



**MEDIA STATEMENT**  
**KEY FINDINGS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS**  
**OF MALAYSIA 2020: URBAN AND RURAL**

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***Malaysia's urbanisation has tripled over five decades from 28.4 per cent in 1970 to 75.1 per cent in 2020***

**PUTRAJAYA, 23 DECEMBER 2022** – Today, the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) published the Key Findings of Population and Housing Census of Malaysia 2020: Urban and Rural. This publication presents statistics urban and rural comprises population, living quarters, households, ethnic, gender, age, religion, marital status and average private households size. Selected statistics are also published at administrative districts and economic development region levels. Further explanation on the findings are presented in spatial format to analyse relationship between places and demographic characteristics.

Chief Statistician Malaysia, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin said “The urbanisation rate in Malaysia has tripled from 28.4 per cent in 1970 to 75.1 per cent in 2020. This significant urban population rate is influenced by natural population increase, migration and demarcation”. The urbanisation rate of 50.7 per cent began to surpass the rural rate 49.3 per cent in 1991. Over the five decades, the urban population expanded by 21.4 million from 3.0 million to 24.4 million. Meanwhile, the rural population was 8.1 million persons (1970: 7.5 million) in 2020.

Commenting further on the urbanisation rate, six states have reached above 85 per cent in 2020 as compared to only five states in 2010. In terms of administrative districts, 31 have exceeded the target in 2020 from 22 administrative districts in 2010. The target of 85 per cent refers to national urbanisation rate stipulated under the Fourth National Physical Plan by 2040.

*There were six administrative districts (2010: 5) that have reached 100 per cent of urban population, while 45 administrative districts (2010: 35) with 100 per cent of rural population. W.P. Kuala Lumpur and W.P. Putrajaya recorded 100 per cent of the population living in urban areas, followed by Selangor (95.8%), Pulau Pinang (92.5%) and Melaka (90.9%). Meanwhile, Kelantan (44.1%), Pahang (52.8%) and Perlis (53.8%) have the lowest rates of urbanisation in 2020. In terms of increase in urbanisation rate, W.P. Labuan had the highest increase that rose from 81.9 per cent in 2010 to 88.9 per cent in 2020. Meanwhile, Sabah recorded only 1.5 per cent increase from 53.2 per cent in 2010 to 54.7 per cent in 2020. Selangor has the largest urban population of 6.7 million (2010: 4.9 million), followed by Johor 3.1 million (2010: 2.3 million) and W.P. Kuala Lumpur 2.0 million (2010: 1.6 million), while Sabah has the highest rural population of 1.5 million.*

*The number of living quarters in 2020 was recorded at 9.6 million with 7.4 million (76.6%) in urban areas and 2.2 million (23.3%) in rural areas. Living quarters in urban showed that Selangor has the highest number (2.1 million), followed by Johor (992.2 thousand) and W.P Kuala Lumpur (634.6 thousand).*

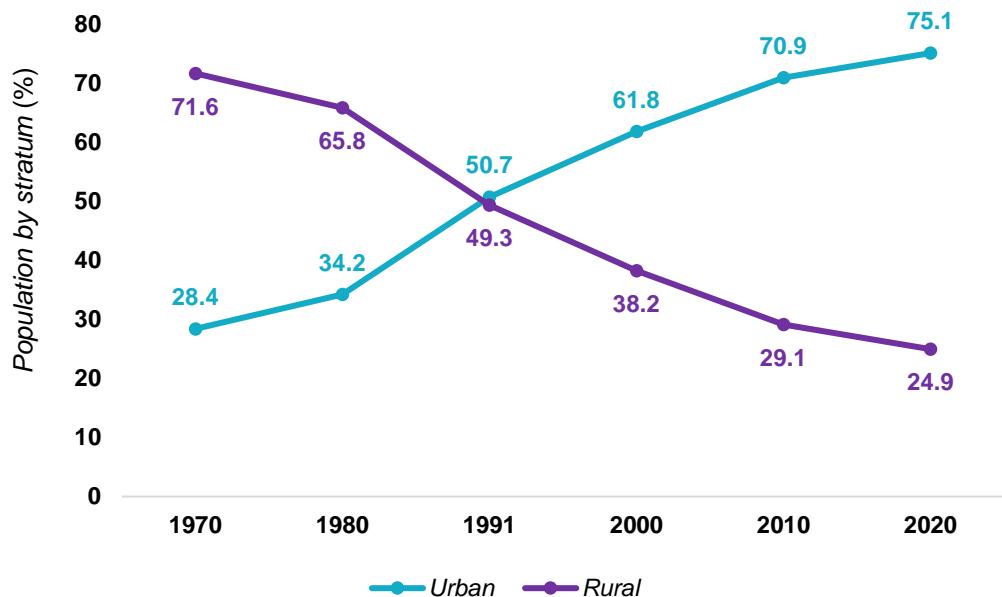
*W.P. Kuala Lumpur and W.P. Putrajaya recorded 100 per cent of urban households. The percentage of urban households that has exceeded the 90 per cent level was Selangor (95.9%), followed by Pulau Pinang (93.2%), Melaka (90.8%) and W.P. Labuan (90.3%). The average private households size in Malaysia decreased from 4.3 persons for each households in 2010 to 3.9 persons in 2020. At the Malaysia level, the average private households size in rural areas was 4.2 persons per household, which was higher than urban 3.9 persons. The majority of states showed that the average private rural households size was higher than urban except in Sarawak.*

*Malaysia has yet to reach an ageing nation in 2020 as the population aged 65 and over was 6.8 per cent, which was below the 7.0 per cent level set by the United Nations guidelines. Nonetheless, the rural population has reached the threshold of ageing at a rate of 7.3 per cent (2010: 6.2%). The urban population recorded 6.6 per cent (2010: 4.6%) of the population aged 65 and over. Total dependency ratio for both urban and rural decreased to 44.3 in 2020 (2010: 48.5). At the urban level, the total dependency ratio declined to 43.0 (2010: 43.9), while rural dropped at a faster rate to 48.4 from 58.2 in 2010.*

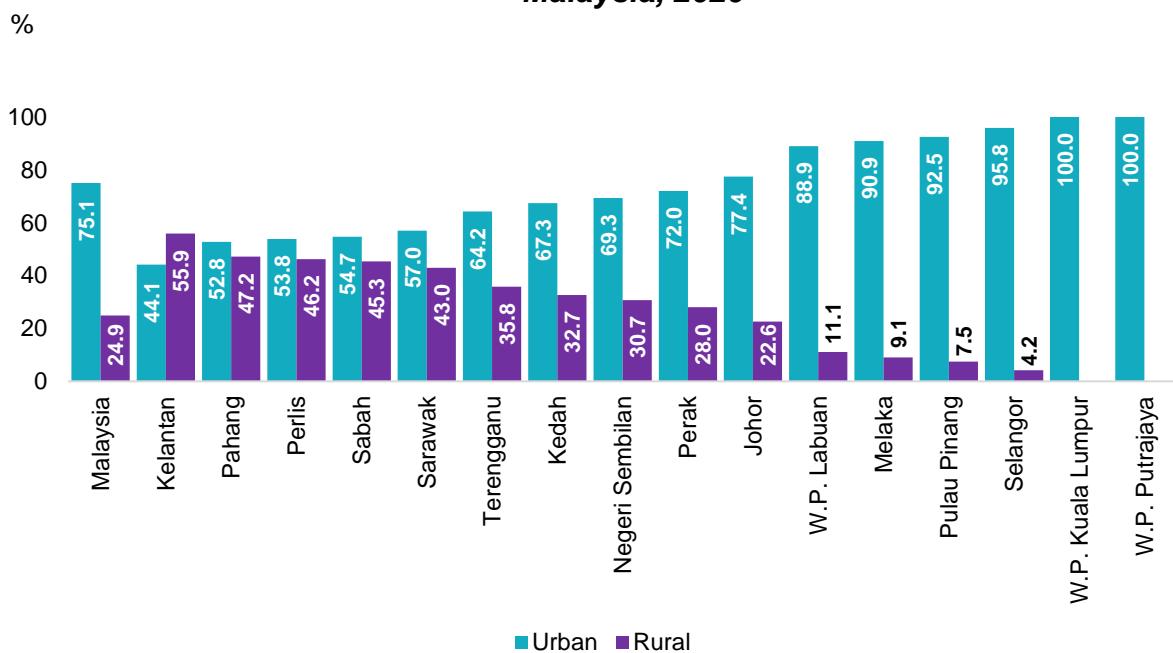
*Findings of the 2020 Census by state showed that the high urbanisation level of W.P. Kuala Lumpur (including W.P. Putrajaya) at 100 per cent was in line with a higher Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita of RM108,791. W.P. Labuan also showed a positive relationship between the urbanisation rate and GDP per capita with 88.9 per cent and RM80,393 respectively. However, the high level of urbanisation in certain states was not in tandem with GDP per capita. The state of Melaka recorded 90.9 per cent urbanisation rate but the GDP per capita was below RM50,000 which was RM42,861. Selangor also recorded a lower GDP per capita (RM48,607) although the urbanisation rate has reached 95.8 per cent.*

*The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) is conducting the Household Income, Expenditure and Basic Amenities Survey (HIES/BA) 2022 from 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022. DOSM greatly appreciates the cooperation given by selected respondents by sharing their information with DOSM and making the survey a success. Please visit [www.dosm.gov.my](http://www.dosm.gov.my) for more information. DOSM also released economic and social statistics, namely PocketStats which contain quarterly and annual statistics that can be obtained from the DOSM portal or via the link [https://bit.ly/PocketStats\\_2022](https://bit.ly/PocketStats_2022).*

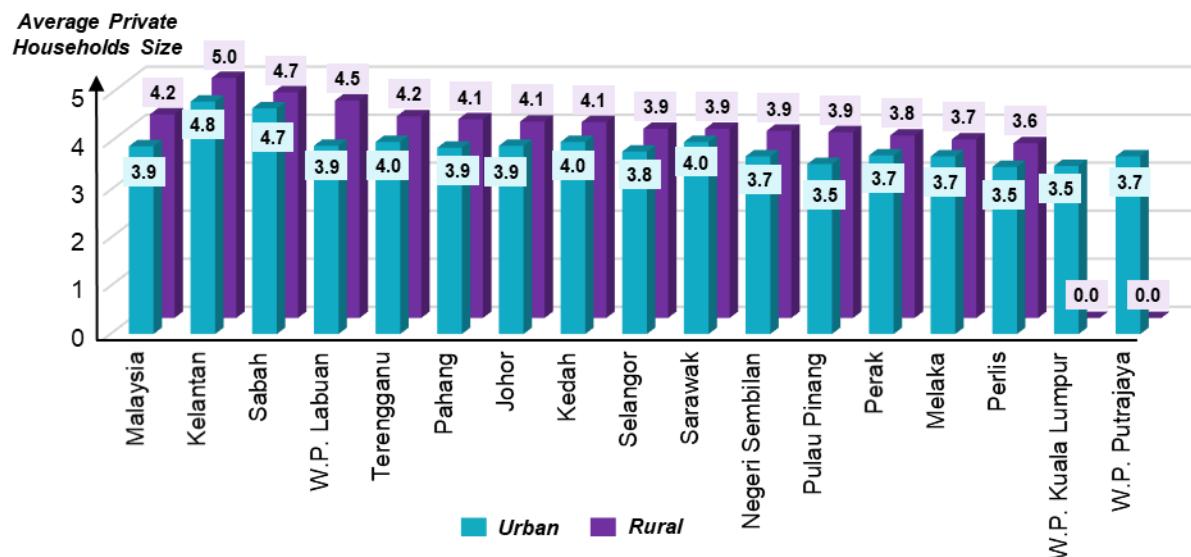
**Chart 1: Percentage of population by urban and rural areas in census year, Malaysia**



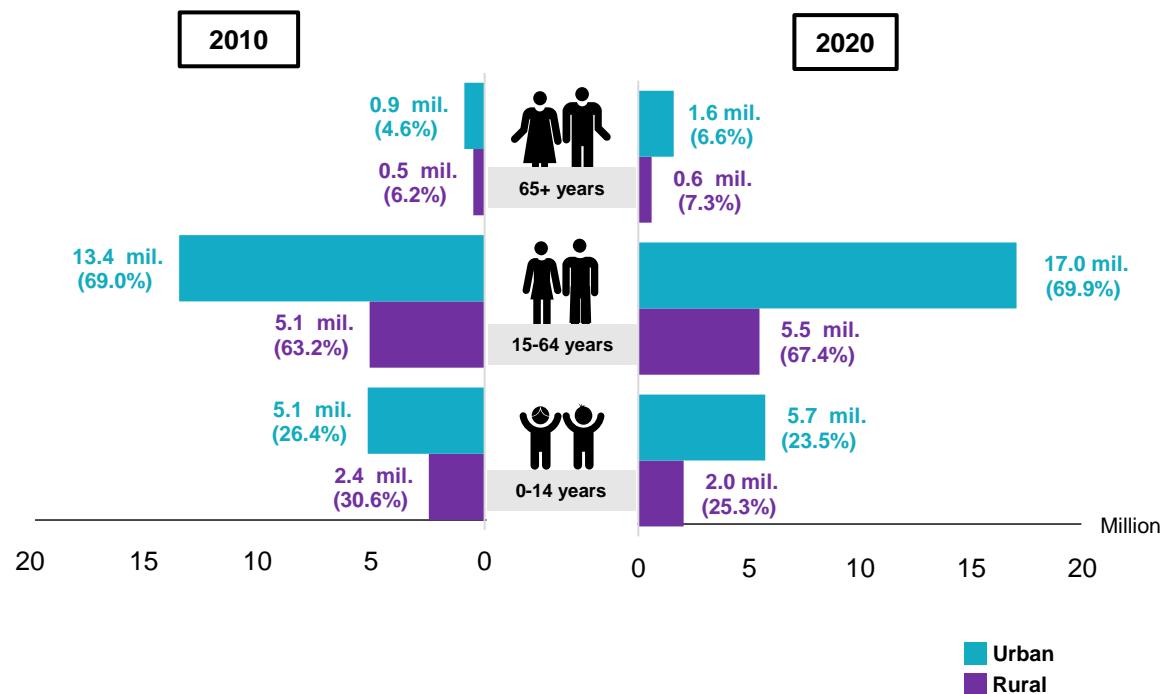
**Chart 2: Percentage of population by urban and rural areas by state, Malaysia, 2020**



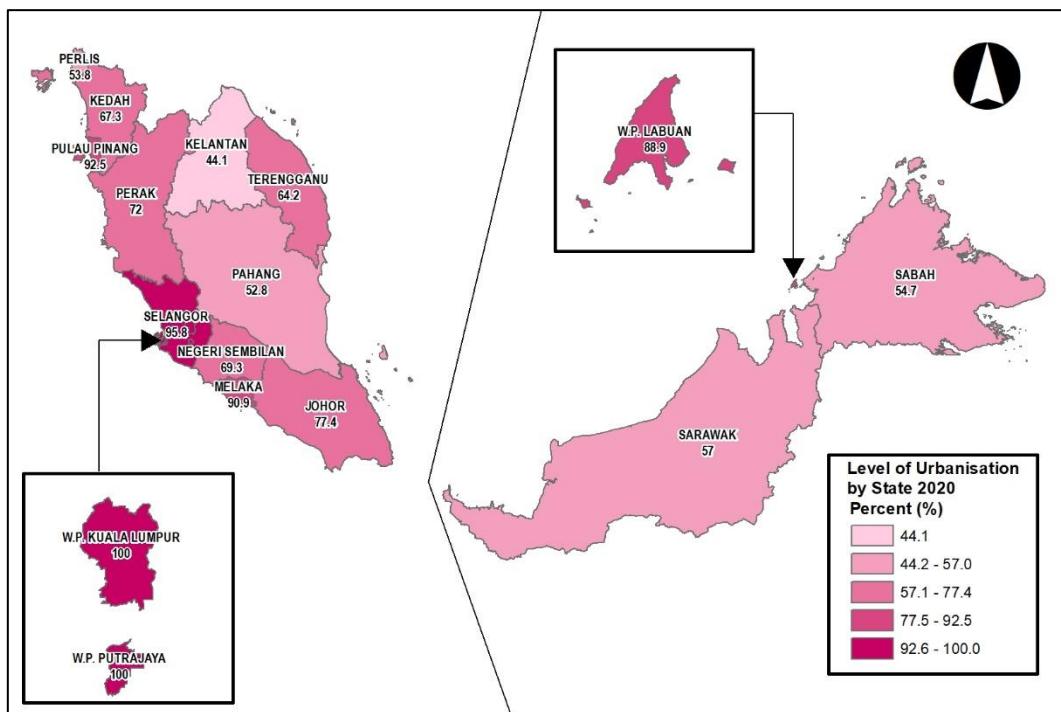
**Chart 3: Average private households size in urban and rural areas by state, Malaysia, 2020**



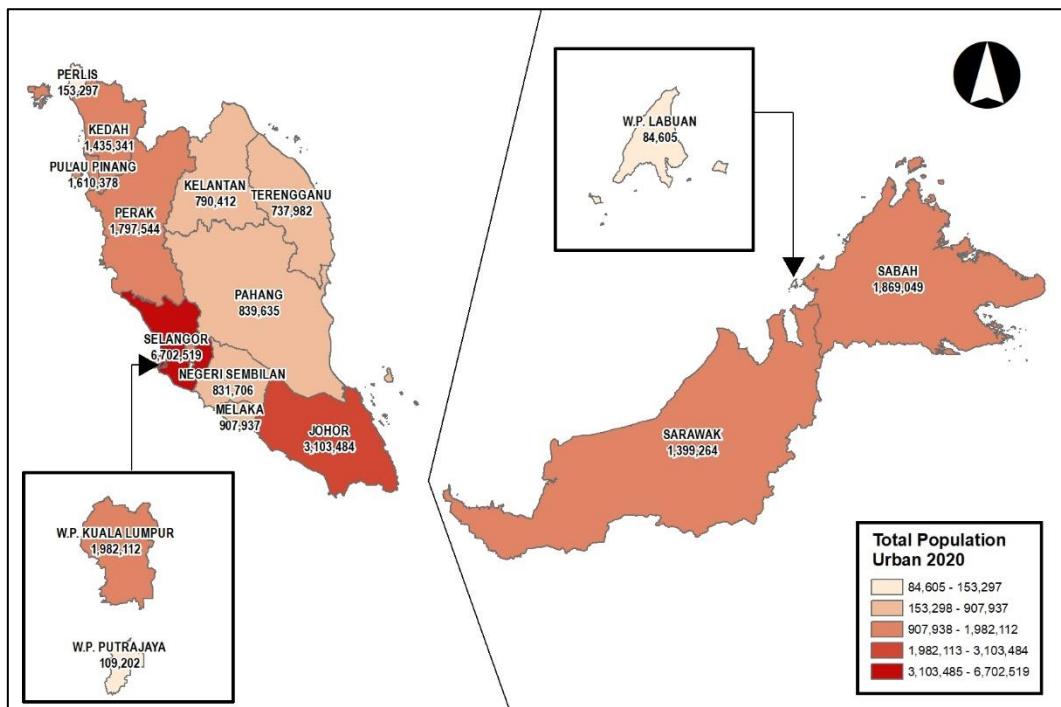
**Chart 4: Number of population in urban and rural areas by main age group, Malaysia, 2020**



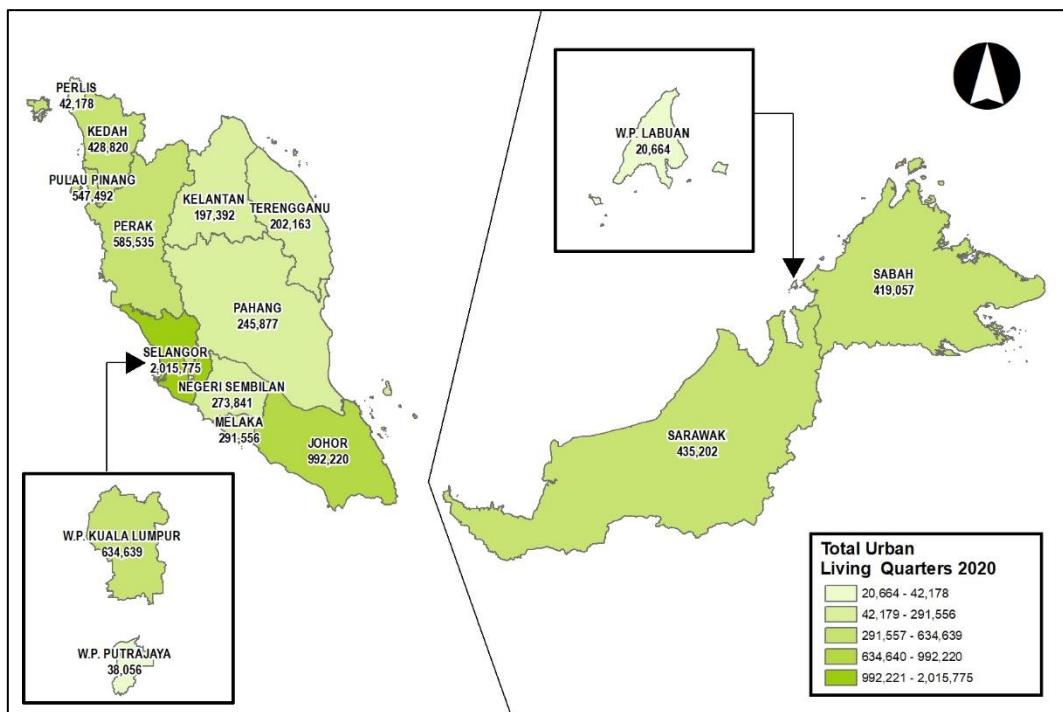
**Exhibit 1: Level of Urbanisation by State, Malaysia, 2020**



**Exhibit 2: Distribution of Urban Population by State, Malaysia, 2020**



**Exhibit 3: Distribution of Urban Living Quarters by State, Malaysia, 2020**



Released by:

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