

POPULATION

In 1926 the population of the Netherland East Indies was estimated to be 51,013,878 inhabitants, of which 209,934 were Europeans, 49,848,661 natives, and 955,283 foreign Asiatics. Java, which is one of the most densely populated areas in the world, was estimated to have 36,403,833 inhabitants, or about 717 per square mile. The population of the Outer Possessions was placed at 14,610,045, or about 21 per square mile. The principal cities of the Netherland East Indies are:

City	Total population	European population	City	Total population	European population
Batavia.....	354,737	37,053	Bandoeng.....	136,016	15,743
Surabaya.....	248,961	23,620	Djakakarta (Djoedja).....	110,120	9,604
Semarang.....	150,952	18,954	Makassar.....	56,718	2,742
Soerakarta (Solo).....	151,273	2,144	Medan.....	45,246	3,128

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION

The transportation facilities of Java are adequate to serve the needs of the island in spite of the density of population. The same degree of development has naturally not taken place in the Outer Possessions, although Sumatra is well served by railway and bus lines in the more densely populated areas. Busses are now an important feature in the transportation system of Java. Road mileage throughout the territory is estimated at 36,200, of which over 25,000 miles represent improved highways of macadam construction.

The principal railways in the islands are owned and operated by the Government. In addition, there are 19 private railway companies, the most important of which are the Netherland Indies Railroad Co., which operates in central Java, and the Deli Railway Co., which operates on the east coast of Sumatra. The total length of Government and private railways in operation is approximately 7,300 kilometers, of which 4,300 kilometers are Government operated. (One kilometer equals 0.62137 mile.)

Connection with Europe is maintained by two lines of fast mail steamers owned by Dutch companies. The interisland trade is entirely in the hands of the Koninklijke Paketvaart Mij., a Dutch company. The latter company also maintains a regular service between Java ports and Singapore and Australian ports. There are also monthly freight services direct from the west coast of the United States to Java ports.

The chief ports of the Netherland East Indies are Surabaya, Batavia, and Semarang in Java; Medan and Palembang in Sumatra; and Makassar in the Celebes. These ports have modern equipment installed to facilitate the handling of cargo and meet all of the requirements of the present shipping traffic. In Java the ports are well connected with the commercial, producing, and consuming centers in the interior by a system of railways, canals, and roads.

The Netherland East Indies were among the first countries in the Far East to realize the possibilities of commercial aviation. Daily flights are now scheduled between the principal cities and a weekly service connects Singapore with Batavia.