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MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

MEDIA STATEMENT

MALAYSIA EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS 2026

Malaysia's trade recorded its highest performance in 2025, exceeding RM3 trillion

PUTRAJAYA, 30TH JULY 2026 – Malaysia continued to record strong trade performance in 2025, demonstrating the nation's resilience and sustained competitiveness in the global trading landscape. Total trade increased by 6.3 per cent or RM182.4 billion to RM3.1 trillion, year-on-year (y-o-y) in tandem with the increase in both exports (6.6 per cent) and imports (6.0 per cent) as reported today in **MALAYSIA EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS FOR REFERENCE YEAR 2025**.

The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) stated that Malaysia sustained its trade surplus for the 28th consecutive year since 1998 reaching RM156.8 billion, a 12.8 per cent or RM17.8 billion increase compared to 2024. Exports rose by 6.6 per cent from RM1.5 trillion in the preceding year to RM1.6 trillion. The increase in exports was underpinned by domestic exports which rose by 2.2 per cent to RM1.2 trillion and accounted for 77.2 per cent of total exports. Re-exports which accounted for 22.8 per cent of total exports increased to RM366.8 billion, expanding by 25.1 per cent as compared to 2024. Imports also escalated by 6.0 per cent or RM82.3 billion to RM1.5 trillion, y-o-y.

In terms of commodities, 133 out of 260 commodity groups in exports showed an increase as compared to the previous year, led by electrical & electronic (E&E) products, machinery & equipment and measuring, checking, analysing & controlling instruments. As for imports, a total of 128 out of 261 commodity groups recorded increases mainly due to higher imports of E&E products, aircraft & associated equipment and engines & motors, non-electric and parts.

DOSM further highlighted the upswing in exports was mainly attributable to the higher exports to the United States with a positive growth of 17.5 per cent or RM34.8 billion to RM233.7 billion. This increase was driven by higher exports of E&E products (+RM26.1 billion), machinery, equipment & parts (+RM2.0 billion), processed food (+RM1.6 billion) and manufacture of metal (+RM1.2 billion). The next largest export destinations were recorded by Taiwan (+RM21.0 billion, +31.3%), Singapore (+RM19.1 billion, +8.3%), European Union (EU) (+RM13.4 billion, +11.6%) and Mexico (+RM11.3 billion, +59.7%). Furthermore, the upsurge in imports was driven by higher imports from China with an increase of 19.0 per cent or RM56.3 billion from RM296.5 billion in the preceding year to RM352.8 billion. This increase was driven by strong import of E&E products (+RM37.0 billion), transport equipment (+RM6.1 billion) and machinery, equipment & parts (+RM4.8 billion). Other countries that also recorded higher imports were Taiwan (+RM36.1 billion, +33.0%), Costa Rica (+RM11.0 billion, +432.5%), Republic of Korea (+RM9.2 billion, +16.6%), Viet Nam (+RM7.7 billion, +26.2%) and the United States (+RM5.9 billion, +4.7%).

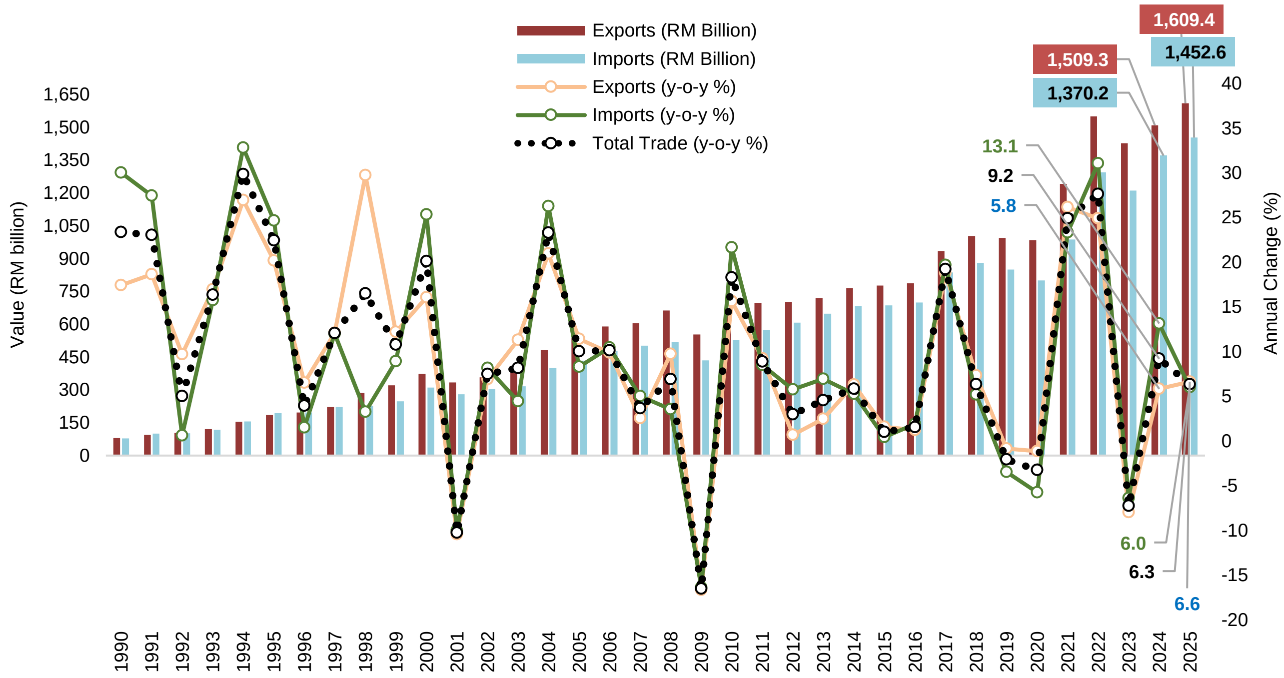
From a sectoral perspective, exports across manufacturing, agriculture, mining and other sectors worth RM1.6 trillion demonstrated growth of 6.6 per cent or RM100.1 billion. The rise was attributable by E&E products (+RM110.7 billion, +18.4%), machinery, equipment & parts (+RM9.3 billion, +13.5%), optical & scientific equipment (+RM6.5 billion, +11.0%), palm oil-based manufactured products (+RM5.7 billion, +16.2%) as well as palm oil & palm-based agriculture products (+RM4.9 billion, +6.2%). Similarly, expansion in imports was recorded for E&E products (+RM111.6 billion, +24.5%); transport equipment (+RM7.3 billion, +13.9%); machinery, equipment & parts (+RM6.9 billion, +6.1%); metalliferous ores and metal scrap (+RM5.8 billion, +35.0%) and other manufactures (+RM4.8 billion, +17.6%).

Correspondingly, the uptick in imports by End Use influenced with higher demand for capital goods and consumption goods. Imports of capital goods, amounting to RM214.5 billion (14.8 per cent of total imports) climbed by 29.1 per cent, resulting from higher imports of capital goods (except transport equipment) (+RM43.4 billion). Imports of consumption goods (8.2 per cent of total imports) registered an increase of 1.8 per cent or RM2.1 billion to RM119.5 billion, as a result of higher imports of durable goods (+RM2.4 billion) and semi-durables (+RM1.3 billion). However, intermediate goods (49.5 per cent of total imports) declined 4.1 per cent or RM30.4 billion to RM718.8 billion in 2025 driven by lower imports of industrial supplies, processed (-RM21.6 billion) and primary fuel & lubricants (-RM13.2 billion).

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.

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.

Chart 1: Exports, Imports and Total Trade, 1990 – 2025



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