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Natural rubber output dips in January

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's natural rubber production slipped 0.4 per cent to 28,579 tonnes in January 2026 from 28,684 tonnes in December 2025, according to the Statistics Department.

Chief statistician Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin said output also fell 5.9 per cent year-on-year from 30,357 tonnes in January 2025.

He said smallholders accounted for the bulk of output in January at 87.6 per cent, while estates contributed 12.4 per cent.

"Total stocks of natural rubber in January 2026 rose 9.3 per cent to 133,042 tonnes from 121,686 tonnes in December 2025.

"Rubber processors held 80.5 per cent of the stocks, followed by rubber consumers at 19.3 per cent and estates at 0.1 per cent."

Meanwhile, exports of



China remains the largest export destination for Malaysia's natural rubber. NSTP FILE PIC

Malaysia's natural rubber rose 30.6 per cent to 41,983 tonnes in January from 32,139 tonnes in December.

China remained the largest export destination, accounting for 40.3 per cent of shipments.

It was followed by the United Arab Emirates (15.2 per cent), Germany (13.6 per cent), the United States (5.6 per cent) and Brazil (3.6 per cent).

Uzir said exports were mainly driven by demand for natural rubber-based products, such as gloves, tyres, tubes and rubber thread.

Rubber gloves remained the top export product, valued at RM1.2 billion in January, down 8.5 per cent from RM1.3 billion in December.

Uzir said the Kuala Lumpur rubber market traded on a mixed but generally stable trend during the month, according to the *Malaysia Rubber Board Digest*.

He said prices were supported by tighter raw material supply due to wet weather in major producing countries.

Higher regional rubber futures and positive economic indicators from the US and China also supported prices, including developments in China's automobile sector.

"However, gains were capped by uncertainty over US trade and tariff policies, geopolitical tensions, volatile crude oil prices, profit-taking in futures markets and a stronger ringgit against the US dollar."

Natural rubber production down 0.4 pct, but exports up 30.6 pct in January

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's natural rubber (NR) production decreased by 0.4 per cent in January 2026 to 28,579 tonnes, compared with 28,684 tonnes in December 2025, according to the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM).

Exports of NR rose by 30.6 per cent to 41,983 tonnes in January 2026 compared with 32,139 tonnes in December 2025.

In the January 2026 Monthly Rubber Statistics released yesterday, DOSM reported that NR production fell by 5.9 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) compared with 30,357 tonnes produced in the previous corresponding month.

"Production of NR in January 2026 for Malaysia was mainly contributed by smallholders (87.6 per cent) as compared to estates (12.4 per cent)," said chief statistician Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin in a statement.

He said total stocks of NR in January 2026 increased by 9.3 per cent to 133,042 tonnes as compared with 121,686 tonnes in December 2025.

"Rubber processors' factories

contributed 80.5 per cent of the stocks, followed by rubber consumers' factories (19.3 per cent) and rubber estates (0.1 per cent)," he said.

Elaborating on exports, Mohd Uzir said China remained the main destination for NR exports, accounting for 40.3 per cent of total exports in January 2026, followed by the United Arab Emirates (15.2 per cent), Germany (13.6 per cent), the United States (US) (5.6 per cent) and Brazil (3.6 per cent).

The export performance was contributed to by NR-based products such as rubber gloves, tyres, tubes and rubber threads.

"Rubber gloves were the main exports of rubber-based products, with a value of RM1.2 billion in January 2026, a decrease of 8.5 per cent compared to December 2025 (RM1.3 billion)," said DOSM.

Meanwhile, the average monthly price showed that concentrated latex decreased by 0.01 per cent (January 2026: 576.14 sen per kg; December 2025: 576.20 sen per kg), while scrap increased by 4 per cent (January 2026: 618.72 sen per

kg; December 2025: 592.08 sen per kg).

The World Bank Commodity Price Data reported that the January price for Technically Specified Rubber (TSR) 20 increased 5.9 per cent to US\$1.84 per kg from US\$1.74 per kg, while the Singapore/Malaysia price increased 3.9 per cent to US\$2.14 per kg from US\$2.06 per kg.

Meanwhile, the Malaysia Rubber Board Digest stated that the Kuala Lumpur rubber market traded on a mixed but generally stable trend in January 2026.

It said prices were supported by tightening raw material supply due to wet weather in major producing countries, higher regional rubber futures, and positive US and Chinese economic indicators, including supportive developments in China's automobile sector.

However, gains were capped by uncertainty over US trade and tariff policies, geopolitical tensions, volatile crude oil prices, profit-taking in futures markets, and a stronger ringgit against the US dollar.
— Bernama