



## MEDIA STATEMENT

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### **THE COST OF LIVING INDICATORS REPORT, MALAYSIA, 2024**

*Based on the 2024 PAKW index point values, 91 districts in Malaysia recorded an index point value below 50, indicating that the PAKW cost in these districts was less than half of that in Kuala Lumpur. Meanwhile, four (4) districts recorded a PAKW index point values below 30 per cent compared with Kuala Lumpur.*

**PUTRAJAYA, 24<sup>th</sup> December 2025** – Today, the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) released the Cost of Living Indicators Report, Malaysia, 2024, which provides a comprehensive and detailed overview of cost of living statistics for Malaysian households in 2024, reflecting the expenditure required to maintain a decent standard of living and enable meaningful participation in society. These statistics are published to facilitate comparisons of the cost of living across states, state capitals, and administrative districts, as well as to analyse variations in household expenditure between urban and rural areas.

*The Basic Expenditure of Decent Living (PAKW) Index is a new indicator introduced in the Cost of Living Indicators publication. It is used to measure the level of expenditure required to maintain a decent standard of living across different locations. This indicator aims to provide a relative measure of the average expenditure needed for a decent living at the state, administrative district, and state capital levels, and to facilitate relative comparisons between locations.*

*The index is constructed by setting Kuala Lumpur as the reference value (100), with all other locations measured relative to this benchmark. A lower index value indicates a*

*lower level of expenditure required to maintain a decent standard of living compared to the reference value, while a higher index value reflects a greater expenditure requirement. Therefore, this index can be used as a reference to understand differences in the cost of living across locations, including identifying areas that relatively have a lower cost of living*

*Emphasising the variations in the cost of maintaining a decent standard of living across Malaysia, Chief Statistician Malaysia, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin stated, "The analysis of the Index of Basic Expenditure of Decent Living (PAKW) for households in 2024, with Kuala Lumpur set as the reference at 100, shows clear differences across states. For single-person households, Selangor recorded the highest index at 92.0 points, followed by Pulau Pinang (84.2 index points) and Wilayah Persekutuan Putrajaya (83.1 index points), while the lowest values were in Kelantan (53.7 index points), Sarawak (53.7 index points) and Kedah (56.6 index points). A similar pattern was observed for two-person households, with Selangor at 91.4 index points, W.P. Putrajaya and Pulau Pinang both at 84.6 index points, and the lowest indices in Kelantan (58.0 index points), Kedah (58.7 index points) and Perlis (58.8 index points). For three-person households, indices were generally higher, with Selangor continuing to lead at 92.4 index points, followed by W.P. Putrajaya (84.8 index points) and Pulau Pinang (83.7 index points), and the lowest in Sabah (59.6 index points), Perlis (60.6 index points) and Kedah (60.8 index points). For four-person households, Selangor again recorded the highest index at 91.3 index points, followed by W.P. Putrajaya (84.7 index points) and Melaka (83.0 index points), while the lowest indices remained in Sabah (59.4 index points), Kedah (60.5 index points) and Perlis (60.9 index points). States with higher index values, such as Selangor, indicate a higher cost of living, whereas states with lower indices, such as Kelantan, Kedah, and Perlis, reflect a relatively lower yet still adequate cost of living.*

*Based on the PAKW Index analysis using Kuala Lumpur as the reference (base), the reasonable cost of living for a one-person household in Kelantan is much lower than Kuala Lumpur, which is 46.3 per cent lower. If a one-person household living in Kuala Lumpur spends RM1000 on PAKW, it only needs a value of RM537 on PAKW if it lives in Kelantan. Next, for a four-person household size, the reasonable expenditure rate in Perlis is lower than Kuala Lumpur, which is 39.1 percent. This means that if a*

*four-person household living in Kuala Lumpur spends RM1000 on PAKW, they only need a spending value of RM609 on PAKW if they live in Perlis.*

*Looking at the comparison across administrative districts, only Petaling in Selangor recorded Index of Basic Expenditure of Decent Living (PAKW) values exceeding the Kuala Lumpur reference across all household sizes, from single-person to four-person households. For single-person households, Petaling, Selangor recorded the highest index at 103.3 index points, followed by Gombak, Selangor (94.9 index points) and Johor Bahru, Johor (94.7 index points), while the lowest indices were in Pantu (27.8 index points), Lingga (28.3 index points) and Sebuyau (29.1 index points) in Sarawak. For two-person households, Petaling remained highest at 104.8 index points, followed by Timur Laut, Pulau Pinang (94.9 index points) and Gombak (94.6 index points), with the lowest indices again in Pantu (29.9 index points) and Lingga (31.0 index points), followed by Membakut, Sabah (31.2 index points). The analysis for three- and four-person households shows a similar trend, with Petaling consistently leading, while Membakut recorded the lowest indices. Across all household sizes, the index in Pantu remained less than a third of that in Petaling, highlighting significant disparities in living costs across administrative districts.*

*Based on the PAKW Index analysis using Kuala Lumpur as the reference (base), the reasonable cost of living for a one-person household in Pantu is much lower than Kuala Lumpur, which is 72.2 per cent lower. If a one-person household living in Kuala Lumpur spends RM1000 on PAKW, it only needs a PAKW value of RM278 if it lives in Pantu. Next, for a four-person household size, the reasonable expenditure rate in Perlis is lower than Kuala Lumpur, which is 68.1 percent. This means that if a four-person household living in Kuala Lumpur spends RM1000 on PAKW, they only need a PAKW value of RM609 if they live in Pantu.*

*Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin also highlighted that Malaysian households face notable differences in the cost of maintaining a decent standard of living across state capitals. For single-person households, Shah Alam recorded the highest PAKW Index at 99.8 index points, followed by Johor Bahru (92.9 index points) and George Town (90.7 index points), while the lowest indices were observed in Kangar (59.0 index points), Kota Bharu (61.5 index points) and Kuala Terengganu (68.2 index points). For two-person*

households, the same trend was observed, with Shah Alam, Johor Bahru, and George Town remaining the highest at 100.1 index points, 92.6 index points, and 91.3 index points, respectively, while the lowest indices were recorded in Kangar (58.8 index points), Kota Bharu (62.9 index points) and Alor Setar (69.7 index points). For three-person households, Shah Alam continued to lead with 100.2 index points, followed by George Town (92.6 index points) and Johor Bahru (92.5 index points), while the lowest indices were in Kangar (59.1 index points), Kota Bharu (64.0 index points) and Alor Setar (70.4 index points). A similar trend was observed for four-person households, with the highest indices in Shah Alam (100.3 index points), Johor Bahru (92.4 index points) and George Town (91.9 index points), and the lowest in Kangar (59.2 index points), Kota Bharu (64.6 index points) and Alor Setar (71.4 index points). Notably, Shah Alam's indices surpassed the Kuala Lumpur reference value of 100 across multiple household sizes, while Kangar consistently recorded the lowest indices, remaining just over half of Shah Alam's cost across all household sizes.

Reflecting the variations in household well-being across Malaysia, Malaysian households continue to experience notable differences in the cost of a decent standard of living across the country. At the state level, Selangor consistently recorded the highest PAKW indices, indicating higher living costs, while states such as Kelantan, Kedah, and Perlis had the lowest indices, reflecting relatively lower yet still adequate costs of living. At the district level, Petaling in Selangor stood out as the only district surpassing the Kuala Lumpur reference, whereas districts like Pantu, Sebuyau, and Membakut recorded the lowest indices, with Pantu remaining less than a third of Petaling's cost. Among state capitals, Shah Alam consistently exceeded the Kuala Lumpur reference across all household sizes, highlighting its relatively high living costs, while Kangar remained the lowest, at just over half of Shah Alam's cost. These findings demonstrate significant disparities in living costs across states, districts, and capitals, underscoring the value of the PAKW Index in understanding regional differences in household expenditure and cost of living.

DOSM has updated the MyPAKW Calculator for 2024 to help Malaysians estimate PAKW tailored exclusively for each household. The calculator enables households to determine the expenditure required for a decent standard of living based on location and household demographics. It is accessible online at [mypakw.dosm.gov.my](https://mypakw.dosm.gov.my) and will

also be available as a mobile application on the App Store and Google Play Store starting February 2026. However, the PAKW Calculator application released last year still works, even though it is the 2023 version which uses the 2023 spending and price structure.

Malaysia has, for the first time, successfully recorded 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>.

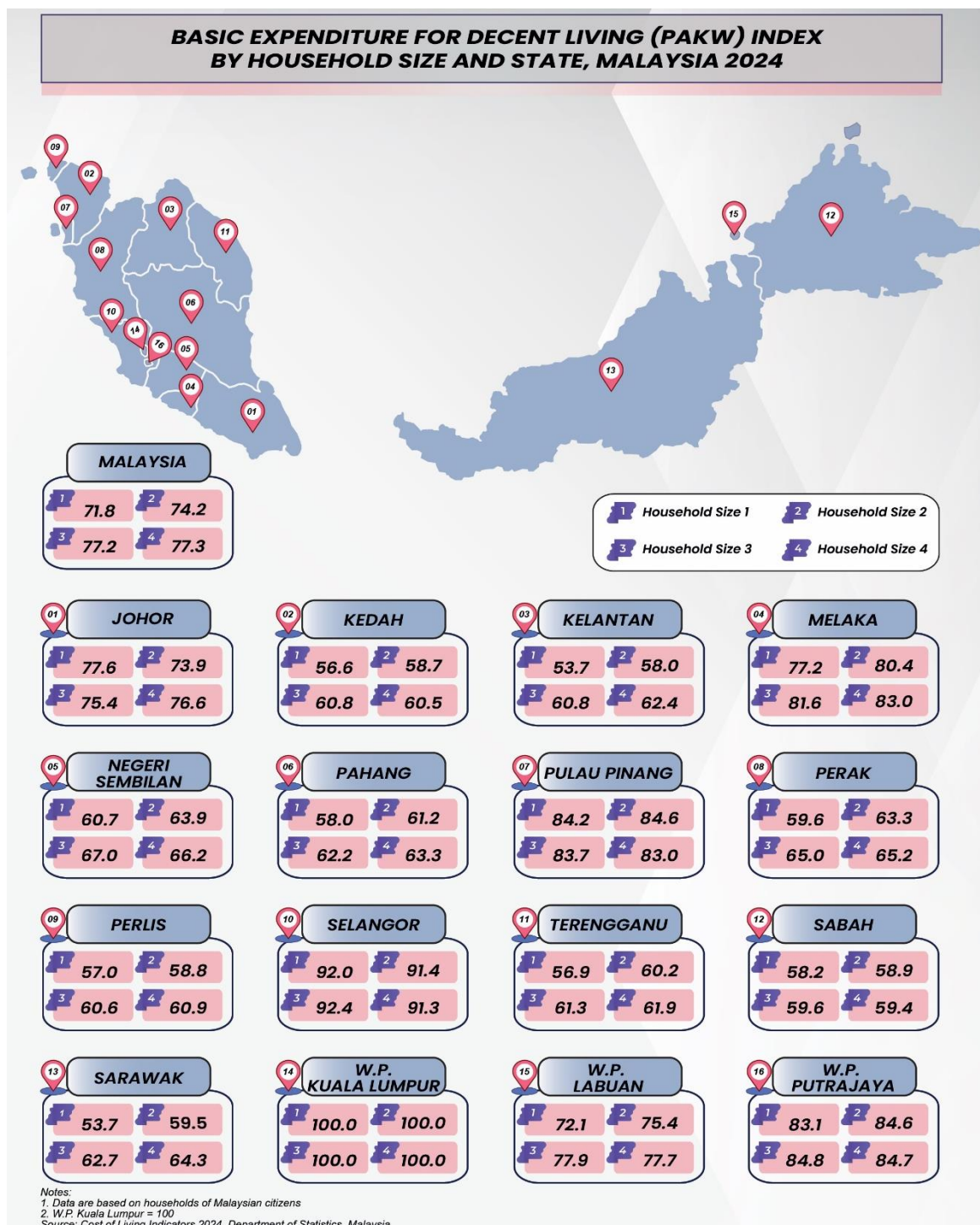
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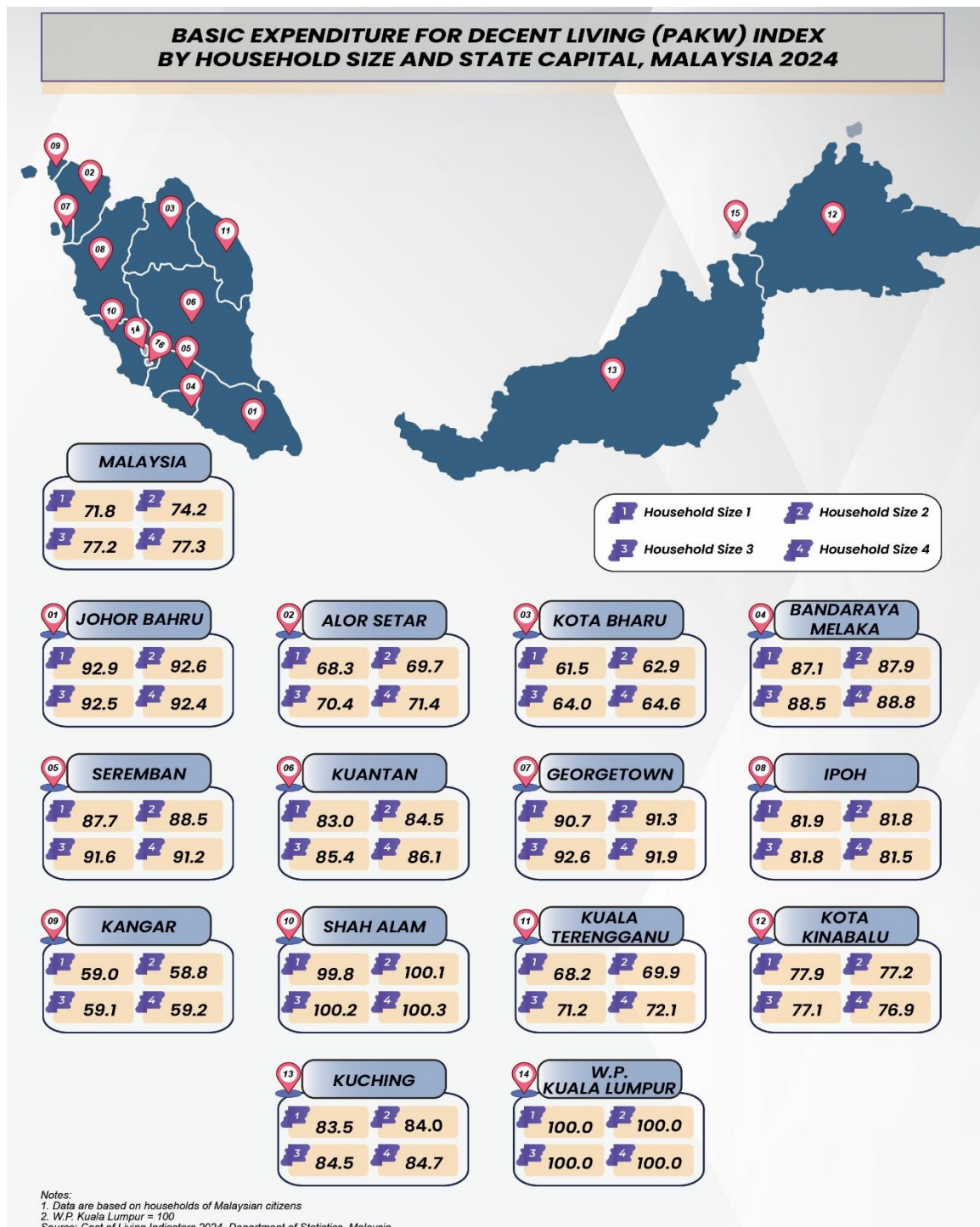
**DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA**

**24th December 2025**

## APPENDIX 1



## APPENDIX 2



### APPENDIX 3

## Index of Basic Expenditure for Decent Living (PAKW) by Household Size and Administrative District, Malaysia 2024

Daerah Pentadbiran Administrative District	Saiz isi rumah (Orang) Household size (Person)							
	Satu One		Dua Two		Tiga Three		Empat Four	
	Index	Ranking	Index	Ranking	Index	Ranking	Index	Ranking
<b>Johor</b>								
Batu Pahat	51.2	63	54.7	60	56.2	60	57.4	60
Johor Bahru	94.7	3	94.5	4	94.7	3	93.8	4
Kluang	59.2	33	61.1	34	63.1	33	63.1	36
Kota Tinggi	58.5	34	61.6	32	62.7	37	64.6	32
Mersing	48.9	77	53.7	66	56.0	63	56.5	66
Muar	55.2	43	57.7	48	59.8	44	60.7	44
Pontian	54.9	45	55.9	54	57.5	55	58.8	51
Segamat	50.8	67	53.9	65	56.2	61	56.9	62
Kulai	56.2	42	60.0	41	61.2	41	62.9	38
Tangkak	50.1	71	53.1	71	55.1	73	55.8	70
<b>Kedah</b>								
Baling	41.8	127	44.4	127	46.0	130	46.5	130
Bandar Baharu	44.8	108	46.3	117	48.4	114	49.1	110
Kota Setar	60.1	30	63.0	30	64.5	30	64.7	31
Kuala Muda	63.8	23	67.3	23	69.6	23	70.1	23
Kubang Pasu	54.8	48	55.7	55	58.4	51	57.8	56
Kulim	54.4	50	56.3	51	57.9	52	58.9	50
Langkawi	58.4	35	60.1	40	60.8	43	60.6	45
Padang Terap	48.1	85	50.6	88	52.6	86	53.1	85
Sik	48.5	81	52.7	73	55.4	71	56.5	65
Yan	45.3	104	47.4	108	51.4	93	49.9	105
Pendang	47.9	88	51.3	83	53.9	76	55.0	77
Pokok Sena	47.7	89	54.0	64	56.5	58	57.5	58
<b>Kelantan</b>								
Bachok	47.3	92	49.8	91	51.0	96	51.9	93
Kota Bharu	73.3	16	78.1	13	80.7	10	80.9	10
Machang	45.9	103	49.5	95	50.1	102	51.7	96
Pasir Mas	47.0	93	49.9	90	51.9	89	52.9	86
Pasir Puteh	44.4	111	47.0	113	48.4	113	49.3	109
Tanah Merah	49.6	75	52.0	80	53.4	82	54.6	78
Tumpat	49.8	73	52.5	76	54.1	75	54.3	80
Gua Musang	51.3	62	53.4	70	56.6	57	55.2	75
Kuala Krai	43.7	116	46.9	114	48.4	115	49.6	106
Jeli	42.0	124	44.8	124	47.0	123	46.3	131
Kecil Lojing	30.3	158	32.8	158	34.6	158	34.1	158
<b>Melaka</b>								
Alor Gajah	61.9	26	66.9	24	70.0	22	70.6	22
Jasin	59.2	32	63.9	28	66.8	25	69.3	24
Melaka Tengah	86.9	6	88.8	5	90.2	5	90.6	5
<b>Negeri Sembilan</b>								
Jekebu	46.2	101	48.7	102	50.4	100	51.0	101
Kuala Pilah	44.9	106	48.2	103	50.0	103	51.0	102
Port Dickson	54.4	49	58.1	46	59.4	47	60.4	46
Rembau	57.3	39	60.2	39	62.0	38	62.5	40
Seremban	69.5	17	72.2	17	73.4	17	73.8	17
Tampin	46.6	97	49.3	97	50.7	99	51.2	100
Jempol	51.0	64	53.6	68	55.6	67	55.2	74

W.P. Kuala Lumpur = 100

## APPENDIX 4

### Index of Basic Expenditure for Decent Living (PAKW) by Household Size and Administrative District, Malaysia 2024 (Cont.)

Daerah Pentadbiran Administrative District	Saiz isi rumah (Orang) Household size (Person)							
	Satu One		Dua Two		Tiga Three		Empat Four	
	Index	Ranking	Index	Ranking	Index	Ranking	Index	Ranking
<b>Pahang</b>								
Bentong	63.2	25	66.4	25	65.6	28	65.2	29
Cameron Highlands	53.7	54	55.1	59	55.6	68	56.4	68
Jerantut	46.7	96	49.2	98	51.9	90	51.4	98
Kuantan	66.1	21	69.0	21	71.0	21	71.0	21
Lipis	53.3	55	54.0	63	55.6	69	57.7	57
Pekan	50.6	69	53.6	67	55.6	66	55.8	71
Raub	48.5	80	51.1	84	52.6	85	52.7	88
Temerloh	53.8	53	58.9	43	58.7	49	61.2	42
Rompin	59.5	31	62.1	31	63.9	31	65.1	30
Maran	57.4	38	60.7	37	63.0	34	63.0	37
Bera	<b>50.8</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>53.0</b>	72	55.3	72	56.5	67
<b>Pulau Pinang</b>								
Seberang Perai Tengah	77.7	<b>12</b>	79.5	11	80.3	11	80.6	11
Seberang Perai Utara	80.7	<b>8</b>	82.6	8	82.8	8	84.0	8
Seberang Perai Selatan	57.2	<b>40</b>	59.5	42	61.5	39	62.6	39
Timur Laut	92.0	<b>4</b>	94.9	2	97.0	2	97.9	2
Barat Daya	76.4	<b>13</b>	77.0	14	78.3	14	79.1	14
<b>Perak</b>								
Batang Padang	50.7	68	54.2	61	56.2	59	56.9	63
Marjiong	54.9	46	58.0	47	59.5	45	61.1	43
Kinta	73.9	15	76.5	15	78.1	15	78.4	15
Kerian	49.7	74	52.5	75	53.5	79	55.5	72
Kuala Kangsar	47.7	90	51.9	81	53.8	77	53.9	82
Larut & Matang	52.6	56	56.3	52	58.5	50	59.3	49
Hilir Perak	48.6	79	50.9	85	52.0	88	52.3	90
Hulu Perak	47.9	86	50.1	89	51.5	92	51.5	97
Perak Tengah	46.9	95	49.7	92	51.2	94	52.0	92
Kampar	54.8	47	58.9	44	61.0	42	61.3	41
Muallim	49.9	72	52.4	77	53.4	80	54.3	79
Bagan Datuk	42.8	121	45.3	121	46.9	125	48.1	121
Selama	43.9	112	46.8	115	49.3	109	48.9	114
<b>Perlis</b>								
<b>Selangor</b>								
Gombak	94.9	<b>2</b>	94.6	3	94.1	4	94.1	3
Klang	83.8	<b>7</b>	86.4	7	88.0	7	88.0	7
Kuala Langat	<b>66.6</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>69.6</b>	19	72.4	18	72.7	18
Kuala Selangor	63.5	24	66.0	26	65.7	27	68.3	25
Petaling	103.3	1	104.8	1	105.7	1	106.0	1
Sabak Bernam	51.4	61	56.0	53	55.9	64	57.1	61
Selangor	<b>75.0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>75.3</b>	16	75.5	16	76.0	16
Ulu Langat	87.6	5	88.5	6	89.8	6	90.2	6
Ulu Selangor	57.6	37	60.4	38	63.0	35	64.5	33
<b>Terengganu</b>								
Besut	48.4	83	48.9	101	49.9	105	51.8	95
Dungun	55.0	44	60.8	36	63.6	32	63.6	34
Kemaman	56.6	41	58.4	45	59.4	46	60.1	47
Kuala Terengganu	68.9	18	70.5	18	71.3	20	71.2	20

W.P. Kuala Lumpur = 100

## APPENDIX 5

### Index of Basic Expenditure for Decent Living (PAKW) by Household Size and Administrative District, Malaysia 2024 (Cont.)

Daerah Pentadbiran Administrative District	Saiz isi rumah (Orang) Household size (Person)							
	Satu One		Dua Two		Tiga Three		Empat Four	
	Index	Ranking	Index	Ranking	Index	Ranking	Index	Ranking
Marang	50.9	65	54.1	62	55.8	65	56.3	69
Hulu Terengganu	52.3	58	55.3	58	57.6	54	58.2	53
Setiu	52.3	57	55.6	56	56.9	56	58.0	54
Kuala Nerus	60.6	28	63.4	29	65.0	29	65.5	28
<b>Sabah</b>								
Tawau	46.4	100	47.7	104	48.7	112	48.9	113
Lahad Datu	54.3	51	56.6	50	57.7	53	57.9	55
Semporna	37.1	149	42.3	140	43.5	146	43.0	148
Sandakan	61.0	27	60.9	35	61.2	40	60.1	48
Kinabatangan	41.0	132	42.7	138	44.6	136	44.9	141
Beluran	46.0	102	49.6	94	51.5	91	51.2	99
Kota Kinabalu	80.5	9	80.4	9	80.2	12	80.1	13
Ranau	41.9	126	47.2	112	49.2	110	49.4	108
Kota Belud	43.1	119	46.4	116	48.0	116	48.6	118
Tuaran	49.2	76	51.8	82	53.4	81	53.8	83
Penampang	78.2	11	78.5	12	80.2	13	80.3	12
Papar	52.1	60	55.3	57	56.1	62	57.5	59
Kudat	41.5	129	41.7	146	44.6	137	45.0	139
Kota Marudu	43.3	117	45.0	123	47.4	121	47.0	127
Pitas	40.5	137	42.2	141	43.6	144	44.1	146
Beaufort	40.5	136	43.6	133	45.6	133	46.2	132
Kuala Penyu	35.6	153	39.1	151	40.9	152	41.8	151
Sipitang	43.3	118	47.3	110	49.5	108	49.0	111
Tenom	46.5	99	49.4	96	50.9	98	51.8	94
Nabawan	38.4	145	42.0	143	43.8	143	44.3	144
Keningau	50.3	70	52.1	79	53.0	83	53.8	84
Tambunan	33.6	155	36.9	155	38.8	155	39.8	154
Kunak	37.2	148	39.8	150	41.3	150	41.4	152
Tongod	42.9	120	45.2	122	47.4	120	48.6	115
Putatan	52.3	59	53.6	69	54.4	74	55.4	73
Telupid	37.9	147	41.3	148	43.4	147	44.9	140
Kalabakan	43.8	113	45.6	119	47.4	119	47.5	123
Membakut	29.6	159	31.2	160	33.2	160	33.2	160
<b>Sarawak</b>								
Kuching	78.3	10	80.2	10	81.4	9	82.2	9
Bau	47.9	87	52.5	74	55.6	70	56.8	64
Lundu	39.3	143	42.7	136	44.5	140	46.0	135
Samarahan	66.0	22	67.5	22	69.3	24	66.4	26
Serian	44.5	110	47.4	107	49.6	106	50.4	103
Simunjan	38.1	146	41.7	145	44.4	141	44.8	143
Sri Aman	41.5	130	42.2	142	45.0	135	45.7	136
Lubok antu	40.2	139	41.6	147	43.5	145	44.0	147
Betong	46.6	98	49.1	99	51.0	95	52.1	91
Saratok	44.8	107	47.7	105	49.9	104	49.4	107
Sarikei	43.8	114	45.9	118	47.6	118	49.0	112
Maradong	40.5	138	43.5	134	45.2	134	47.5	125
Daro	41.1	131	44.1	129	46.1	128	47.5	124
Julau	40.9	134	42.7	137	44.3	142	45.3	137

W.P. Kuala Lumpur = 100

## APPENDIX 6

### Index of Basic Expenditure for Decent Living (PAKW) by Household Size and Administrative District, Malaysia 2024 (Cont.)

Daerah Pentadbiran Administrative District	Saiz isi rumah (Orang) Household size (Person)							
	Satu One		Dua Two		Tiga Three		Empat Four	
	Index	Ranking	Index	Ranking	Index	Ranking	Index	Ranking
Sibu	60.3	29	64.3	27	66.4	26	65.8	27
Dalat	40.9	135	44.7	125	47.0	124	48.1	120
Mukah	42.3	123	44.7	126	46.1	129	46.5	129
Kanowit	47.4	91	49.7	93	50.9	97	52.4	89
Bintulu	67.5	19	69.5	20	71.3	19	72.0	19
Tatau	48.4	84	50.8	86	52.5	87	52.8	87
Kapit	48.4	82	52.3	78	53.5	78	55.2	76
Song	44.6	109	47.3	111	47.9	117	48.6	116
Belaga	39.2	144	41.7	144	43.4	148	44.8	142
Miri	58.4	36	61.2	33	62.8	36	63.5	35
Marudi	47.0	94	48.9	100	49.6	107	50.2	104
Limbang	48.7	78	50.8	87	52.9	84	54.2	81
Lawas	53.9	52	56.8	49	58.8	48	58.8	52
Matu	42.4	122	45.5	120	47.2	122	48.6	117
Asajaya	39.8	142	43.6	132	46.3	126	48.0	122
Pakan	33.7	154	37.3	154	39.1	154	39.8	155
Selangau	42.0	125	44.3	128	45.6	132	46.1	133
Tebedu	35.7	151	38.0	153	39.2	153	40.0	153
Pusa	41.0	133	44.1	131	46.2	127	47.2	126
Kabong	35.7	152	38.8	152	41.1	151	42.0	150
Tanjung Manis	40.1	140	43.3	135	44.6	138	46.0	134
Sebauh	40.0	141	42.5	139	44.5	139	44.3	145
Bukit Mabong	43.7	115	47.7	106	50.3	101	45.1	138
Subis	41.7	128	44.1	130	45.8	131	46.9	128
Beluru	37.1	150	40.1	149	41.8	149	42.6	149
Telang Usan	45.0	105	47.4	109	48.7	111	48.5	119
Gedong	31.0	157	33.3	157	35.1	157	36.4	157
Sebuyau	29.1	160	31.5	159	33.1	161	33.3	159
Siburan	32.7	156	35.5	156	38.1	156	39.0	156
Pantu	27.8	162	29.9	162	31.0	162	31.9	162
Lingga	28.3	161	31.0	161	33.3	159	33.0	161
W.P. Kuala Lumpur								
W.P. Labuan								
W.P. Putrajaya								

W.P. Kuala Lumpur = 100

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**DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS, MALAYSIA**  
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