

# COUNTRY PROFILE



## Location

**M**yanmar, the largest country in mainland South-East Asia with a total land area of 676,578 square kilometers, stretches 2200 kilometers from north to south and 925 kilometers from east-west at its widest point. It is approximately the size of France and England combined. It is bounded on the north and north-east by the People's Republic of China, on the east and south-east by the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Kingdom of Thailand, on the west and south by the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea, on the west by the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Republic of India. It lies between 09°32' N and 28°31' N latitudes and 92°10' E and 101°11' E longitudes.

## Geography

The country is divided administratively, into (14) States and Regions. It consists of 69 districts, 330 townships, 82 sub-townships, 396 Towns, 3045 wards, 13267 village tracts and 67285 villages.

Myanmar falls into three well marked natural divisions, the western hills, the central belt and the Shan plateau on the east, with a continuation of this high land in the Tanintharyi. Three parallel chains of mountain ranges from north to south divide the country into three river systems, the Ayeyarwady, Sittaung and Thanlwin. Myanmar has abundant natural resources including land, water, forest, coal, mineral and marine resources, and natural gas and petroleum. Great diversity exists between the regions due to the rugged terrain in the hilly north which makes communication extremely difficult. In the southern plains and swampy marshlands there are numerous rivers and tributaries of these rivers criss-cross the land in many places.

## Climate

Myanmar enjoys a tropical climate with three distinct seasons, the rainy, the cold and the hot season. The rainy season comes with the southwest monsoon, which lasts from mid-May to mid-October. Then the cold season follows from mid-October to mid-February. The hot season precedes rainy season and lasts from mid-February to mid-May.

During the 10 years period covering 1999-2008, the average rainfall in the coastal area of the Rakhine and Tanintharyi was over 5000 mm annually. The Ayeyarwady delta had a rainfall of around 3000 mm, the mountains in the extreme north had over 2000 mm and the hills of the east over 1300 mm. The dry zone had between 700 and 1500 mm due to the Rakhine Yomas (hills) cutting off the monsoon. The average temperature experienced in the delta ranged between 22°C to 33°C, while in the dry zone, it was between 20°C and 34°C. The temperature was between 17°C and 30°C in hilly regions and even lower in Chin state ranging between 10°C and 24°C.

## Demography

The population of Myanmar in 2010-2011 is estimated at 59.78 million with the growth rate of 1.1 percent. About 70 percent of the population resides in the rural areas, whereas the remaining are urban dwellers. The population density for the whole country is 88 per square kilometers.

### Estimates of population and its structure

(in million)

Population Structure	1980-81		1990-91		2000-01		2009-10		2010-11	
	Estimate	%	Estimate	%	Estimate	%	Estimate	%	Estimate	%
0-14 years	13.03	38.77	14.70	36.05	16.43	32.77	18.84	31.86	17.60	29.44
15-59 years	18.44	54.86	23.47	57.55	29.72	59.29	35.06	59.29	36.94	61.79
60 years and above	2.14	6.37	2.61	6.4	3.98	7.94	5.23	8.85	5.24	8.77
Total	33.61	100	40.78	100	50.13	100	59.13	100	59.78	100
Female	16.93	50.37	20.57	50.28	25.22	50.31	29.73	50.28	30.06	50.28
Male	16.68	49.63	20.21	49.72	24.91	49.69	29.40	49.72	29.72	49.72
Sex Ratio (M/100F)	98.52		98.25		98.77		98.89		98.87	

**Source:** Population Department, Ministry of Immigration and Population, 2012

## People and Religion

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar is made up of (135) national races speaking over 100 languages and dialects. The major ethnic groups are Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine, Shan and there are 12, 9, 11, 53, 9, 1, 7, 33 races respectively in each group. About 89.4% of the population mainly Bamar, Shan, Mon, Rakhine and some Kayin are Buddhists. The rest are Christians, Muslims, Hindus and Animists.

## Economy

Myanmar is a country with a large land area rich in natural and human resources. Cognizant of the fact that the agricultural sector can contribute to overall economic growth of the country the government has accorded top priority to agricultural development as the base for all round development of the economy as well. Following the adoption of market oriented economy from centralized economy the government has carried out liberal economic reforms to ensure participation of private sector in every sphere of economic activities. The country comes into the new era for building a modern and developed democratic nation and the nation is on the threshold of new system and new era. Priority is to be given to progress of agriculture sector for sufficiency of people in food and clothing sectors. Agriculture sector is to be modernized to establish agricultural production syndicates with the shares through manual production. Utmost efforts are to be made for boosting production of agricultural produce with the use of modern machinery and technology. With expanding job opportunities in the market economy system and every citizen being able to work, increasing individual income will contribute to the growth of GDP.

## Social Development

Development of social sector has kept pace with economic development. Expansion of schools and institutes of higher education has been considerable especially in the Regions and States. Expenditures for health and education have raised considerably, equity and access to education and health and social services have been ensured all over the country.

With prevalence of tranquility, law and order in the border regions, social sector development can be expanded throughout the country. Twenty four special development regions have been designated in the whole country where health and education facilities are developed or upgraded along with other development activities. Some towns or villages in these regions have also been upgraded to sub-township level with development of infrastructure to ensure proper execution of administrative, economic and social functions.

### Gross Domestic Product (Kyat in millions)

GDP	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-2010 <sup>▲</sup>
Current Prices	9,078,928	12,286,765	16,852,758	23,336,113	29,165,117	33,760,900
Constant Producers' Prices	4,116,635 <sup>▲</sup>	4,675,220 <sup>▲</sup>	13,893,395 <sup>▲</sup>	15,559,413 <sup>▲</sup>	17,136,590 <sup>▲</sup>	18,942,800 <sup>▲</sup>
Growth (%)	13.6	13.6	13.1	12.0	10.1	10.5

*Source:* Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development

- ▲ Provisional actual
- ▲ 2000-01 Constant Producers' Prices
- ▲ 2005-06 Constant Producers' Prices