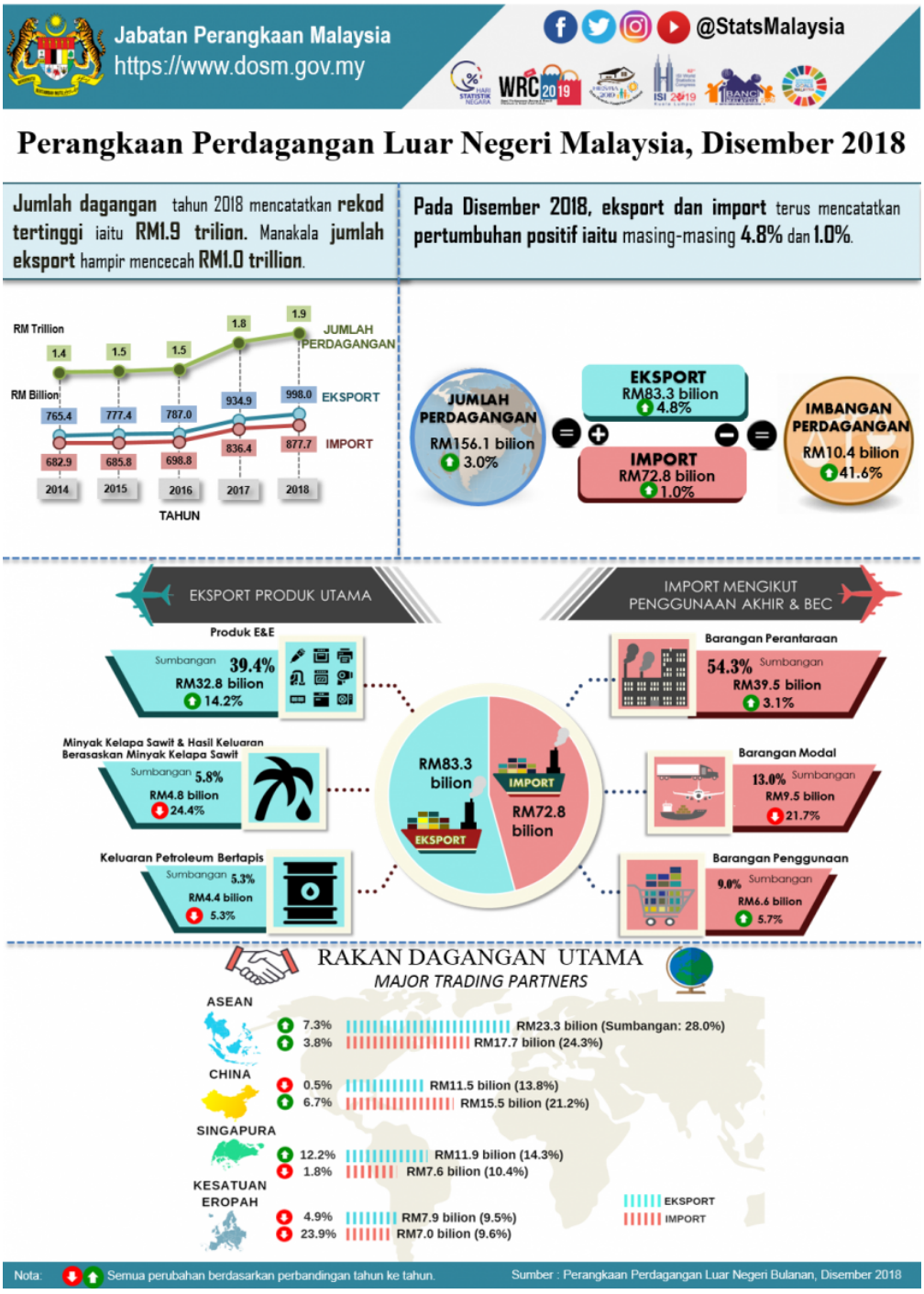
EMBARGO: Only to be published or disseminated at **12:00 hour, Wednesday, 30 January 2019**

MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

MALAYSIA EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS DECEMBER 2018



KEY FACTS

YEARLY

- In 2018, Malaysia's exports nearly reached RM1 trillion mark which valued at RM998.0 billion with 6.7% growth year-on-year (y-o-y), while imports amounted to RM877.7 billion (+4.9%) resulting in a record high of total trade of RM1.9 trillion (+5.9%).
- On a y-o-y basis, the rise in exports was contributed by expansion in exports to Hong Kong (+RM26.8 billion), China (+RM12.9 billion), Taiwan (+RM8.6 billion), Viet Nam (+RM6.6 billion) and Thailand (+RM6.3billion).
- On a y-o-y basis, higher imports were mainly from China (+RM10.5 billion), Singapore (+RM10.1 billion), Taiwan (+RM8.8 billion), Saudi Arabia (+RM7.2 billion) and European Union (+RM5.1billion).

QUARTERLY

- In 4th quarter 2018, exports recorded an increase of 8.0% y-o-y to RM264.5 billion. Re-exports was valued at RM50.8 billion rising 29.2% and accounted for 19.2% of total exports. Domestic exports rose 4.0% to RM213.7 billion compared to the previous year.
- Imports also registered an increase of 5.7% y-o-y to RM229.9 billion.
- On a quarter-on-quarter (q-o-q) basis, exports rose 5.4% from RM250.9 billion.
- On a q-o-q basis, imports was also increased 1.8% from RM225.7 billion.
- On a y-o-y basis, export growth was contributed by expansion in exports to Hong Kong (+RM4.4 billion), Singapore (+RM4.2 billion), China (+RM4.1 billion), Taiwan (+RM3.0 billion) and Viet Nam (+RM1.9 billion).
- On a y-o-y basis, higher imports were mainly from Taiwan (+RM2.4 billion), Republic of Korea (+RM1.7 billion), Saudi Arabia (+RM1.7 billion), Indonesia (+RM1.5 billion) and China (+RM1.5billion).

MONTHLY

- Exports in December 2018 increased 4.8% or RM3.8 billion (y-o-y) to RM83.3 billion. Re-exports was valued at RM14.1billion with an increase of 16.3% and accounted for 16.9% of total exports. Domestic exports also recorded an increase of 2.7% or RM1.8 billion to RM69.2 billion.
- Imports increased marginally 1.0% y-o-y to RM72.8billion.
- On a month-on-month (m-o-m) basis, exports decreased 1.9% or RM1.6 billion from RM84.9 billion. In seasonally adjusted terms, exports decreased 2.2%.
- On a m-o-m basis, imports also dropped 5.4% or RM4.2 billion from RM77.0 billion. In seasonally adjusted terms, imports also decreased 8.6%.
- On a y-o-y basis, export growth was contributed by expansion in exports to Hong Kong (+RM1.3 billion), Singapore (+RM1.3 billion), United States (+RM939.6 million), Australia (+RM546.7 million) and India (+RM518.9million).
- On a y-o-y basis, higher imports were mainly from China (+RM967.2million), United States (+RM615.6 million), Republic of Korea (+RM537.6 million), Taiwan (+RM498.9 million) and Brunei (+RM221.4 million).

TRADE

Total trade which was valued at RM156.1 billion increased RM4.5 billion or 3.0% on a y-o-y basis. However, it declined RM5.8 billion or 3.6% when compared to November 2018. The trade surplus was RM10.4 billion, an increase of RM3.1 billion (+41.6%) from a year ago. It was also higher by RM2.6 billion (+33.0%) when compared to the previous month.

EXPORTS

On a y-o-y basis, exports increased 4.8% to RM83.3 billion. The main products which contributed to the increase were:

- Electrical and electronic (E&E) products (39.4% of total exports), increased RM4.1 billion (+14.2%) to RM32.8 billion;
- Crude petroleum, which contributed 3.8% to total exports increased RM474.1 million or 17.5% to RM3.2 billion due to the increase in both average unit value (+9.0%) and export volume (+7.7%); and
- Timber and timber-based products, which contributed 2.2% to total exports, recorded an increase of RM8.7 million or 0.5% to RM1.8 billion.

However, declines were recorded for the following products:

- Palm oil and palm oil-based products (5.8% of total exports), shrank RM1.6 billion (-24.4%) to RM4.8 billion. Exports of palm oil, the major commodity in this group of products declined RM627.0 million or 19.2% due to the decrease in average unit value (-21.3%) as export volume increased 2.7%;
- Refined petroleum products, which accounted for 5.3% of total exports, fell RM246.4 million or 5.3% to RM4.4 billion due to the decline in export volume (-13.2%) as average unit value increased 9.1%;
- Liquefied natural gas (LNG), which accounted for 4.9% of total exports decreased RM114.2 million or 2.7% to RM4.1 billion due to the decrease in export volume (-15.9%) as average unit value increased 15.7%; and
- Natural rubber (0.3% of total exports) decreased RM50.7 million or 15.7% to RM271.8 million due to the decline in both average unit value (-9.1%) and export volume (-7.3%).

On a m-o-m basis, exports decreased RM1.6 billion (-1.9%) from RM84.9 billion. The main products which contributed to the decrease were:

- Refined petroleum products dropped RM2.2 billion or 33.1% from RM6.5 billion due to the decrease in both export volume (-22.4%) and average unit value (-13.8%);
- Palm oil and palm oil-based products decreased RM734.1 million or 13.2% from RM5.5 billion. Exports of palm oil decreased RM517.7 million or 16.4% due to the decrease in both export volume (-11.7%) and average unit value (-5.3%);
- LNG dropped RM443.8 million (-9.7%) from RM4.6 billion due to the decrease in export volume (-10.7%) as average unit value increased 1.0%;
- Timber and timber-based products fell RM111.7 million (-5.7%) from RM2.0 billion; and
- Natural rubber decreased RM33.0 million or 10.8% from RM304.8 million due to the decrease in both export volume (-9.0%) and average unit value (-2.0%).

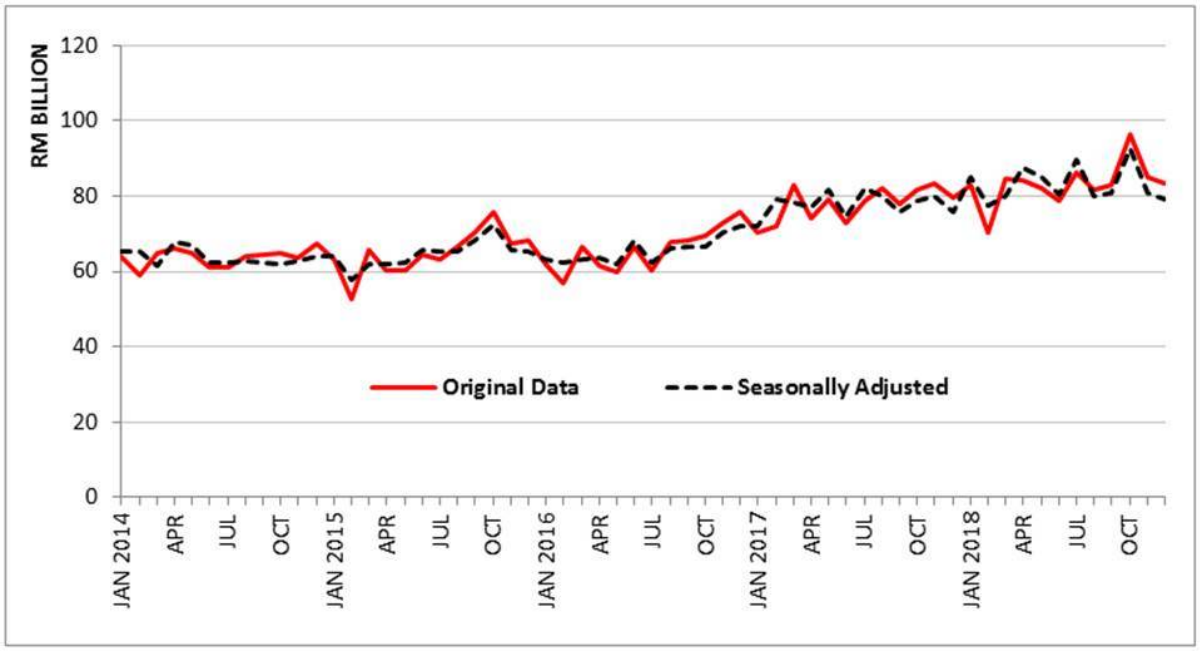
However, increases were recorded for the following products:

- E&E products increased RM1.6 billion (+5.2%) from RM31.2 billion; and
- Crude petroleum increased RM321.8 million or 11.2% from RM2.9 billion due to the increase in export volume (+28.3%) as average unit value decreased 13.3%.

Seasonally Adjusted Figure

On a m-o-m basis seasonally adjusted terms, exports decreased RM1.7billion (-2.2%) to RM79.2 billion.

Exports, 2014-2018


RM BILLION
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
Original Data
Seasonally Adjusted
JAN 2014
APR
JUL
OCT
JAN 2015
APR
JUL
OCT
JAN 2016
APR
JUL
OCT
JAN 2017
APR
JUL
OCT
JAN 2018
APR
JUL
OCT

IMPORTS

On a y-o-y basis, imports increased 1.0% to RM72.8 billion. The increase in imports was contributed by intermediate goods and consumption goods.

- **Intermediate Goods**

  These goods which constituted 54.3% of total imports rose RM1.2 billion (+3.1%) to RM39.5 billion. The increase was mainly attributed to industrial supplies, processed (+RM1.5 billion, +10.0%), industrial supplies, primary (+RM538.2 million, +28.6%), fuel & lubricants, primary (+RM502.8 million, +19.1%), fuel & lubricants, processed, others (+RM360.0 million, +26.9%) and parts & accessories of transport equipment (+RM200.0 million, +8.4%). However, parts & accessories of capital goods (except transport equipment) recorded a decrease of RM2.0 billion or 14.0%.

- **Consumption Goods**

  Imports of consumption goods which constituted for 9.0% of total imports recorded an increase of RM352.9 million (+5.7%) to RM6.6 billion. The increase was mainly attributed to food & beverages, processed, mainly for household consumption (+RM297.3 million, +17.4%).

- **Capital Goods**

  Imports of capital goods, which accounted for 13.0% of total imports, declined RM2.6 billion (-21.7%) to RM9.5 billion due to the decrease in transport equipment, industrial (-RM2.7 billion, -75.9%). However, capital goods (except transport equipment)registered a marginal growth of0.5% or RM39.0 million.

On a m-o-m basis, imports decreased RM4.2 billion or 5.4% from RM77.0 billion. The decrease in imports was attributed to capital goods, intermediate goods and consumption goods.

- **Capital Goods**

  Imports of capital goods reduced RM764.7 million (-7.5%) from RM10.2 billion due to the decrease in both transport equipment, industrial (-RM532.3 million, -38.7%) and capital goods (except transport equipment) (-RM232.3 billion, -2.6%).

- **Intermediate Goods**

  These goods shrank RM684.4 million (-1.7%) from RM40.2billion. The main components which attributed to the decrease were fuel & lubricants, processed, others (-RM864.0 million, -33.7%) and industrial supplies, processed (-RM724.4 million, -4.3%).However, fuel & lubricants, primary and industrial supplies, primary increased RM739.0 million or 30.8% and RM276.9 million or 12.9% respectively.

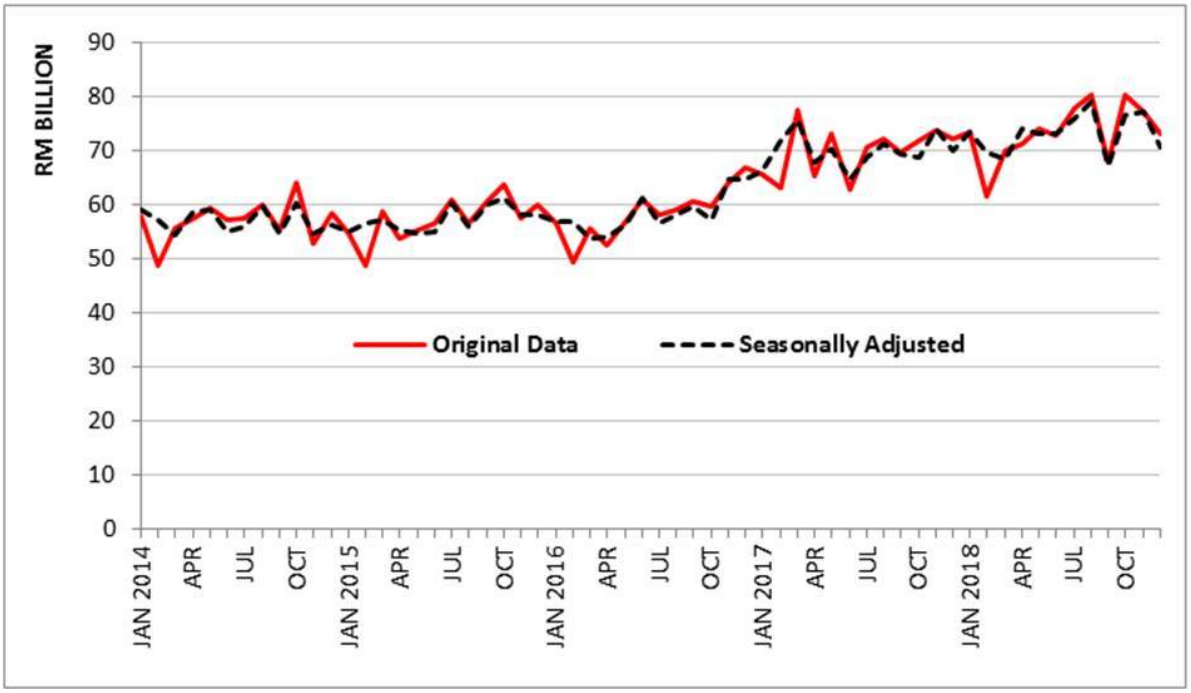
- **Consumption Goods**

  Imports of these goods declined RM51.3 million (-0.8%) from RM6.6 billion. The decrease was mainly due to durables (-RM187.7 million, -18.5%) and non-durables (-RM103.9 million, -6.4%). However, an increase was recorded in food & beverages, processed, mainly for household consumption (+RM131.4 million, +7.0%), food & beverages, primary, mainly for household consumption(+RM54.6 million, +7.1%) and semi-durables (+RM51.6 million, +4.0%).

Seasonally Adjusted Figure

On a m-o-m basis seasonally adjusted terms, imports decreased RM6.6 billion (-8.6%) to RM70.5billion.

Imports, 2014-2018



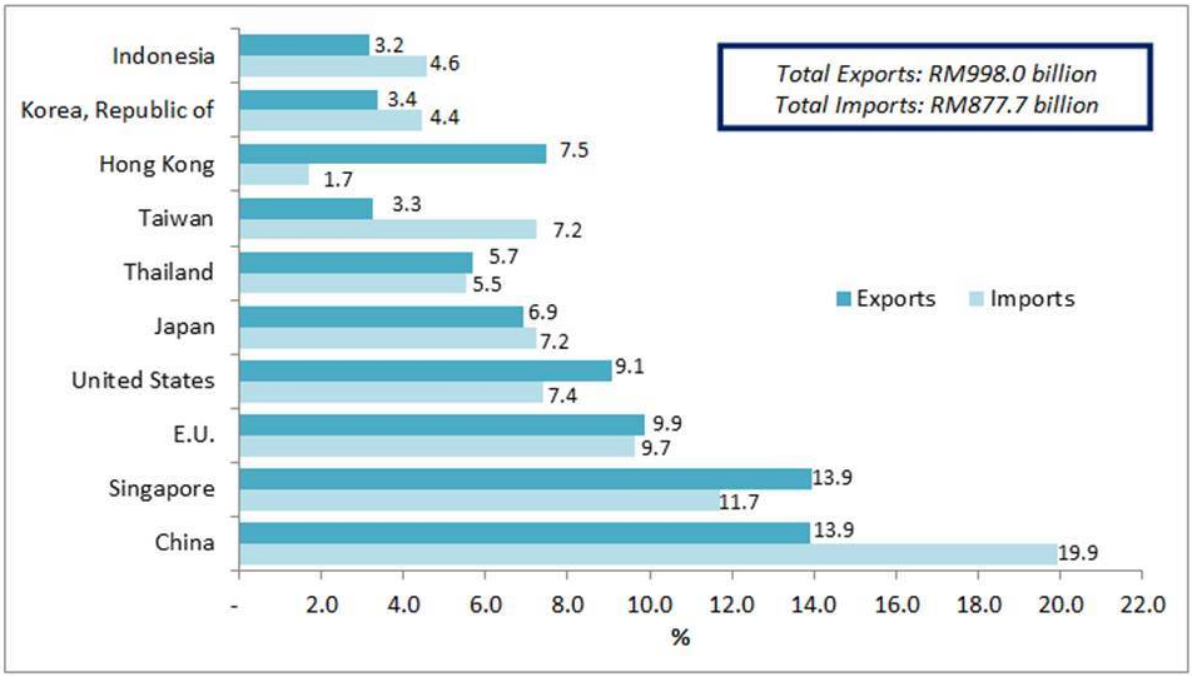
MARKET SHARE

The following charts show Malaysia's major trading partners for January - December 2018.

Total Trade by Major Countries, Jan – Dec 2018, percentage share

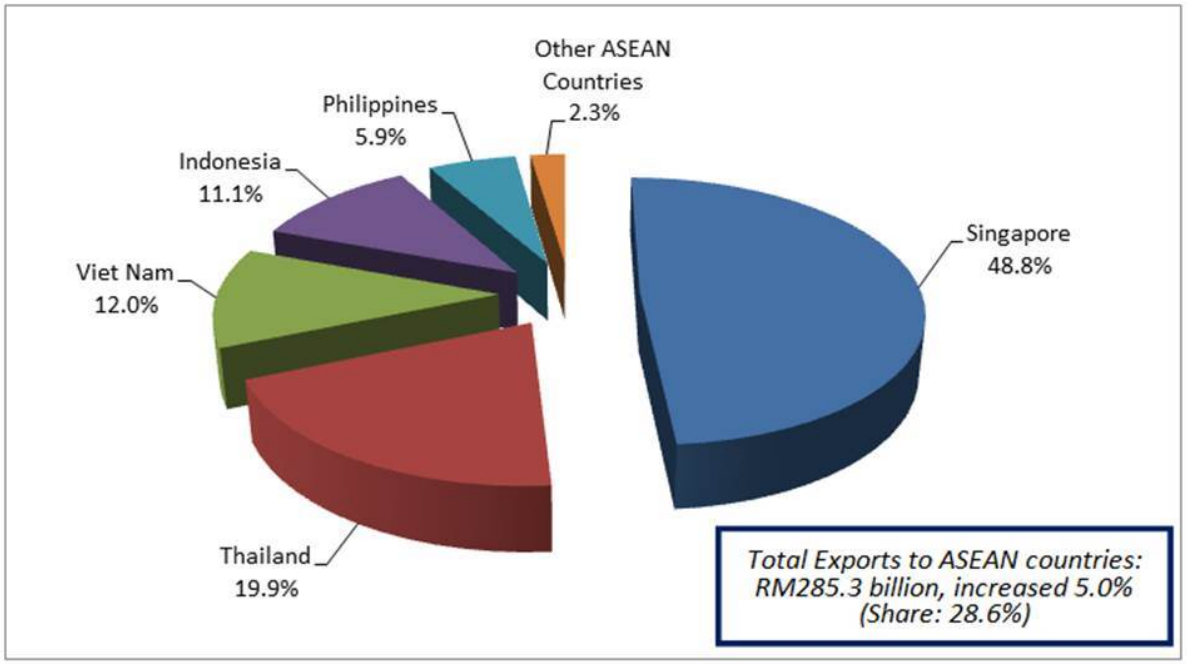


Exports and Imports by Major Countries, Jan – Dec 2018, percentage share

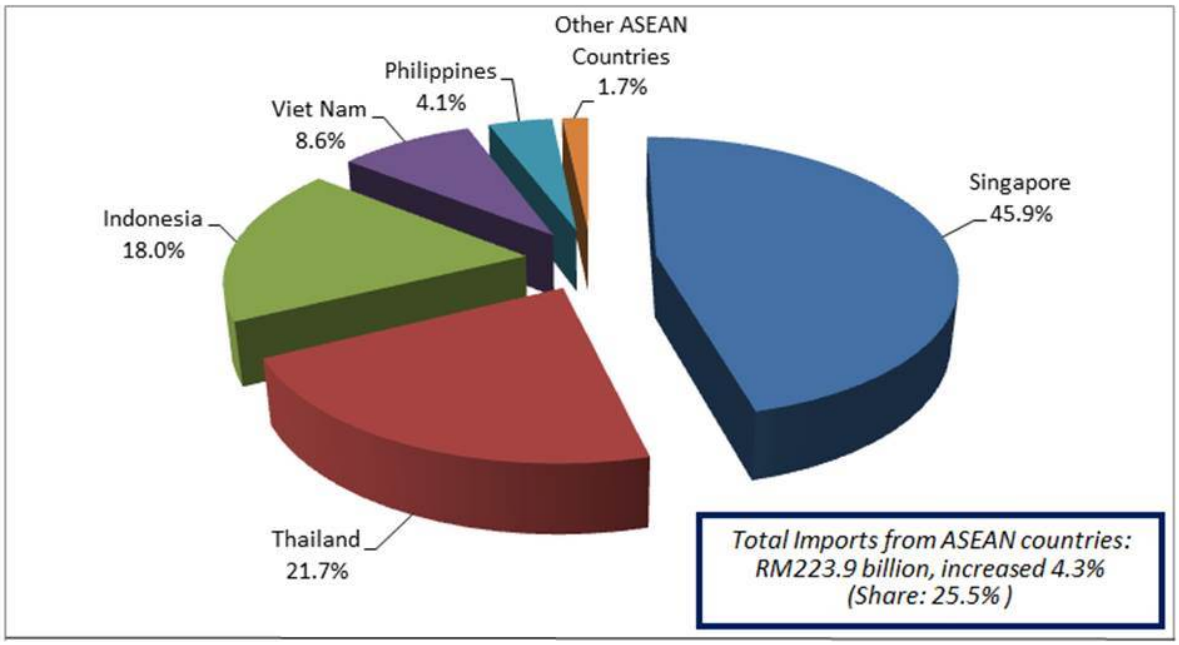


The following charts show Malaysia's trade with ASEAN countries for January - December 2018.

Exports, Jan - Dec 2018, percentage share



Imports, Jan – Dec 2018, percentage share



Notes:

The December 2018 data is provisional and subject to revision in later issues.

Released By:

DATO' SRI DR. MOHD UZIR MAHIDIN
CHIEF STATISTICIAN MALAYSIA
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS, MALAYSIA
DrUzir_Mahidin **Dr_Uzir**

30 JANUARY 2019

Contact person:
Ho Mei Kei
Public Relation Officer
Strategic Communication and International Division
Department of Statistics, Malaysia
Tel : +603-8885 7942
Fax : +603-8888 9248
Email : mkho[at]dosm.gov.my

Contact person:
Baharudin Mohamad
Public Relation Officer
Strategic Communication and International Division
Department of Statistics Malaysia
Tel : +603-8090 4681
Fax : +603-8888 9248
Email : baharudin[at]dosm.gov.my

Copyright ©2026 Department of Statistics Malaysia Official Portal. All Rights Reserved.