

Outcomes of the 8th Session of the ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) Committee

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Introduction

The ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) Committee had its origins as the ASEAN Heads of Statistical Offices Meeting (AHSOM), with its first meeting convened in 1997. The AHSOM, with strong support from the ASEAN Secretariat, spearheaded and laid the foundation for statistical cooperation within ASEAN. The reconstitution of AHSOM into the ACSS Committee, and the official endorsement by the 43rd Meeting of the ASEAN Economic Ministers in August 2011 in Indonesia, further fortified the ACSS Committee's role as a valuable partner in supporting regional policy making by addressing the statistical needs of the ASEAN community.

On 9 to 11 October 2018, the Singapore Department of Statistics hosted and chaired the 8th session of the ACSS Committee (ACSS8). Aligned with the overall ASEAN Singapore 2018 tagline of "Resilient & Innovative", and as part of the ACSS Committee's continuous commitment to further enhance regional statistical cooperation and respond proactively to emerging statistical requirements, the following theme was adopted for the 2018 ACSS work programme:

"Innovation in Statistics Collection, Compilation, Dissemination and Communication to Meet Increasing Data Requirements of the ASEAN Community"

Close to 60 delegates, comprising the heads and representatives of ASEAN National Statistical Offices, the ASEAN Secretariat, development partners and international organisations, graced the session with their presence and active participation in the discussions.

Key Deliverables at ACSS8

In meeting the increasing statistical requirements of ASEAN regional policy makers for the monitoring of ASEAN community goals, the ACSS8 adopted the ACSS Protocol for New Data Request from ASEAN Sectoral Bodies. The protocol, taking into consideration the statistical capacity of ASEAN Members States, will guide the prioritisation of future new data requests from the ASEAN Sectoral Bodies for statistical indicators as well as the allocation of resources for provision of statistics in a timely manner.

Another important initiative was the review of the ASEAN Statistical Indicators (ASI) to ensure that the indicators compiled by the ACSS remain relevant to the regional policy makers. The ACSS8 endorsed the updated list of ASI which incorporated new priorities from the various sectoral bodies, including new areas of statistics on the National Accounts and Sustainable Development Goals indicators.

The ACSS8 recognised the considerable benefits of more Open Data practices through easier access to official statistics required for informed policy planning, decision making, research and analyses at the ASEAN regional and national levels.

The Concept Note on ACSS Open Data Initiative for Statistics was adopted by the ACSS8 and will serve as a reference in implementing Open Data Initiative initially at regional level and, upon further assessment, at the national level.

Besides meeting increasing data requirements through the compilation and dissemination of more relevant indicators, the ACSS made advancements in improving the communication of statistics.

The ACSS8 noted with appreciation the development of the 'ASEAN Statistical Highlights 2018' publication with good visualisation and storytelling elements to better communicate key regional statistics. This special publication for distribution at the 33rd ASEAN Summit in November 2018 will further enhance the visibility and usefulness of ASEAN statistics.

The ACSS8 also welcomed the launch of a new ASEAN Statistics category in the SingStat Mobile Application by the Singapore Department of Statistics. Users in the region and beyond can now access widely used ASEAN statistics while on-the-go through the SingStat Mobile App which is available for free download on mobile devices.

Key Achievements at the National Level

At the national level, the ASEAN Member States also demonstrated their dedication in meeting increasing data requirements of their national data users. The ACSS8 commended the various efforts of the ASEAN Member States, such as the development of new indicators and the further strengthening of statistical capacity and cooperation within the respective countries.

Specifically, for the preparation for the upcoming Population and Housing Census, Economic Census and Agriculture Census, the ACSS8 was encouraged by the innovative approaches to data collection, compilation, dissemination and communication that the ASEAN Member States were considering.

Some examples include:

- (i) the adoption of the register-based approach that maximises the use of administrative data;
- (ii) the use of Big Data such as geospatial information and mobile positioning data;
- (iii) the efforts in providing respondents with a more positive survey experience through multi-modal data collection; and
- (iv) the plans to communicate and disseminate Census findings in an interesting and engaging manner through infographics and other visuals.

Development Partners and International Organisations

The ACSS8 expressed appreciation to the development partners and international organisations for playing a critical role in building and levelling up ASEAN's statistical capacity and expertise over the years. Their sharing of relevant experiences and best practices on conducting the Population and Housing Census, Economic Census or Agriculture Census enabled the ACSS8 to gain valuable insights.

Special thanks were accorded to the European Union (EU)-ASEAN Capacity Building Project for Monitoring Integration Progress and Statistics (COMPASS) in providing Technical Assistance to support the development of the ACSS and the ASEAN integration monitoring system over the period of 2014 to 2018.

The ACSS8 was pleased to note the upcoming commencement of the ASEAN Regional Integration Support by the EU (ARISE) Plus Programme in support of ASEAN statistics capacity building activities.

Conclusion

The meeting was fruitful and concluded on a positive note, with the ACSS8 achieving commendable progress through the deliberations.

The ACSS8 appreciated the excellent chairmanship of the Singapore Department of Statistics, and the warm hospitality and impeccable arrangements for the session.

The ACSS8 also welcomed the ACSS Chairmanship of the Thailand National Statistical Office in 2019.

The **Joint Media Statement of the ACSS8** is available from:

www.singstat.gov.sg/whats-new/latest-news/ACSS8



Delegates at the ACSS8 Open Session on 10-11 October 2018



ASEAN Statistical Highlights 2018



An initiative of the 8th Session of the ASEAN Community Statistical System Committee (ACSS8), the **ASEAN Statistical Highlights 2018** features infographics and storytelling elements to better communicate key ASEAN statistics. Selected statistics are featured below.

Socio-Demography

ASEAN Population in 2017 reached **642.4 million**

ASEAN Population Density was **141.3 persons/km²**

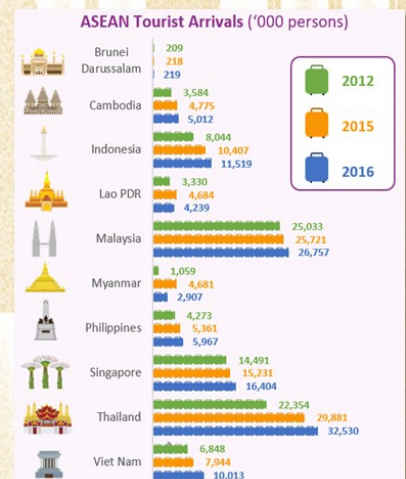


Gross Domestic Product

ASEAN GDP at Current Prices (Billion USD)

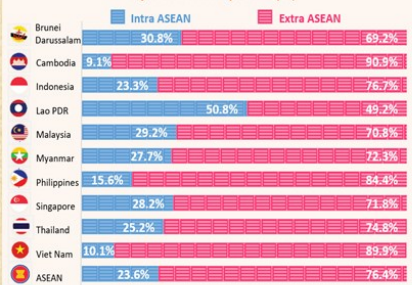


Connectivity



Trade

ASEAN Member States Exports of Goods by Destination, 2017 (%)



Investment

Net ASEAN FDI Inflows^a by Sectors, 2017 (million USD)

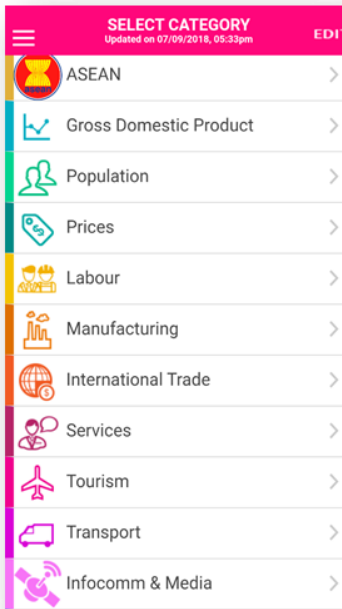


Download a copy of the **ASEAN Statistical Highlights 2018** today!

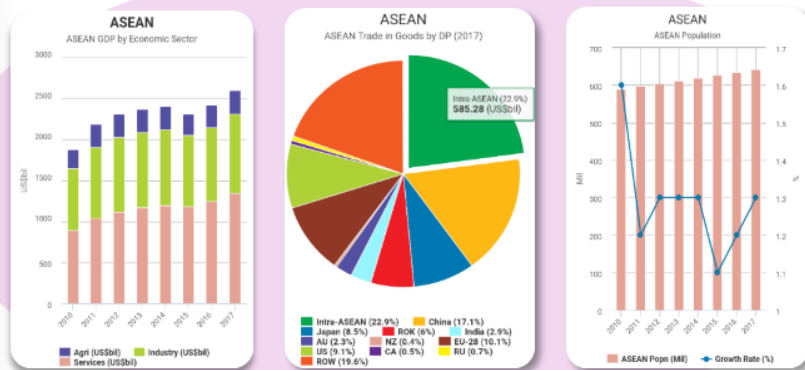




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Demography

- ✓ Population
- ✓ Population by Age Group
- ✓ Population Density

GDP

- ✓ GDP
- ✓ GDP Per Capita
- ✓ GDP by Economic Sector
- ✓ GDP Growth at Constant Prices

Trade

- ✓ ASEAN Trade in Goods
- ✓ ASEAN Trade in Goods by Development Partners
- ✓ ASEAN Trade in Services
- ✓ ASEAN Trade in Services by Category

Investment

- ✓ ASEAN Net FDI Inflows by Sector
- ✓ Intra- and Extra-ASEAN Net FDI Inflows
- ✓ ASEAN Net FDI Inflows by ASEAN 6 and CLMV
- ✓ Major ASEAN Net FDI Inflow Sources

Connectivity

- ✓ ASEAN Tourist Arrivals
- ✓ Major ASEAN Tourist Arrival Sources
- ✓ ASEAN International Air Passengers
- ✓ ASEAN Internet Subscribers
- ✓ ASEAN Number of Cell Phones

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