



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

MEDIA STATEMENT

STATE SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS, PERAK FIRST QUARTER, 2026

Perak's economic prospects remained positive, supported by improving business sentiment and stable manufacturing sector performance in Q1 2026

PUTRAJAYA, 21 MAY 2026 – Perak recorded modest socioeconomic performance in the First Quarter of 2026 (Q1 2026), with controlled inflation, a stable labour market, positive business sentiment and rising population growth. This performance is highlighted in the publication **State Socioeconomic Indicators, Perak First Quarter 2026**, released today by the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM). The publication is a rebranding of Pocket Stats State, enhanced with 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."

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose by 1.1 per cent in March 2026 compared to 0.9 per cent in February 2026. This reflected the overall rising inflation in line with the increase in the national price index following uncertainties in global commodity price movements.

From the external trade perspective, exports in Q1 2026 recorded by 8.9 per cent to RM10.2 billion (Q1 2025: RM9.4 billion). At the same time, imports increased by

8.4 per cent to RM9.46 billion (Q1 2025: RM8.7 billion) during the same period. This scenario reflects moderate trade activity.

Referring to the labour market, Perak maintained a stable labour force participation, supported by continuous economic activities and sustained labour demand. The labour force recorded 1.233 million persons (Q4 2025: 1.232 million persons), while the labour force participation rate (LFPR) increased to 68.8 per cent (Q4 2025: 68.8 per cent). In line with this, the number of employed persons recorded 1.19 million (Q4 2025: 1.18 million), while the unemployment rate recorded 3.4 per cent (Q4 2025: 3.5 per cent).

Looking ahead, the net balance of business expectations remained positive at +9.5 per cent for January to June 2026, increasing from +8.2 per cent in the previous quarter, reflecting improving business prospects in the near term. The positive outlook indicates continued confidence among businesses in the expansion of economic activities. This sentiment is consistent with the stable performance of the Manufacturing sector, with industrial capacity utilisation at 79.6 per cent in Q1 2026, reflecting sustainable and resilient operational levels among industrial players in the state.

From a demographic perspective, the population stood at 2.59 million in Q1 2026 compared to 2.58 million in Q4 2025. Live births were recorded at 6,371 persons, while deaths totalled 5,256 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) by 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 Socioeconomic Indicators, Perak

Indicators	2024				2025				2026
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Exports (RM billion)	10,212	10,084	11,231	10,279	9,412	10,009	10,629	11,702	10,245
Imports (RM billion)	7,446	8,449	9,042	9,166	8,729	9,051	9,524	9,880	9,461
Labour force ('000)	1,209.7	1,213.7	1,215.3	1,216.0	1,222.8	1,224.3	1,236.7	1,232.5	1,233.0
Employed ('000)	1,168.0	1,175.1	1,176.8	1,176.8	1,182.5	1,184.8	1,194.8	1,189.5	1,190.6
Unemployed ('000)	41.7	38.6	38.6	39.2	40.3	39.4	41.9	43.0	42.4
Outside labour force ('000)	554.2	558.9	559.8	563.3	556.9	553.6	551.7	558.5	560.5
Labour force participation rate (%)	68.6	68.5	68.5	68.3	68.7	68.9	69.2	68.8	68.8
Unemployment rate (%)	3.4	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.4
Net Balance (%)	+7.3	+0.6	-20.7	+14.1	+10.9	+8.6	+1.6	+8.2	+9.5
Capacity Utilisation (%)	77.8	79.2	80.7	81.2	77.3	81.1	79.8	80.6	79.6
Value of Work Done (RM billion)	1,219	1,230	1,407	1,320	1,264	1,393	1,443	1,527	1,559
Natural Rubber Production ('000 tonnes)	394	421	364	310	160	136	176	106	76
Population ('000)	2,562.4	2,569.4	2,570.8	2,572.2	2,573.5	2,574.9	2,578.9	2,582.9	2,586.8
Live Births ('000)	7,017	6,813	6,861	6,925	6,506	6,508	6,551	6,662	6,371
Deaths ('000)	5,187	5,221	5,187	5,353	5,159	5,178	5,005	5,689	5,256

Indicator	2025										2026		
	Mac	Apr	Mei	Jun	Jul	Ogos	Sep	Okt	Nov	Dis	Jan	Feb	Mac
Consumer Price Index	1.1	1.1	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.5	0.5	0.9	1.0	0.9	1.1
Exports (RM mil.)	3,269	3,374	3,237	3,398	3,548	3,447	3,635	3,950	3,872	3,880	3,501	3,119	3,626
Imports (RM mil.)	2,863	3,024	3,117	2,910	3,251	3,397	2,876	3,114	3,470	3,295	3,177	2,962	3,321
Natural Rubber Production (Tonnes)	36	36	50	49	60	56	60	41	31	34	35	25	17
Crude Palm Oil (Tonnes)	157,681	178,571	185,464	180,002	206,971	192,326	176,175	181,482	153,160	163,210	149,663	129,012	140,383

Note: n.a. - not applicable

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

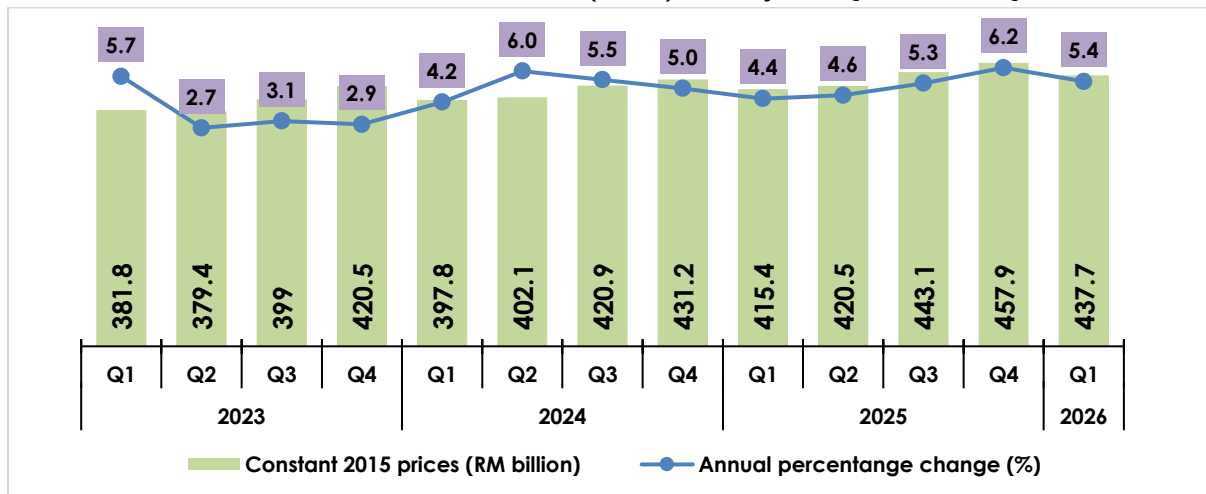


Chart 3: Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Perak, 2021–2024

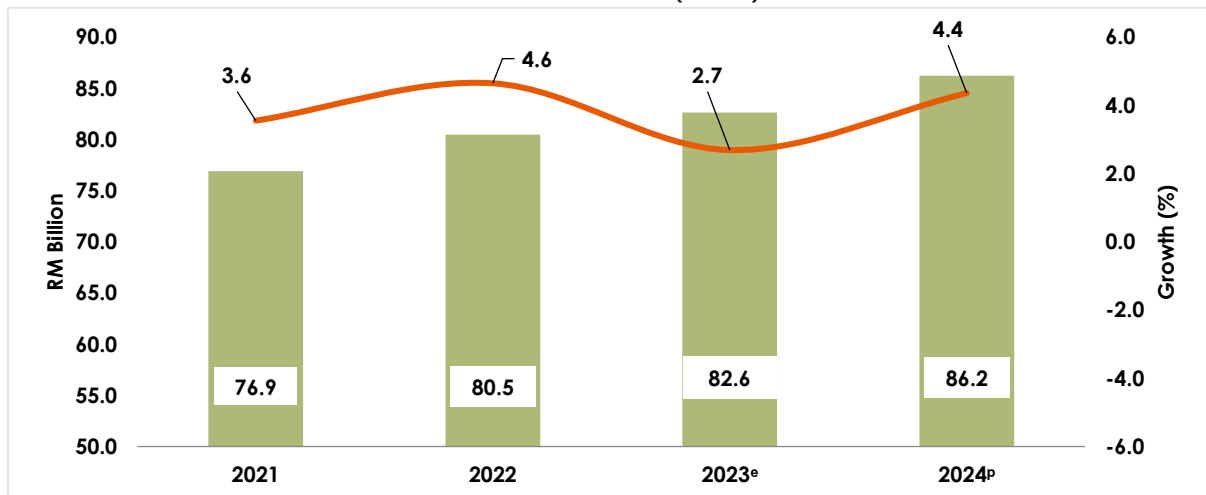


Chart 4 : Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by Sector, Perak, 2021– 2024

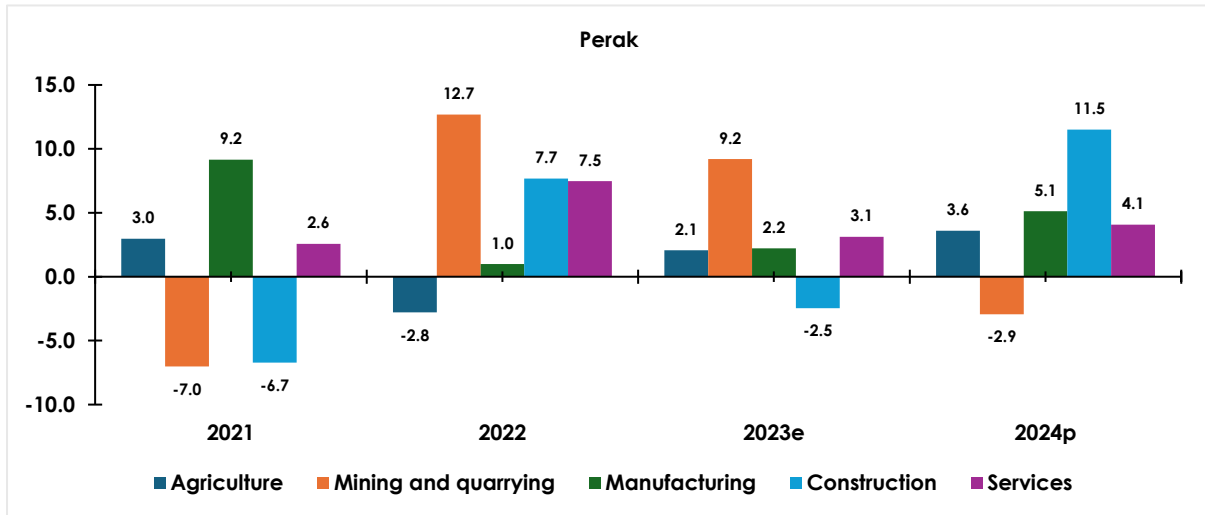


Chart 5: Consumer Price Index, Perak, March 2024 – March 2026

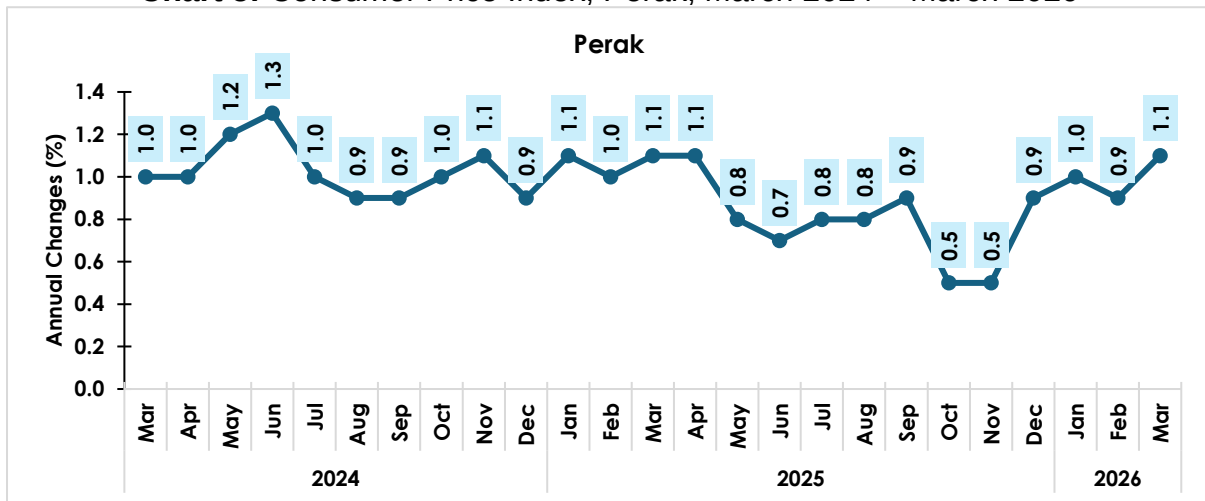


Chart 6: External Trade (Exports), Perak, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

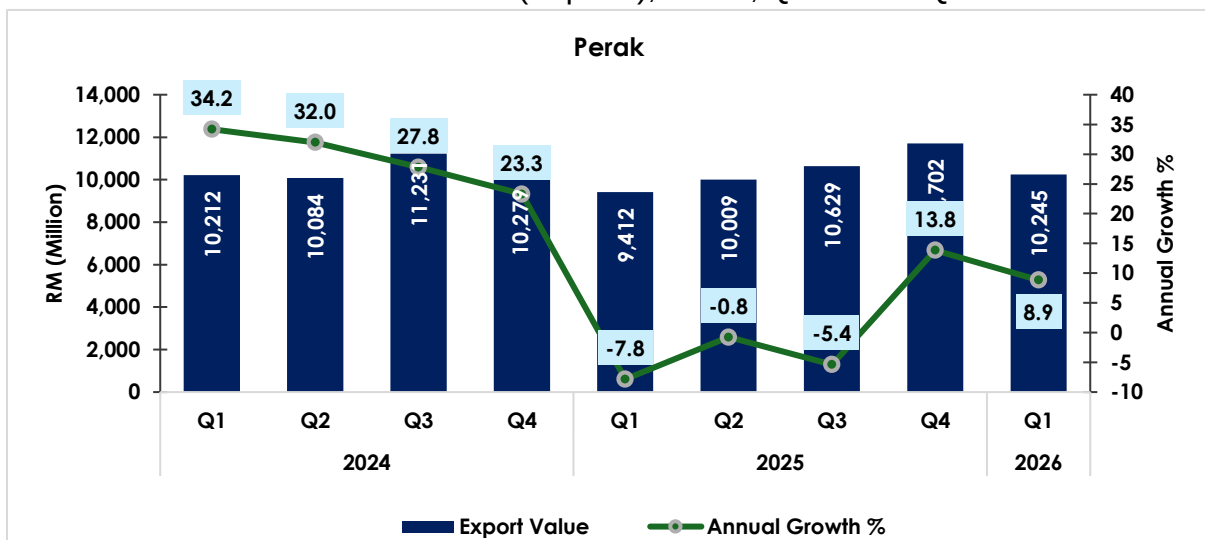


Chart 7: External Trade (Imports), Perak, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

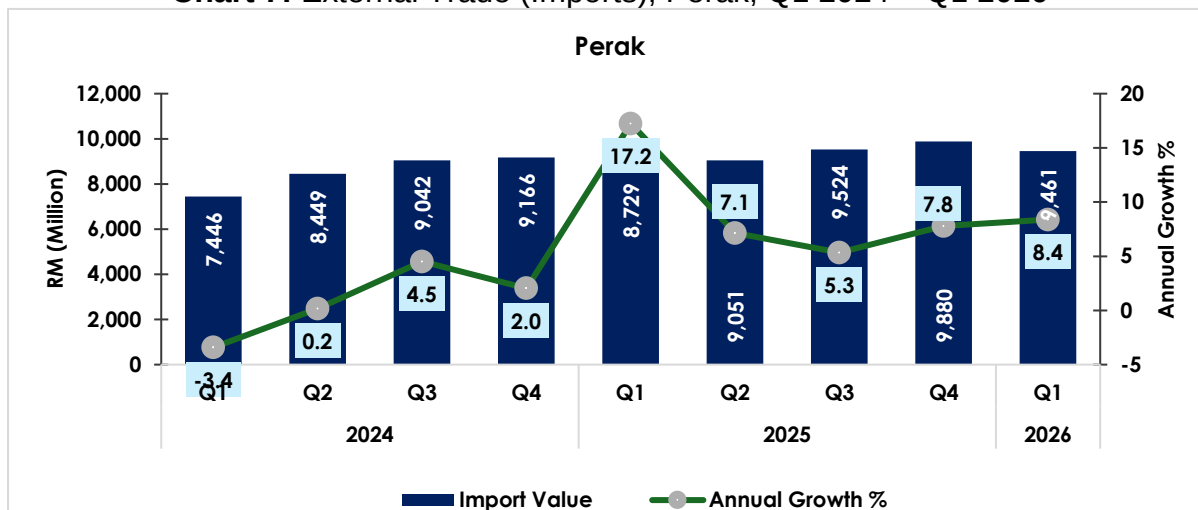


Chart 8: Principal Statistics of Labour Force, Perak, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

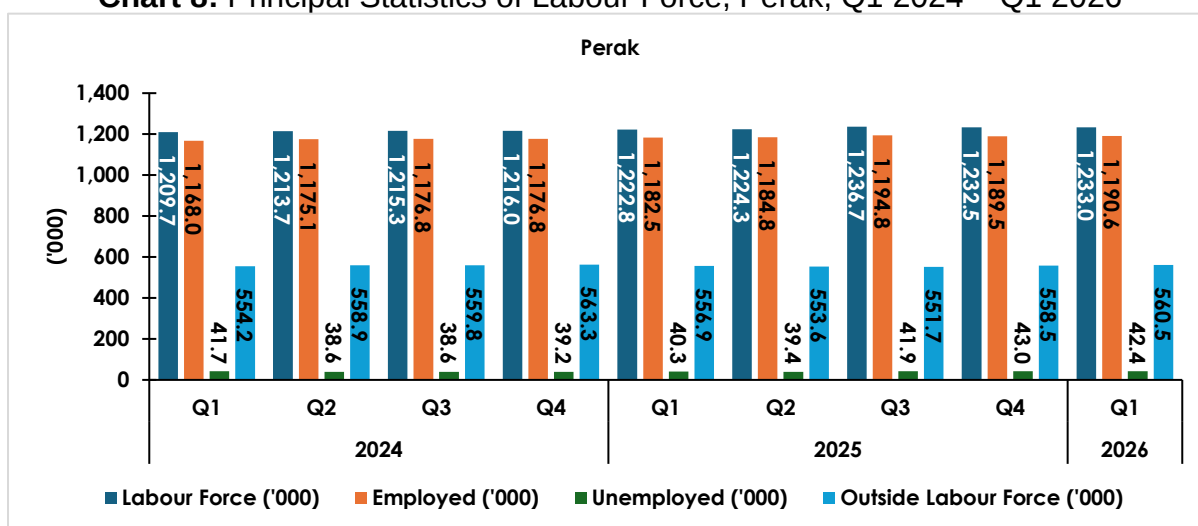


Chart 9: Labour Force Participation Rate and Unemployment Rate, Perak, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

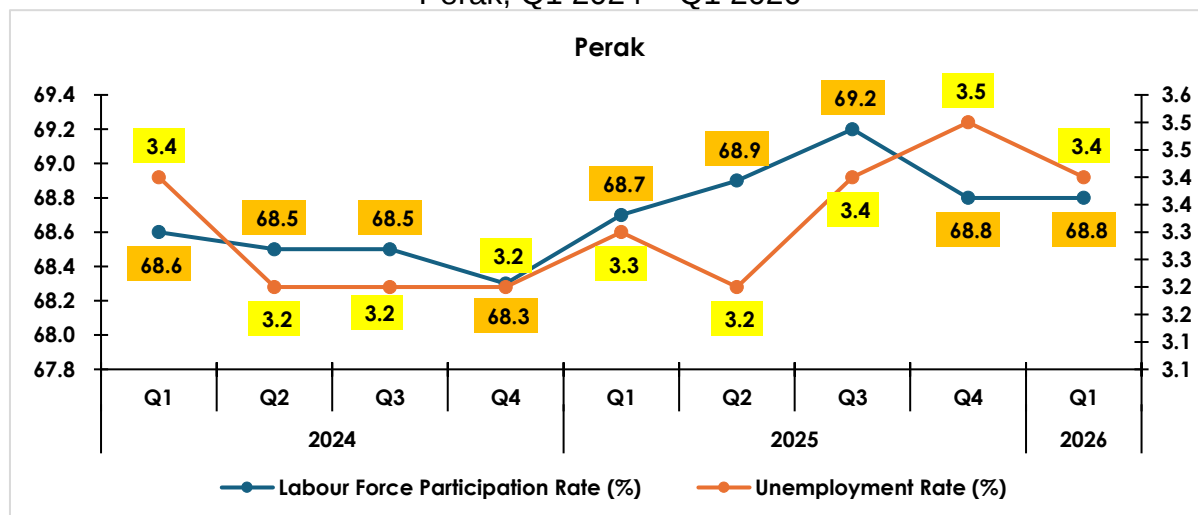


Chart 10: Net Balance of Business Performance for Upcoming Months, Perak, 2024 – 2026

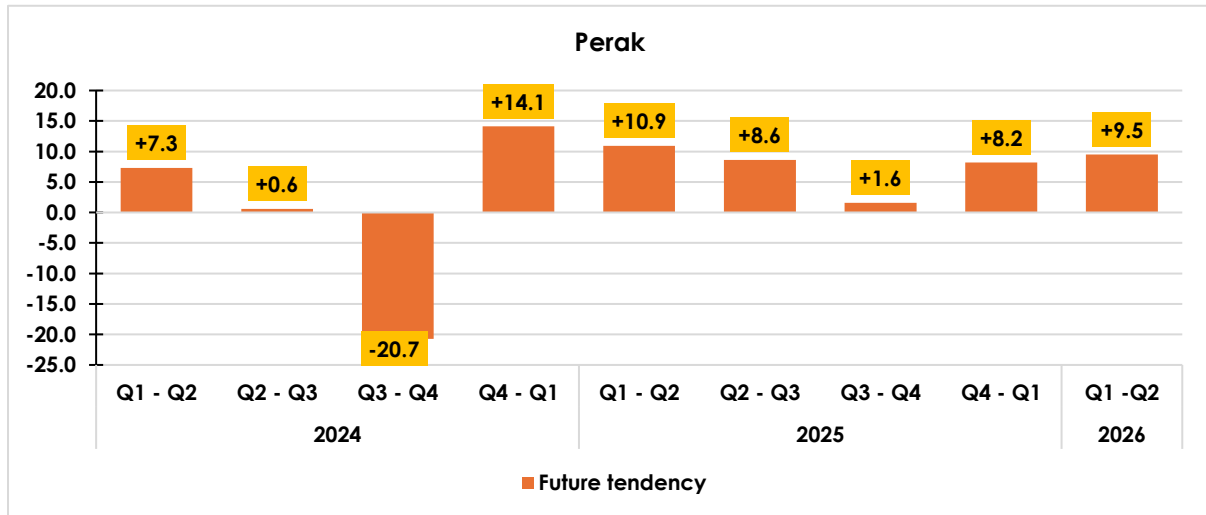


Chart 11: Manufacturing Industry Capacity Utilisation, Perak, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

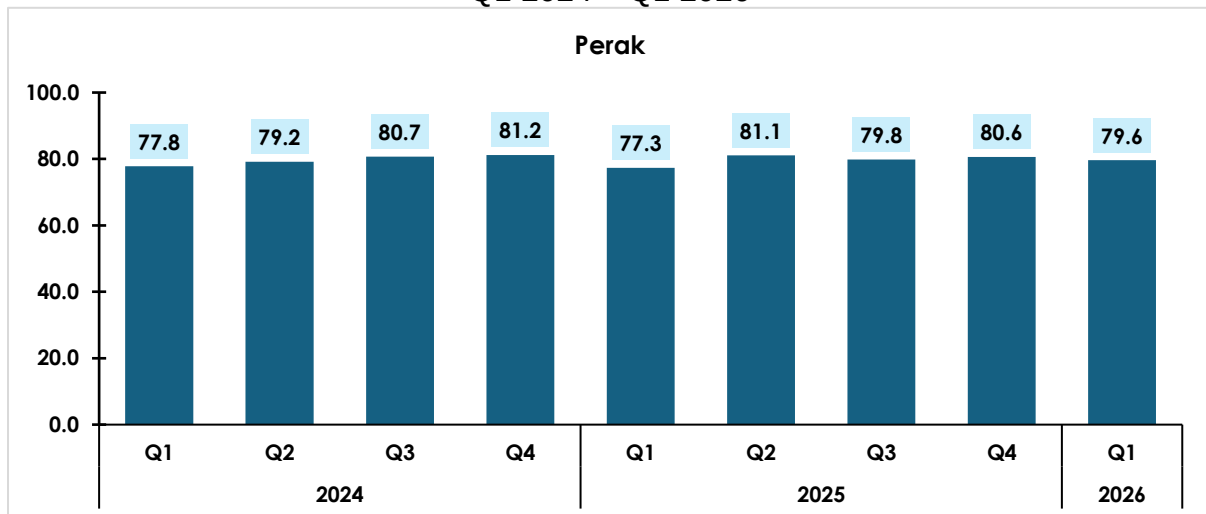


Chart 12: Value of Work Done Construction Sector, Perak, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

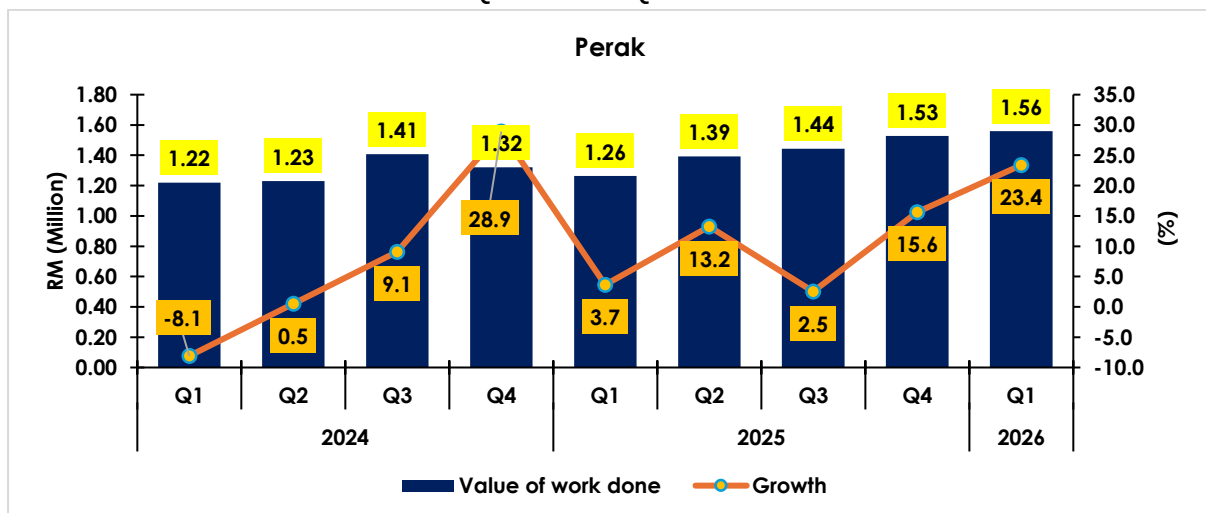


Chart 13: Crude Oil Palm, Perak, Mar 2025 – Mar 2026

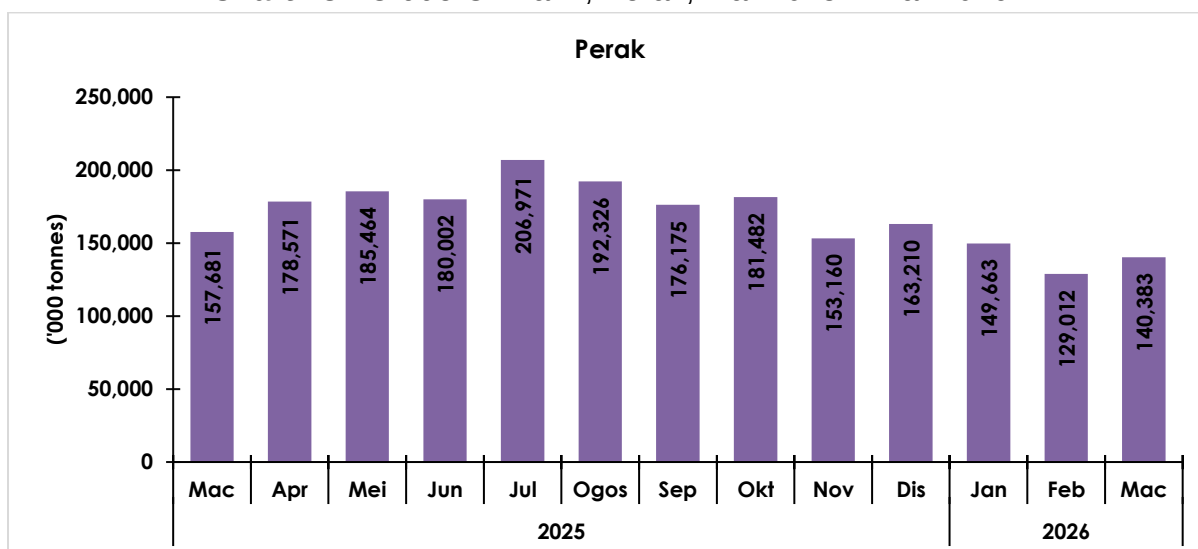


Chart 14: Production of Natural Rubber, Perak, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

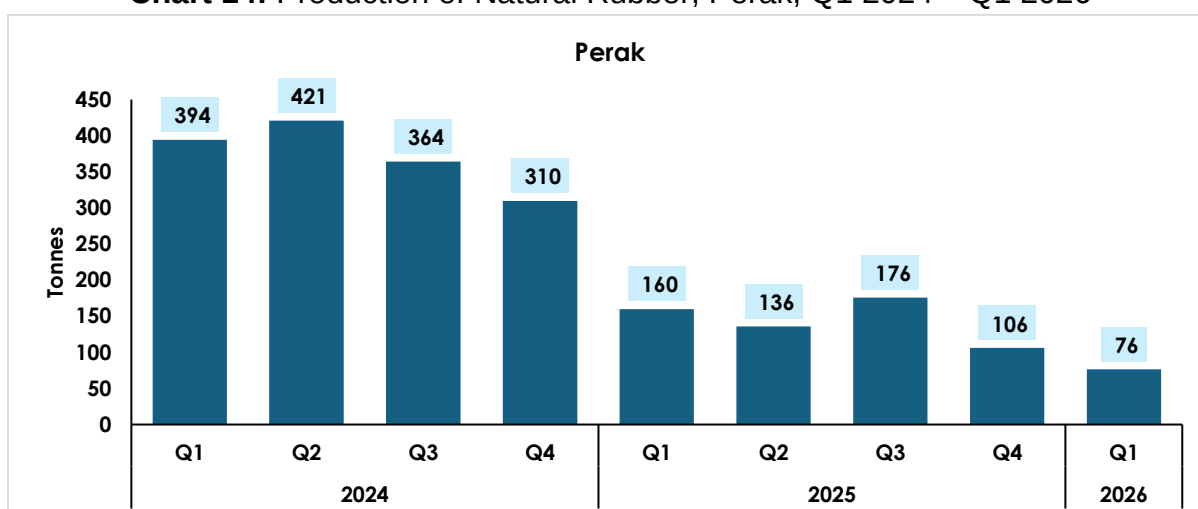


Chart 15: Total Population, Perak, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

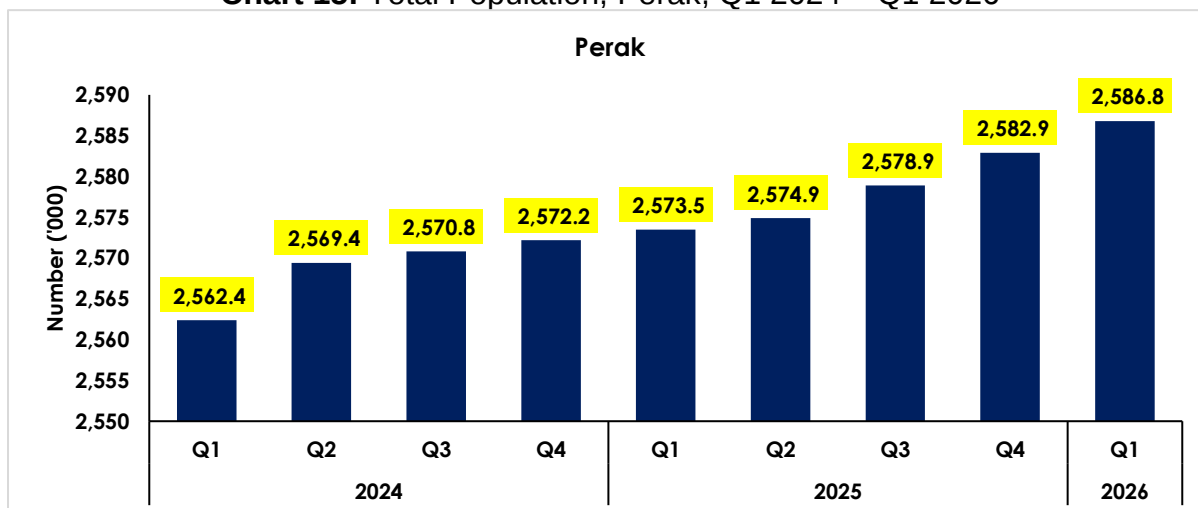


Chart 16: Vital Statistics on Live Births and Deaths, Perak, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

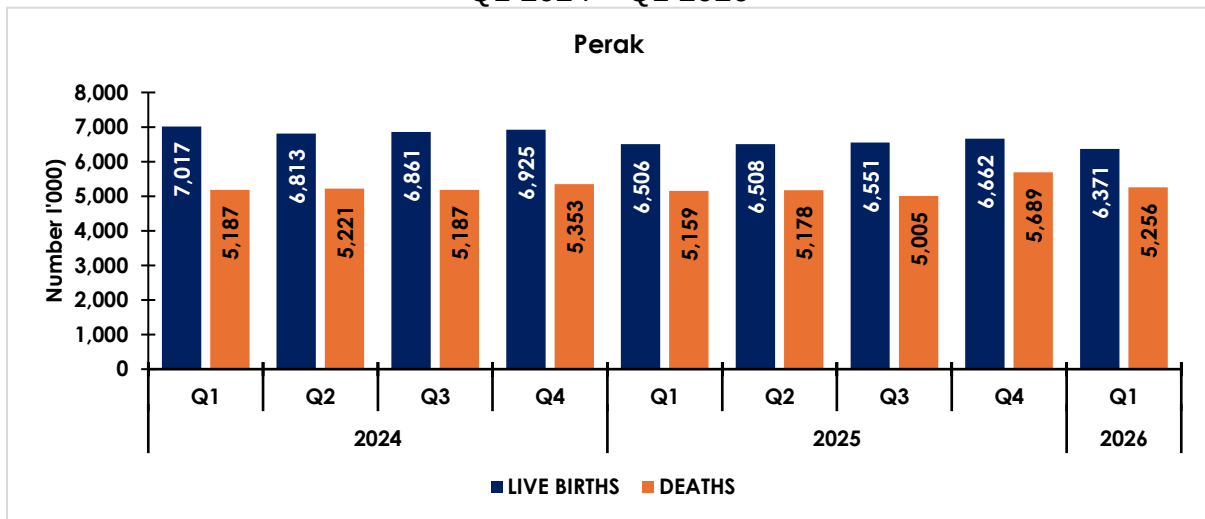


Chart 17: Supply of Residential Units, Perak, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

