



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

MEDIA STATEMENT

AGRICULTURE CENSUS 2024 REPORT: SABAH

**159,394 Agricultural Holdings: Evidence of the Strength of Sabah's
Agricultural Sector**

KOTA KINABALU, 16TH APRIL 2026 – The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) has released the Agriculture Census 2024 Report for Sabah, introducing new parameters for the agriculture sector, including income, expenditure and salaries and wages for the reference year 2023. The report also provides the latest statistics on agricultural holdings, planted and harvested areas, production and sales quantities, sales value and employment.

These findings are derived from the Agriculture Census 2024, conducted from 7 July 2024 to 31 October 2024 through extensive and strategic collaboration between DOSM and 1,390 agriculture-related agencies at the federal, state, and district levels. Key ministries and agencies involved include the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (KPKM), the Ministry of Plantation and Commodities (KPK), the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability (NRES), Sabah Ministry of Agriculture, the Sarawak Ministry of Food Industry, Commodities and Regional Development (M-FICORD), Fisheries and Food Industry (MAFFI) and the Ministry of Rural Development Sabah.

Negeri Sabah recorded 159,394 agricultural holdings, the highest in Malaysia, with 156,770 individual holdings accounting for 98.4 per cent of the total agricultural holdings. Meanwhile, the remaining 2,624 agricultural holdings were managed by establishments. The updated profile also indicates 141,127 agricultural holdings in the crops subsector, of which 138,744 were individual agricultural holdings. Additionally, 2,408 individuals were involved in livestock subsector, 2,106 individuals in aquaculture

subsector, 14,847 individuals in capture fisheries subsector and 124 individuals in forestry & logging subsector.

The reported total planted area in Sabah is 1.8 million hectares. Oil palm is the main crop, covering 1.5 million hectares, followed by rubber (219.7 thousand hectares), fruits (19.2 thousand hectares) and paddy (12.9 thousand hectares).

The Agriculture Census 2024 also recorded total sales value for crops subsector amounted to RM20.59 billion, whereas the livestock subsector recorded RM1.58 billion. Meanwhile, the sales value of the capture fisheries recorded RM1.48 billion. The aquaculture subsector generated RM291.04 million in sales value in 2023 and the forestry & logging subsector recorded RM750.07 million.

Income Performance

The total income of the agricultural sector for Sabah in 2023 amounted to RM28.22 billion, with the crops subsector emerged as the largest contributor at RM23.43 billion (83.0%) followed by the livestock subsector with RM2.18 billion (7.7%), capture fisheries subsector RM1.50 billion (5.3%), forestry & logging subsector RM0.81 billion (2.9%) and aquaculture subsector RM301.30 million (1.1%).

Agricultural holdings operated by establishments contributed RM22.31 billion, equivalent to 79.1 per cent of Sabah's total agriculture sector income, while individual holdings recorded RM5.91 billion (20.9%). A similar pattern was observed across four (4) subsectors namely crop, livestock, forestry & logging and aquaculture. Establishment holdings generated higher income of RM18.76 billion (80.1%) in crop subsector, RM2.11 billion (96.8%) in livestock subsector, RM0.80 billion (99.4%) in forestry & logging subsector and RM194.14 million (64.4%) in aquaculture subsector as compared to RM4.67 billion (19.6%), RM70.74 million (3.2%), RM4.58 million (0.6%) and RM107.16 million (35.6%) from individual holdings. Conversely, income in the captured fisheries subsector's individual holdings accounted for RM1.06 billion (70.7%) while establishment holdings contributed RM443.05 million (29.3%).

At the administrative district level, the three districts with the highest agricultural sector income in Sabah are Tawau with RM4.56 billion, followed by Kinabatangan (RM4.54 billion) and Lahad Datu (RM3.86 billion). By subsector, Kinabatangan,

Lahad Datu and Tawau emerged as the top contributors to the crops subsector, with incomes of RM4.52 billion, RM3.66 billion and RM3.42 billion, respectively. For the livestock subsector, Kota Kinabalu recorded the highest income at RM0.66 billion, followed by Papar (RM0.60 billion) and Tawau (RM0.53 billion).

In the capture fisheries subsector, Semporna recorded the highest income at RM338.35 million, followed by Kudat (RM176.54 million) and Lahad Datu (RM157.12 million). The highest aquaculture income was recorded in Semporna at RM118.90 million, followed by Tawau (RM87.40 million) and Kudat (RM22.75 million). For the forestry & logging subsector, Tawau recorded the highest income at RM430.62 million, followed by Sandakan (RM167.94 million) and Keningau (RM164.20 million).

Expenditure

Total expenditure of the agricultural sector for Sabah in 2023 amounted to RM9.55 billion. The crops subsector recorded the highest expenditure at RM7.11 billion (74.5%) of the total agricultural expenditure, followed by livestock subsector (RM1.24 billion; 13.0%), capture fisheries subsector (RM0.72 billion; 7.5%), forestry & logging subsector (RM386.02 million; 4.0%) and aquaculture subsector (RM95.61 million; 1.0%).

Of the total expenditure, 76.9 per cent (RM7.34 billion) was incurred by establishment holdings, while 23.1 per cent (RM2.21 billion) was borne by individual agricultural holdings. Within the crops subsector, expenditure was dominated by establishment holdings at RM5.42 billion (76.2%), while RM1.70 billion (23.8%) by individual holdings. In the livestock subsector, expenditure was largely contributed by establishment holdings amounting to RM1.21 billion (98.1%), while individual holdings recorded RM23.54 million (1.9%).

Meanwhile, expenditure in the aquaculture subsector was mostly contributed by establishment holdings at RM88.25 million (92.3%), while individual holdings accounted for RM7.36 million (7.7%). Expenditure in the forestry & logging subsector was almost entirely borne by establishment holdings amounting to RM384.83 million (99.7%), while individual holdings accounted for only RM1.19 million (0.3%). For capture fisheries subsector, expenditure was dominated by individual holdings at

RM486.86 million (67.7%), while establishment holdings incurred RM232.63 million (32.3%).

At the administrative district level, the three districts with the highest agricultural sector expenditure in Sabah are Kinabatangan with RM1.32 billion, followed by Lahad Datu (RM1.07 billion) and Tawau (RM1.02 billion). By subsector, Kinabatangan, Lahad Datu, and Tawau emerged as the top contributors to expenditure in the crops subsector, with RM1.32 billion, RM1.07 billion, and RM1.02 billion, respectively. For the livestock subsector, Tawau recorded the highest expenditure at RM354.00 million, followed by Kota Kinabalu (RM343.17 million) and Papar (RM327.22 million).

In the capture fisheries subsector, Semporna recorded the highest expenditure at RM163.60 million, followed by Kudat (RM84.19 million) and Lahad Datu (RM70.89 million). The highest aquaculture expenditure was recorded in Tawau (RM45.42 million), followed by Semporna (RM16.49 million) and Sandakan (RM8.60 million). For the forestry & logging subsector, Tawau recorded the highest expenditure at RM206.71 million, followed by Sandakan (RM92.83 million) and Keningau (RM68.48 million).

Employment and Wages & Salaries

Employment in the agricultural sector for Sabah was recorded at a total of 281,116 persons in 2023. The top three administrative districts with the highest employment were Tawau (34,367 persons), Kinabatangan (33,081 persons) and Lahad Datu (31,724 persons), contributing 35.3 per cent of total agricultural employment in the state. The crops subsector was the main contributor to employment, representing 84.0 per cent of the total employment in Sabah.

The average annual wages and salaries in the agriculture sector amounted to RM20,475, with several administrative districts recording levels above the state average, namely Telupid (RM25,911), Semporna (RM24,197), Keningau (RM23,627), Tawau (RM22,892) and Kuala Penyu (RM21,090).

Moving Forward

Based on the Agriculture Census 2024, DOSM has also developed the Agricultural Statistics Digital Gateway (TaniStats 2.0), which was officiated by the Chief Secretary to the Government, Tan Sri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar, on 7 December 2025. This initiative represents a strategic step in transforming the nation's agricultural data management through the development of an integrated smart platform that consolidates census results, administrative data and supply chain information into a comprehensive digital ecosystem.

The agriculture sector continues to play a vital role in supporting the economic development of Sabah. In addition to ensuring an adequate food supply for the population, the sector also contributes to reducing dependence on external supply and supports the growth of agro-based processing industries. Furthermore, this sector creates employment opportunities, and enhances household income, particularly among agricultural operators and rural communities.

Through the implementation of this census, agricultural statistics produced down to the smallest locality level provide more detailed and comprehensive information. This information enables more targeted planning and interventions aligned with local needs in Sabah. The availability of such comprehensive data further supports more effective planning and decision-making by stakeholders, thereby strengthening the sustainable and competitive development of the agriculture sector in Sabah.

The Agriculture Census is conducted once every ten years to ensure that the data remains relevant and reflective of the structure of the national agriculture sector.

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 November 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>.

TaniStats 2.0 is a centralised agricultural information hub that provides informative, structured and user-friendly statistical dashboards to strengthen public understanding of patterns and changes in the agriculture sector, thus supporting digital transformation initiatives towards more inclusive and evidence-based policies. Access TaniStats at <https://tanistats.dosm.gov.my>

Released by:

DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA
NEGERI SABAH
16 APRIL 2026

TABLE 1: INCOME OF THE THREE MAIN AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES BY ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT, SABAH, 2023

ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT	TOTAL INCOME (RM million)	MAIN ACTIVITY	MAIN ACTIVITY INCOME (RM million)	SECOND ACTIVITY	SECOND ACTIVITY INCOME (RM million)	THIRD ACTIVITY	THIRD ACTIVITY INCOME (RM million)
Beaufort	525.60	Oil Palm	429.87	Fruits	38.16	Fisheries	27.12
Beluran	3,147.42	Oil Palm	3,093.19	Rubber	20.81	Fisheries	17.49
Kalabakan	114.57	Oil Palm	100.09	Aquaculture	4.00	Fisheries	3.72
Keningau	1,087.22	Oil Palm	655.64	Rubber	182.16	Forestry & Logging	164.20
Kinabatangan	4,537.29	Oil Palm	4,501.91	Fruits	13.92	Fisheries	11.64
Kota Belud	288.62	Fruits	71.57	Paddy	49.02	Livestocks	48.47
Kota Kinabalu	1,173.99	Livestocks	662.38	Fisheries	377.07	Oil Palm	45.54
Kota Marudu	326.55	Oil Palm	130.32	Rubber	89.14	Nanas	45.06
Kuala Penyu	55.97	Oil Palm	21.99	Fisheries	15.36	Rubber	11.85
Kudat	476.43	Fisheries	176.54	Oil Palm	152.72	Rubber	85.27
Kunak	991.22	Oil Palm	921.57	Fisheries	55.08	Aquaculture	5.82
Lahad Datu	3,864.80	Oil Palm	3,627.57	Fisheries	157.17	Livestocks	35.50
Membakut	64.11	Fruits	23.87	Vegetables	14.48	Rubber	12.49
Nabawan	148.37	Oil Palm	83.29	Rubber	46.18	Other Crops	13.35
Papar	729.68	Livestocks	604.67	Oil Palm	46.58	Fruits	31.02
Penampang	123.19	Fruits	30.90	Livestocks	30.86	Vegetables	16.99
Pitas	260.22	Oil Palm	122.33	Rubber	100.51	Fisheries	23.21
Putatan	26.49	Fisheries	19.64	Vegetables	3.52	Fruits	1.38
Ranau	605.15	Vegetables	187.31	Oil Palm	161.72	Fruits	97.78
Sandakan	2,841.09	Oil Palm	2,501.94	Forestry & Logging	167.94	Fisheries	89.53
Semporna	892.88	Oil Palm	406.28	Fisheries	338.35	Aquaculture	118.89
Sipitang	205.02	Fruits	161.64	Rubber	14.98	Oil Palm	10.53
Tambunan	85.38	Rubber	37.22	Vegetables	19.92	Nanas	8.56
Tawau	4,563.61	Oil Palm	3,335.54	Livestocks	528.84	Forestry & Logging	430.62
Telupid	157.03	Oil Palm	141.49	Rubber	9.49	Fisheries	2.05
Tenom	242.21	Oil Palm	126.86	Rubber	59.36	Fruits	45.08
Tongod	331.87	Oil Palm	252.12	Rubber	60.86	Fruits	11.89
Tuaran	350.84	Livestocks	159.36	Nanas	41.63	Rubber	41.03

TABLE 2: EXPENDITURE OF THE THREE MAIN ACTIVITIES BY ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT, SABAH, 2023

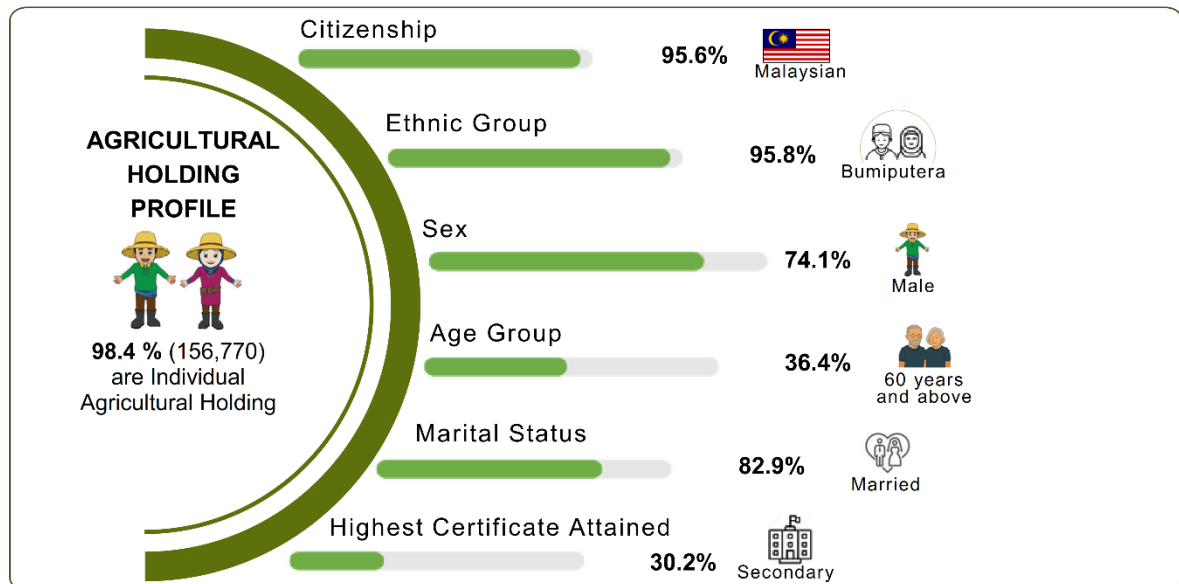
ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT	TOTAL EXPENDITURE (RM million)	MAIN ACTIVITY	MAIN ACTIVITY EXPENDITURE (RM million)	SECOND ACTIVITY	SECOND ACTIVITY EXPENDITURE (RM million)	THIRD ACTIVITY	THIRD ACTIVITY EXPENDITURE (RM million)
Beaufort	177.38	Oil Palm	139.83	Fruits	16.89	Fisheries	11.83
Beluran	934.21	Oil Palm	913.59	Fisheries	8.14	Rubber	6.11
Kalabakan	50.99	Oil Palm	45.57	Aquaculture	1.73	Fisheries	1.63
Keningau	378.14	Oil Palm	202.18	Forestry & Logging	68.48	Rubber	56.17
Kinabatangan	1,325.66	Oil Palm	1,312.87	Fisheries	5.38	Fruits	4.23
Kota Belud	107.29	Fruits	25.75	Paddy	20.06	Livestocks	18.92
Kota Kinabalu	592.39	Livestocks	343.17	Fisheries	199.11	Fruits	14.24
Kota Marudu	94.76	Oil Palm	40.01	Rubber	22.99	Other Crops	8.71
Kuala Penyu	17.50	Oil Palm	6.84	Fisheries	6.63	Rubber	1.43
Kudat	182.71	Fisheries	84.19	Oil Palm	49.15	Rubber	29.72
Kunak	304.86	Oil Palm	278.89	Fisheries	22.10	Fruits	1.18
Lahad Datu	1,163.36	Oil Palm	1,061.60	Fisheries	70.89	Livestocks	15.12
Membakut	23.77	Fruits	8.80	Vegetables	4.70	Rubber	4.61
Nabawan	43.88	Oil Palm	26.18	Rubber	12.34	Other Crops	3.45
Papar	372.53	Livestocks	327.22	Oil Palm	13.68	Fruits	13.24
Penampang	47.61	Fruits	14.13	Livestocks	12.74	Pineapple	5.88
Pitas	85.30	Oil Palm	38.30	Rubber	31.96	Fisheries	10.31
Putatan	10.74	Fisheries	7.95	Vegetables	1.10	Pineapple	0.76
Ranau	208.22	Vegetables	58.76	Oil Palm	51.93	Fruits	42.57
Sandakan	903.40	Oil Palm	726.82	Forestry & Logging	92.83	Fisheries	39.94
Semporna	311.46	Fisheries	163.60	Oil Palm	121.09	Aquaculture	16.49
Sipitang	82.97	Fruits	69.70	Forestry & Logging	3.45	Oil Palm	3.18
Tambunan	32.08	Rubber	13.62	Vegetables	6.87	Pineapple	3.43
Tawau	1,671.34	Oil Palm	983.79	Livestocks	354.00	Forestry & Logging	206.71
Telupid	56.77	Oil Palm	51.31	Rubber	3.07	Fisheries	0.83
Tenom	83.87	Oil Palm	39.42	Rubber	19.40	Fruits	19.38
Tongod	121.86	Oil Palm	93.02	Rubber	20.05	Fruits	5.63
Tuaran	166.42	Livestocks	89.32	Pineapple	25.21	Fruits	14.73

EXHIBIT 1: HIGHLIGHTS OF AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, SABAH, 2023



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HIGHLIGHTS OF AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, SABAH, 2023



75.6% (1,346,106.1 hectares) of the planted area was recorded by **Establishment Agricultural Holding**

74.1% (1,169,711.4 hectares) of the harvested area was recorded by **Establishment Agricultural Holding**

99.8% (23,230,477.4 tonne) of the total production was sold

86.1% (20,045,252.2 tonne) of production quantity led by **Establishment Agricultural Holding**

Kinabatangan District contributed 20.9% (4,872,129.8 tonne) of the total quantity production

79.1% (RM22,308.84) of the income was contributed by **Establishment Agricultural Holding**

76.9% (RM 7,340.41) of the expenditure was contributed by **Establishment Agricultural Holding**

Legend:



Source: Agriculture Census 2024



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DATA PEMANUKIR EKONOMI NEGARA

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