

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 *The International Migration Statistics, 2025 publication is the first publication issued by DOSM to present international migration statistics. The scope of this publication relates to the stock of Non-citizens in Malaysia and Malaysian Citizens abroad.*
- 1.2 *The main scope presented in this publication is the 2025 current estimates of Non-citizens up to the administrative district level. In addition, satellite statistics involving the stock of Non-citizens in Malaysia and Malaysian Citizens abroad obtained from other DOSM and agency publications are also presented in this publication.*
- 1.3 *These statistics are prepared for use by planners and policymakers in planning and implementing national development programmes as well as by the private sector and individuals for research purposes.*
- 1.4 *The concepts and guidelines applied in the compilation of statistics in this publication are based on the Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration and Temporary Mobility (United Nations Statistics Division, 2025).*

2. RECOMMENDATIONS ON STATISTICS OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND TEMPORARY MOBILITY

- 2.1 *The UN has been developing migration statistics guidelines since 1953. The earlier comprehensive guidelines called the Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration were published in 1998. Due to significant changes in global migration patterns, the UN updated the guidelines in 2025 with the Revised Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration and Temporary Mobility which cover both international migration and temporary mobility.*

2.2 The UN emphasizes that statistics on migrant stocks and flows should be compiled by every country. There are four core migration statistics comprising two statistics for measuring international migration stocks and two statistics for measuring international migration flows. These core migration statistics form the basic requirements for understanding patterns of international migration stocks and flows as well as the changes that occur over time. The core statistics recommended to be produced by each country are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Core migration statistics and topics on measuring international migration stocks and flows

Core migration statistics		Topics	Primary disaggregation
Stocks	1.1	Number/ proportion of _____ in the total resident population • Foreign-born persons • Foreign citizens • Foreign-born citizens • Native-born foreign citizens • Foreign-born foreign citizens • Native-born (native) citizens	1. Age 2. Sex 3. Country of birth 4. Country of citizenship
	1.2	Number of _____ who obtained citizenship over a given year • Native-born foreign citizens • Foreign-born foreign citizens	
Flows	1.3	Annual number of immigrants who are _____ • Foreign-born persons • Foreign citizens • Foreign-born citizens • Native-born foreign citizens • Foreign-born foreign citizens • Native-born (native) citizens	
	1.4	Annual number of emigrants who are _____ • Foreign-born persons • Foreign citizens • Foreign-born citizens • Native-born foreign citizens • Foreign-born foreign citizens • Native-born (native) citizens	

3. COVERAGE AND LIMITATION

3.1 Coverage

3.1.1 The statistics presented include:

- i. Current estimates of Non-citizens covering mid-year population estimates at the state and administrative district levels for 2025 along with selected demographic indicators such as live births, deaths and life expectancy;*
- ii. Satellite statistics related to Non-citizens in Malaysia covering areas such as employment, education, crime, refugees and asylum seekers; and*
- iii. Satellite statistics of Malaysian Citizens abroad including Malaysian students overseas, Malaysian Citizens who are refugees or asylum seekers abroad and diaspora studies of Malaysians in Singapore and Brunei.*

3.1.2 The satellite statistics presented in this publication are derived from the stock of Non-citizens in Malaysia and Malaysian Citizens abroad as reported in other DOSM publications as well as by the relevant agencies.

3.2 Limitation

3.2.1 Comprehensive and complete international migration statistics need to cover both stock and flow elements, as recommended by the UN. As an initial step, DOSM provides statistics on the stock of Non-citizens through current estimates of Non-citizens. In addition, DOSM is expanding the scope of stock statistics for Malaysian Citizens abroad by actively collaborating with relevant agencies to obtain more comprehensive and reliable data access.

3.2.2 The flow component of migration statistics is not yet available, as it requires access to data from multiple agencies. In this regard, DOSM is actively enhancing strategic collaborations to facilitate the production of more comprehensive migration flow statistics in the future.

3.2.3 Users are advised to be careful in interpreting the data.

4. CURRENT ESTIMATES OF NON-CITIZENS

- 4.1 *The annual current estimates of Non-citizens are based on the Population and Housing Census Malaysia, 2020 (Census 2020). The mid-year 2025 estimates for Non-citizens are preliminary and will be finalized upon receiving the latest components data.*
- 4.2 *The current estimates are prepared based on active pass statistics received from key data-providing agencies on Non-citizens such as the Immigration Department of Malaysia, the National Registration Department, the National Security Council, Chief Minister's Office of Sabah and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). These active pass data serve as the basis for calculating the current estimates supplemented by other data such as detention center records, apprehensions of undocumented migrants and foreign student registrations. In addition, other data reflecting the current situation such as the Return Recalibration Program, the Labour Recalibration Program, foreign worker entry quotas and other are also considered in analyzing the current estimates of Non-citizens.*
- 4.3 *The current estimates of Non-citizens are analyzed using a bottom-up approach. Non-citizens are estimated according to single age and sex at the state administrative district levels. Findings from the Labour Force Survey are among the main sources referenced in preparing estimates at the state and administrative district levels. The total number of Non-citizens in Malaysia is the summation of all state population estimates.*

5. CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

5.1 Average annual growth rate of Non-citizens

Refers to the change in population over time and can be quantified as the change in the number of individuals in a population using “per unit time” for measurement.

$$r = \frac{1}{n} \ln \left[\frac{P_{t+n}}{P_t} \right] \times 100$$

where;

r = average annual growth rate of Non-citizens;

P_t = population of Non-citizens at time t ;

P_{t+n} = population of Non-citizens at year $t+n$;

n = number of the year; and

$\ln$ = natural logarithm.

5.2 **Median age**

Age that divides the population in two parts of equal size, that is, there are as many persons with ages above the median as there are with ages below the median.

5.3 **Dependency ratio**

The dependency ratio is the ratio of dependents to the 100 Non-citizens in the working age population. This ratio can be disaggregated into the total dependency ratio, youth dependency ratio and the old-age dependency ratio.

5.3.1 **Total dependency ratio**

The total dependency ratio is the number of Non-citizens under age 15 plus persons aged 65 years or older per one hundred Non-citizens aged 15 to 64 years.

Total dependency ratio

$$= \frac{(\text{Number of Non-citizens aged below 15 years} + \text{number of Non-citizens aged 65 years and over in year } t)}{\text{Number of Non-citizens aged 15-64 years in year } t} \times 100$$

5.3.2 **Young dependency ratio**

The young dependency ratio is the number of Non-citizens 0-14 years per one hundred Non-citizens 15-64 years.

Young dependency ratio

$$= \frac{\text{Number of Non-citizens aged below 15 years in year } t}{\text{Number of Non-citizens aged 15-64 years in year } t} \times 100$$

5.3.3 **Old-age dependency ratio**

The old-age dependency ratio is the number of Non-citizens 65 years and above per one hundred Non-citizens 15-64 years.

Old – age dependency ratio

$$= \frac{\text{Number of Non-citizens aged 65 years and over in year } t}{\text{Number of Non-citizens aged 15-64 years in year } t} \times 100$$

5.4 **Sex ratio**

The sex ratio is calculated as the number of males per 100 females.

$$\text{Sex ratio} = \frac{\text{Number of males in year } t}{\text{Number of females in year } t} \times 100$$

5.5 **Live births**

Refers to births with signs of life during delivery although for a very short period.

5.6 **Life expectancy**

Life expectancy is the average remaining age (years) for a person is expected to live at the beginning of the certain age if the age-specific death rates of the given period continued throughout his or her lifetime.

5.7 **International migrant**

International migrant is a person who has changed his or her country of residence and established new residence in the country within a given year. International migrant can be either 'immigrant' or 'emigrant' and include those with national or foreign citizenships or stateless persons.

5.8 **Immigrant (stock)**

Immigrant (stock) includes all persons who reside in the country who are either born in another country or who do not hold national citizenship including stateless persons, at a given point in time. Persons who are born in the country and have national citizenship are not considered part of the immigrant population, although they can be considered immigrants or part of the immigration flow if they returned and changed their country of residence.

5.9 **Emigrant (stock)**

Emigrant (stock) includes all national citizens or persons who were born in the country and are residing in another country at a given point in time.

5.10 **Immigration (flow)**

Immigration (flow) includes all persons entering the country and becoming part of the resident population within a given year including persons with national or foreign citizenships or stateless persons.

5.11 **Emigrants (flow)**

Emigration (flow) includes all persons leaving the country to become a part of another country's resident population within a given year, including persons with national or foreign citizenships or stateless persons.

6. **ROUNDING**

Non-citizens data in this publication have been rounded to the nearest thousand. However, the calculations of indicators are based on unrounded data. The sum may not equal the total shown due to rounding to one decimal point.

7. **NOTES AND SYMBOLS**

CURRENT ESTIMATES

<i>p</i>	<i>Preliminary</i>
<i>r</i>	<i>Revised</i>
<i>0.0</i>	<i>Less than half of the smallest units shown</i>
<i>-</i>	<i>Nil</i>
<i>W.P.</i>	<i>Wilayah Persekutuan</i>

FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI)

<i>-</i>	<i>Nil</i>
<i>0</i>	<i>> RM500 thousand</i>

HIGHER EDUCATION STATISTICS

<i>0</i>	<i>Nil</i>
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