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MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

MEDIA RELEASE

MALAYSIA'S BALANCE OF PAYMENTS STATISTICS THIRD QUARTER OF 2026

Malaysia's Current Account Registered a Surplus of RM5.7 Billion in the Third Quarter of 2026

PUTRAJAYA, 18 NOVEMBER 2026 – The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) published **MALAYSIA'S BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT POSITION STATISTICS, THIRD QUARTER 2026**. This publication provides an overview of Malaysia's economic transactions with the rest of the world, covering trade in goods and services, income flows, capital transfers, financial transactions and the International Investment Position.

Malaysia's **Current Account Balance (CAB)** recorded a surplus of RM5.7 billion in the third quarter of 2026, supported by an increase in Goods performance despite wider deficits in Services and Primary Income. The **Financial account** shifted to a net inflow of RM19.8 billion, primarily driven by inflows in Other investment, Direct investment and Portfolio investment. On a directional principle basis, **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** registered a net inflow of RM14.3 billion, while **Direct Investment Abroad (DIA)** posted a net outflow of RM7.6 billion.

The **Goods account** recorded a surplus of RM56.2 billion in the third quarter of 2026, compared with RM40.7 billion in the preceding quarter. This increase was supported by higher exports, which rose to RM409.7 billion from RM359.3 billion in the previous quarter. Exports were underpinned by demand for Electrical and electronic (E&E) products, particularly those associated with artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure, high-performance computing and advanced memory technologies, especially from the United States of America (USA), Singapore and China. Imports of goods also increased by 11.0 per cent to RM353.5 billion, primarily driven by intermediate and capital goods from China and Singapore.

Meanwhile, the **Services account** registered a higher deficit of RM6.9 billion in the third quarter of 2026 (2Q 2026: RM0.7 billion), as imports surged by 17.9 per cent quarter-on-quarter to RM97.3 billion, outpacing the 10.4 per cent growth in services exports to RM90.4 billion. The higher deficit was mainly attributable to Other business services, which widened to RM17.0 billion from RM8.0 billion in the preceding quarter,

reflecting higher payments for Professional and management consulting services, particularly in the E&E industry.

Nevertheless, Travel remained the largest contributor to Services exports, with receipts increasing to RM33.2 billion in the third quarter of 2026 (Q2 2026: RM30.7 billion), supported by higher visitor arrivals. In addition, Telecommunications computer and information services maintained its positive growth momentum, with exports rising to RM12.0 billion from RM9.3 billion in the previous quarter, supported by expanding data centre activities and demand for Computer and information services. Despite higher imports of RM9.2 billion (Q2 2026: RM7.2 billion), the component registered an improved surplus of RM2.8 billion during the quarter. Concurrently, Manufacturing services on physical inputs owned by others recorded a surplus of RM6.1 billion compared with RM5.9 billion last quarter.

The **Primary Income account** recorded a wider deficit of RM41.8 billion in the third quarter of 2026, marking an increase from RM27.2 billion in the preceding quarter. This was mainly attributed to higher income earned by foreign firms operating in Malaysia, which reached RM64.3 billion during the quarter. Meanwhile, income from Malaysian investments abroad amounted to RM25.1 billion, supported by business and investment activities across international markets. Similarly, the **Secondary Income account** also posted a deficit of RM1.9 billion, as payments to the rest of the world exceeded receipts during the quarter.

The **Financial account** registered a net inflow of RM19.8 billion, reversing the net outflow of RM27.0 billion in the second quarter of 2026. This turnaround was largely driven by a reversal to net inflows in Portfolio investment, following higher subscriptions of Malaysian securities by non-residents. In addition, Other investment also contributed to the inflow, primarily through deposit placements from financial institutions abroad and trade credit activities, while Direct investment inflows were primarily driven by an increase in liabilities from foreign direct investors.

Net inflows of **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** rose to RM14.3 billion in the third quarter of 2026, up from RM7.4 billion in the preceding quarter. This increase was mainly driven by improved business performance among foreign-owned enterprises in Malaysia, with higher profits retained for future business activities and expansion. In terms of sectoral distribution, FDI inflows were primarily concentrated in the Services sector, particularly the Information & communication sub-sector related to data centre activities, followed by Manufacturing and Mining & quarrying. Meanwhile, from a geographical perspective, Singapore, Hong Kong and the United States of America were the leading sources of FDI inflows. Furthermore, **Direct Investment Abroad (DIA**) net outflows increased slightly from RM7.0 billion to RM7.6 billion in the third quarter of 2026, with investments primarily directed towards the Mining & quarrying sector, followed by Services, particularly Financial activities. In terms of investment destinations, Saudi Arabia, the Netherlands and Thailand were the main recipients of DIA.

As at the end of the third quarter of 2026, Malaysia's accumulated **FDI position** reached RM1,234.4 billion, while the **DIA position** stood at RM639.7 billion. The country's total financial assets amounted to RM2.89 trillion, compared with total liabilities of RM2.93 trillion. Consequently, **Malaysia's International Investment Position (IIP)** recorded a net liability of RM36.0 billion, with **Malaysia's international reserves** were valued at RM537.6 billion as at the end of September 2026.

Chart 1: Current Account Balance (CAB), 2020 – 2025 and Q1 2020 – Q3 2026

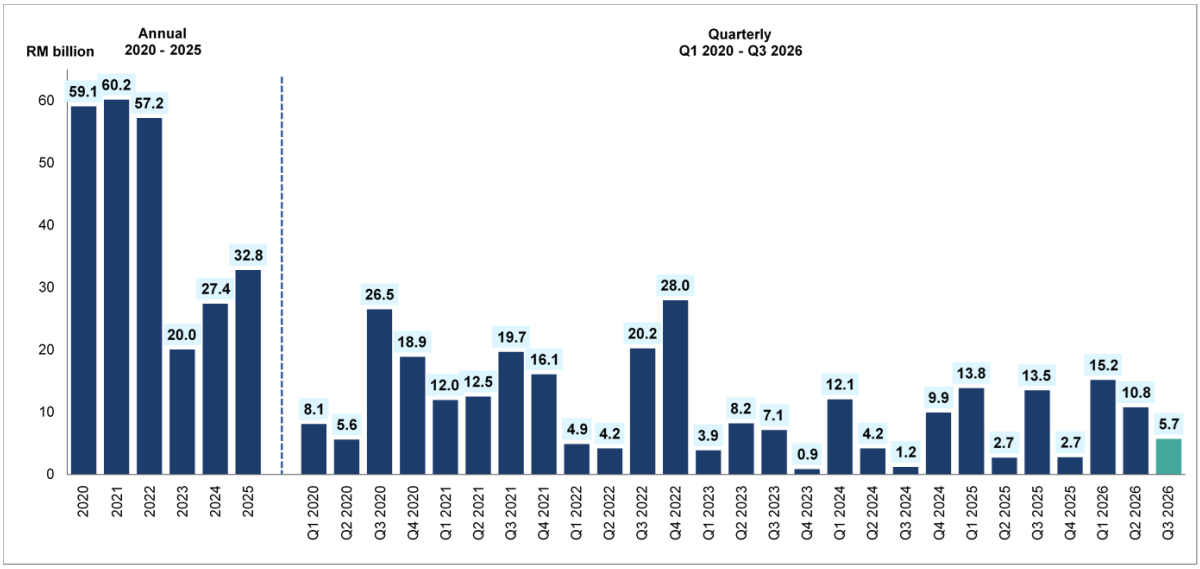
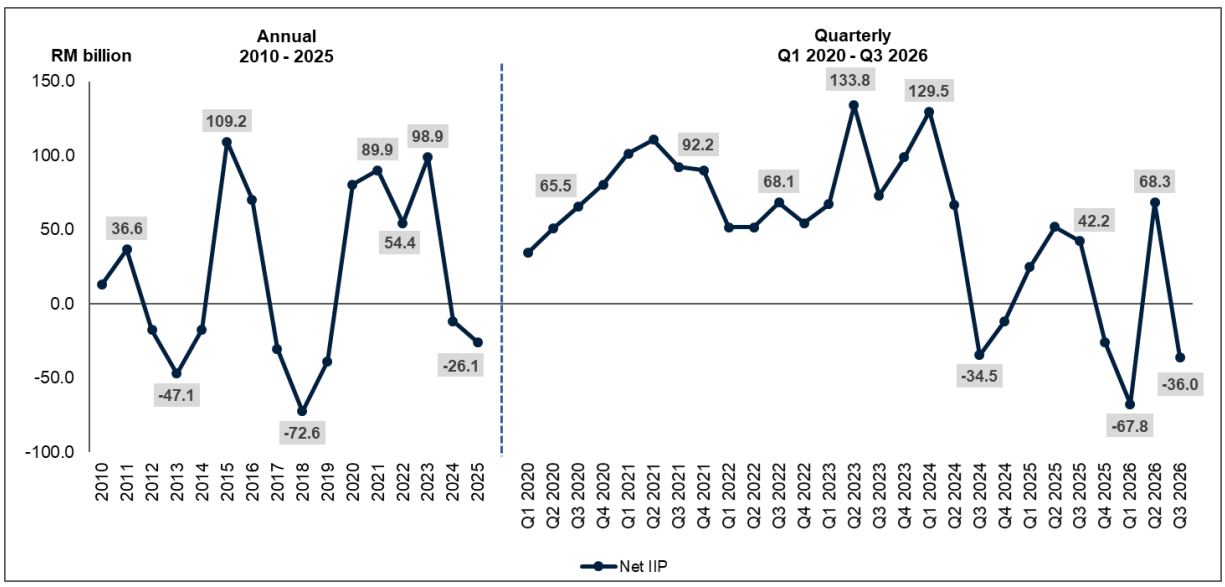


Chart 2: International Investment Position (Net), 2010 – 2025 and Q1 2020 – Q3 2026



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