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MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

MEDIA STATEMENT

SARAWAK EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS, 2025

Sarawak Recorded a Trade Surplus of RM60.3 Billion, Despite a Decline In External Trade In 2025

PUTRAJAYA, 30 JULY 2026 – The Department of Statistics, Malaysia (DOSM) released the SARAWAK EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS, 2026. This publication present Sarawak's trade performance with various countries as well as inter-regional trade (Sabah, Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia).

In a statement today, DOSM stated that in 2025, Sarawak experienced softer trade performance compared to 2024. Overall trade indicators showed declines across imports, exports, total trade, and trade balance, indicating a moderation in the state's external economic performance.

Sarawak's total trade decreased by 8.7 per cent from RM198.7 billion in 2024 to RM181.3 billion in 2025. The downturn in total trade was mainly attributed to lower export performance, which declined more significantly than imports. Exports fell by 10.4 per cent, decreasing from RM134.9 billion in 2024 to RM120.8 billion in 2025. Meanwhile, imports declined by 5.1 per cent from RM63.8 billion to RM60.5 billion.

DOSM informed that despite the overall slowdown in external trade, Sarawak continued to maintain a positive trade balance in 2025. The trade surplus stood at RM60.3 billion, although this represented a decrease of 15.2 per cent compared to RM71.1 billion recorded in the previous year.

Sarawak's 2025 export downturn was mainly driven by lower energy exports, especially liquefied natural gas (LNG), crude petroleum and condensate products. The weaker export performance was in line with several external factors, including slower global economic growth, fluctuations in commodity prices and reduced demand from major trading partners.

Meanwhile, Japan remained Sarawak's largest export destination in 2025 with total exports valued at RM22.7 billion, accounting for an 18.8 per cent share of overall exports. Nevertheless, exports to Japan declined by 22.0 per cent year-on-year largely attributed to a reduction in LNG which recorded a decrease of 25.0 per cent.

DOSM also reported that Sarawak's exports to ASEAN countries amounted to RM15.3 billion in 2025, representing a decline of 9.5 per cent compared to the previous year. The contraction was attributed to a significant reduction in crude petroleum exports, which fell by 39.3 per cent to RM2.0 billion. This was followed by decreases in iron & steel products, which declined by RM170.2 million (-21.6%) and petroleum products which decreased by RM126.8 million (-17.6%).

Among ASEAN countries, Thailand is Sarawak's largest export destination accounting for 33.1 per cent of total exports to the region valued at RM5.1 billion. Vietnam ranked second, contributing 18.7 per cent or RM2.9 billion, while Indonesia ranked third, representing 16.0 per cent or RM2.4 billion of total exports to ASEAN.

In the statement, DOSM also highlighted that from the mining sector continued to dominate Sarawak's total exports, accounting for 54.2 per cent or RM65.5 billion. However, exports from the sector declined by 17.0 per cent (RM13.4 billion) compared to 2024, mainly due to lower LNG exports (-RM10.1 billion, -17.5%) and crude petroleum (-RM2.3 billion, -16.4%). The manufacturing sector valued at RM33.2 billion and the second-largest contributor to total exports, declined by 6.1 per cent compared to the previous year. This was driven by slower export of electrical & electronic products (-RM2.0 billion, -37.0%), followed by iron & steel product (-RM0.8 billion, -16.8%) and petroleum products (-RM0.4 billion, -20.7%).

Meanwhile, exports from the agriculture sector which accounted for 17.8 per cent of total exports, increased by 8.0 per cent to RM21.6 billion. The growth was mainly attributed to higher exports of palm oil & palm-based products which rose by 8.5 per cent to RM20.3 billion.

For imports, Sarawak's imports showed a slower momentum, declining by 5.1 per cent in 2025 to RM60.5 billion after recording an increase of 1.9 per cent increase in the previous year. Peninsular Malaysia and China remained Sarawak's principal sources of imports in 2025 jointly accounting for 66.1 per cent of the state's total imports.

Meanwhile, the three main import categories by end-use contributed 84.0 per cent of total imports. Intermediate goods which totalled RM29.5 billion and accounted for 48.8 per cent of total imports decreased by 7.9 per cent. The decline was primarily due to lower imports of industrial supplies, processed (-RM2.6 billion, -12.0%), parts & accessories of capital goods (except transport equipment) (-RM0.5 billion, -13.3%), fuels & lubricants, processed (-RM0.2 billion, -15.0%) and fuels & lubricants, primary (-RM0.1 billion, -48.5%).

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.

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