

# ASEAN KEY FIGURES | 2020



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one identity  
one community





# ASEAN Key Figures 2020

The ASEAN Secretariat  
Jakarta

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established on 8 August 1967. The Member States are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. The ASEAN Secretariat is based in Jakarta, Indonesia.

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# FOREWORD

Following on the success of two previous editions, I am delighted to present the third edition of the **ASEAN Key Figures**. It provides a selection of key statistics on ASEAN and ASEAN Member States (AMS) trends to help the users to better understand how ASEAN has evolved over time and between ASEAN Member States.

Drawing mainly from the Statistics Division of the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEANstats) databases, the *ASEAN Key Figures 2020* aims to provide the readers with an overview of developments in ASEAN across several dimensions, ranging from demographics, socio-economics, trade and investment, to connectivity. This edition also covers some trends showing the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic to the region's economy.

User-friendly visualisation, simple data presentation, and brief texts have made the publication accessible to a wide range of users. This is part of the efforts of ASEANstats, with the collaboration and cooperation of all members of ASEAN Community Statistical System, in enhancing the quality of statistical processes and outputs~ including the way data is disseminated.

I hope you will find this publication, together with other ASEANstats publications, namely the *ASEAN Statistical Yearbook* and the *ASEAN Statistical Leaflet*, interesting and useful in your work, study, and daily life.



**DATO LIM JOCK HOI**

Secretary-General of ASEAN



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# INTRODUCTION

**ASEAN Key Figures 2020** provides users of ASEAN official statistics with an overview of the information available in ASEANstats website and online databases. It offers a series of indicators outlining ASEAN economic and social progress across multiple dimensions.

ASEAN Key Figures 2020 is divided into eight chapters covering the following areas: population; education; health; poverty, inequality and human development; labour; economy; international trade and foreign direct investment; and transport, tourism and communication. It also presents some figures showing the impact of COVID-19 pandemic in some areas.

Consistent with the ongoing efforts by ASEANstats to promote the visibility of ASEAN official statistics and ASEAN regional statistical cooperation, while contributing to the monitoring of economic and social progress in ASEAN, the charts and narrative are presented in a way that is easily read and understood.

While this publication covers only key indicators of ASEAN statistics, a more comprehensive information can be found in **ASEANstats website ([www.aseanstats.org](http://www.aseanstats.org))**. Online version of this publication, along with other ASEANstats publications, namely **ASEAN Statistical Yearbook** and **ASEAN Statistical Leaflet**, are also available on the website.



# 1 POPULATION





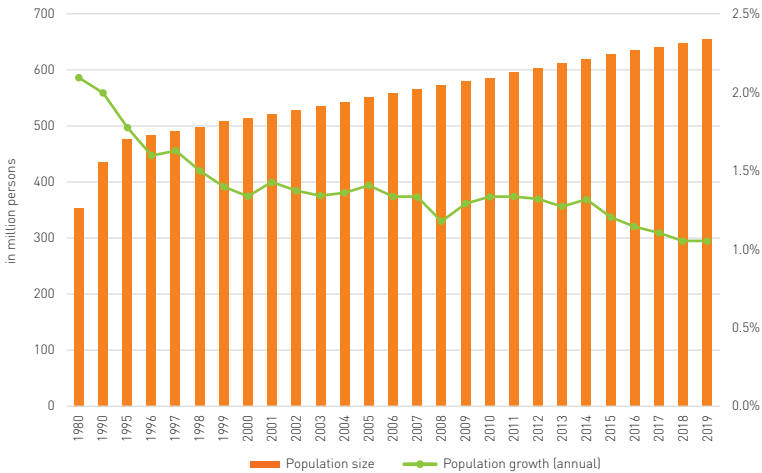
# 1 POPULATION

## Population: size and structure

Over the period of 1980-2019, ASEAN population increased from 355.2 million to 655.9 million, as shown in Figure 1.1. The near doubling in population size was due to natural increases as well as membership expansion, the latter with the accession of Brunei Darussalam to ASEAN in 1984, Viet Nam in 1995, Lao PDR and Myanmar in 1997, and Cambodia in 1999. On average, ASEAN population increased annually by 1.3% between 1980 and 2019.

Among the ten Member States, Indonesia has the highest number of inhabitants in the region. More than a third of all people in the ASEAN live in Indonesia – and it is also the fourth most populous countries worldwide. Brunei Darussalam has lowest number of inhabitants at less than 1% of ASEAN population while Singapore is the most densely populated in ASEAN with 7,923 people per Sq Km.

**Figure 1.1.** Population size and growth rate, ASEAN total, 1980-2019



**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

Figure 1.1 indicates that annual population growth has been in decline over the last four decades, from over 2% prior to 1992 to around 1.1% during the last four years.

A notable change is also observed in the age structure of ASEAN population. Figure 1.2 compares the population pyramids<sup>1</sup> of ASEAN in 2000 and 2019, and indicates a shift in the region's population structure during the last two decades.

In 2000, ASEAN population was generally characterised by high shares of youth population aged 0-19 years, which together represented 42.0% of the region's total population. In 2019, while the absolute number of youth population had increased, the total share of the four age groups<sup>2</sup> under "youth" dropped to 33.3%. Compared to female youth, the share of male youth was higher by 1.9 percentage point in 2000 and by 1.7 percentage point in 2019. On the contrary, the total share of the age groups in the productive working-age population in the groups of 15-64 years<sup>3</sup> increased from 53.0% in 2000 to 59.6% in 2019. Likewise, there is also an observed increase in the share of the elderly people (aged 65 years and over<sup>4</sup>) from 4.9% in 2000 to 7.1% in 2019.

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<sup>1</sup> The population pyramid reveals the makeup of the population as a whole by age groups and gender.

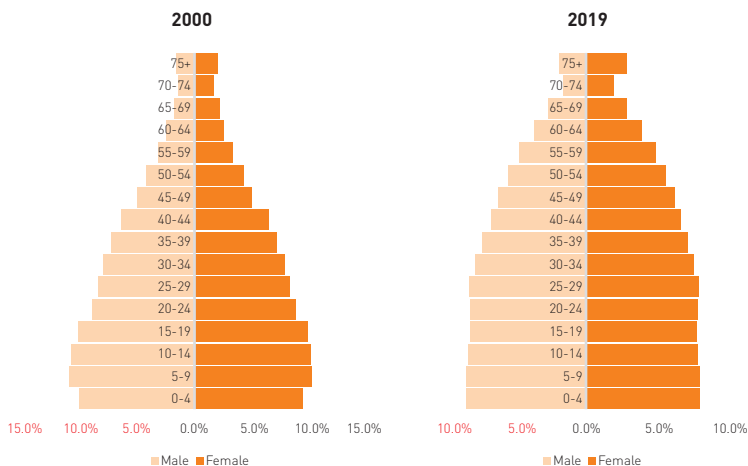
<sup>2</sup> Youth population comprises the following age groups: 0-4, 5-9, 10-14, and 15-19.

<sup>3</sup> Productive working-age population comprises the following age groups: 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59 and 60-64.

<sup>4</sup> Elderly population comprises the following age groups: 65-69, 70-74, 75+.



**Figure 1.2.** Population pyramid, ASEAN total, 2000 and 2019



**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

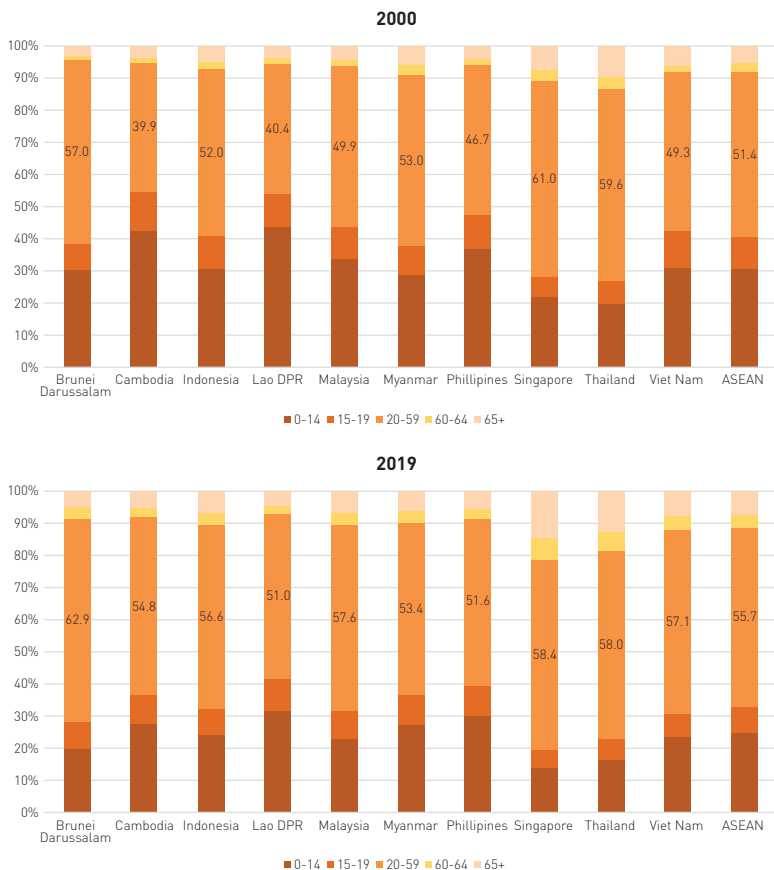
The ASEAN population pyramids also show noticeably larger share of elderly female population aged 65 years and over, compared to the male population of the same age groups. The percentage of female population in those age groups to total female population is 7.9%, higher than that of the male population at 6.3% in 2019. This size differential is reflective of the pattern<sup>5</sup> that women generally live longer than men. As a result, elderly women tend to outnumber elderly men in the same age groups.

Changes in the patterns of population pyramids over time indicate the ongoing process of demographic transition, associated with declining fertility and mortality levels in AMS. However, the stages of demographic transitions vary across the AMS, reflecting the different levels of development.

Figure 1.3 shows the population age structure across ASEAN Member States in 2000 and 2019. During this period, all AMS observed an increase in the share of population aged 65 years and over. The most significant increase was found in Singapore and Thailand from 7.2% and 9.1% in 2000 to 14.4% and 12.5% in 2019, respectively. At the same time, all AMS observed declining shares of youth population aged 0-19 years.

<sup>5</sup> The higher share of older female population is one of the more consistent features in almost all population pyramids, in any region or country.

**Figure 1.3.** Population age structure (% of total) by ASEAN Member States, 2000 and 2019



**Note:** Data for Singapore refer to resident population

**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

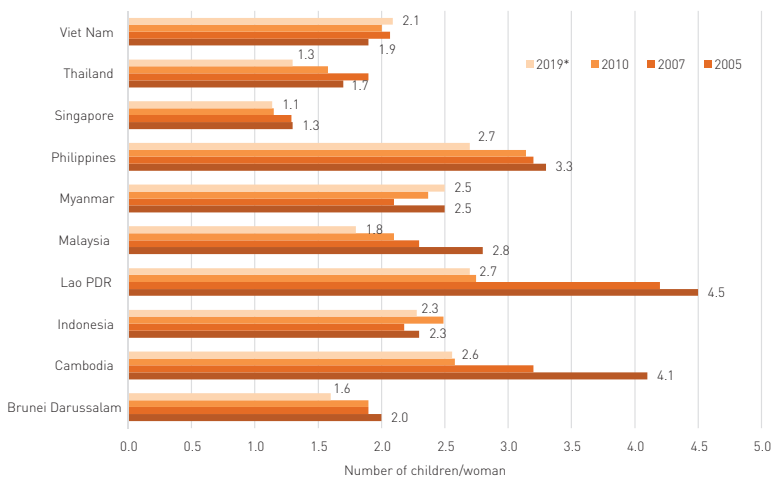
On the other hand, the share of productive working-age population increased in seven AMS (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines and Viet Nam), bringing about potential demographic dividends, which could contribute to economic growth and poverty reduction. At the same time, challenges may also arise in terms of allocating resources to provide education as well as health services, and create sufficient employment opportunities.

## Fertility

Fertility is one of the major contributors to population growth. Based on the most recent data, total fertility rate (TFR) is found to be declining over time in all 10 AMS, except for Indonesia and Myanmar. Significant decline in TFR was recorded in Cambodia and Lao PDR from 4.1 and 4.5 in 2005 to 2.6 and 2.7 respectively in 2016, also in Malaysia from 2.8 in 2005 to 1.8 in 2019. In the case of the remaining countries, the TFR declined by around 0.6 from 2005 to the recent year (Figure 1.4).

Lower TFR means fewer children as compared to the working-age population. This would provide an opportunity to avail more resources for children and maternal health, education, and other supporting infrastructures and services. However, sustained low fertility rate would also lead to an aging population, leading to higher burden on the economy through, among others, increased health care and social security costs.

**Figure 1.4.** Total fertility rate (TFR) by ASEAN Member States, 2005-2019



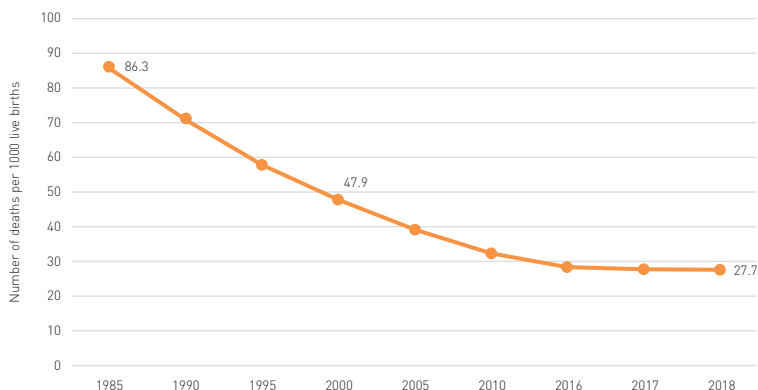
**Note:** \*The latest available data for Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar is 2016, for Philippines is 2017, for Thailand is 2018

**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

## Mortality and life expectancy

As one of the most widely used mortality indicators, the under-five mortality rate, can indicate the social, economic, and environmental health conditions of children, including their access to health care. Figure 1.5 shows that under-five mortality rate in ASEAN has experienced a significant decline during the period of 1985-2018, from 86.3 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1985 to 27.7 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2018.

**Figure 1.5.** Under-five mortality rate (per 1,000 live births), ASEAN total, 1985-2018

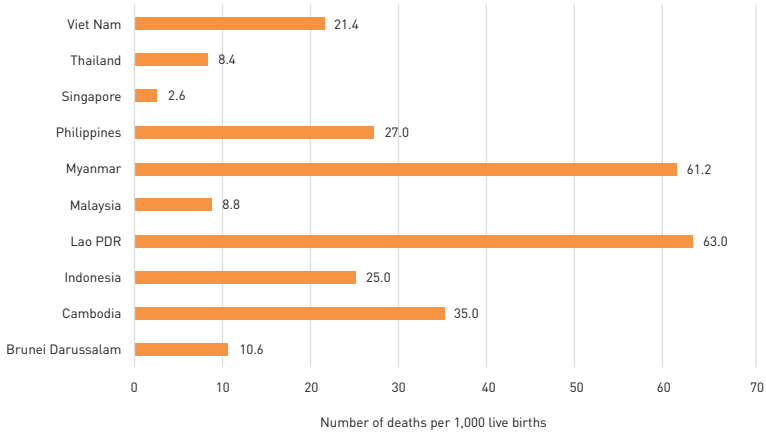


**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

Disparity in under-five mortality rate among AMS, however, remains noticeable. Figure 1.6 shows that in 2018 under-five mortality rate in the region ranges from very low at three deaths per 1,000 live births in Singapore to high mortality rate still experienced by Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Cambodia at 63, 61, and 35 deaths per 1,000 live births, respectively. Large improvements have been made for under-five mortality rate in Malaysia, Thailand, and Brunei Darussalam, from eight to ten deaths per 1,000 live births.

The decline in child mortality is closely associated with longer life expectancy. Life expectancy at birth is defined as the average number of years that a newborn could expect to live if he or she were to pass through life, subject to the age-specific mortality rate of a given period.

**Figure 1.6.** Under-five mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) by ASEAN Member States, 2018

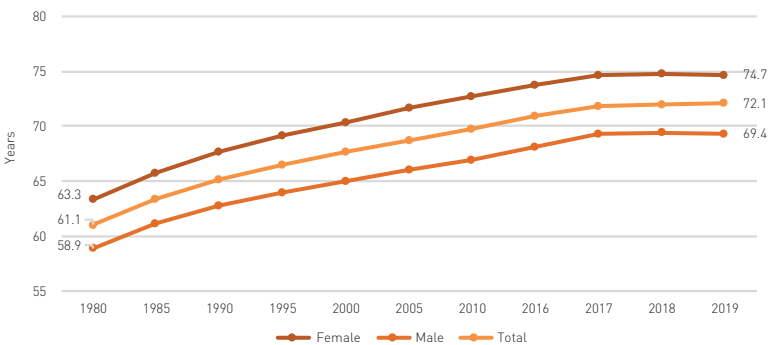


**Note:** The latest available year for Cambodia is 2014 while for Indonesia, Lao PDR, and Philippines is 2017

**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

The average life expectancy in ASEAN reached 72.1 years in 2019, an increase of over 11 years since that in 1980 (see Figure 1.7). Gender disparity can be observed with women, at a life expectancy of 74.7 years in 2019, expected to live 5.4 years longer than men at 69.4 years.

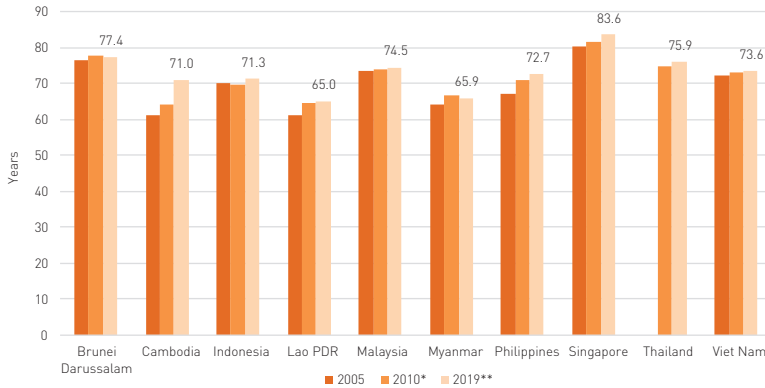
**Figure 1.7.** Life expectancy at birth (years), ASEAN total, 1980-2019



**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

Life expectancy, however, varies across the AMS (Figure 1.8). Latest available data shows that life expectancy in the AMS ranges from over 83.6 years in Singapore, between 70 and 80 years in Brunei Darussalam, Thailand, Malaysia, Viet Nam, Philippines, Indonesia, and Cambodia, to below 70 years in Lao PDR and Myanmar.

**Figure 1.8.** Life expectancy at birth (years) by ASEAN Member States, 2005-2019



**Note:** \*Available data for Thailand is 2016; \*\*Latest available data available for Philippines is 2015, Lao PDR is 2017, Myanmar and Thailand is 2018

**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

# 2 EDUCATION







## 2 EDUCATION

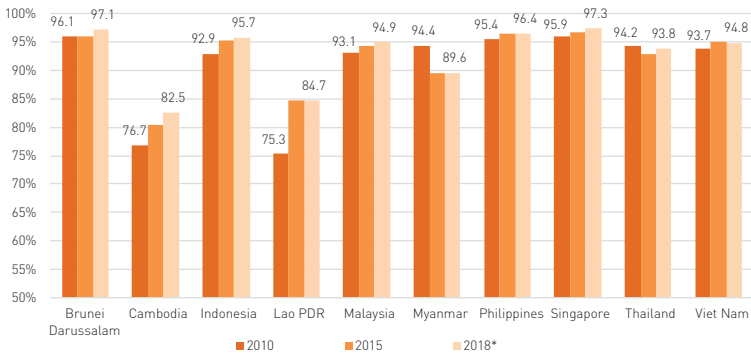
### Introduction

Education is high on ASEAN's development agenda given its significant contribution to the overall welfare and socio-economic outcomes. Adult literacy rate is an indicator representing the quality of human capital, while net enrolment rate and pupil to teacher ratio indicate the quality of educational provision in a country.

### Adult literacy rate

Figure 2.1 shows improvement in adult literacy rate over the last decade. The majority of AMS have achieved relatively high adult literacy rate at above 94% in 2018, with the highest recorded in Singapore at 97.3%, followed by Brunei Darussalam (97.1%), the Philippines (96.4%), and Indonesia (95.7%).

**Figure 2.1.** Adult literacy rate (%) by ASEAN Member States, 2010-2018



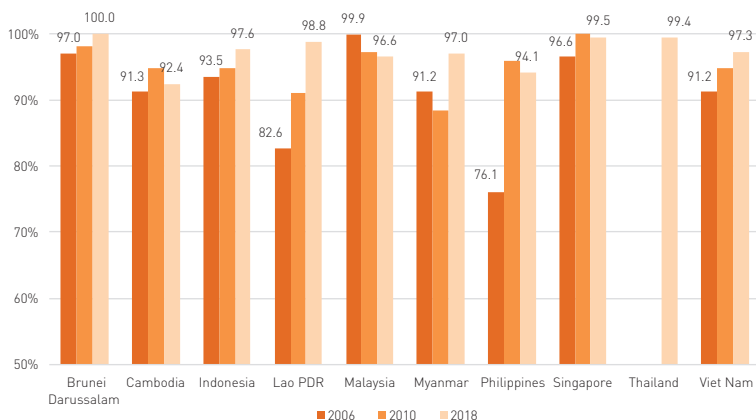
**Note:** \*The latest available data for Cambodia is 2017, Lao PDR and Myanmar is 2015, Philippines is 2013

**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

## Net enrolment rate in primary education

Net enrolment rate (NER) in primary education is measured by the ratio of the number of children of official primary school age who are enrolled in primary education to the total population of children of official primary school age (expressed as a percentage). Figure 2.2 shows significant progress across AMS in ensuring primary education enrollment. All AMS have recorded NER in primary education rate of above 90% in 2018. The highest rate, 100%, is recorded in Brunei Darussalam, while in Singapore and Viet Nam the percentage of children of primary school age who are not enrolled in school is less than 1.0%.

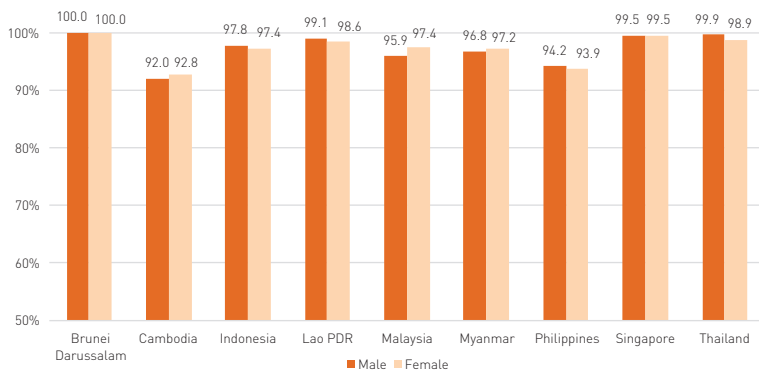
**Figure 2.2.** Net enrolment rate in primary education (%) by ASEAN Member States, 2006-2018



**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

In 2018, gender equality in primary school enrolment was generally achieved in all AMS, with the difference between NER of male and female at 1.5 percentage point or less (Figure 2.3).

**Figure 2.3.** Net enrolment rate in primary education (%) by gender, 2018



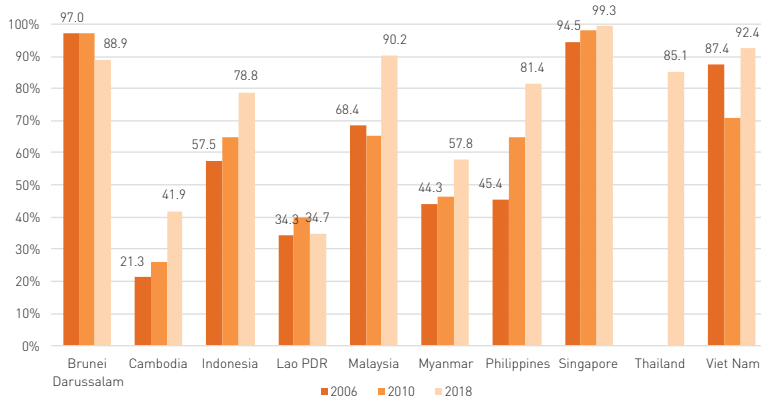
**Note:** Viet Nam data is not available

**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

### Net enrolment rate in secondary education

NER in secondary education is the ratio of children of official secondary school age who are enrolled in school to the population of the corresponding age. Secondary education completes the provision of basic education after the primary level, and aims at laying the foundation for lifelong learning and human development, by offering more subjects or skill-oriented instructions, using more specialized teacher.

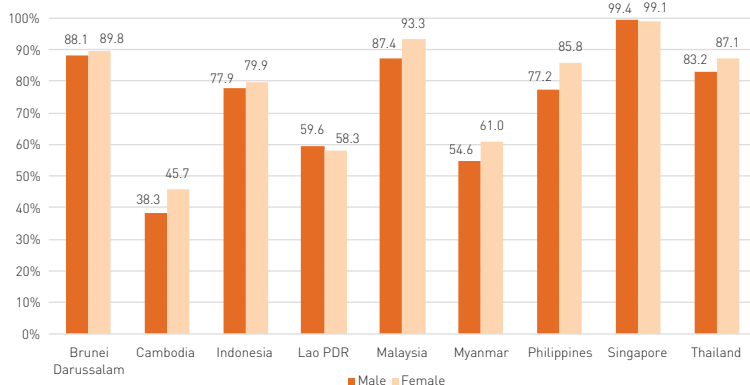
**Figure 2.4.** Net enrolment rate in secondary education (%) by ASEAN Member States, 2006-2018



**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

NER in secondary education increased in all AMS over the last decade (Figure 2.4). Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines recorded significant increase of more than 20 percentage point. However, tremendous efforts for improvement are still required given that the rate in some AMS is still below 80% in 2018.

**Figure 2.5.** Net enrolment rate in secondary education (%) by gender, 2018



**Note:** Viet Nam data is not available

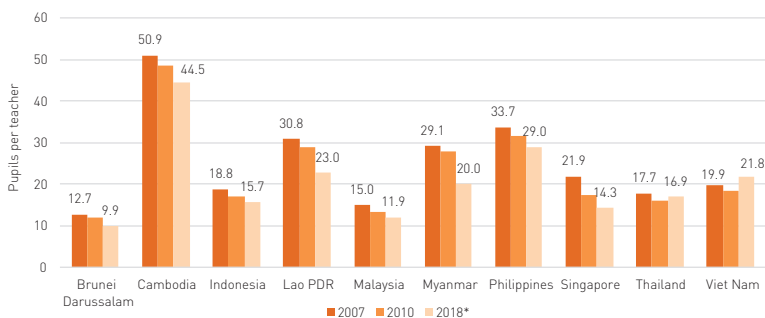
**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

In term of gender comparison, NER in secondary education of female in Cambodia, Malaysia, Myanmar, and the Philippines was higher than that of male by more than 5 percentage point (Figure 2.5). Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, and Thailand recorded the same trend but with smaller gaps (less than 4.0 percentage point). Meanwhile, NER in secondary education of male in Lao PDR and Singapore was observed to be higher than female by 1.3 and 0.3 percentage point, respectively.

## Pupil-teacher ratio

Pupil-teacher ratio indicates the quality of educational provision in a country. The lower the pupil-teacher ratio, the higher the relative access of pupils to teachers, which enables the teachers to pay more attention to individual students. In the long run, this may result in better performance of the pupils. The pupil-teacher ratio in primary education has improved across AMS during the last decade (Figure 2.6). The lowest ratios were recorded in Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, and Singapore at 9.9, 11.9, and 14.3, respectively. However, the ratio was still relatively high, at more than 20.0, in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, the Philippines, and Viet Nam.

**Figure 2.6.** Pupil-teacher ratio in primary education by ASEAN Member States, 2007-2018

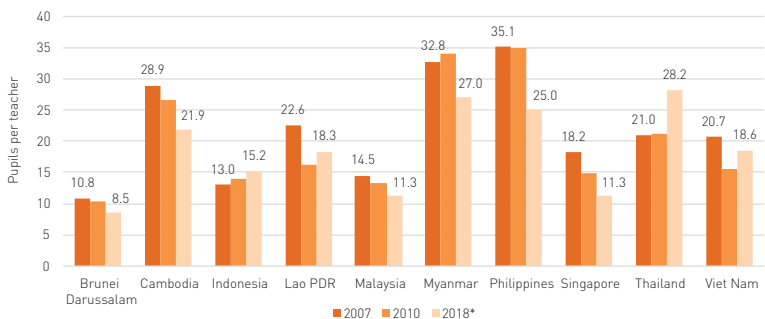


**Note:** \*The latest available data for Lao PDR is 2016, Thailand is 2015

**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

The pupil-teacher ratio in secondary education has also improved across AMS (Figure 2.7). The lowest ratio is recorded in Brunei Darussalam (8.5), Malaysia (11.3), and Singapore (11.3). The ratio in Cambodia, Myanmar and the Philippines remains relatively high at more than 20.0, however, this has considerably decreased since 2007.

**Figure 2.7.** Pupil-teacher ratio in secondary education by ASEAN Member States, 2007-2018



**Note:** \*The latest available data for Lao PDR is 2016, Thailand is 2015

**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database



# 3 HEALTH







## 3 HEALTH

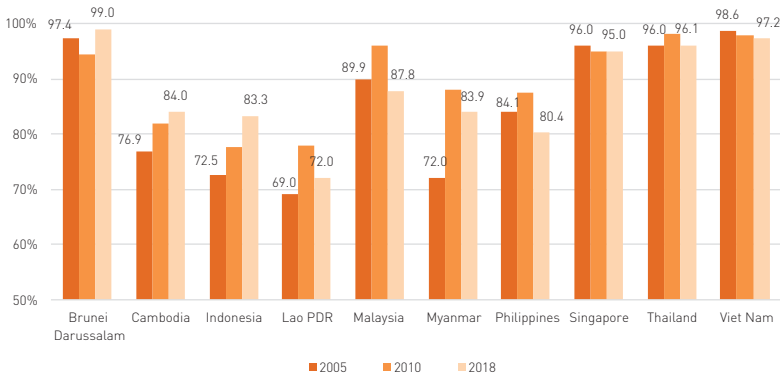
### Introduction

Health is one of the factors, in addition to education and skills, that affect people's ability and productivity. This chapter focuses on indicators related to public health, namely the coverage of immunisation among one-year old children, access to safe drinking water, and improved sanitation.

### Coverage of immunisation among one-year old children

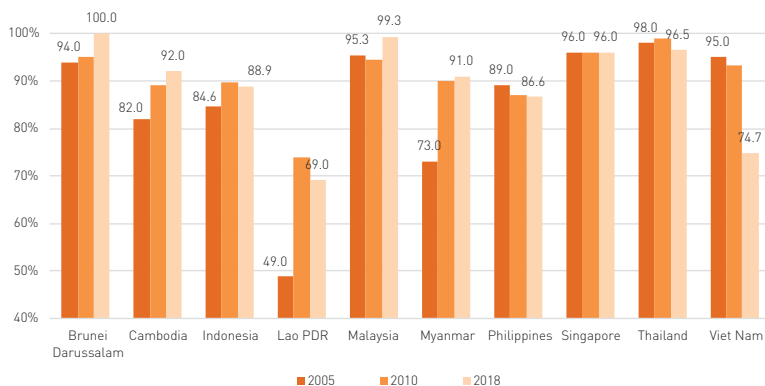
Immunisation is one of the most cost-effective public health interventions to reduce child mortality and morbidity associated with infectious diseases. The coverage of immunisation among one-year old children is defined as the share of one-year old children who is immunised to the total children population aged one year. Figure 3.1 and 3.2 present the coverage of immunisation against measles and diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus (DPT) between 2005 and 2018 in the AMS.

**Figure 3.1.** Coverage of immunisation against measles among one-year old children (%) by ASEAN Member States, 2005-2018



**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

**Figure 3.2.** Coverage of immunisation against DPT among one-year old children (%) by ASEAN Member States, 2005-2018



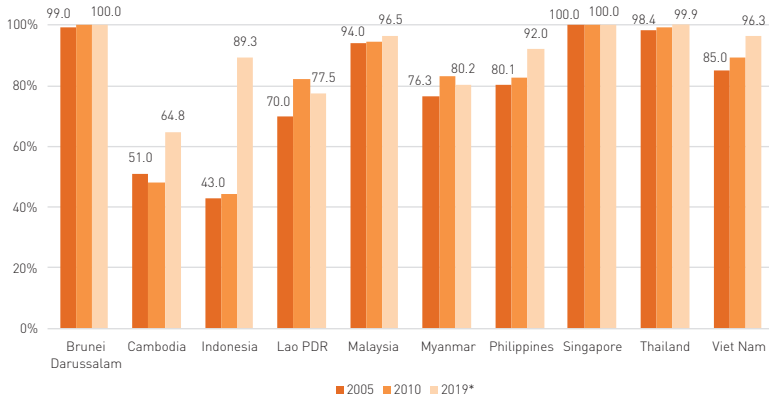
**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

During the period covered, measles immunisation has consistently covered well over 90% of total children aged one-year in Brunei Darussalam, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Other AMS also experienced significant progress. Increase in the coverage of measles immunisation was recorded in Cambodia, from 76.9% in 2005 to 84.0% in 2018; in Indonesia, from 72.5% to 83.3%; and in Myanmar, from 72.0% to 83.9%. Similar trends were observed for DPT immunisation, with the highest coverage recorded in 2018 in Brunei Darussalam (100%), Malaysia (99.3%), Thailand (96.5%), and Singapore (96.0%). The coverage for Indonesia and the Philippines remained at above 80%. Meanwhile, significant progress was recorded in Lao PDR (from 49.0% in 2005 to 69.0% in 2018), Myanmar (from 73.0% to 89.0%), and Cambodia (82.0% to 93.0%).

### Access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation

Access to drinking water and improved sanitation are essential factors in ensuring public health. In 2019, the whole population of Brunei Darussalam and Singapore have access to safe drinking water, while in Thailand, Malaysia, Viet Nam, and the Philippines, the coverage was well above 90% at 99.9%, 96.5%, 96.3%, and 92.0%, respectively (Figure 3.3). Meanwhile, significant improvement was recorded particularly in Cambodia, from 51.0% in 2005 to 64.8% in 2017, and Indonesia, from 43.0% in 2005 to 89.3% in 2019.

**Figure 3.3.** Population with access to safe drinking water (%) by ASEAN Member States, 2005-2019

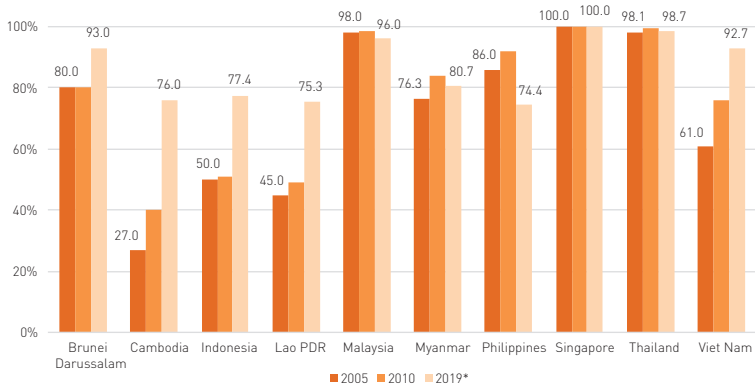


**Note:** \*The latest available data for Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar and Philippines is 2017

**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

With regard to access to improved sanitation, Singapore has successfully retained its whole-population coverage in 2019. Meanwhile the coverage in Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Thailand, and Viet Nam was above 90%, with Thailand reaching near full-coverage at 99.7%. Furthermore, during the period covered from 2005 to 2019, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, and Viet Nam all demonstrated significant improvement.

**Figure 3.4.** Population with access to improved sanitation (%) by ASEAN Member States, 2005-2019



**Note:** \*The latest available data for Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar and Philippines is 2017

**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database



# 4 POVERTY, INEQUALITY AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT





# POVERTY, INEQUALITY AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

## Introduction

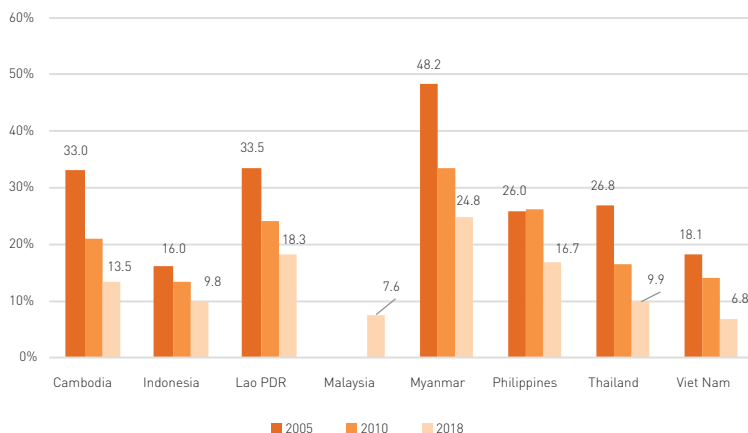
Human development and improvement in the social well-being of a population require a set of capabilities. Poverty is often referred to as the deprivation of capabilities, while inequality refers to the difference in capabilities of individuals in a population. This chapter highlights the trends in poverty rate, income inequality, and human development index in ASEAN Member States.

## Poverty incidence

During the period of 2005-2018, AMS experienced a decline in poverty incidence as indicated by the decrease in the proportion of population living below national poverty lines (Figure 4.1). The largest reduction in poverty rate was recorded in Myanmar, with a decline of 23.4 percentage point between 2005 and 2018. Cambodia, Thailand, and Lao PDR also experienced significant poverty reduction during the same period, with a decline of 19.5, 16.9, and 15.2 percentage point, respectively.

Good progress was also observed in Viet Nam, the Philippines, and Indonesia, where the poverty rate decreased from 18.1%, 26.0%, and 16.0% in 2005 to 6.8%, 16.7%, and 16.0% in 2018, respectively.

**Figure 4.1.** Population living below the national poverty lines (%) by ASEAN Member States, 2005-2018\*



**Notes:** \*i. The latest available data for Cambodia is 2014, Malaysia is 2016, Myanmar is 2017; ii. The data for Malaysia prior to 2016 is not available; iii. Data for Viet Nam refer to Multidimensional Poverty Rate; iv. This indicator is not applicable for Brunei Darussalam and Singapore

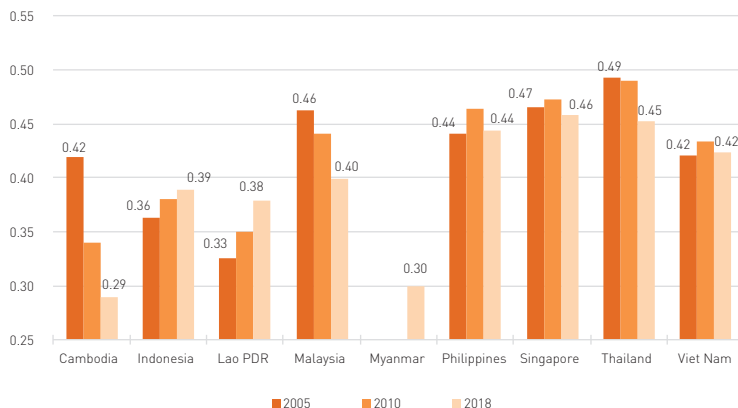
**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

## Income inequality

Income inequality refers to the uneven distribution of income between individuals or households in a given country. Gini Ratio is one of the most frequently used measures of income inequality. The value of Gini Ratio spreads from 0, as a perfect equality, to 1, as a perfect inequality, in income distribution of population. In 2018, the lowest Gini Ratio, indicating more equality in income distribution, was found in Cambodia at 0.29, followed by Myanmar at 0.30 (Figure 4.2). During the period of 2005-2018, increase in Gini Ratio, indicating a rise in income inequality, was recorded in Indonesia and Lao PDR. While Gini Ratio in Cambodia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand declined over the same period.



**Figure 4.2.** Gini Ratio by ASEAN Member States, 2005-2018\*



**Notes:** \*i. The latest available data for Cambodia, Myanmar, and Thailand is 2017, Malaysia is 2016, Lao PDR and Philippines is 2015; ii. The data for Myanmar prior to 2017 is not available

**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

## Human development index

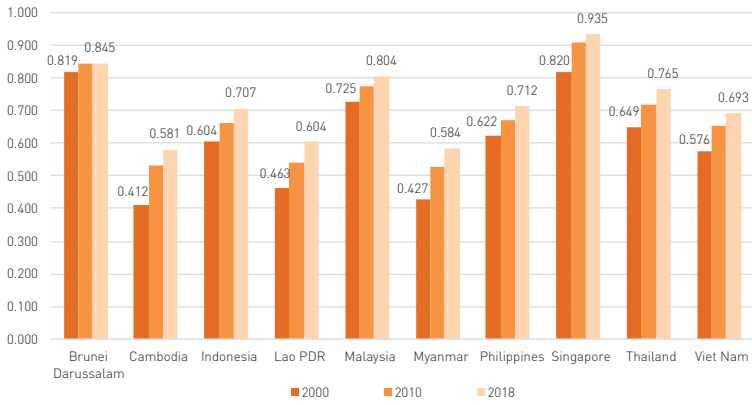
Human development index (HDI) is another measure of the well-being of a country's population, focusing on the three basic dimensions of human development: ability to lead a long and healthy life as measured by life expectancy at birth; ability to acquire knowledge as measured by mean years of schooling and expected years of schooling; and ability to achieve a decent standard of living as measured by gross national income per capita (UNDP, 2019).

Figure 4.3 shows the trends of HDI in AMS. Three AMS namely Singapore, Brunei Darussalam, and Malaysia, were in the very high category of HDI in 2018, while Thailand was in the high category. The remaining six AMS were in the medium HDI category<sup>6</sup>.

During the period of 2000-2018, all AMS recorded an increase in HDI value. The highest increase of HDI was recorded in Cambodia at 22.4%, from 0.412 in 2000 to 0.518 in 2018, followed by Myanmar at 36.8%, from 0.427 in 2000 to 0.584 in 2018. Whereas the lowest increase was recorded in Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia at 3.2% and 10.9%, respectively.

<sup>6</sup> HDI of less than 0.550 for low human development; 0.550-0.699 for medium human development; 0.700-0.799 for high human development; and 0.800 or greater for very high human development (UNDP, Human Development Report 2019).

**Figure 4.3.** Human Development Index by ASEAN Member States, 2000-2018



**Source:** UNDP, Human Development Report Series

# 5 LABOUR





## 5 LABOUR

### Introduction

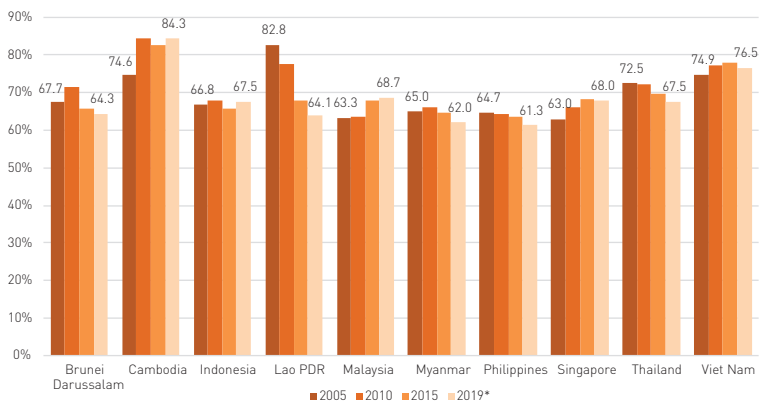
Understanding trends in the labour market is important for designing effective and relevant policies. As population in the region continues to grow, notably the productive working-age population, the economy should keep up by providing sufficient employment opportunities for the growing labour force. This section describes trends in the labour force participation rate, unemployment rate, and employment by industries or economic sectors in ASEAN.

### Labour force participation rate

The labour force participation rate (LFPR) measures the shares of a country's working-age population that engages actively in the labour market, either by working or looking for work. It indicates the size of the supply of labour available to engage in the production of goods and services, relative to the population at working age (ILO, 2016). Figure 5.1 presents the trends of LFPRs in AMS between 2005 and 2019. LFPRs are found to be relatively stable during the period, with the exception of Lao PDR where LFPR declined from 82.8% in 2005 to 64.1% in 2017. The other AMS, such as Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, and Singapore, had LFPR ranging from 61.3% to 71.4%, while the LFPR for Cambodia, Thailand and Viet Nam were much higher ranging from 67.5% to 84.4%.

LFPR was also impacted by Covid-19 pandemic that hits all countries in the world since early 2020. The government of AMS undertook several policies including lockdown to curb and prevent the spreading of the COVID-19, which in turn affected the number of people participating in the labor force. The published preliminary data in semester-1 2020 showed a decline of LFPR in some AMS i.e Viet Nam from 76.5% in S1-2019 to 72.3% in S1-2020, followed by Malaysia and Myanmar from 68.7% and 62.0% in S1-2019 to 68.1% and 61.5% in S1-2020, respectively. The other countries continue to show an increase of their LFPR albeit at a much slower rate.

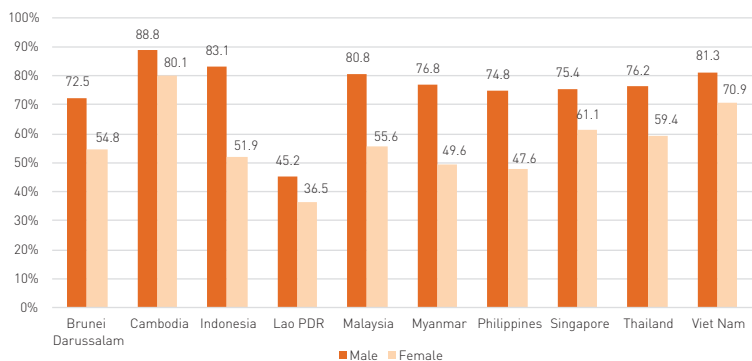
**Figure 5.1.** Labour force participation rate (%) by ASEAN Member States, 2005-2019



**Note:** \*The latest available data for Cambodia and Lao PDR is 2017, Myanmar is 2018

**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

**Figure 5.2.** Labour force participation rate (%) by ASEAN Member States, 2019\*



**Note:** \*The latest available data for Cambodia and Lao PDR is 2017, Myanmar is 2018

**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

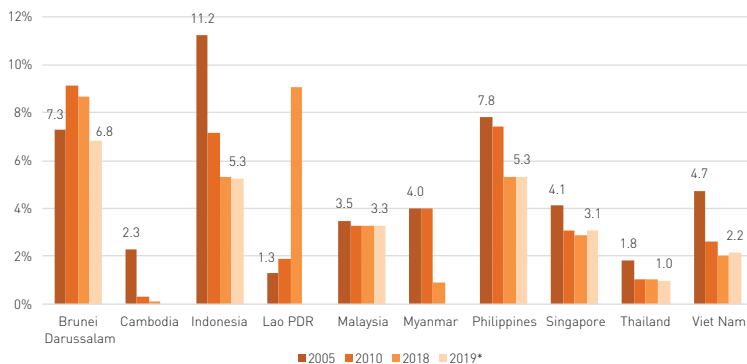
Gender comparison of LFPRs (Figure 5.2) indicates that in all 10 AMS, male participation rate is higher compared to that of female. The gender disparity in LFPRs was the highest in Indonesia at 83.1% for males as compared to 51.9% for females in 2019, followed by Philippines and Myanmar at 74.8% and 76.8% to 47.6% and 49.6%, respectively.

## Unemployment rate

Unemployment rate measures the under utilisation of labour supply, reflecting the inability of the working-age population that are actively seeking work to find employment. While the unemployment rate in all AMS are found to be relatively low over the observed period of 2005-2019 (Figure 5.3), the rates tend to fluctuate in all AMS in step with fluctuations in the economic environment. In 2019, the rate was lowest in Thailand (1.0%) and Viet Nam (2.2%), follow by Singapore (3.1%), and Malaysia (3.3%). Indonesia have stable unemployment rate at 5.3% in 2018 and 2019, while Brunei Darussalam recorded the highest unemployment rate at 6.8%.

The impact of Covid-19 pandemic and the lockdown to unemployment rate have not shown in 2020 data as most AMS have yet to publish their unemployment data. Any significant increase of unemployment rate in 2020 could probably indicate a result of weak economic conditions as well as the disruption to workforce availability faced by companies during the pandemic.

**Figure 5.3.** Unemployment rate (%) by ASEAN Member States, 2005-2019



**Note:** \*The latest available data for Cambodia is 2017, Lao PDR and Myanmar is 2018

**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

## Employment by economic sectors

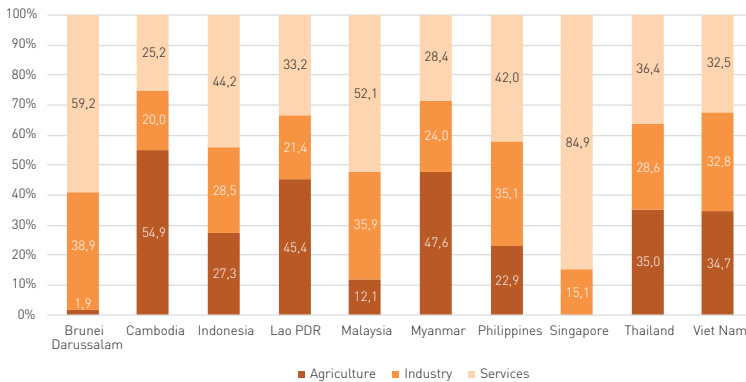
Figure 5.4 shows the employment structure by main economic sectors in the 10 AMS, based on the most recent available data. Agricultural sector was a significant contributor to employment in Cambodia (in 2014), while in most recent years (2017-2019), agriculture also remains as key contributor to employment in Myanmar (47.6%), Lao PDR (45.4%), Thailand (35.0%), and

Viet Nam (34.7%). Similarly, in Indonesia and the Philippines, the percentage of employment in agriculture sector remains significant at 27.3% and 22.9%, respectively, despite the shift to the industry and services sectors.

The industrial sector, which includes mining & quarrying, manufacturing, construction and electricity, gas and water, contributed 38.9% of total employment in Brunei Darussalam, 35.9% in Malaysia, 35.1% in Philippines, 32.8% in Viet Nam, 28.6% in Thailand, and 28.5% in Indonesia. The share of employment in this sector was lowest in Singapore at 15.1%.

In tertiary sector or services sector, Singapore has highest share of employment at 84.9% in 2019, followed by Brunei Darussalam (59.2%), Malaysia (52.1%), and the Philippines (42.0%).

**Figure 5.4.** Shares of employment by main economic sectors (%) by ASEAN Member States, 2019\*



**Note:** \*The latest available data for Cambodia is 2012, Lao PDR is 2017, Myanmar is 2018

**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database



# 6 ECONOMY



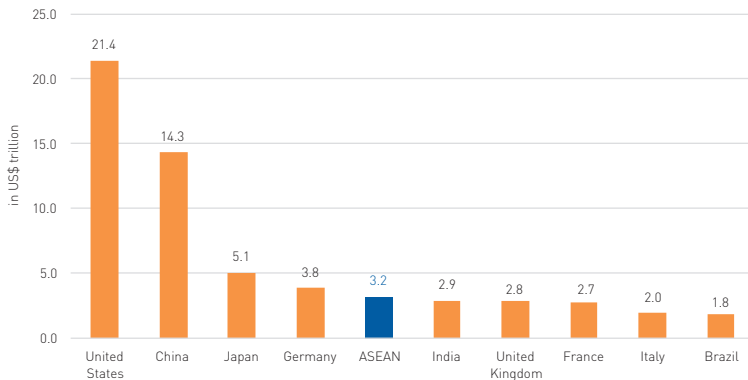


## 6 ECONOMY

### Gross domestic product

Gross domestic product (GDP), the value of all goods and services produced in an economy during a given period, is an indicator used to measure the size of an economy. Total combined GDP of ten ASEAN Member States (AMS) was valued at US\$3.2 trillion in 2019. This places ASEAN, collectively, as the fifth largest economy in the world, after the United States (US\$21.4 trillion), China (US\$14.4 trillion), Japan (US\$5.1 trillion), and Germany (US\$3.9 trillion) (Figure 6.1).

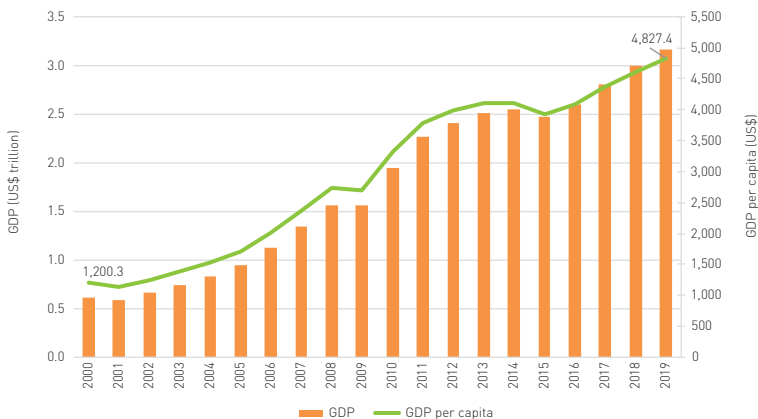
**Figure 6.1.** Top ten largest economies in the world (US\$ trillion), 2019



**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

ASEAN's GDP had been on a positive trend through the period of 2000-2019, notwithstanding the global economic crisis in 2008-2009 (Figure 6.2). The region's total GDP in 2019 has doubled since a decade ago (USD 1.6 trillion in 2008) and almost fivefold the value in 2000 (US\$0.6 trillion). Similar trend was observed for the ASEAN's GDP per capita, which reached US\$4,827.4 in 2019, as compared to 2010 at US\$ 3,313.6, and more than four times its value in 2000 (US\$1,200.3). ASEAN's share of world nominal GDP rose from 2.5% in 2008 (it was the twelfth largest economy) to 3.7% in 2019 (fifth largest).

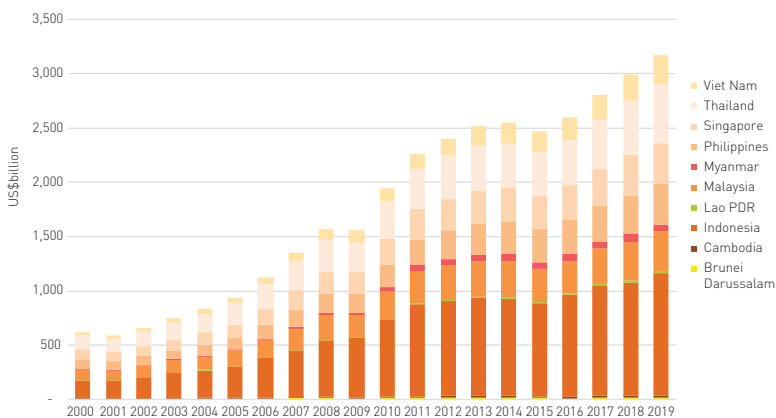
**Figure 6.2.** ASEAN GDP (US\$ trillion) and GDP per capita (US\$), 2000-2019



**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

Figure 6.3 indicates the diversity in economic size among ASEAN member states with Indonesia as the largest, accounting for 35.4% of the region’s GDP in 2019, followed by Thailand (17.2%), Philippines (11.9%), and Singapore (11.8%).

**Figure 6.3.** Total GDP (US\$ billion) by ASEAN Member States, 2000-2019

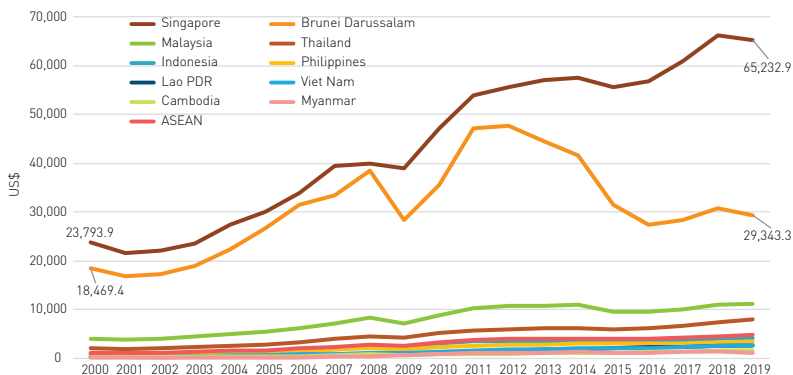


**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

As for GDP per capita (GDP of an economy divided by its total population), which is a proxy of living standard, Figure 6.4 shows that Singapore and Brunei Darussalam recorded the highest value in 2019 at US\$65,232.9 and US\$29,343.3, respectively. The figures were about 13.5 times and 6.1 times ASEAN's average GDP per capita of US\$4,827.4. It should be noted that these high values were nevertheless lower than their 2018 level, declining by 1.4% for Singapore and 4.3% for Brunei Darussalam.

GDP per capita increased in all AMS from 2000-2019. The most significant improvement was observed in Lao PDR, where GDP per capita increased by 696.5% over this period, followed by Myanmar (572.0%) and Viet Nam (502.4%). ASEAN's combined GDP per capita growth in 2019 stood at 4.6%, lower than that in 2018 at 5.7%.

**Figure 6.4.** GDP per capita (US\$) by ASEAN Member States, 2000-2019



**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

## Real GDP growth

Real GDP growth is a year-to-year comparison of the value of all goods and services produced in an economy expressed in base-year prices. During the period of 2000-2019, ASEAN's economy grew steadily, with an average annual growth of 5.7% (Table 6.1). Among AMS, Myanmar, Lao PDR, and Cambodia recorded the highest GDP growth, with average annual growth of 13.2%, 7.7%, and 7.6%, respectively.

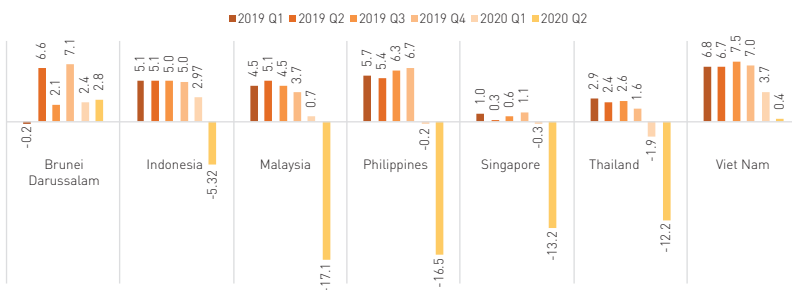
**Table 6.1.** Real GDP growth rate, 2000-2019

	GDP growth rate (%)						Annual average
	2000	2005	2010	2015	2018	2019	2000-2019
Brunei Darussalam	2.9	0.4	2.6	-0.4	0.1	3.9	3.3
Cambodia	8.4	13.6	6.0	7.0	7.5	7.1	7.6
Indonesia	5.4	5.7	6.2	4.9	5.2	5.0	5.3
Lao PDR	5.8	7.3	8.1	7.3	6.3	6.4	7.7
Malaysia	8.9	5.3	7.4	5.0	4.8	4.3	6.5
Myanmar	13.7	13.6	9.6	7.0	6.8	6.2	13.2
Philippines	4.4	4.9	7.3	6.3	6.3	6.0	5.5
Singapore	8.9	7.5	15.2	2.2	3.4	0.7	5.1
Thailand	4.5	4.2	7.5	3.1	4.2	2.4	3.9
Viet Nam	6.8	7.5	6.4	6.7	7.1	7.0	6.6
ASEAN	6.0	5.8	7.5	4.8	5.2	4.6	5.7

**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

Looking at the latest published quarterly GDP growth of seven ASEAN Member States in the period of January – June 2020 (Figure 6.5), the impact of COVID-19 was shown largely in Malaysia (-17.1%), Philippines (-16.5%), Singapore (-13.2%), and Thailand (-12.2%), followed by Indonesia (-5.3%). Only Viet Nam and Brunei Darussalam showed positive growth rates with 0.4% and 2.8%, respectively.

**Figure 6.5.** Quarterly GDP growth rate of seven ASEAN Member States

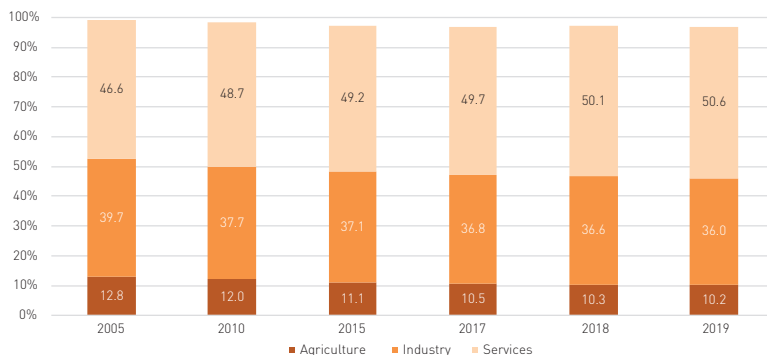


**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

## GDP by main economic sectors

The decomposition of GDP by its three main sectors namely agriculture, industry and services, indicates the economic structure in the country and the contribution of each sector to the economy.

**Figure 6.6.** Shares of main economic sectors to total ASEAN's GDP (%) , 2005-2019

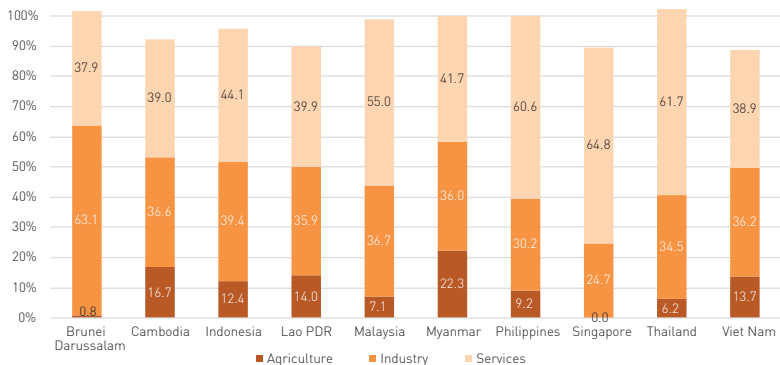


**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

During the period of 2005-2019, services, which covers trade, government activities, communications, transportations, finance, and other economic activities not producing goods, was the leading sector in ASEAN's economy (Figure 6.6). The share of the services sector to the region's GDP increased from 46.6% in 2005 to 50.8% in 2019. On the contrary, the shares of the other two sectors decreased over the same period. Industry, which includes manufacturing, electricity, gas and water supply, construction as well as mining and quarrying, contributed 36.0% of total GDP in 2019, a decrease from 39.7% in 2005. The share of agriculture, covering farming, fishing, and forestry, also decreased to 10.2% in 2019 (from 12.8% in 2005).

Figure 6.7 shows that economic structures differ across AMS in 2019. Services was the leading sector in all AMS, except Brunei Darussalam. The share of the sector was found to be the largest in Singapore, reaching 64.8% of the country's total GDP, followed by Thailand (61.7%), the Philippines (60.6%), and Malaysia (55.0%). Meanwhile, industry was the leading sector in Brunei Darussalam, contributing 63.1% to the total GDP of the country. Agriculture remained an important sector for Myanmar (22.3%), followed by Cambodia (16.7%), Lao PDR (14.5%), Viet Nam (13.7%), and Indonesia (12.4%).

**Figure 6.7.** Shares of main economic sectors to total GDP (%) by ASEAN Member States, 2019



**Note:** The sum of these three sectors may not add up to 100% due to difference in the treatment of statistical discrepancy among AMS

**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database



# 7 INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT





## INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT

### Introduction

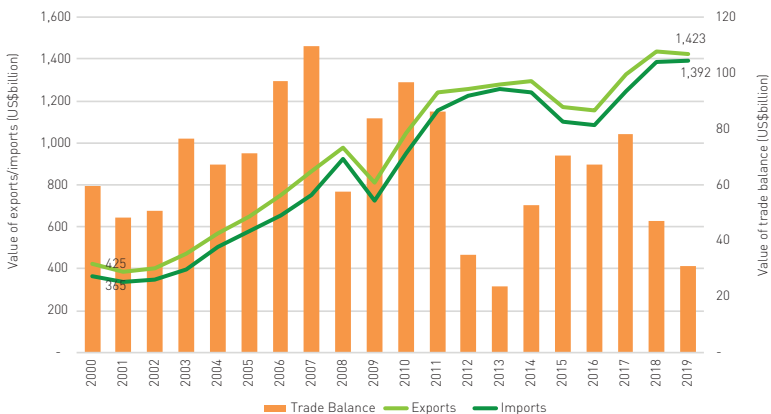
International trade and foreign direct investment (FDI) have increasingly become key underpinning factors in the region's economic development. ASEAN total values of merchandise trade and trade in services have increased significantly over the past few years to reach more than US\$2,815.2 billion and US\$844.6 billion, respectively, in 2019, while total FDI inflows to the region amounted to US\$160.6 billion in the same year.

### International merchandise trade

Within a period of 20 years, ASEAN total merchandise trade has multiplied by almost 4 times, reaching over US\$2.8 trillion in 2019 (Figure 7.1). Both exports and imports of goods steadily increased until 2018, except in 2009 and 2015-2016. By end of 2019, however, the merchandise trade growth recorded a slight decline from 2018 of -0.3% as contributed by its export values. The decline has continued until semester-1 of 2020, the preliminary data of first semester of 2020 showed that ASEAN total trade was US\$1.2 trillion, a significant decline of 12.4% (year-on-year). Majority of ASEAN member states contributed to this drop (Figure 7.2). The Covid-19 pandemic and the movement restrictions that it entails has significantly affected trade and supply chains around the world, including ASEAN, resulting in the weakening of international trade. In its latest estimate, the World Trade Organization (WTO)<sup>7</sup> projected a 9.2% fall in trade volume by end 2020.

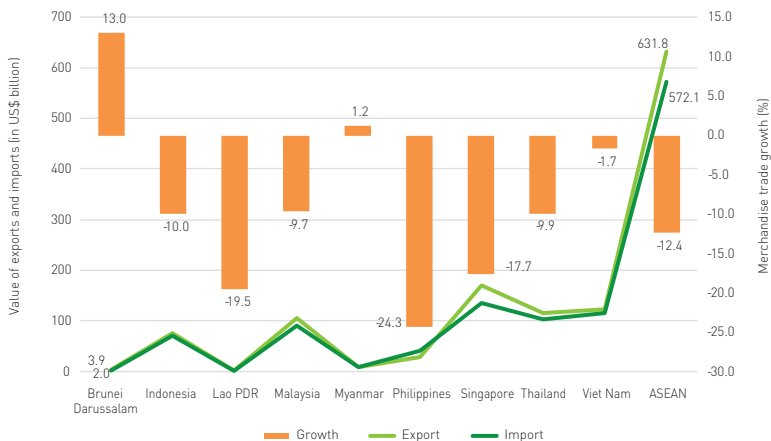
<sup>7</sup> WTO (2020), Trade Shows Signs of Rebound From COVID-19: Recovery still uncertain, [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/pres20\\_e/pr862\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres20_e/pr862_e.htm)

**Figure 7.1.** Value of merchandise exports and imports and trade balance (US\$ billion), ASEAN total, 2000-2019



**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

**Figure 7.2.** Merchandise trade by ASEAN Member States, Semester-1 2020



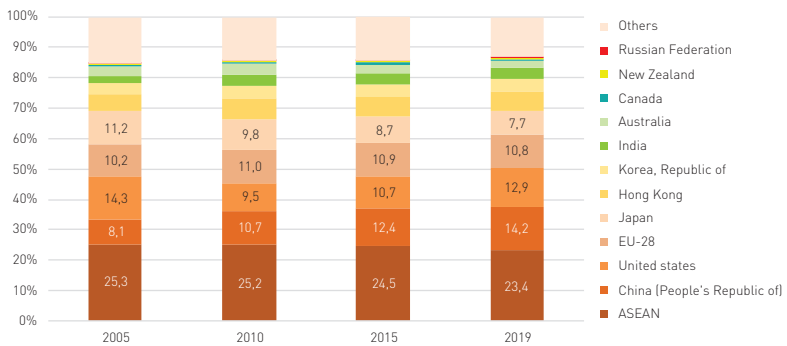
**Note:** No data available for Cambodia

**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

Intra-ASEAN trade has continuously accounted for the largest share of ASEAN total trade. In 2019, intra-ASEAN accounted for 22.5% of total merchandise trade in the region, with intra-ASEAN constituting 23.4% and

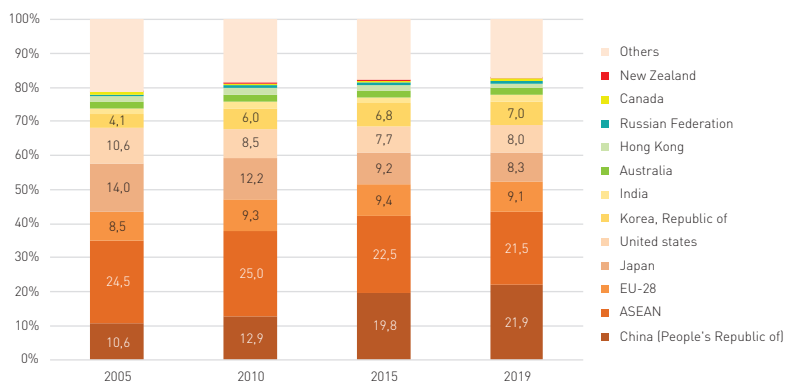
21.5% of ASEAN's total merchandise exports and imports, respectively (Figure 7.3). However, the share of intra-ASEAN in 2019 was lower than in 2018, at 22.5% as compared with 23.0% in the previous year. The shares of ASEAN trading partners also indicated slight decline in 2019 from the previous year, except for China (18.0% in 2019 from 17.1% in 2018) and USA (10.5% in 2019, from 9.3% in 2018). The largest external markets for ASEAN exports in 2019 were China (14.2%), USA (12.9%), EU-28 (10.8%), and Japan (7.7%) (Figure 7.3). As for imports (Figure 7.4.), China is the region's largest external source of imports with a share of 21.9%, followed by EU-28 (9.1%), Japan (8.3%), and USA (8.0%).

**Figure 7.3.** Shares of merchandise exports (%) by trading partners, 2005-2019



**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

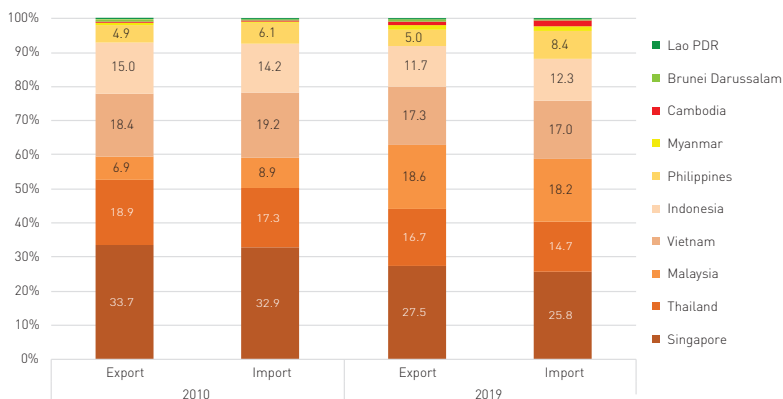
**Figure 7.4.** Shares of merchandise imports (%) by trading partners, 2005-2019



**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

Figure 7.5 shows that, as a trade hub, Singapore was the largest exporter in the region in 2019, with a share of 27.5% of the ASEAN total exports, followed by Malaysia (18.6%), Viet Nam (17.3%), and Thailand (16.7%). As for imports, similarly, the largest importer is Singapore with a share of 25.8% of ASEAN total imports, followed by Malaysia (18.2%), Viet Nam (17.0%), and Thailand (14.7%). In 2019 Malaysia, Philippines, Myanmar, Cambodia, and Lao PDR accounted for higher exports and imports shares in ASEAN's total compared with 2010.

**Figure 7.5.** Shares of merchandise exports and imports (%) by ASEAN Member States, 2010 and 2019



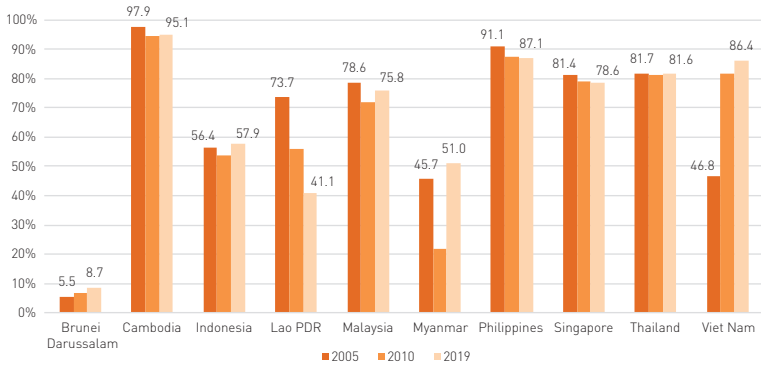
Source: ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

## Manufacturing sector in ASEAN's merchandise trade

Manufacturing products constitute a major share of both total exports and imports in most AMS. Figure 7.6 shows that the largest share of manufacturing products to total exports in 2019 was recorded in Cambodia (95.1%), followed by the Philippines (87.1%), Viet Nam (86.4%), and Thailand (81.6%).

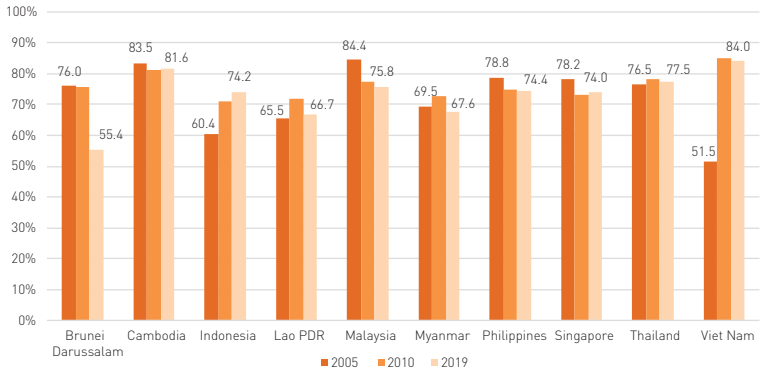
Meanwhile, Figure 7.7 shows that the largest manufacturing shares in imports of goods in 2019 were recorded in Viet Nam (84.0%) and Cambodia (81.6%), followed by Thailand (77.5%) and Malaysia (75.8%).

**Figure 7.6.** Shares of manufacturing products to total exports (%) by ASEAN Member States, 2005-2019



**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

**Figure 7.7.** Shares of manufacturing products to total imports (%) by ASEAN Member States, 2005-2019

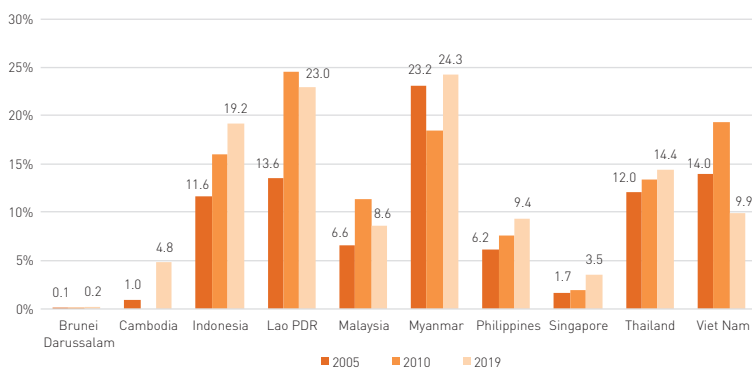


**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

## Agricultural sector in ASEAN's merchandise trade

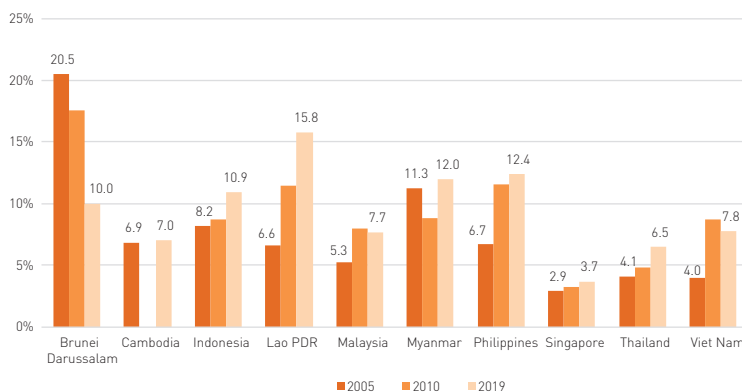
Agriculture remains an important trade sector in some AMS. Figure 7.8 shows that Myanmar and Lao PDR have the largest shares of agricultural products in total exports at 24.3% and 23.0%, respectively, in 2019, followed by Indonesia (19.2%) and Thailand (14.4%). As for imports (Figure 7.9), the shares of agricultural products in total imports in 2019 were highest in Lao PDR (15.8%), followed by Philippines (12.4%), Myanmar (12.0%), and Indonesia (10.9%).

**Figure 7.8.** Shares of agricultural products to total exports (%) by ASEAN Member States, 2005-2019



Source: ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

**Figure 7.9.** Shares of agricultural products to total imports (%) by ASEAN Member States, 2005-2019



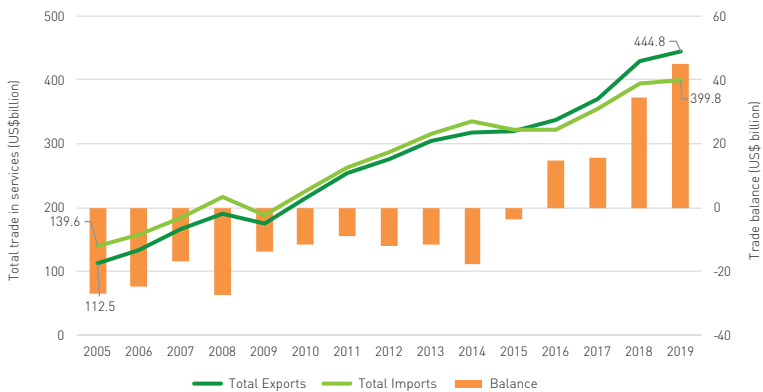
Source: ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database



## International trade in services

During the last 14 years, ASEAN total trade in services has more than tripled from US\$252.2 billion in 2005 to US\$844.6 billion in 2019. In the same period, total ASEAN exports of services increased nearly fourfold from US\$112.5 billion to US\$444.8 billion, while total ASEAN imports of services increased nearly threefold from US\$139.6 billion to US\$399.8 billion (Figure 7.10). Significant progress was also observed in trade balance. After experiencing continuous services trade deficit for a decade, ASEAN recorded a positive balance of trade in services starting in 2015, with increasing trend reaching US\$45.0 billion in 2019.

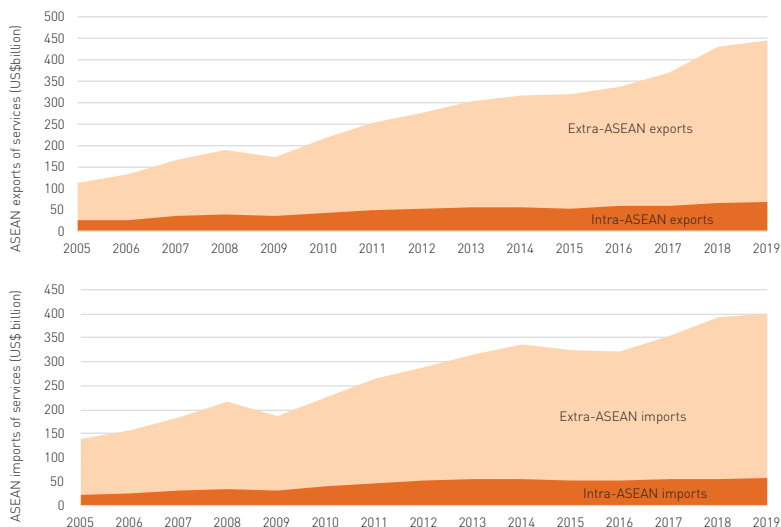
**Figure 7.10.** Values of exports and imports of services and trade balance (US\$ billion), ASEAN total, 2005-2019



**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

Figure 7.11 shows that the share of intra-ASEAN in ASEAN's total trade in services decreased from 18.7% in 2005 to 14.8% in 2019. Similar trend was found for both exports and imports, with the share of intra-ASEAN exports declining from 21.2% to 15.3%, while the share of intra-ASEAN imports dropped from 16.7% to 14.4% in the same period.

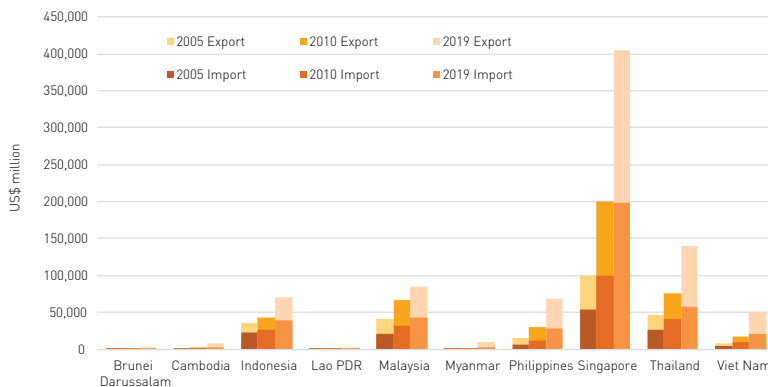
**Figure 7.11.** Values of intra-ASEAN exports and imports of services (US\$ billion), 2005-2019



**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

Figure 7.12 shows that Singapore accounted for the highest share in ASEAN’s total trade in services at 47.8% in 2019, followed by Thailand (16.6%), Malaysia (10.0%), and the Philippines (8.2%). Among these top four AMS, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand had a positive trade balance in 2019.

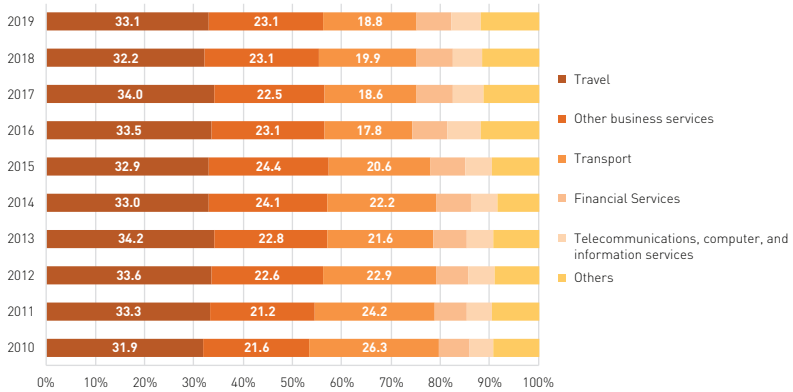
**Figure 7.12.** Values of exports and imports of services (US\$ million) by ASEAN Member States, 2005, 2010 and 2019



**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

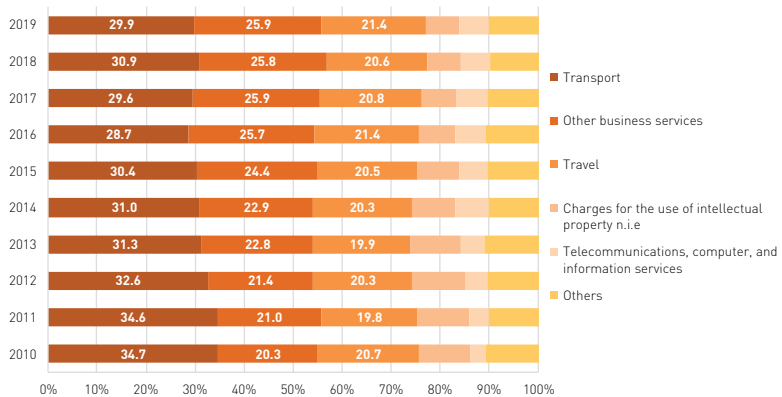
In term of sub-sector contribution in 2019, travel has contributed the highest share of total ASEAN both for exports and imports at 33.1% and 29.9%, respectively (Figure 7.13 and 7.14). The next biggest contribution came from other business services (23.1% for exports and 25.9% for imports) and transport (18.8% for exports and 20.8% for imports).

**Figure 7.13.** Shares of exports of services by broad headings (%), ASEAN total, 2010-2019



Source: ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

**Figure 7.14.** Shares of imports of services by broad headings (%), ASEAN total, 2010-2019

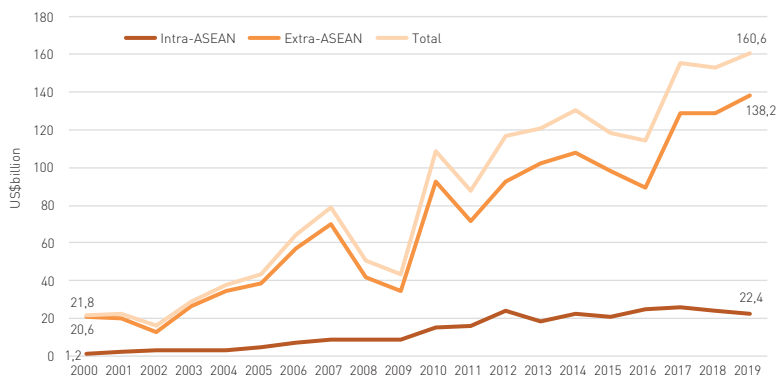


Source: ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

## Foreign Direct Investments

In the last two decades, foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows to ASEAN have been on an increasing trend, from US\$21.8 billion in 2000 to reach US\$160.6 billion in 2019 (Figure 7.15). However, COVID-19 pandemic is expected to significantly affect investment, which was already on a muted trend in recent years. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) forecasted that global FDI flows may decline by up to 40% in 2020<sup>8</sup>. Figure 7.16 compares FDI inflows in the first two quarters of 2019 and 2020. FDI inflows to ASEAN in the first quarter of 2020 was 34.2% lower than the same quarter of 2019, while in the second quarter was 31.5% lower.

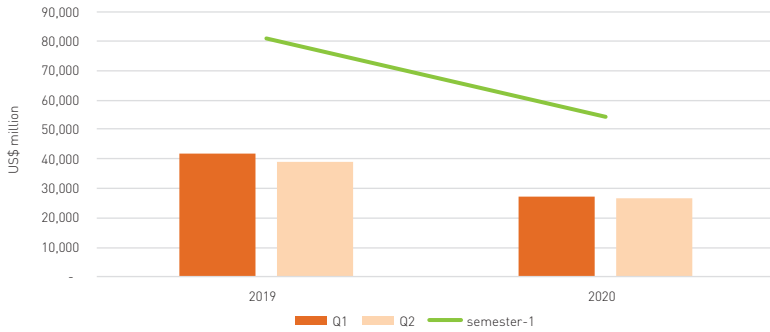
**Figure 7.15.** Inward flows of foreign direct investment (US\$ billion), intra and extra-ASEAN, 2000-2019



**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

<sup>8</sup> UNCTAD (2020), World Investment Report 2020.

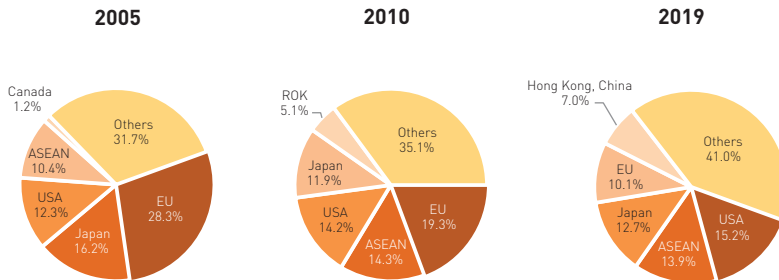
**Figure 7.16.** FDI inflows to ASEAN, Semester-1 2019 and 2020



**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

With regard to the source of investment, in 2019 FDI inflows originated from within the region was recorded at 15.9% of total ASEAN FDI inflows or US\$22.4 billion, more than double the level in 2000 (Figure 7.17). US became the largest extra-ASEAN source of FDI inflows in 2019 with a share of 15.2%. The EU-28, the largest contributor in the previous years, came 3<sup>rd</sup> largest at 10.1%, after Japan (12.7%).

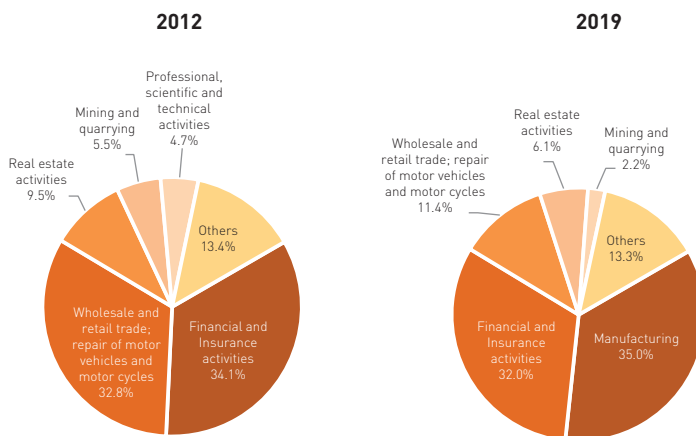
**Figure 7.17.** Shares of ASEAN top 5 FDI sources (%), 2005, 2010 and 2019



**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

Figure 7.18 shows that services sector<sup>9</sup> continued to be the largest recipient of FDI inflows to the region with a share of 57.3% in 2019, followed by manufacturing sector (35.0%). The largest FDI-receiving services sub-sector were financial and insurance activities, with a share of 32.0% in 2019 (a reduction from 34.1% in 2012), wholesale and retail (11.4% in 2019, down from 32.8% in 2012), and real estate activities (6.1% in 2018, down from 9.5% in 2012).

**Figure 7.18.** Shares of inward flows of FDI by activities (%), 2012 and 2019



**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

<sup>9</sup> Services sectors include financial and insurance activities; wholesale and retail trade; real estate activities; and other sub-sectors. The "Others" category in the chart covers agriculture, forestry and fisheries; human health and social work activities; transportation and storage, professional, scientific and technical activities; administrative services; art, entertainment and recreation; education, public administration and defense; accommodation and food services; information and communication; and other services.

# 8

## TRANSPORT, TOURISM AND COMMUNICATION







## 8

# TRANSPORT, TOURISM AND COMMUNICATION

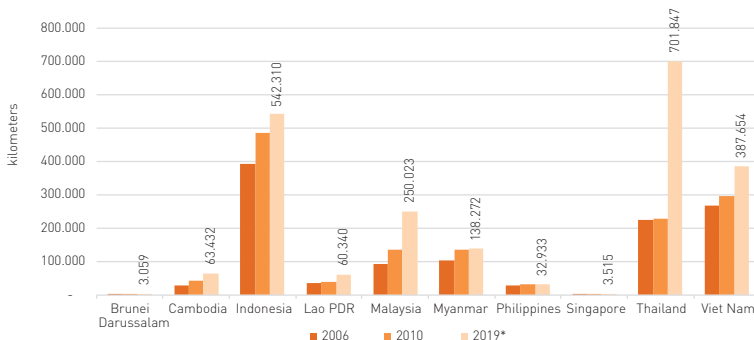
## Introduction

Connectivity plays an important role in promoting growth and productivity as well as in enhancing access to markets and opportunities. This chapter discusses indicators on land and air transport, tourism, and communication, which indicate the level of connectivity among the Member States in the region.

## Land transport

Road length and total motor vehicles are common measures of land connectivity. Total road length is defined as the total kilometer length of all roads in the country in a given year, including all existing road types, but excluding dedicated cycle paths. ASEAN has significantly improved land connectivity, with a 83.6% increase in total road length (Figure 8.1), from less than 1.2 million kilometers in 2006 to more than 2.1 million kilometers in 2019. Thailand, Indonesia, Viet Nam, Malaysia, and Myanmar recorded the highest total road length in the region at 701.8, 542.3, 387.7, 250.0 and 138.3 thousand kilometers, respectively.

**Figure 8.1.** Road length (kilometers) by ASEAN Member States, 2006-2019



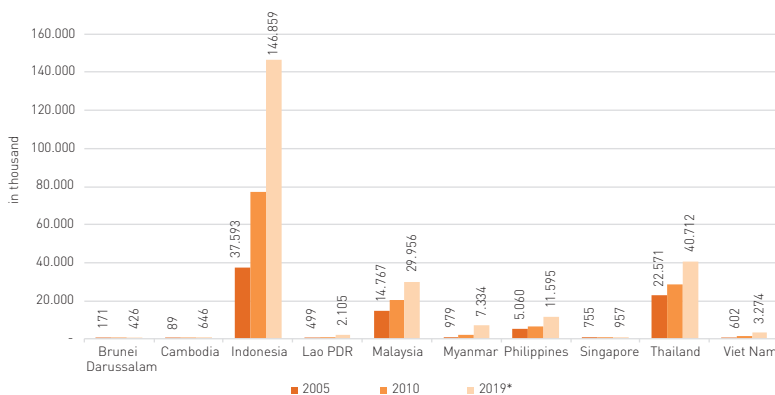
**Note:** \*The latest available data for Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Viet Nam is 2018

**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

The average annual increment of road length in all AMS during the period of 2006-2019 was 76,588 kilometers annually. Of this, Thailand recorded the highest average increments of road length at over 36,000 kilometers annually, followed by Malaysia and Indonesia with an average increment above 11,000 kilometers annually.

Significant increase was also observed in the number of registered motor vehicles in AMS during the period of 2005-2019 (Figure 8.2). The total number of registered motor vehicles in 2019 was 243.9 million units, an increase of 193.5% compared to 2005, or 8.0%, on average, per annum. The highest increase was recorded in Myanmar with average growth 15.5% per annum, followed by Cambodia (15.2%), Viet Nam (12.9%), Lao PDR (10.8%), and Indonesia (10.2%).

**Figure 8.2.** Number of registered road motor vehicles (000) by ASEAN Member States, 2005-2019

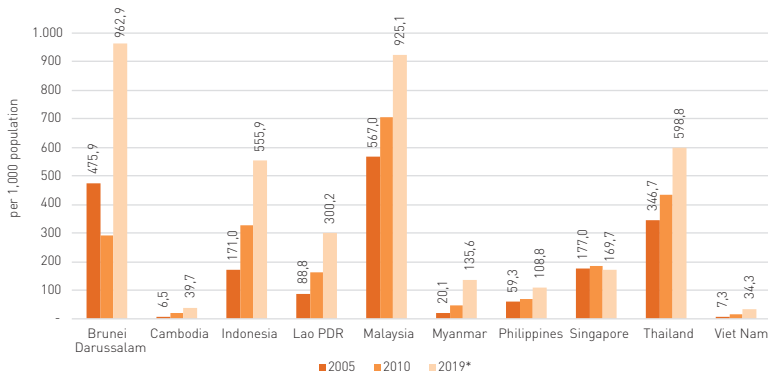


**Note:** \*The latest available data for Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Viet Nam is 2018

**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

Due to its large population size, Indonesia has the highest number of registered motor vehicles among AMS, at 146.9 million units, or more than 60% of ASEAN's total registered motor vehicles. However, taking into account the size of the population, Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, and Thailand recorded the highest number of total registered motor vehicles per 1000 population at 962.9, 925.1, and 598.8 respectively (Figure 8.3). On the other hand, in Cambodia and Viet Nam fewer than 100 units of motor vehicles were registered per 1000 population.

**Figure 8.3.** Number of registered motor vehicles per 1,000 population by ASEAN Member States, 2005-2019



**Note:** \*The latest available data for Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Viet Nam is 2018

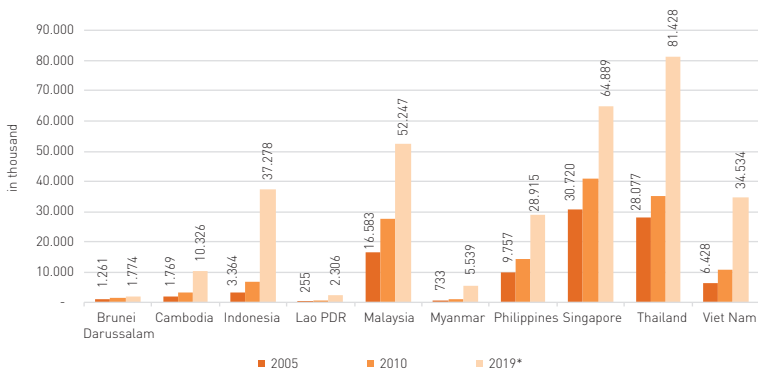
**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

## Air transport

Statistics on international air passengers, i.e international passengers carried by registered air carriers, indicate the extent to which a country is an attractive or important international destination. Figure 8.4 shows that the total number of international air passengers in all ASEAN Member States in 2019 has tripled since 2005. AMS with the highest numbers of international air passengers are Thailand (81.4 million), Singapore (64.9 million), Malaysia (52.2 million), and Indonesia (37.3 million). Meanwhile, the number of international air passengers in Brunei Darussalam, Lao PDR, and Myanmar were under 6 million.

In terms of growth, international air passengers grew faster in Indonesia than in any other AMS with a rate of 18.7% per year on average during the period of 2005-2019. Significant average annual growth was also observed in Lao PDR (17.0% per year), Myanmar (15.5% per year), Cambodia (13.4% per year) and Viet Nam (12.8% per year) over the same period.

**Figure 8.4.** Number of international air passengers (000) by ASEAN Member States, 2005-2019



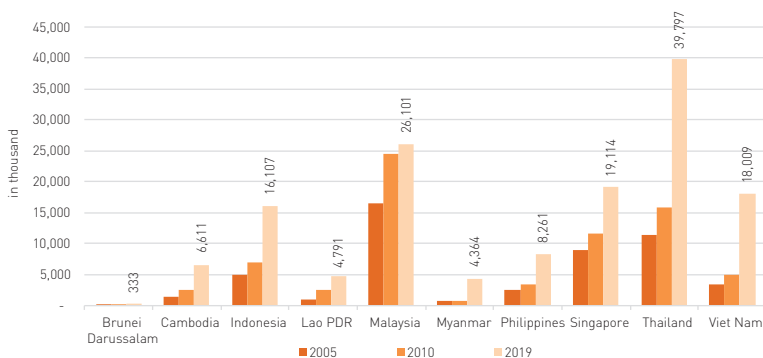
**Note:** \*The latest available data for Brunei Darussalam, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Viet Nam is 2018

**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

## Visitor arrivals

Total number of visitor<sup>10</sup> arrivals to ASEAN was on an increasing trend during the period of 2005-2019, reaching 143.5 million in 2019, an increase of 266.6% from 2005 (Figure 8.5).

**Figure 8.5.** Number of visitor arrivals (000) by ASEAN Member States, 2005-2019



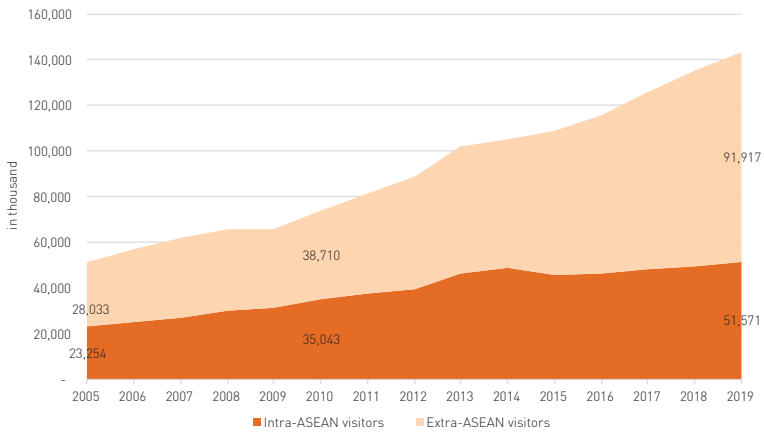
**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

<sup>10</sup> A visitor is a traveler taking a trip to main destination outside his/her usual environment, for less than a year, for any main purpose other than to be employed by a resident entity in the country visited (International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics 2008).

In 2019, the largest visitor arrivals were recorded in Thailand (39.8 million), Malaysia (26.1 million), Singapore (19.1 million), Indonesia (16.1 million), and Viet Nam (18.0 million). On the other hand, fewer than 5 million visitors arrived in Lao PDR and Myanmar in the same year.

The number of intra-ASEAN visitors reached 51.6 million or 35.9% of total visitor arrivals to ASEAN in 2019, an increase of 121.8% from 23.2 million arrivals recorded in 2005 (Figure 8.6).

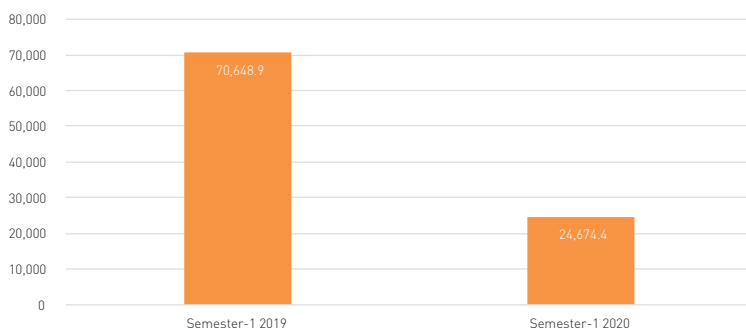
**Figure 8.6.** Intra and extra-ASEAN visitor arrivals (000), 2005-2019



**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

The travel and movement restrictions put in place due to COVID-19 pandemic has significantly reduced the number of visitor arrivals to ASEAN. During the period of January-June 2020 only 24.7 million visitors arrived in ASEAN, a 65.1% decline from the same period last year (Figure 8.7).

**Figure 8.7.** Number of visitor arrivals (000) in ASEAN, Semester-1 2019 and 2020

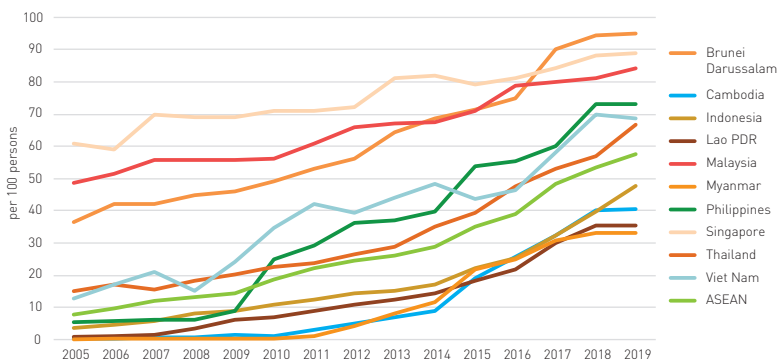


**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

### Internet subscribers

As shown during this pandemic, digitalisation is becoming an imperative, and digital connectivity will be the linchpin in the post-pandemic new normal. During the last thirteen years, the number of people using internet in ASEAN has increased significantly (Figure 8.8). In 2019, the total number of internet subscribers in all AMS reached 57.6 per 100 population, more than sevenfold to the number in 2005. Brunei Darussalam, Singapore, and Malaysia recorded very high coverage of internet use with 95.0, 88.9, and 84.2 subscribers per 100 population, respectively. Meanwhile, although the internet subscribers in other remaining ASEAN countries were relatively lower, significant progress had been achieved over the last decade.

**Figure 8.8.** Number of internet users per 100 persons by ASEAN Member States, 2005-2019



**Source:** ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANstats database

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