



# MEDIA STATEMENT

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## **MALAYSIA EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS AUGUST 2025**

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***Trade balance remained positive in August 2025 to RM16.1 billion, continuing a 64<sup>th</sup> month streak of trade surplus since May 2020 despite a slight decline in trade performance***

**PUTRAJAYA, 19 SEPTEMBER 2025** – Malaysia's trade performance slightly declined in August 2025, with total trade falling by 1.9 per cent to RM247.1 billion compared to RM251.8 billion in August 2024 driven mainly by a 5.9 per cent drop in imports to RM115.5 billion. Conversely, exports increased by 1.9 per cent to RM131.6 billion and trade surplus increased by 153.8 per cent from RM6.4 billion to RM16.1 billion in August 2025 as reported in the **MALAYSIA EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS BULETIN, AUGUST 2025** released today. This bulletin also presents the performance of export and import products with its trading partners.

Chief Statistician Malaysia, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin highlighted Malaysia's exports increased in August 2025 in tandem with the rise in re-exports (21.2% to total exports) up by 22.6 per cent as compared to August 2024, worth RM28.0 billion. On the other hand, domestic exports (78.8% to total exports), dropped by 2.5 per cent to RM103.6 billion. However, imports worth RM115.5 billion, reflecting a 5.9 per cent decrease. Trade surplus escalated by 153.8 per cent to RM16.1 billion, marking the 64<sup>th</sup> consecutive month of surplus

since May 2020. Compared with July 2025, exports, imports and total trade recorded a decrease of 6.0 per cent, 8.0 per cent, and 6.9 per cent, respectively. In contrast, trade balance has risen by 10.4 per cent or RM1.5 billion.

From a commodity group perspective, 115 out of 257 export groups showed an increase. Meanwhile, 168 out of 256 import groups showed a decrease as compared to the same month of the previous year.

Chief Statistician Malaysia further explained higher exports were primarily driven by increased of exports goods to Taiwan (+RM1.7 billion), followed by Mexico (+RM1.7 billion), China (+RM1.6 billion), Viet Nam (+RM1.2 billion), the European Union (+RM1.0 billion), Thailand (+RM940.2 million) and India (+RM510.0 million). However, the slide in imports was mainly attributed to lower inflows from the United States (-RM5.7 billion), followed by Saudi Arabia (-RM1.4 billion), Australia (-RM1.2 billion), Singapore (-RM1.2 billion), Japan (-RM868.1 million), Nigeria (-RM394.0 million) and Philippines (-RM342.8 million).

Further commenting on exports, the increase was primarily driven by higher shipments of E&E products (+RM5.1 billion); machinery, equipment & parts (+RM871.7 million); optical & scientific equipment (+RM778.7 million); palm oil & palm-based agriculture products (+RM650.0 million); metalliferous ores & metal scrap (+RM407.8 million); and palm oil-based manufactured products (+RM250.7 million). Conversely, the import slowdown was driven by slower inflows of other agriculture (-RM1.6 billion); chemical & chemical products (-RM1.6 billion); other mining (-RM871.2 million); liquefied natural gas (-RM807.2 million); crude petroleum (-RM802.3 million); and petroleum products (-RM790.6 million).

Additionally, the Chief Statistician Malaysia also underscored that the recession in imports by End Use reflected slower demand for intermediate goods and

consumption goods. Intermediate goods (52.2% of total imports), fell by 16.8 per cent or RM12.1 billion to post a value of RM60.2 billion. Imports of consumption goods (8.2% of total imports), decreased by 8.9 per cent or RM920.4 million valued at RM9.4 billion as compared to August 2024. However, imports of capital goods (13.6% of total imports), climbed by 11.0 per cent or RM1.6 billion to post a value of RM15.7 billion.

Malaysia's total trade reached RM2.0 trillion, reflecting a 3.8 per cent y-o-y increase for the January to August 2025 period. The improvement was supported by stronger export performance (+3.9%) and a 3.6 per cent rise in imports. The trade surplus also widened, climbing 7.4 per cent to RM86.1 billion compared to the same period in 2024.

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

Malaysia, for the first time, ranked as number one (1) globally in the biennial Open Data Inventory (ODIN) 2024/25 report released by Open Data Watch (ODW), surpassing 197 other countries. This achievement marks a significant leap from its 67<sup>th</sup> position in the ODIN 2022/23 assessment.

The Government of Malaysia has declared October 20<sup>th</sup> 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<sup>th</sup> 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 – Aug 2025 (Value)

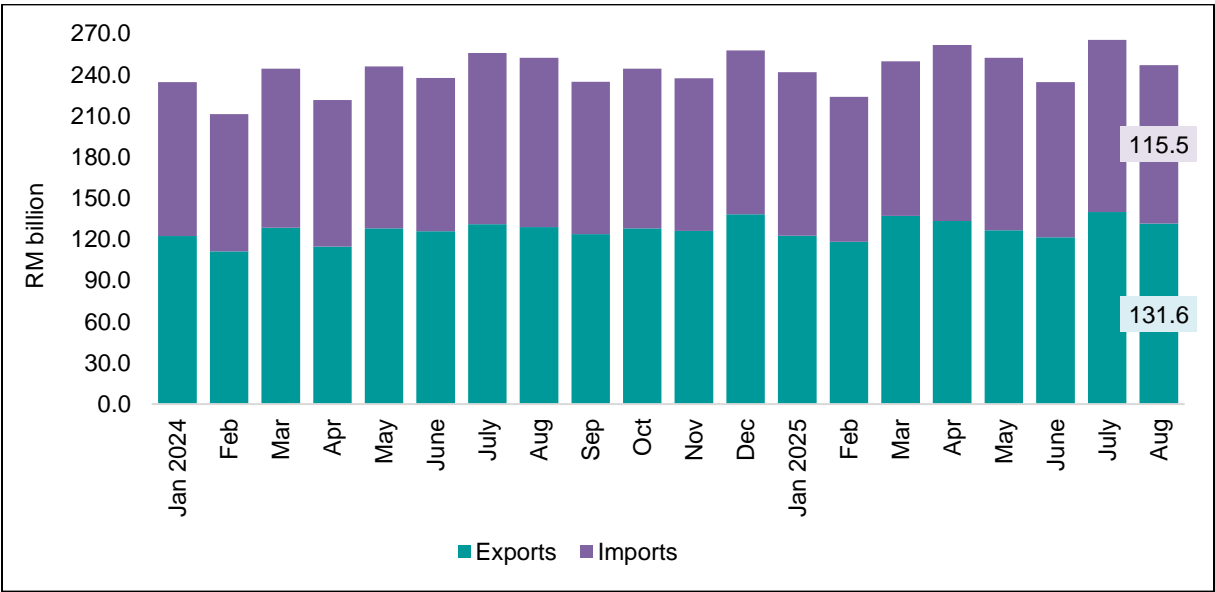


Chart 2: External Trade Statistics, Jan 2024 – Aug 2025 (Annual Percentage Change)

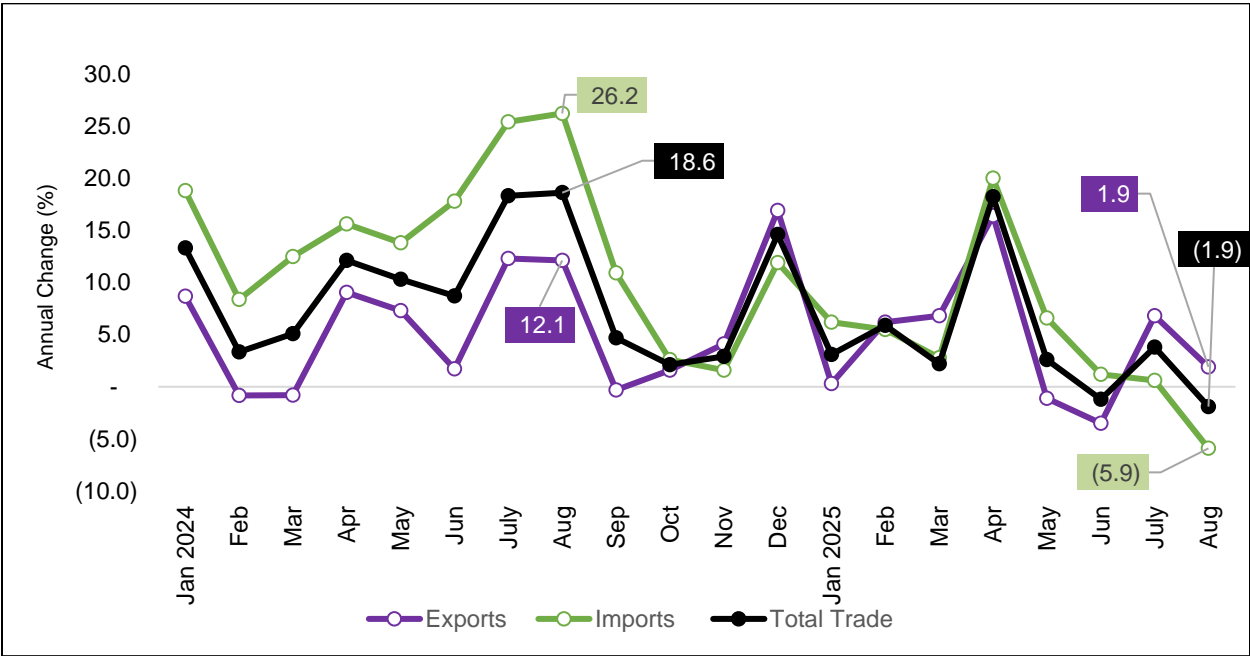


Chart 3: External Trade Statistics, 2020 – 2025 (Jan – Aug)

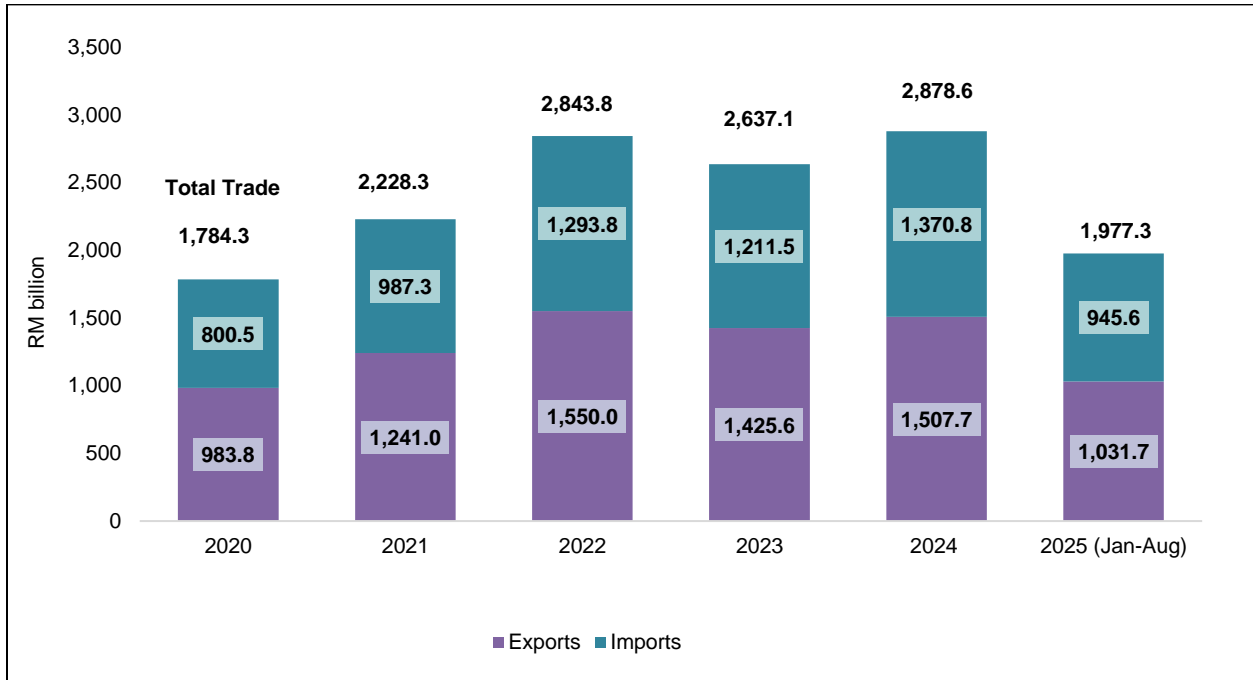
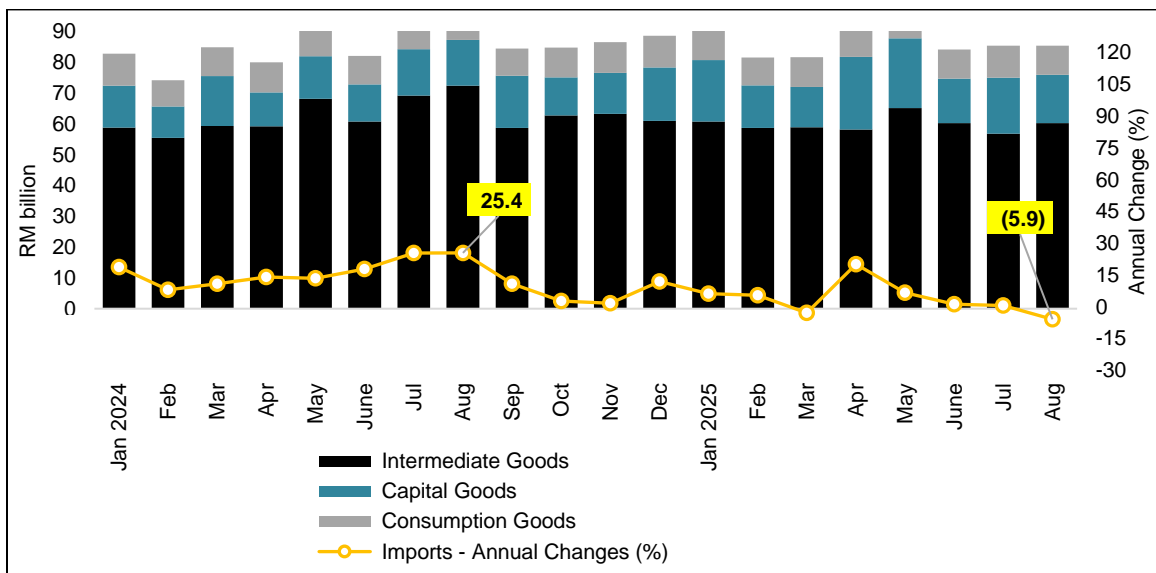
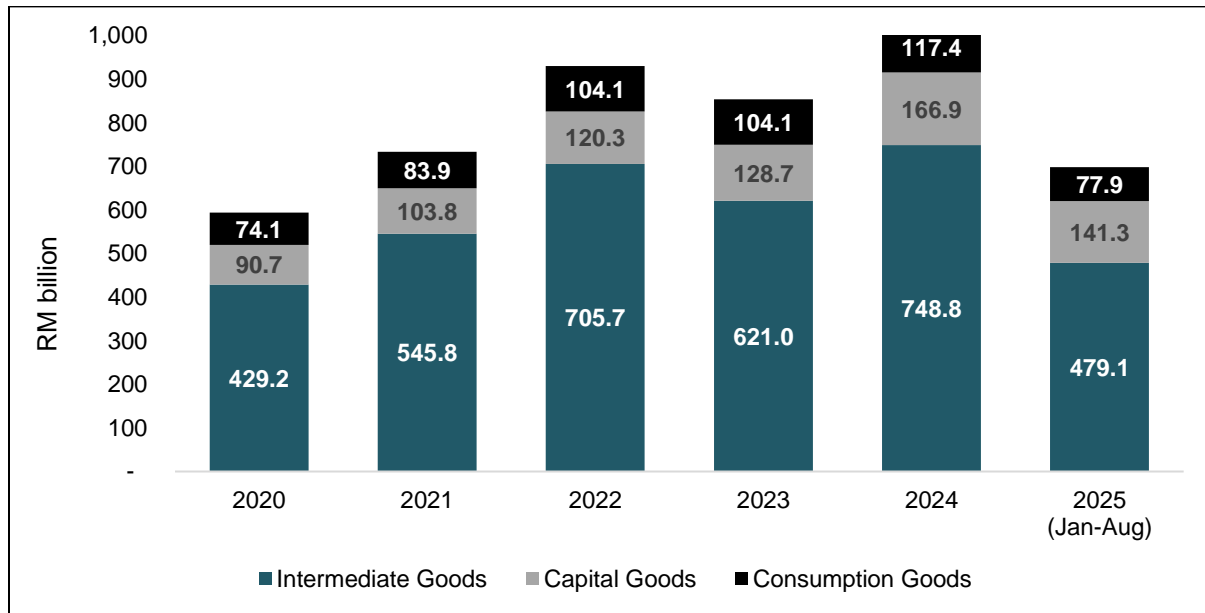


Chart 4: Imports for End Use & Broad Economic Categories (BEC) Classification, Jan 2024 – Aug 2025  
(Value and Annual Percentage Change)



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



*Table 1: Major Sub-sector Contributing to Export*

| COMMODITY DESCRIPTION                      | 2024           | 2025         | 2025           | SHARE TO TOTAL % | Y.O.Y         |        |
|--|----------------|--------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|--------|
|  | AUGUST RM MIL. | JULY RM MIL. | AUGUST RM MIL. |                  | VALUE RM MIL. | %      |
| <b>Total</b>                               | 129,094        | 140,063      | 131,598        | 100.0            | 2,504         | 1.9    |
| Electrical & Electronic Products (E&E)     | 50,439         | 63,350       | 55,509         | 42.2             | 5,070         | 10.1   |
| Petroleum Products                         | 11,038         | 8,124        | 9,097          | 6.9              | (1,941)       | (17.6) |
| Palm Oil & Palm-Based Agriculture Products | 6,672          | 6,726        | 7,322          | 5.6              | 650.0         | 9.7    |
| Machinery, Equipment & Parts               | 6,026          | 6,820        | 6,897          | 5.2              | 871.7         | 14.5   |
| Optical & Scientific Equipment             | 5,307          | 5,608        | 6,085          | 4.6              | 778.7         | 14.7   |

*Table 2: Major Sub-sector Contributing to Import*

| COMMODITY DESCRIPTION                                 | 2024              | 2025            | 2025              | SHARE<br>TO TOTAL<br>% | Y.O.Y            |        |
|---|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------|------------------|--------|
|   | AUGUST<br>RM MIL. | JULY<br>RM MIL. | AUGUST<br>RM IML. |                        | VALUE<br>RM MIL. | %      |
| <b>Total</b>  | 122,740           | 125,458         | 115,472           | 100.0                  | (7,268)          | (5.9)  |
| <i>Electrical &amp; Electronic Products (E&amp;E)</i> | 43,381            | 48,538          | 42,876            | 37.1                   | (505.0)          | (1.2)  |
| <i>Machinery, Equipment &amp; Parts</i>               | 9,779             | 10,860          | 10,068            | 8.7                    | 289.6            | 3.0    |
| <i>Petroleum Products</i>                             | 9,067             | 8,884           | 8,276             | 7.2                    | (790.6)          | (8.7)  |
| <i>Chemical &amp; Chemical Products</i>               | 9,862             | 7,962           | 8,252             | 7.1                    | (1,609)          | (16.3) |
| <i>Transport Equipment</i>                            | 4,557             | 4,918           | 5,697             | 4.9                    | 1,140            | 25.0   |

*Released by:*

**THE OFFICE OF CHIEF STATISTICIAN MALAYSIA**

**DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA**

**19 SEPTEMBER 2025**