

The Business Environment

The government of Brunei has set long term objectives to develop Brunei into a financial centre, as well as a centre for trade and maintenance services. To this end, no exchange controls exist in Brunei.

Investment opportunities for foreigners are limited outside of the energy and construction industries. Joint ventures are encouraged by the government as the preferred method of investment. It is also recognized that local interests should represent at least 51% of the ownership. Potential investors considering setting up a business in Brunei should bear in mind that non-Bruneians are prohibited from owning land. There is also strong competition for the limited supply of both skilled and unskilled labour - especially in construction, transportation and utilities.

A domestic customs tariff is used and duties may be specific or ad valorem. Generally, goods for individual use are exempt from customs duty.

Most items may be imported under an open general licence. However, some goods such as used vehicles, converted timber and certain types of drugs require a special import licence.