



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

MEDIA STATEMENT

STATE SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS, PULAU PINANG FIRST QUARTER, 2026

Positive business sentiment reflects continued confidence in the state's economic prospects.

PUTRAJAYA, 21 MAY 2026 – Pulau Pinang recorded steady socioeconomic performance in the First Quarter of 2026 (Q1 2026), with controlled inflation, a stable labour market, positive business sentiment and population growth. These developments are highlighted in the publication **State Socioeconomic Indicators, Pulau Pinang 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 1.8 per cent in March 2026 compared to 1.6 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 increased significantly by 45.0 per cent to RM196.1 billion (Q1 2025: RM135.2 billion). Imports also increased by 25.3 per cent to RM100.7 billion (Q1 2025: RM80.4 billion) during the same period. This performance reflected robust and resilient trade activity at the state level.

Referring to the labour market, Pulau Pinang maintained stable labour force participation, supported by continued economic activity and sustained labour demand. The labour force recorded 947.8 thousand persons (Q4 2025: 953.3 thousand persons), while the labour force participation rate (LFPR) increased to 71.8 per cent (Q4 2025: 71.6%). In line with this trend, the number of employed persons recorded 922.3 thousand persons (Q4 2025: 930.9 thousand persons), while the unemployment rate remained at 2.7 per cent (Q4 2025: 2.3%).

Looking ahead, the net balance of business expectations remained positive at +7.2 per cent for the period January to June 2026, compared to +6.8 per cent in the previous quarter, reflecting continued favourable business prospects in the near term. Positive expectations indicated optimism among businesses regarding economic developments. This sentiment was consistent with the stable performance of the Manufacturing sector, with industrial capacity utilisation remaining at 80.7 per cent in Q1 2026, reflecting resilient and sustainable operational levels among industrial players in the state.

In terms of demographic trends, the population increased to 1.812 million persons in Q1 2026 compared to 1.809 million persons in Q4 2025. Live births recorded 4,045 persons, while deaths were recorded at 2,983 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, Pulau Pinang

Indicators	2024				2025				2026
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Exports (RM billion)	106,925	114,773	130,135	143,084	135,216	142,944	159,441	173,715	196,123
Imports (RM billion)	64,638	69,451	78,180	80,908	80,365	85,119	85,310	103,397	100,675
Labour force ('000)	958.2	955.1	946.3	946.0	947.9	943.5	949.4	953.3	947.8
Employed ('000)	938.4	937.4	927.1	924.5	923.3	921.3	926.8	930.9	922.3
Unemployed ('000)	19.8	17.7	19.1	21.5	24.6	22.1	22.5	22.4	25.5
Outside labour force ('000)	367.5	366.1	373.8	371.8	374.1	376.6	373.7	378.1	373.0
Labour force participation rate (%)	72.3	72.3	71.7	71.8	71.7	71.5	71.8	71.6	71.8
Unemployment rate (%)	2.1	1.9	2.0	2.3	2.6	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.7
Net Balance (%)	+4.5	+13.3	+32.1	+0.9	-9.1	-2.3	-9.9	+6.8	+7.2
Capacity Utilisation (%)	78.4	80.1	81.1	80.0	81.2	81.2	81.0	82.2	80.7
Value of Work Done (RM billion)	2,651	3,073	2,783	2,744	3,047	3,301	3,244	3,292	3,100
Natural Rubber Production ('000 tonnes)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Population ('000)	1,793.5	1,800.5	1,801.2	1,801.9	1,802.6	1,803.3	1,805.3	1,808.6	1,812.0
Live Births ('000)	4,598	4,409	4,568	4,599	4,167	3,898	4,324	4,317	4,045
Deaths ('000)	3,125	3,111	3,197	3,295	3,041	2,988	2,957	3,182	2,983

Indicator	2025												2026		
	Mac	Apr	Mei	Jun	Jul	Ogos	Sep	Okt	Nov	Dis	Jan	Feb	Mac	Apr	Mei
Consumer Price Index	1.1	1.1	0.8	0.7	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.3	1.5	1.6	1.8	1.8	1.8
Exports (RM mil.)	51,872	49,014	45,877	48,053	53,329	48,410	57,702	59,305	52,748	61,663	64,975	61,666	69,482	69,482	69,482
Imports (RM mil.)	27,493	29,344	28,973	26,802	29,586	28,932	26,791	33,238	37,032	33,128	32,369	33,467	34,839	34,839	34,839
Natural Rubber Production (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.	n.a.	n.a.
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.	n.a.	n.a.

Note: n.a. - not applicable

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

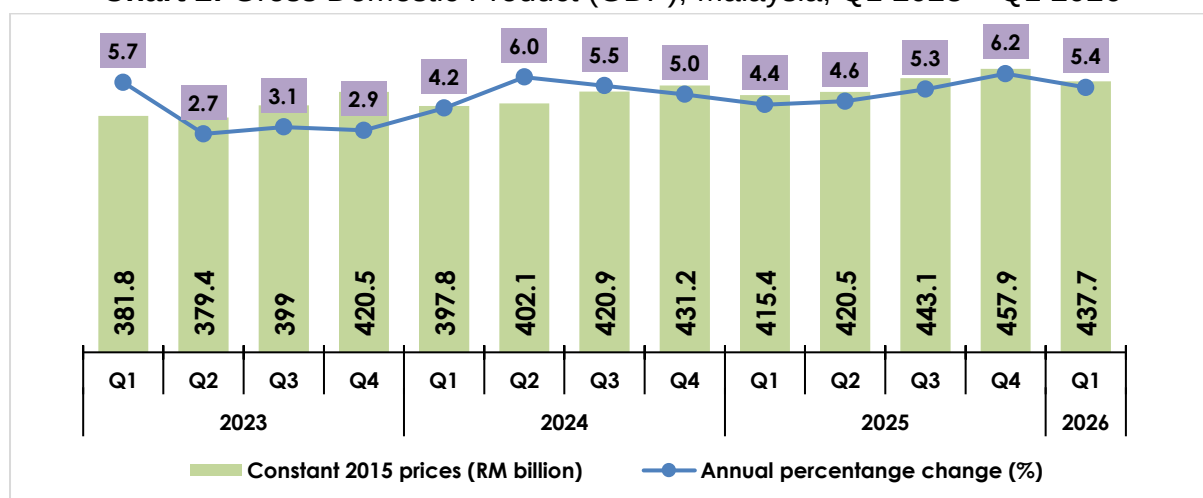


Chart 3: Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Pulau Pinang, 2021–2024

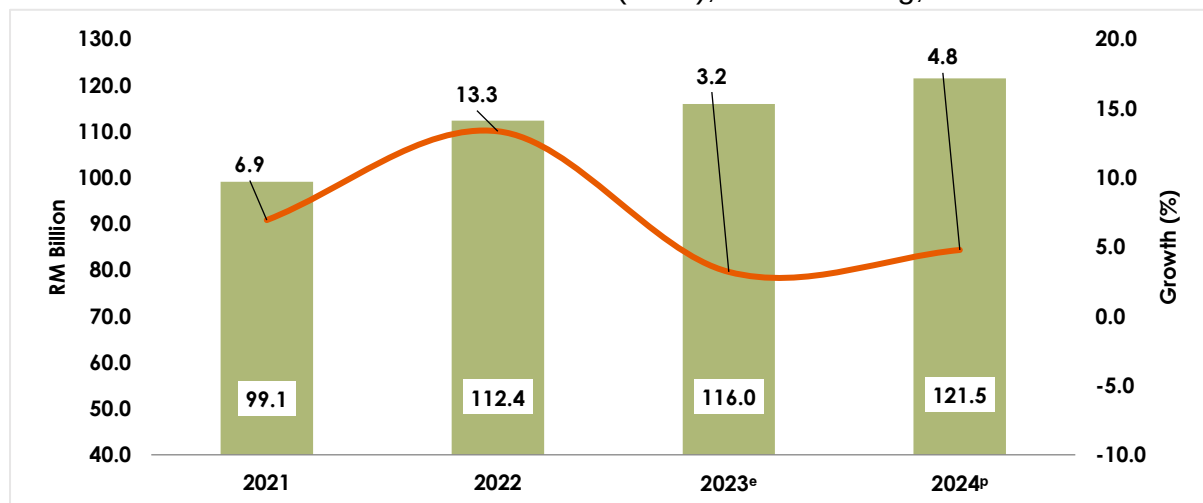


Chart 4: Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by Sector, Pulau Pinang, 2021– 2024

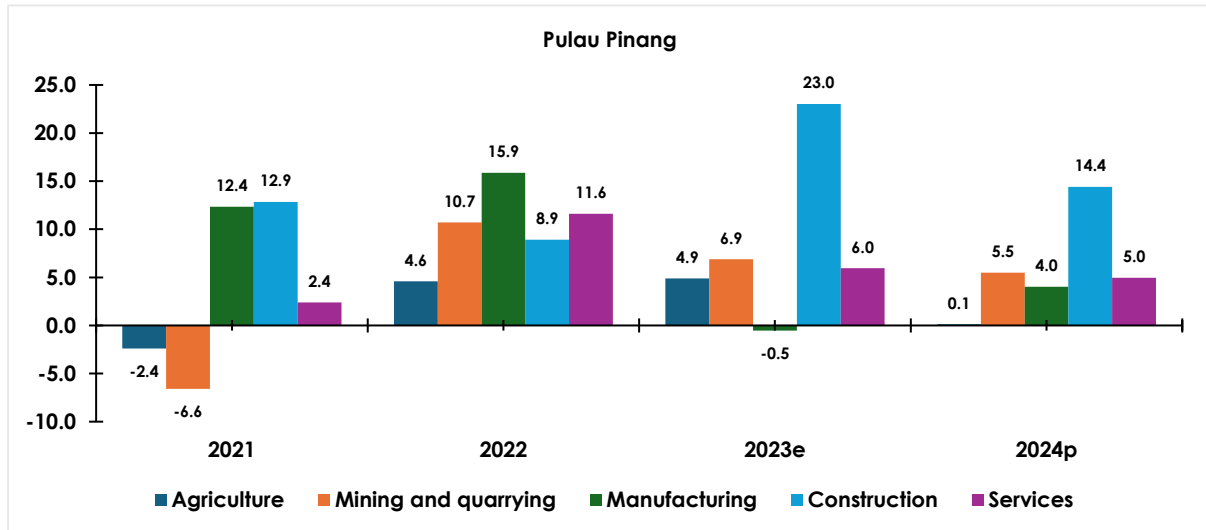


Chart 5: Consumer Price Index, Pulau Pinang, March 2024 – March 2026

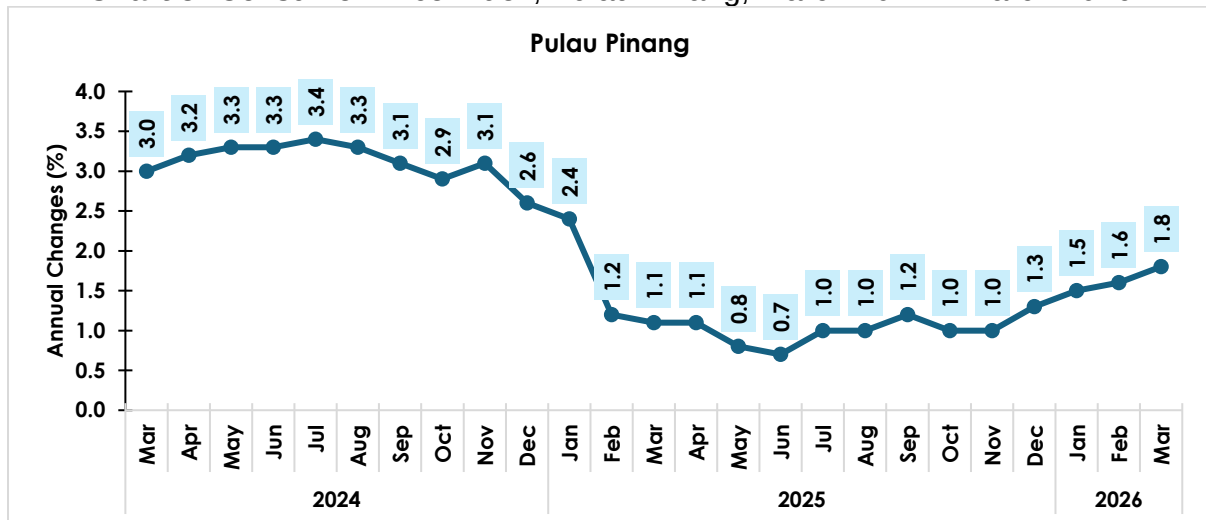


Chart 6: External Trade (Exports), Pulau Pinang, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

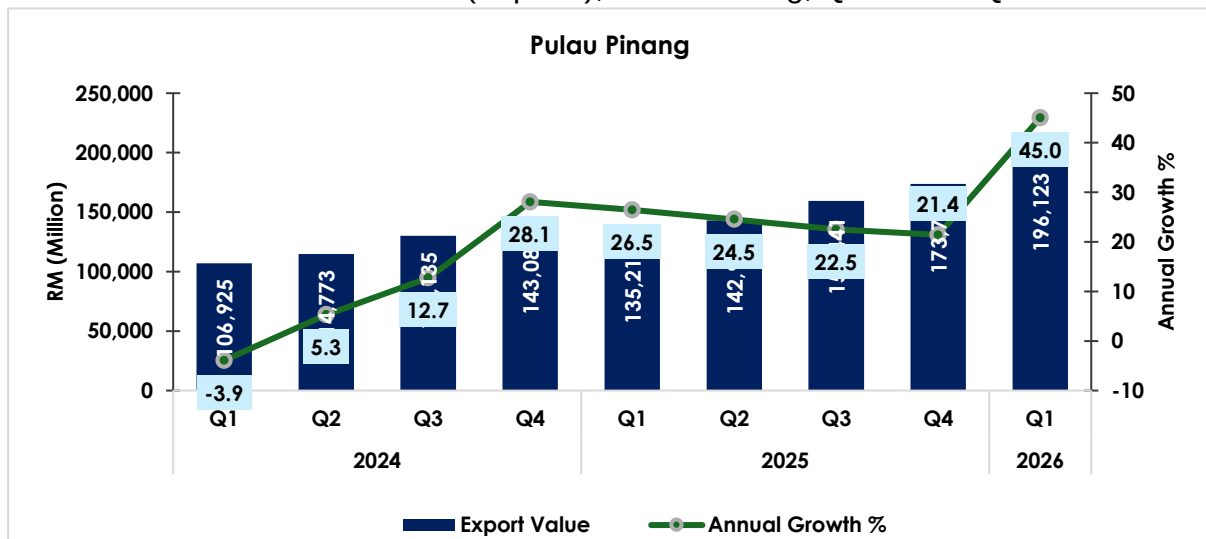


Chart 7: External Trade (Imports), Pulau Pinang, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

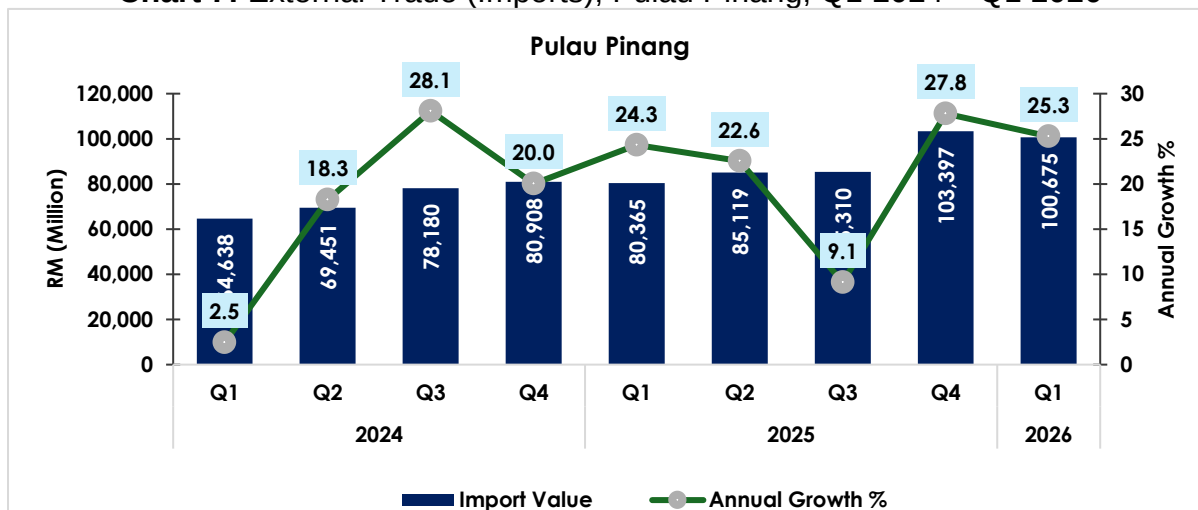


Chart 8: Principal Statistics of Labour Force, Pulau Pinang, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

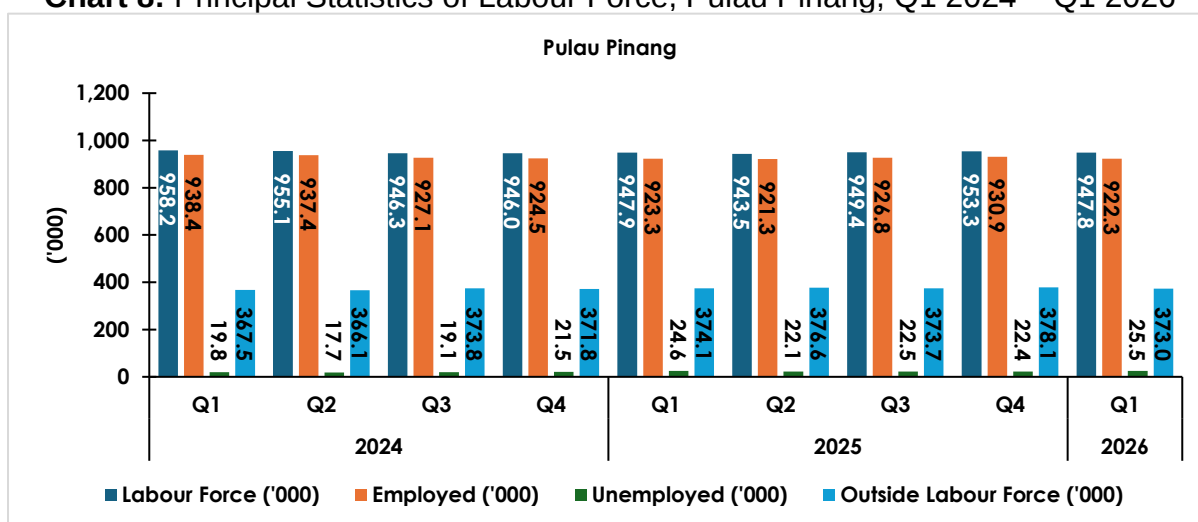


Chart 9: Labour Force Participation Rate and Unemployment Rate, Pulau Pinang, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

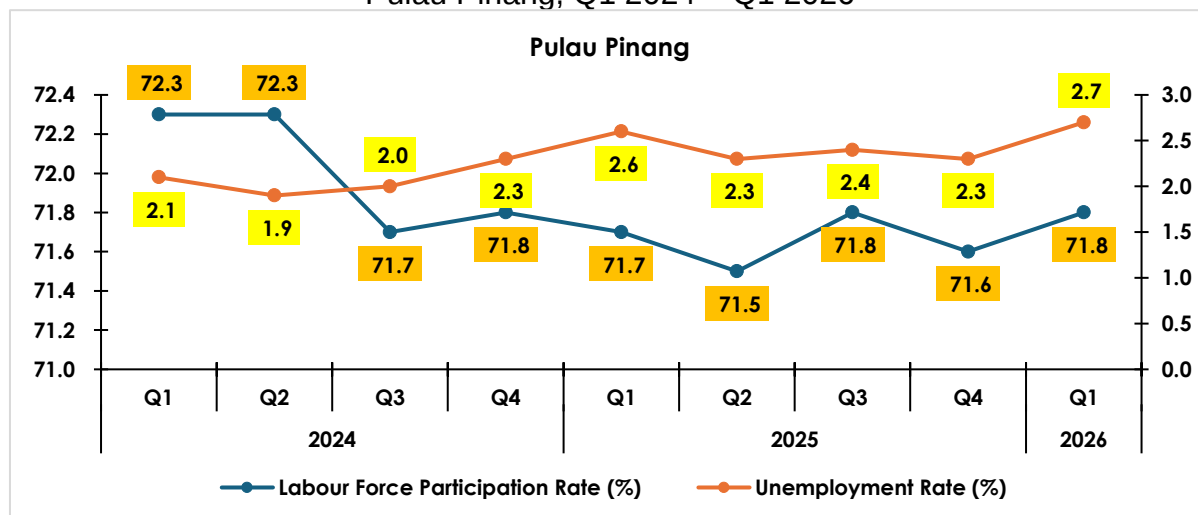


Chart 10: Net Balance of Business Performance for Upcoming Months, Pulau Pinang, 2024 – 2026

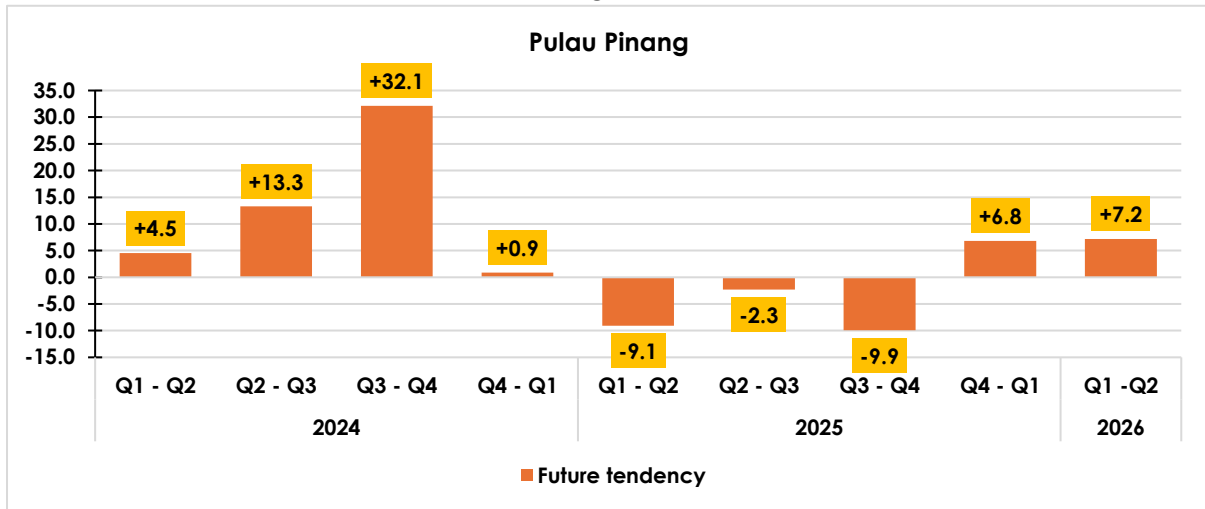


Chart 11: Manufacturing Industry Capacity Utilisation, Pulau Pinang, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

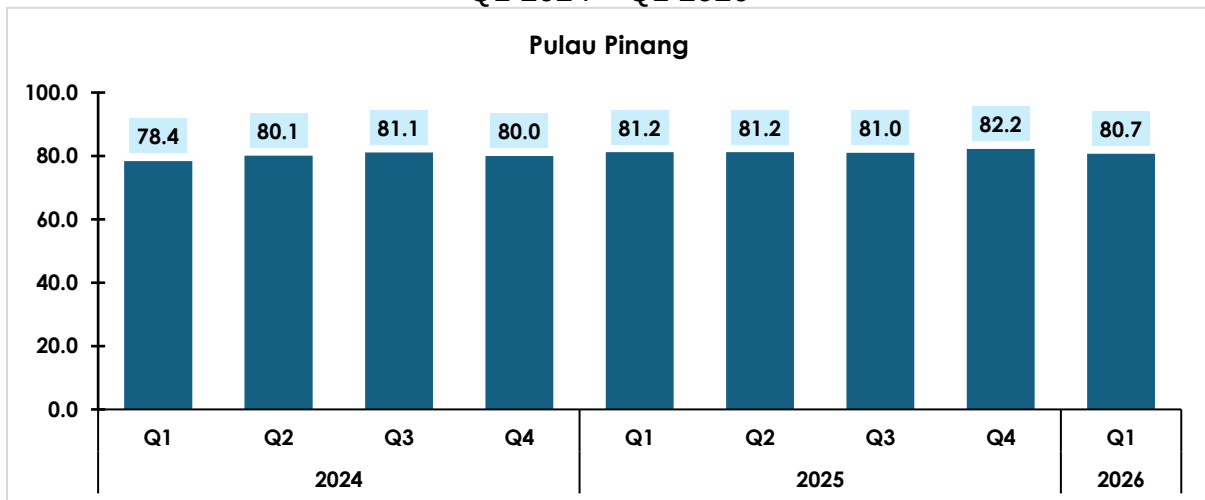


Chart 12: Value of Work Done Construction Sector, Pulau Pinang, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

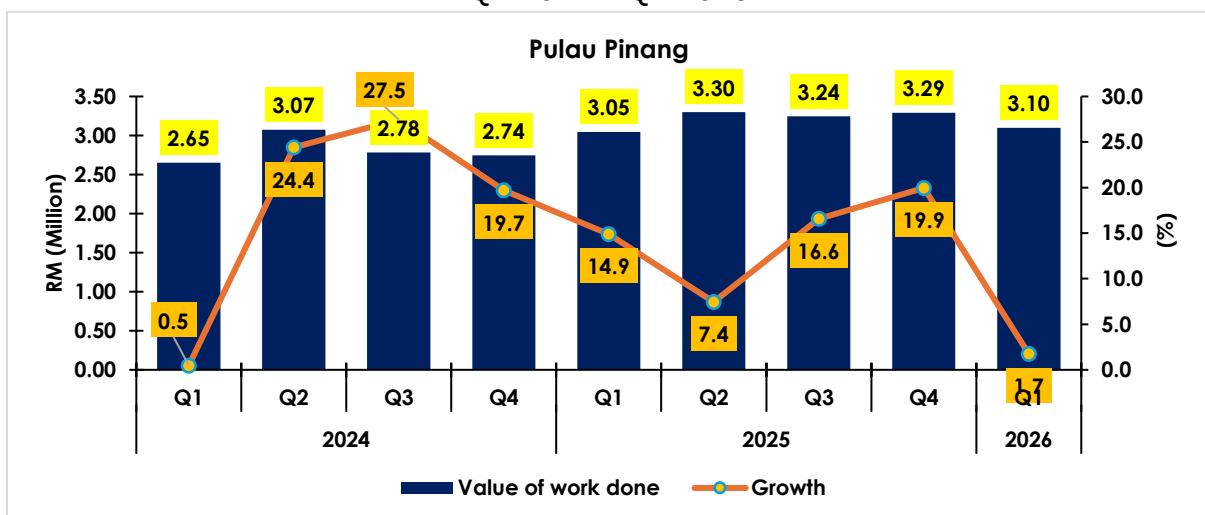


Chart 13: Total Population, Pulau Pinang, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

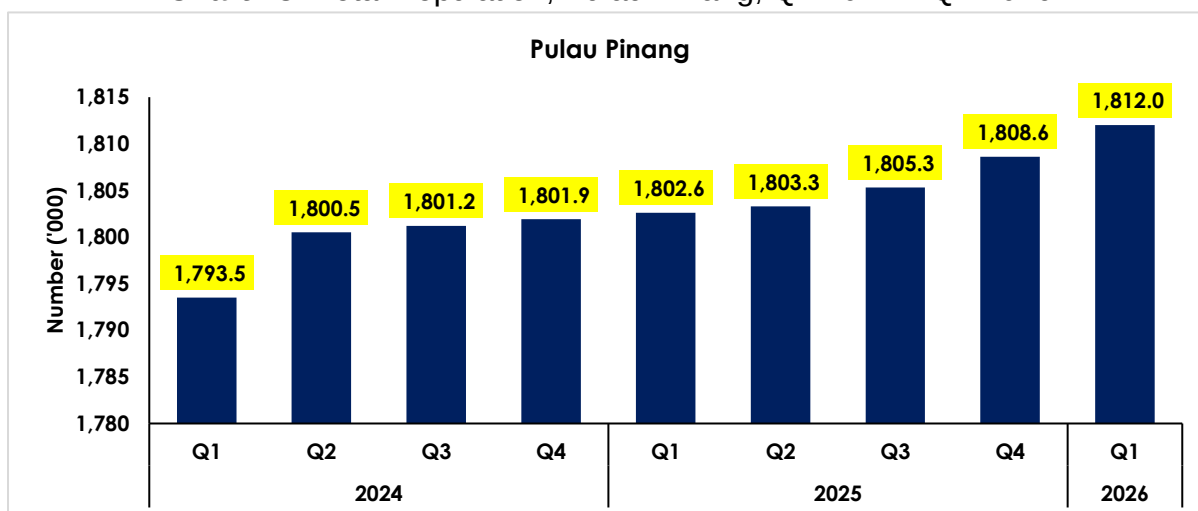


Chart 14: Vital Statistics on Live Births and Deaths, Pulau Pinang, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

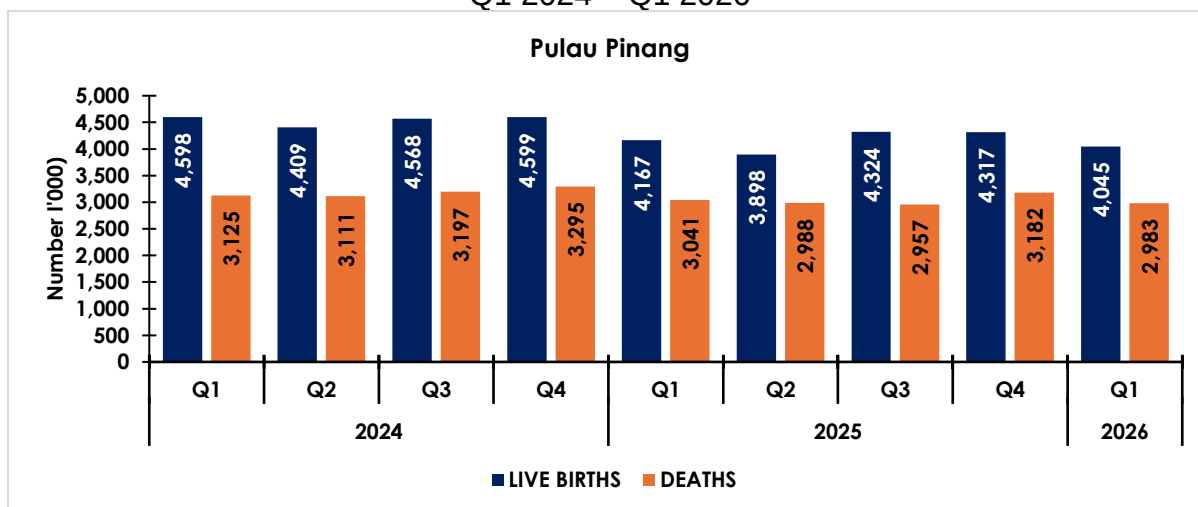


Chart 15: Supply of Residential Units, Pulau Pinang, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

