

"A New Chapter Across the Causeway": Nearly 99,000 Malaysians Have Chosen Singapore Citizenship Since 2015

Over the past decade, nearly **99,000 Malaysians** have made one of the most personal and life-changing decisions possible — to give up their Malaysian citizenship in exchange for a new beginning as Singaporean nationals.

According to figures released in the Malaysian Parliament earlier this month, a total of **98,318 Malaysians** officially renounced their citizenship between **2015 and mid-2025**. The highest number was recorded in **2024**, with **16,930 individuals** making the move — a striking figure that speaks volumes about the pull of Singapore for many across the border.

For some, the decision is rooted in career growth. For others, it’s about access to world-class education or healthcare. But for all, it’s about seeking opportunity — and building a better future for themselves and their families.

"I made the decision not just for myself, but for my children," said one former Malaysian who has lived in Singapore for nearly a decade. "It wasn’t easy to let go of my roots, but the stability and opportunities here gave us a sense of security we couldn’t find back home."

The Numbers Behind the Stories

Here’s a look at the yearly breakdown:

Year	Malaysians Renouncing Citizenship
2015	7,394
2016	8,654
2017	7,583
2018	7,665
2019	13,362
2020	5,591
2021	7,956
2022	5,623

Year	Malaysians Renouncing Citizenship
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2023	11,500
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2024	16,930
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2025 (Jan–Jun)	6,060
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Why Singapore?

Singapore's consistent draw lies in its promise of opportunity. With a reputation for efficient governance, a strong economy, and an emphasis on education and innovation, it continues to attract not just investors and global talent — but also its closest neighbours.

*The Singapore government reported granting **23,472 new citizenships in 2023**, with a five-year average of around **22,400 annually** from 2019–2023. While not all recipients are from Malaysia, Malaysians remain a significant portion of the total, thanks to cultural, linguistic, and geographic ties.*

Between Two Homes

Still, the decision to renounce citizenship is never without emotional weight. Many continue to maintain strong connections to Malaysia — visiting family, celebrating festivals, and holding onto the memories of where they grew up.

“I still miss home — the food, the language, my kampung friends,” shared another new Singaporean citizen. “But moving here gave me a different kind of peace — especially knowing my children have more doors open to them.”

As the region continues to evolve, stories like these offer a glimpse into the very human side of policy, migration, and opportunity — and remind us that behind every statistic is someone chasing hope, stability, and a better life.

<https://www.theonlinecitizen.com/2025/08/08/nearly-99000-malaysians-gave-up-citizenship-for-singapore-nationality-from-2015-to-mid-2025/>