



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

MEDIA STATEMENT

**MALAYSIA EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS, MALAYSIA
MARCH 2026**

Malaysia's trade grew by 9.3 per cent to RM273.0 billion in March 2026, supported by stronger exports (+8.3%) and imports (+10.4%) flows

PUTRAJAYA, APRIL 20, 2026 – Malaysia's trade performance remained strong in March 2026, supported by continued expansion in both exports and imports. Total trade rose by 9.3 per cent from RM249.8 billion to RM273.0 billion, driven by stronger growth of exports (+8.3%) valued at RM148.8 billion and imports (+10.4%) amounting to RM124.2 billion. In addition, the trade surplus decreased by 0.9 per cent to RM24.6 billion in March 2026 as reported in the **MALAYSIA EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS BULETIN, MARCH 2026** released today. This bulletin also presents the performance of export and import products with its trading partners.

Chief Statistician Malaysia, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin, emphasised that Malaysia's exports increased in March 2026, supported by growth in both re-exports and domestic exports. Re-exports, which accounted for 25.5 per cent of total exports, rose by 38.3 per cent year-on-year to RM37.9 billion. Meanwhile, domestic exports, contributing 74.5 per cent of total exports, expanded by 0.9 per cent to RM110.9 billion. Correspondingly, imports increased to RM124.2 billion, registering a rise of 10.4 per cent. The trade surplus decreased by 0.9 per cent to RM24.6 billion, marking the 71st consecutive month of surplus since May 2020. Compared with February 2026, exports, imports, total trade and trade surplus demonstrate growth by 13.6 per cent, 8.7 per cent, 11.3 per cent and 47.0 per cent, respectively.

From the perspective of commodity groups, 90 out of 259 export groups and 126 out of 259 import groups posted gains compared to the same month of the previous year.

The Chief Statistician of Malaysia remarked that the rise in exports was primarily underpinned by increased shipments to the United States (+RM4.2 billion), followed by Taiwan (+RM3.1 billion), Hong Kong (+RM1.8 billion), Viet Nam (+RM1.6 billion), Mexico (+RM1.5 billion), Republic of Korea (+RM1.4 billion) and China (+RM1.1 billion). The import rise largely reflected higher inflows originating from China (+RM6.9 billion), followed by Singapore (+RM3.6 billion), Republic of Korea (+RM1.5 billion), Viet Nam (+RM1.4 billion), Taiwan (+RM1.4 billion), United States (+RM1.0 billion) and Switzerland (+RM777.0 million).

Exports growth was anchored by heightened shipments of E&E products (+RM9.4 billion), other manufactures (+RM2.4 billion), petroleum products (+RM1.8 billion), optical & scientific equipment (+RM1.5 billion), manufacture of metal (+RM1.2 billion) and metalliferous ores & metal scrap (+RM1.1 billion). Concurrently, imports corresponded with stronger inflows of E&E products (+RM12.2 billion), machinery, equipment & parts (+RM2.0 billion), metalliferous ores & metal scrap (+RM1.1 billion), manufacture of metal (+RM1.0 billion), optical & scientific equipment (+RM745.4 million) and petroleum products (+RM494.3 million).

The Chief Statistician Malaysia further noted that the expansion in imports by End Use was attributable to increased demand for capital goods. Imports of capital goods (13.1% of total imports) rose by 24.7 per cent or RM3.2 billion, settling at RM16.3 billion. Consumption goods (7.2% of total imports) decreased by 7.8 per cent or RM760.1 million to reach RM9.0 billion. Meanwhile, imports of intermediate goods (46.9% of total imports) declined by 1.1 per cent or RM635.7 million, amounting to RM58.3 billion compared to March 2025.

Total trade, exports and imports for the period of January to March 2026 registered an improvement. Total trade noted a double digit increase by 10.4 per cent, from RM715.7 billion to RM789.8 billion, in line with the rise in exports (+12.7%) as well as imports (+7.7%). Moreover, trade surplus expanded by 54.0 per cent to post a value of RM63.2 billion.

Performance for the first quarter of 2026, total trade, exports, imports and trade surplus experienced an increase as compared to the same period last year. The encouraging economic performance led to a 10.4 per cent rise in total trade, aligning with the increase in exports (+12.7%) and imports (+7.7%). Moreover, trade surplus amounted to RM63.2 billion, an increase of 54.0 per cent as compared to the same period in 2025.

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>.

Monthly External Trade Statistics and **Malaysia External Trade Indices** publication provide official data on Malaysia's trade, including the value of international import and export trade on a monthly and annual basis, as well as monthly indices of volume and unit value. These statistics are important for monitoring trade trends and also Malaysia's economic development. The publication is available in printed form and can also be accessed at www.dosm.gov.my.

Chart 1: External Trade Statistics, Jan 2025 – Mar 2026 (Value)

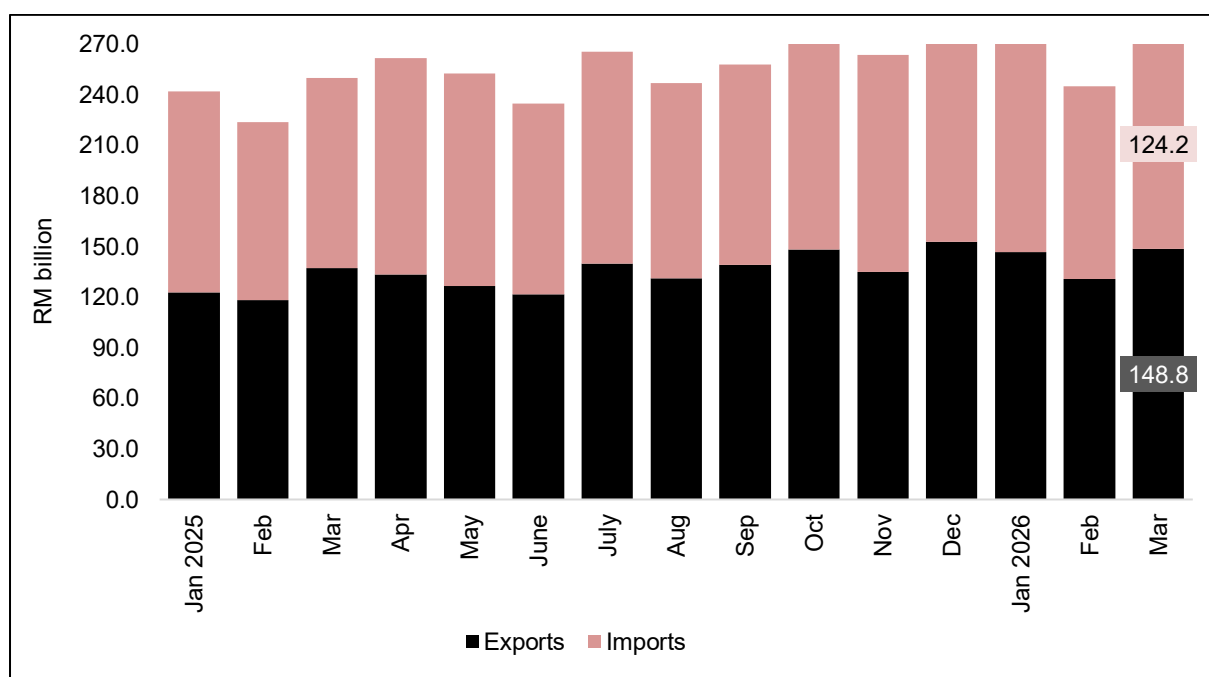


Chart 2: External Trade Statistics, Jan 2025 – Mar 2026
(Annual Percentage Change)

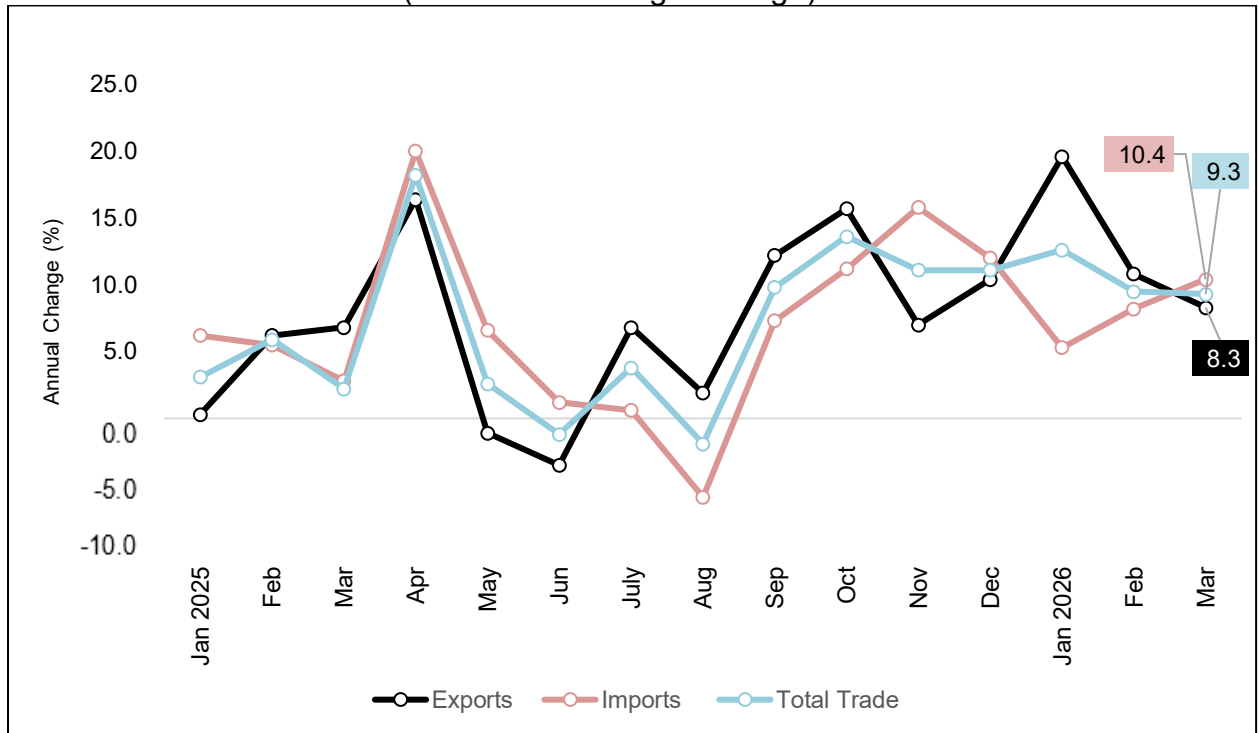


Chart 3: External Trade Statistics, 2021 – 2026 (Jan-Mar)

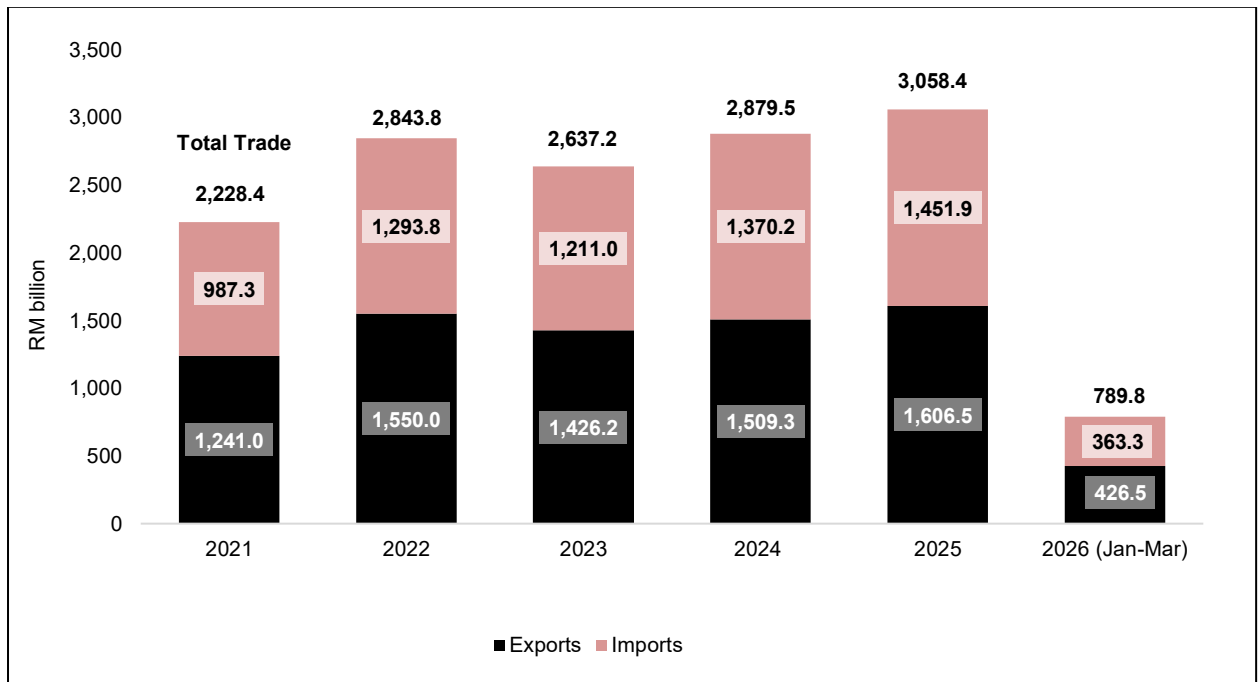


Chart 4: Imports for End Use & Broad Economic Categories (BEC) Classification,
Jan 2025 – Mar 2026
(Value and Annual Percentage Change)

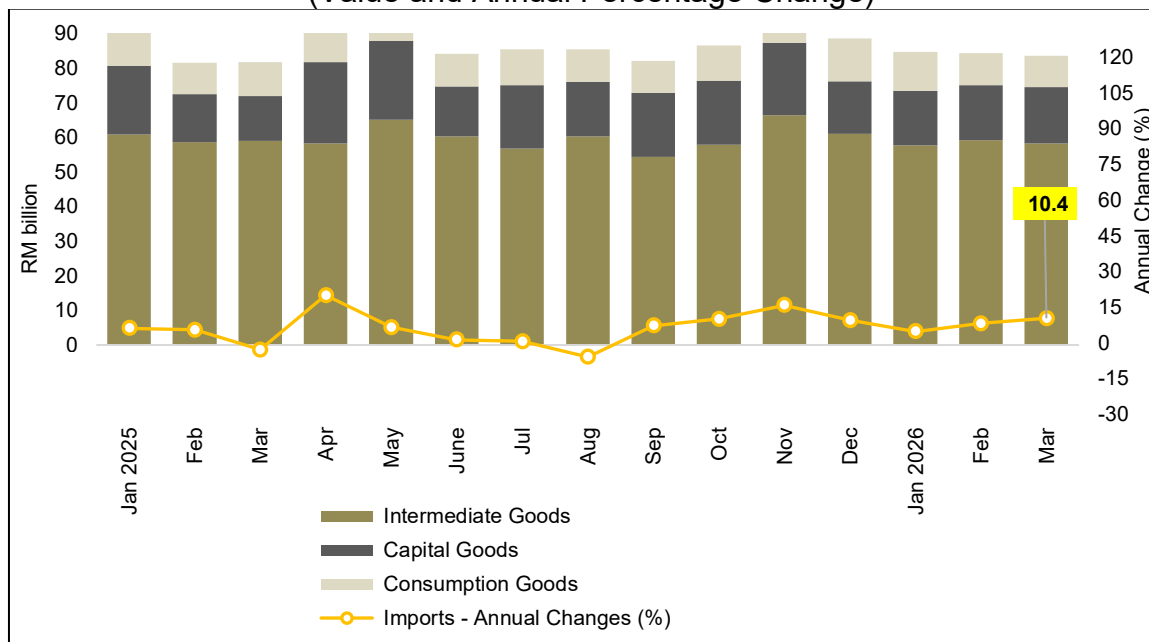


Chart 5: Imports for End Use & Broad Economic Categories (BEC) Classification,
2021 – 2026 (Jan-Mar)

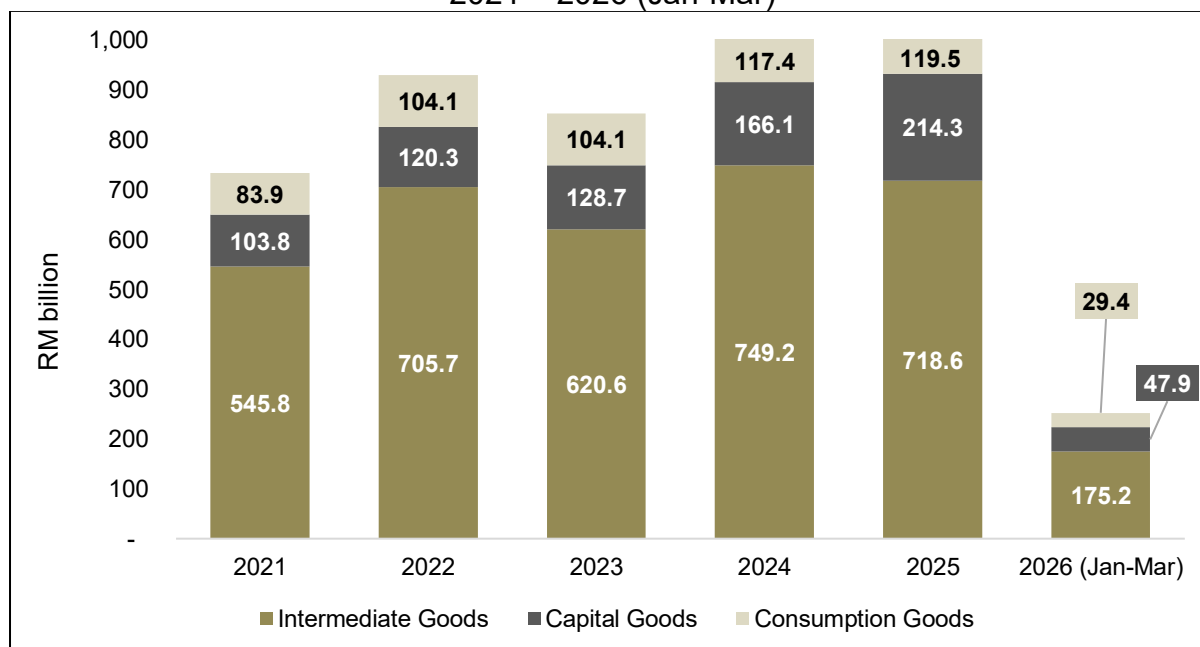


Table 1: Major Sub-sector Contributing to Export

COMMODITY DESCRIPTION	2025	2026	2026	SHARE TO TOTAL %	Y.O.Y	
	MARCH RM MIL.	FEBRUARY RM MIL.	MARCH RM MIL.		VALUE RM MIL.	%
Total	137,304	130,952	148,752	100.0	11,449	8.3
Electrical & Electronic Products (E&E)	62,297	60,825	71,669	48.2	9,372	15.0
Petroleum Products	7,495	7,118	9,268	6.2	1,773	23.7
Other Manufactures	5,379	8,103	7,819	5.3	2,440	45.4
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	7,055	5,764	7,221	4.9	166	2.4
Manufacture Of Metal	5,581	4,655	6,767	4.5	1,186	21.2

Table 2: Major Sub-sector Contributing to Import

COMMODITY DESCRIPTION	2025	2026	2026	SHARE TO TOTAL %	Y.O.Y	
	MARCH RM MIL.	FEBRUARY RM MIL.	MARCH RM IML.		VALUE RM MIL.	%
Total	112,535	114,244	124,199	100.0	11,664	10.4
Electrical & Electronic Products (E&E)	41,631	49,794	53,809	43.3	12,178	29.3
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	8,869	9,229	10,821	8.7	1,952	22.0
Petroleum Products	7,448	7,378	7,942	6.4	494	6.6
Chemical & Chemical Products	8,263	6,622	7,827	6.3	(437)	(5.3)
Manufacture of Metal	4,706	4,970	5,724	4.6	1,018	21.6

Released by:

THE OFFICE OF CHIEF STATISTICIAN MALAYSIA
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA
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