



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

MEDIA STATEMENT

**MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY CAPACITY UTILISATION STATISTICS
FIRST QUARTER 2026**

**The Manufacturing industry stood at a capacity utilisation of
82.8 per cent rate in the first quarter of 2026**

PUTRAJAYA, MAY 20, 2026 – The Manufacturing industry stood at a capacity utilisation of 82.8 per cent rate in the first quarter of 2026. The Department of Statistics, Malaysia (DOSM) reported today in the release of **Manufacturing Industry Capacity Utilisation Statistics, Malaysia, First Quarter 2026**.

Commenting on the report, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin, the Chief Statistician said, "The Manufacturing industry was recorded at 82.8 per cent rate of capacity utilisation in the first quarter of 2026, increased by 1.0 percentage points compared to the same quarter of the preceding year (Q1 2025: 81.8%). In this quarter, all sub-sectors posted capacity utilisation above 80 per cent, with the highest rate recorded by the Electrical and Electronics Products at 83.1 per cent, increased by 2.6 percentage points. This was followed by the rise 1.8 percentage points in the Food, Beverages and Tobacco with a rate of 81.3 per cent. The year-on-year increase in monthly capacity utilisation performance was recorded throughout the first quarter of 2026, which was January 2026 (83.4%; +1.6 percentage points); February 2026 (81.8%; +0.6 percentage points); and March 2026 (83.1%; +0.6 percentage points). In comparison with the previous quarter, the capacity utilisation of the Manufacturing industry decreased by 0.5 percentage points (Q4 2025: 83.3%)."

The Chief Statistician added, "In the first quarter of 2026, the capacity utilisation in the export-oriented industries increased by 1.4 percentage points year-on-year to 82.0 per cent (Q1 2025: 80.6%). The highest percentage points resulted in the Manufacture of computer, electronics & optical products; and Manufacture of wearing apparel, which up by 3.6 percentage points to 82.8 per cent and rise by 3.4 percentage points to 84.1 per cent respectively. Nonetheless, industries recorded capacity utilisation below 80 per cent, namely the Manufacture of wood & products of wood & cork, except furniture,

manufacture of articles of straw & plaiting materials (75.6%). As compared to the fourth quarter of 2025, the capacity utilisation rate of the export-oriented industries declined by 0.5 percentage points from 82.5 per cent in the preceding quarter.

Furthermore, the domestic-oriented industries capacity utilisation grew by 0.01 percentage points to 84.5 per cent in first quarter of 2026. Most of the industries in this segment posted high capacity utilisation rates, particularly in the Manufacture of basic pharmaceuticals, medicinal chemical & botanical products (87.0%; +0.1 percentage points); and followed by the Manufacture of basic metals (80.9%; +0.6 percentage points). Meanwhile, the lowest capacity utilisation rate was posted by the Manufacture of paper & paper products industry with 77.4 per cent. Factors such as low demand; insufficient supply of materials; and the repair & maintenance of machinery & equipment remained as the main cause of the under-utilisation of capacity in the Manufacturing industry. As compared to the last quarter, the capacity utilisation in the domestic-oriented industries were decreased by 0.5 percentage points from 85.0 per cent.”

The Manufacturing industry capacity utilisation for six states surpassed the national rate in the first quarter of 2026, namely WP Labuan (94.4%); Melaka (87.7%); Terengganu (87.6%); Negeri Sembilan (85.4%); Selangor (85.1%); and Johor (84.9%). Whereas, the lowest capacity utilisation rate posted by Perlis with 62.7 per cent as compared to the same quarter last year.

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>.

Chart 1: Manufacturing Industry Capacity Utilisation – Yearly, Quarterly and Monthly

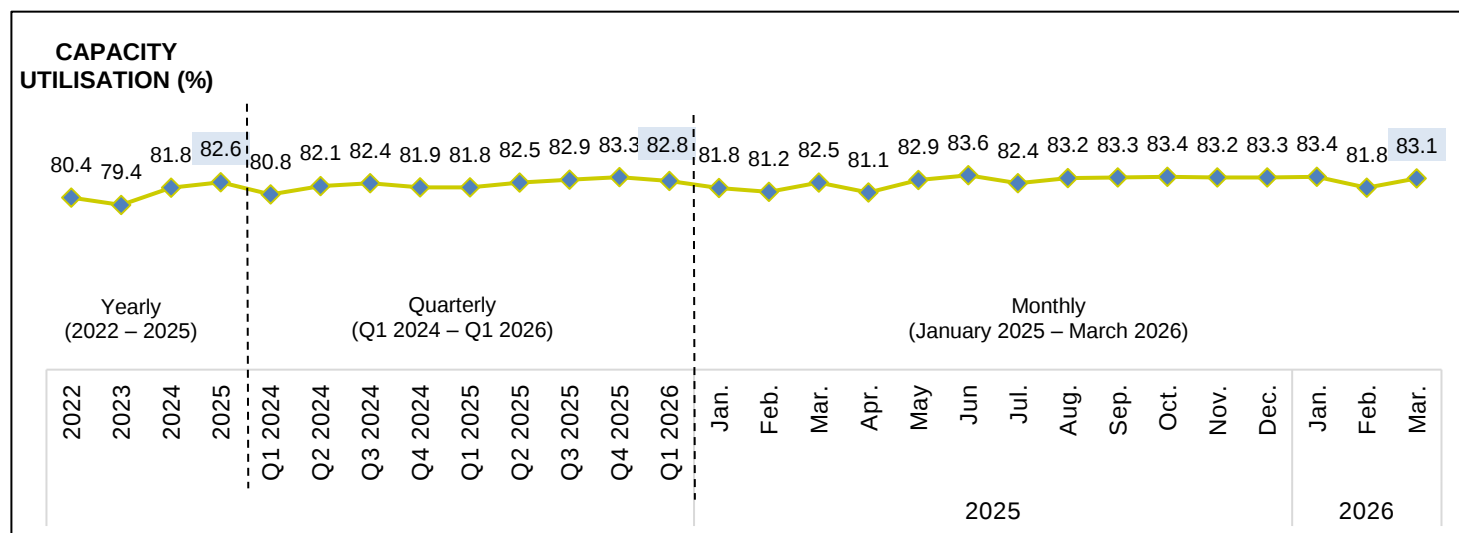


Chart 2: Manufacturing Industry Capacity Utilisation by Sub-sector, Q1 2026 as against Q4 2025 and Q1 2025

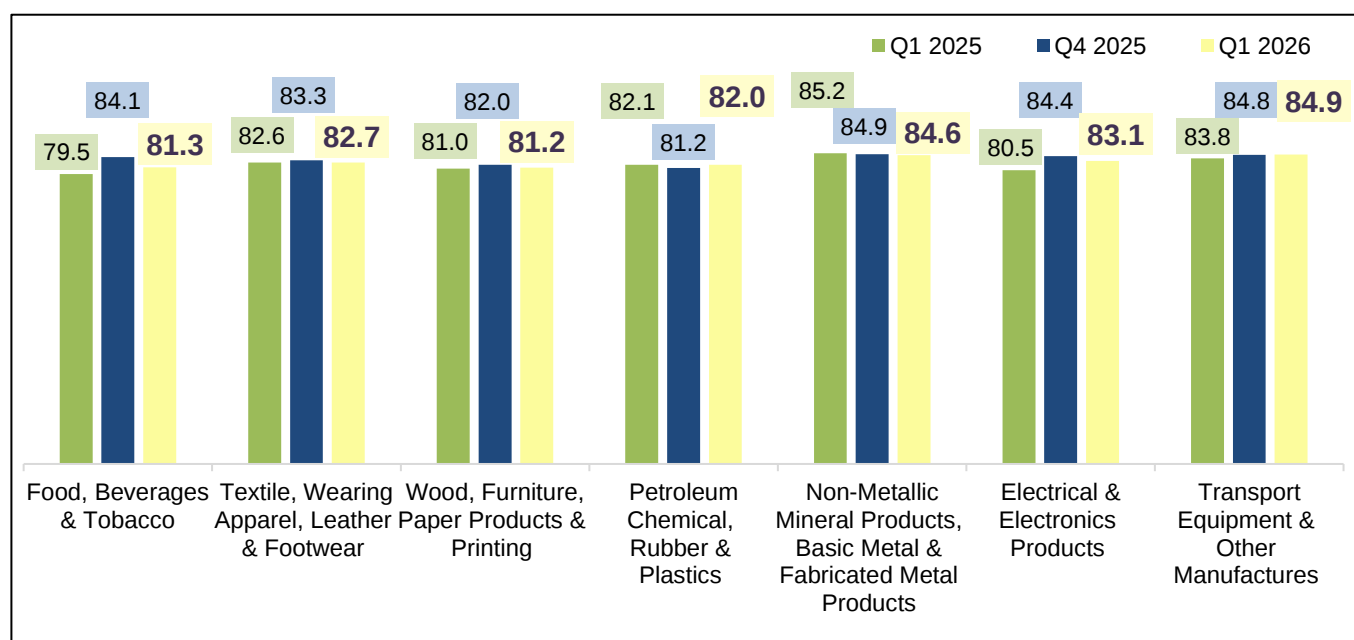
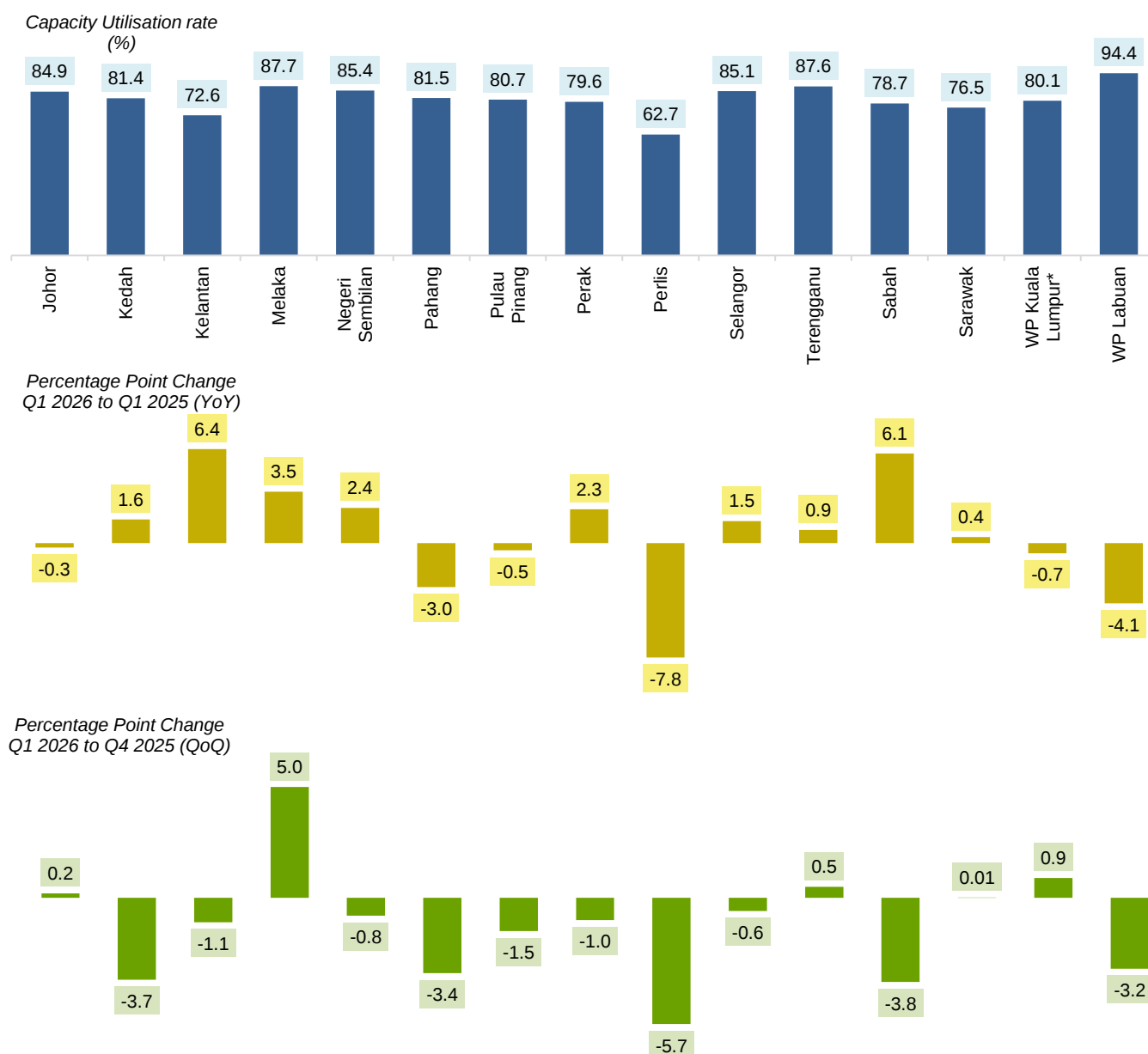
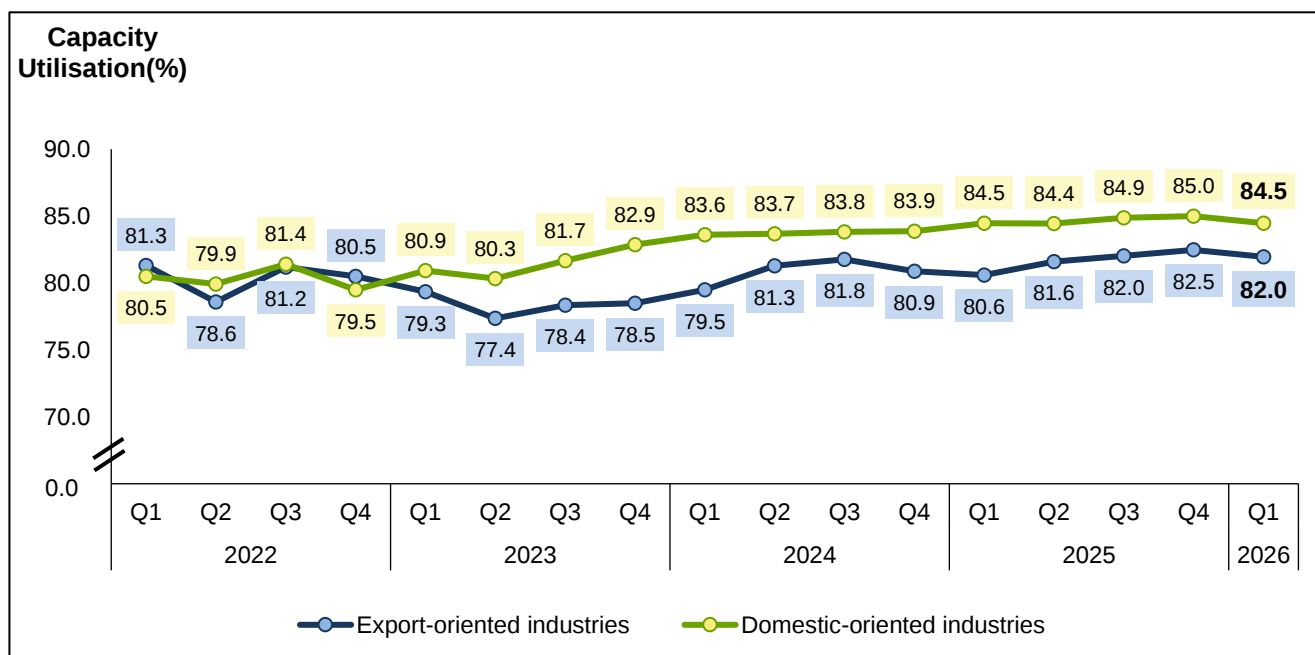


Chart 3: Manufacturing Industry Capacity Utilisation by State, Q1 2026



Note: * includes WP Putrajaya

Chart 4: Manufacturing Industry Capacity Utilisation of the Export-oriented and Domestic-oriented Industries, Q1 2022 – Q1 2026



Released by:

**THE OFFICE OF CHIEF STATISTICIAN MALAYSIA
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA
20 MAY 2026**