MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

MEDIA STATEMENT

MALAYSIA EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS MAY 2026

Malaysia's exports in May 2026 recorded a rise of 45.3 per cent to RM184.0 billion, driven by sustained demand for electrical & electronic products

PUTRAJAYA, JUNE 19, 2026 – Malaysia's trade performance remained strong in May 2026, supported by continued expansion in both exports and imports. Total trade rose by 29.8 per cent from RM252.5 billion to RM327.6 billion, driven by stronger growth of exports (+45.3%) valued at RM184.0 billion and imports (+14.1%) amounting to RM143.6 billion. In addition, the trade surplus increased by 5,214.0 per cent to RM40.4 billion in May 2026 as reported in the **MALAYSIA EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS BULETIN, MAY 2026** released today. This bulletin also presents the performance of export and import products with its trading partners.

Chief Statistician Malaysia, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin highlighted that Malaysia's exports increased in May 2026, supported by growth in both re-exports and domestic exports. Re-exports, which accounted for 22.2 per cent of total exports, rose by 58.4 per cent year-on-year to RM40.9 billion. Meanwhile, domestic exports, contributing 77.8 per cent of total exports, expanded by 42.0 per cent to RM143.1 billion. Correspondingly, imports increased to RM143.6 billion, registering a rise of 14.1 per cent. The trade surplus increased by 5,214.0 per cent to RM40.4 billion, marking the 73th consecutive month of surplus since May 2020. Compared with April 2026, exports and trade surplus demonstrate growth by 0.4 per cent and 38.2 per cent. Meanwhile, imports and total trade decreased 6.8 per cent and 2.9 per cent, respectively.

Total trade, exports and imports for the period of January to May 2026 registered an improvement. Total trade posted a double digit increase by 18.3 per cent, from RM1.2 trillion to RM1.5 trillion, in line with the rise in exports (+24.3%) as well as imports (+11.8%). Moreover, trade surplus expanded by 182.9 per cent to post a value of RM132.8 billion. During the first five months (January to May 2026), Malaysia recorded its highest cumulative trade value (exports and imports) of RM1.5 trillion, surpassing the total trade value of RM1.4 trillion recorded for the entire of 2014, 12 years ago.

From the perspective of commodity groups, 111 out of 260 export groups and 132 out of 258 import groups posted gains compared to the same month of the previous year.

The Chief Statistician of Malaysia remarked that the rise in exports was primarily underpinned by increased shipments to the United States (+RM18.3 billion), followed by Singapore (+RM7.4 billion), Hong Kong (+RM6.8 billion), Taiwan (+RM6.2 billion), European Union (+RM4.7 billion), China (+RM4.2 billion) and Mexico (+RM1.9 billion). The import rise largely reflected higher inflows originating from China (+RM11.3 billion), followed by Singapore (+RM5.6 billion), Taiwan (+RM3.7 billion), Thailand (+RM1.4 billion), European Union (+RM1.4 billion), Viet Nam (+RM1.1 billion) and Japan (+RM943.4 million).

Exports growth was anchored by heightened shipments of electrical & electronic products (+RM37.9 billion), other manufactures (+RM10.3 billion), petroleum products (+RM6.0 billion), liquefied natural gas (LNG) (+RM2.7 billion), optical & scientific equipment (+RM2.3 billion) and machinery, equipment & parts (+RM990.5 million). Concurrently, imports corresponded with stronger inflows of electrical & electronic products (+RM11.6 billion), petroleum products (+RM3.0 billion), other manufacturing (+RM2.2 billion), machinery, equipment & parts (+RM1.3 billion), chemical and chemical products (+RM985.8 million) and optical & scientific equipment (+RM750.1 million).

The Chief Statistician Malaysia further noted that the increase in imports by End Use was in accordance with higher demand for intermediate goods. Imports of intermediate goods (51.9% of total imports), increased by 14.4 per cent or RM9.4 billion to reach RM74.5 billion. However, imports of capital goods (12.9% of total imports) decreased by 18.3 per cent or RM4.2 billion, settling at RM18.5 billion, whereas imports of consumption goods (6.8% of total imports) declined by 2.7 per cent or RM274.2 million, amounting to RM9.8 billion compared to May 2025. Geopolitical tensions in West Asia have affected the import of several consumer goods, particularly clothing & clothing accessories, handbags & luggage and wooden & rattan furniture.

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.

Monthly External Trade Statistics and **Malaysia External Trade Indices** publication provide official data on Malaysia's trade, including the value of international import and export trade on a monthly and annual basis, as well as monthly indices of volume and unit value. These statistics are important for monitoring trade trends and also Malaysia's economic development. The publication is available in printed form and can also be accessed at www.dosm.gov.my.

Chart 1: External Trade Statistics, Jan 2025 – May 2026 (Value)

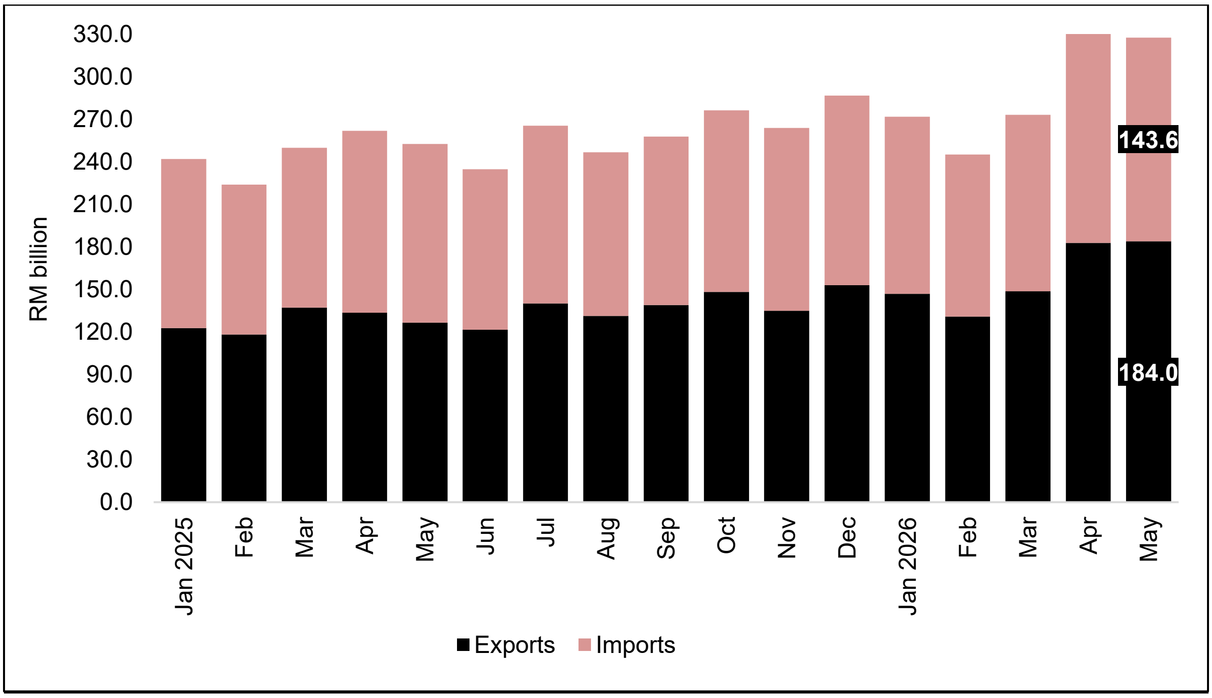

Chart 2: External Trade Statistics, Jan 2025 – May 2026
(Annual Percentage Change)

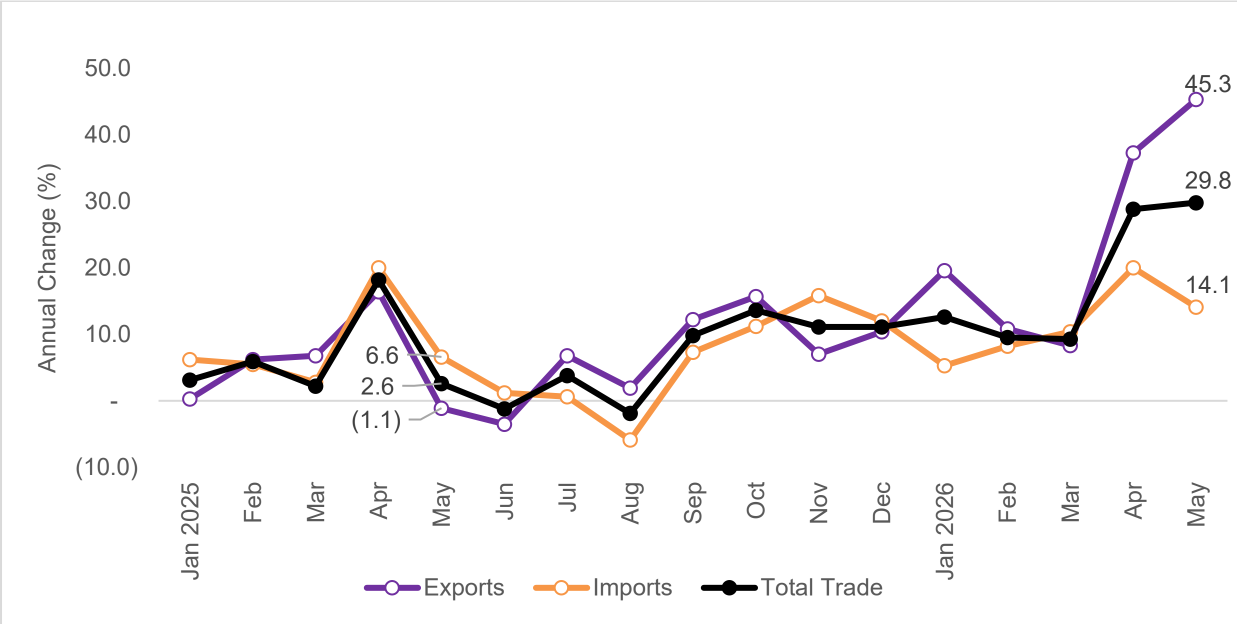

Chart 3: External Trade Statistics, 2021 – 2026 (Jan-May)

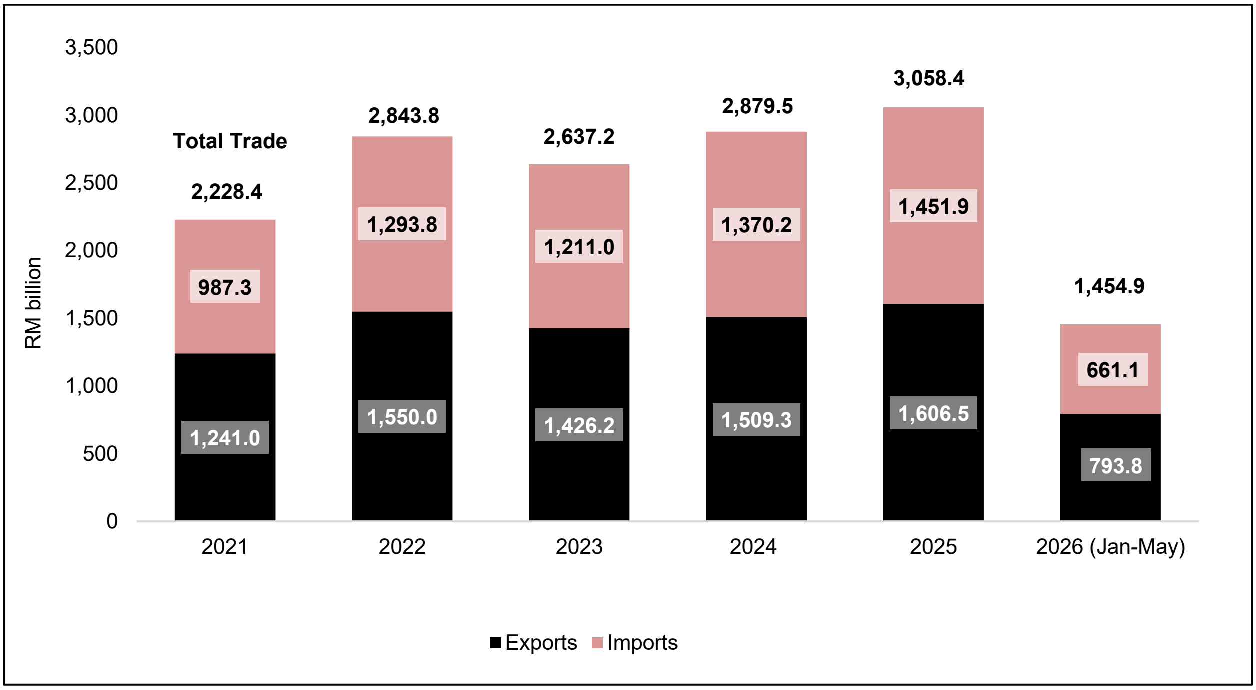

Chart 4: Imports for End Use & Broad Economic Categories (BEC) Classification, Jan 2025 – May 2026
(Value and Annual Percentage Change)

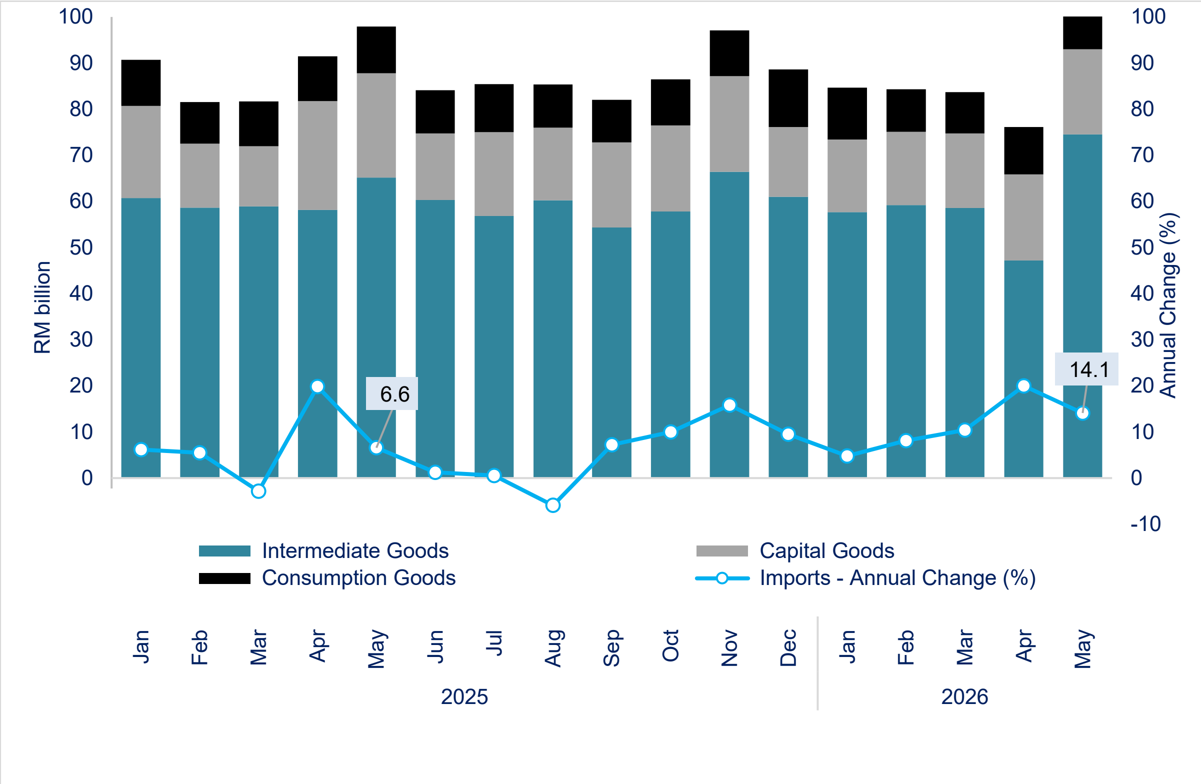

Chart 5: Imports for End Use & Broad Economic Categories (BEC) Classification, 2021 – 2026 (Jan-May)

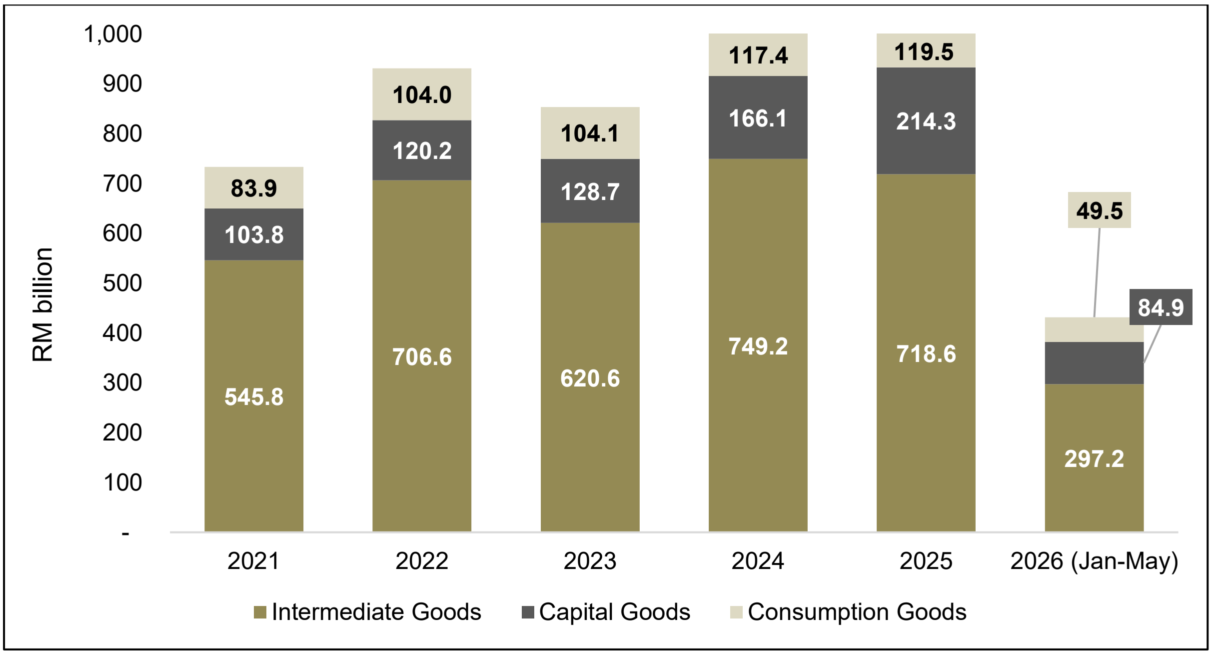

Table 1: Major Sub-sector Contributing to Export

COMMODITY DESCRIPTION	2025 MAY RM MIL.	2026 APRIL RM MIL.	2026 MAY RM MIL.	SHARE TO TOTAL %	Y.O.Y VALUE RM MIL.	Y.O.Y %
Total	126,618	183,270	184,004	100	57,386	45.3
Electrical & Electronic (E&E) Products	53,707	88,294	91,568	49.8	37,861	70.5
Other Manufactures	5,162	8,998	15,507	8.4	10,345	200.4
Petroleum Products	8,027	14,470	13,984	7.6	5,957	74.2
Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)	2,388	4,789	5,050	2.7	2,662	111.5
Optical & Scientific Equipment	5,044	7,543	7,313	4.0	2,269	45.0
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	6,340	8,182	7,331	4.0	990	15.6

Table 2: Major Sub-sector Contributing to Import

COMMODITY DESCRIPTION	2025 MAY RM MIL.	2026 APRIL RM MIL.	2026 MAY RM MIL.	SHARE TO TOTAL %	Y.O.Y VALUE RM MIL.	Y.O.Y %
Total	125,858	154,044	143,624	100	17,766	14.1
Electrical & Electronic (E&E) Products	50,420	61,304	61,997	43.2	11,577	23.0
Petroleum Products	7,105	18,135	10,064	7.0	2,960	41.7
Other Manufactures	2,611	4,194	4,824	3.4	2,213	84.8
Machinery, Equipment & Parts	10,088	11,750	11,360	7.9	1,273	12.6
Chemical And Chemical Products	8,149	10,211	9,135	6.4	986	12.1
Optical & Scientific Equipment	2,803	4,020	3,553	2.5	750	26.8

Released by:

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DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA
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