



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

MEDIA STATEMENT

**STATE SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS, KEDAH
FIRST QUARTER, 2026**

**Kedah's Economy Remained Resilient: Imports Stayed Strong
and Business Sentiment Remained Optimistic**

PUTRAJAYA, 21 MAY 2026 – Kedah recorded resilient socioeconomic performance in the First Quarter of 2026 (Q1 2026), with controlled inflation, a robust labour market, positive business sentiment and an increasing population growth rate. This performance is highlighted in the publication **State Socioeconomic Indicators, Kedah First Quarter 2026**, released today by the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM). The publication is a rebranding of State Pocket Stats, which has been further enhanced through the inclusion of selected key indicators highlighting economic and social statistics at the state level. Among the key economic indicators are production in selected Agriculture sub-sectors, inflation, external trade and the labour market, while key social indicators include population, as well as household income and expenditure. This publication aims to provide better understanding while serving as a reference for general users.

Malaysia's economy expanded by 5.4 per cent in the first quarter of 2026 (Q1 2026: RM437.7 billion) compared to 6.2 per cent in the previous quarter (Q4 2025: RM457.9 billion). 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 the resilience of economic fundamentals and stable growth conditions amid a challenging global environment."

In terms of prices, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 1.9 per cent in March 2026, compared to 1.3 per cent in February 2026. This indicates an overall rising inflation in line with the rise in the national price index, following uncertainties in global commodity price movements.

From the external trade perspective, exports in Q1 2026 declined by 15.8 per cent to RM10.8 million (Q1 2025: RM12.8 million). Conversely, imports increased by 20.6 per cent to RM20.1 million (Q1 2025: RM16.6 million) during the same period. This performance reflects moderate trading activity.

Referring to the labour market, Kedah maintained a stable level of labour force participation, supported by continuous economic activities and sustained labour demand. The labour force recorded 1.000 million persons (Q4 2025: 1.001 million persons), while the labour force participation rate (LFPR) remained at 66.3 per cent (Q4 2025: 66.5 per cent). In line with this scenario, the number of employed persons stood at 974.9 thousand (Q4 2025: 976.5 thousand), while the unemployment rate remained low at 2.4 per cent (Q4 2025: 2.5 per cent).

Looking ahead, the net balance of business expectations remained positive at +7.5 per cent for January to June 2026, albeit moderating from +20.3 per cent in the previous quarter, reflecting continued favourable business prospects in the near term. The positive outlook indicates sustained confidence among businesses towards the development of economic expansion. This sentiment is consistent with the stable performance of the Manufacturing sector, with an industrial capacity utilisation at 81.4 per cent in Q1 2026, reflecting sustainable and resilient operational levels among industrial players in the state.

From a demographic perspective, the population reached 2.238 million persons in Q1 2026, compared to 2.235 million persons in Q4 2025. Live births were recorded at 7,276 persons, while deaths totalled 4,029 persons during the same period.

The Chief Statistician of Malaysia mentioned that this publication serves as an initiative for communicating state-level statistics, providing a more frequent insights on socioeconomic performance and complementing the annual economic yardstick of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) State.

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>.

Released by:

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

Table 1: Key Sosioeconomic Indicators, Kedah

Indicators	2024				2025				2026
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Exports (RM billion)	14,845	15,145	15,688	13,147	12,835	11,579	11,905	12,008	10,805
Imports (RM billion)	17,704	19,881	23,934	22,451	16,639	18,135	16,400	19,511	20,061
Labour force ('000)	990.6	992.0	991.9	998.3	1,007.5	1,007.1	1,005.8	1,001.5	999.0
Employed ('000)	964.2	966.3	966.8	975.4	983.1	983.0	981.3	976.5	974.9
Unemployed ('000)	26.4	25.8	25.1	22.9	24.4	24.2	24.6	25.0	24.1
Outside labour force ('000)	491.5	503.0	498.6	496.7	499.5	499.2	506.0	503.5	507.4
Labour force participation rate (%)	66.8	66.4	66.5	66.8	66.9	66.9	66.5	66.5	66.3
Unemployment rate (%)	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.4
Net Balance (%)	+11.9	+15.5	+22.3	-2.9	+11.4	+9.2	+7.8	+20.3	+7.5
Capacity Utilisation (%)	78.7	80.6	77.7	77.3	79.8	82.9	80.7	85.1	81.4
Value of Work Done (RM billion)	1,690.9	1,876.8	2,138.8	1,586.4	1,542.7	1,634.9	1,925.3	2,051.7	1,720.2
Natural Rubber Production ('000 tonnes)	1,130.7	1,070.4	1,639.9	1,945.3	1,418.7	1,444.1	2,404.8	1,973.2	1,374.2
Population ('000)	2,210.1	2,217.1	2,219.8	2,222.5	2,225.3	2,228.0	2,231.1	2,235.3	2,238.3
Live Births ('000)	7,975.0	7,339.0	7,667.0	7,641.0	7,279.0	7,317.0	7,591.0	7,935.0	7,276.0
Deaths ('000)	4,019.0	4,208.0	4,199.0	4,389.0	4,037.0	4,078.0	4,032.0	4,365.0	4,029.0

Indicator	2025											2026		
	Mac	Apr	Mei	Jun	Jul	Ogos	Sep	Okt	Nov	Dis		Jan	Feb	Mac
Consumer Price Index	0.6	0.9	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.9	0.5	0.7	1.1		1.2	1.3	1.9
Exports (RM mil.)	3,803	3,986	3,957	3,636	3,735	3,972	4,198	3,917	4,197	3,894		3,679	3,161	3,965
Imports (RM mil.)	5,572	6,470	5,590	6,074	5,298	5,400	5,701	6,090	6,289	7,132		6,973	6,112	6,976
Natural Rubber Production (Tonnes)	315	287	423	734	1,006	700	699	599	490	884		643	395	336
Crude Palm Oil (Tonnes)	20,720	28,327	29,263	25,937	31,107	26,521	24,020	22,903	19,222	18,280		18,277	15,469	19,163

Note: n.a. - not applicable

Chart 2: Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Malaysia, Q1 2023 – Q1 2026

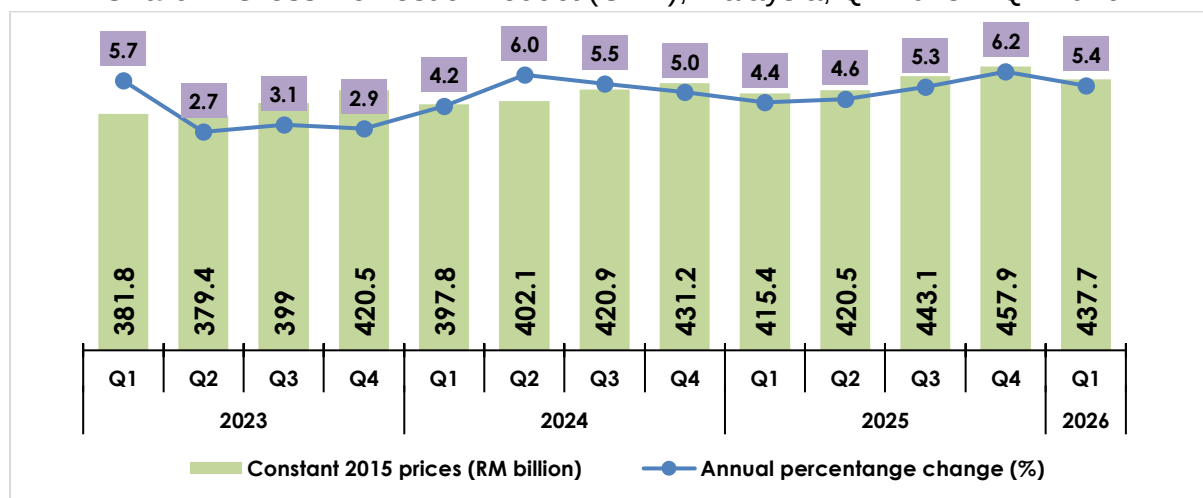


Chart 3: Gross Domestic Product (GDP, Kedah, 2021–2024

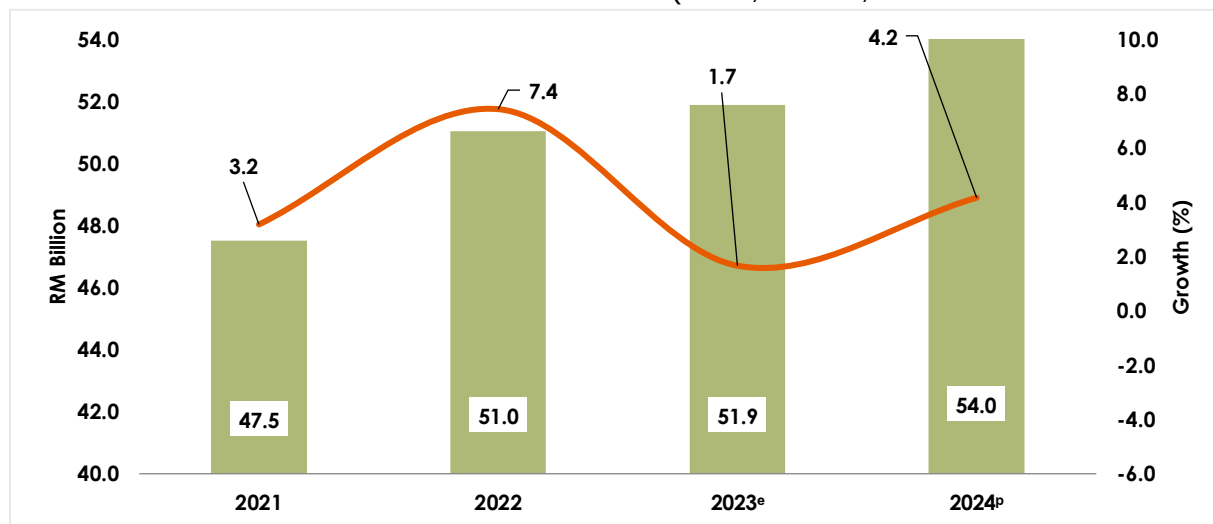


Chart 4 : Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by Sector, Kedah, 2021– 2024

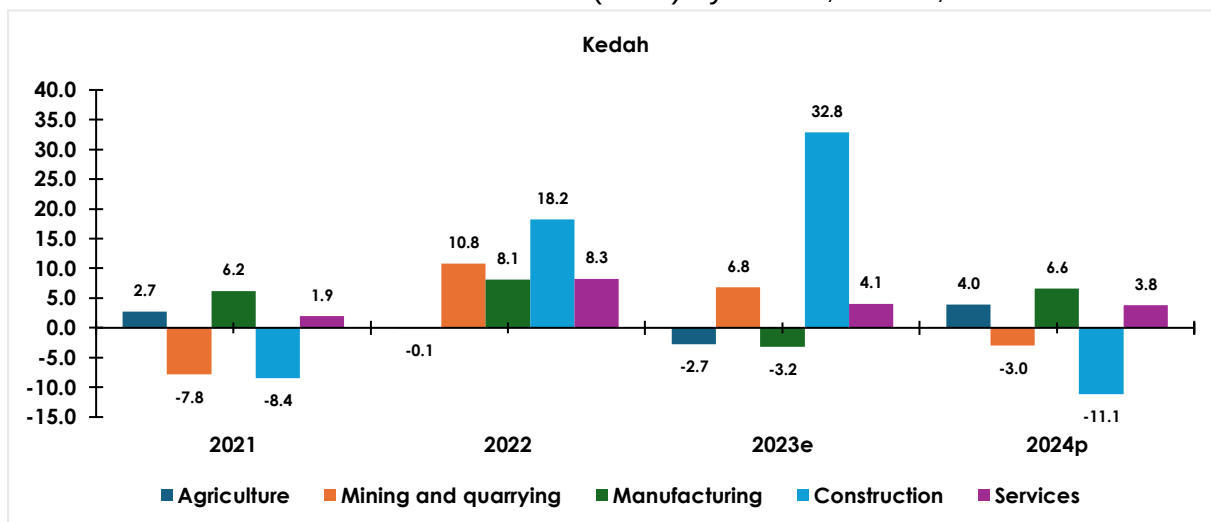


Chart 5: Consumer Price Index, Kedah, March 2024 – March 2026

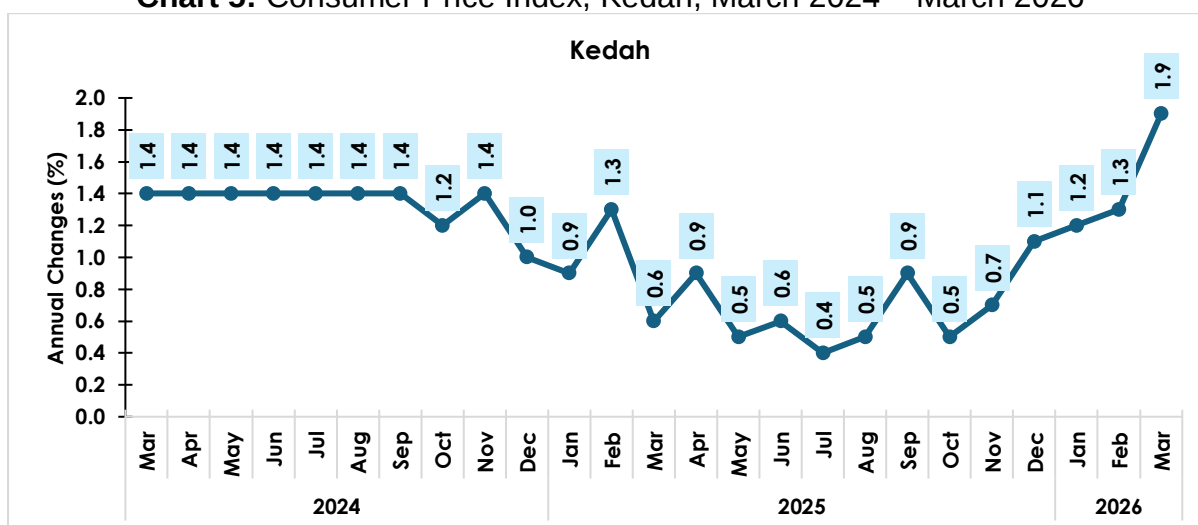


Chart 6: External Trade (Exports), Kedah, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

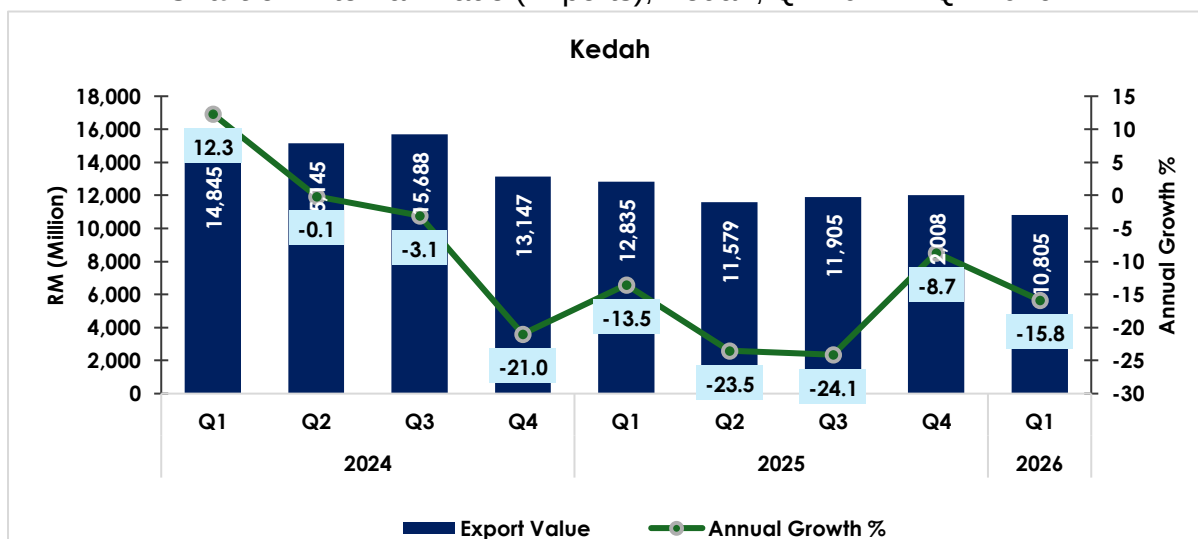


Chart 7: External Trade (Imports), Kedah, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

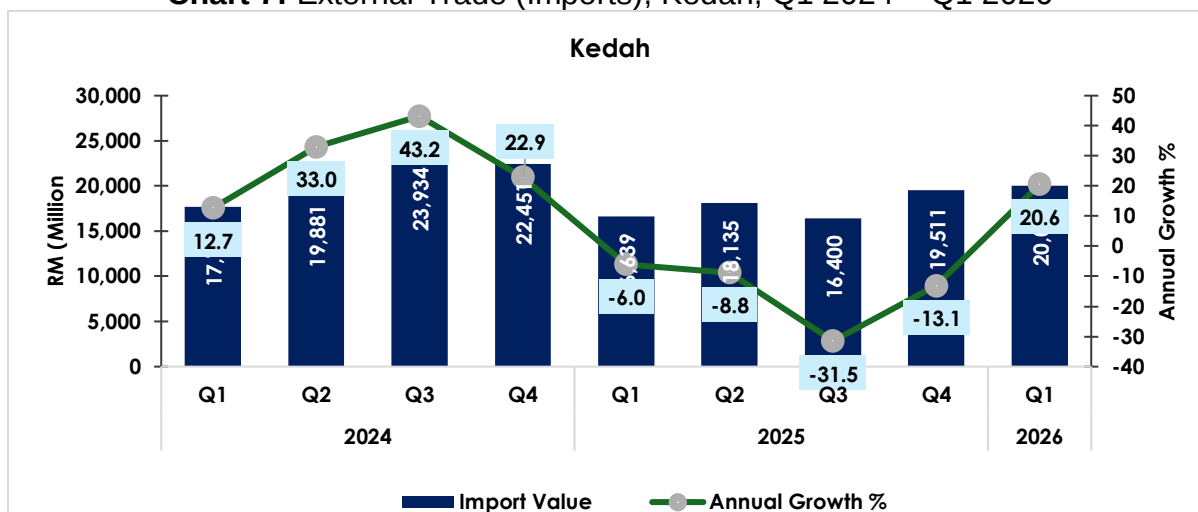


Chart 8: Principal Statistics of Labour Force, Kedah, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

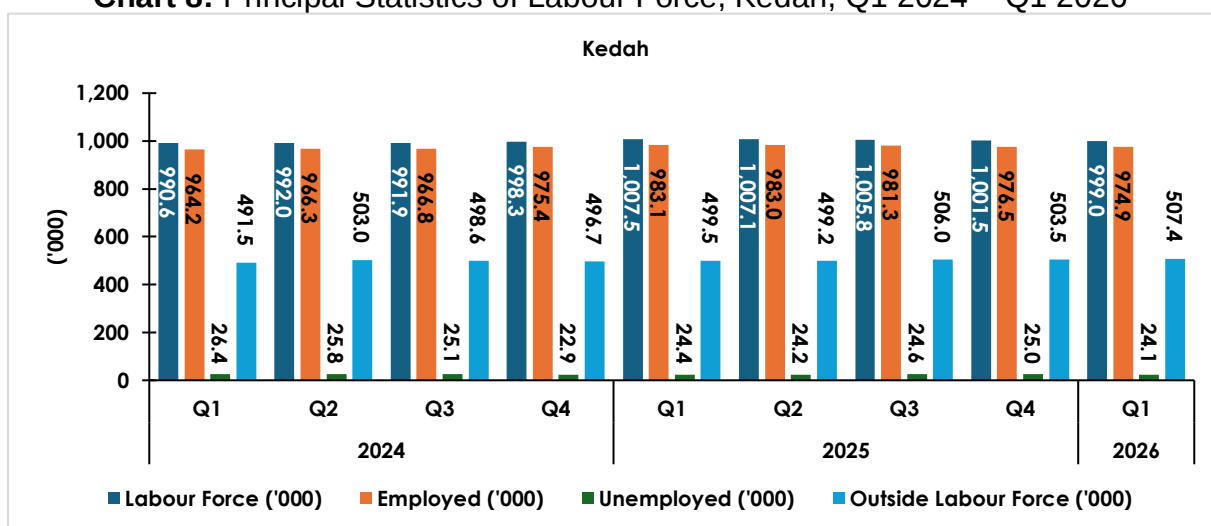


Chart 9: Labour Force Participation Rate and Unemployment Rate, Kedah, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

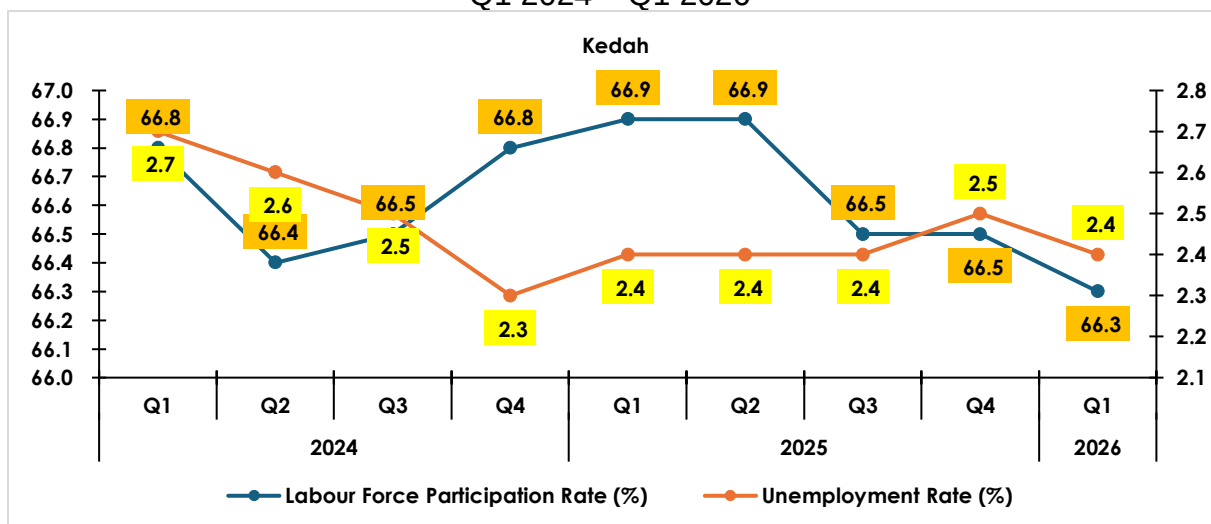


Chart 10: Net Balance of Business Performance for Upcoming Months, Kedah, 2024 – 2026

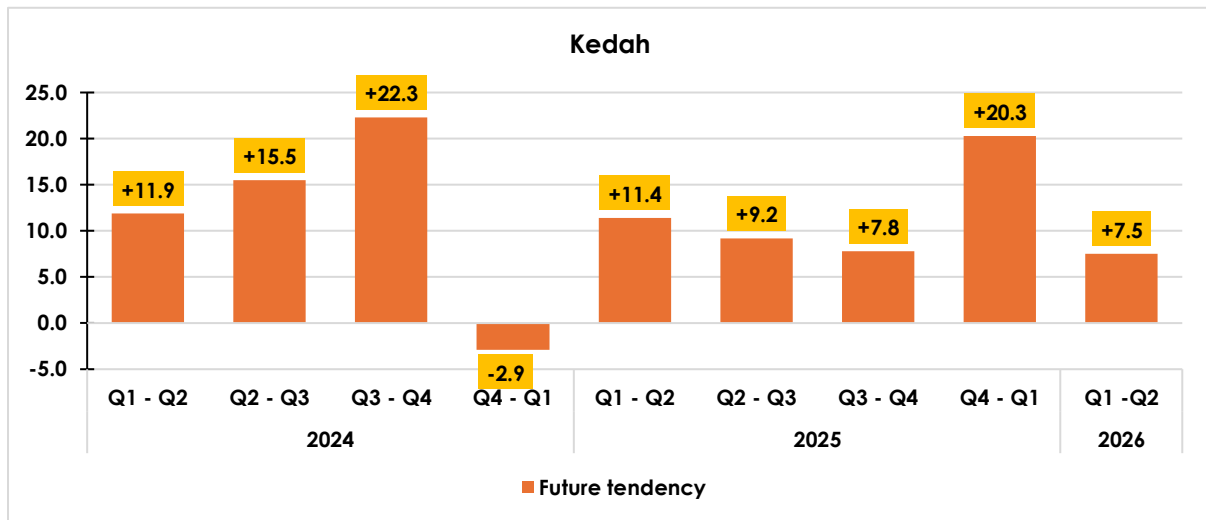


Chart 11: Manufacturing Industry Capacity Utilisation, Kedah, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

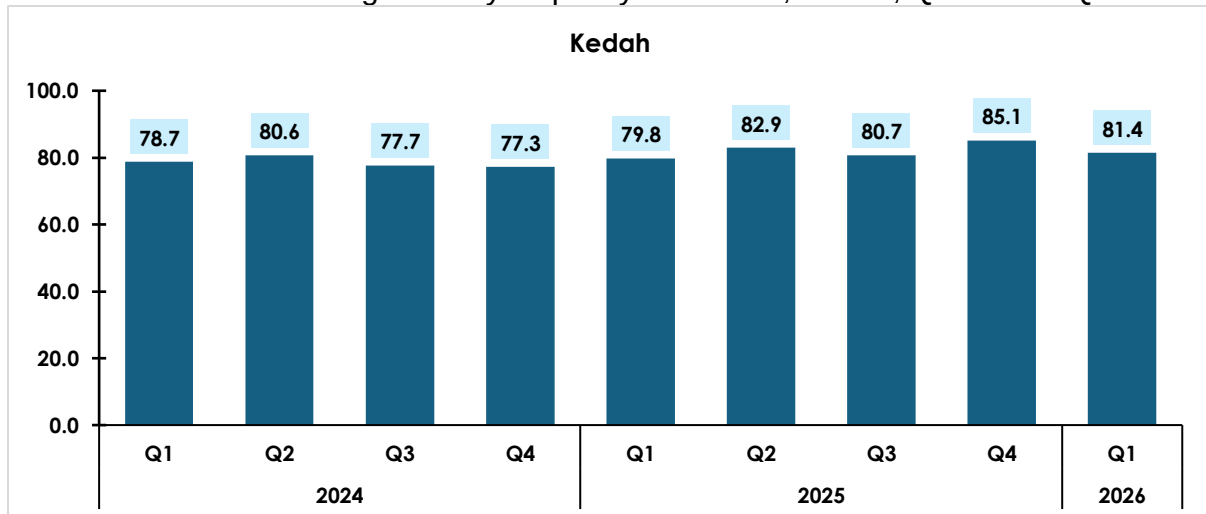


Chart 12: Value of Work Done Construction Sector, Selangor, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

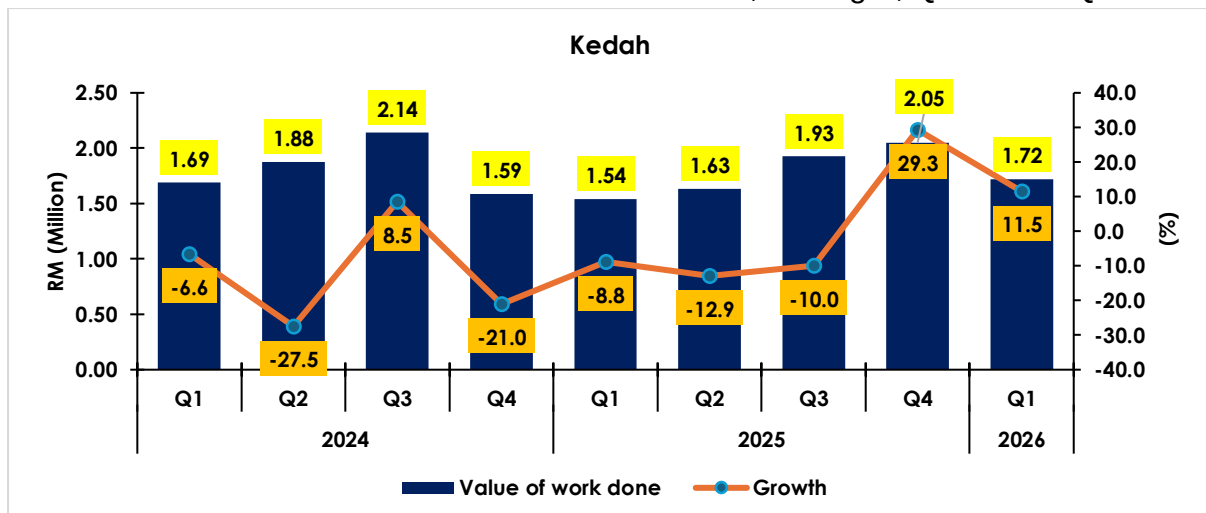


Chart 13: Crude Oil Palm, Kedah, Mac 2025 – Mac 2026

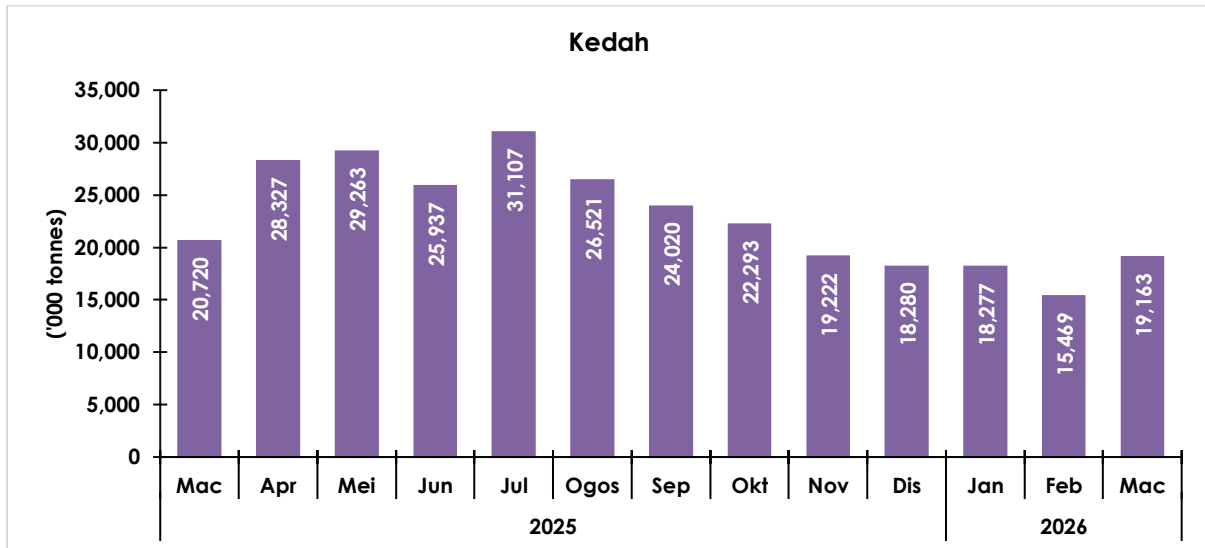


Chart 14: Production of Natural Rubber, Kedah, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

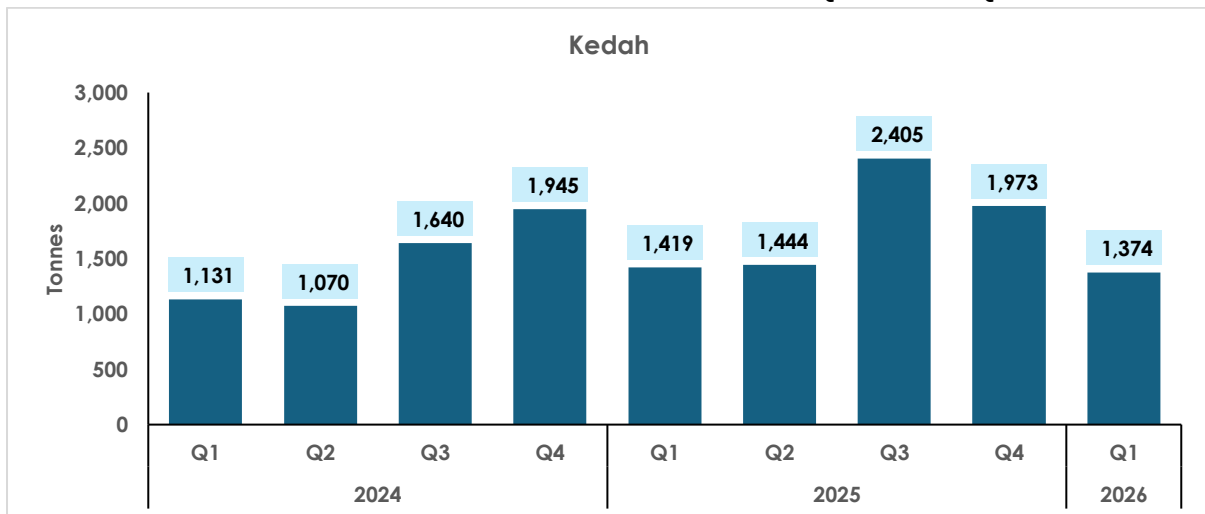


Chart 15: Total Population, Kedah, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

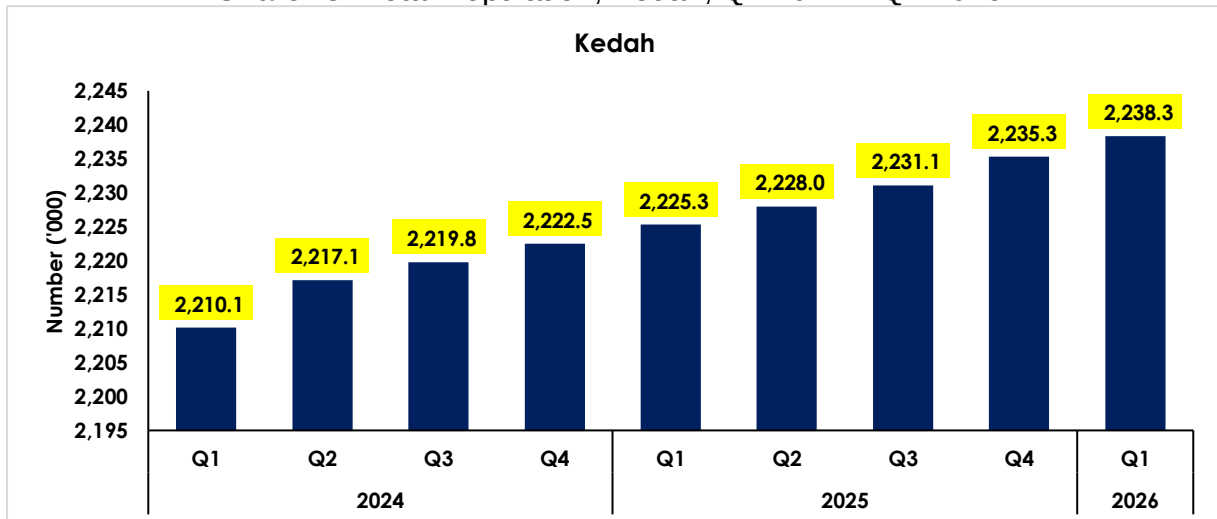


Chart 16: Vital Statistics on Live Births and Deaths, Kedah, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

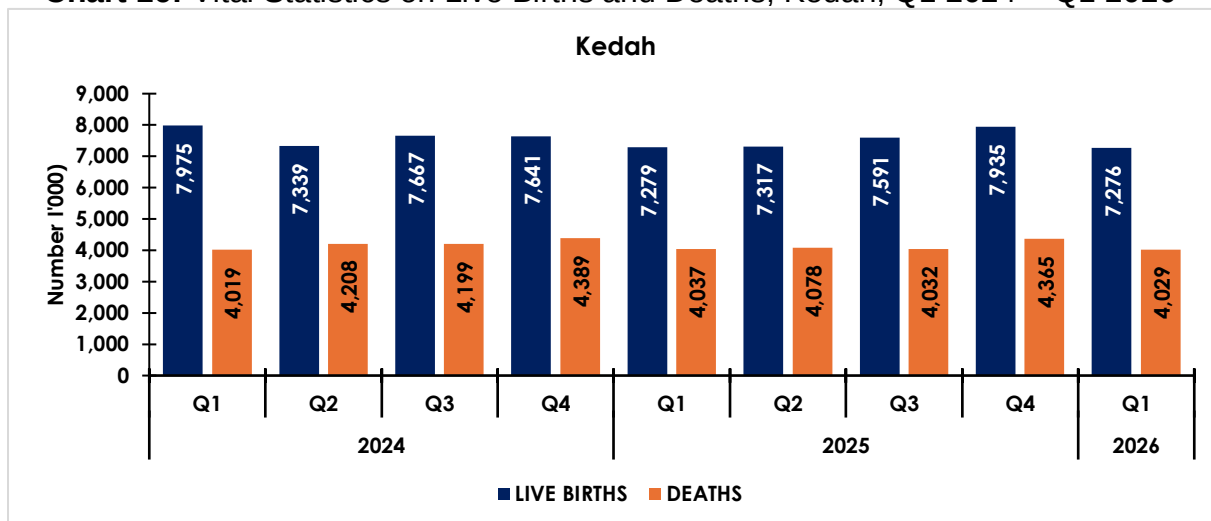


Chart 17: Supply of Residential Units, Kedah, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

