



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

MEDIA STATEMENT

STATE SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS, SARAWAK FIRST QUARTER, 2026

Sarawak showed socioeconomic steady performance, in line with the stable labour force market.

PUTRAJAYA, 21 MAY 2026 – Sarawak recorded steady socioeconomic performance in the First Quarter of 2026 (Q1 2026), with increasing inflation, a stable labour market and population growth, despite pessimistic business sentiment. This performance is highlighted in the publication **State Socioeconomic Indicators, Sarawak 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."

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for rose by 1.2 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 declined by 0.8 per cent to RM25.3 million (Q1 2025: RM27.5 million). During the same period, imports recorded

RM5.9 million (Q1 2025: RM6.9 million). These declines reflect moderate trade activity in line with decreasing⁸ of both trade components.

Referring to the labour market, Sarawak maintained a stable level of labour force participation, supported by continuous economic activities and sustained labour demand. The labour force recorded 1.262 million persons (Q4 2025: 1.261 million persons), while the labour force participation rate (LFPR) posted 69.7 per cent (Q4 2025: 69.8 per cent). In line with this trend, the number of employed persons recorded 1.219 million (Q4 2025: 1.222 million), while the unemployment rate increased to 3.4 per cent (Q4 2025: 3.1 per cent).

Looking ahead, the net balance of business expectations indicated a more pessimistic sentiment, recording -1.3 per cent for January to June 2026, reflecting moderate business prospects in the near term. The outlook indicates growing pessimism among businesses regarding economic activity. This sentiment is consistent with the moderate performance of the Manufacturing sector, with industrial capacity utilisation at 76.5 per cent in Q1 2026, reflecting relatively stable yet moderated operational levels among industrial players in the state.

From a demographic perspective, the population reached 2.540 million in Q1 2026, compared to 2.537 million in Q4 2025. Live births were recorded at 6,892, while deaths totalled 4,076 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, Sarawak

Indicators	2024				2025				2026
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Exports (RM billion)	32,832	26,723	27,426	29,633	27,516	23,039	24,567	27,442	25,316
Imports (RM billion)	7,899	7,426	7,529	7,276	6,887	6,891	6,564	6,157	5,871
Labour force ('000)	1,239.9	1,252.0	1,254.2	1,259.2	1,257.4	1,263.2	1,262.7	1,261.2	1,262.1
Employed ('000)	1,197.7	1,211.1	1,216.8	1,218.0	1,215.3	1,222.6	1,224.8	1,222.1	1,219.8
Unemployed ('000)	42.2	40.9	37.4	41.2	42.1	40.6	37.8	39.1	42.3
Outside labour force ('000)	550.3	545.7	545.2	539.4	543.9	542.1	550.5	547.0	549.2
Labour force participation rate (%)	69.3	69.6	69.7	70.0	69.8	70.0	69.6	69.8	69.7
Unemployment rate (%)	3.4	3.3	3.0	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.0	3.1	3.4
Net Balance (%)	+5.8	+9.0	+34.2	+7.1	+10.0	-3.8	-3.6	+6.3	-1.3
Capacity Utilisation (%)	80.6	77.9	75.6	77.4	76.1	73.8	75.1	76.5	76.5
Value of Work Done (RM billion)	4,089	4,537	4,294	4,594	3,866	5,216	4,877	4,997	4,559
Natural Rubber Production ('000 tonnes)	643	345	1,096	1,200	816	366	1,071	1,237	834
Population ('000)	2,513.7	2,517.5	2,520.6	2,523.6	2,526.7	2,529.8	2,533.6	2,537.2	2,540.4
Live Births ('000)	7,647	7,171	7,661	7,778	7,115	6,990	7,131	7,356	6,892
Deaths ('000)	4,035	4,138	4,117	4,153	4,344	4,147	4,142	4,264	4,076

Indicator	2025											2026		
	Mac	Apr	Mei	Jun	Jul	Ogos	Sep	Okt	Nov	Dis		Jan	Feb	Mac
Consumer Price Index	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.1		1.1	0.9	1.2
Exports (RM mil.)	9,551	9,150	7,457	6,432	8,590	8,151	7,827	9,240	8,989	9,213		8,912	7,684	8,720
Imports (RM mil.)	2,296	2,323	2,492	2,077	1,994	2,265	2,305	2,242	1,820	2,094		2,409	1,613	1,850
Natural Rubber Production (Tonnes)	183	157	68	141	298	382	391	456	398	383		258	283	293
Crude Palm Oil (Tonnes)	319,554	359,718	371,116	343,840	337,955	387,205	419,748	481,185	456,418	431,838		348,465	281,193	321,141

Note: n.a. - not applicable

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

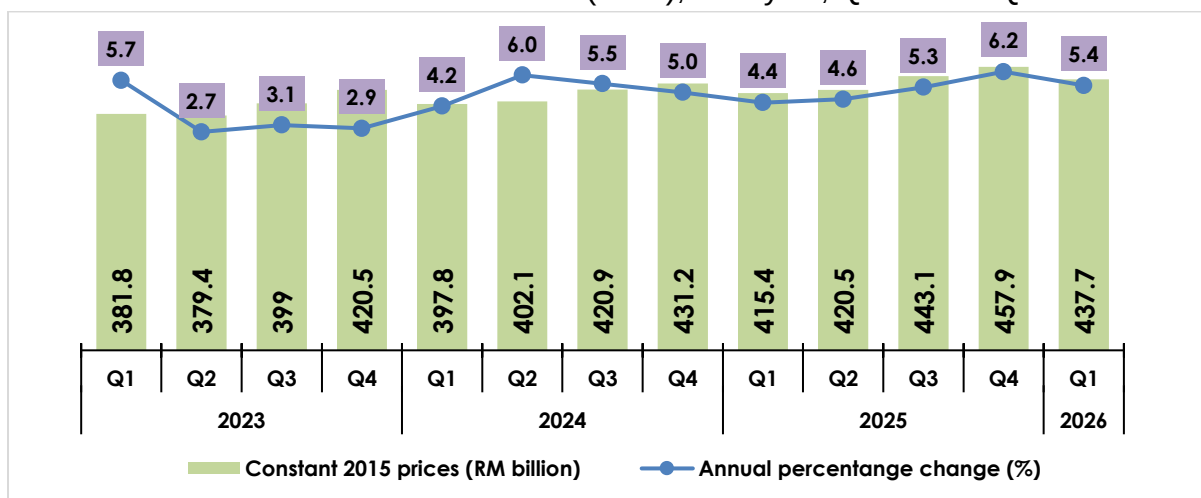


Chart 3: Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Sarawak, 2021–2024

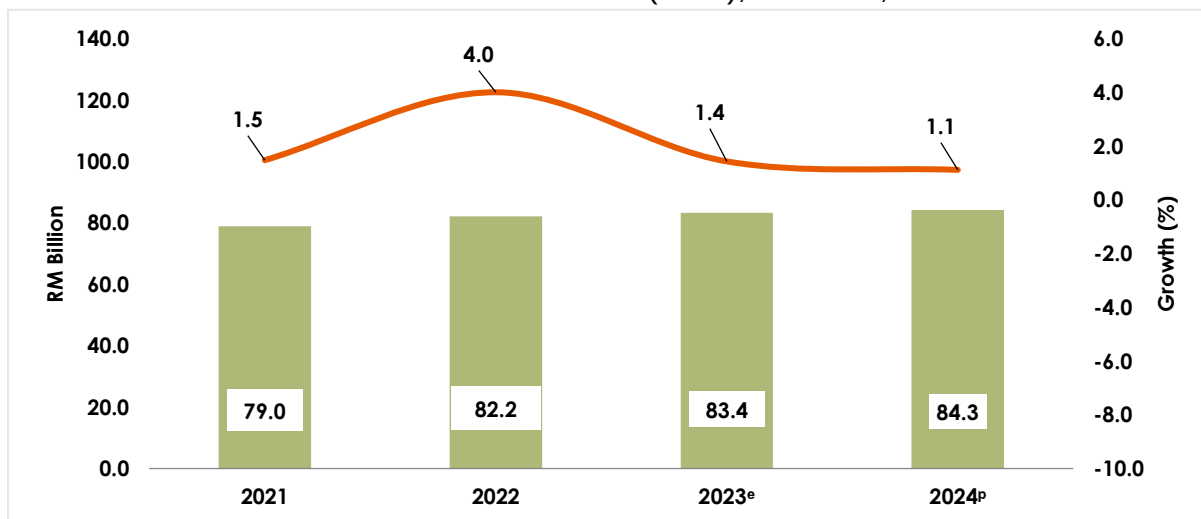


Chart 4 : Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by Sector, Sarawak, 2021– 2024

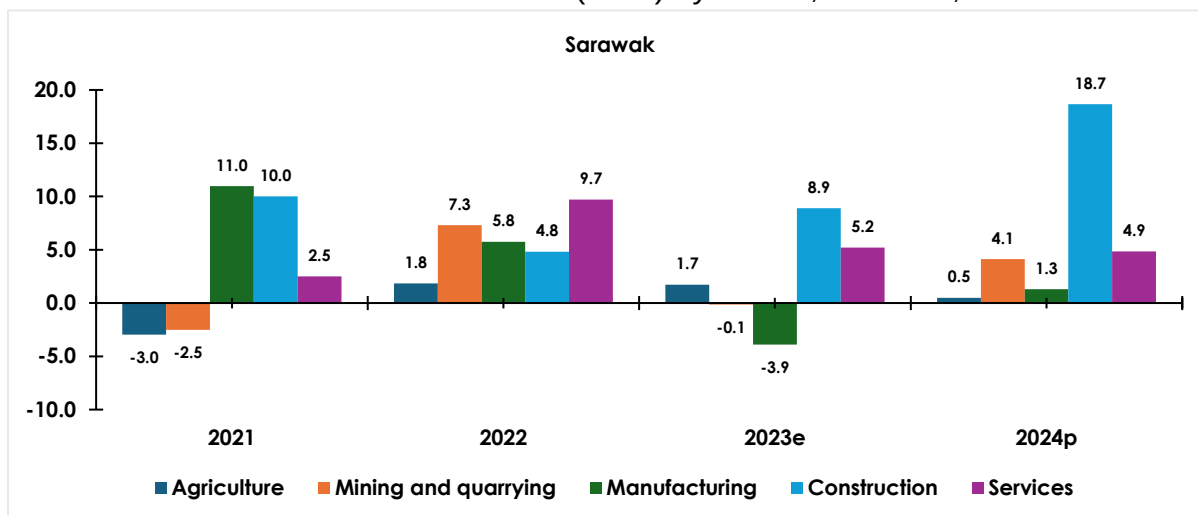


Chart 5: Consumer Price Index, Sarawak, March 2024 – March 2026

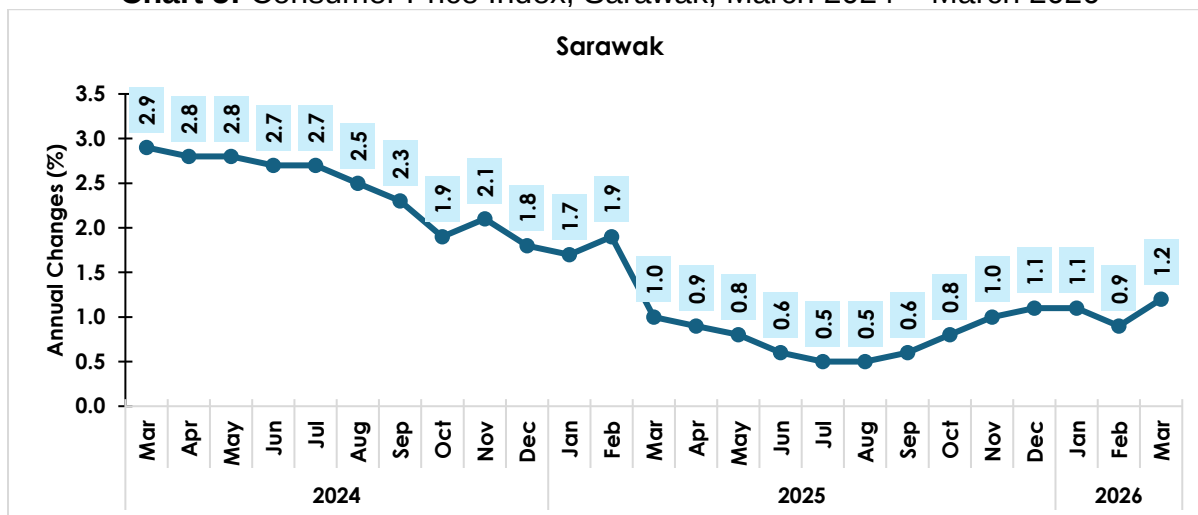


Chart 6: External Trade (Exports), Sarawak, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

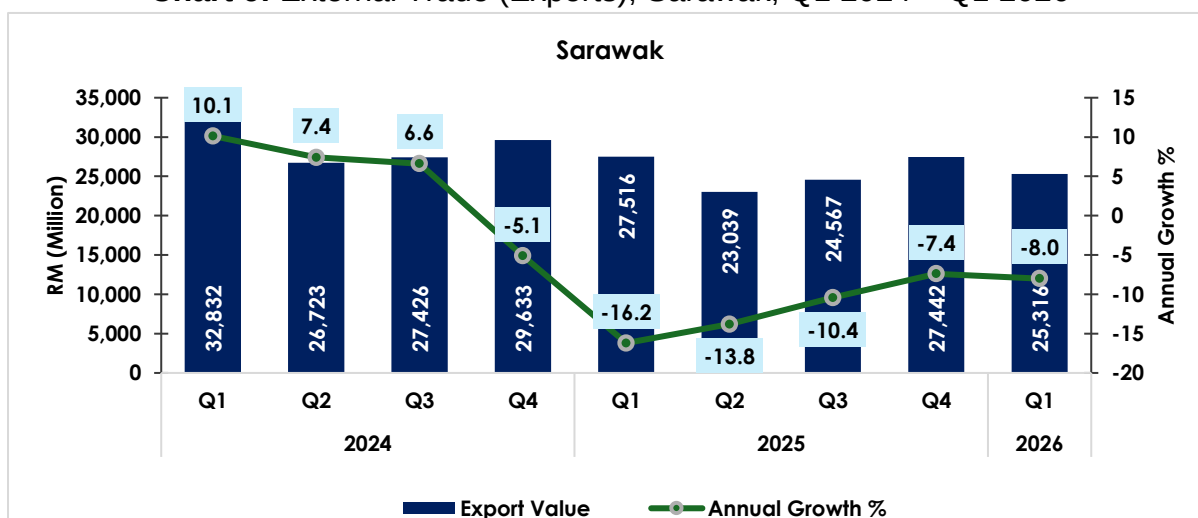


Chart 7: External Trade (Imports), Sarawak, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

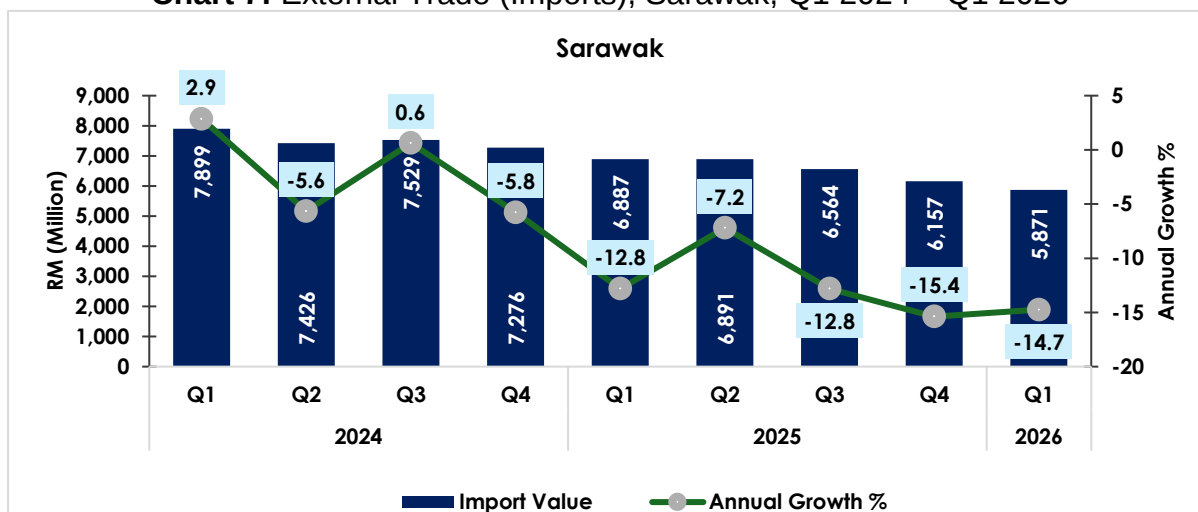


Chart 8: Principal Statistics of Labour Force, Sarawak, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

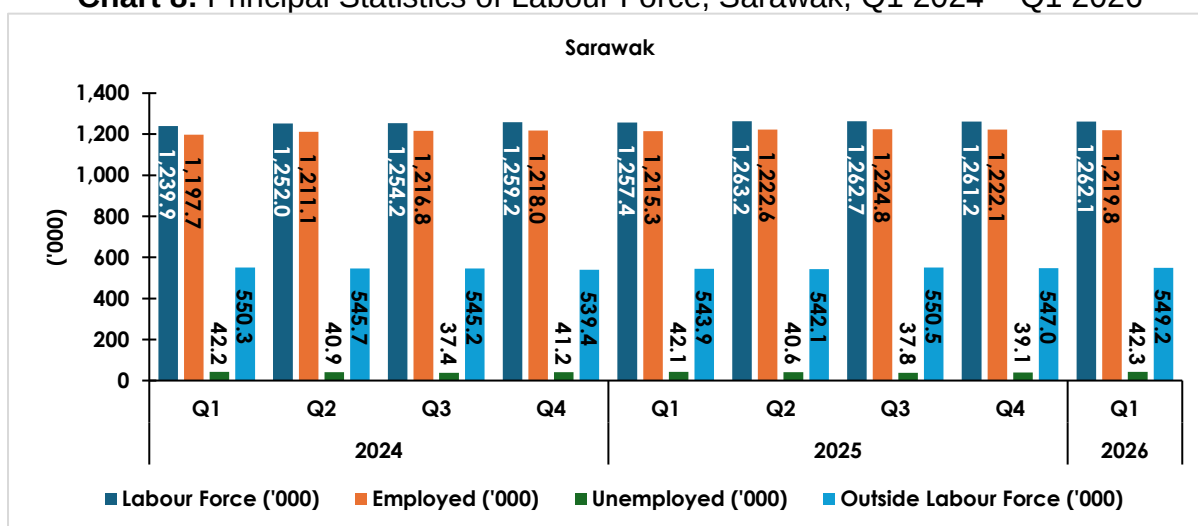


Chart 9: Labour Force Participation Rate and Unemployment Rate, Sarawak, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

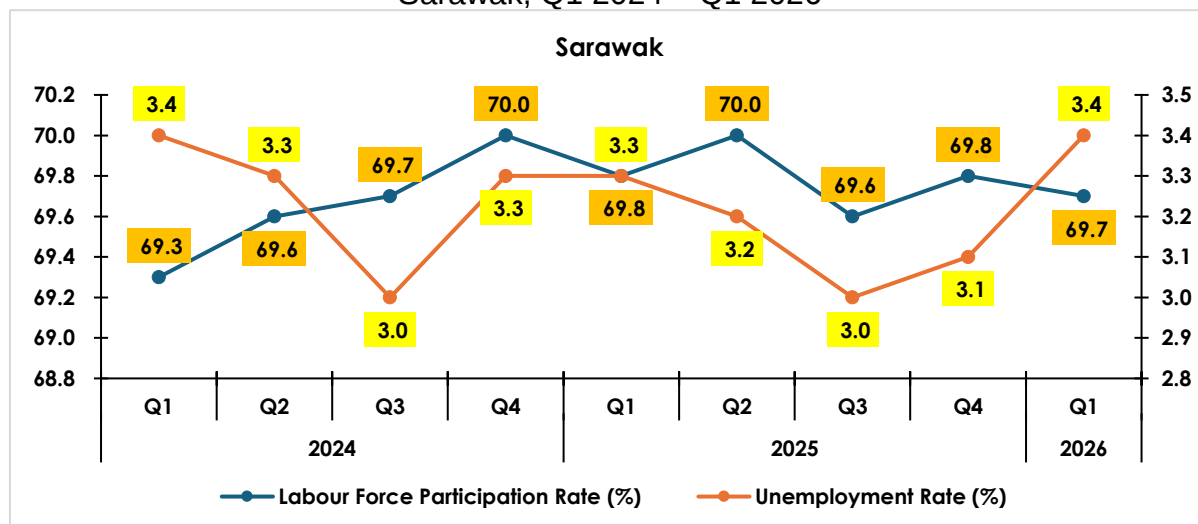


Chart 10: Net Balance of Business Performance for Upcoming Months, Sarawak, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

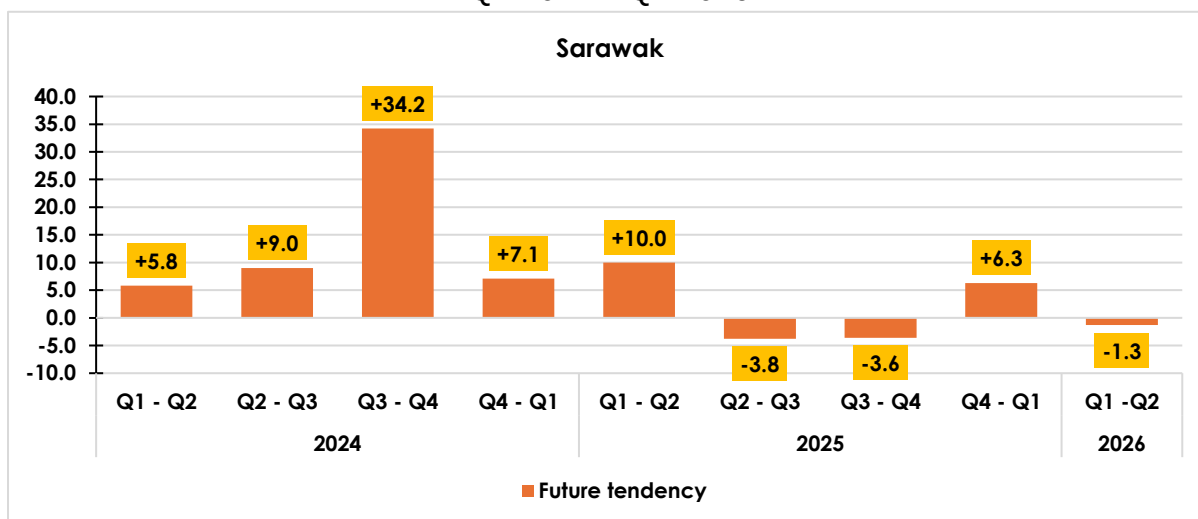


Chart 11: Manufacturing Industry Capacity Utilisation, Sarawak, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

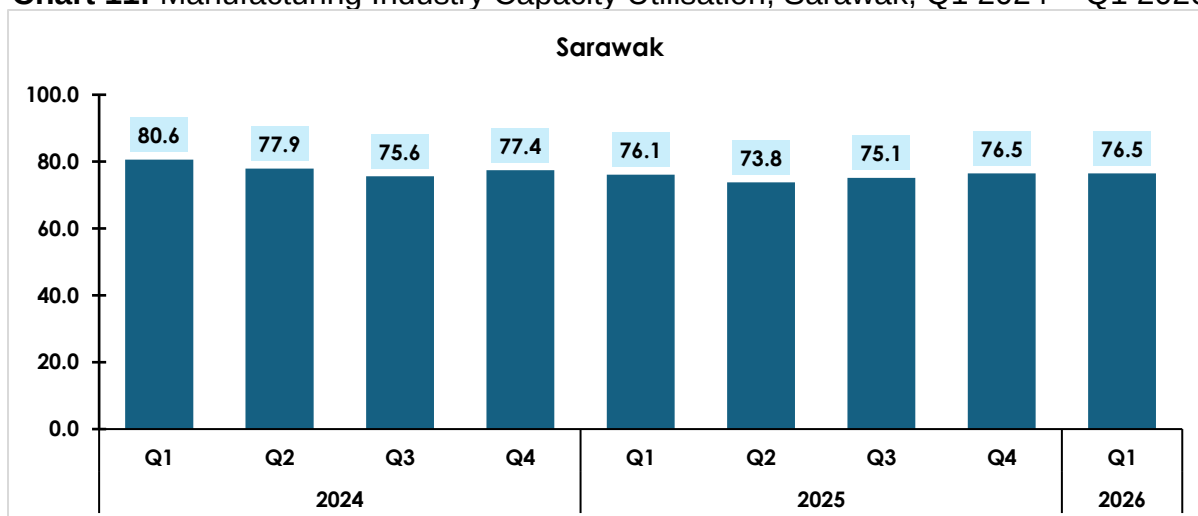


Chart 12: Value of Work Done Construction Sector, Sarawak, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

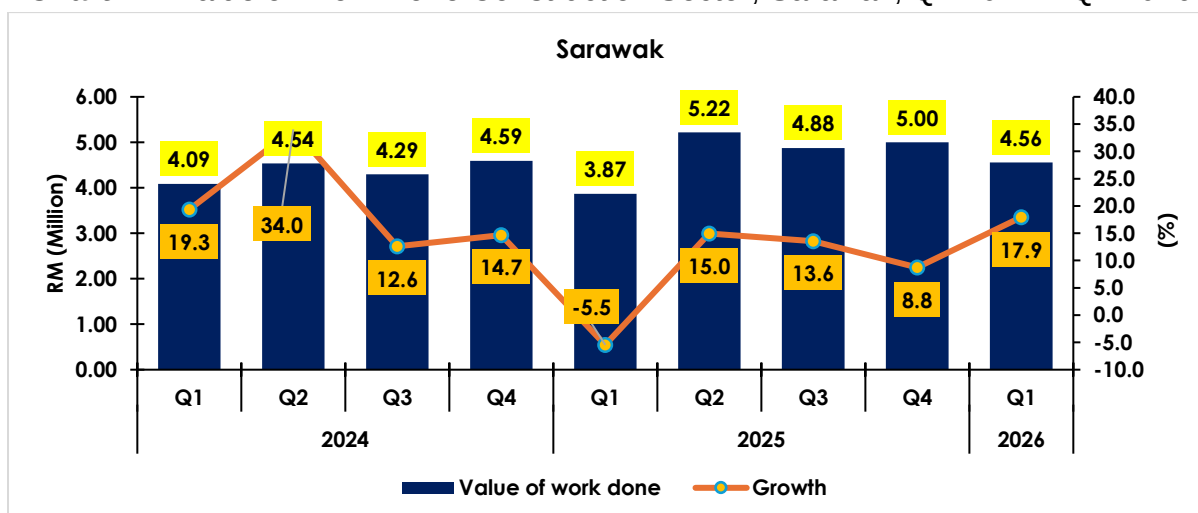


Chart 13: Crude Oil Palm, Sarawak, Mar 2025 – Mar 2026

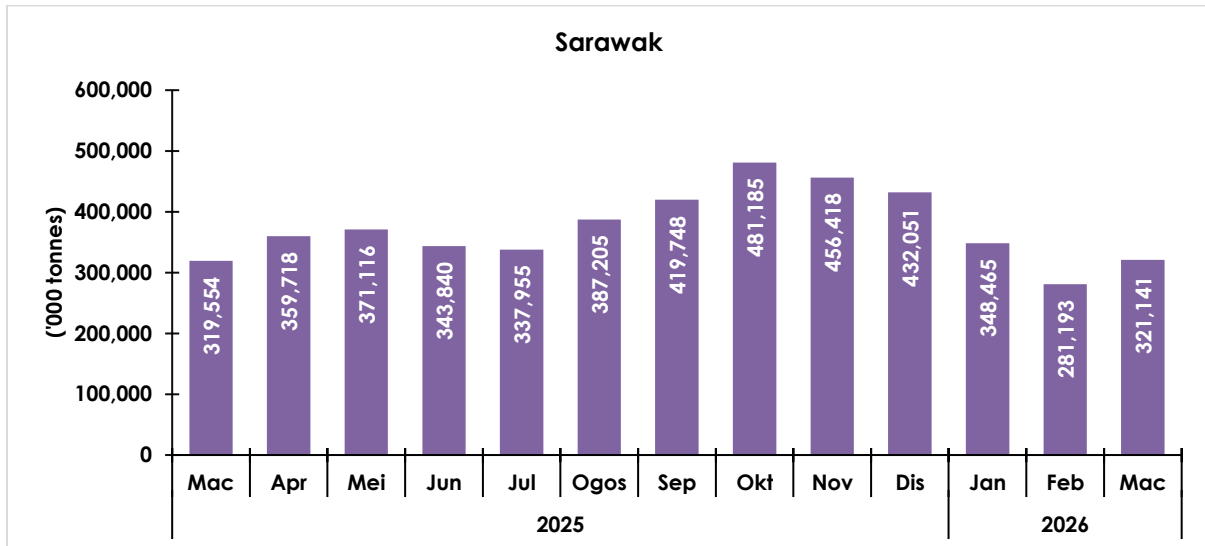


Chart 14: Production of natural rubber, Sarawak, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

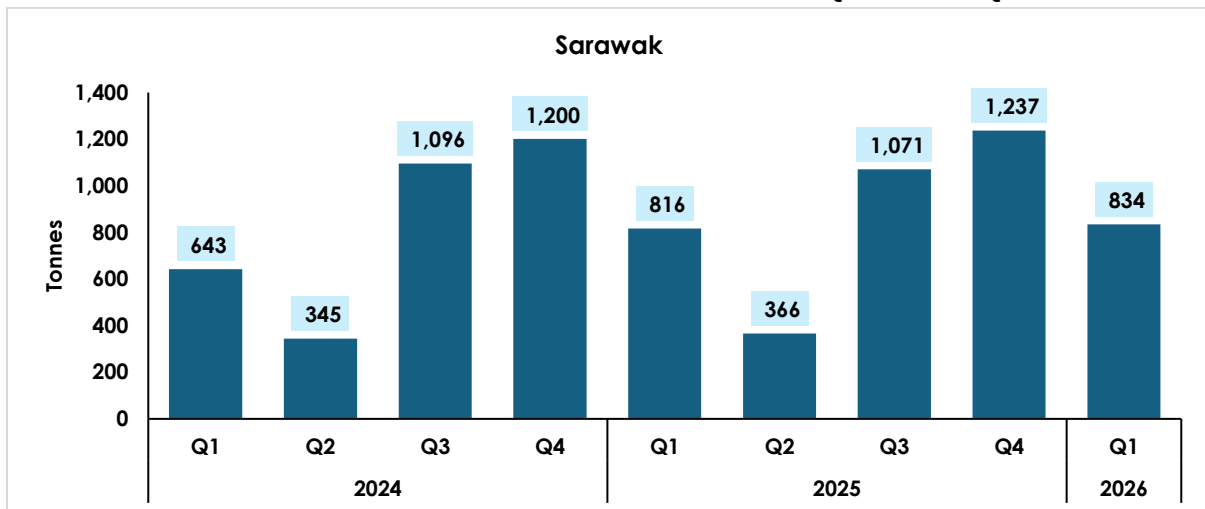


Chart 15: Total Population, Sarawak, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

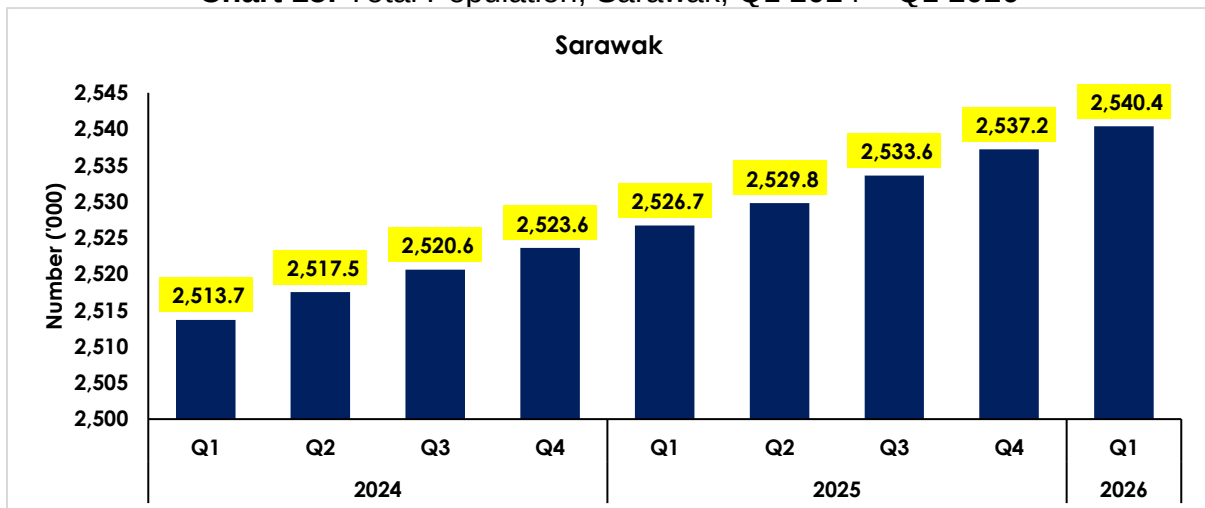


Chart 16: Vital Statistics on Live Births and Deaths, Sarawak, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

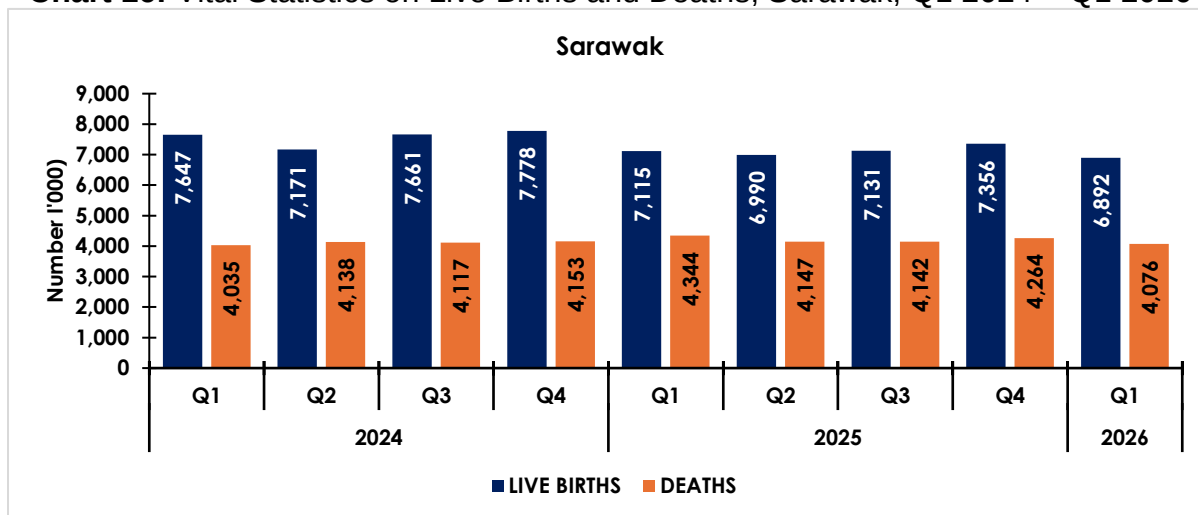


Chart 17: Supply of Residential Units, Sarawak, Q1 2024 – Q1 2026

