
Malaysia's population reaches 34.4 million amid slower growth rate — DOSM

Bernama

PUTRAJAYA (May 14): Malaysia's total population was estimated at 34.4 million in the first quarter of this year (1Q 2026) as compared with the 34.2 million recorded in the same period last year, with a slower growth of 0.5%, according to the demographic statistics for 1Q 2026 released by the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) on Thursday.

Chief statistician Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin said the male population increased to 18.0 million from 17.9 million in 1Q 2026, and the female population rose to 16.3 million from 16.2 million in the same period a year ago.

"The sex ratio was 110 males for every 100 females, while the sex ratio for citizens was 102. The composition of the old age population (65 years and over) increased from 7.9% to 8% in 1Q 2026.

"Meanwhile, the young age population (0-14 years) recorded a decrease from 21.8% to 21.6%. The working age popu-

lation (15-64 years) increased from 70.3% to 70.4% during the same period," he said in a statement on Thursday.

By ethnicity, Malays accounted for 58.3% of the population in 1Q 2026 as compared with the 58.2% recorded in 1Q 2025.

The proportion of other Bumiputera (Sabah Bumiputera, Sarawak Bumiputera and other Bumiputera Peninsular Malaysia) and Indians remained unchanged at 12.3% and 6.5% respectively, while the Chinese decreased to 22.1% in 1Q 2026 from 22.2% in the corresponding quarter of 2025.

Sabah Bumiputera contributed 55.3% of other Bumiputera, which comprised Kadazan/Dusun (31.7%), Bajau (26.5%), Murut (5.1%) and other Sabah Bumiputera (36.7%).

Meanwhile, Sarawak Bumiputera, which made up 32.3%, consisted of Iban (59.1%), Bidayuh (17.1%), Melanau (10.6%) and other Sarawak Bumiputera (13.2%).

Mohd Uzir noted that the number of

live births continued to decline to 94,807 births as compared to 97,843 births in 1Q 2025, with male babies outnumbering female babies with 49,137 births as compared to 45,670 births.

"Selangor recorded the highest live births with 17,990 births while Labuan recorded the lowest with 294 births," he said.

He added that 49,139 deaths were recorded in 1Q 2026, a decrease of 1.5% from 49,863 deaths in 1Q 2025, with Selangor having the highest number at 8,042 deaths, while Putrajaya recorded the lowest with 81 deaths.

Population aged 60 years and over recorded the highest number of deaths with 35,130 deaths (71.5%), followed by 41-59 years (19.9%), 15-40 years (6.8%) and 0-14 years (1.8%).

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