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MEDIA STATEMENT

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MALAYSIA'S BALANCE OF PAYMENTS STATISTICS FIRST QUARTER OF 2025

Malaysia's Current Account surplus hits RM16.7 billion in Q1 2025, driven by net exports of goods

PUTRAJAYA, 16 MAY 2025 – Malaysia's **Current Account Balance (CAB)** recorded a surplus of RM16.7 billion in the first quarter of 2025, equivalent to 3.4 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This improvement was primarily supported by net exports of goods and a smaller deficit in the Secondary income. Meanwhile, the **Financial account** registered a net outflow of RM20.3 billion, mainly attributed to higher outflows in Portfolio investment, which amounted to RM48.3 billion compared to RM42.0 billion in the previous quarter. **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** recorded a net inflow of RM15.6 billion, while **Direct Investment Abroad (DIA)** posted a net outflow of RM3.5 billion for the quarter. These statistics were released by the Department of Statistics, Malaysia (DOSM) today as part of **Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Statistics for the First Quarter of 2025**, detailing Malaysia's economic transactions with international counterparts.

According to the Chief Statistician of Malaysia, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin, the **Current account surplus** in this quarter was driven by **net exports of goods**, amounting to RM38.5 billion. Exports of goods reached RM283.2 billion, representing a 4.0 per cent decrease compared to the previous quarter. Malaysia's leading export items including Electrical and electronics, Petroleum products, and Machinery, equipment & parts, with Singapore, the United

States of America (USA) and China being the top trading partners. Similarly, imports of goods declined by 5.2 per cent quarter on quarter to record RM244.7 billion. The drop was primarily reflected from lower imports of Intermediate goods, Capital goods and Consumption goods. Key sources of imports for Malaysia included China, Singapore and Taiwan.

In terms of **Services** performance, this account registered a deficit of RM3.4 billion as against RM1.0 billion in the previous quarter. The widening deficit was due to lower receipts in Travel and higher payments for Other business services and Charges for the use of intellectual property. Exports of services logged RM63.1 billion, while imports accounted for RM66.5 billion in the current quarter. Travel which remained the largest contributor to services exports with a value of RM24.5 billion, accounted for 38.8 per cent from total exports within the account. However, Travel posted a slightly lower surplus of RM10.9 billion than the previous quarter as reduced spending by foreign visitors. Meanwhile, Transport lead the performance of Services imports, valued at RM15.8 billion, mainly payments for freight activities.

On the income accounts, the **Primary Income account** remained steady in the first quarter of 2025, recording a deficit of RM17.1 billion, with only a marginal change from the previous quarter. The deficit was influenced by lower earnings of RM16.4 billion from Malaysia's investment abroad, following a decrease in dividends repatriation by direct investors during the quarter. Concurrently, Foreign investments in Malaysia recorded an income of RM31.0 billion, particularly owing to a reduction in dividend payments. Besides that, the **Secondary Income account** registered a narrower deficit of RM1.2 billion as against RM5.9 billion in the preceding quarter, largely driven by higher settlement receipts from abroad.

Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin also added, "The **Financial account** registered a higher net outflow of RM20.3 billion, as against RM9.3 billion in the last quarter, driven by significant increase in Portfolio investment. This investment recorded a net outflow of RM48.3 billion from RM42.0 billion in the previous quarter, contributed by resident subscription of foreign equity securities. Additionally, Financial derivatives turned around to outflows of RM1.7 billion. In contrast, both Direct investment and Other investment showed net inflows of RM12.1 billion and RM17.6 billion, respectively. The inflows were supported by higher equity injection from abroad in the Direct investment and increased interbank activities from non-residents' financial institutions under Other investment.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) recorded a net inflow of RM15.6 billion in the first quarter of 2025, a decrease from RM18.7 billion in the preceding quarter. The moderation was mainly due to lower investment in the form of Debt instruments. The FDI inflows were mostly channelled to the Services sector, largely within Financial activities and Information & communication subsectors, notably related to data centre activities. The major investors of FDI were from Singapore, Hong Kong and Germany. At the same time, **Direct Investment Abroad (DIA)** registered a lower net outflow of RM3.5 billion, compared to RM5.2 billion in the fourth quarter of 2024. The outflows principally in the form of Equity and investment fund shares, mainly directed towards the Services sector, with the majority concentrated in Financial activities. Indonesia, Brunei Darussalam and Thailand were the main destinations for DIA during the quarter.

As at the end of the first quarter of 2025, the **FDI position** accumulated to RM999.7 billion while **DIA position** registered RM618.9 billion. The country's total financial assets position valued at RM2.51 trillion, slightly exceeding total liabilities of RM2.47 trillion. As a result, **Malaysia's International Investment Position (IIP)** accounted for a net asset of RM37.8 billion. **Malaysia's international reserves** stood at RM520.7 billion as at end-March 2025.

In addition to today's release, DOSM also will publish revised data for Malaysia's Current Account Balance for the year 2023 and 2024 in the first quarter of 2025 publication. These revisions comply with best statistical practices aligned with international standards to ensure the reliability, comparability and provide timely statistics. Malaysia's Current Account Balance (CAB) for the year 2023 posted surplus of RM20.0 billion and 2024 at RM27.7 billion. Financial account for these both years recorded outflows of RM7.1 billion and RM4.9 billion, respectively.

ASEAN-Malaysia 2025 Chairmanship: The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) will chair the 15th ASEAN Community Statistical System Committee (ACSS15) which aims to strengthen the statistical cooperation towards sustainable regional development.

Malaysia has, for the first time, successfully recorded the top position globally in the biennial Open Data Inventory (ODIN) 2024/25 report released by Open Data Watch (ODW), surpassing 198 other countries. This achievement marks a significant leap from its 67th position in the ODIN 2022/23 assessment.

The Government of Malaysia has declared October 20th as National Statistics Day (MyStats Day), with the theme 'Statistics is the Essence of Life.' Meanwhile, the Fourth World Statistics Day will be celebrated on 20th October 2025, with the theme 'Driving Change with Quality Statistics and Data for Everyone'.

OpenDOSM NextGen is a medium that provides data catalogue and visualisations to facilitate users' analysis and can be accessed through <https://open.dosm.gov.my>.

Chart 1 (a): Current Account Balance (CAB), 2010-2024

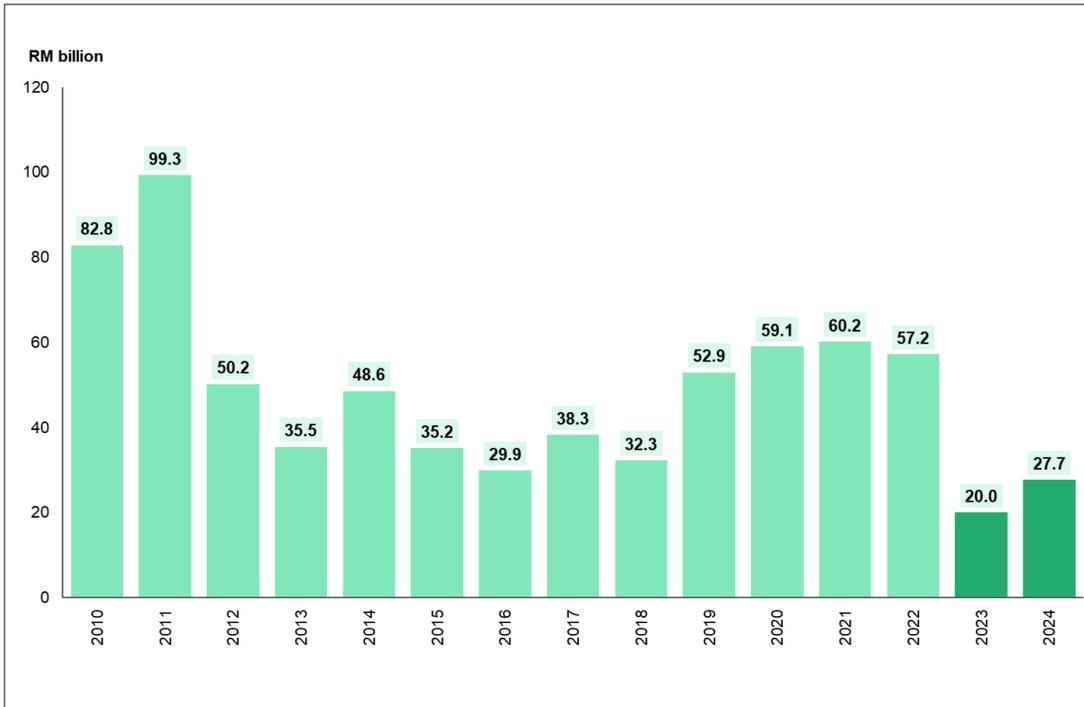


Chart 1 (b): Current Account Balance (CAB), Q1 2019 – Q1 2025

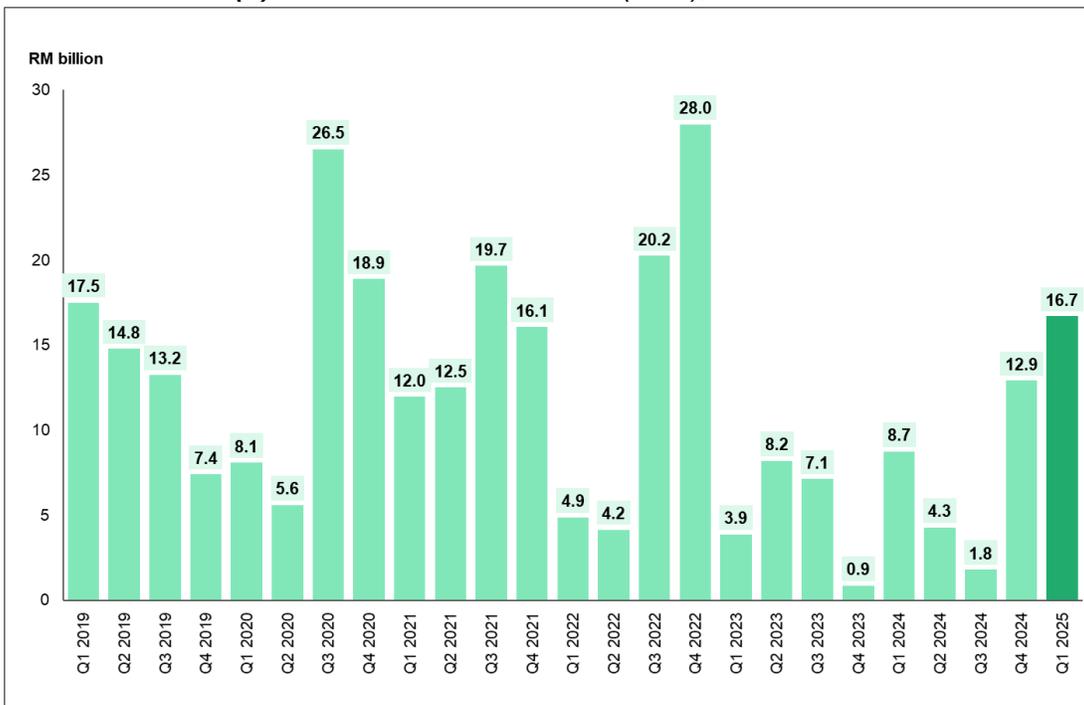


Chart 2 (a): Percentage CAB to GDP, 2010-2024

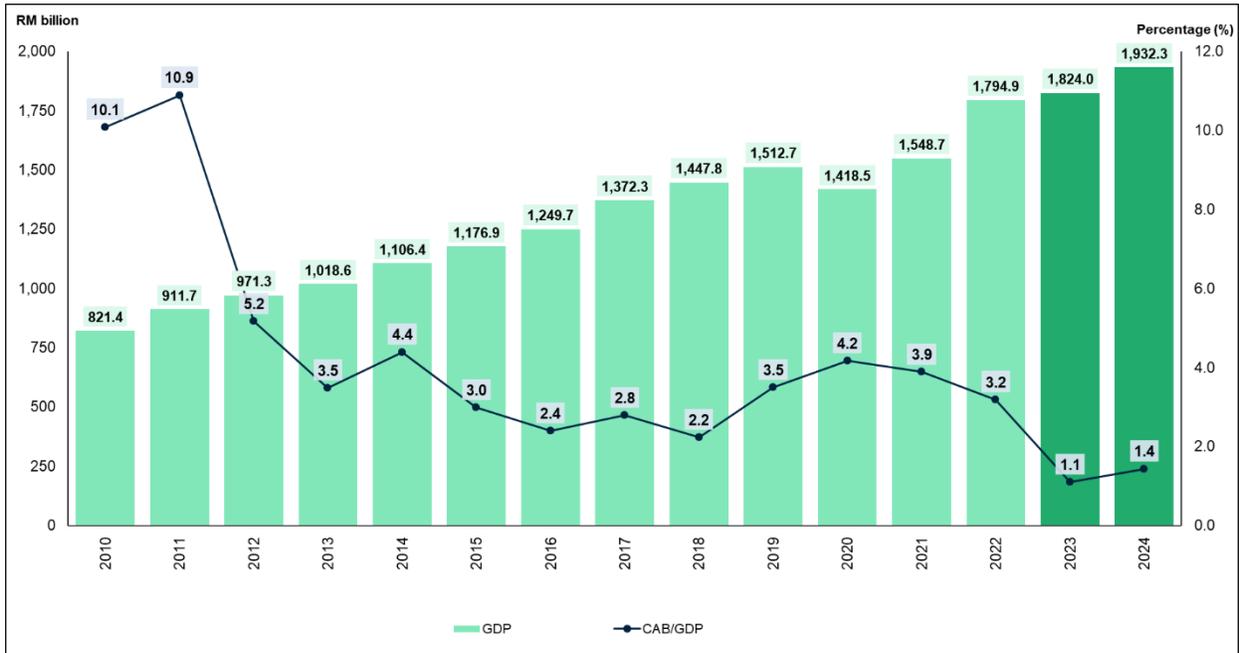


Chart 2 (b): Percentage CAB to GDP, Q1 2019 – Q1 2025

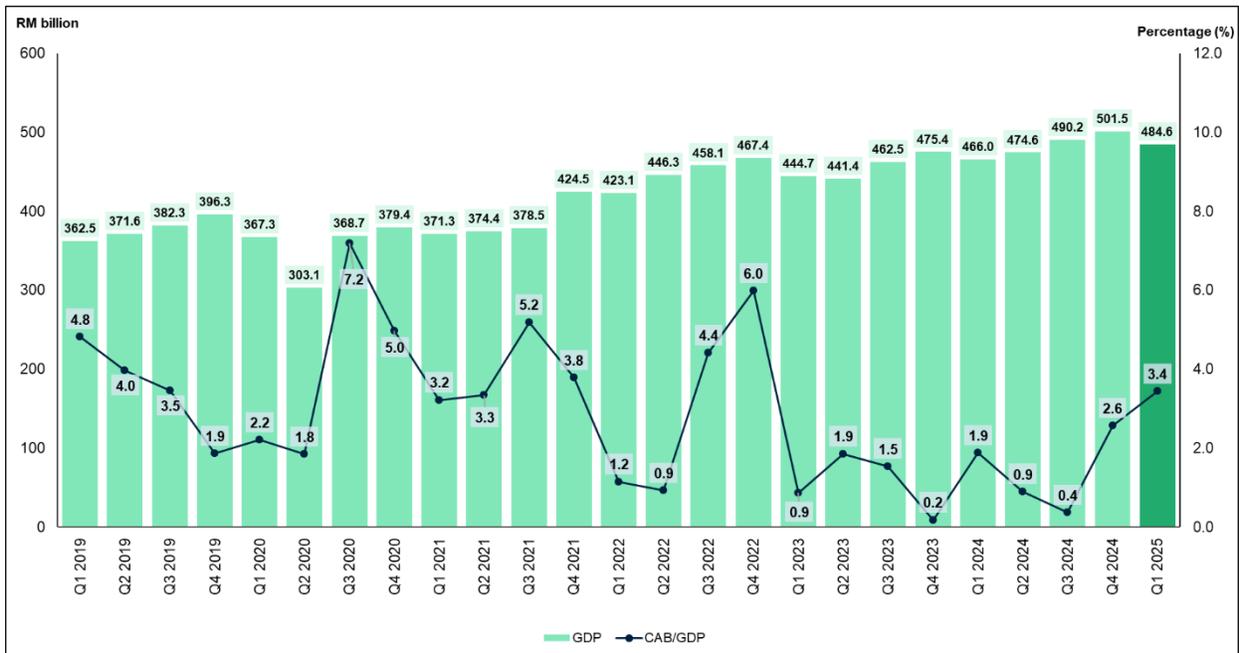


Chart 3 (a): Exports of Services, 2010-2024

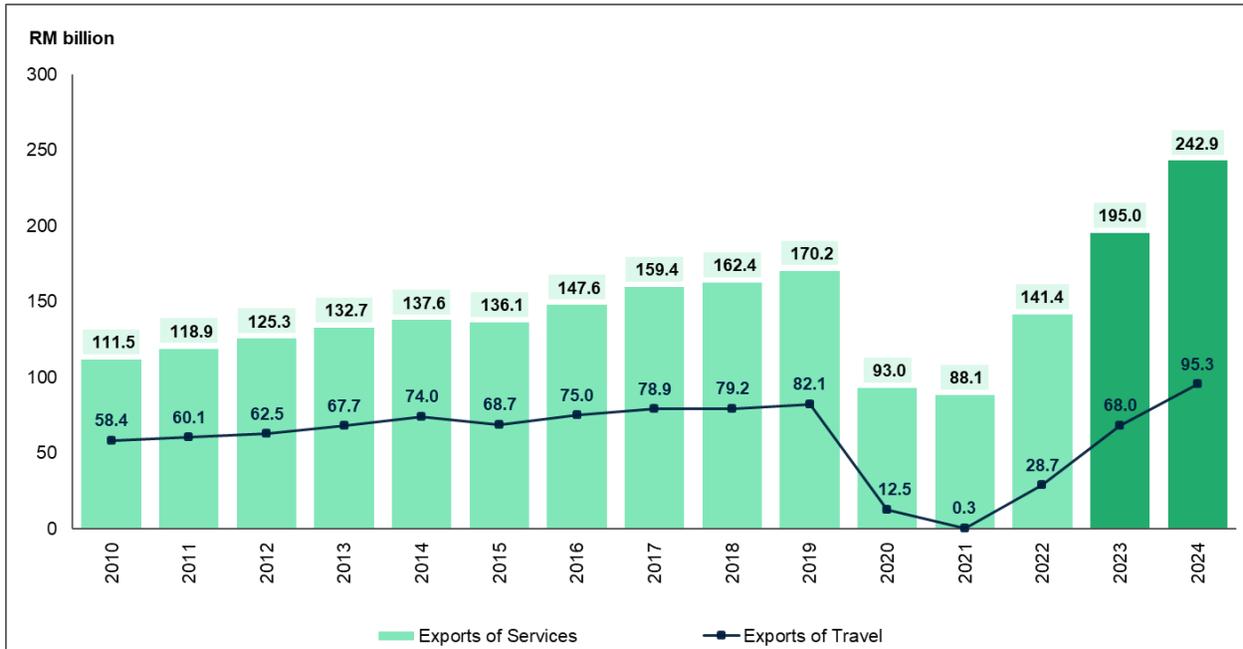


Chart 3 (b): Exports of Services, Q1 2019 – Q1 2025



Chart 4 (a): Expenditure of Foreign Visitors in Malaysia and Malaysian Visitors Abroad, 2010 -2024

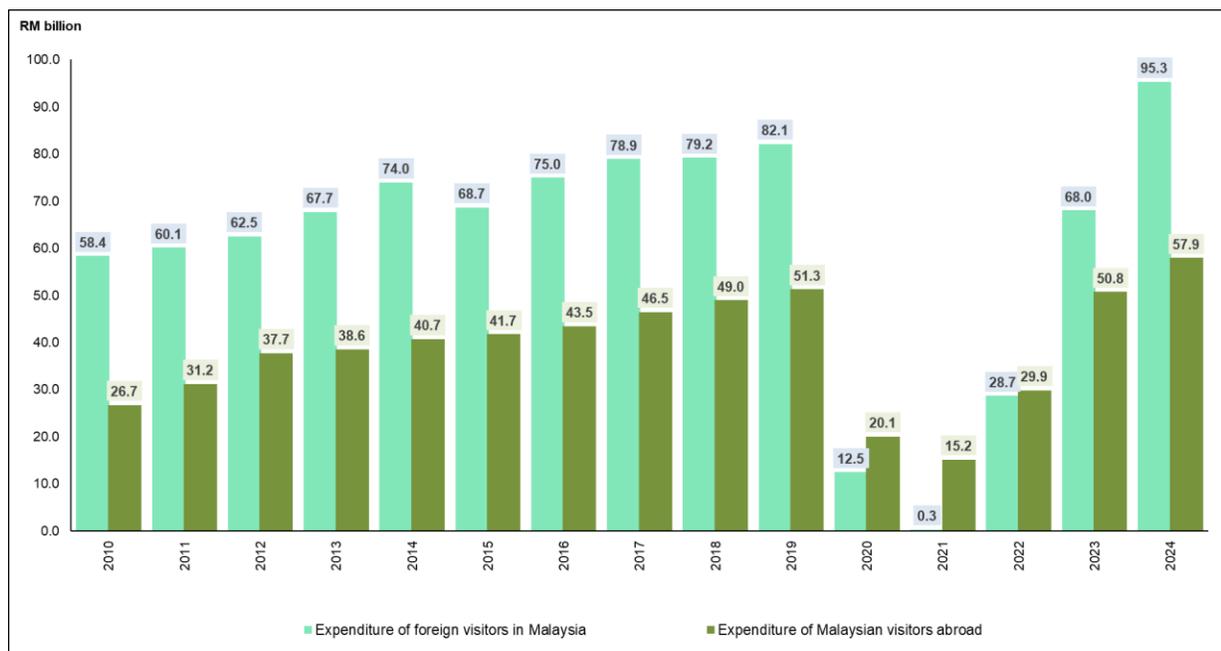


Chart 4 (b): Expenditure of Foreign Visitors in Malaysia and Malaysian Visitors Abroad, Q1 2019 – Q1 2025

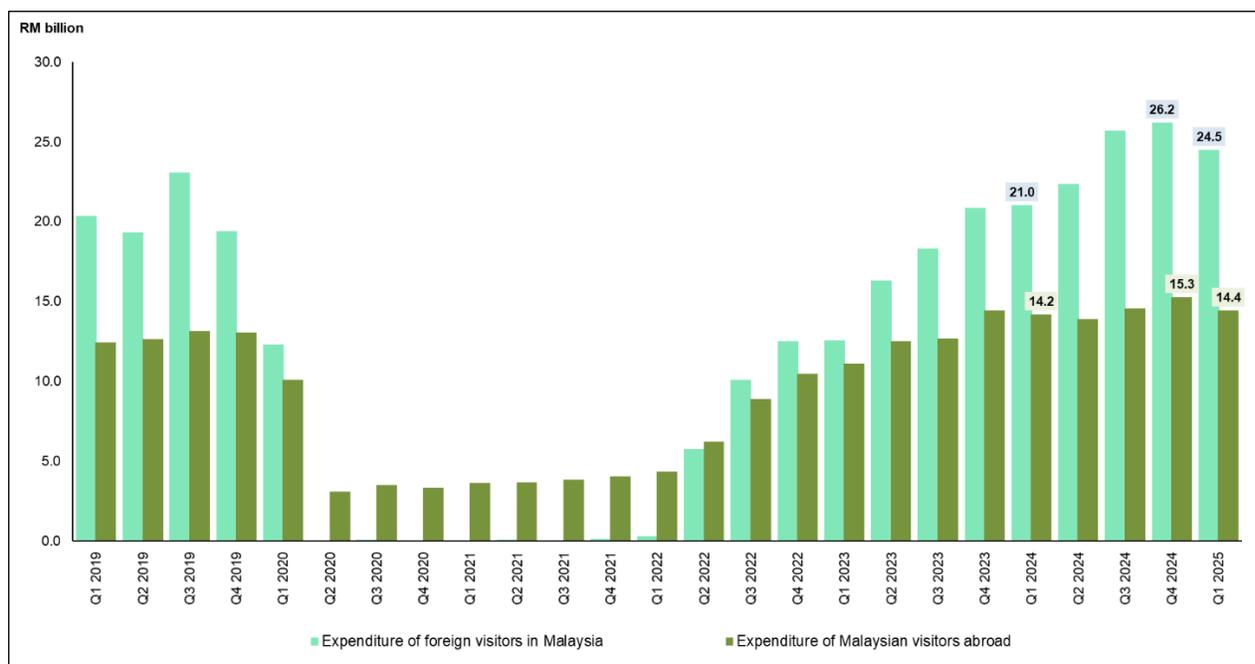


Chart 5 (a): Direct Investment Abroad (DIA) Flows and Position, 2010 – 2024

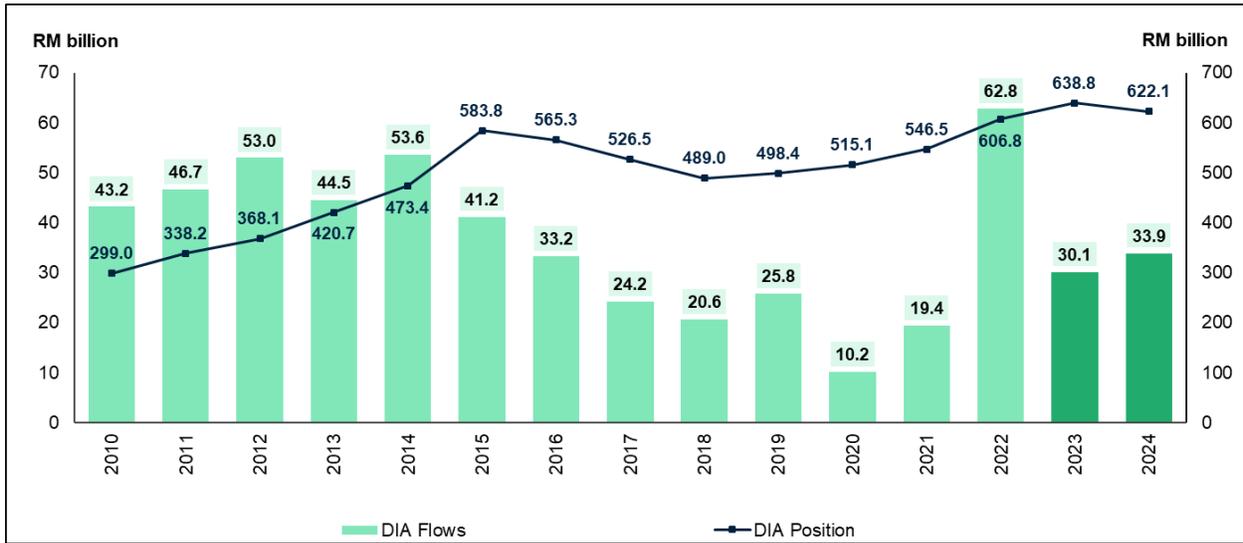


Chart 5 (b): Direct Investment Abroad (DIA) Flows and Position, Q1 2019 – Q1 2025

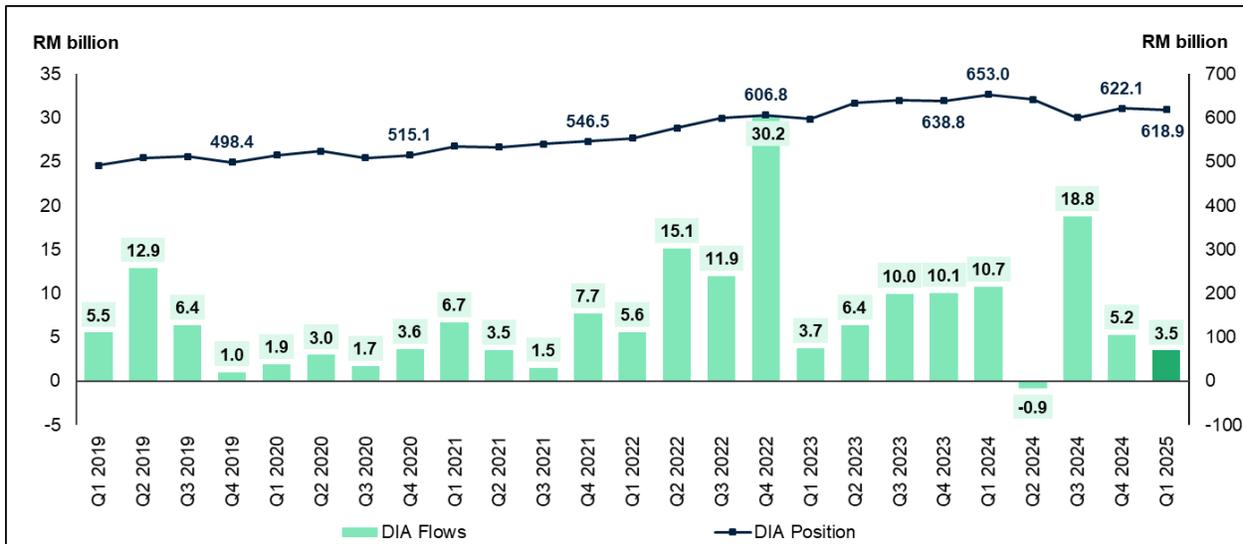


Chart 6 (a): Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Malaysia Flows and Position, 2010 – 2024

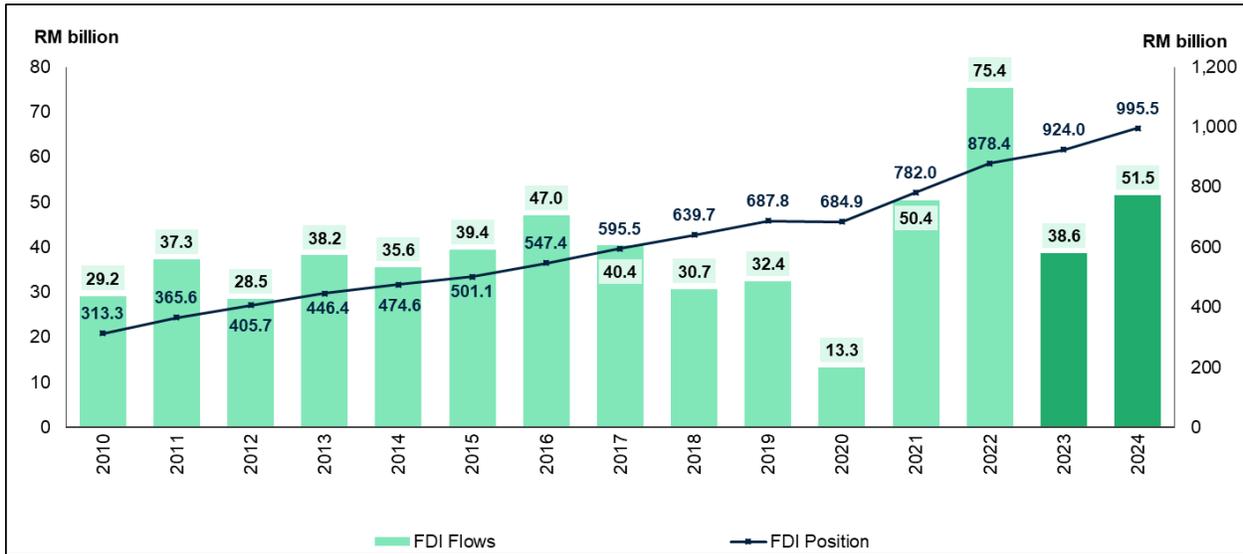


Chart 6 (b): Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Malaysia Flows and Position, Q1 2019 – Q1 2025

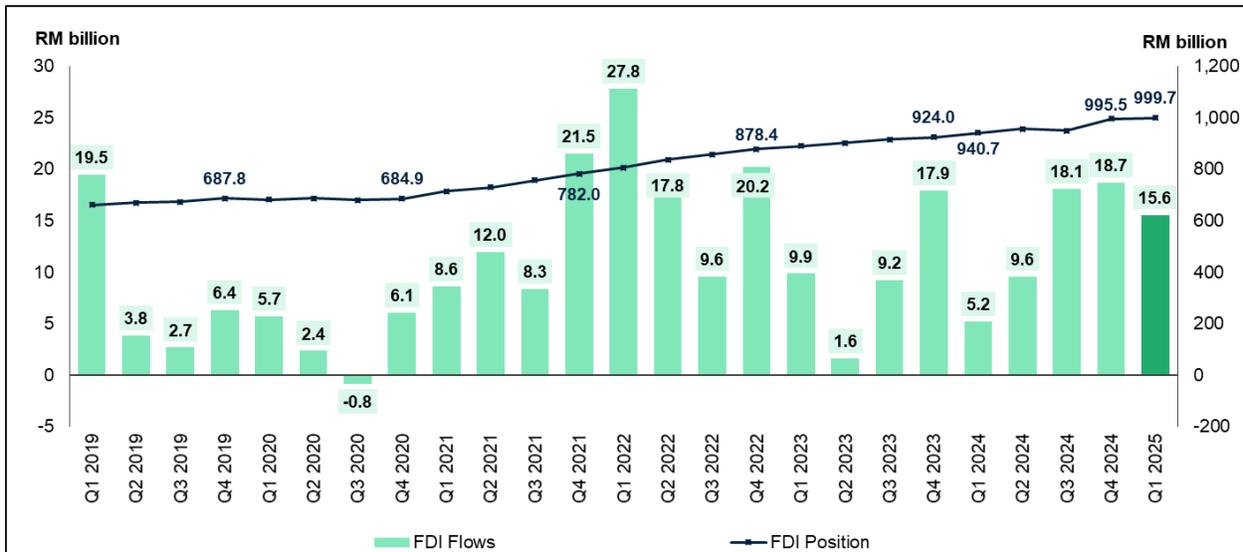


Exhibit 1: Direct Investment, Q1 2025

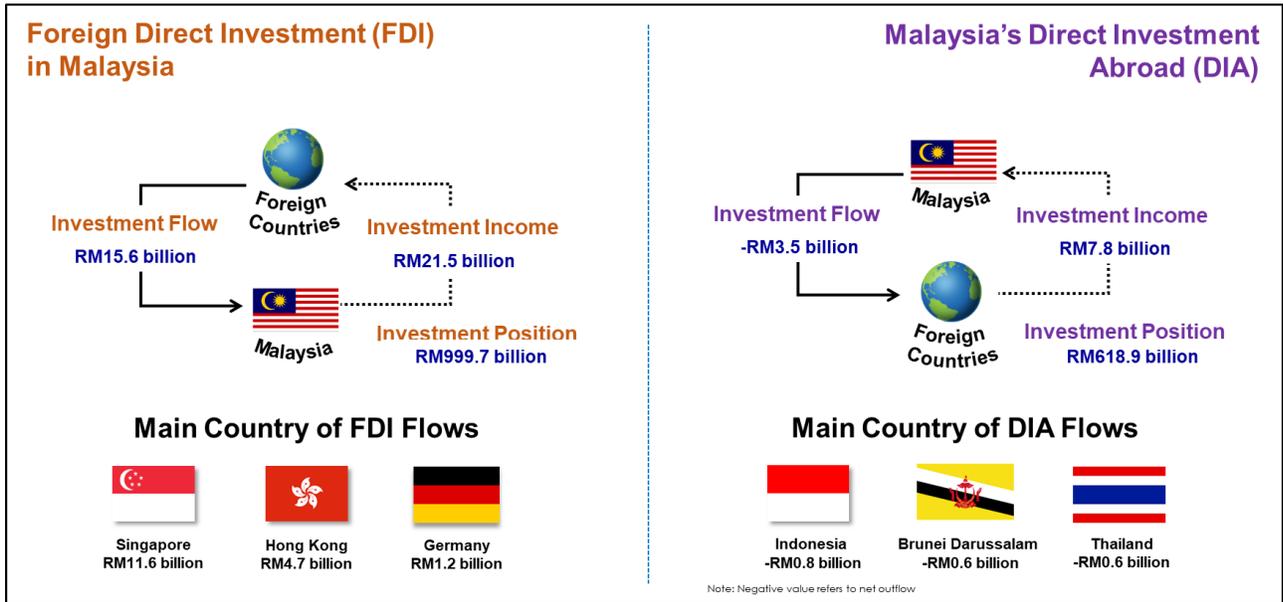


Chart 7: International Investment Position (Net), 2010 – 2024 and Q1 2019 – Q1 2025

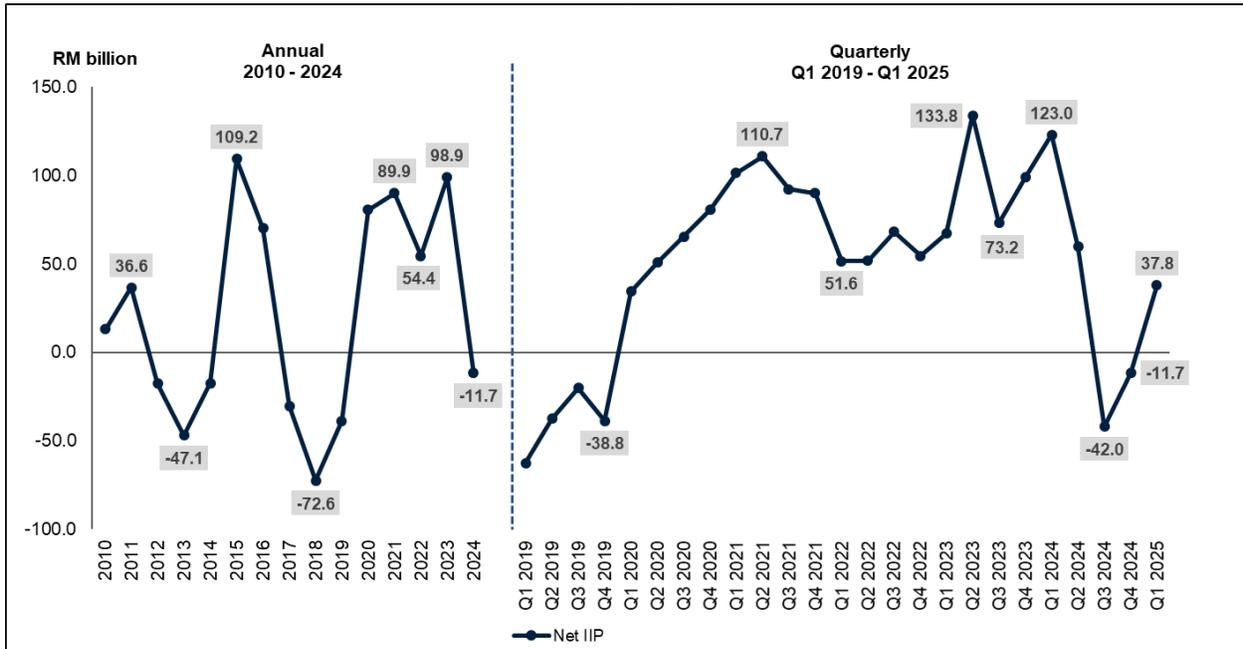


Chart 8: International Investment Position (Total Assets and Total Liabilities), 2010 – 2024 and Q1 2019 – Q1 2025

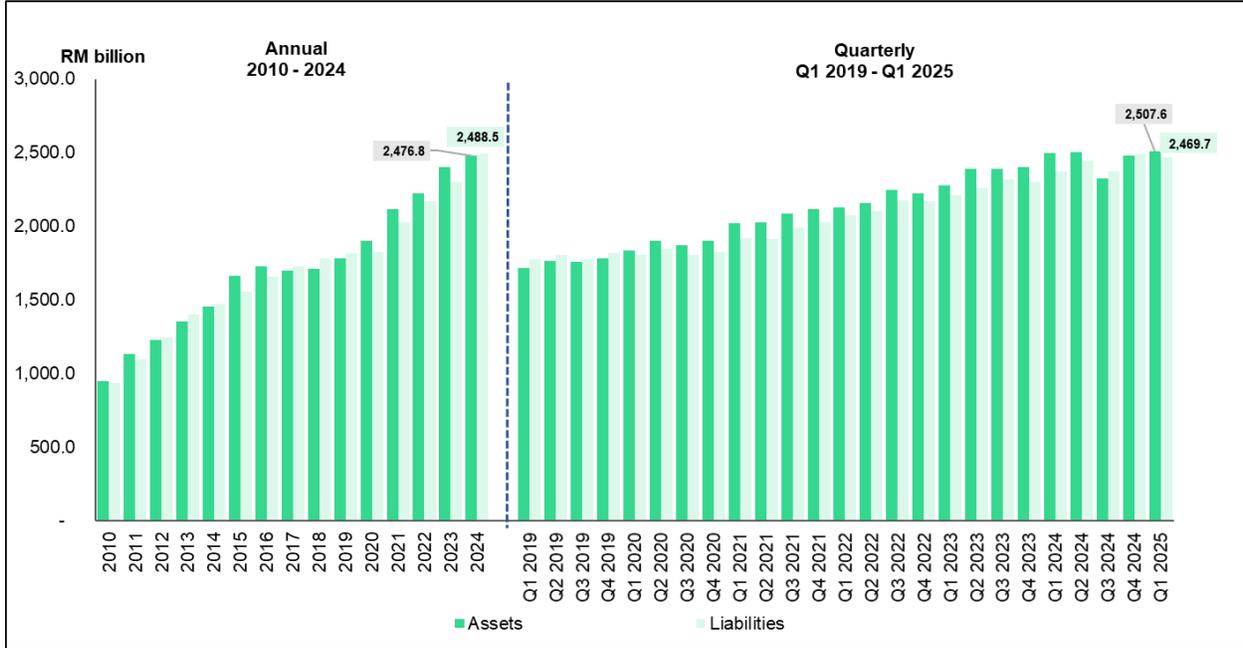


Exhibit 2: FDI and DIA Position by Regions and Main Countries, as at the end Q1 2025

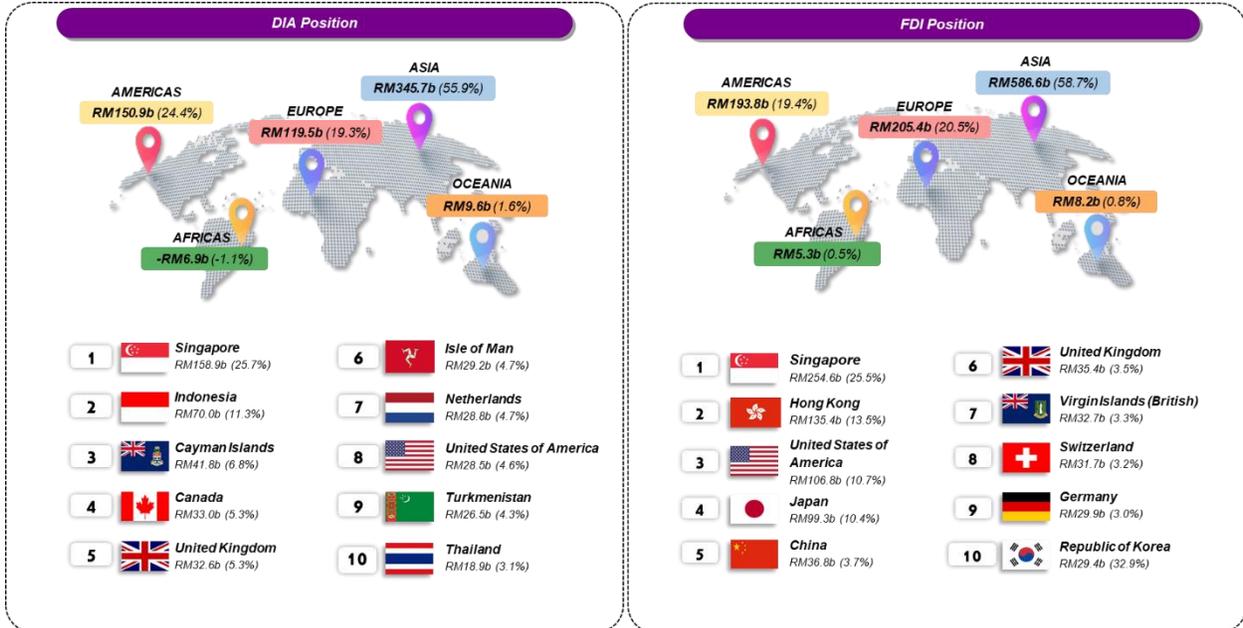


Chart 9: International Reserve Assets (Net), 2010 – 2024 and Q1 2019 – Q1 2025

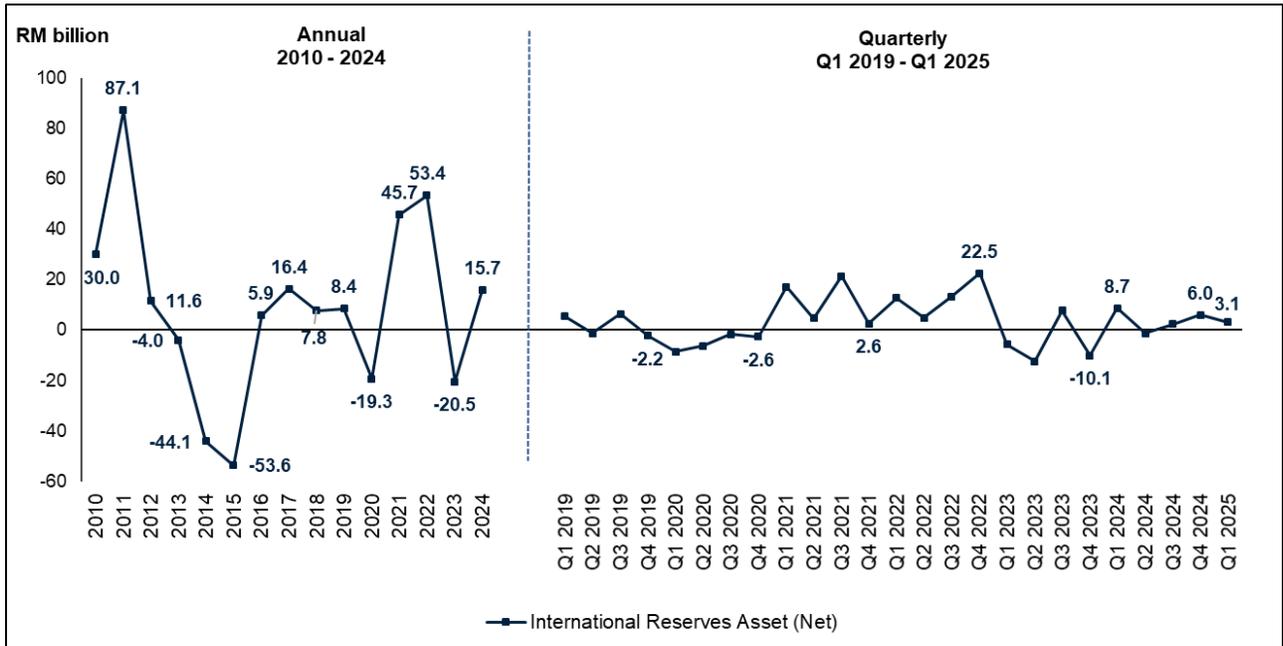


Chart 10: International Reserve Assets (as at end), 2010 – 2024 and Q1 2019 – Q1 2025

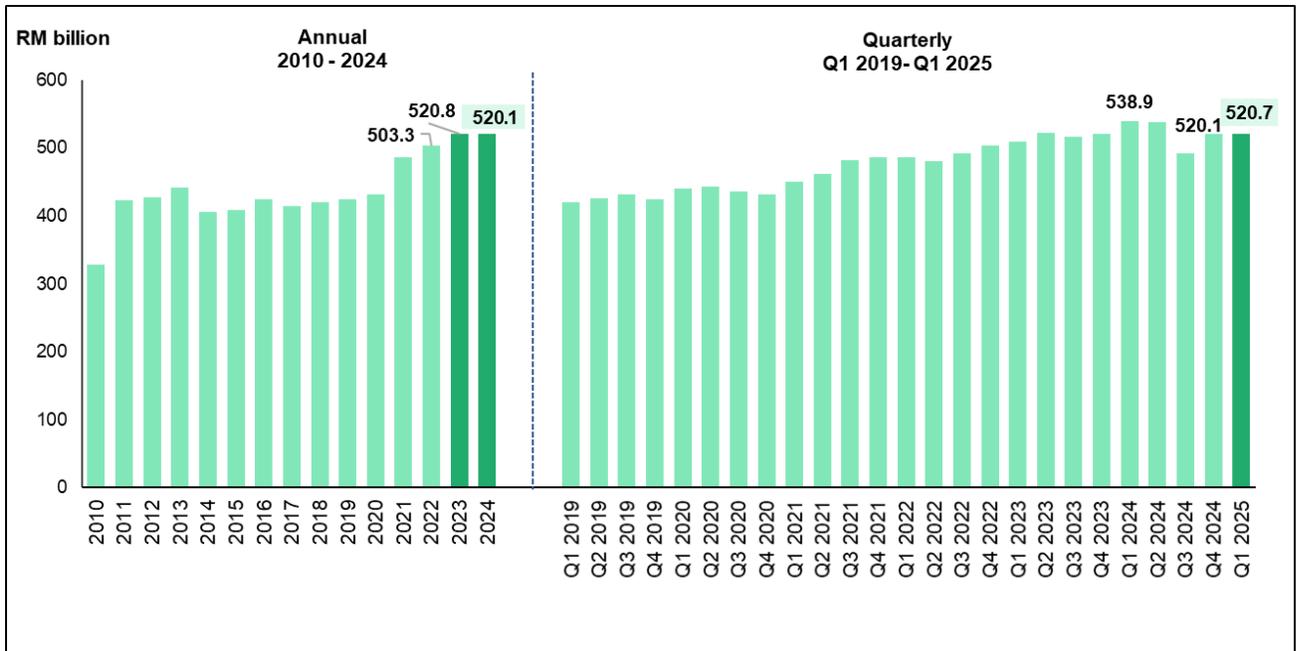


Exhibit 3: Current Account Balance for Selected Countries

Selected Countries	Malaysia (RM bil.) 	Japan (100 bil. Yen) 	Singapore (\$ bil.) 	China (USD bil.) 	United States of America (\$ bil.) 	United Kingdom (£ bil.) 
2022	57.2	114.4	129.3	443.4	-1,012.1	-53.1
2023	20.0	222.2	120.0	263.4	-905.4	-95.1
2024	27.7	293.7	128.3	423.9	-1,133.6	-75.7
Q1 22	4.9	48.9	32.2	96.2	-291.8	-45.7
Q2 22	4.2	23.0	36.4	84.0	-263.1	-23.8
Q3 22	20.2	22.3	34.3	151.5	-230.5	-11.9
Q4 22	28	20.2	26.4	111.7	-226.7	4.1
Q1 23	3.9	25.4	33.0	73.9	-230.3	-25.1
Q2 23	8.2	57.1	31.0	62.5	-232.6	-35.8
Q3 23	7.1	82.2	30.2	68.5	-220.7	-15.1
Q4 23	0.9	57.6	25.9	58.5	-221.8	-19.2
Q1 24	8.7	64.9	33.5	47.2	-242.7	-15.9
Q2 24	4.3	69.0	32.1	55.5	-276.7	-26.3
Q3 24	1.8	89.0	33.9	157.4	-310.3	-12.5
Q4 24	12.9	70.9	28.8	163.8	-303.9	-21.0
Q1 25	16.7	*	*	165.6	*	*

Source: Official portal of Selected National Statistical Offices

Note:

*** Advance Release Calendar**

Singapore : 26 May 2025
 Japan : 15 May 2025
 United States of America : 24 June 2025
 United Kingdom : 30 June 2025

Released by:

**THE OFFICE OF CHIEF STATISTICIAN MALAYSIA
 DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA**

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