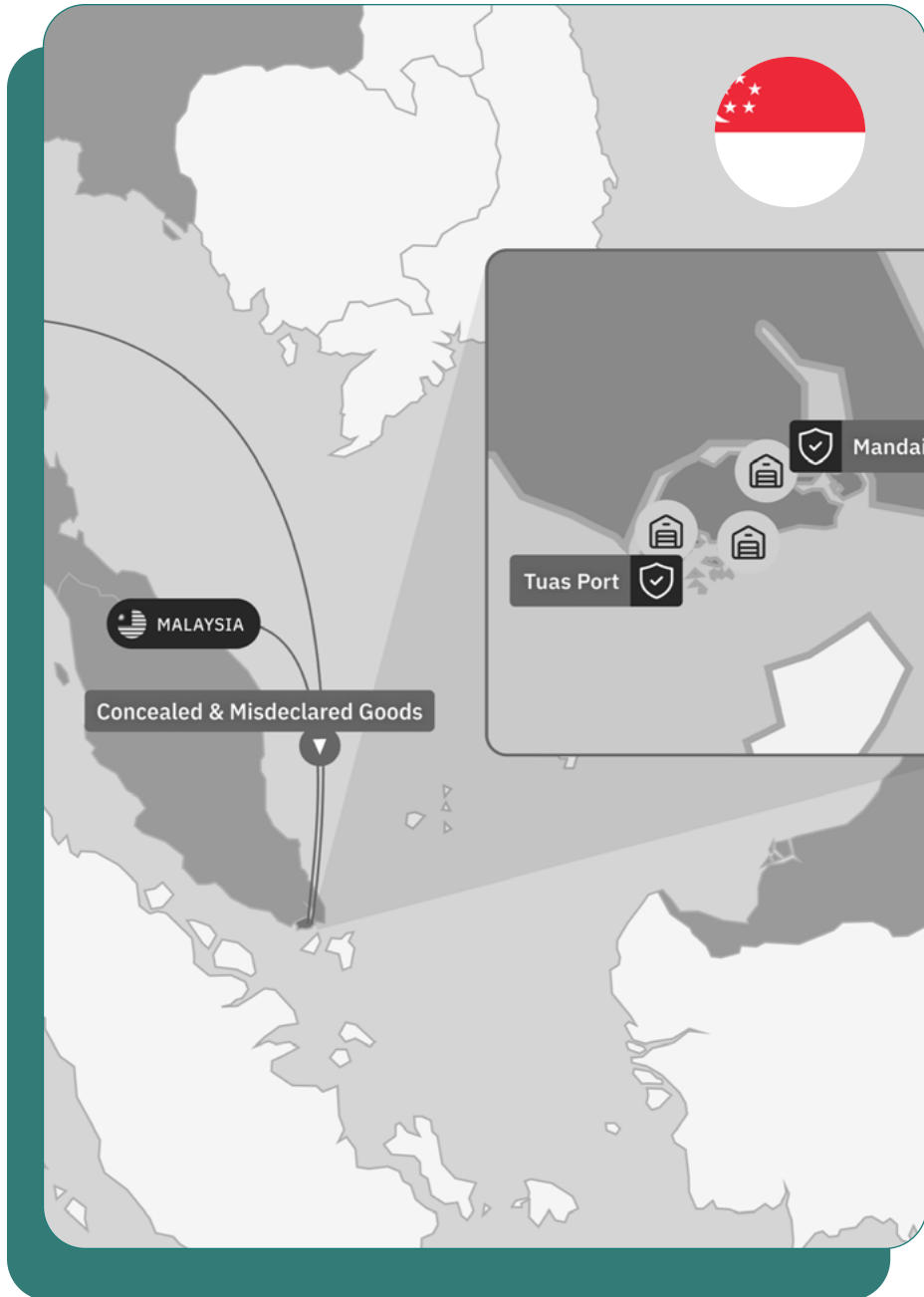


# ApiraSol

## E-CIGARETTES IN SINGAPORE 2024/2025 – Q2

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SUPPLY CHAIN INTELLIGENCE  
APRIL 2026



# Overview

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1. INTRODUCTION & METHODOLOGY

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3. E-CIGARETTE TRADE - SINGAPORE

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**1**

**INTRODUCTION &  
METHODOLOGY**

# Introduction

**ApiraSol has been investigating the routes, brands, and entities involved in the trade of illicit e-cigarettes across various countries worldwide for several years.**

In this particular research conducted in 2025, ApiraSol focused on the global illicit e-cigarette trade, drawing from trade data as well as open sources such as enforcement news, press releases from customs agencies, academic research papers, and online intelligence reports. The period covered for trade data spans January 2024 to December 2024, while enforcement-related news generally covers the years 2024 to 2025.

## The Illicit E-Cigarette Trade: A Growing Global Challenge

The illicit e-cigarette trade is becoming a significant force reshaping the global nicotine market, fueled by rapid growth and mounting regulatory complexity. According to Euromonitor International, the illicit e-cigarette market was valued at **USD 47 billion in 2024**, representing over **70% of global spending** and roughly **three-quarters of total volume—equivalent to 605 billion cigarettes**. Furthermore, Euromonitor reported that illicit e-cigarette products exceed **80% penetration in North America, Latin America, the Middle East and Africa, and Asia Pacific**,

while Western Europe, though lower, continues to face persistent illicit trade despite increasing legislative pressures.

## Regulatory Frameworks Driving Illicit Trade

Stringent bans and fragmented regulations often unintentionally fuel underground trade. Bans do not necessarily eliminate demand for e-cigarettes; where consumer interest persists despite such measures, gaps in legal supply may arise, creating opportunities for illicit suppliers to fill unmet demand. Even in countries with robust regulatory frameworks, unintended consequences may arise—strict compliance requirements and high taxation can make legal products more expensive and less accessible, while the convenience of illicit channels, including online and delivery-based sources, may further draw consumers toward cheaper, non-compliant alternatives. These conditions typically incentivize smuggling and the use of transshipment hubs in regions with weaker oversight, allowing illicit goods to infiltrate regulated markets.

Complex regulations also often create loopholes that illicit networks exploit, such as mislabeling products or routing shipments through multiple jurisdictions to obscure origins. While strong regulations aim to protect public health, without equally strong

enforcement, these often end up driving demand for illicit products rather than curbing it.

## China's Regulatory Gaps and Insufficient Enforcements

China produces the vast majority of e-cigarettes globally, making its regulatory framework critical to controlling illicit trade. The **Administrative Measures for Electronic Cigarettes** (effective May 1, 2022) require that all e-cigarette products comply with mandatory national standards and that producers, exporters, and retailers obtain licenses from the State Tobacco Monopoly Administration (STMA). Similarly, the **Administrative Rules for E-Cigarettes Import-Export Trade** (issued October 2022) stipulate that only licensed exporters can ship products abroad, and exported goods must either meet the destination country's regulations or adhere to China's national standards.

In practice, however, exports are not sufficiently controlled. Loopholes in licensing, weak oversight of small-scale producers, and limited monitoring of export compliance allow unlicensed operators to bypass official channels.

Compounding these issues is weak enforcement in many destination countries. These challenges are amplified by the growing use of digital platforms such as social media, messaging apps, and

informal online channels, which make detection and enforcement even harder.

Without stronger controls and enforcement mechanisms in China, and investment in monitoring capabilities in destination countries, illicit trade will continue to thrive despite regulatory efforts.

On December 18, 2025, China's General Office of the State Council issued a policy document titled "Opinions on Combating Tobacco-Related Illegal Activities Across the Entire Chain", which sets out a comprehensive enforcement strategy against illicit tobacco and nicotine products. The Opinions explicitly bring electronic cigarettes and other nicotine-containing products under strengthened regulatory scrutiny, calling for full-chain enforcement against the illegal production, wholesale, transportation, sale, and "export re-flow" of e-cigarettes and related products. This includes tightening oversight of e-cigarette manufacturing and supply chains, cracking down on unauthorized operations, and treating unlawful export and smuggling back into China as enforcement priorities alongside traditional tobacco smuggling.

The text of the Opinions does not designate exports to overseas destination markets as independent enforcement targets; rather, references to other countries and cross-border cooperation are tied specifically to preventing illegal e-cigarette exports from re-entering China's domestic market. This confirms that the

primary focus is safeguarding China's domestic regulatory objectives, public health, and market order, with international cooperation positioned mainly as a means to curb the re-flow of illicit products back into China. The effectiveness of China in stepping up its enforcement efforts to control the illicit trade of tobacco and nicotine products remains to be seen.

**Amid the alarming surge of illicit market activity and mounting regulatory complexity, ApiraSol's 2025 investigation into the global e-cigarette trade will map illicit trade flows, analyze seizure patterns across countries and regions, and uncover the mechanisms enabling this shadow economy.**

## Methodology

This report has been prepared using various data sources, including (but not limited to):

- Publicly available customs trade data for the period January 2024 - December 2024. For those countries covered in this report that don't make their customs data publicly available, data has been obtained from the mirrored data of other countries.
- Statistical data for the period January 2024 - June 2025.
- News articles relating to enforcement and seizures.

## Terminology and Definitions

**Statistical Data** - Numerical information representing measurable aspects of economic, demographic, social, or environmental phenomena, as produced by national statistical offices, government agencies, or intergovernmental organizations.

**Trade Data** - Information on the movement of goods and services between countries, typically reported by customs authorities and presented in terms of import and export volumes, values, origin, and destination.

**Enforcement News** - Reports and updates issued by law enforcement, customs, or regulatory agencies on activities such as investigations, product seizures, arrests, policy actions, and other official measures.

In the trade data, Origin and Destination Countries refer to the following:

**Origin Countries** - Shipment Origin Countries declared in publicly available trade data between January 2024 - June 2025.

**Destination Countries** - Shipment Destination Countries declared in publicly available trade data between January 2024 - June 2025.

**2**

**E-CIGARETTE  
TRADE - ASIA**

# E-Cigarette Trade - Asia

This report examines the trade of e-cigarettes in **Singapore**.

The e-cigarette landscape across Asia is marked by a diverse and rapidly evolving regulatory environment. Countries like **India, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam**, and **Hong Kong** have implemented strict bans on the import, sale, and use of e-cigarettes, citing public health concerns and youth protection. Others, such as **Australia, Malaysia, Indonesia** and the **Philippines**, have opted for regulated frameworks, allowing e-cigarettes under specific conditions—often with licensing, age restrictions, and product standards. Meanwhile, **China** and **South Korea** treat e-cigarettes as tobacco products, subjecting them to taxation, licensing, and safety regulations.

In many countries, there is a significant discrepancy between the value of e-cigarettes declared as exported from China and the value reported as imported by the destination country—**often with China’s export figures being much higher**. This statistical gap may indicate the **presence of illicit trade**, where products enter markets without being officially recorded or taxed.

However, in cases like **Singapore** and **Hong Kong**, the opposite trend is observed: declared imports from China exceed China’s reported exports. This suggests these locations may serve as transshipment hubs, where e-cigarettes—both legal and illicit—

are imported, stored, and re-exported to other countries in the region.

Illicit e-cigarette trade continues to rise across Asia despite regulatory measures. Euromonitor estimates illicit incidence to be at least 60% in Indonesia and Malaysia, and around 80% in South Korea and the Philippines—underscoring the scale and persistence of the problem across the region. Enforcement reports consistently identify China as the main source, with large volumes of unregistered, untaxed, flavored, and high-nicotine devices produced in southern China and smuggled into most neighboring countries.

While most seizures trace directly back to **China**, some cases involve other routes—such as products intercepted in **Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia**, and **Thailand** coming through Southeast Asian countries, and shipments in **India** linked to Middle Eastern suppliers. These are few compared to the overwhelming volume of China-origin products dominating the market.

Authorities—including customs, health ministries, and anti-smuggling units—have intensified crackdowns, seizing millions of illegal devices and launching awareness campaigns. Yet enforcement gaps and strong consumer demand fuel a thriving underground market, increasingly tied to organized crime. Australia

illustrates how these dynamics can escalate: since 2023, authorities have reported multiple bombing incidents and violent attacks connected to criminal groups involved in illicit tobacco and vaping products. This trend suggests that the illicit e-cigarette trade is not only a regulatory concern but may also pose broader public safety risks as it intersects with organized crime and, in some cases, adulterated or drug laced products.



# 3

## E-CIGARETTE TRADE - SINGAPORE

# Summary

A comparison of Singapore's official trade statistics for e-cigarettes in 2024 shows significant discrepancies at the global level. Singapore's declared exports of e-cigarettes totaled USD 13.35 million, while its reported imports amounted to only USD 5 million, leaving a statistical gap of approximately USD 8.35 million. Under normal circumstances, such discrepancies might suggest a country acting as a major logistics and transshipment hub—where goods pass through and are recorded as exports without being counted as imports for domestic use.

However, this interpretation does not apply to Singapore, because e-cigarettes are completely prohibited in the country, and all importation, possession, sale, distribution, transit, and transshipment of e-cigarettes are illegal under the Tobacco (Control of Advertisements and Sale) Act and subsequent government measures.

When focusing on bilateral flows with key trading partners China and Indonesia, the statistics reveal that Singapore's reported imports from these countries often exceed the corresponding exports declared by China and Indonesia to Singapore. Such mismatches are shaped by:

- **Regulatory Environment:** Singapore enforces a strict, comprehensive ban on the import, sale, possession, and use of

e-cigarettes (import ban since 2016, full ban in 2018) thus no legal import channels exist and all forms of handling – including transit and transshipment- are explicitly prohibited.

- **Misdeclaration and evasion:** Underreporting or misdeclaration by exporters in China and Indonesia to keep certain flows under the radar given Singapore's comprehensive ban on e-cigarettes.
- **Incomplete or Delayed Reporting:** Some shipments lack complete data—such as shipment weight or transport mode—hampering transparency and granular reconciliation.
- **Customs Data Limitations:** Differences in classification standards, documentation practices, and valuation methods between Singapore and its trading partners exacerbate discrepancies, making reconciliation of bilateral trade figures challenging.
- **Customs Reporting Gaps and Lags:** Differences in timing, classification, and valuation practices between trading partners' customs authorities, resulting in reporting lags or inconsistencies.
- **Prevalence of Smuggling and Illicit Trade:** Singaporean authorities have intercepted significant quantities of illegal e-cigarette products, uncovering smuggling attempts at airports, seaports, and land checkpoints, and carrying out regular operations to dismantle illicit supply chains despite the comprehensive national ban.

Overall, the observed gaps underscore that Singapore’s import statistics reflect not only goods for local use but also large volumes in transit to global markets, highlighting the complexity of tracking supply chains that channel products—including those intended for the illicit market—across multiple jurisdictions. This dynamic calls for ongoing monitoring and enhanced international cooperation to address irregularities and risks in the e-cigarette supply chain.

## Regulatory Overview

Singapore maintains one of the strictest regulatory regimes on e-cigarettes globally under the Tobacco (Control of Advertisements and Sale) Act (TCASA), imposing a complete ban on the import, export, transit, manufacture, sale, possession, use, and advertising of e-cigarettes and related products, including pods, cartridges, and e-liquids, anywhere within its jurisdiction. Violations carry severe penalties: possession, use, or purchase can result in fines of up to S\$2,000, while importation, sale, or distribution may lead to fines of up to S\$10,000 and/or six months’ imprisonment for first offenses, and up to S\$20,000 and/or 12 months’ imprisonment for repeat offenses. Advertising breaches incur similar penalties, and foreign nationals are not exempt, facing possible deportation and re-entry bans.

Amid escalating illicit e-cigarette activity, Singapore has moved to curb the abuse of etomidate. E-vaporiser offences will be

scheduled under the Organised Crime Act 2015, Online Criminal Harms Act 2023, and the Corruption, Drug Trafficking and Other Serious Crimes (Confiscation of Benefits) Act 1992, to significantly strengthen the actions that can be taken against sellers, smugglers and syndicates, including requiring the take-down of online vaping content and confiscating the proceeds from sales of e-vaporisers. From 1 September 2025, offenders found possessing, using or purchasing e-vaporisers will be subjected to higher penalties. First-time offenders will be issued a Notice of Composition (NOC) of \$500 (for offenders under 18 years old) and \$700 (for adults). Second-time offenders will be required to attend rehabilitation for three months. Those who do not complete the rehabilitation programme will be prosecuted. Offenders caught using e-vaporisers for the third time and more will be prosecuted in court under the Tobacco (Control of Advertisements and Sale) Act 1993 and be liable for a fine of up to \$2,000.

## Statistical Data (Global Perspective)

Singapore’s declared exports of e-cigarettes to World in 2024 totaled \$13,353,000, while Singapore’s declared imports from World reached \$5,000,000—creating a **discrepancy of approximately \$8.35 million**. The gap in 2024 likely reflects Singapore’s role as a regional transshipment and re-export hub, combined with strict local anti-vaping regulations and complex reporting practices.

#### Total Value 2024:

- Total Exports from Singapore 2024: \$13,353,000
- Total Imports to Singapore 2024: \$ 5,000,000
- **Statistical Gap: \$8,353,000**

### Statistical Data (China as Origin)

China's declared exports of e-cigarettes to Singapore in 2024 totaled just USD 1,715,331, while Singapore's declared imports from China reached USD 4,783,000—creating a **discrepancy of approximately \$3.07 million**. However, this gap cannot indicate that Singapore is functioning as a transshipment hub for e-cigarettes, because Singapore imposes a comprehensive ban on the import, sale, possession, and transshipment of e-cigarettes, making any lawful movement of such products through its territory impossible.

#### Total Value 2024:

- Total Exports from China 2024: \$1,715,331
- Total Imports from China 2024: \$ 4,783,000
- **Statistical Gap: \$3,067,669**

### Statistical Data (Indonesia as Origin)

Indonesia's reported exports of e-cigarettes to Singapore in 2024 amounted to USD 6,000, while Singapore registered USD 151,000 in imports from Indonesia, highlighting a considerable statistical **discrepancy of \$145,000**. However, this gap cannot be interpreted as evidence of Singapore serving as a regional redistribution point for e-cigarette products. Singapore enforces a comprehensive ban on the import, sale, possession, and transshipment of e-cigarettes, and Singapore Customs explicitly confirms that electronic cigarettes are prohibited goods that are not allowed to be brought into Singapore, including for transshipment.

#### Total Value 2024:

- Total Exports from Indonesia 2024: \$6,000
- Total Imports from Indonesia 2024: \$ 151,000
- **Statistical Gap: \$145,000**

## EXPORTS OF E-CIGARETTES FROM SINGAPORE TO WORLD - STATISTICAL DATA (ITC DATABASE)

HS Code	HS Code Description	ORIGIN COUNTRY	DESTINATION COUNTRY	Value in 2024 (Unit : US Dollar thousand)
24041290	Other products containing nicotine intended for inhalation without combustion	SINGAPORE	WORLD	5,157
24041210	E-cigarette liquid or gel containing nicotine intended for inhalation without combustion	SINGAPORE	WORLD	54
24041920	Products containing nicotine substitutes intended for inhalation without combustion	SINGAPORE	WORLD	128
24041910	Products containing tobacco substitutes intended for inhalation without combustion	SINGAPORE	WORLD	7
85434000	Electronic cigarettes & similar personal electric vaporising devices	SINGAPORE	WORLD	8,007
<b>Total:</b>				<b>13,353</b>

## IMPORTS OF E-CIGARETTES TO SINGAPORE FROM WORLD - STATISTICAL DATA (ITC DATABASE)

HS Code	HS Code Description	ORIGIN COUNTRY	DESTINATION COUNTRY	Value in 2024 (Unit : US Dollar thousand)
24041290	Other products containing nicotine intended for inhalation without combustion	WORLD	SINGAPORE	4,949
24041210	E-cigarette liquid or gel containing nicotine intended for inhalation without combustion	WORLD	SINGAPORE	23
24041920	Products containing nicotine substitutes intended for inhalation without combustion	WORLD	SINGAPORE	0
24041910	Products containing tobacco substitutes intended for inhalation without combustion	WORLD	SINGAPORE	7
85434000	Electronic cigarettes & similar personal electric vaporising devices	WORLD	SINGAPORE	21
<b>Total:</b>				<b>5,000</b>

## EXPORTS OF E-CIGARETTES FROM CHINA TO SINGAPORE - STATISTICAL DATA (ITC DATABASE)

HS Code	HS Code Description	ORIGIN COUNTRY	DESTINATION COUNTRY	Value in 2024 (Unit : US Dollar thousand)	Value in 2025-Q1 -Q2 (Unit : US Dollar thousand)
24041200	Other products containing nicotine, intended for inhalation without combustion	CHINA	SINGAPORE	307	0
24041990	Other products containing nicotine substitutes, intended for inhalation without combustion	CHINA	SINGAPORE	16	0
24041910	Other products containing tobacco substitutes, intended for inhalation without combustion	CHINA	SINGAPORE	0	0
85434000	Electronic cigarettes and similar personal electric vaporizing devices	CHINA	SINGAPORE	1,393	356
<b>Total:</b>				<b>1,716</b>	<b>356</b>

## IMPORTS OF E-CIGARETTES TO SINGAPORE FROM CHINA - STATISTICAL DATA (ITC DATABASE)

HS Code	HS Code Description	ORIGIN COUNTRY	DESTINATION COUNTRY	Value in 2024 (Unit : US Dollar thousand)	Value in 2025-Q1 -Q2 (Unit : US Dollar thousand)
24041290	Other products containing nicotine intended for inhalation without combustion	CHINA	SINGAPORE	4,770	0
24041210	E-cigarette liquid or gel containing nicotine intended for inhalation without combustion	CHINA	SINGAPORE	0	0
24041910	Products containing tobacco substitutes intended for inhalation without combustion	CHINA	SINGAPORE	0	0
24041920	Products containing nicotine substitutes intended for inhalation without combustion	CHINA	SINGAPORE	0	0
85434000	Electronic cigarettes & similar personal electric vaporising devices	CHINA	SINGAPORE	13	0
<b>Total:</b>				<b>4,783</b>	<b>0</b>

## EXPORTS OF E-CIGARETTES FROM INDONESIA TO SINGAPORE - STATISTICAL DATA (ITC DATABASE)

HS Code	HS Code Description	ORIGIN COUNTRY	DESTINATION COUNTRY	Value in 2024 (Unit : US Dollar thousand)	Value in 2025-Q1 -Q2 (Unit : US Dollar thousand)
24041210	E-cigarette liquid or gel	INDONESIA	SINGAPORE	0	0
24041290	Products intended for inhalation without combustion, containing nicotine, other than e-cigarette . . .	INDONESIA	SINGAPORE	0	0
24041910	products intended for inhalation without combustion, containing tobacco substitutes	INDONESIA	SINGAPORE	0	0
24041920	products intended for inhalation without combustion, containing nicotine substitutes	INDONESIA	SINGAPORE	0	0
85434000	electronic cigarettes and similar personal electric vaporising devices	INDONESIA	SINGAPORE	6	0
<b>Total:</b>				<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>

## IMPORTS OF E-CIGARETTES TO SINGAPORE FROM INDONESIA - STATISTICAL DATA (ITC DATABASE)

HS Code	HS Code Description	ORIGIN COUNTRY	DESTINATION COUNTRY	Value in 2024 (Unit : US Dollar thousand)	Value in 2025-Q1 -Q2 (Unit : US Dollar thousand)
24041290	Other products containing nicotine intended for inhalation without combustion	INDONESIA	SINGAPORE	121	91
24041210	E-cigarette liquid or gel containing nicotine intended for inhalation without combustion	INDONESIA	SINGAPORE	23	5
24041910	Products containing tobacco substitutes intended for inhalation without combustion	INDONESIA	SINGAPORE	7	0
24041920	Products containing nicotine substitutes intended for inhalation without combustion	INDONESIA	SINGAPORE	0	0
85434000	Electronic cigarettes & similar personal electric vaporising devices	INDONESIA	SINGAPORE	0	0
<b>Total:</b>				<b>151</b>	<b>96</b>

**SINGAPORE**  
STATISTICAL DATA



Exports from Singapore (Global Perspective)

**13,353,000**

Total 2024 Value (USD)

Imports to Singapore (Global Perspective)

**5,000,000**

Total 2024 Value (USD)

Statistical Data Gap \*

**8,353,000**

Exports from China to Singapore

**1,715,331**

Total 2024 Value (USD)  
1H 2025 Value (USD): 356,000

Imports to Singapore from China

**4,783,000**

Total 2024 Value (USD)  
1H 2025 Value (USD): 0

Statistical Data Gap \*

**-3,067,669**

Exports from Indonesia to Singapore

**6,000**

Total 2024 Value (USD)  
1H 2025 Value (USD): 0

Imports to Singapore from Indonesia

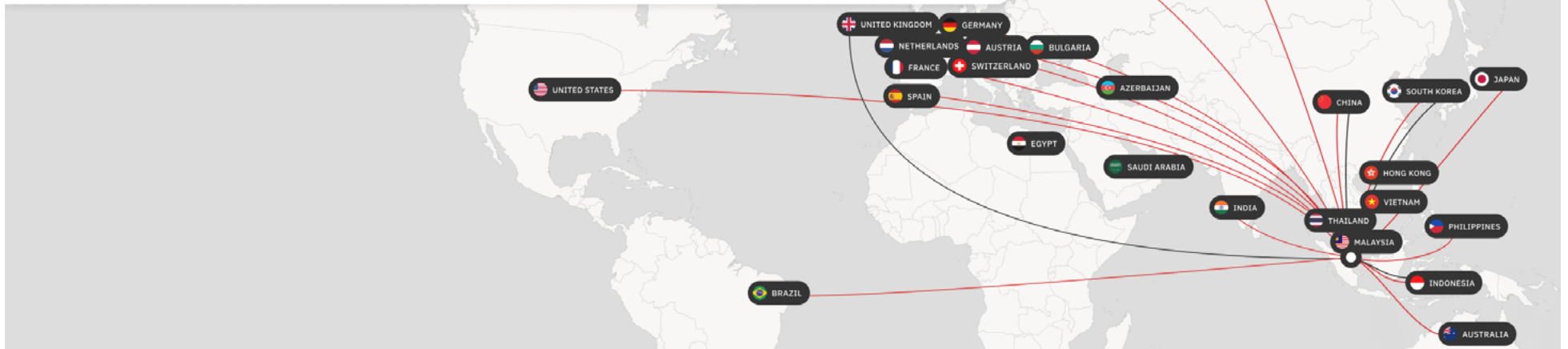
**151,000**

Total 2024 Value (USD)  
1H 2025 Value (USD): 96

Statistical Data Gap \*

**-145,000**

\* Difference between the Exports and the Declared Imports (USD) — From Singapore — To Singapore



# SINGAPORE

## TRADE DATA (MIRRORED DATA FROM INDONESIA)

Singapore’s lack of recorded trade data from China, despite China declaring exports to Singapore, suggests that these shipments are not entering Singapore’s domestic markets through any legal channels. Because Singapore imposes a comprehensive ban on the import, sale, possession, and transshipment of e-cigarettes, any such products would be classified as illicit under Singaporean law, making their lawful entry or movement through the country impossible.

<b>Shipments:</b>	<b>93 Trade Shipments</b>
Period:	January - December 2024
Origin Countries:	Indonesia
Origin Ports:	Cengkareng Soekarno Hatta U: 68 %, Sekupang: 30 %, Surabaya Juanda U: 2 %
Destination Countries:	<b>Singapore</b>
Destination Ports:	Singapore: 70 %, Keppel Wharves: 30 %
Products:	<b>E-cigarette devices, e-cigarette equipment, electronic cigarette devices, e-cigarette liquid, e-liquid, etc.</b>
E-Cigarette Brands:	
Mode of Transport:	Unknown
Value declared:	<b>9,298.74 USD</b> (100 % of shipments)
Weight declared:	227.02 KG (88 % of shipments)

## SINGAPORE

Number of exporters:	3
Number of importers:	3
Top Exporters:	<i>[Redacted]</i>
Top Importers:	<i>[Redacted]</i>
HS Codes declared in shipments:	<p><b>854340:</b> Electronic cigarettes and similar personal electric vaporising devices (61 shipments)</p> <p><b>240412:</b> Other products containing nicotine, intended for inhalation without combustion (17 shipments)</p> <p><b>240419:</b> Other products intended for inhalation without combustion (15 shipments)</p>



**SINGAPORE**  
TRADE DATA (Mirrored Data from Indonesia)



Shipments (Period FY 2024)

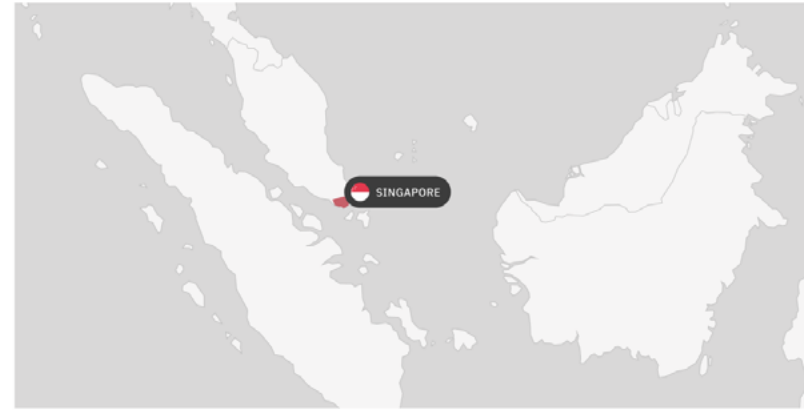
**93**

Quantity

**9,298.74**

Value (USD)

All included shipments and brands are recognized by regulatory authorities and involve only companies operating in compliance with legal requirements.



**Destination Ports**

- Singapore (70 %)
- Keppel Wharves (30 %)



**Origin Ports from Indonesia**

- Cengkareng Soekarno Hatta U (68 %)
- Sekupang (30 %)
- Surabaya Juanda U (2 %)

**Mode of Transportation**

Unknown

**E-Cigarette Products**

E-cigarette devices, vaping equipment, electronic cigarette devices, e-cigarette liquid, e-liquid, etc.

**Legal Brands at Time of Shipment**

**Top Importers**

**Top Exporters**

The online articles report on **seizures of illegal e-cigarette products in Singapore.**

Despite Singapore's strict and comprehensive domestic ban on e-cigarettes, the country continues to face pressure from illicit inflows. Reports of enforcement operations illustrate how smugglers exploit multiple channels to move prohibited e-cigarette products into the country.

Enforcement actions have uncovered large-scale smuggling operations, including seizures of over 400,000 e-cigarettes worth SGD \$5 million, thousands of pods concealed in cargo containers, and significant hauls at Tuas Port, Mandai warehouses, and land checkpoints. Shipments from Malaysia are often disguised as other goods. In one of the largest cases reported, Malaysian Customs intercepted about 300,000 e-cigarettes and components at Port Klang that were believed to be headed for Singapore, falsely declared as furniture.

In addition, Singapore has also observed significant inflows via air travel, small parcels, and passenger carried items. In September 2025, intensified enforcement across Changi Airport, land checkpoints, and sea terminals led to the detection of 123 cases of travelers found with e-cigarettes and the seizure of more than 1,500 e-cigarettes and related components. Immigration and Checkpoints Authority Officers at Pasir Panjang Scanning Station discovered over 9,200 pods concealed in a cargo container false-

ly declared as power banks.

Compounding these challenges, Illicit e-cigarettes increasingly include etomidate-laced pods—known as K-pods—which contain a powerful anesthetic recently classified as a Class C controlled drug in Singapore. Enforcement agencies have seized thousands of these pods in multiple operations, including cases involving nearly 2,000 pods from a single offender and more than 1,200 pods recovered during raids.

Beyond physical smuggling, online channels and messaging networks have become major drivers of illicit e-cigarette circulation, with sales facilitated through Telegram groups and online listings on platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and Carousell. These trends collectively show that—despite a legal environment in which any import, possession, or transshipment of e-cigarettes is illegal—Singapore remains vulnerable to illicit inflows because of its role as a major global logistics hub and the adaptability of smuggling networks.

- **Towns and Provinces of Seizures:** Singapore, Mandai
- **Location of seizures:** Air, land and sea checkpoints, Tuas Port, Warehouse, Residential House
- **Declared As:** Furniture, components for motorized external roll-up blinds
- **Brands Seized:** no specific brand mentioned

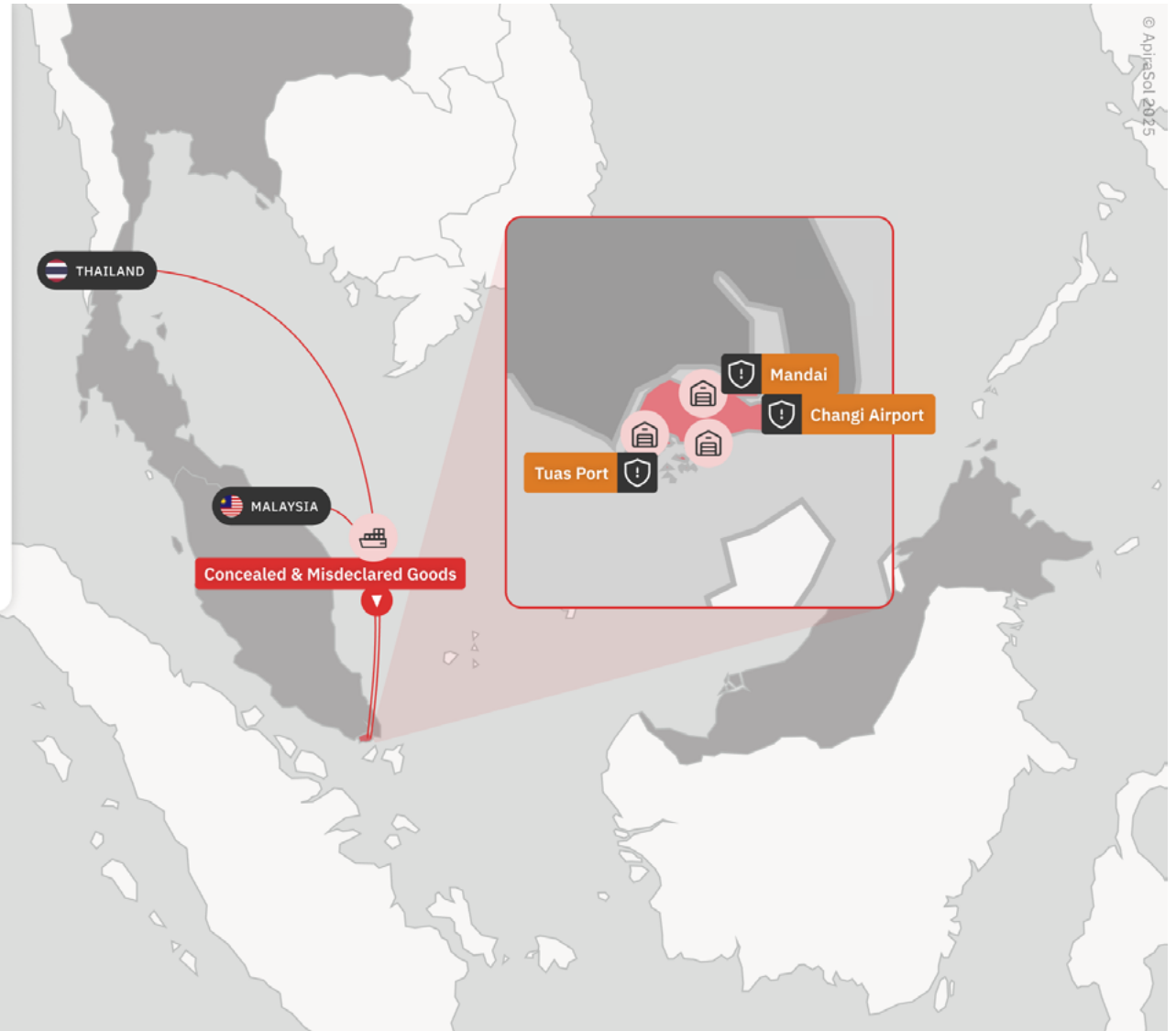


## SINGAPORE ILLCIT TRADE OVERVIEW

Singaporean authorities continue to intercept substantial volumes of illegal e-cigarettes across multiple entry points, including Tuas Port, Mandai warehouses, land checkpoints, and Changi Airport. Shipments from Malaysia are frequently concealed in cargo containers or declared as other goods, with cases involving hundreds of thousands of devices and pods. Enforcement operations have also detected significant inflows via small parcels and passenger carried items, alongside rising seizures of etomidate laced “Kpods”.

### Legend

-  Interception
-  Warehouse
-  Illicit Shipment
-  ENDS are banned



Between April and June 2025, 19 large-scale vape smuggling cases were detected at Singapore's air, land and sea checkpoints, leading to around 90,000 e-cigarettes and related products being seized.

### ICA seized more than 1,500 vapes and related components at checkpoints from Sept 1 to 4

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#### Legend



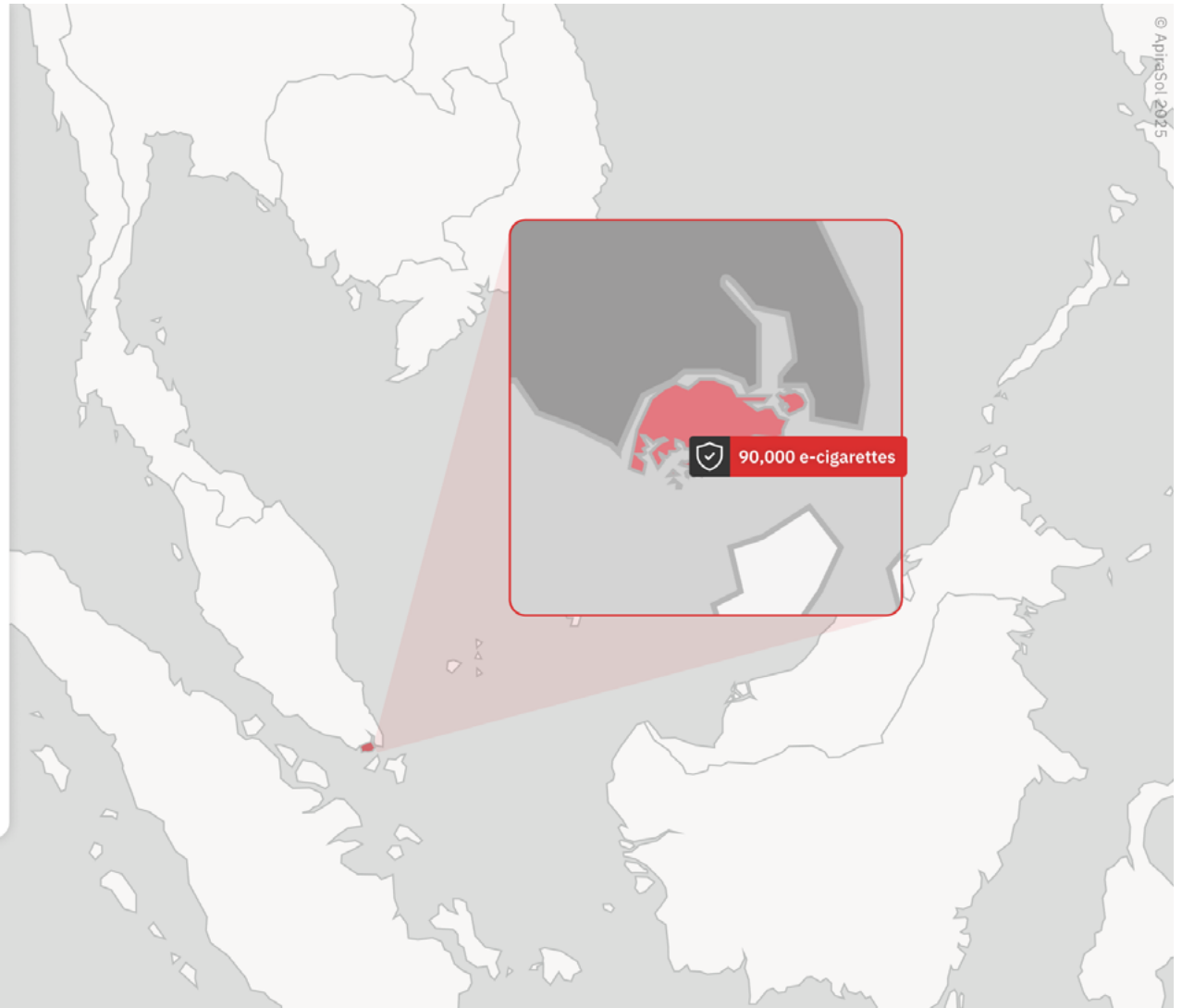
Seizure



ENDS are banned

#### Source

<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/ica-seized-more-than-1500-vapes-and-related-components-at-checkpoints-from-sept-1-to-4>



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- [Whole-of-Government Efforts to Tackle Vaping](#)

# Enforcement news sources

- [Huge haul of 58,000 vapes found in cargo container as smuggling attempt foiled \(The Straits Times\)](#)
- [Over 85,000 vape products confiscated in Mandai warehouse raid, largest seizure to date \(AsiaOne\)](#)
- [Singapore arrests Thais for smuggling e-cigarettes \(VnExpress\)](#)
- [28 weeks' jail for man who tried to flee from S'pore after getting caught smuggling vapes \(The Straits Times\)](#)
- [ICA foils attempt to smuggle nearly 38,000 vape products \(The New Paper\)](#)
- [Saat Digerebek, Remaja Singapura Kedapatan Simpan 54 Vape di Rumahnya \(Kompas\)](#)
- [Global illegal vape crackdown, July 2025 \(Ecigator\)](#)
- [ICA seized more than 1,500 vapes and related components at checkpoints from Sept 1 to 4 \(The Straits Times\)](#)
- [More than 18,400 vapes seized from Malaysian lorry at Tuas Checkpoint - CNA](#)
- [Over 2,200 vape products found in Malaysian-registered lorry at Singapore's Tuas checkpoint | The Star](#)
- [300,000 vapes seized in Malaysia's Port Klang believed to be headed for Singapore | The Straits Times](#)
- [ICA | 25-Year-Old Man Arrested for Smuggling of More Than 9,200 E-Vaporiser Pods into Singapore](#)
- [Over 600 Telegram Groups In Singapore Selling, Advertising Vapes Removed By HSA - Vape Monitor](#)
- [HSA Seizes More than \\$6 Million Worth of E-vaporisers in Telegram Distribution Network Bust](#)
- [HSA Charges Man in Largest Haul of Almost 2,000 Etomidate E-vaporiser Pods Since 1 September 2025](#)
- [Singapore: 5 Arrested in CNB Raids; Over 1,200 Etomidate-Laced Vape Pods, S\\$240,000 Seized](#)
- [20 months' jail for man caught with over 3,000 etomidate-laced vape pods | The Straits Times](#)
- [Singapore: Man arrested for smuggling over 9,200 vape pods](#)

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