The Brunei economy grew by approximately 4.5 percent in 1991, an increase over the 2.3 percent growth experienced in 1990 and the 2.5 percent growth in 1989. (The Economic Growth Table (I) in the Preface, provides a comparative picture of Brunei's economic growth performance over 3 years in relation to other countries.) GDP growth continues to be largely a factor of the price of oil. Fluctuations in the world price of oil have as yet been of no urgent consequence to the domestic economic situation of Brunei. The need to grow into capital and technology-intensive activities is clear.

Through the Five Year Economic Plans, the government has chanelled its efforts into broadening economic activity. The 1986-1990 plan called for the development of local industries and the revitalization of non-oil sectors, particularly in the areas of forestry, fishery and manufacturing. The plan allocated US $2.3 billion to projects which concentrated on expanding infrastructure development and social welfare services.

To date, these attempts have been only moderately successful. The current Five Year Plan (1991-1995) further stresses infrastructure development and continued diversification. The plan proposes to establish 2,000 small and medium sized companies and to reduce dependence on government employment.