

# US in the WORLD

CONNECTING PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES TO ENSURE A HEALTHY PLANET

## Maryland



Comparison at same scale

**Maryland**  
Area: 10,460 sq. miles  
Population: 5.1 million

**Malaysia**  
Area: 127,317 sq. miles  
Population: 21.0 million

## Malaysia



**Largest metropolitan areas by population (1996):**  
Baltimore (2,474,118), Md. counties in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area (1,950,472), Hagerstown (127,278)

**Largest urban areas by population (1991):** Kuala Lumpur (1,145,075), Ipoh (468,765), Johor Baharu (442,250)

**K**uala Lumpur's twin Petronas towers are the world's tallest buildings. But residents of Malaysia's capital couldn't appreciate them during the fall of 1997. Smoke, from local pollution and massive fires on Indonesian and Malaysian palm oil plantations, obscured buildings, caused school cancellations, and created a public health crisis. The natural and technological hazards that may accompany rapid economic development were acutely felt.

In Maryland, dangers to land, air and water—particularly the Chesapeake Bay—emerged 25 years ago. Agricultural runoff, overfishing, and pollution along the bay fouled river and bay waters, nearly killing off important commercial fish species.

Maryland and its neighbors have made progress cleaning up the bay, and Malaysia may be able to do the same. It will not be easy, however, as the popu-

lation grows denser and as industrial development and agriculture become more intensive.

Worlds apart geographically and culturally, Maryland and Malaysia have more in common than first meets the eye. Both regions struggle to balance employment and productivity with preserving forest, wetland, and marine coastal resources. Modern Malaysian skylines and huge energy projects are monuments to wealth from rubber and palm oil, petroleum and tin, and industries benefiting from cheap labor. Similarly, Maryland is undergoing an economic redevelopment, replacing old industries with service and information industries in densely populated Baltimore and the Washington, D.C. suburbs.

There are also telling differences between the two regions. While Maryland's growth rate is lower than the U.S. average and its population is

aging, Malaysia's population continues to grow, with a large number of people entering their childbearing years. In addition, Marylanders have eight times as many cars and consume five times the energy per capita of Malaysians. Despite these differences, Malaysia is approaching Maryland in some health indicators. Life expectancy, for example, has increased by 20 years in one generation, and infant mortality has declined. Previously one in 10 infants died; today, only one in 100 infants dies.

Both regions have benefited from immigration, but struggle with its implications for social institutions, legal systems, and cultural unity. Malaysia's culture has been shaped by traders, immigrants, and colonists from China, India, Portugal, the Arab world, and England. Its Malay, Chinese and Indian populations are strongly divided, *continued on back page*

# MARYLAND

## Demographic and Health Trends

- Maryland's population surpassed 5 million in 1995. In the 1990s, Maryland gained 314,000 people, growing by 7 percent—a rate is slightly below the U.S. average.
- From 1990 to 1997, the state increased by more than 250,000 persons through natural increase (the numbers of births exceeding deaths) and by 93,000 persons through net immigration. These gains more than offset the net loss of about 39,000 persons to other states.
- Maryland, "The Free State," is one of eight states where racial and ethnic minorities comprise at least one-third of the population.
- Maryland's two most populous counties are Montgomery and Prince George's, which together account for

31 percent of the state's population. Baltimore, still the state's largest city, has lost nearly 30 percent of its 1960s population, mostly to its suburbs.

- Marylanders are moving to suburbs. Southern Maryland had the fastest growth rate in the state—an 18 percent increase between 1990 and 1997. Other fast-growing counties include Howard, Frederick, and Carroll in the Washington-Baltimore corridor, and Worcester County on the Eastern Shore.
- Counties west of the Catocin Mountains have grown just 2 percent in the 1990s, while Allegany County has lost population.

## Natural Resources and Wildlife Issues

- The Chesapeake Bay remains the central focus of life for many Marylanders. In the last decade, the state has been part of a multistate partnership to clean up the bay. One goal of this effort is to reduce the bay's nitrogen and phosphorous pollution content by 40 percent.
- During the summer of 1997, an outbreak of *Pfiesteria piscicida*—which closed sections of the Pocomoke River to fishing—led to

calls for controls on how farmers handle their animal waste fertilizer. Farmers fear that restrictions would hurt the region's economy, particularly the growing poultry industry.

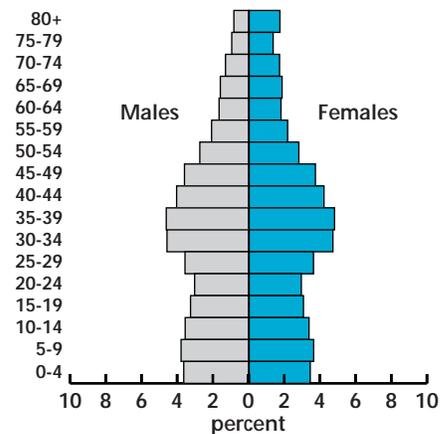
- Among Maryland's nine endangered and threatened animal species are the bald eagle, Delmarva Peninsula fox squirrel, and the Maryland darter. The swamp pink is among the state's six endangered and threatened plants.

## Socioeconomic Factors

- As the population has increased, so have efforts to better manage growth in Maryland's fast-growing areas. For example, Maryland is enacting a measure restricting development within 1,000 feet of the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal rivers.

- The median household income in Maryland was \$39,700 in 1993, the third highest in the United States. Howard and Montgomery counties are two of the 10 wealthiest counties in the country.

## POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX

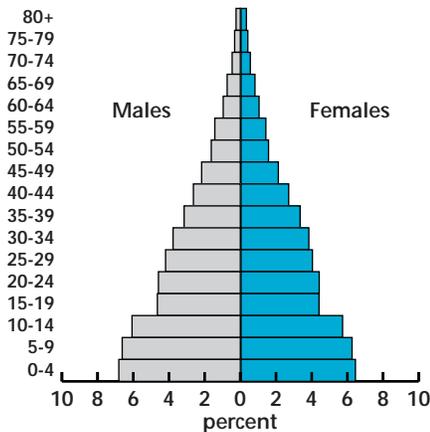


## MARYLAND FACTS

Population, 1997:	5.1 million
Projected population, 2025:	6.3 million
Annual growth rate:	0.7%
Doubling time (at current rate):	100 years
Average number of children per woman:	2.0
Infant deaths per 1,000 live births:	8.9
Life expectancy:	71 (male), 78 (female)
Persons per square mile:	521
Percent urban:	81
Endangered/threatened animals:	9 species
Endangered/threatened plants:	6 species
Percent of land protected:	7
Wetlands loss, 1780-1980:	73%
Daily water use per capita:	1,534 gallons
Water use for domestic purposes:	12%
Water use for agriculture:	1%
Water use for industry:	4%
Water use for energy production:	82%
Cropland per capita:	0.4 acres
Energy use per capita:	44.9 barrels of oil equiv.
Persons per motor vehicle:	1.4
Adults who are high school graduates:	85%
Elected officials who are women:	29%
Labor force in agriculture:	2%
Labor force in industry:	13%
Labor force in services:	85%
Gross State Product, 1994:	\$26,543 per capita

# MALAYSIA

## POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX



## MALAYSIA FACTS

Population, 1997: 21.0 million
Projected population, 2025: 32.8 million
Annual growth rate: 2.0 %
Doubling time (at current rate): 35 years
Average number of children per woman: 3.3
Infant deaths per 1,000 live births: 11
Life expectancy: 70 (male), 74 (female)
Persons per square mile: 166
Percent urban: 51
Threatened animals: 107 species
Threatened plants: 510 species
Percent of land protected: 4.5
Wetlands loss, through 1980s: 35%
Percent with access to safe water: 78
Percent with adequate sanitation: 94
Daily water use per capita: 554 gallons
Water use for domestic purposes: 23%
Water use for agriculture: 47%
Water use for industry: 30%
Cropland per capita: 0.7 acres
Energy use per capita: 8.5 barrels of oil equiv.
Persons per motor vehicle: 8
Percent of girls in secondary school: 61
Percent of boys in secondary school: 56
Women as % of national legislature: 8
Labor force in agriculture: 26%
Labor force in industry: 28%
Labor force in services: 46%
GDP per capita, 1995: US\$4,287

## Demographic and Health Trends

- Malaysian women today have 3.3 children on average, compared with an average of 4.2 children in the late 1970s. The population is nevertheless projected to increase 56 percent by 2025, as large numbers of young people enter their childbearing years.
- In the early 1990s Malaysia's urban population grew five times as fast as its rural population. Yet, just 6

percent of the population lives in Kuala Lumpur, the only city with more than 1 million people.

- The mortality rate for children under age 5 decreased from 105 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 1960 to 13 child deaths per 1,000 live births in 1995. During the same period, life expectancy increased from 54 years to 71 years. Maternal mortality is 10 times the U.S. level.

## Natural Resources and Wildlife Issues

- Most of Malaysia's estuaries are heavily silted and some are no longer productive. Coral reefs have almost disappeared around peninsular Malaysia. Contamination of these coastal waters by untreated sewage and occasional oil spills worsen the situation.

forest conversion has risen since the 1980s.

- Fisheries, especially along the peninsula's west coast, have been depleted beyond their productive capacity.

- Per capita use of commercial energy increased 206 percent between 1973 and 1993. Total use of these fuels almost doubled. Most of the population has shifted from the use of traditional (fuelwood, charcoal, animal and vegetal wastes) to commercial energy sources.

- Between 1990 and 1995, 2.4 percent of Malaysia's forests were converted to other uses. The rate of

- Malaysia's threatened species include the Asian elephant, Sumatran rhinoceros, Christmas Island frigatebird, Chinese egret, and Sunda ground-cuckoo.

## Socioeconomic Factors

- Malaysia has one of the most dynamic and fastest-growing economies in Asia. Between 1985 and 1994 it was the ninth fastest-growing economy in the world.

- Malaysia is by far the world's biggest exporter of palm oil. It is also a major producer of natural rubber and tropical hardwoods, and has vast reserves of petroleum and natural gas.

- Between 1986 and 1995 Malaysia's labor force grew faster than the population. This was due to the rapid growth of the working age population, to increased labor force participation, and to large inflows of foreign workers.

- The manufacturing sector has grown impressively from 1968 to the present, with the most dramatic growth occurring after 1985. By 1994, manufactured goods accounted for more than 70 percent of Malaysia's total exports.

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with political parties largely representing ethnic and religious interests. In the 1970s and 1980s Malaysia implemented racial quotas in higher education, government hiring, and business ownership. This was meant to shift wealth from foreigners and Malaysians of Indian and Chinese descent to the largely impoverished ethnic Malay majority. Maryland, like the rest of the United States, has struggled with measures to create a new legal, institutional, and social framework for greater equality among its diverse racial, ethnic, and religious groups.

For both regions, the issues of population growth, pollution, urbanization, and land use are at the forefront of water management concerns. If Marylanders and their neighbors around the Chesapeake Bay continue present trends, freshwater demand will exceed most supply capacities by 2020. Water will have to be diverted from streams and rivers, reducing their flow, risking salt water seepage upstream from the bay, killing river fish, and increasing the bay's salinity. In Malaysia, more than a one-fifth of the population lacks pure water, and pollution from tin mines, agricultural runoff, and sewage is poorly controlled.

## Responding to Challenges

The environmental challenges of these two places are regional in scope. The Chesapeake Bay Program, established in 1983, involves the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, three state governments, the District of Columbia, and a tri-state commission. It aims to improve water quality, habitats, land use, and awareness. The program coordinated a ban on phosphate detergents, limited catch of striped bass, and "instituted" management of runoff from more than a million acres of farmland. The Annapolis-based Chesapeake Bay Foundation mobilizes science, planning, education, and citizen action to persuade governments, companies, and citizens to protect the bay.

The Sahabat Alam Malaysia (Friends of the Earth Malaysia) has supported ethnic people in Sarawak since the mid-1980s in resisting logging of the tropical forests in which they live. SAM and some international nongovernmental organizations support

negotiations with the government as well as roadblocks of logging roads and other forms of resistance.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) no longer provides development aid to Malaysia, now classified as a middle income

**P**eople in Maryland and Malaysia, along with all other living creatures, need clean and healthy air, water, and land, and a stable climate. But as people strive to meet these fundamental needs and improve their lives, they make demands on Earth's resources—and leave footprints. No species demands as much and leaves as many footprints as humans do. The number of people on the planet has a direct impact on the environment and how resources are used. But the level of consumption and the ways in which natural resources are used also directly affect the health of the planet—locally, regionally, globally.

No matter where one lives, the activities of *all* humans will ultimately determine the well-being of *all* humans.

country. But the USAID-supported Environmental Technology Network for Asia assesses environmental needs of government and businesses in Asian countries, including Malaysia, and informs U.S. environmental technology companies of opportunities to provide services. ■

**DEFINITIONS:** **Doubling Time:** The number of years it will take for a population to double, assuming a *constant* rate of natural increase. **Average Number of Children Per Woman:** Known as the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) or the average number of children a woman would have in her lifetime, assuming that birth rates remained constant throughout her childbearing years. **Endangered Species:** Any species in danger of extinction throughout all, or a significant portion of its habitat. **Threatened Species:** Any species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all, or a significant portion of its habitat. **Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** The value of all goods and services produced within a nation in a given year. **Gross State Product (GSP):** The value of all goods and services produced within a state. It is the state counterpart of the nation's GDP.

**SOURCES:** Major sources are International Labour Organization; National Center for Health Statistics; UNICEF; U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis; U.S. Department of Agriculture; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; U.S. Geological Survey; The World Conservation Union (IUCN); and World Resources Institute. For a complete list of sources, contact PRB.

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