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MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

MEDIA STATEMENT

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT FIRST QUARTER OF 2026

Economy remains steady as Malaysia records 5.4 per cent growth in the first quarter of 2026

PUTRAJAYA, 15TH MAY 2026 – Malaysia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) expanded by 5.4 per cent in the first quarter of 2026, reflecting a moderation from the elevated 6.2 per cent growth in the fourth quarter of 2025. The pace of expansion softened progressively across the quarter, with monthly growth easing from 6.8 per cent in January to 5.2 per cent in February and 4.1 per cent in March 2026. In terms of quarter-on-quarter seasonally adjusted, GDP showed minimal change, slipping by 0.01 per cent from 1.4 per cent increase in the previous quarter.

According to the Chief Statistician of Malaysia, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin, “Malaysia’s economy continued to expand in the first quarter of 2026, reflecting underlying resilience and stable growth conditions amid a challenging global environment. While most major sectors remained on an expansionary path, the pace of growth eased following the strong performance in the preceding quarter. Meanwhile, the Mining and quarrying sector experienced a contraction, reflecting lower production levels during the period. Economic activity in the first quarter of 2026 was reinforced by a series of domestic events and policy measures that supported overall demand and sectoral performance.”

He added that, “The disbursement of cash assistance programmes, including Sumbangan Tunai Rahmah (STR), Sumbangan Asas Rahmah (SARA), Bantuan Awal Persekolahan (BAP) as well as Bantuan Khas Kewangan (BKK) and second phase salary increment under Sistem Saraan Perkhidmatan Awam (SSPA) for civil servant, enhanced household disposable income and improved spending capacity. Festive-related spending particularly during Chinese New Year, Ramadan and Hari Raya Aidilfitri further stimulated consumption activities, benefiting the Services sector, mainly retail trade, food & beverages and accommodation. In addition, increased mobility during school holidays and the implementation of toll discounts further supported domestic travel. Meanwhile, government interventions including BUDI95 fuel subsidy mechanism continued to cushion cost pressures for households and businesses. These developments were further complemented by stable inflation, favourable labour market conditions and sustained income levels, which collectively reinforced consumer spending momentum. On the external front, trade balance improved significantly, driven by stronger export growth relative to imports despite prevailing global uncertainties."

Looking at the sectoral performance, the **Services** sector remained the main contributor to growth in this quarter, expanding by 5.6 per cent (Q4 2025: 6.2%). The performance was driven by the Wholesale & retail trade sub-sector, which increased by 4.8 per cent, supported by growth in Wholesale trade (6.0%) and Retail trade (4.7%). Meanwhile, the Motor vehicles segment grew by 1.1 per cent, in line with softer performance in the sale of motor vehicles. In addition, the Information & communication sub-sector strengthened at 8.1 per cent, driven primarily by computer programming, consultancy and information services, owing to continued demand for digitalisation, cloud computing, data storage and data processing services.

The **Manufacturing** sector grew by 5.9 per cent in this quarter (Q4 2025: 6.0%), supported mainly by export-oriented industries, particularly the Electrical, electronic & optical products sub-sector which expanded by 12.8 per cent, reflecting continued global demand in electronic components and chips. In addition, the Vegetable & animal oils and fats and food processing sub-sector registered a growth of 9.2 per cent, while the Non-metallic mineral products, basic metal and fabricated metal products sub-sector increased by 5.0 per cent.

The **Construction** sector recorded a sustained growth of 7.7 per cent in this quarter (Q4 2025: 10.9%), with all sub-sectors remaining in positive territory. The performance was supported by robust growth in Specialised construction activities and Non-residential buildings sub-sectors at 15.9 per cent and 10.1 per cent, respectively. This growth was in line with the increase in the value of work done, which rose 8.5 per cent to RM46.5 billion.

In addition, the **Agriculture** sector grew by 2.6 per cent in this quarter (Q4 2025: 5.7%), supported mainly by the Oil palm sub-sector which expanded by 5.5 per cent following a moderate production of fresh fruit bunches. In addition, the Livestock sub-sector recorded a notable increase of 8.7 per cent while Other agriculture registered a modest growth of 1.5 per cent.

In contrast, the **Mining and quarrying** sector contracted by 2.1 per cent in this quarter as compared to a growth of 1.4 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2025. The decline was mainly influenced by lower production in the Crude oil & condensate and Natural gas sub-sectors, which decreased by 4.2 per cent and 2.1 per cent, respectively.

Focusing on expenditure performance, the Chief Statistician of Malaysia highlighted, "**Private final consumption expenditure (PFCE)** which accounted for 61.6 per cent of Malaysia's GDP, grew by 4.7 per cent from 5.6 per cent recorded in the previous quarter. The growth was driven by expenditure on Transport and Restaurant & hotel which posted growth of 9.2 per cent (Q4 2025: 12.8%) and 12.9 per cent (Q4 2025: 17.0%), respectively. The performance was further supported by persistent tourism-related activities contributing to overall household consumption resilience."

In terms of investment, **Gross fixed capital formation (GFCF)** sustained with a growth of 7.3 per cent (Q4 2025: 9.3%), supported by higher investment in Structure components which increased by 7.0 per cent, particularly in other constructions and non-residential buildings segments. On a sectoral basis, investment momentum remained consistent across both public and private sectors, underscoring investor confidence in the nation's economic landscape during the quarter.

He also mentioned that "**Government final consumption expenditure (GFCE)** grew by 4.1 per cent (Q4 2025: 6.6%), backed by increased spending on supplies and services, which fortified overall economic growth. On the external front, **Net exports** rebounded to 13.5 per cent, after a decline of 32.9 per cent in the previous quarter. This recovery was propelled by a 5.2 per cent growth in exports alongside a moderation in imports to 4.6 per cent."

REVISION

In addition to today's release, DOSM also published the annual GDP report for 2025 which includes revised GDP growth for the year of 2023, 2024 and 2025 at 3.6 per cent, 5.2 per cent and 5.2 per cent, respectively. The revised data are also reflected across quarterly and monthly GDP time series incorporating latest information from company's annual reports and more comprehensive administrative data from relevant agencies. These revisions comply with best statistical practices aligned with international standards to ensure the reliability, comparability and provide timely statistics.

The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) is conducting the **Economic Census 2026 (BE2026)**, themed **"Data Nadi Ekonomi Rakyat"**. The sixth Economic Census, running from **5th January to 31st October 2026**. BE2026 aims to collect comprehensive, 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.

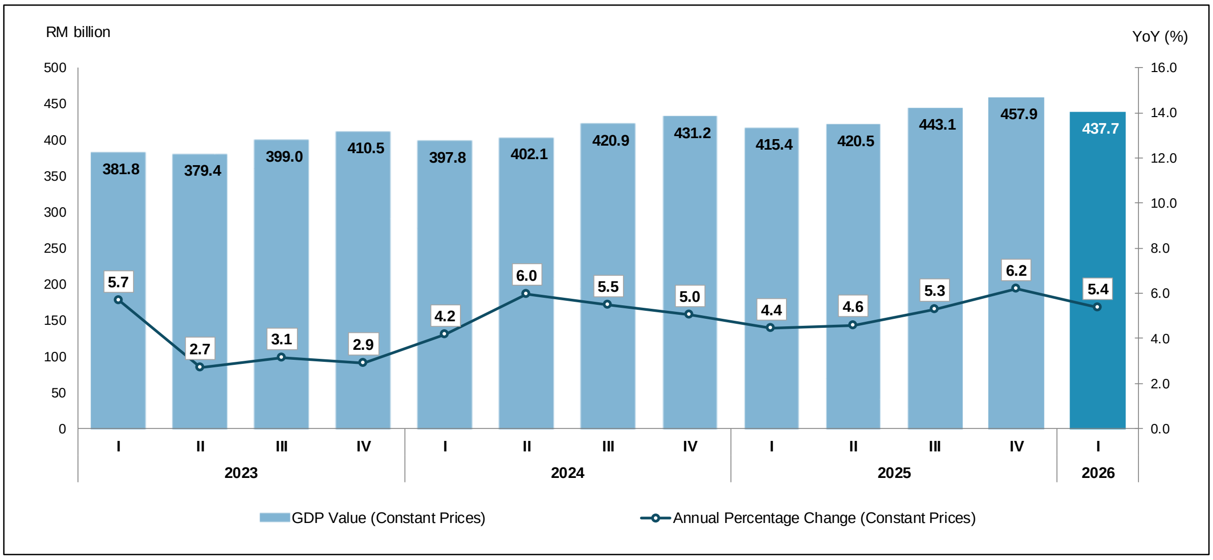
Malaysia has, for the first time, successfully secured the **top position** globally in the biennial **Open Data Inventory (ODIN) 2024/25** report released by Open Data Watch (ODW), surpassing 197 other countries. This achievement marks a significant leap from its 67th position in the ODIN 2022/23 assessment.

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:

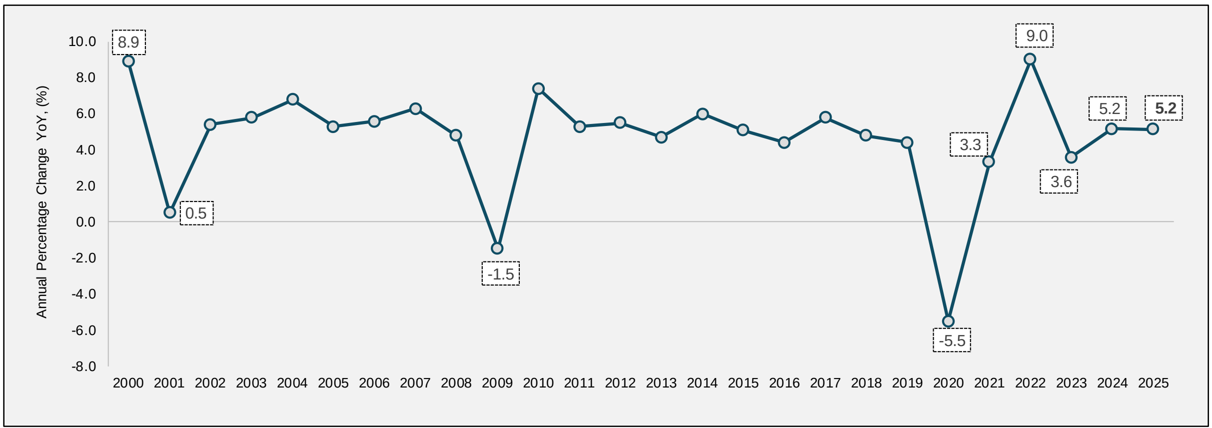
THE OFFICE OF CHIEF STATISTICIAN MALAYSIA
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA
15 MAY 2026

Chart 1: Gross Domestic Product, Q1 2023 – Q1 2026



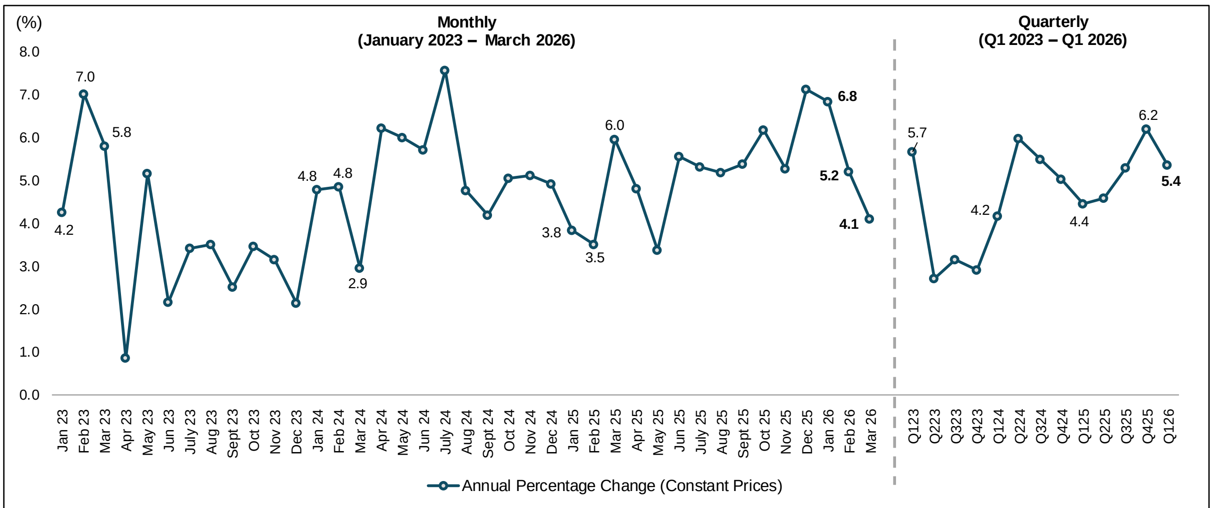
Source: Department of Statistics, Malaysia

Chart 2: Annual GDP Growth, 2000 – 2025



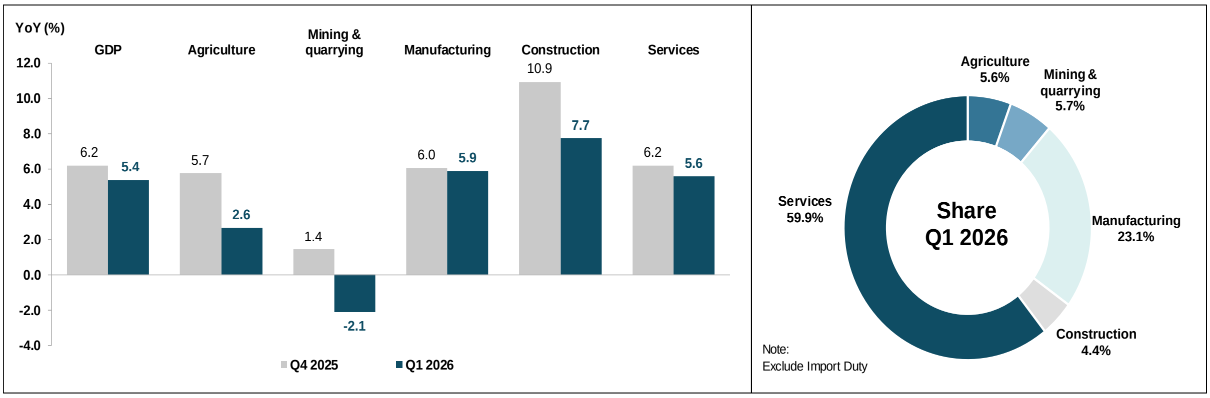
Source: Department of Statistics, Malaysia

Chart 3: Monthly and Quarterly GDP Growth, 2023 – 2026



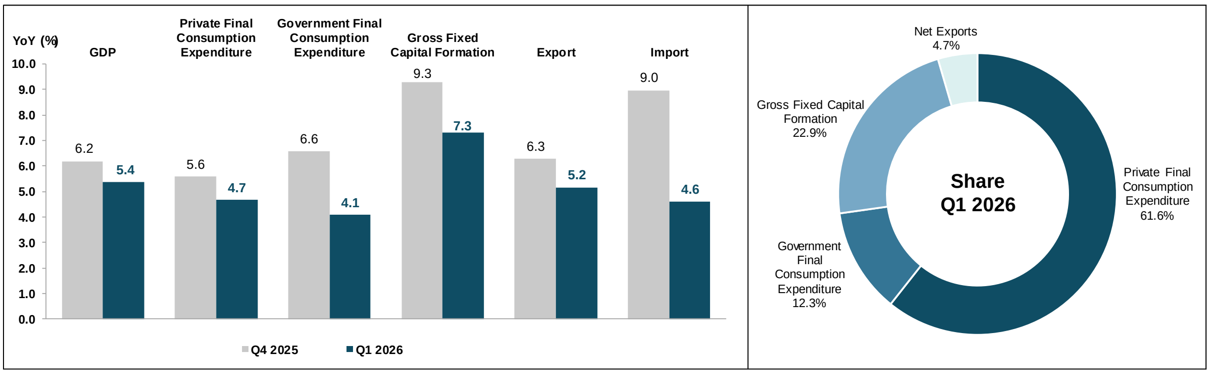
Source: Department of Statistics, Malaysia

Chart 4: Quarterly GDP Growth by Kind of Economic Activity, Q4 2025 & Q1 2026



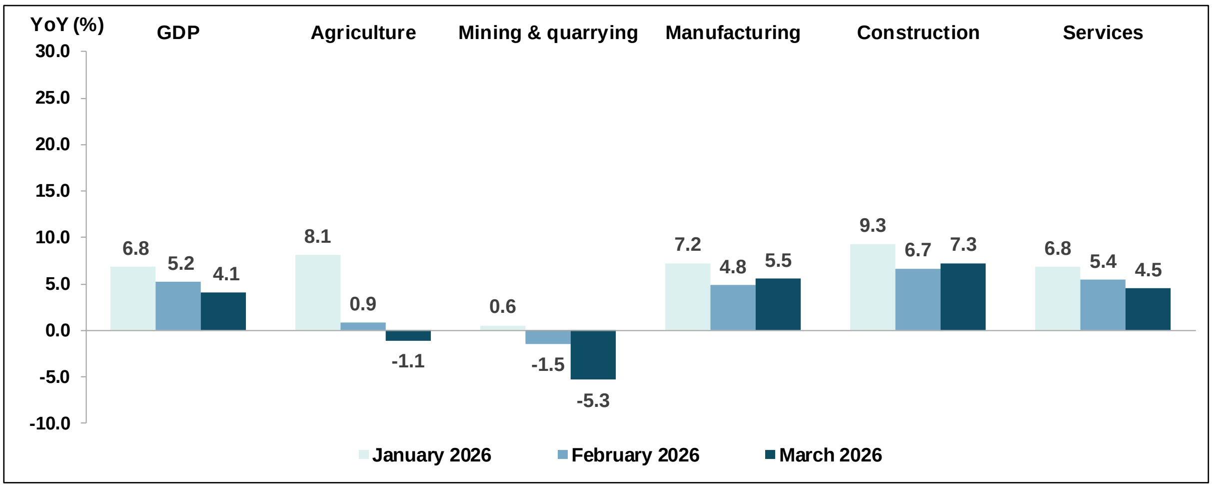
Source: Department of Statistics, Malaysia

Chart 5: Quarterly GDP Growth by Type of Expenditure, Q4 2025 & Q1 2026



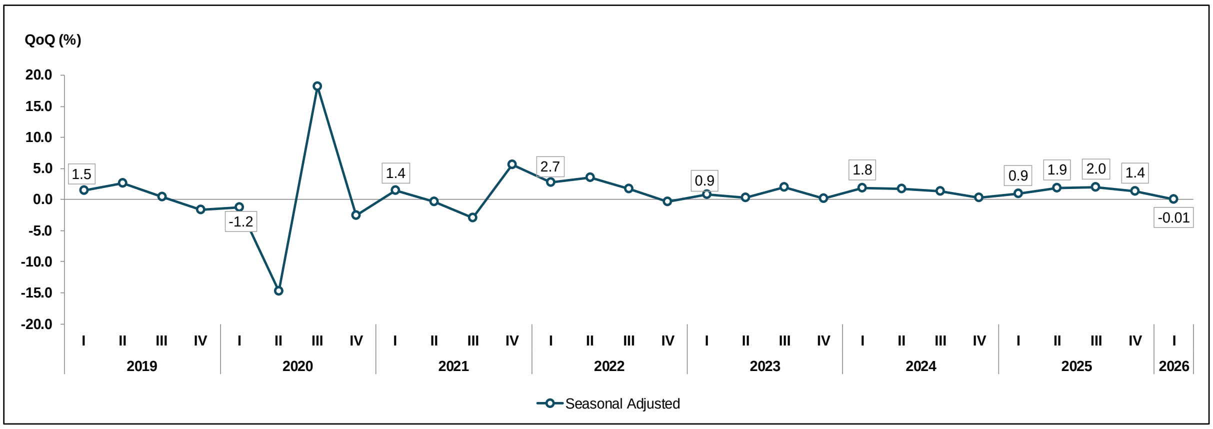
Source: Department of Statistics, Malaysia

Chart 6: Monthly GDP Growth by Kind of Economic Activity, January – March 2026



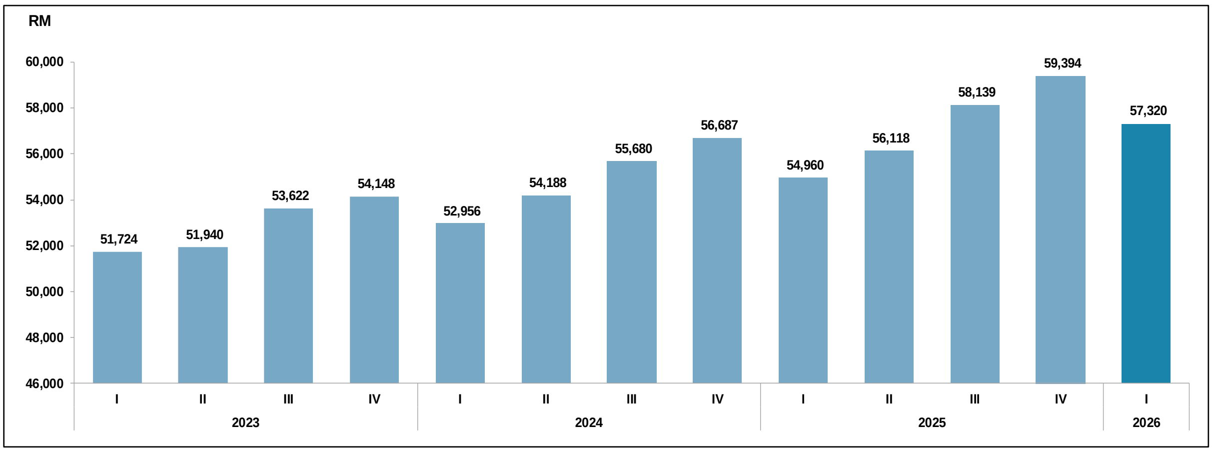
Source: Department of Statistics, Malaysia

Chart 7: Seasonally Adjusted GDP (Percentage Change from Preceding Quarter), Q1 2019 – Q1 2026



Source: Department of Statistics, Malaysia

Chart 8: Gross National Income (GNI) Per Capita, Q1 2023 – Q1 2026



Source: Department of Statistics, Malaysia

Table 1: GDP Performance for Selected Countries

Selected Countries	2024	2025	2024				2025				2026
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
ASEAN COUNTRIES											
Malaysia	5.2	**5.2**	4.2	6.0	5.5	5.0	4.4	4.6	5.3	6.2	**5.4**
Singapore	5.3	**5.0**	4.3	4.8	7.0	5.3	4.5	5.4	4.5	5.7	**4.6***
Brunei	4.1	**0.7**	7.2	5.4	5.7	-1.3	-1.8	-0.3	0.03	4.5	**n.a**
Thailand	2.9	**2.4**	2.1	2.7	3.3	3.7	3.1	2.8	1.2	2.5	**n.a**
Indonesia	5.0	**5.1**	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.0	4.9	5.1	5.0	5.4	**5.6**
Vietnam	7.1	**8.0**	6.0	7.3	7.4	7.6	6.9	8.0	8.3	8.5	**7.8**
Philippines	5.7	**4.4**	5.9	6.5	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.4	4.0	3.0	**2.8**
OTHER COUNTRIES											
United State of America	2.8	**2.1**	2.9	3.1	2.8	2.4	2.0	2.1	2.3	2.0	**2.7***
European Union	1.1	**1.5**	0.7	0.8	1.1	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.4	**1.0**
Spain	3.5	**2.8**	2.9	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.1	2.9	2.7	2.6	**2.7**
Italy	0.8	**0.5**	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.9	**0.7**
France	1.2	**0.8**	1.7	1.0	1.1	0.6	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.3	**1.1**
United Kingdom	1.1	**1.4**	0.2	0.8	1.3	2.0	1.8	1.4	1.3	1.0	**n.a**
People's Republic of China	5.0	**5.0**	5.3	4.7	4.6	5.4	5.4	5.2	4.8	4.5	**5.0**
Republic of Korea	2.0	**1.0**	3.4	2.2	1.4	1.1	0.00	0.6	1.8	1.6	**3.6***

Source: Official website of Selected National Statistical Office

Note:
% refers to annual percentage change
* refers to advance estimates
n.a refers to not available