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Doing Business in Brunei

Market Overview

Brunei Darussalam is a Southeast Asian, oil-rich Sultanate on the northern coast of Borneo. A British protectorate until 1984, it boasts a well-educated and largely English-speaking population, excellent infrastructure, and a government focused on diversifying the economy and bringing foreign investment into the country.

Despite repeated calls for diversification, Brunei's economy remains overwhelmingly dependent on the income derived from the sale of oil and gas, which represents 90% of Brunei's total exports and 65 % of the country's GDP. Additionally, substantial revenue from the government's overseas investments supplements income from domestic hydrocarbon production. These two revenue streams provide a comfortable quality of life for Brunei's population. Citizens pay no taxes and receive free education through the university level, free medical care, and subsidized housing.

Brunei's central location in Southeast Asia, with good telecommunications and airline connections; no personal income, sales or export taxes; and its stable political situation, offer a welcoming climate for would-be investors. Brunei encourages foreign direct investment (FDI) in its domestic economy through various investment incentives offered by the Ministry of Finance and Economy as well as through activities conducted by the Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB). Additionally, a low crime rate, good schools, housing and sports facilities as well as low utility costs make Brunei an attractive location for short and long-term residence. Life in Brunei reflects the national philosophy of the Malay Islamic Monarchy.

Brunei has no sovereign debt, domestic or foreign, and has not been the recipient of economic aid. Despite importing most consumer goods and food, Brunei's large oil exports keep its trade balance positive. The Brunei dollar is pegged to the Singapore dollar at a one-to-one ratio, and the Singapore dollar is legal tender in the Sultanate.

The largest destinations for Brunei exports (mostly mineral fuels) for 2019 were Japan (33%), Singapore (13%), Australia (9%), and Malaysia (8%). The largest sources of imports to Brunei were from China (13%), Singapore (12%), Malaysia (11%), and the United States (6%). The largest export sectors by market value were mineral fuels, chemicals, and machinery and transport equipment. The largest import sectors by market value were machinery and transport equipment, manufactured goods, and food.

In 2019, total trade between the United States and Brunei was US \$411 million. The 2019 U.S. trade surplus with Brunei was US \$301 million: exports totaled US \$356 million while imports totaled US \$55 million.

More information on U.S.-Brunei trade figures can be found at the [U.S. Census website](#).

Market Challenges

With an estimated population of 459,500 in 2019, Brunei's local market is relatively small. Foreign enterprises are allowed 100% ownership of business scope, operation, and investment. As such, foreign investors are not required to find a local partner to enter the market. However, in certain cases, foreign companies may be required to find a local partner to qualify for certain government and Brunei Shell Petroleum projects. Although U.S. businesses/investors should expect delays—sometimes long ones—when dealing with the local government.

Market Opportunities

Brunei has an open economy favorable to foreign trade and FDI as it continues to diversify its economy away from its long-term reliance on oil and gas exports. Investment opportunities in Brunei are driven both by government planning and consumer demand.

FDI is important to Brunei as it plays a key role in economic and technological development. Brunei encourages FDI in the domestic economy by offering various investment incentives and through activities conducted by the Ministry of Finance and Economy through the Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB).

Formed in 2001, BEDB promotes Brunei as an investment destination to move its economy away from oil and gas revenue. BEDB is mandated to work with foreign and domestic investors to develop new economic opportunities where Brunei has competitive advantages, focusing on four key areas: attracting investments, strengthening local businesses, increasing Research and Development (R&D) and innovation, and delivering infrastructure projects.

BEDB has identified several industries as potential investment sectors in its efforts to diversify the economy, including Downstream Oil & Gas, Manufacturing & Other Services, Food, Tourism and Info-Communication Technology. Further information about BEDB is available at [BEDB's website](#).

The most attractive commercial sectors include:

- Upstream and Downstream Oil and Gas
- Commercial Aviation
- Defense Equipment
- Medical Equipment
- Food and Beverage Franchises

In the agricultural sector, the following investment opportunities may offer lucrative investment opportunities:

- Food Imports/Food Production
- Fishing Industry/Aquaculture

Brunei's ICT sector seeks to benefit from international expertise as Brunei continues to upgrade its national telecommunications infrastructure, and the financial sector seeks to modernize its banking industry with digital platforms.

Market Entry Strategy

Brunei's population—largely clustered around the capital Bandar Seri Begawan, with other population centers connected by a well-maintained highway system—provides a ready destination for U.S. exports with low transit costs once goods arrive in country. The relatively small population of Brunei is an asset in that products exported to the country, once established, may gain national prominence relatively quickly.

Market access and promotion strategies typically focused on cities may be applied with modification to enter the Brunei market. Firms that are able to export goods and services that will serve to increase the capacity of Bruneian enterprises and increase Bruneian employment will be particularly welcomed.

U.S. businesses should build personal relationships with local representatives and customers through regular visits or by establishing resident representation. U.S. companies can set up their subsidiary companies or branch offices in Brunei as private limited companies registered with the Registrar of Companies and Business Names.

Please note that throughout this report, except where otherwise noted, the following Brunei dollar/U.S. dollar exchange rates were used:

Table 1: Brunei Dollar/U.S. Dollar Exchange Rate

Year	Exchange Rate
2015	1 USD = B\$1.430
2016	1 USD = B\$1.380
2017	1 USD = B\$1.437
2018	1 USD = B\$1.361
2019	1 USD = B\$1.397

Current exchange rate information is available on the [Internal Revenue Services' website](#).

Leading Sectors for U.S. Exports and Investment

Commercial Aviation

Overview

Brunei has a small but growing fleet of commercial aircraft. Royal Brunei Airlines has recently upgraded its fleet with the arrival of the Airbus A320neo and Boeing 787-8 aircraft. Royal Brunei Airlines mainly operate short-haul routes but continues to establish new long-haul routes including London, Dubai, Seoul, Tokyo, and Melbourne.

Table 2: Royal Brunei Airlines Aircraft Fleet

Aircraft model	Number of aircraft owned
Airbus 320neo	7
Airbus A320ceo	2
Boeing 787-8	5

Separately, the Sultan of Brunei has his own private fleet of aircraft called Sultan's Flight. This private fleet includes a Boeing 787, a Boeing 767, and a Boeing 747-8.

Table 3: Brunei Aircraft Production and Trade

No data available.

Leading Sub-Sectors

- Air commuter carriers, scheduled
- Scheduled air passenger carriers
- Scheduled air cargo carriers

Opportunities

U.S. aviation firms may consider building upon existing relationships to secure future contracts. In addition to new sales, aviation maintenance is a potential area for U.S. commercial activity. In 2010, the government identified this sector as a potential industry to promote economic diversification efforts, opening opportunities for maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) companies as well as flight and maintenance training organizations.

Beyond the MRO opportunities, Brunei established the CAE Brunei Multi-Purpose Training Centre in 2012, a joint venture between Canadian company CAE and the Brunei government. The facility is a flight simulator center that aims to be a regional hub for pilot training. The Brunei government is prepared to collaborate, facilitate, and invest in infrastructure development and site allocation for hangar construction, and backshop and training facilities.

[Department of Civil Aviation](#)

[Ministry of Transport and InfoCommunications](#)

[Royal Brunei Airlines](#)

Defense Equipment

Overview

U.S. defense industry firms have an established history of supplying the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) with defense equipment, after-sales support services, and training packages. RBAF is an all-volunteer force of nearly 8,000 service members. The RBAF relies primarily upon helicopters to deploy its forces for border security, to perform coastal surveillance missions, for disaster response missions, and for law enforcement support. The Air Force possesses one troop transport fixed-wing plane, flight training aircraft, and several rotary wing aircraft. In 2011, Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation signed a deal with Brunei for 12 Blackhawk S-70i helicopters. Brunei's naval capabilities are focused on Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) security, domain awareness, and offshore oil facility protection.

Opportunities

U.S. defense contractors may discover equipment, training, and other defense-related opportunities with Brunei. Border security and surveillance, air defense platforms, maritime and domain awareness, regional disaster response, domestic emergency preparedness, and cyber-defense are among Brunei's priority efforts. Brunei places emphasis on the importance of science and technology and command and control abilities to leverage the effectiveness of its relatively small armed forces.

In addition to working with regional partners, as it did during the ASEAN Defense Minister's Meeting Maritime Security and Counter Terrorism Exercise at Brunei's Muara Naval Base in 2016, Brunei is also seeking to increase its border and maritime defense capacity through improved regional military coordination and cooperation with its neighbors during various bilateral and multilateral interoperability engagements.

To enable these capacities, Brunei has stated its intent to acquire new defense equipment, including surface/maritime surveillance radar, airspace surveillance platforms, maritime patrol aircraft, fixed-wing transport aircraft, medium-range air defense systems, and related assets. Military services may also be interested in non-lethal equipment, which may be procured through vendors registered with the Ministry of Defense.

CSTRAD and RBTS are responsible for the assessment and selection of defense technology solutions for RBAF. CSTRAD oversees Brunei's defense modernization efforts, advises the Ministry of Defense on science and technology matters, and supervises the transparency and timeliness of the defense-related acquisition process.

Brunei Government Resources

[Ministry of Defense](#)

[Royal Brunei Technical Services](#)

[Centre of Science and Technology Research and Development \(CSTRAD\)](#)

For more information on procurement opportunities, contact:

Office of Defense Cooperation

U.S. Embassy Bandar Seri Begawan

Phone: (673)-238-4616

Energy

Overview

Brunei's economy has been dominated by the oil and gas upstream and downstream industries for the past 90 years. These industries will continue to provide important commercial opportunities for U.S. firms. Brunei's oil and gas fields produce approximately 127,000 barrels of oil per day (bbl/day) and 243,000 barrels of oil equivalent of natural gas per day. Brunei hopes to increase production in the coming years. New oil extraction technology and the current market price of oil have made extracting oil from mature fields economically viable. As a result, companies with experience in extracting oil from mature fields may find new opportunities in Brunei. Other discoveries in the region have generated optimism that there may be additional on-shore and off-shore reserves, which may further Brunei's interest in increasing production.

One of the roles of the Ministry of Energy is to grow and diversify Brunei's downstream oil and gas sector, as well as strengthen sustainable energy efforts through energy efficiency initiatives. The Brunei Darussalam National Council on Climate Change recently released a National Climate Change Policy, with the objective to reduce industrial emissions through zero routine flaring and increase renewable energy usage.

Table 6: Brunei Oil Production and Trade

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total Local Production (volume)				
Oil: Average Oil production (Thousand Barrels / Day)	121	113.2	112	121
Gas: Average Natural Gas Production (Thousand Barrels of Oil Equivalent / Day)	238	244.3	234	240
Total Exports (US\$ Millions)	4,424.8	5,116.3	5,900.3	6,600.84
Total Imports (US\$ Millions)	232.9	271.4	270.6	1,711.4

Source: Department of Economic Planning and Statistics, Ministry of Finance and Economy

Leading Sub-Sectors

- Exploration,
- Geophysical surveying and mapping services,
- Drilling operating,
- Operating oil and gas field properties,
- De-commissioning

Opportunities

There are several upstream opportunities for U.S. companies. U.S. firms are well positioned to provide oil and gas equipment and services through local representatives to Brunei Shell Petroleum (BSP), the largest oil and gas company in Brunei. In accordance with Brunei's Local Business Development framework, BSP gives preference to indigenous companies in their contracting activities. Aside from highly specialized equipment and spare parts that are usually purchased directly from equipment manufacturers, local and international firms compete for oil and gas contracts.

Equipment or services from abroad must be supplied through a local agent or distributor or in partnership or joint venture with local Brunei companies.

Beyond BSP, Brunei Liquefied Natural Gas (BLNG) is also a major player in the petrochemical industry that may seek equipment and services from U.S. companies. BSP and BLNG practice stringent quality control, and suppliers must pass a series of quality tests before they can be registered. Most BSP suppliers are registered representatives or distributors of products and services from various foreign countries. U.S. companies may enter the Brunei market through a joint venture, agency agreement, or distributor relationship with local Brunei companies. Many established companies in the oil and gas industry are members of the Brunei Energy Association or the Institute of Engineering and Technology.

In the downstream oil and gas sector, Japanese companies opened a methanol plant in Brunei in 2010 and a demonstration hydrogen plant in 2019. A fertilizer plant with a production capacity of 1,365,000 MT of urea per year is expected to commence operations by mid-2021.

Brunei Industry Contacts

[Brunei Shell Petroleum Co Sdn Bhd](#)

[Brunei LNG Sdn Bhd](#)

Brunei Government Contacts

Ministry of Energy

Franchise Operations

Overview

Numerous U.S. food and beverage (F&B) franchises operate in Brunei. Auntie Anne's Pretzels, McDonalds, KFC, Pizza Hut, and Dairy Queen are very popular in Brunei. Starbucks and Burger King entered the market in 2014 and have expanded to four and six outlets respectively. The franchise industry is also popular among investors because it is perceived to be an attractive and relatively safe form of investment. American burger franchise Wayback Burgers opened in May 2016.

Leading Sub-Sectors

Food and Beverage

Opportunities

U.S. food brands would likely be well-received, particularly in the fast food industry.

Brunei Government Resource

[Ministry of Finance and Economy - Registrar of Companies](#)

Medical Equipment

Overview

Brunei has a small but growing medical industry. Brunei's Ministry of Health is tasked with providing free health care services for its citizens. Brunei's two major hospitals—Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha Hospital (RIPAS Hospital) and Jerudong Park Medical Center (JPMC)—are supplemented by two provincial hospitals, three district hospitals, and 16 smaller health posts.

Currently, Bruneians with the means to seek advanced medical services will travel to countries like Singapore and Thailand for private medical consultations. When the Brunei medical system is unable to provide specific services to Bruneian citizens locally, the government coordinates and pays for Bruneian citizens to be sent overseas for treatment. As Brunei's young population ages and requires medical care, the medical industry in Brunei will be an important growth sector for Brunei's economy.

Table 8: Brunei Medical Equipment Production

No data available.

Leading Sub-Sectors

- Manufacturing laboratory instruments, test kits, and electromedical apparatus (including electronic hearing aids)
- Medicines and Medical Consumables
- Total Knee Replacement, Total Hip Replacements, Implants, Anterior Cruciate Ligament Reconstruction System

Opportunities

A reported increase in patient demand for advanced medical devices and willingness to upgrade existing equipment has driven sales of new technology in recent years.

Brunei Government Contacts

[Ministry of Health](#)

International Organization Contacts

[World Health Organization Medical Devices Survey findings on Brunei](#)

Customs, Regulations and Standards

Trade Barriers

The United States and Brunei enjoy a long history of trade, dating to an 1850 treaty whereby Brunei and the United States agreed to trade freely and without barriers, under Most Favored Nation (MFN) status.

Today U.S. companies and businesses doing business in Brunei or wishing to export products to Brunei may do so freely, with the exception of food products, an area in which Brunei takes particular interest. Brunei emphasizes its halal food industry as one of the key pillars of its economic diversification efforts. Brunei promotes its own halal food certification regime—one entirely distinct from other halal certification organizations in the region—which requires Bruneian inspectors to travel to production facilities in the home country of the food exporter at the exporter's expense to inspect the food production process. This requirement places constraints on the ability of U.S. exporters of food products to enter the Brunei market.

Contact Information

International Trade Administration

[Enforcement and Compliance](#)

Phone: (202)-482-0063

Email: ECCcommunications@trade.gov

Import Tariffs

Brunei generally has very low tariffs. The Customs Import and Excise Duty Amendment Order 2017 was created with the aim of facilitating trade, attracting FDI, and fulfilling commitments under existing Free Trade Agreements. Import and excise duties on industrial machinery and spare parts for heavy vehicles and heavy machinery were reduced. Taxes were placed upon foodstuffs with high sugar content. There was also an increase in excise duties for plastic products. Tax rates on luxury items such as mobile phones, leather products, and video games were also increased by 5%.

Import Requirements and Documentation

The import of all goods into Brunei is monitored by the Royal Customs and Excise Department. Importers must register with the port of entry. Determination of duty classification is based on Excise Duty Orders 2012 and 2007. Import permits are required for some products. Licenses for import are available from the relevant government agencies. Non-prohibited goods can be imported under an open general license.

Completed customs declaration forms must be submitted via the [Brunei Darussalam National Single Window website](#) with supporting documentation such as invoices, freight and insurance slips, airway bills, and packing lists.

Additional documentation that may be required include certificates of origin and analysis, approval permits, import licenses, and other documentation as deemed necessary by the Customs and Excise Department.

Contact Information

[Royal Customs and Excise Department](#)

Ministry of Finance and Economy

Phone: (673)-238-2333

Fax: (673)-238-2666

E-mail: info@customs.mof.gov.bn

Food Import Requirements

The Department of Health Services under the Ministry of Health ensures food imported and distributed in Brunei is safe for human consumption. Food importers are required to comply with the Public Health (Food) Act (Chapter 182) and Public Health (Food) Regulations 2000. Food importers are required to comply with the provisions of food legislation and import requirements. Importers are required to submit customs declaration forms along with the relevant export health certificates from the countries of origin.

Other requirements include provision of Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) certificates, samples of all items to be imported to Brunei, lists of all ingredients and additives used, and other valid documentation or certification as determined by the Ministry of Health. Imported food products are mainly halal, for the consumption of the majority Muslim population. Halal food cannot contain alcohol or derivatives from non-halal animal products.

Processed food imports must be registered and must identify additives' origins under Regulation 9, Public Health (Food) Regulations, (R1, Chapter 182). More information can be found at the Ministry of Health [website](#).

Contact Information

Food Safety and Quality Control Division
Department of Health Services
Environmental Health Service
Ministry of Health
Phone: (673)-233-1100
Fax: (673)-233-1107

Labeling and Marking Requirements

Under the Public Health (Food) Act (Chapter 182) and Public Health (Food) Regulations 2000, all food imported into the country must bear a label containing information including a list of ingredients, expiration date, and details of the local importer, distributor or agent. Printed expiry dates must not be less than three millimeters in height. Information on food labels is required to be labeled in a prominent and conspicuous position on the package.

Importation of food products that require date markings including food supplements are subject to "set requirements" as outlined by Public Health (Food) Regulation 2000. They are required to be registered with the Food Quality and Safety Control Division, Environmental Health Services, and Department of Health Services. Health supplements that contain ingredients that can be used therapeutically or contain any medical claims are required to be referred to the Department of Pharmaceutical Services for clearance.

The labeling requirement shall include:

- Name of food
- List of ingredients and their sources (including additives)
- Net weight/volume
- Date marking
- Storage instruction
- Name of country of origin
- Name and address of the local importer for imported food/name and address of the manufacturer/packager in the case of a food of local origin

Contact Information

Food Safety and Quality Control Division

Department of Health Services
Environmental Health Service
[Ministry of Health](#)
Phone: (673)-233-1100
Fax: (673)-233-1107

U.S. Export Controls

The United States imposes export controls to protect national security interests and promote foreign policy objectives related to dual-use goods through implementation of the Export Administration Regulations (EAR). The Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) is comprised of two elements: Export Administration (EA), which is responsible for processing license applications, counseling exporters, and drafting and publishing changes to the [Export Administration Regulations](#); and Export Enforcement (EE), which is responsible for the enforcement of the EAR. BIS works closely with U.S. embassies, foreign governments, industry, and trade associations to ensure that exports from the United States are secure and comply with the EAR. BIS officials conduct site visits, known as End-Use Checks (EUCs), globally with end-users, consignees, and/or other parties to transactions involving items subject to the EAR to verify compliance.

An EUC is an on-site verification of a non-U.S. party to a transaction to determine whether the party is a reliable recipient of U.S. items. EUCs are conducted as part of BIS's licensing process, as well as its compliance program, to determine if items were exported in accordance with a valid BIS authorization or otherwise consistent with the EAR. Specifically, an EUC verifies the *bona fides* of transactions subject to the EAR, to include: confirming the legitimacy and reliability of the end-use and end-user; monitoring compliance with license conditions; and ensuring items are used, re-exported or transferred (in-country) in accordance with the EAR. These checks might be completed prior to the export of items pursuant to a BIS export license in the form of a Pre-License Check (PLC), or following an export from the U.S. during a Post-Shipment Verification (PSV).

BIS officials rely on EUCs to safeguard items subject to the EAR from diversion to unauthorized end-uses/users. The verification of a foreign party's reliability facilitates future trade, including pursuant to BIS license reviews. If BIS is unable to verify the reliability of the company or is prevented from accomplishing an EUC, the company may receive, for example, more regulatory scrutiny during license application reviews or be designated on BIS's Unverified List or Entity List, as applicable.

BIS has developed a list of "[red flags](#)", or warning signs, and compiled "[Know Your Customer](#)" guidance intended to aid exporters in identifying possible violations of the EAR. Both of these resources are publicly available, and their dissemination to industry members is highly encouraged to help promote EAR compliance.

BIS also provides a variety of training sessions to U.S. exporters throughout the year. These sessions range from one to two-day seminars that focus on the basics of exporting to coverage of more advanced, industry-specific topics. Interested parties can check [list of upcoming seminars and webinars](#) or reference BIS provided [online training](#).

BIS and the EAR regulate transactions involving the export of "dual-use" U.S. goods, services, and technologies. For advice and regulatory requirements, exporters should consult the other U.S. Government agencies which regulate more specialized items. For example, the U.S. Department of State's Directorate of Defense Trade Controls has authority over defense articles and services, or munitions. A list of other agencies involved in export control can be found on the [BIS website](#) or in Supplement No. 3 to Part 730 of the EAR.

The EAR is available on the [BIS website](#) and on the [e-CFR](#) (Electronic Code of Federal Regulations) and is updated as needed. The [Consolidated Screening List](#) (CSL) is a list of parties for which the United States Government maintains restrictions on certain exports, reexports or transfers of items. The CSL consolidates eleven export screening lists of the Departments of Commerce, State and the Treasury into a single data feed as an aid to industry in conducting electronic screens of parties to regulated transactions. Exporters are encouraged to classify their items prior to export, as well as consult the CSL to determine if any parties to the transaction may be subject to specific license requirements.

Temporary Entry

Brunei has not adopted the Admission Temporaire/Temporary Admission (ATA) Carnet Convention but allows temporary entry of commodities for demonstration and exhibition for a duration of three months. Additional information is available at the [Royal Customs and Excise Department's website](#).

Prohibited and Restricted Imports

Brunei imposes restrictions/prohibitions on the import of certain goods under Customs Order 2006 (Section 31). Imports and manufacture of alcohol and alcohol products are restricted for religious reasons under Customs (Prohibition and Restriction of Imports and Exports) Amended Order 1990.

Contact Information

[Royal Customs and Excise Department](#)

Ministry of Finance

Phone: +673 238-2333

Fax: +673 238-2666

Importers of halal meat and food products need prior approval from the Ministry of Religious Affairs. Prior to approval, inspection of the foreign plant facilities will be carried out by two officers from the Religious Affairs Department. Importers will bear travel costs, including accomodation. Currently, only selected approved plants in Australia, Malaysia, and India are accredited to supply halal beef.

Brunei imports live cattle from a Brunei-owned cattle ranch in Northern Australia for slaughter locally. Brunei claims to be 90% self-sufficient for poultry production. Halal certification for poultry is issued on strict compliance with slaughter methods set by the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

Importation of alcoholic beverages has been prohibited with minor exceptions for personal, private consumption by non-Muslims since 1991. Pork is consumed only by non-Muslims. There is no pork production in Brunei. Brunei imports fresh and frozen pork from the neighboring Malaysian state of Sarawak.

Halal Certificate and Halal Label Order 2005, and its Amendment Order 2017, address the issuance of halal certificates and halal labels for processed food, separation of food storage, and business premises.

Halal Certification Information

The Secretary

Board for Issuing Halal Import Permits

[Ministry of Religious Affairs](#)

Jalan Elizabeth II

Bandar Seri Begawan BS8510

Brunei Darussalam

Phone: (673)-224-2565

Fax: (673)-222-3106

Customs Regulations

Brunei's customs legislation was amended to harmonize its tariff nomenclature, make customs-related information more readily available to traders and the public, align its laws with WTO agreements and intellectual property protections, and streamline appeals procedures. All imports into Brunei must be accompanied by:

- A bill of lading/delivery order or airway bill;
- Packing list;
- Commercial invoice;
- Three copies of the customs declaration form, which include the number of individual packages;
- Detailed description of the goods being imported;
- Gross and net weights or quantities of packages;
- Value (both ‘free on board’ and ‘cost, insurance and freight’);
- Place of shipment and destination; and
- Country of origin.

The invoice must be signed by the exporter or seller. An importer can request BEDB to issue an exemption of duty determination. A certificate of origin may also be requested, which can be attained from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Required documents for customs declarations can now be submitted online via the [e-customs system](#). Online payment services are available via the [Brunei Darussalam National Single Window](#).

Contact Information

[Royal Customs & Excise Department](#)

Ministry of Finance

Phone: (673)-238-2333

Fax: (673)-238-2666

Standards for Trade

Overview

The National Standards Center (NSC) was established in 2008 and operates under the purview of the Ministry of Finance and Economy. The center ensures that the quality of products and services adheres to national and international requirements. The NSC is the “National Inquiry Point” for matters related to WTO Technical Barriers to Trade.

Standards

Brunei adheres to a range of international standards, including the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) standards regimes. Brunei also recognizes certifications from bodies that have been accredited by members of the Pacific Accreditation Cooperation. Conformance certificates and laboratory accreditations are also accepted from Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) Mutual Recognition Arrangement members.

Testing, Inspection and Certification

All food products, whether sold, distributed, imported, or manufactured in Brunei must comply to the standards set within the Public Health (Food) Act (Chapter 182) and its Regulations (R1, Chapter 182). Other than labelling requirements, it also addresses the safety and appropriateness of food product ingredients. Ministry of Health officials conduct inspections of food preparation premises.

For the importation of cosmetic products, the Brunei Darussalam Medicines Control Authority (BDMCA), through the Director of Pharmaceutical Services, is responsible for the implementation of the Medicines (Cosmetic Products) 2007 Regulations in Brunei. The regulations follow the ASEAN Cosmetic Directive.

Telecommunications standards are regulated by AITI under Section 9 of Telecommunications Order, 2001. AITI regulates the use of telecommunication equipment in Brunei, requiring that services meet national standards.

Publication of technical regulations

Brunei’s laws, acts, and orders are published in the government Gazette. The hardcopies of the Gazette is published by the Government of Brunei. The publications can be viewed at the Attorney General’s Chambers’s [website](#).

Members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) are required under the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement) to notify to the WTO proposed technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures that could affect trade. Notify U.S. (www.nist.gov/notifyus) is a free, web-based e-mail registration service that captures and makes available for review and comment key information on draft regulations and conformity assessment procedures. Users receive customized e-mail alerts when new notifications are added by selected country(ies) and industry sector(s) of interest, and can also request full texts of regulations. This service and its associated web site are managed and operated by the USA WTO TBT Inquiry Point housed within the National Institute of Standards and Technology, part of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Contact Information

U.S. Embassy Bandar Seri Begawan
Adriana Agusdin
Commercial Specialist
Phone: (673)-238-7513
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Head, Food Safety and Quality Control Division
Department of Health Services
[Ministry of Health Brunei Darussalam](#)
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Authority for Info-Communications Technology Industry of Brunei Darussalam (AITI)
Block B14, Simpang 32-5 Kampung Anggerek Desa
Jalan Berakas BB3713
Brunei Darussalam.
Phone: (673)-232-3232
Fax: (673)-238-2447
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Trade Agreements

Brunei is a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN); Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC); WTO; Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines-East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA); and the Multilateral Agreement on the Liberalization of International Air Transportation (MALIAT).

Brunei is also party to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations, an ASEAN + 6 (Australia, the People's Republic of China, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea and New Zealand) trade agreement.

Licensing Requirements for Professional Services

Brunei requires certain professional service providers to be licensed by the respective government bodies. Licensing requirements exist for legal, medical, and engineering services. Legal practitioners require authorization from the Chief Justice to be admitted as an advocate and solicitor in Brunei courts. Medical practitioners, including dentists, require a license from the Brunei Medical Board under the Ministry of Health.

Selling U.S. Products and Services

Distribution & Sales Channels

Over 82% of products entering Brunei in 2018 came through Muara Port and 2% were brought in as air cargo. There are at least 15 freight forwarding companies operating in Brunei. These companies have the capability to transport imported products. The logistics companies have developed reliable network connections with established shipping and logistics partners worldwide. They can provide services like stevedoring, courier service, freight forwarding, transshipment, packing and removal, warehousing and distribution, transport, crane hire and project cargo forwarding.

eCommerce

Although Brunei is ranked with the highest internet penetration in Southeast Asia (95.3 percent, 2020), the e-commerce industry is still in its infancy. In 2019, the government established a Digital Economy Council to explore the potential of the digital economy industry. The Ministry of Transport and Info-communications published the country's first [Digital Economy Masterplan 2025](#), which outlines the strategic plans and key projects towards developing a Smart Nation.

Current Buyer Behavior in Market

According to an e-commerce survey conducted by AITI, 76% of Bruneians use e-commerce to shop, bank, and pay bills. Approximately 57% of online shoppers preferred to shop via shopping websites, while 24 percent preferred to shop via social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram. The top purchases online were apparel and travel services.

Local eCommerce Sales Rules & Regulations

In 2000, Brunei enacted a commercial code for electronic transactions. The Electronic Transactions Act (Chapter 196) is based on the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Model Law on Electronic Commerce and the Singapore Electronic Transactions Act. The Singapore Act draws heavily from the U.S. Uniform Electronic Transactions Act and aims to encourage business and consumer confidence in e-commerce and provide legal protection for both the buyer and seller. AITI's E-Business and Market Creation Unit is responsible for promoting e-business opportunities under the country's [2000 Electric Transactions Order](#).

Various government agencies have undertaken many initiatives to promote the use of e-commerce. These include enforcement of consumer protection laws by the Department of Economic Planning and Statistics, surveys on consumer attitudes and behaviors towards e-commerce by the Authority for Info-communications Technology Industry (AITI), provision of secure server facilities by the E-Government National Centre (EGNC), and the issuance of Fintech Regulatory Sandbox Guidelines by the Autoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam.

Local eCommerce Business Service Provider Ecosystem

AITI has established [eKadaiBrunei](#), a local online directory that lists e-commerce delivery and logistics companies. Some online platforms in Brunei are integrated with online payment capabilities and delivery services. AITI holds an annual Cybershop Fair to showcase the products and services of local e-commerce businesses. Brunei's central bank published a [Digital Payment Roadmap](#) for the development of the digital payment ecosystem.

Selling Factors & Techniques

Overview

U.S. exporters to Brunei face strong competition from producers in China, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom, especially when marketing food and agricultural products. As a former British protectorate, Brunei has deep trade connections and familiarity with the UK and Commonwealth nations and their products. However, the market is diversifying.

To differentiate themselves from local and third country competitors, U.S. firms should emphasize their strengths in quality, innovation, technology enhancements, and customer service. Bruneian customers have come to expect higher quality products from U.S. companies. Customers may choose U.S. products and services on the basis of "value for money," not solely on cost factors.

Brunei's government is eager to increase FDI as it seeks to diversify its economy away from hydrocarbons. BEDB has identified several key industry clusters it plans to develop within the export-oriented manufacturing and services sectors, including pharmaceuticals, food, petrochemicals, renewable energy, ICT, and higher education. Foreign firms are often encouraged to bid for projects.

When marketing general consumer goods, U.S. companies should keep in mind the cultural norms and standards of the Bruneian population. For example, a majority of the population is Muslim, which means that food, pharmaceuticals, and cosmetics must be certified halal (meaning lawful and permissible to use/consume under Islamic law) in order to appeal to a larger market. Brunei's definition of halal is, in some cases, distinct from other Muslim-majority countries. Information about Brunei's halal certification process can be found on the [Brunei Religious Council's website](#).

It is advisable to conduct research on the possible implications of advertising or promotional activities before initiating them in Brunei. Bruneians are very active on social networks, including Facebook, WhatsApp, and Instagram, and these can be important marketing tools as customers often rely more on these social networks for information on businesses than they do on traditional marketing sources.

Selling techniques vary according to the industry or the product involved, but they are comparable to the techniques used in any other sophisticated market. To gain a competitive advantage in the marketplace, U.S. firms should develop and maintain good customer relationships. In-person meetings with key contacts in the government and the private sector can be helpful in developing and maintaining these relationships. Industry events, trade shows, and product expos are also common and provide good opportunities to reach customers and potential business partners. Bruneian customers flock to coupons, VIP discount cards, and special deals.

Trade Promotion and Advertising

Businesses can easily purchase advertising space in Brunei's newspapers. There are two local newspapers, the Borneo Bulletin (English) and Media Permata (Malay). Both newspapers have extensive circulation. Daily newspapers in English, Malay, and Chinese from the neighboring countries of Malaysia and Singapore are also widely read. Local advertising companies and promotion service agencies are also available through the following:

Borneo	Bulletin
Media	Permata
Radio Television Brunei	

Pricing

Bruneians enjoy a high per capita income, but that includes both very wealthy residents as well as families with significant personal debt and depend on government subsidies for fuel, housing, and education. There exists a niche market for higher-end products and services, but shoppers are also price-conscious regarding daily purchases. Products of other nations are priced competitively. Bruneians increasingly use social media to spot deals and specials at stores, restaurants, and online shops. U.S. exporters should generate a price survey of competitor products and services from both domestic and international firms.

Brunei currently does not charge any sales tax, value-added tax, or goods and services tax. Hotel and rest and recreation facilities may charge up to a 10% service fee. They may also charge gratuity.

Brunei instituted the Price Control Act (Cap 142) administered by the [Department of Economic Planning and Statistics](#). Maximum prices for selected goods, such as those categorized as necessities (motor vehicles, infant milk powder, and cigarettes), may be fixed by the price controller for consumer protection purposes.

Sales Service/Customer Support

Bruneian customers, both corporate and individual, expect high-quality sales service and after-sale customer support like many other customers in markets worldwide. Bruneian customers generally have greater confidence in U.S. suppliers' service and support, due to their well-trained service and support teams. An increasing number of Bruneian buyers would prefer to invest in higher-quality products to save on expensive maintenance or replacement costs following warranty expirations.

Local Professional Services

The legal sector is governed under the Legal Profession Act (CAP.132 of Laws of Brunei). Section 4 of the act provides the Chief Justice with the authority to admit a qualified individual as an advocate and solicitor. An application by a qualified person for admission is made by written request to the Chief Justice at the office of the Chief Registrar. The Chief Registrar issues the license and maintains the advocate and solicitor's name on the roll. Law firms do not need to obtain a separate license to practice.

Contact Information

The Attorney General

The Law Building Bandar Seri Begawan

BA 1910, Brunei Darussalam

Phone: (673)-223-1200; (673)-224-4872

Principal Business Associations

There are four major chambers of commerce in Brunei:

Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Phone: (673)-223-5494

Fax: (673)-223-5492

Email: ccc@brunet.bn

[Brunei Malay Chamber of Commerce and Industry](#)/National Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Phone: (673)-242-1840

Fax: (673)-242-1839

Email: mccibd_dpmb@yahoo.com

Brunei Darussalam International Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Phone: (673)-223-6601

Fax: (673)-222-8389

Email: bdicci@brunet.bn

Indian Chamber of Commerce

Phone: (673)-234-0972

Fax: (673)-234-0976

Email: textilemail@brunet.bn

Limitations on Selling U.S. Products and Services

There are generally no limitations on the sale of U.S. products and services in Brunei.

Trade Financing

Methods of Payment

Brunei's banking system offers a full range of export finance instruments, including letters of credit and drafts. For more information about the methods of payment or other trade finance options, please read the Trade Finance Guide available at <https://www.trade.gov/trade-finance-guide-quick-reference-us-exporters>.

Banking Systems

Although small, Brunei's banking system is reliable and well monitored. The Ministry of Finance oversees the Department of Financial Services (Treasury) and the Brunei Investment Agency. The Brunei Monetary Authority (Autoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam - AMBD) acts as the central bank of Brunei and handles the formulation and implementation of monetary policies, supervision of financial institutions, and currency management.

Foreign Exchange Controls

There is no restriction on foreign exchange. Banks permit non-resident accounts, and there is no restriction on borrowing by non-residents.

U.S. Banks & Local Correspondent Banks

Refer to the State Department's Office of Investment Affairs' 2019 Investment Climate Statement (ICS). Any questions on the ICS can be directed to EB-ICS-DL@state.gov.

Protecting Intellectual Property

Brunei is in the midst of strengthening its intellectual property rights (IPR) protection and enforcement by developing an IPR regulatory environment and improving public awareness, but more can be done towards active enforcement of existing IPR regulations, including improvement of intellectual property training standards for the Royal Brunei Police Force and Bruneian customs officials. The Brunei Intellectual Property Office (BruIPO), established in 2013, is responsible for the registration of patents, trademarks, industrial designs, and plant variety protection (PVP). In any foreign market, companies should consider several general principles for effective protection of their intellectual property. For more information, please refer to [Protecting Intellectual Property](#) and Stopfakes.gov for more resources.

Contact Information

Kitisri Sukhapinda, IP Attaché

U.S. Embassy Bangkok

Foreign Commercial Service

GPF Witthayu Tower A, Room 302

93/1 Wireless Road, Patumwn

Bangkok, 10330 Thailand Phone: (662)-205-5913

Email: kitisri.sukhapinda@trade.gov

Intellectual Property Rights Director, Stevan Mitchell at Stevan.Mitchell@trade.gov.

Selling to the Public Sector

Selling to the Government

Royal Brunei Technical Services (RBTS)

Government sales opportunities exist in several sectors, including defense, transportation, machinery, infrastructure development, and ICT. RBTS is a government-owned company that performs contracting, acquisition management, and equipment lifecycle management services for the Brunei government.

Contact Information

Chief Executive Officer

[Royal Brunei Technical Services](#)

6th Floor, Setia Kenangan Office Block Setia Kenangan Complex, Kg. Kiulap Bandar Seri Begawan

Phone: (673)-224-2700

Fax: (673)-224-6747

E-mail: info@rbts.gov.bn

Centre of Science and Technology Research and Development (CSTRAD)

CSTRAD is responsible for research, assessment, selection, and oversight of the acquisition of science and technology solutions for the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF). CSTRAD oversees Brunei's defense modernization efforts, advises the Ministry of Defense on science and technology matters, and supervises the transparency and timeliness of the defense-related acquisitions process. Brunei's military services and police force may procure non-lethal equipment directly.

Contact Information

Centre of Science and Technology Research and Development

Block A, 1st Floor

Ministry of Defense

Bolkiah Garrison

Phone: (673)-238-6369

Fax: (673)-238-6633

E-mail: cstrad@mindef.gov.bn

For non-security related products, U.S. businesses may deal directly with individual government departments or ministries. Note that some ministries may have their own tender requirements. The Ministry of Health requires a written introduction to the Director General of Health Services to promote the company's products and services. The letter of introduction should include the purpose of the letter, description of the product, and should be accompanied by product brochures. The letter should also include the target department or personnel that would benefit from the product or service provided.

The Brunei government advertises its tenders in the [Pelita Brunei](#), a Malay-language newspaper.

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) also publishes tender notices, which can be accessed [through the office's website](#).

Most government tenders require the participation of local companies and local employees. Foreign companies are encouraged to partner with local companies. A Project Performance Bond is required at the tender approval stage to guarantee the delivery of a project in accordance with the project specifications. The bond is returned to the company involved after project completion.

Brunei Darussalam is not a party to the [World Trade Organization \(WTO\) Government Procurement Agreement](#).

U.S. companies bidding on government tenders may also qualify for U.S. Government advocacy. A unit of the U.S. Commerce Department's International Trade Administration, the Advocacy Center coordinates U.S. Government interagency advocacy efforts on behalf of U.S. exporters bidding on public sector contracts with international governments and government agencies. The Advocacy Center works closely with our network of the U.S. Commercial Service worldwide and inter-agency partners to ensure that exporters of U.S. products and services have the best possible chance of winning government contracts. Advocacy assistance can take many forms but often involves the U.S. Embassy or other U.S. Government agencies expressing support for the U.S. bidders directly to the foreign government. Consult [Advocacy for Foreign Government Contracts](#) for additional information.

Financing of Projects

Brunei is classified as a graduated developing member country of the Asian Development Bank and a non-borrowing member. Brunei is also a member of the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA)

Major projects are normally financed through public-private partnerships, especially for projects in line with Brunei's Vision 2035 and National Development Plans. More information on public-private partnerships can be found on the [Department of Economic Planning and Statistics Website](#).

Business Travel

Business Customs

Brunei is a predominately Muslim country and a hereditary Sultanate. Visitors are expected to show respect for both Islam and the Royal Family. The national language is Malay, although English, Hokkien, and Mandarin are widely spoken.

Introductions and connections are important and necessary in Brunei. Relationship-building precedes business negotiations and brokering deals can sometimes require several visits.

Visitors should avoid passing in front of a seated person or pointing with the index finger; Bruneians point with their thumb and clenched hand. Yellow is the royal color and should not be worn in the presence of royalty. When invited for a meal, the host will likely be offended if the guest offers to pay the bill. Guests should remove shoes before entering a private home. Handshakes are common among male businessmen. Business visitors should not reach to shake the hand of the opposite sex, unless that person extends it, but one can touch a hand to one's chest as a sign of respect instead.

A visitor to Brunei will find restaurants to fit all budgets and tastes. Malaysian, Indian, Chinese, and Western food are all ubiquitous. Tipping is not customary in Brunei. Large hotels and restaurants may add a 10% service charge to the bill. Alcohol is not available for purchase in Brunei and restaurants do not serve alcohol. The consumption of alcohol in any public place is prohibited and should be avoided. Offering alcohol to a Muslim is a crime in Brunei. Public consumption of food or drink during Ramadan is illegal in Brunei; takeout can be purchased in restaurants and should be eaten in a private location.

Travel Advisory

Brunei has a warm, humid climate year-round but most places of business are well air-conditioned. The Department of State advises travelers to view its travel advisory site [here](#) for the latest updates. Brunei's official website offers tourism, government, business, and other information, and can be accessed [here](#). Within Brunei, the information centers at the airport and hotels can provide maps and tourist services. Travel agencies are located throughout the capital.

Visa Requirements

Business visitors and tourists from the United States do not need visas for visits of up to 90 days. Renewals and residency permits are routine and simple.

Brunei citizens are eligible to participate in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program allowing travel to the United States without a visa for short business and leisure trips.

U.S. companies that require travel of foreign business persons to the United States should be advised that security evaluations are handled via an interagency process. Visa applicants should go to the following links.

State Department Visa [link](#)

Embassy Website [link](#)

Currency

The Brunei dollar is pegged to the Singapore dollar at a one-to-one ratio, and the Singapore dollar is legal tender in the Sultanate. International credit and debit cards are widely accepted in the country under the Visa and Mastercard affiliations.

Telecommunications/Electronics

Brunei has a good telecommunications system and is in the midst of a major fiber-to-home improvement project which will increase bandwidth access. In 2019, the Brunei government consolidated all of its network infrastructure under a single entity Unified National Networks (UNN), currently managed by Europe's largest telecommunications provider Deutsche Telekom. There are three operators providing telecommunications services in Brunei: Imagine, Data Stream Technology (DST), and Progresif. Most hotels, cafes and restaurants have wifi coverage.

Brunei Voltage: The voltage in Brunei is 240 V.

Brunei Electrical Frequency: The electrical frequency in Brunei is 50 Hz.

Brunei Plug/Socket Type(s): Brunei uses the G plug. Universal travel adapters can be bought from hardware and electrical stores.

Brunei Mobile Network Frequencies: Brunei currently uses 1 GSM 900 Band, 2 UMTS B1 (2100) Bands, and 1 LTE Band B3 (1800+) frequencies for 4G. When travelling, mobile phones used in Brunei must support the GSM frequency. AITI regulates the telecommunications industry in Brunei.

Brunei is connected with the rest of the world through four international cable systems, namely Asia America Gateway (AAG), the South-East Asia Japan Cable (SJC), the Southeast Asia Middle East Western Europe 3 (SMW3) cable, and the Labuan-Brunei cable. These four submarine cable systems land at two sites, the Tungku Submarine Cable Station and the Telisai Submarine Cable Station. These links are diversified and backed up by a land-based transmission system, the Trans-Borneo Optical Fiber System.

Transportation

Brunei's national airline conducts scheduled services across Asia, the Middle East, Australia, and the United Kingdom. Brunei International Airport also receives flights from other international airlines such as Singapore Airlines, Malaysian Airlines, Philippine Airlines, and Hong Kong Airlines. The international airport is a fifteen-minute drive from downtown Bandar Seri Begawan, the capital, which costs approximately US \$18-21. Taxis and buses serve the capital and the outskirts, although hours of operation are limited. Taxis are required to use meters as of September 2016. Buses also travel to the oil towns of Seria and Kuala Belait. Rental cars and drivers are the most reliable form of transportation and can be hired with ease at competitive rates.

Language

Brunei's official language is Malay, with English, Hokkien, and Mandarin also widely spoken. English is normally the language of business. Menus and signs in English are common. The ethnic-Chinese community that makes up 12% of the total population generally speaks Mandarin and Hokkien.

When in doubt, Sir, Mr., Mrs. and Ms. can be used without fear of insult. Should U.S. businesses wish to follow local customs, Bruneian males can be called Awang and women Dayang. These titles roughly correspond to Mr. and Ms.

Additionally, Pehin and Dato are the two principal titles bestowed by the Sultan. Pehin is a conferred honorary title generally associated with an official position within the royal court. Dato is a state honorary medal conferred by the

Sultan and may be bestowed on anyone the Sultan wishes to honor, regardless of nationality. The female equivalent to Dato is Datin, as is the wife of a Dato. Dato is roughly equivalent to Sir in Britain.

Pengiran refers to a Bruneian of royal descent. Children of Pengirans are referred to as Dayangku (daughter) and Awangku (son) and assume the title of Pengiran upon marriage. At the highest end of the scale is the title Pengiran Anak, denoting Bruneians closely related to the Sultan's family.

Health

Brunei offers all its citizens free and modern health care at state-run hospitals and clinics across the country. Most doctors speak English, and many have studied in the United Kingdom, United States, and Europe.

There is adequate care for basic medical conditions in Brunei. However, for certain elective surgery or complicated care, the Brunei medical system will send patients to Singapore. Brunei has a number of public hospitals and clinics. The biggest ones are RIPAS Hospital in Bandar Seri Begawan and Tutong Hospital in the district of the same name. The largest private hospital is Jerudong Park Medical Center (JPMC), approximately 20 minutes by car outside of Bandar Seri Begawan.

Brunei also hosts a number of private clinics, many of which are staffed by expatriates. More information can be found at the U.S. Embassy [website](#).

Medication and prescriptions for common conditions are generally available, although finding specific medications, such as decongestants, may be challenging. Local pharmacies may not carry the same brands as U.S. pharmacies. Visitors are advised to bring sufficient quantities of medicines that they know they will need prior to arriving in Brunei. It is important to be aware of Brunei's strict laws on the import of controlled substances. To avoid complications, a prescription note should accompany any prescribed medicine brought to Brunei.

There has been a surge in cases of dengue fever in Southeast Asia, including Brunei. As there is no vaccine for dengue fever, visitors are advised to avoid mosquito bites by wearing skin-covering clothing and using insect repellent containing DEET.

The [Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#) maintains information on vaccinations and other health precautions.

For information about outbreaks of infectious diseases abroad, consult the World Health Organization (WHO) [website](#). The WHO website also contains additional health information for travelers, including detailed [country-specific health information](#).

Local Time, Business Hours and Holidays

Government offices are open for business from 7:45 a.m. to 12 noon and from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and Saturday, but they are closed on Fridays and Sundays. The Ministry of Defense is the only ministry open on Fridays and closed on Saturdays. By law, everything in Brunei is closed on Fridays from 12 noon to 2:00 p.m. for Friday prayers. Most shopping centers are open daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. including Sundays. Private offices generally conduct business from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays and from 8 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturdays. Banks generally open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on weekdays and from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Saturdays. Some banks have branches open seven days a week until late. Most have ATMs and can exchange foreign currency. During Ramadhan, government work hours and other business hours may be shortened to facilitate personnel who are fasting. In late 2012, a government ruling was announced that all businesses must close for two hours every Friday from 12 noon to 2 p.m. to respect Muslim prayer times.

2020 Official Holidays

January 1, 2020	New Year's Day
January 25, 2020	Chinese New Year
February 23, 2020	36th National Day
March 22, 2020	Isra' Mi'raj
April 24, 2020*	1st Day of Ramadhan
May 10, 2020	Nuzul Al-Qur'an
May 24-26, 2020*	Hari Raya Aidil Fitri
May 31, 2020	Royal Brunei Armed Forces Day
July 15, 2020	His Majesty the Sultan's Birthday
July 31, 2020*	Hari Raya Aidil Adha
August 20, 2020	1st Day of Hijrah 1442
October 29, 2020	Prophet Muhammad's Birthday
December 25, 2020	Christmas Day

* Actual Holiday Subject to Sighting of the Moon

Temporary Entry of Materials or Personal Belongings

There is no sales tax in Brunei. Arriving passengers over 17 years old are eligible to import 60 ml of perfume and 250 ml of eau de toilette. Non-Muslims at least 17 years old may bring in up to two bottles of liquor or wine and 12 cans of beer for personal consumption, but these goods must be declared to customs upon entry.

Investment Climate Statement (ICS)

The U.S. Department of State Investment Climate Statements provide information on the business climates of more than 170 economies and are prepared by economic officers stationed in embassies and posts around the world. They analyze a variety of economies that are or could be markets for U.S. businesses.

Topics include Openness to Investment, Legal and Regulatory systems, Dispute Resolution, Intellectual Property Rights, Transparency, Performance Requirements, State-Owned Enterprises, Responsible Business Conduct, and Corruption.

These statements highlight persistent barriers to further U.S. investment. Addressing these barriers would expand high-quality, private sector-led investment in infrastructure, further women's economic empowerment, and facilitate a healthy business environment for the digital economy. To access the ICS, visit the U.S. Department of State [Investment Climate Statement](#) website.

Political Environment

For background information on the political and economic environment of the country, please click on the link to the U.S. Department of State [Countries & Areas](#) website.