

**Embargo: Only to be published or disseminated at 1200 hour, Tuesday, 29 August 2023**



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY  
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

***MEDIA STATEMENT  
FOR CURRENT POPULATION ESTIMATES,  
ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT, 2023***

---

***Eight districts emerged as ageing districts with population  
aged 65 years and over reach 7.0% in 2023***

PUTRAJAYA, 29 August 2023 – The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) has released the statistics on the **Current Population Estimates, Administrative District, 2023** today. This report presents the population estimates at states and administrative district level for the year 2022 and 2023. The annual current population estimates are based on the Population and Housing Census Malaysia, 2020. The population estimates use cohort-component method which comprise of births, deaths, internal migration and international migration.

Chief Statistician Malaysia, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin said, "District of Petaling, Selangor register the highest population in 2023 at 2.3 million, followed by Johor Bahru, Johor (1.8 million) and Ulu Langat, Selangor (1.5 million). Meanwhile, Kalabakan, Sabah recorded the highest growth rate at 13.4 per cent, followed by Semporna, Sabah (11.7%) and Kunak, Sabah (11.5%). Bukit Mabong, Sarawak records the lowest population with 10.4 thousand followed by Song, Sarawak (10.0 thousand) and Tanjung Manis, Sarawak (7.9 thousand)".

Three districts in Sarawak recorded the highest Citizens population in 2023 which is Julau (99.9%), followed by Song (99.7%) and Pakan (99.7%). Meanwhile, Sabah has the largest percentage of Non-citizens which is in Kinabatangan (70.6%), followed by Kalabakan

(66.5%) and Kunak (53.2%).

*Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin said, "Females outnumbered males in thirteen districts which comprise Muallim, Perak with sex ratio of 92 males for every 100 females, followed by Samarahan, Sarawak (94); Bachok, Kelantan (94); Song, Sarawak (95); Saratok, Sarawak (97); Kubang Pasu, Kedah (97); Julau, Sarawak (98); Tumpat, Kelantan (98); Pasir Puteh, Kelantan (98); Kuala Nerus, Terengganu (99); Kanowit, Sarawak (99); Machang, Kelantan (99) and Kota Setar, Kedah (99). Bukit Mabong, Sarawak recorded the highest sex ratio in 2023 with 157 males per 100 females followed by Cameron Highlands, Pahang (137) and Belaga, Sarawak (134)".*

*Setiu, Terengganu has the highest composition of Bumiputera in 2023 with 99.7 per cent followed by Nabawan, Sabah (99.6%) and Hulu Terengganu, Terengganu (99.4%). Meanwhile, the highest composition of Chinese is recorded in Timur Laut, Pulau Pinang with 63.9 per cent, followed by Kampar, Perak (48.3%) and Sibu, Sarawak (48.2%). As for Indians, the highest composition is recorded in Bagan Datuk, Perak, followed by Klang, Selangor and Port Dickson, Negeri Sembilan with a composition of 23.2 per cent, 18.8 per cent and 18.4 per cent respectively.*

*The highest composition of the population aged 0-14 years (young age) in 2023 is recorded in Kecil Lojing, Kelantan with 35.3 per cent, followed by Gua Musang, Kelantan (34.7%) and Tumpat, Kelantan (33.0%). Meanwhile Sebauh, Sarawak recorded the highest percentage of the population aged 15-64 years (working age) with 80.2 per cent, followed by Kinabatangan, Sabah (78.6%) and Belaga, Sarawak (78.3%).*

*The United Nations has defined three categories of ageing, namely ageing society, aged society and super-aged society which refers to the population aged 65 years and over reached 7 per cent, 14 per cent and 20 per cent respectively. Meanwhile, the National Senior Citizens Policy (DWEN) states that ageing is when the population of 60 years old and over comprises 15 per cent of the total population.*

*Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin also said, "Eight districts emerged as ageing districts (population aged 65 years and over reached 7.0%) in 2023, namely Johor Bahru, Johor; Kota Bharu, Kelantan; Kuala Krai, Kelantan; Seberang Perai Utara, Pulau Pinang; Barat Daya, Pulau Pinang; Kota Kinabalu, Sabah; Miri, Sarawak and Ulu Selangor, Selangor.*

*Lubok Antu, Sarawak has the highest elderly population (65 years and over) with 14.4 per cent, followed by Sri Aman, Sarawak (12.8%) and Song, Sarawak (11.9%). Lubok Antu, Sarawak remains having the highest elderly population (60 years and over) with 20.6 per cent, followed by Kampar, Perak (18.1%) and Song, Sarawak (18.0%)”.*

*Lubok Antu, Sarawak, records the highest median age of 38.4 years in 2023, followed by Saratok, Sarawak (37.6 years) and Kabong, Sarawak (35.9 years). Meanwhile, the lowest median age is recorded in three districts in Kelantan namely Machang (23.6 years), followed by Pasir Puteh (23.5 years) and Kecil Lojing (21.6 years).*

*Tumpat, Kelantan has the highest total dependency ratio of 66.5 while Gua Musang, Kelantan has the highest young age dependency ratio which is 57.3. On the contrary, the old-age dependency ratio is highest in Lubok Antu, Sarawak (21.2).*

*Petaling, Selangor has the highest population density with 4,783 persons per square kilometre, followed by Timur Laut, Pulau Pinang (4,710 persons) and Seberang Perai Tengah, Pulau Pinang (1,845 persons).*

*DOSM is conducting the Economic Census in 2023. DOSM greatly appreciates the cooperation of respondents in providing information and ensuring the success of this census. Please visit [www.dosm.gov.my](http://www.dosm.gov.my) for more information.*

*DOSM has launched OpenDOSM NextGen as a medium that provides a catalogue of data and visualisation to facilitate users in analysing various data. OpenDOSM NextGen is an open source data sharing platform and accessible through <https://open.dosm.gov.my> portal.*

*The Government of Malaysia has declared National Statistics Day (MyStats Day) on October 20 each year. MyStats Day theme is “Connecting the World with Data We Can Trust”.*

**Table 1: Principal statistics of population by state, Malaysia, 2023<sup>p</sup>**

State	Number of population ('000)	Annual population growth rate (%)	Age structure (%)			Median age (year)	Sex ratio
			0-14 years	15-64 years	65+ years		
<b>Malaysia</b>	<b>33,379.5</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>22.6</b>	<b>70.0</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>30.7</b>	<b>110</b>
Johor	4,100.9	1.8	22.2	70.8	7.0	30.3	114
Kedah	2,187.5	1.1	24.4	66.8	8.8	29.0	104
Kelantan	1,857.6	1.5	28.8	64.4	6.8	25.1	101
Melaka	1,027.5	1.9	22.8	70.5	6.7	30.2	111
Negeri Sembilan	1,224.3	1.4	24.2	68.4	7.4	30.7	108
Pahang	1,642.7	1.7	24.7	68.6	6.7	29.5	113
Perak	2,540.4	1.0	21.8	68.5	9.7	31.6	109
Perlis	292.7	1.0	19.6	72.3	8.1	29.4	99
Pulau Pinang	1,771.6	1.7	19.0	73.3	7.7	32.9	105
Sabah	3,592.8	5.1	24.4	69.6	6.0	27.2	109
Sarawak	2,509.5	1.4	20.4	71.3	8.3	32.0	107
Selangor	7,205.3	2.2	21.2	71.1	7.7	32.9	113
Terengganu	1,209.4	1.9	28.1	66.0	5.9	26.8	105
W.P. Kuala Lumpur	1,998.6	1.9	18.2	75.0	6.8	35.0	115
W.P. Labuan	99.5	2.6	26.7	68.5	4.8	28.9	106
W.P. Putrajaya	119.2	1.9	36.1	62.2	1.7	27.6	98

**Table 2: Top three (3) most populous district, Malaysia, 2023<sup>p</sup>**

Ranking	Administrative district	Number (000')
1.	Petaling, Selangor	2,334.2
2.	Johor Bahru, Johor	1,758.5
3.	Ulu Langat, Selangor	1,459.8

**Table 3: Top three (3) districts with highest annual population growth rate, Malaysia, 2023<sup>p</sup>**

Ranking	Administrative district	Annual population growth rate (%)
1.	Kalabakan, Sabah	13.4
2.	Semporna, Sabah	11.7
3.	Kunak, Sabah	11.5

**Table 4: Top three (3) districts with highest composition population by citizenship, Malaysia, 2023<sup>p</sup>**

<b>Citizens</b>			<b>Non-citizens</b>		
<b>Ranking</b>	<b>Administrative district</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Ranking</b>	<b>Administrative district</b>	<b>%</b>
1.	Julau, Sarawak	99.9	1.	Kinabatangan, Sabah	70.6
2.	Song, Sarawak	99.7	2.	Kalabakan, Sabah	66.5
3.	Pakan, Sarawak	99.7	3.	Kunak, Sabah	53.2

**Table 5: Top three districts (3) with highest population composition of citizens by ethnic group, Malaysia, 2023<sup>p</sup>**

<b>Bumiputera</b>			<b>Indians</b>		
<b>Ranking</b>	<b>Administrative district</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Ranking</b>	<b>Administrative district</b>	<b>%</b>
1.	Setiu, Terengganu	99.7	1.	Bagan Datuk, Perak	23.2
2.	Nabawan, Sabah	99.6	2.	Klang, Selangor	18.8
3.	Hulu Terengganu, Terengganu	99.4	3.	Port Dickson, Negeri Sembilan	18.4
<b>Chinese</b>			<b>Others</b>		
<b>Ranking</b>	<b>Administrative district</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Ranking</b>	<b>Administrative district</b>	<b>%</b>
1.	Timur Laut, Pulau Pinang	63.9	1.	Padang Terap, Kedah	7.2
2.	Kampar, Perak	48.3	2.	Kinabatangan, Sabah	7.2
3.	Sibu, Sarawak	48.2	3.	Kunak, Sabah	5.9

**Table 6: Top three (3) districts with highest population composition by age group, Malaysia, 2023<sup>p</sup>**

<b>0-14 years</b>			<b>65+ years</b>		
<b>Ranking</b>	<b>Administrative district</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Ranking</b>	<b>Administrative district</b>	<b>%</b>
1.	Kecil Lojing, Kelantan	35.3	1.	Lubok Antu, Sarawak	14.4
2.	Gua Musang, Kelantan	34.7	2.	Sri Aman, Sarawak	12.8
3.	Tumpat, Kelantan	33.0	3.	Song, Sarawak	11.9
<b>15-64 years</b>			<b>60+ years</b>		
<b>Ranking</b>	<b>Administrative district</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Ranking</b>	<b>Administrative district</b>	<b>%</b>
1.	Sebauh, Sarawak	80.2	1.	Lubok Antu, Sarawak	20.6
2.	Kinabatangan, Sabah	78.6	2.	Kampar, Perak	18.1
3.	Belaga, Sarawak	78.3	3.	Song, Sarawak	18.0

**Table 7: Top three (3) districts with highest median age, Malaysia, 2023<sup>p</sup>**

Ranking	Administrative district	Year
1.	Lubok Antu, Sarawak	38.4
2.	Saratok, Sarawak	37.6
3.	Kabong, Sarawak	35.9

**Table 8: Top three (3) districts with highest dependency ratio, Malaysia, 2023<sup>p</sup>**

Total			Young age			Old age		
Ranking	Administrative district		Ranking	Administrative district		Ranking	Administrative district	
1.	Tumpat, Kelantan	66.5	1.	Gua Musang, Kelantan	57.3	1.	Lubok Antu, Sarawak	21.2
2.	Gua Musang, Kelantan	65.0	2.	Kecil Lojing, Kelantan	56.9	2.	Sri Aman, Sarawak	19.1
3.	Pasir Puteh, Kelantan	62.8	3.	Tumpat, Kelantan	55.0	3.	Song, Sarawak	18.9

**Table 9: Top three (3) districts with highest birth and death rates, Malaysia, 2021**

Crude birth rate			Crude death rate		
Ranking	Administrative district	Rate	Ranking	Administrative district	Rate
1.	Marang, Terengganu	23.6	1.	Kanowit, Sarawak	12.1
2.	Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu	22.6	2.	Selama, Perak	11.6
3.	Besut, Terengganu	21.5	3.	Kuala Pilah, Negeri Sembilan	11.0

**Notes:**

The rates are per 1,000 population

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary

Released by:

**DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA**

**29 AUGUST 2023**