



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

MEDIA STATEMENT

MALAYSIA EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS, MALAYSIA JANUARY 2026

Malaysia recorded a 12.6 percent increase in total trade to RM272.4 billion in January, starting 2026 with a strong performance

PUTRAJAYA, FEBRUARY 20, 2026 – Malaysia's trade performance kicked off strongly at the outset of 2026, led to better trends of trade, supported by both higher exports and imports. Total trade witnessed a double digit increase by 12.6 per cent to RM272.4 billion, attributable to the growth of exports (+19.6%) of RM146.9 billion and imports (+5.3%) of RM125.5 billion. Moreover, trade balance surged by 483.9 per cent to RM21.4 billion in January 2026 as reported in the **MALAYSIA EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS BULETIN, JANUARY 2026** 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 rose in January 2026 reflecting a corresponding increase in re-exports and domestic exports. Re-exports accounted for 26.1 per cent of total exports and increased by 51.5 per cent year-on-year to RM38.3 billion. Likewise, domestic exports which contributed to 73.9 per cent, with growth 11.3 per cent to RM108.6 billion. Similarly, imports also gained to RM125.5 billion, reflecting a rise of 5.3 per cent. Trade surplus surged by 483.9 per cent to RM21.4 billion, marking the 69th consecutive month of surplus since May 2020. Compared with December 2025, exports, imports, total trade and trade surplus recorded a decrease of 3.9 per cent, 4.0 per cent, 3.9 per cent and 3.2 per cent, respectively.

From the perspective of commodity groups, 156 out of 258 export groups and 159 out of 260 import groups posted gains compared to the same month of the previous year.

The Chief Statistician of Malaysia remarked that the rise in exports was primarily underpinned by increased shipments to the United States (+RM5.8 billion), followed by Taiwan (+RM4.4 billion), Hong Kong (+RM4.3 billion), the European Union (+RM2.5 billion), China (+RM2.1 billion), Viet Nam (+RM1.9 billion) and Mexico (+RM1.7 billion). The import rise largely reflected higher inflows originating from China (+RM5.0 billion), followed by Costa Rica (+RM1.8 billion), Singapore (+RM1.5 billion), Thailand (+RM1.5 billion), the European Union (+RM882.9 million), Hong Kong (+RM632.8 million) and Viet Nam (+RM608.4 million).

Notably, exports growth was anchored by heightened shipments of E&E products (+RM20.0 billion); other manufactures (+RM1.9 billion): optical & scientific equipment (+RM1.5 billion); metalliferous ores & metal scrap (+RM1.3 billion); others (+RM839.3 million); and machinery, equipment & parts (+RM763.1 million). Concurrently, imports corresponded with stronger inflows of E&E products (+RM3.2 billion); machinery, equipment & parts (+RM1.5 billion); metalliferous ores & metal scrap (+RM1.4 billion); optical & scientific equipment (+RM506.1 million); textiles, apparels & footwear (+RM480.1 million); and jewellery (+RM470.7 million).

The Chief Statistician Malaysia further noted that the expansion in imports by End Use was attributable to increased demand for consumption goods. Consumption goods (9.3% of total imports) rose 16.7 per cent or RM1.7 billion to reach RM11.7 billion. However, imports of capital goods (12.6% of total imports) contracted by 20.7 per cent or RM4.1 billion, settling at RM15.8 billion. Imports of intermediate goods (45.9% of total imports) downed by 5.1 per cent or RM3.1 billion, amounting to RM57.7 billion compared to January 2025.

The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) is conducting the **Economic Census 2026 (BE2026)**, with themed “*Data Nadi Ekonomi Rakyat*”. The sixth Economic Census, will be carried out from **5th January to 31st October 2026**. BE2026 aims to collect comprehensive and structured data from all registered and unregistered business establishments in Malaysia to assess the nation’s economic performance, structure and characteristics in an evidence-based manner.

Malaysia has, for the first time, successfully secured the **top position** 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 67th position in the ODIN 2022/23 assessment.

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>.

Monthly External Trade Statistics and **Malaysia External Trade Indices** publication provide official data on Malaysia's trade, including the value of international import and export trade on a monthly and annual basis, as well as monthly indices of volume and unit value. These statistics are important for monitoring trade trends and also Malaysia's economic development. The publication is available in printed form and can also be accessed at www.dosm.gov.my.

Chart 1: External Trade Statistics, Jan 2025 – Jan 2026 (Value)

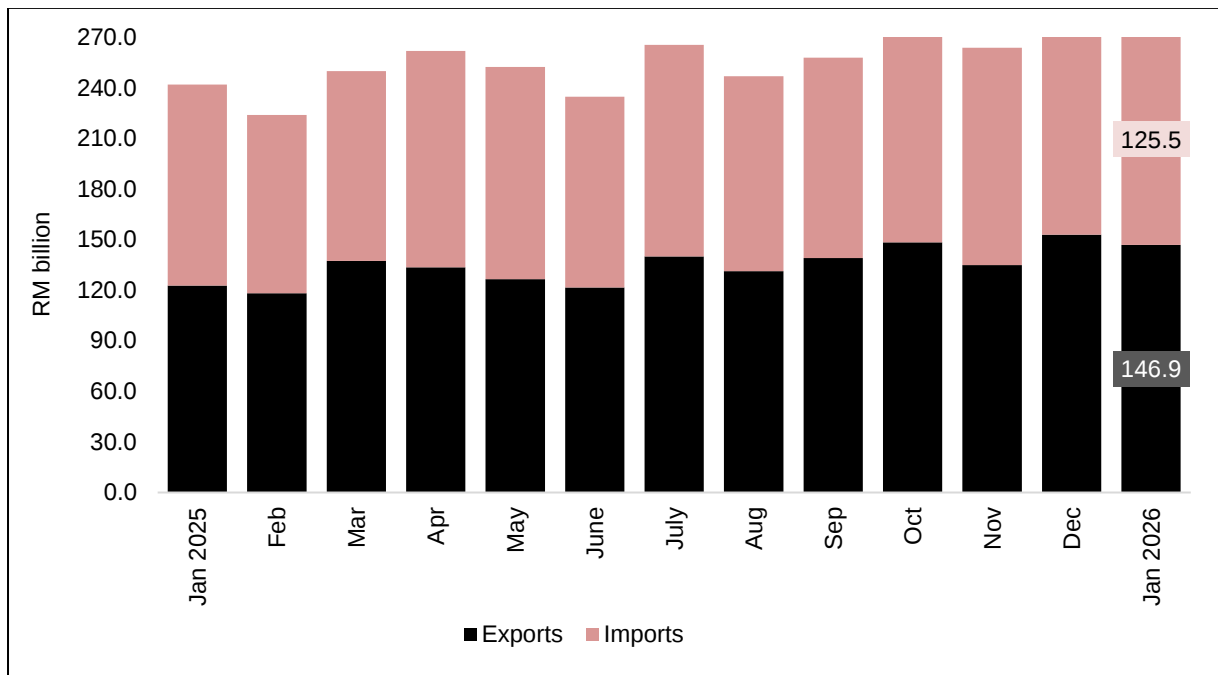


Chart 2: External Trade Statistics, Jan 2025 – Jan 2026 (Annual Percentage Change)

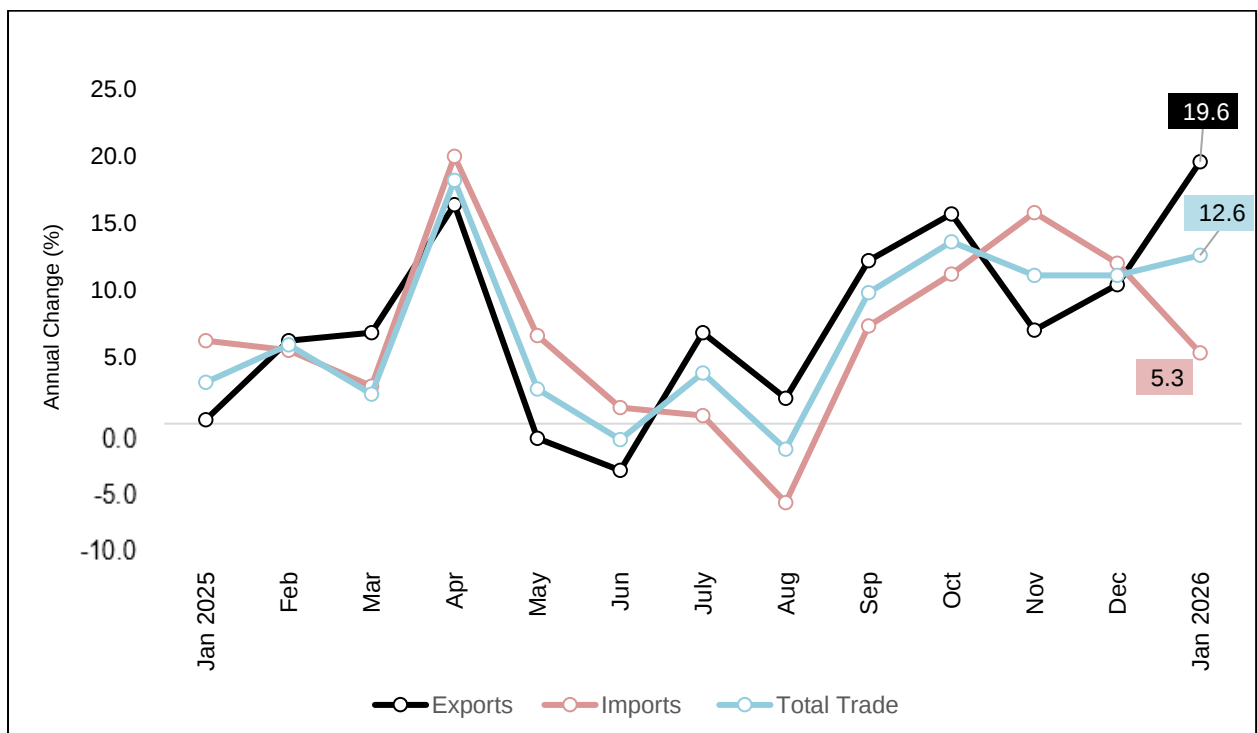


Chart 3: External Trade Statistics, 2021 – 2026 (Jan)

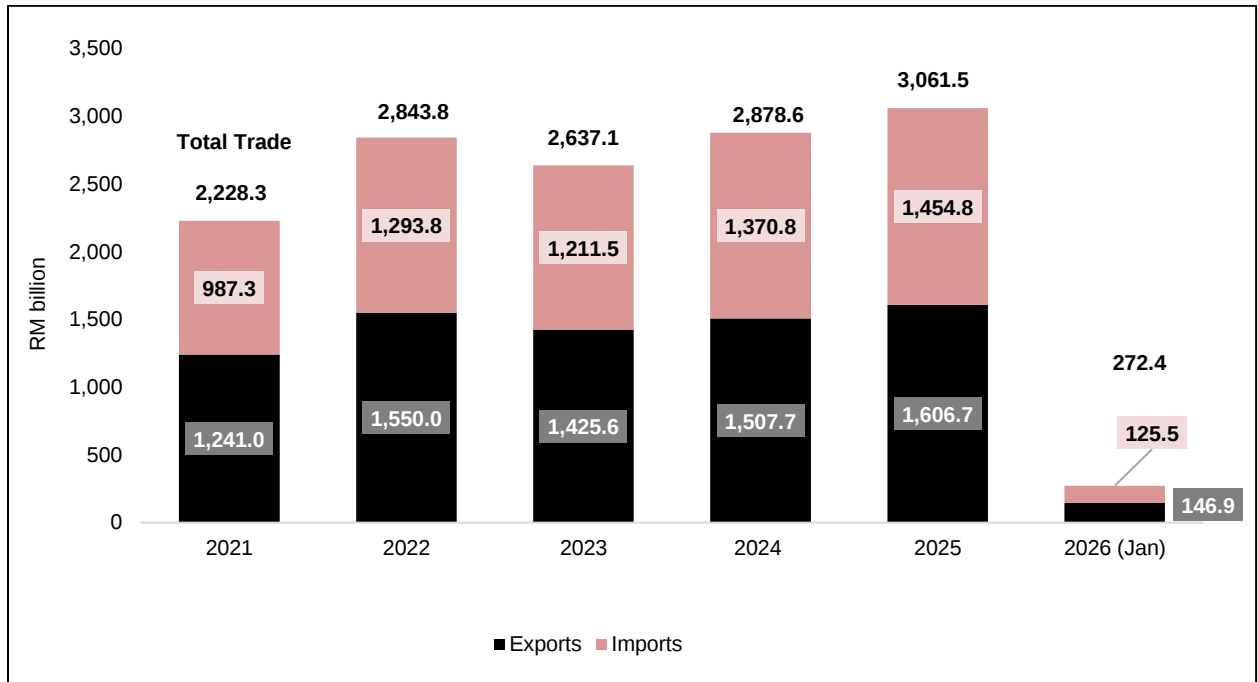


Chart 4: Imports for End Use & Broad Economic Categories (BEC) Classification, Jan 2025 – Jan 2026
(Value and Annual Percentage Change)

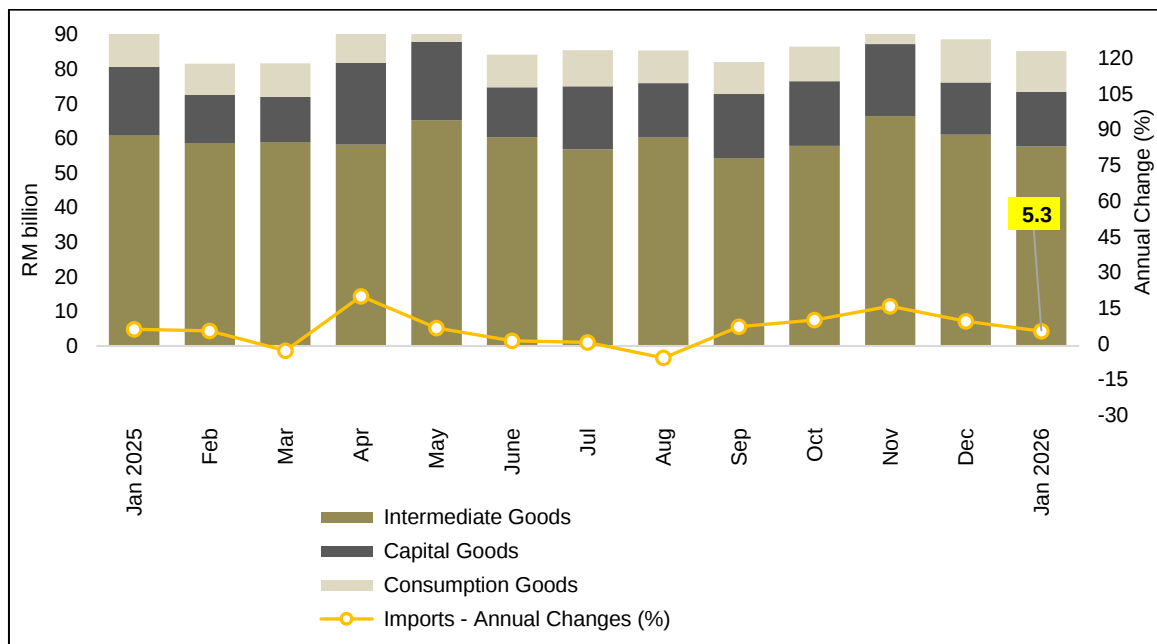


Chart 5: Imports for End Use &
Broad Economic Categories (BEC) Classification, 2021 – 2026 (Jan)

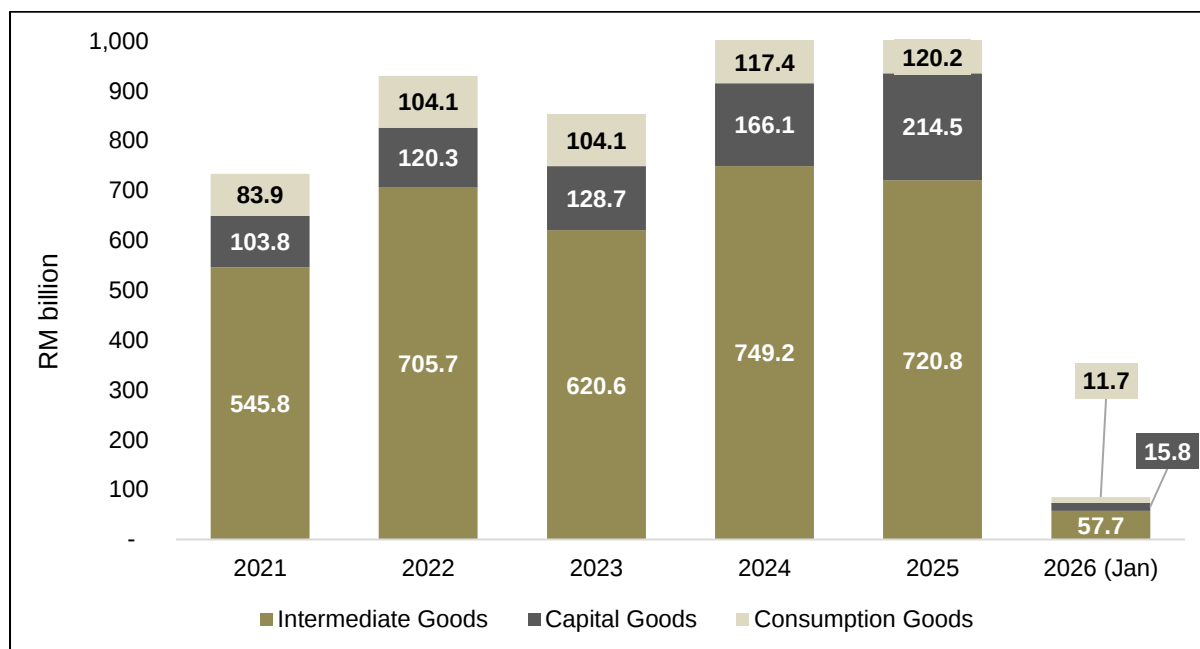


Table 1: Major Sub-sector Contributing to Export

COMMODITY DESCRIPTION	2025	2025	2026	SHARE TO TOTAL %	Y.O.Y	
	JANUARY RM MIL.	DECEMBER RM MIL.	JANUARY RM MIL.		VALUE RM MIL.	%
Total	122,814	152,775	146,870	100.0	24,056	19.6
Electrical & Electronic Products (E&E)	50,565	73,470	70,527	48.0	19,962	39.5
Petroleum Products	9,759	7,930	8,127	5.5	(1,633)	(16.7)
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	5,868	7,185	6,631	4.5	763.1	13.0
Palm Oil & Palm-Based Agriculture Products	6,687	7,505	6,530	4.4	(157.0)	(2.3)
Other Manufactures	4,538	5,618	6,459	4.4	1,921	42.3

Table 2: Major Sub-sector Contributing to Import

COMMODITY DESCRIPTION	2025	2025	2026	SHARE TO TOTAL %	Y.O.Y	
	JANUARY RM MIL.	DECEMBER RM MIL.	JANUARY RM IML.		VALUE RM MIL.	%
Total	119,155	130,708	125,505	100.0	6,350	5.3
Electrical & Electronic Products (E&E)	46,319	50,669	49,522	39.5	3,203	6.9
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	9,611	11,389	11,076	8.8	1,465	15.2
Petroleum Products	9,108	8,583	8,325	6.6	(783.7)	(8.6)
Chemical & Chemical Products	7,747	8,200	7,906	6.3	158.7	2.0
Manufacture of Metal	5,607	5,927	5,886	4.7	279.2	5.0

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THE OFFICE OF CHIEF STATISTICIAN MALAYSIA
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA
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