

Embargo: Only to be published or disseminated at 1200 hour, Thursday, 21 May 2026



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

MEDIA STATEMENT

STATE SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS, PERLIS FIRST QUARTER, 2026

The Perlis labour market remained stable and manufacturing capacity stayed steady in Q1 2026

PUTRAJAYA, 21 MAY 2026 – Perlis recorded steady socioeconomic performance in the First Quarter of 2026 (Q1 2026), with controlled inflation, a stable labour market, soften business sentiment and positive population growth. This performance is highlighted in the publication **State Socioeconomic Indicators, Perlis 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 1.3 per cent in March 2026, compared to 1.0 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 declined by 5.0 per cent to RM2.9 million (Q1 2025: RM3.0 million). Likewise, imports also decreased by

6.3 per cent to RM2.8 million (Q1 2025: RM3.1 million) during the same period. This performance reflects continued trade activity, albeit moderating in line with declines in both major trade components.

Referring to the labour market, Perlis maintained a stable level of labour force participation, supported by continuous economic activities and sustained labour demand. The labour force recorded 1.4 thousand persons (Q4 2026: 1.4 thousand persons), while the labour force participation rate (LFPR) remained at 63.1 per cent (Q4 2026: 63.1%). In line with this trend, the number of employed persons recorded 1.3 thousand (Q4 2025: 1.3 thousand), while the unemployment rate stood at 3.0 per cent (Q4 2025: 3.2%).

Looking ahead, the net balance of business expectations indicated a pessimistic sentiment, recording -5.7 per cent for the period of January to June 2026, reflecting less favourable business prospects in the near term. The pessimistic outlook indicates more moderated confidence among businesses towards economic activities. This sentiment is consistent with the moderate performance of the Manufacturing sector, with industrial capacity utilisation at 62.7 per cent in Q1 2026, reflecting controlled utilisation levels among industrial players in the state.

From a demographic perspective, the population stood at 298.9 thousand in Q1 2026, compared to 298.6 thousand in Q4 2025. Live births were recorded at 845 persons, while deaths totalled 510 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, Perlis

Indicators	2024				2025				2026
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Exports (RM billion)	298	253	302	352	307	266	330	300	291
Imports (RM billion)	376	437	483	418	301	387	371	311	283
Labour force ('000)	133.9	134.8	135.7	135.6	137.0	136.7	137.3	136.5	137.0
Employed ('000)	128.7	129.5	130.6	130.8	132.5	132.0	132.7	132.2	132.8
Unemployed ('000)	5.2	5.3	5.1	4.9	4.5	4.7	4.6	4.3	4.2
Outside labour force ('000)	79.5	79.5	79.2	79.3	79.3	79.4	79.0	79.8	80.1
Labour force participation rate (%)	62.7	62.9	63.1	63.1	63.3	63.3	63.5	63.1	63.1
Unemployment rate (%)	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.6	3.3	3.5	3.4	3.2	3.0
Net Balance (%)	+4.5	+7.0	+9.4	-7.4	-7.3	-2.9	+10.1	+9.3	-5.7
Capacity Utilisation (%)	71.1	69.2	67.5	67.4	70.5	58.5	72.3	68.4	62.7
Value of Work Done (RM billion)	203	205	290	198	233	245	207	99	158
Natural Rubber Production ('000 tonnes)	1,131	1,070	1,640	1,945	1,419	1,444	2,405	1,973	1,374
Population ('000)	295.8	296.8	297.0	297.3	297.5	297.8	298.2	298.6	298.9
Live Births ('000)	895	863	932	879	828	881	887	910	845
Deaths ('000)	544	553	578	563	524	554	555	596	510

Indicator	2025											2026		
	Mac	Apr	Mei	Jun	Jul	Ogos	Sep	Okt	Nov	Dis		Jan	Feb	Mac
Consumer Price Index	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.6	0.7	1.4	0.9	1.0	1.1		1.2	1.0	1.3
Exports (RM mil.)	94	82	94	91	112	115	103	103	93	105		108	95	88
Imports (RM mil.)	75	97	190	100	110	103	159	116	96	99		97	103	83
Natural Rubber Production (Tonnes)	315	287	423	734	1,006	700	699	599	490	884		643	395	336
Crude Palm Oil (Tonnes)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.		n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Note: n.a. - not applicable

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

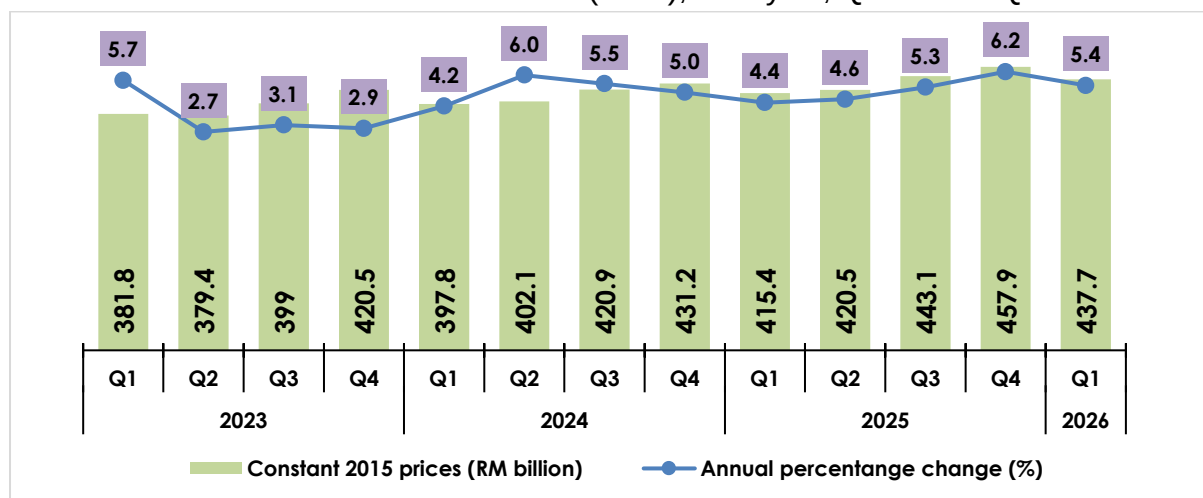


Chart 3: Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Perlis, 2021–2024

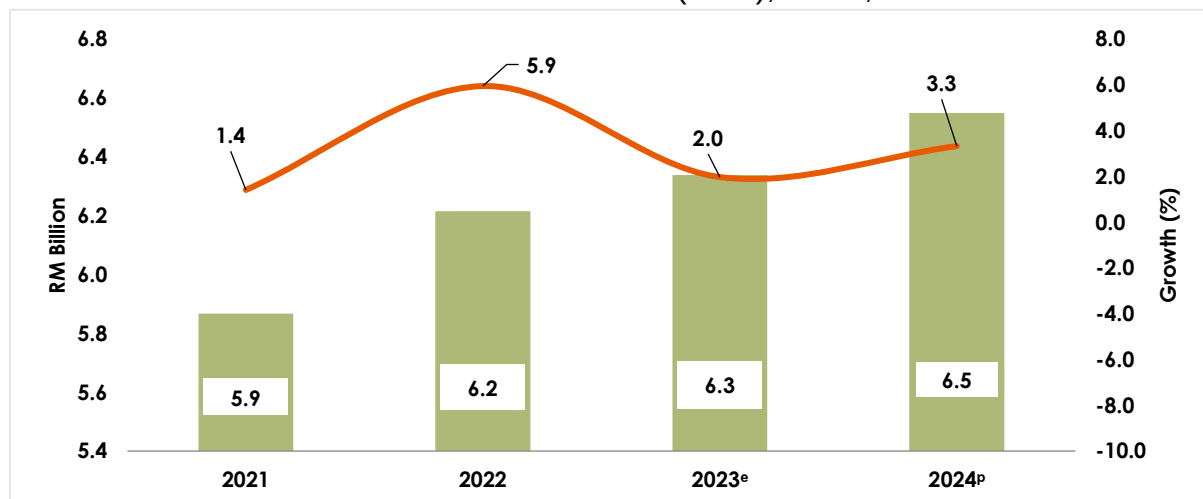


Chart 4 : Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by Sector, Perlis, 2021– 2024

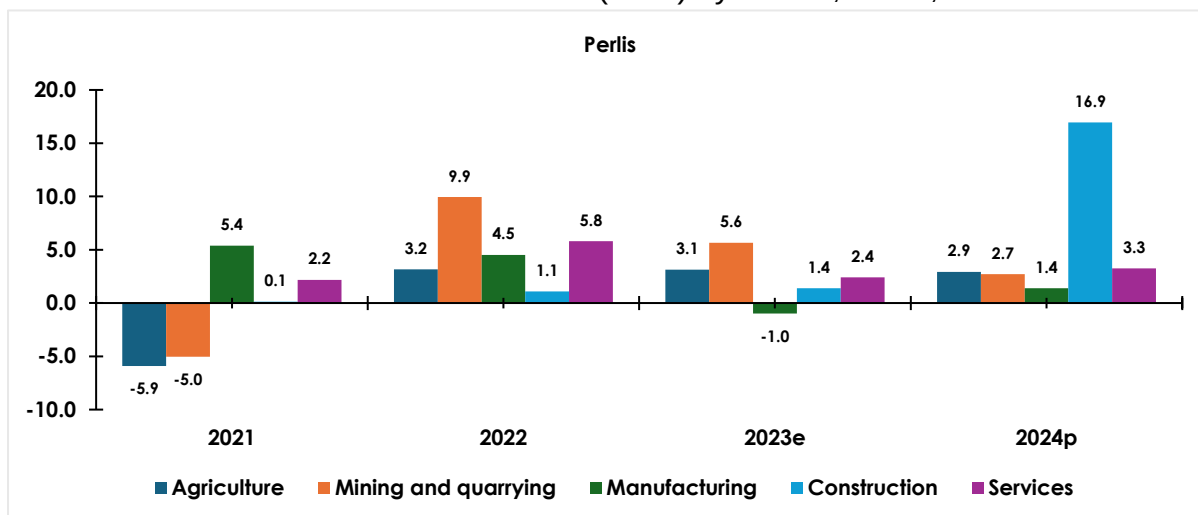


Chart 5: Consumer Price Index, Perlis, March 2024 – March 2026

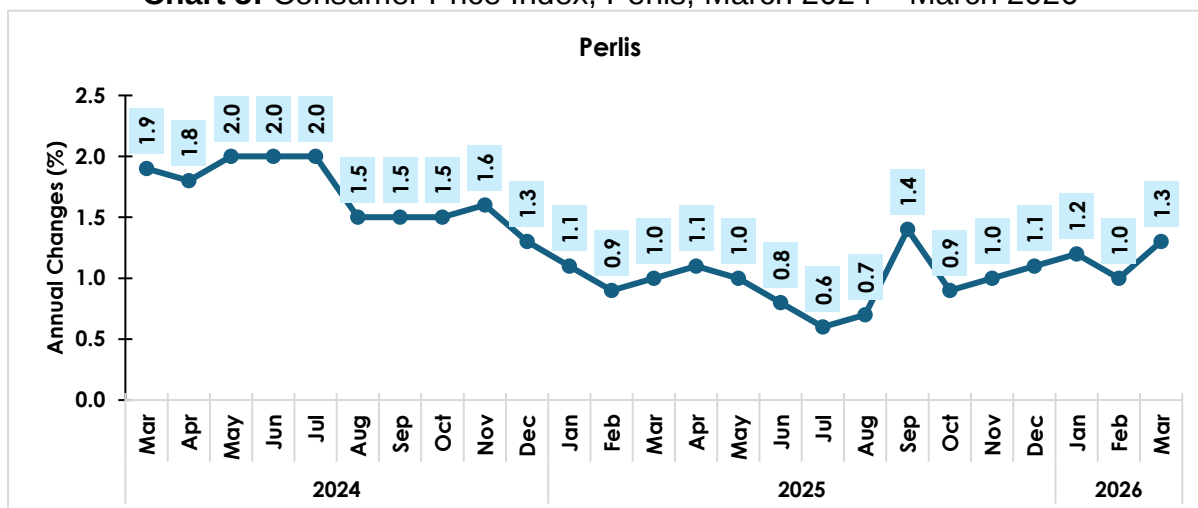


Chart 6: External Trade (Exports), Perlis, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

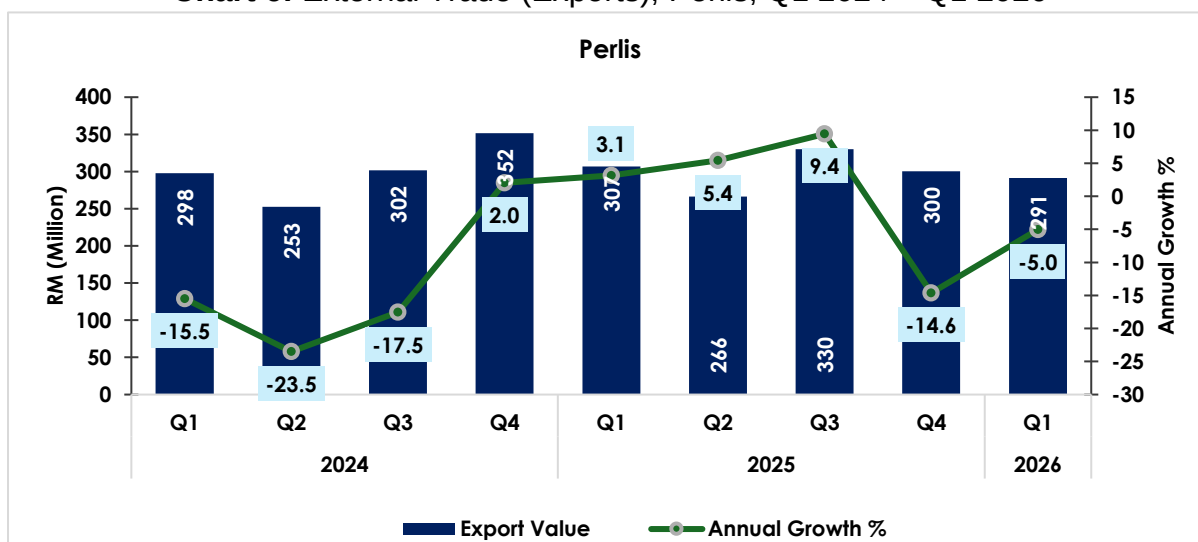


Chart 7: External Trade (Imports), Perlis, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

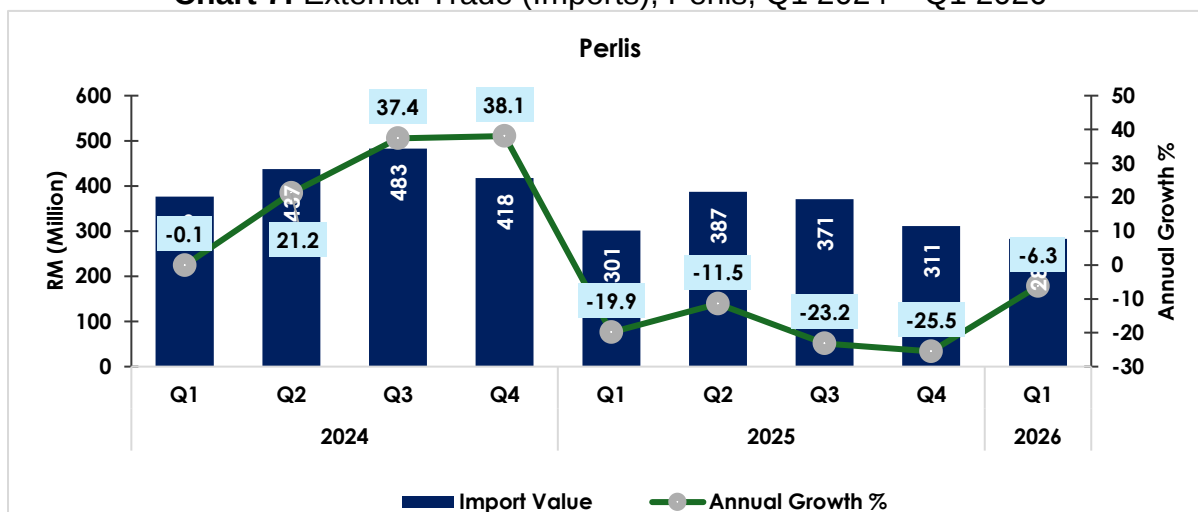


Chart 8: Principal Statistics of Labour Force, Perlis, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

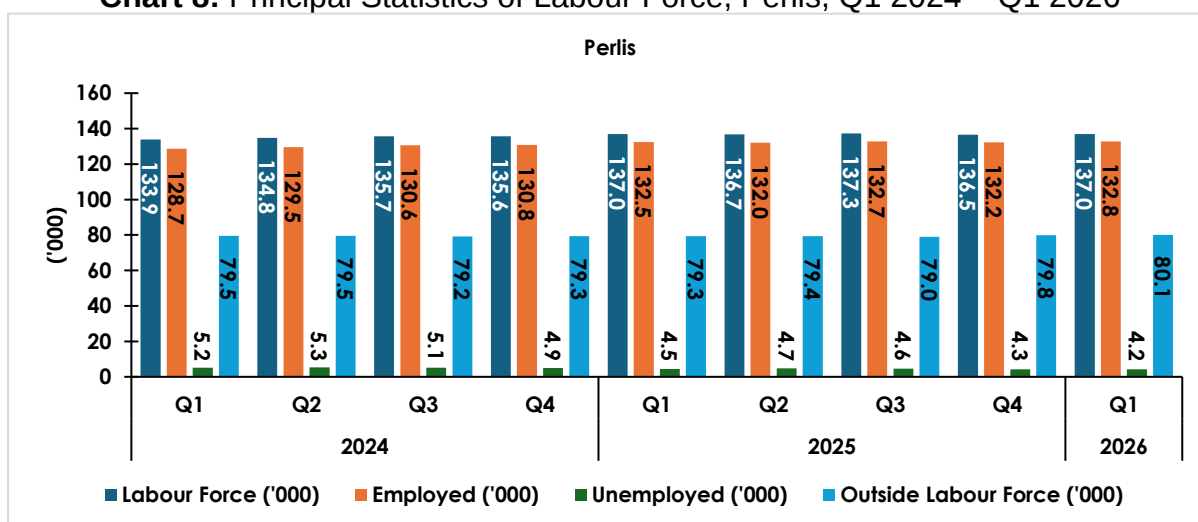


Chart 9: Labour Force Participation Rate and Unemployment Rate, Perlis, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

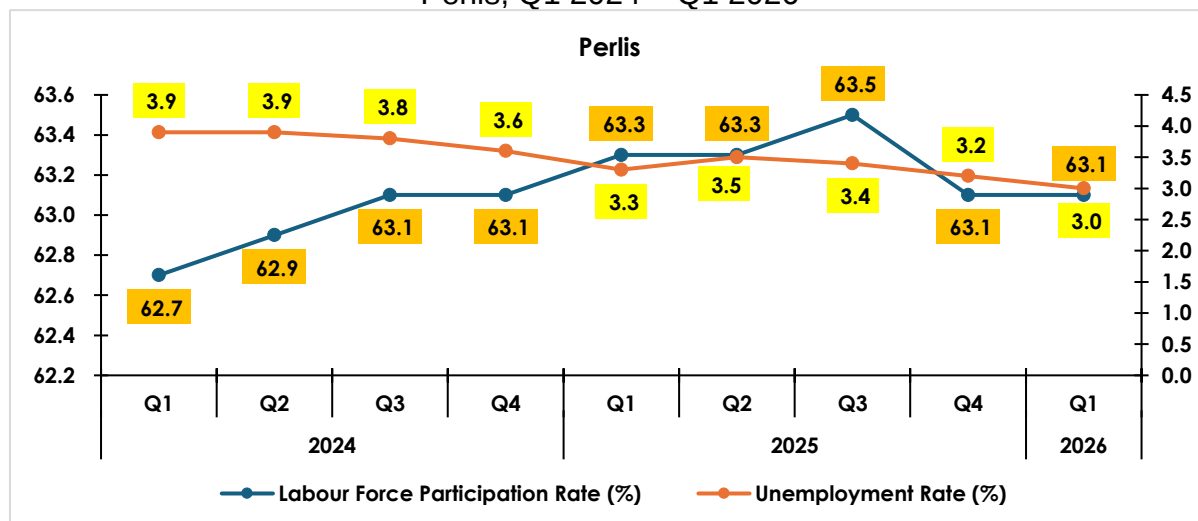


Chart 10: Net Balance of Business Performance for Upcoming Months, Perlis, 2024 – 2026

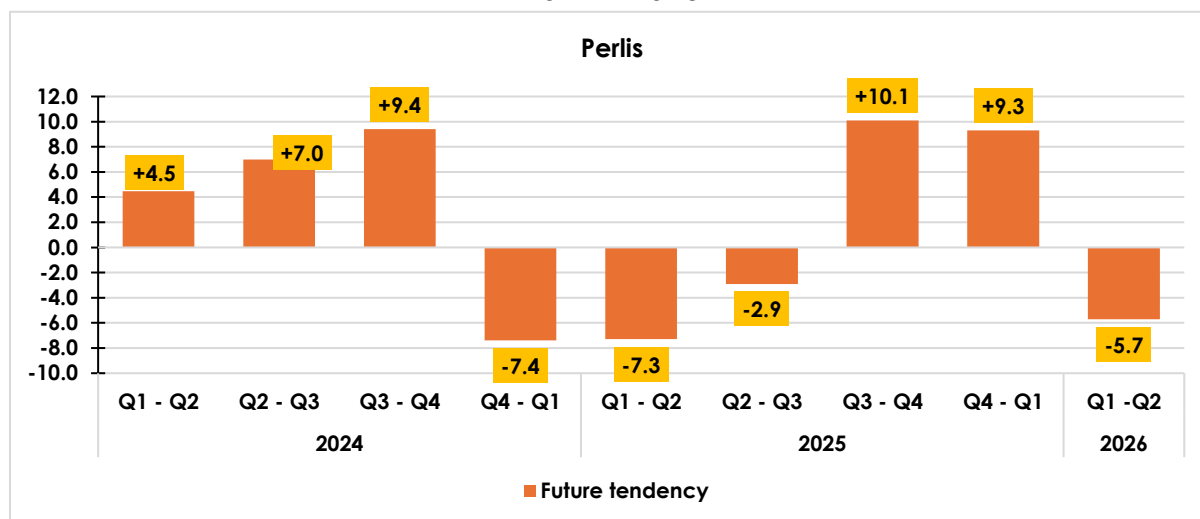


Chart 11: Manufacturing Industry Capacity Utilisation, Perlis, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

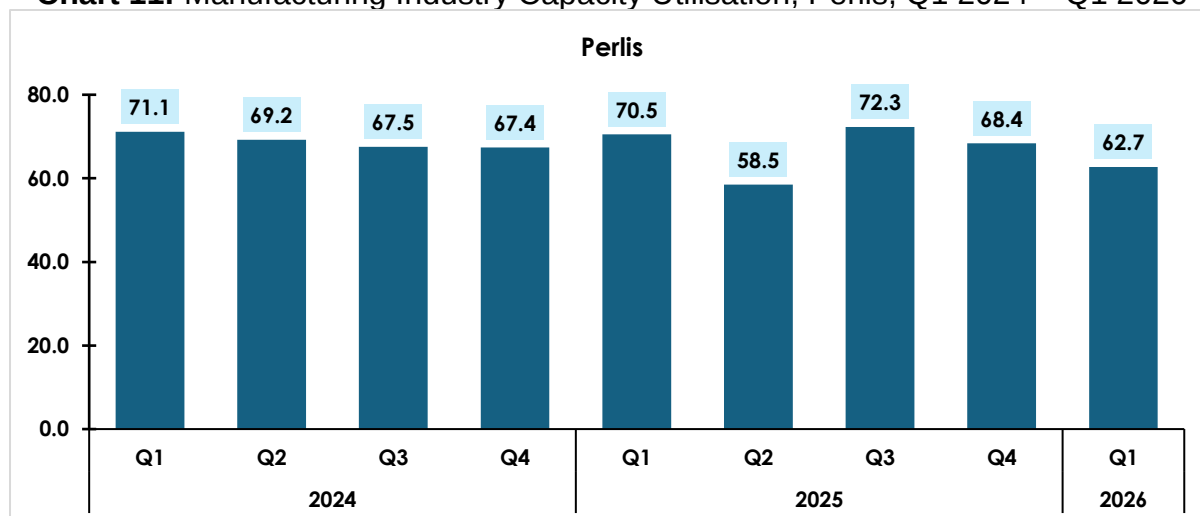


Chart 12: Value of Work Done Construction Sector, Perlis, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

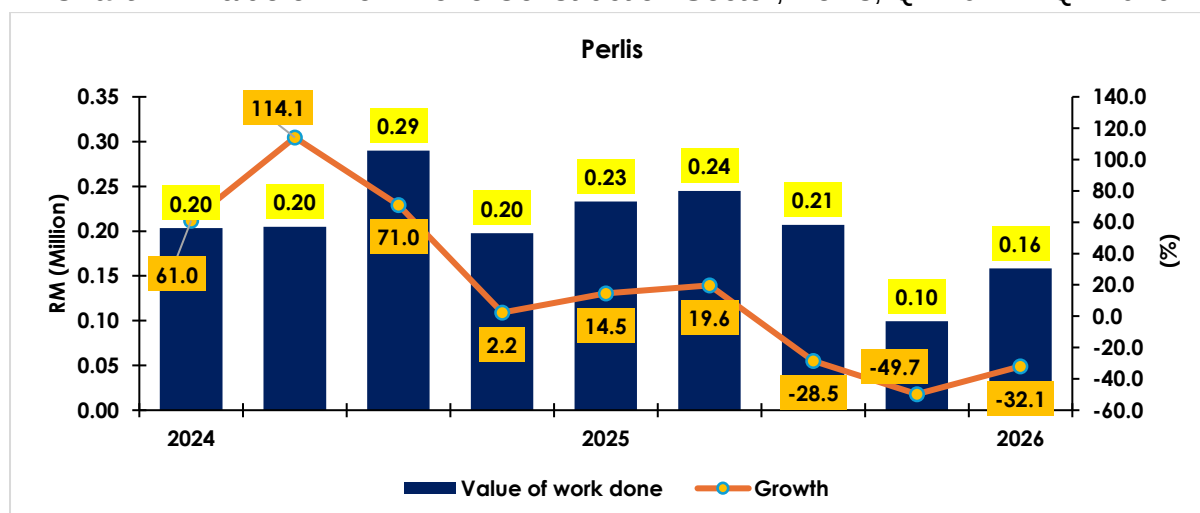


Chart 13: Production of natural rubber, Perlis, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

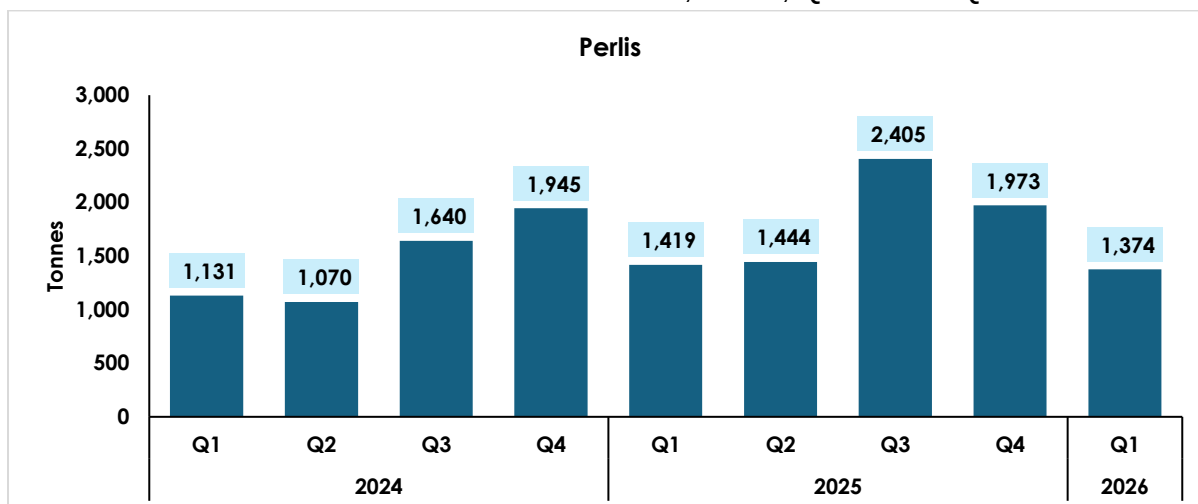


Chart 14: Total Population, Perlis, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

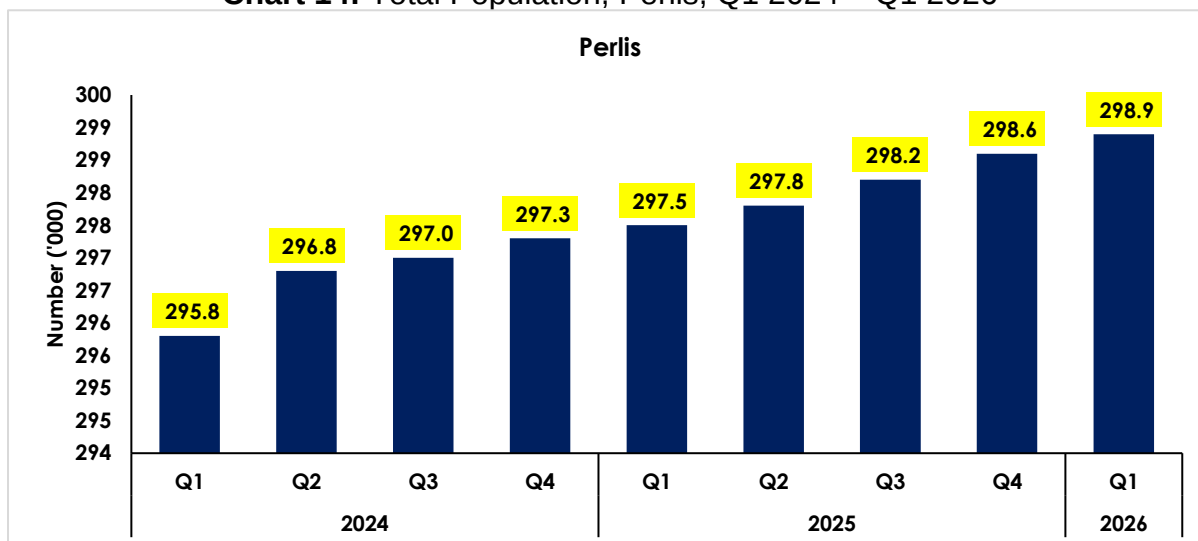


Chart 15: Vital Statistics on Live Births and Deaths, Perlis, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

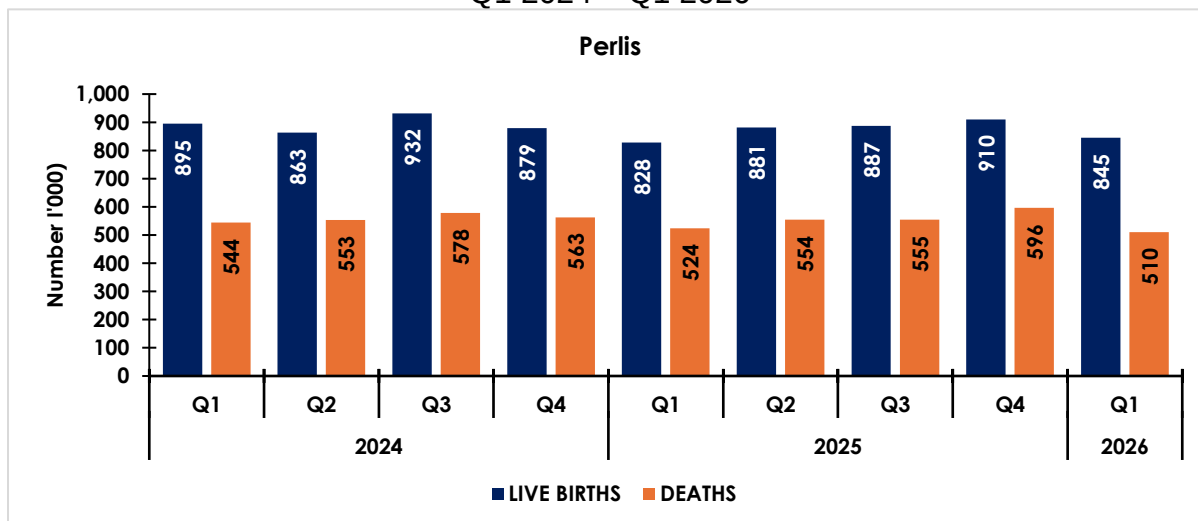


Chart 16: Supply of Residential Units, Perlis, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

