

MEDIA STATEMENT



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MALAYSIA EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS MARCH 2025

Malaysia's exports rose by RM8.7 billion (6.8%) in March 2025, reflecting an increase in demand for E&E products

PUTRAJAYA, 18 APRIL 2025 – Malaysia's trade performance in March 2025 reflected resilience with steady rising exports, while declining imports highlighted challenges amid broader economic uncertainties. Total trade experienced a growth of 2.2 per cent to RM249.9 billion, attributable to a steady growth of exports (+6.8%) to RM137.3 billion. However, imports experienced a decrease by 2.8 per cent to RM112.6 billion. Conversely, the trade balance demonstrated stronger performance, rising by 94.4 percent to RM24.7 billion in March 2025 as reported today in **MALAYSIA EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS BULLETIN, MARCH 2025**. This bulletin also presents the performance of export and import products with its trading partners.

Chief Statistician Malaysia, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin emphasised that Malaysia's export growth was driven by increases in both domestic exports and re-exports in March 2025. Domestic exports, which accounted for 80.0 per cent of total exports, rose by 5.6 per cent to RM109.9 billion, while re-exports, making up 20.0 per cent of total exports, expanded by 12.1 per cent to RM27.4 billion as compared to March 2024. Additionally, imports amounted to RM112.6 billion, a

decrease of 2.8 per cent or RM3.3 billion. The trade surplus improved by 94.4 per cent, reaching RM24.7 billion, marking the 59th consecutive month of surplus since May 2020. Comparatively, March 2025 demonstrated growth over February 2025, with exports, imports, total trade up by 16.1 per cent, 6.6 per cent, 11.6 per cent, respectively and the trade balance surging by 96.0 per cent.

From the perspective of the commodity group, 113 out of 257 export groups showed an increase while 137 out of 260 import groups showed a decrease as compared to the same month of the previous year.

Chief Statistician Malaysia further explained higher exports was attributable mainly to the United States (+RM7.6 billion), followed by Hong Kong (+RM1.9 billion), Singapore (+RM1.9 billion), Taiwan (+RM1.6 billion), the European Union (+RM1.0 billion), Philippines (+RM498.7 million) and South Africa (+RM339.0 million). Nevertheless, sluggish imports were mainly contributed from Taiwan (-RM1.7 billion), followed by India (-RM1.5 billion), the United Arab Emirates (-RM1.3 billion), Singapore (-RM1.2 billion), Australia (-RM799.9 million), Thailand (-RM715.2 million) and Qatar (-RM544.9 million).

Commenting further on exports, the increase was reflecting the rise in electrical & electronic products (+RM12.5 billion); machinery, equipment & parts (+RM785.3 million); condensates & other petroleum oil (+RM619.1 million); processed food (+RM542.7 million); other manufactures (+RM524.1 million); and palm oil-based manufactured products (+RM512.0 million). Meanwhile, the drop for imports was logged for petroleum products (-RM6.6 billion); crude petroleum (-RM1.7 billion); manufacture of metal (-RM1.0 billion); other mining (-RM1.0 billion); iron & steel products (-RM846.3 million); and liquefied natural gas (-RM592.8 million).

Adding to this, the Chief Statistician Malaysia also underscored the upsurge in imports by End Use which was in accordance with slower demand for capital goods and intermediate goods. Imports of capital goods (11.6% of total imports), decreased by 19.2 per cent or RM3.1 billion to post a value of RM13.1 billion. Imports of intermediate goods (52.4% of total imports), valued at RM59.0 billion, registered a marginal decrease of 0.6 per cent or RM350.1 million as compared to March 2024. However, imports of consumption goods (8.6% of total imports), was up by 3.6 per cent or RM342.4 million to reach RM9.7 billion.

Performance for the first quarter of 2025, total trade, exports, imports and trade surplus experienced an increase as compared to the same period last year. The encouraging economic performance led to a 3.6 per cent rise in total trade, aligning with the increase in exports (+4.4%) and imports (+2.8%). Moreover, trade surplus amounted to RM41.0 billion, an increase of 20.1 per cent as compared to the same period in 2024.

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

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 20 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: External Trade Statistics, Jan 2024 – Mar 2025 (Value)

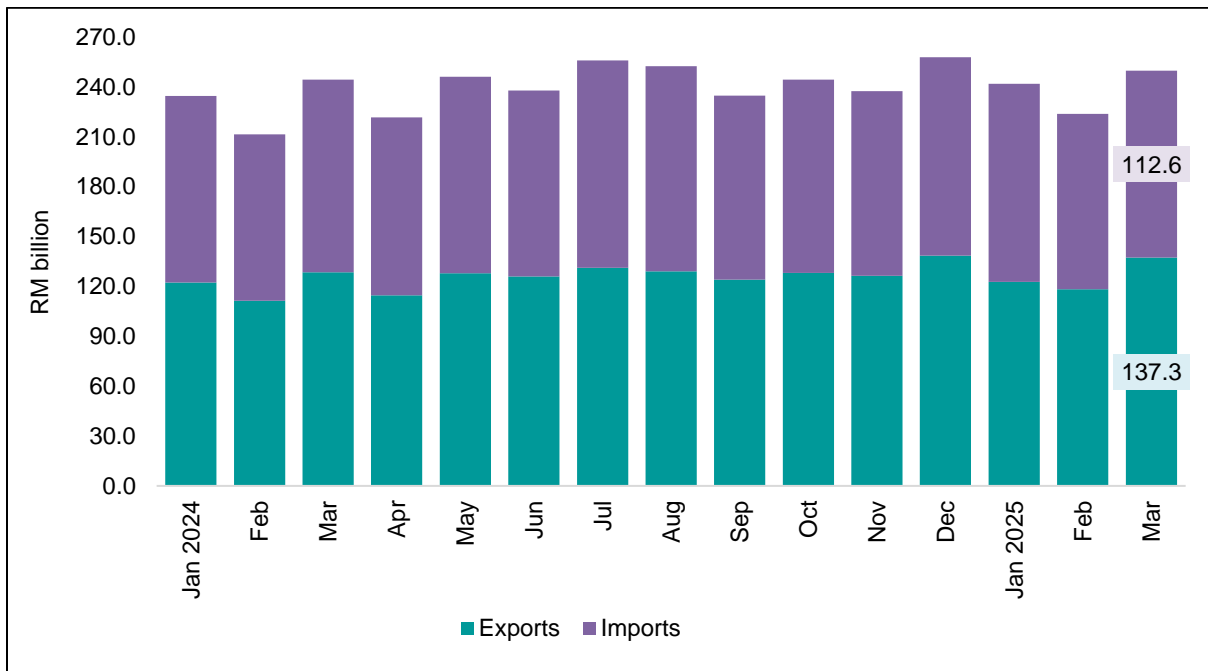


Chart 2: External Trade Statistics, Jan 2024 – Mar 2025 (Annual Percentage Change)

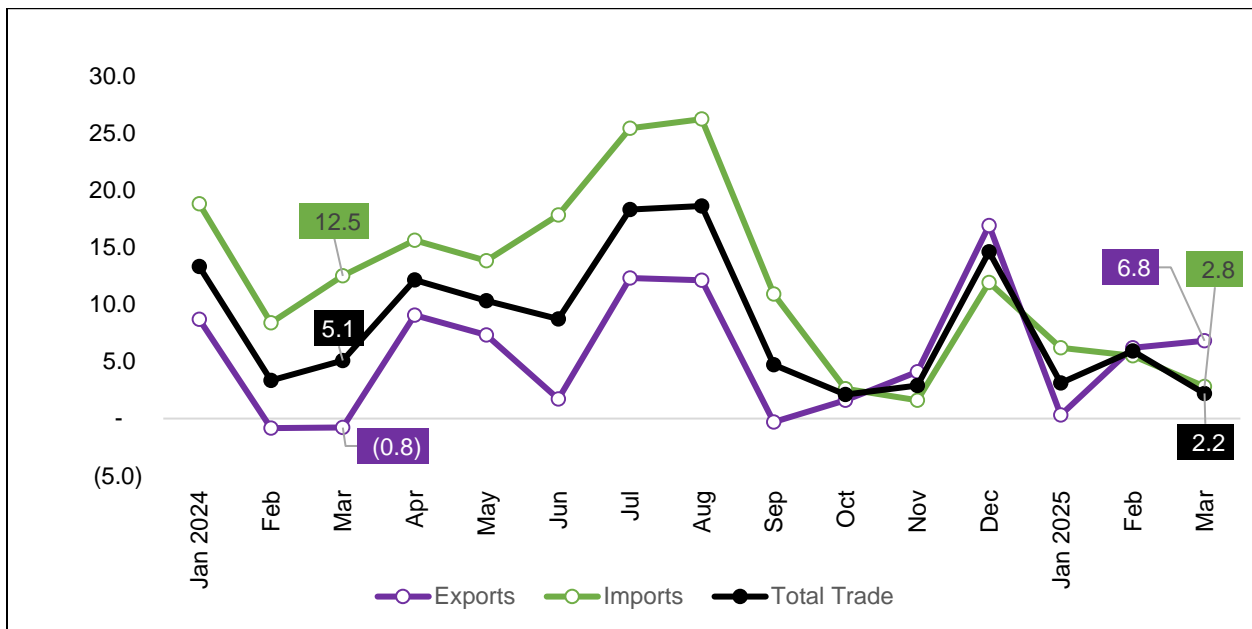


Chart 3: External Trade Statistics, 2020 – 2025 (Jan – Mar)

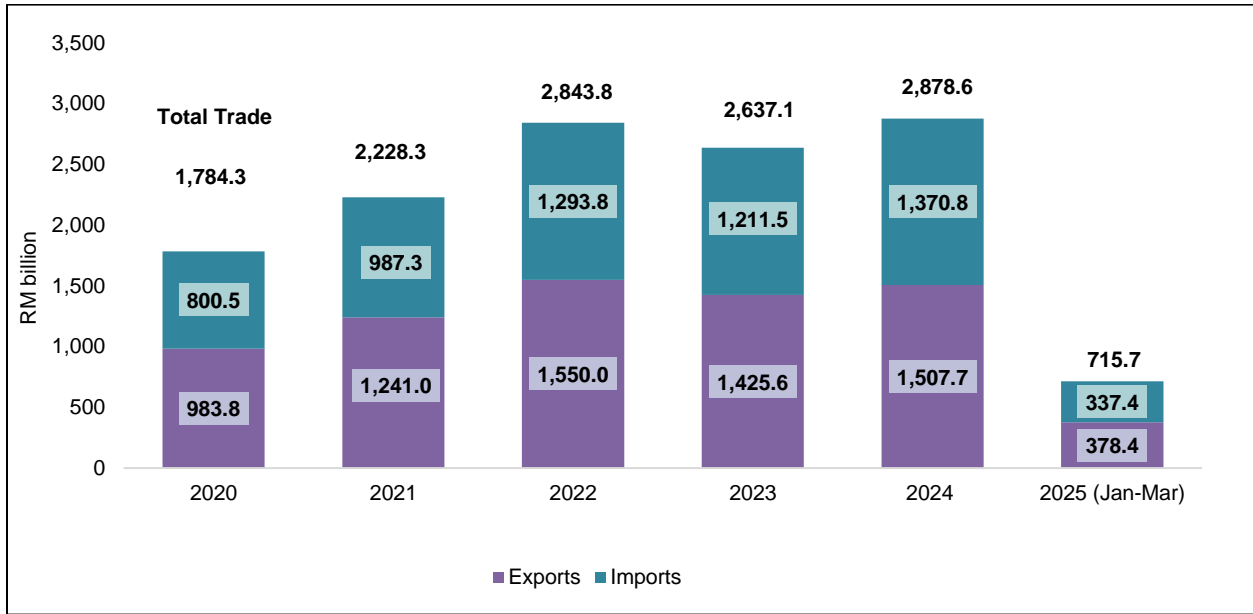


Chart 4: Imports for End Use & Broad Economic Categories (BEC) Classification, Jan 2024 – Mar 2025
(Value and Annual Percentage Change)

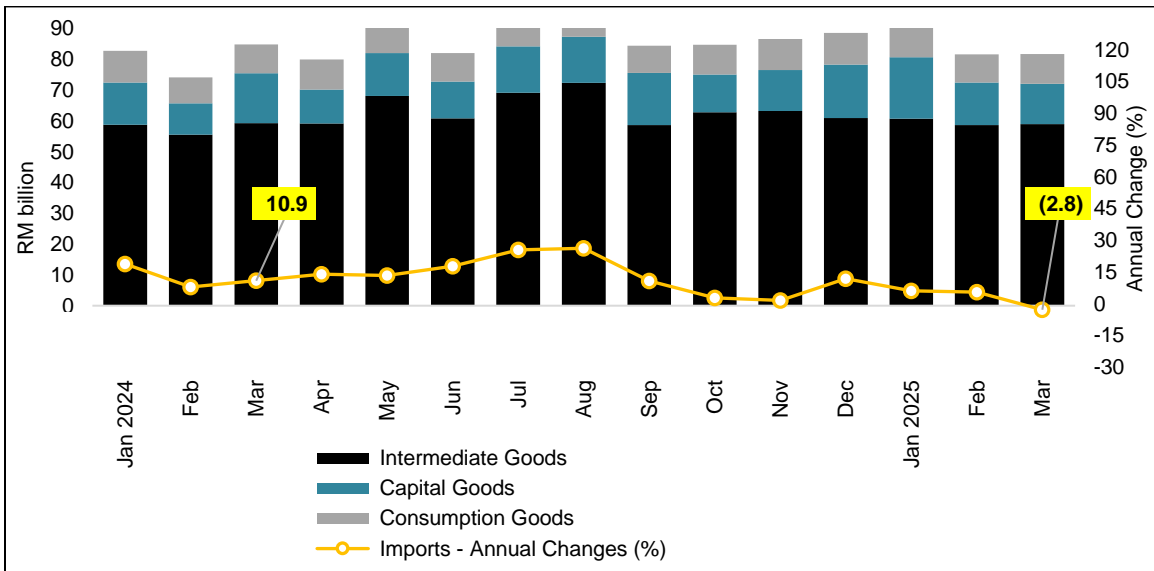


Chart 5: Imports for End Use & Broad Economic Categories (BEC) Classification, 2020 – 2025 (Jan – Mar)

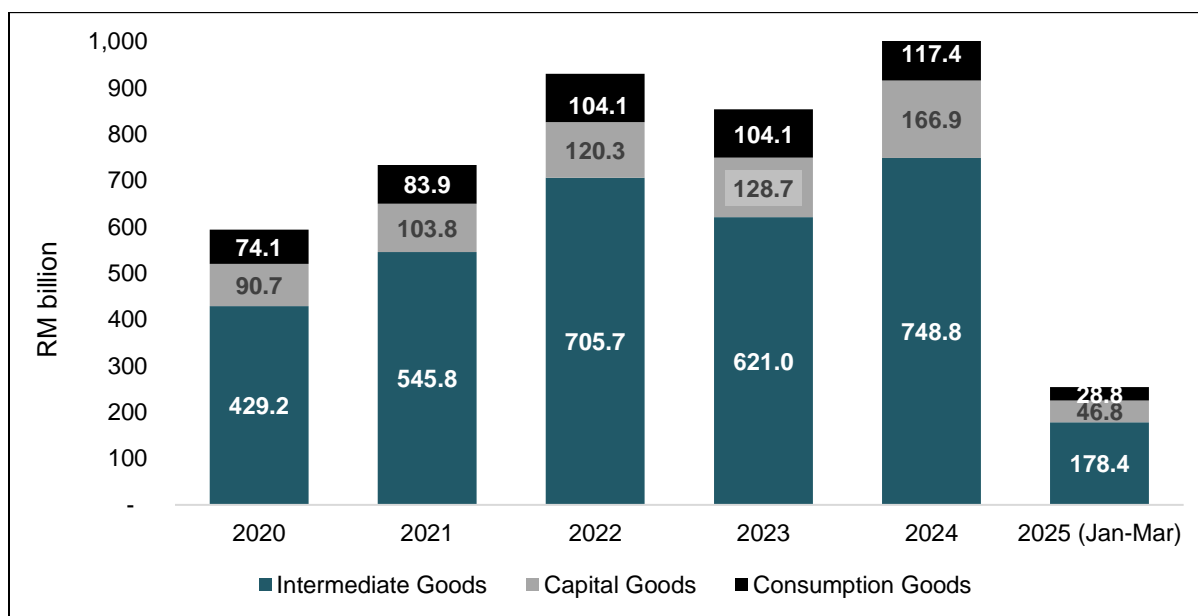


Table 1: Major Sub-sector Contributing to Export

COMMODITY DESC	2024	2025	2025	SHARE TO TOTAL %	Y.O.Y	
	MAR	FEB	MAR		VAL.	%
	RM MIL.	RM MIL.	RM MIL.		RM MIL.	%
Total	128,565	118,242	137,309	100.0	8,744	6.8
Electrical & Electronic Products (E&E)	49,697	47,319	62,180	45.3	12,483	25.1
Petroleum Products	11,107	9,308	7,495	5.5	(3,612)	(32.5)
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	6,388	5,774	7,174	5.2	785.3	12.3
Chemical & Chemical Products	6,296	5,571	5,988	4.4	(307.7)	(4.9)
Palm Oil & Palm-Based Agriculture Products	5,618	6,313	5,805	4.2	187.1	3.3

Table 2: Major Sub-sector Contributing to Import

COMMODITY DESC	2024	2025	2025	SHARE TO TOTAL %	Y.O.Y	
	MAR	FEB	MAR		VAL.	%
	RM MIL.	RM MIL.	RM MIL.		RM MIL.	
Total	115,845	105,625	112,585	100.0	(3,260)	(2.8)
Electrical & Electronic Products (E&E)	37,407	36,514	41,618	37.0	4,211	11.3
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	7,969	8,731	9,028	8.0	1,058	13.3
Chemical & Chemical Products	8,721	7,029	8,275	7.3	(445.7)	(5.1)
Petroleum Products	14,034	8,040	7,448	6.6	(6,586)	(46.9)
Manufacture of Metal	5,716	4,438	4,709	4.2	(1,007)	(17.6)

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THE OFFICE OF CHIEF STATISTICIAN MALAYSIA

DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

18 APRIL 2025