Embargo: Only to be published or disseminated at 1200 hour, Thursday, 19 March 2026

MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

MEDIA STATEMENT

MALAYSIAN ECONOMIC INDICATORS
LEADING, COINCIDENT & LAGGING INDEXES JANUARY 2026

The Leading Index in January 2026 rose by 0.6 per cent, reflecting a positive economic outlook

PUTRAJAYA, 19 MARCH 2026 – The performance of the Leading Index (LI) showed positive momentum in January 2026 with an increase of 0.6 per cent, reaching 113.4 points as compared to 112.7 points in the same month of the previous year **(Exhibit I).** Further details on this performance are provided in the **Malaysian Economic Indicators: Leading, Coincident & Lagging Indices publication for January 2026**, released today by the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM). The LI provides an early indication of turning points in the business cycle and the near-term direction of the economy.

Commenting further on the latest findings, Chief Statistician Malaysia, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin said, "This increase was in line with the developments in several industry-related components, particularly the Real Imports of Semi Conductors (17.5%) and the Real Imports of Other Basic Precious & Other Non-ferrous Metals (5.7%). On a monthly basis, the LI recorded a decline of 0.6 per cent due to the less encouraging performance of the Real Money Supply, M1 (-0.4%) and the Bursa Malaysia Industrial Index (-0.2%). The decrease reflects more cautious market sentiment in the short term."

Examining the smoothed long-term trend in January 2026, the LI remained below the 100.0 points **(Exhibit II)**. Malaysia's economic outlook is expected to remain positive yet measured, supported by continued domestic demand and controlled inflation. Nevertheless, global uncertainty, especially geopolitical conflict and the heightened volatility of global oil prices, may influence import costs and exert pressure on inflation in the near term.

Meanwhile, the Coincident Index (CI) which measures current economic conditions, rose by 5.0 per cent to 131.3 points in January 2026 as compared to 125.1 points in the same month a year earlier. The surge was supported by solid performance across all components, particularly double digit growth in the Capacity Utilisation in Manufacturing (21.1%) and the Real Contribution of the Employees Provident Fund

(EPF) (18.4%). On a monthly basis, the CI strengthened by 0.9 per cent contributed by an increase in Real Contributions to the EPF (0.4%), consistent with the improvement in employment activity and employee income.

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.

Released by:

THE OFFICE OF CHIEF STATISTICIAN MALAYSIA
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA
19 MARCH 2026

Exhibit I: Leading Composite Index

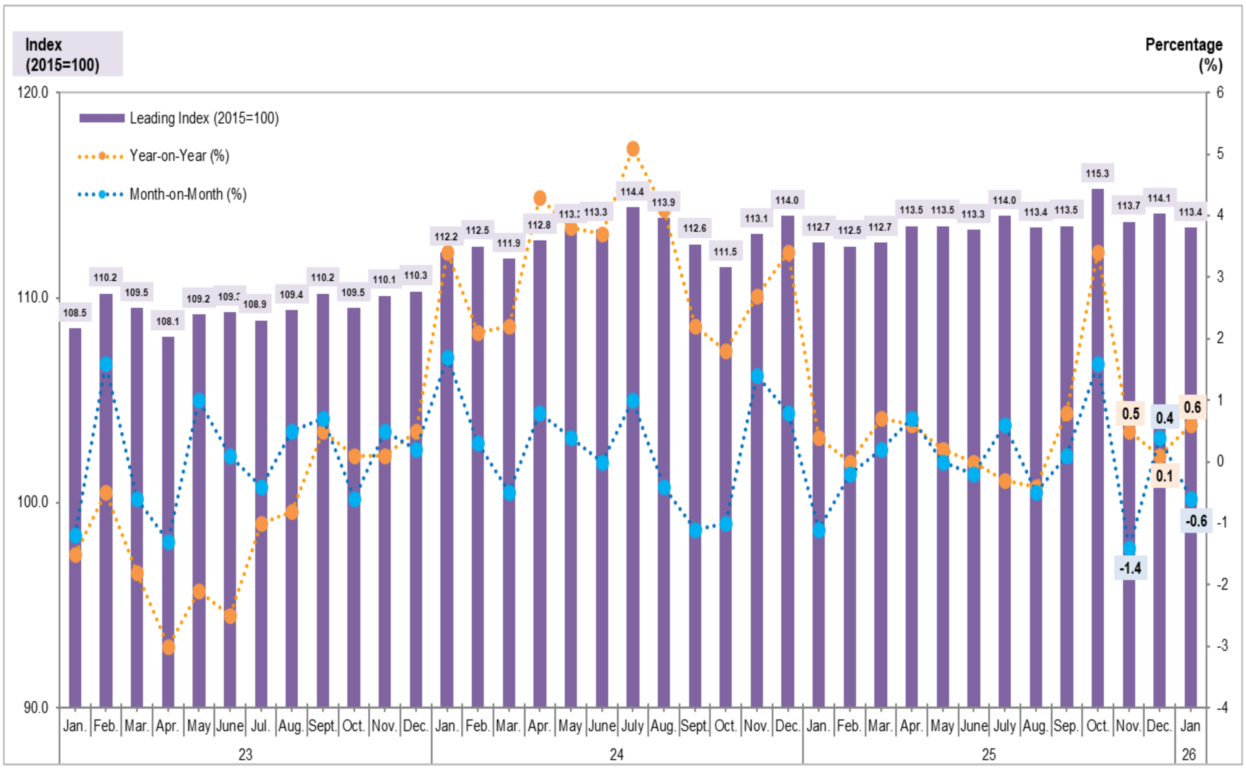

Exhibit II: Leading Composite Index (Long Term Trend = 100) and Business Cycle

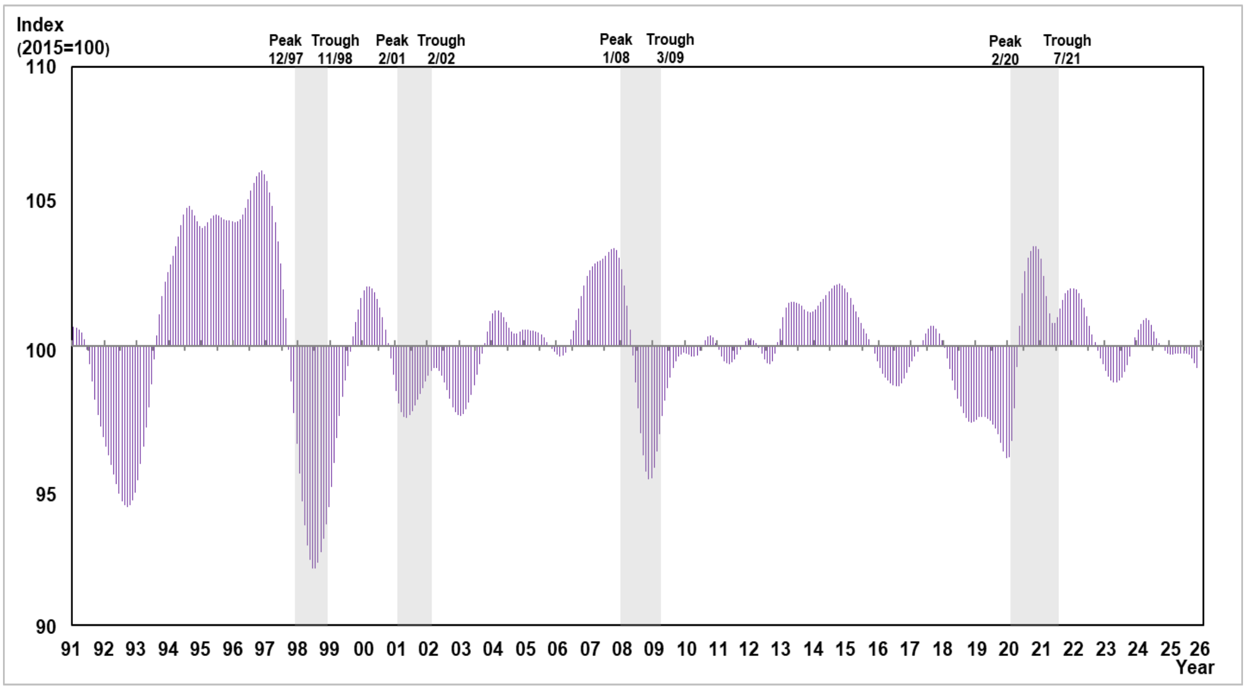

Exhibit III: Annual Changes of Leading Index Components