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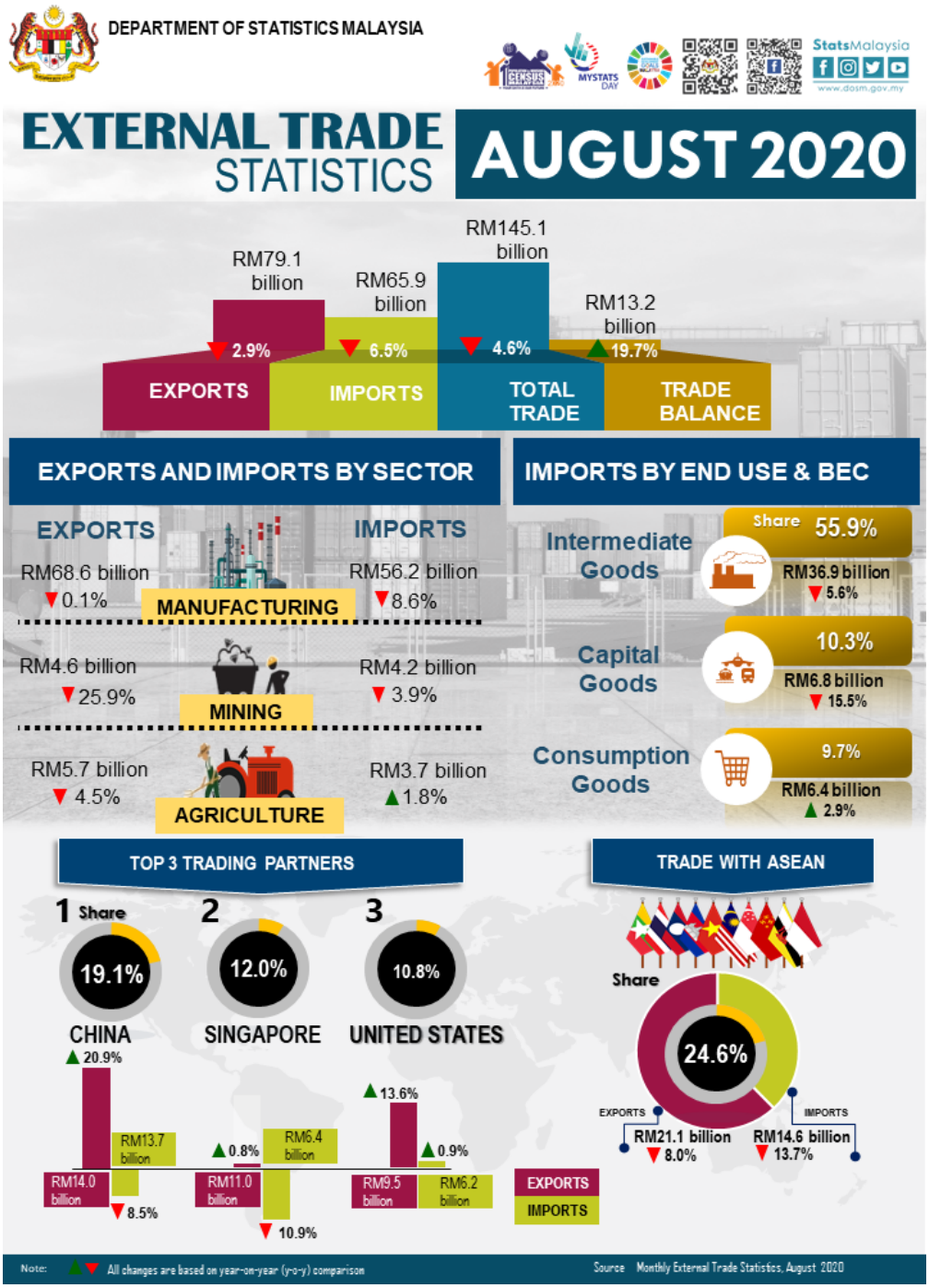
MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

MALAYSIA EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS BULLETIN, AUGUST 2020



KEY FACTS

Malaysia's exports in August 2020 slipped by 2.9 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) to RM79.1 billion, while imports amounted to RM65.9 billion, a contraction of 6.5 per cent. This has resulted in a trade surplus of RM13.2 billion in August 2020, a growth of 19.7 per cent y-o-y. Total trade was valued at RM145.1 billion, lower by 4.6 per cent y-o-y.

On a month-on-month (m-o-m) basis, exports, imports, total trade and trade surplus registered a decline of 14.5 per cent, 2.2 per cent, 9.3 per cent and 47.5 per cent respectively.

For the first eight months of 2020, exports amounted RM620.6 billion, decreased by 5.8 per cent compared to the same period of 2019. Meanwhile imports declined by 7.3 per cent to RM517.7 billion. Total trade stood at RM1.1 trillion, also declining by 6.5 per cent. In contrast, trade surplus recorded an increase of 2.9 per cent to RM103.0 billion.

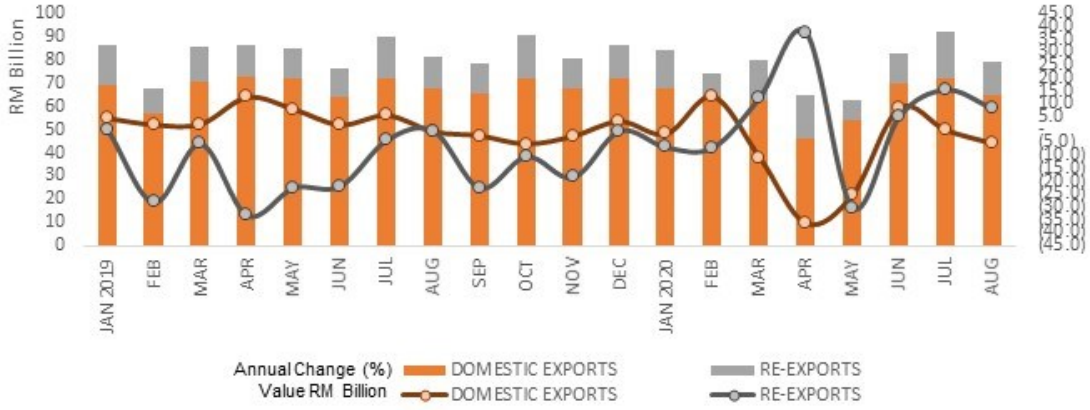
A. EXPORTS

- Exports in August 2020 was valued at RM79.1 billion, slipped by 2.9 per cent y-o-y, outpacing imports growth for four consecutive months. On a m-o-m basis, it also declining by 14.5 per cent from RM92.6 billion.
- For the first eight months of 2020, exports declined by 5.8 per cent to RM620.6 billion compared to the same period in 2019.
- Lower exports in August 2020 was recorded to Bangladesh, Thailand, India, Japan, and Indonesia. However, exports to China and the United States increased.
- Exports of manufactured goods which constituted 86.6 per cent of total exports, decreased by 0.1 per cent to RM68.6 billion compared to the same month a year ago. Exports of agriculture goods which represented 7.2 per cent of Malaysia's exports declined by 4.5 per cent to RM5.7 billion y-o-y. Meanwhile, exports of mining goods lower by 25.9 per cent to RM4.6 billion, and accounting for 5.8 per cent of Malaysia's exports.

Table 1: Exports, Domestic Exports, Re-Exports (RM Million) and Annual Change (%)

Period	Value			Annual Change (%)		
	Exports	Domestic Exports	Re-exports	Exports	Domestic Exports	Re-exports
2019 (JAN-AUG)	658,576	545,616	112,961	0.8	4.6	(14.4)
2020 (JAN-AUG)	620,642	501,682	118,960	(5.8)	(8.1)	5.3
2019						
JAN	86,341	68,888	17,453	3.7	4.6	0.4
FEB	67,683	57,181	10,502	(4.1)	2.1	(27.7)
MAR	85,677	70,347	15,330	1.0	2.3	(4.7)
APR	86,228	72,737	13,491	1.9	12.7	(32.9)
MAY	84,679	72,174	12,504	2.2	8.1	(22.4)
JUN	76,691	64,456	12,235	(2.7)	2.0	(21.7)
JUL	89,765	71,757	18,008	3.8	5.7	(3.2)
AUG	81,513	68,075	13,438	(0.6)	(0.6)	(0.3)
SEP	78,252	65,469	12,782	(6.1)	(2.2)	(21.9)
OCT	90,861	72,345	18,516	(6.4)	(5.4)	(10.2)
NOV	80,947	67,945	13,003	(5.4)	(2.4)	(18.4)
DEC	86,436	72,108	14,327	2.8	3.4	(0.3)
2020						
JAN	84,114	67,833	16,281	(2.6)	(1.5)	(6.7)
FEB	74,451	64,662	9,789	10.0	13.1	(6.8)
MAR	80,119	62,854	17,265	(6.5)	(10.7)	12.6
APR	64,787	46,183	18,604	(24.9)	(36.5)	37.9
MAY	62,650	53,904	8,745	(26.0)	(25.3)	(30.1)
JUN	82,819	69,951	12,869	8.0	8.5	5.2
JUL	92,559	71,734	20,825	3.1	(0.03)	15.6
AUG	79,143	64,562	14,581	(2.9)	(5.2)	8.5

Chart 1: Domestic Exports, Re-Exports (RM Billion) and Annual Change (%)



B. IMPORTS

- Malaysia's imports in August 2020 stood at RM65.9 billion, declined by 6.5 per cent or RM4.5 billion compared to August 2019. This was the 6th consecutive month of decrease since March 2020. On m-o-m basis, imports also declined by 2.2 per cent from RM67.4 billion.
- In January to August 2020, Malaysia's imports contracted by 7.3 per cent to RM517.7 billion compared to the same period in 2019.
- Lower imports in August 2020 were recorded from China, Republic of Korea, the European Union, Thailand and Singapore. However, higher imports were recorded from Taiwan and Switzerland.
- Imports of manufactured goods declined by 8.6 per cent y-o-y to RM56.2 billion and accounting for 85.2 per cent of Malaysia's imports. Imports of mining goods which made up 6.4 per cent of total imports decreased by 3.9 per cent y-o-y to RM4.2 billion. However, imports of agriculture goods which represented 5.6 per cent of total imports, increased by 1.8 per cent to RM3.7 billion.
- Imports by end use registered a decline for capital goods and intermediate goods which decreased by 15.5 per cent and 5.6 per cent respectively. Meanwhile, imports of consumption goods increased by 2.9 per cent compared to August 2019.

Table 6: Imports, Value (RM Million) and Annual Change (%)

Period	Value RM Million	Annual Change (%)
2019 (JAN-AUG)	**558,543**	**(4.0)**
2020 (JAN-AUG)	**517,665**	**(7.3)**
2019		
JAN	73,922	1.0
FEB	55,567	(9.5)
MAR	69,681	(0.3)
APR	74,377	4.2
MAY	75,109	1.4
JUN	65,630	(9.8)
JUL	73,796	(5.8)
AUG	70,461	(12.5)
SEP	69,438	2.5
OCT	73,289	(8.7)
NOV	74,261	(3.6)
DEC	73,880	1.0
2020		
JAN	72,081	(2.5)
FEB	61,832	11.3
MAR	67,805	(2.7)
APR	68,420	(8.0)
MAY	52,263	(30.4)
JUN	61,966	(5.6)
JUL	67,383	(8.7)
AUG	65,915	(6.5)

Chart 2: Imports, Value (RM Billion) and Annual Change (%)

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#Notes:

1. The August 2020 data is provisional and subject to revision in later issues.
2. This report can be accessed through the web portal of the Department of Statistics, Malaysia (https://www.dosm.gov.my) under section: Latest Release.

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