

How FTAs benefit Singapore

Since its first bilateral free trade agreement (FTA) with New Zealand almost 20 years ago, Singapore has signed 25 FTAs with 37 partners. These help local companies access overseas markets, clear their goods more quickly and easily, and safeguard their businesses. Here are the key benefits of FTAs.



TRADE IN GOODS

- 1 More competitive exports by reducing the duties consumers have to pay

Asean Trade in Goods Agreement eliminated more than 98 per cent of all tariffs in the region, allowing businesses to export to Asean without incurring tariffs.

- 2 Streamlined Customs procedures allow goods to be cleared more quickly and efficiently

- Under the China-Singapore FTA upgrade, traders no longer have to submit Certificates of Origin in hard copy to China.
- China's Customs authorities will accord Singapore traders preferential treatment – release of nationwide express shipments within six hours of arrival, and all goods within 48 hours of arrival.



TRADE IN SERVICES

- 1 Preferential access to service sectors in foreign markets
- 2 Greater ease of providing services from Singapore to overseas consumers



INVESTMENTS

- 1 Eliminate regulations that restrict market access or provide favourable treatment to domestic firms
- 2 Neutral avenue for recourse in case of dispute with host state

The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership sets strong investment rules that ensure Singapore businesses will not be treated less favourably than a local business. These rules improve transparency and help provide a more predictable business environment for companies.



GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

- 1 More access to government procurement projects in partner country
- 2 Transparent, objective and non-discriminatory tender specifications

Under the European Union-Singapore FTA, companies can participate in tenders for goods and services conducted by EU government entities in railway, computer, telecommunications and landscape architecture services.



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (IP) PROTECTION

Stronger IP protections – trademark applications, patent protection and registered designs

The US-Singapore FTA provides for greater protections in copyrights, trademarks, patents and related rights, and anti-piracy IP enforcement. These protections are above current commitments under the World Trade Organisation Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property.

KEY FIGURES

A study by MTI estimated that, on average, Singapore businesses' export of goods to a trade agreement partner increases by about 18% two years after the agreement's entry into force and a further 16% in the third year.

Tariffs that FTAs helped businesses save

2016	About \$730 million
2006	\$450m

Since the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement was signed in 2005...

Bilateral trade has increased by **\$9.7 billion.**

Bilateral investments have increased by **26 times.**

PMET jobs for locals have grown by **more than 400,000** to reach 1.25 million last year.

PMET share among employed locals has grown.

