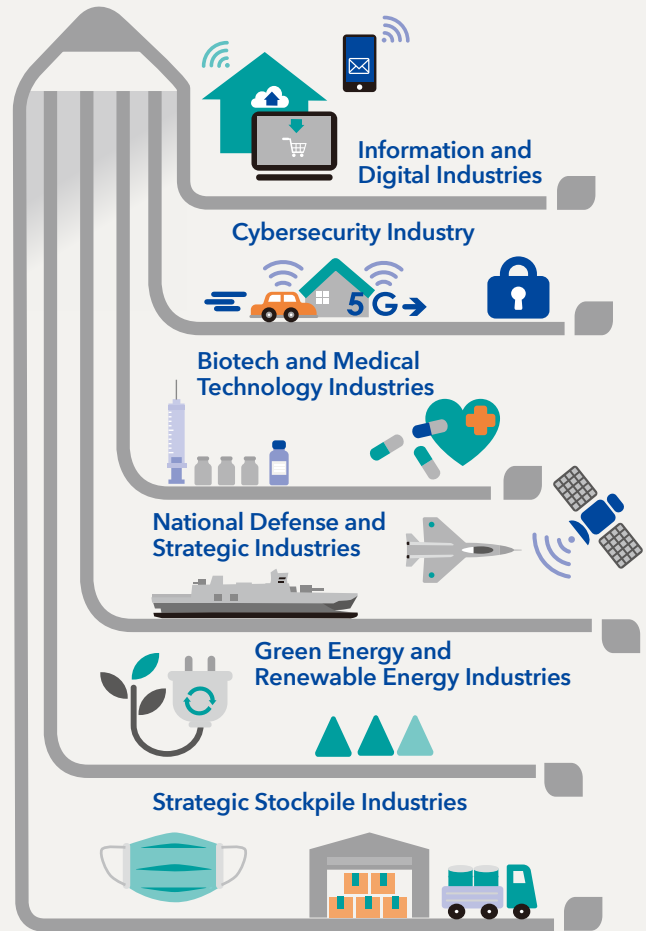


SIX CORE STRATEGIC INDUSTRIES

to establish R&D platforms, support academic research, promote frontier science and technology and cultivate high-tech manpower. NARLabs' FORMOSAT-7 satellite data was officially released in March 2020 and has helped compensate for the reduction in meteorological data collected by aircraft amid the COVID-19 pandemic. In February 2021, all six FORMOSAT-7 satellites successfully reached their mission orbits at altitudes between 540 and 550 km. Currently, the constellation provides round-the-clock meteorological data, boosting the accuracy of global weather forecasts by up to 11 percent. Its research outcomes have additionally received six Outstanding S&T Contribution Awards from the Executive Yuan in recognition of major contributions to society.

The goal of III is to boost Taiwan's global competitiveness by providing a platform for digital transformation. The institute conducts R&D on innovative ICT products and applications. It also plays a key role in advancing ICT development in the public and private sectors by serving as a think tank on related policymaking and promoting talent cultivation. Over the past three decades, more than 480,000 professionals have received training through III.

Taiwan's tech ecosystem provides an ideal environment for global investors looking to





GLOBAL SURVEY RANKINGS

Topic of Survey (Date of Publication)	Rank (category)	Countries Surveyed	Surveying Institution
Global Competitiveness Report 2019 (October 2019)	4 (innovation capability)	141	World Economic Forum
2022 World Competitiveness Yearbook (June 2022)	9 (technological infrastructure) 6 (scientific infrastructure)	63	International Institute for Management Development

establish a presence in Asia. Local venture capitalists, engineering service providers and technology developers have extensive experience collaborating on cutting-edge R&D. This is on display at Taiwan Tech Arena, a new hub for innovation and startups that is attracting young entrepreneurs from around the world. Bringing together accelerators, venture capital firms and enterprises, TTA has bases in Taipei and Tainan Cities, from which it works to build a vibrant international startup ecosystem. TTA is the voice of Taiwan tech startups, as well as a launching pad for global tech enterprises.

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 biotechnology, personal computing and peripherals, integrated circuits, nanotechnology, optoelectronics, precision machinery and telecommunications.

EDUCATION

FACT FOCUS

Taiwan has implemented a 12-year basic education system since the 2014 school year.

There are 149 universities, colleges and junior colleges in Taiwan.

Education is an important component of government policymaking and accounts for a large portion of the budget. With an increasing emphasis on attaining tertiary education, those with a technical college or university degree account for 48 percent of Taiwan's population



The National Museum of Marine Science & Technology in Keelung City comprises a museum, clifftop views, green spaces and trails. (Chen Mei-ling)

aged 15 and above, an 8.6 percentage point increase over the past decade.

To offer students more opportunities, the Ministry of Education introduced the 12-year basic education to build on the nine-year compulsory education

beginning in 2014. Every year in competitions such as the International Science Olympiad, young students from Taiwan win distinctions in biology, chemistry, earth sciences, mathematics, informatics and physics. The talent in Taiwan's workforce has contributed tremendously to enhancing economic prosperity and quality of life.

Recognizing the multicultural nature of the nation, the government has included in its 12-year basic education system mandatory courses on Hakka, Holo, languages of Taiwan's 16 indigenous tribes and those of the new immigrants to spur the transmission, revival and development of such languages. Furthermore, to enhance the global competitiveness of Taiwan's talent and industry, the government adopted the Bilingual 2030 policy in 2017.

Scholarship Programs

Both government and university scholarships are available for international students. The Taiwan Scholarship program, for instance, offers grants to students who wish to pursue undergraduate or graduate degrees in diverse fields. Interested applicants can contact the country's embassies and representative offices or visit the MOE's website: www.edu.tw.

To encourage international students to learn Mandarin in Taiwan, the MOE established the Huayu Enrichment

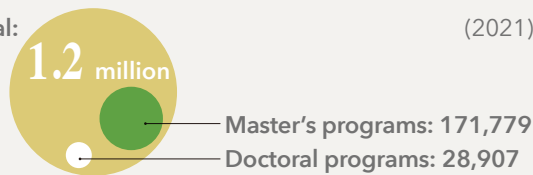
SNAPSHOT

Literacy rate (15 or older): **99.1%** (2021)

Outlays for education, science and culture: **20.2%** of central government budget (2022)

Institutions of higher learning: **149** (137 universities and colleges, 12 junior colleges)

Students enrolled in institutions of higher learning: **Total:** (2021)



Scholarship. This program enables foreign students to undertake Mandarin courses at 65 university-affiliated Mandarin learning centers around the nation, while also boosting international awareness and understanding of Taiwan culture and society.

A list of Mandarin training centers and information on learning the language in Taiwan can be found on the websites of the MOE, Study in Taiwan (www.studyintaiwan.org) and the Taiwan Mandarin Education Resources Center (https://lmit.edu.tw/lc/school_list/).

CULTURE

FACT FOCUS

Taiwan is the center of the Mandarin pop music industry.

National Palace Museum in Taipei City houses 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 National Palace Museum, National Taiwan Museum, National Museum of History, National Museum of Prehistory,



Woodcarvings in traditional styles are still produced for temple decoration.
(Chin Hung-hao)

National Museum of Taiwan Literature and National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts. Taiwan also has performance venues nationwide, including National Theater and Concert Hall, National Taichung Theater, National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts (Weiwuying) and Taiwan Traditional Theatre Center. Such high-

quality facilities have made Taiwan a center for the arts in Asia, hosting events like Taiwan International Arts Festival and Taipei Arts Festival. Traditional architecture abounds, not only in the country's magnificent monuments such as temples and official residences, 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 still using 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 24/7 entertainment options. There are highly regarded 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. Recently opened, Taipei

Music Center and Kaohsiung Music Center have both become major performance venues. The local television and film sector has seen a resurgence in recent years, while the country's booming cultural and creative industries are 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.

Taipei City's Nanshin Embroidery is one of a handful producing clothes for god statues and hangings for temples. (Chen Mei-ling)



MASS MEDIA

FACT FOCUS

Taiwan ranks third in Asia in the 2022 World Press Freedom Index released by Reporters Without Borders.

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.



Taiwan boasts one of the freest media environments in Asia. (Lin Min-hsuan)


Taiwan was ranked 38th globally and third in Asia in the 2022 World Press Freedom Index released May 3 by France-based Reporters Without Borders. In the survey of 180 countries and territories, Taiwan finished ahead of South Korea, 43rd; Japan, 71st; Hong Kong, 148th; and



SNAPSHOT

Radio stations: **186** 

 Terrestrial television stations: **5**

Satellite broadcasting providers: **99** (237 channels) 

Cable television operators: **64** 

(2021 statistics)

Source: National Communications Commission

China, 175th. Norway, Denmark and Sweden topped the index, in that order. As of May 15, 2022, a total of 137 journalists from 75 media organizations in 20 countries were based in Taiwan—an increase of 63 journalists from 29 outlets since 2020.

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

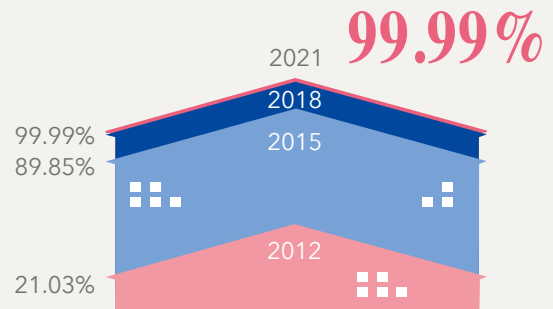
Print editions of magazines and newspapers, including the three major dailies, continue to lose ground to internet competitors. Drawing on Taiwan’s

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 57,710 new titles in 2021.

Digitization of cable television has not only significantly improved the visual experience of viewers, but also unleashed more innovative and diverse broadband services. With digitization virtually completed, cable television has become an important platform for various multimedia applications.



DIGITAL TV HOUSEHOLD PENETRATION RATE



Source: National Communications Commission

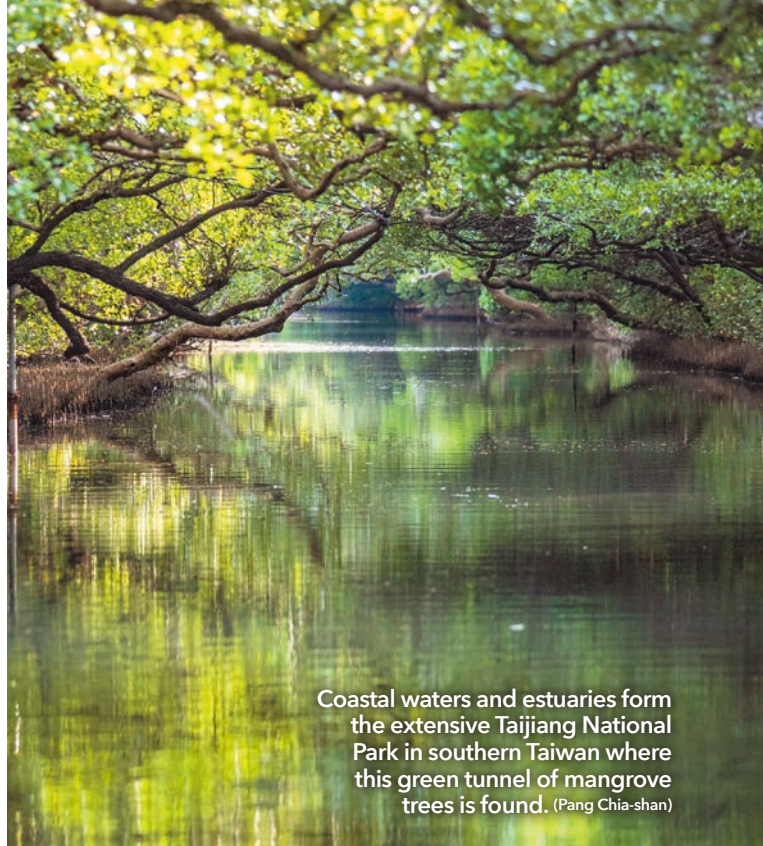
VISITING TAIWAN

FACT FOCUS

Citizens of more than 60 countries and territories 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 more than 60 countries and territories are eligible for visa-exempt entry for a period of 30 or 90 days.



Coastal waters and estuaries form the extensive Taijiang National Park in southern Taiwan where this green tunnel of mangrove trees is found. (Pang Chia-shan)

In addition to about 1,100 kilometers of conventional railway lines, Taiwan has a 350-km high-speed rail system along its west coast. The high-speed trains allow travel between Taipei and Kaohsiung in 94 minutes. These two cities and the northern metropolis of Taoyuan 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 shows covering the entire spectrum of industries. Major venues include the Taipei World Trade Center's Exhibition Hall, Nangang Exhibition Hall as well as Kaohsiung Exhibition Center in southern Taiwan. For more details, visit www.taiwantradeshows.com.tw.

General Information for Visitors

The 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, Russian, Vietnamese

Travel Information Hotline
0800-011-765 (24 hours)

English, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin

National Immigration Agency
www.immigration.gov.tw

English, Indonesian, Khmer, Mandarin, Thai, Vietnamese

24 hours:

Information for Foreigners
Hotline 0800-024-111

English, Japanese, Mandarin
9:00-17:00 on weekdays:
Vietnamese
13:00-17:00 on weekdays:
Indonesian, Khmer, Thai



Lanyang Museum, surrounded by the Wushi Wetlands, and other Yilan museums form an environmental education facility in the northeastern county. (Chen Mei-ling)



MAJOR TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

Northern Taiwan

National Palace Museum: www.npm.gov.tw

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

New Taipei City Yingge Ceramics Museum:
www.ceramics.ntpc.gov.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

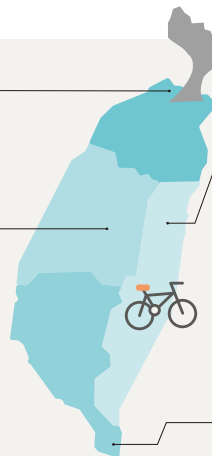
Tri-Mountain National Scenic Area:
www.trimt-nsa.gov.tw

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 (Mt. Jade) 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

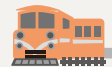
Alishan National Scenic Area: www.ali-nsa.net

Siraya National Scenic Area: www.siraya-nsa.gov.tw

Dapeng Bay National Scenic Area:
www.dbnsa.gov.tw

Maolin National Scenic Area:
www.maolin-nsa.gov.tw

Southwest Coast National Scenic Area:
swcoast-nsa.travel



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/en/discover/offshore-islands





MAJOR FESTIVALS & EVENTS

Month Festival / Event*

Jan.	New Year's Eve Celebrations
Feb.	Taiwan Lantern Festival**
Mar.	Taichung Mazu International Festival (religious pilgrimage)
Apr.	Dapeng Bay Marine Festival
May	Penghu International Fireworks Festival
Jun.	Taiwan East Coast Land Arts Festival and Moonlight Sea Concert

Jul.	Taiwan International Balloon Festival
Aug.	Taiwan Culinary Exhibition
Sep.	Sun Moon Lake International Swimming Carnival
Oct.	Taiwan Cycling Festival–Taiwan KOM Challenge
Nov.	Penghu Cross-Sea Marathon
Dec.	Christmasland in New Taipei City

*For more information, visit the Tourism Bureau's website at eng.taiwan.net.tw

**The Taiwan Lantern Festival is held in a different city or county each year. It will be held in Taipei City in 2023.



Currency

New Taiwan dollar (NT\$ or TWD)
Exchange rate: NT\$30.01 per US\$1 (May 2022)



Time Zone

All territories in same time zone, UTC +8 hours
(no seasonal adjustments)



Credit Cards and 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



Customs Regulations

Customs Administration, Ministry of Finance
Phone: (+886-2) 2550-5500 ext. 2116
Website: web.customs.gov.tw