



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA

MEDIA STATEMENT

CURRENT POPULATION ESTIMATES, MALAYSIA, 2026

Malaysia's population estimated at 34.4 million in 2026; 12 states classified as ageing states

PUTRAJAYA, 31ST JULY 2026 – The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) has published the **CURRENT POPULATION ESTIMATES, MALAYSIA, 2026** today. This report presents the population estimates in Malaysia for 2025 and 2026. The annual current population estimates are based on the Population and Housing Census Malaysia, 2020. The population estimates adopt cohort-component method which comprises births, deaths and migration.

DOSM announced that Malaysia's population is estimated at 34.4 million in 2026, compared with 34.2 million in 2025, recording a growth rate of 0.5 per cent. The Citizens population increased from 30.8 million in 2025 to 31.0 million in 2026, with the growth rate remaining at 0.6 per cent. Meanwhile, the Non-citizens population recording a growth rate of -0.5 per cent in 2025 and -0.2 per cent in 2026.

At state level, Terengganu recorded the highest population growth rate, exceeding the national average (0.5%) with a growth rate of 1.2 per cent, followed by Kelantan (1.0%), Selangor (0.6%), W.P. Putrajaya (0.6%) and Pahang (0.6%). Meanwhile, Selangor remained the state with the highest percentage of the population in 2026 with 21.7 per cent, followed by Johor (12.3%) and Sabah (11.0%). Conversely, W.P. Labuan and W.P. Putrajaya recorded the lowest percentages at 0.3 per cent and 0.4 per cent, respectively.

The composition of population aged 0-14 years (young age) declined from 21.6 per cent in 2025 to 21.2 per cent in 2026. Meanwhile, the composition of population aged 15-64 years (working age) remained unchanged at 70.4 per cent and the composition of population aged 65 years and over (old age) increased from 8.0 per cent to 8.4 per cent. In 2026, W.P. Putrajaya recorded the highest composition of the population aged 0-14 years, at 31.4 per cent, while W.P. Kuala Lumpur recorded the highest composition of the population aged 15–64 years, at 76.0 per cent.

DOSM also reported 12 states have attained ageing state status, with Perak continuing to record the highest composition of old age at 10.8 per cent. A state is classified as an ageing state when the composition of its population aged 65 years and over exceeds 7.0 per cent of its total population. In line with the changing age structure, Malaysia's median age increased to 31.7 years in 2026, compared with 31.3 years in the previous year.

The composition of Citizens increased slightly from 90.1 per cent (2025) to 90.2 per cent in 2026. During the same period, the composition of Non-citizens declined from 9.9 per cent to 9.8 per cent. By ethnicity, Bumiputera continued to constitute the highest percentage of the Citizens population at 70.7 per cent, comprising Malay (58.4%) and Other Bumiputera (12.3%). Compared with previous year, the percentages of both ethnic groups increased by 0.1 percentage points. Meanwhile, the composition of Chinese declined by 0.2 percentage points to 22.0 per cent, compared with 22.2 per cent in 2025. The compositions of the Indians and Others remained at 6.5 per cent and 0.8 per cent, respectively.

The male population increased from 17.9 million (2025) to 18.0 million in 2026, while the females rose from 16.3 million to 16.4 million in the same period. Despite the increase in both males and females, the overall sex ratio remained unchanged at 110 males per 100 females. Similarly, the sex ratios for the Citizens and Non-citizens population remained at 102 males and 227 males per 100 females, respectively.

Perlis and W.P. Putrajaya were the only two states where the female outnumbered male population, with sex ratios of 99 and 97 males per 100 females, respectively. In contrast, W.P. Kuala Lumpur recorded the highest sex ratio at 117 males per 100 females, followed by Johor (115), Pahang (114) and Selangor (114).

The total dependency ratio, which measures the number of persons aged 0–14 years and aged 65 years and over supported by every 100 persons aged 15–64 years, declined slightly from 42.1 (2025) to 42.0 in 2026. This decline was driven by a reduction in the young-age dependency ratio, which fell from 30.8 to 30.1. Conversely, the old-age dependency ratio increased from 11.4 (2025) to 11.9 in 2026.

In line with population growth, Malaysia's population density increased to 104 persons per square kilometre in 2026, compared with 103 persons per square kilometre in 2025. W.P. Kuala Lumpur remained the most densely populated state, with 8,574 persons per square kilometre, followed by W.P. Putrajaya (2,466 persons) and Pulau Pinang (1,562 persons). In contrast, Sarawak recorded the lowest population density at 20 persons per square kilometre, followed by Pahang (47 persons) and Sabah (51 persons).

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>.

Released by:

THE OFFICE OF CHIEF STATISTICIAN MALAYSIA
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA
31 JULY 2026

Chart 1: Number and annual population growth rate, Malaysia, 2021-2026

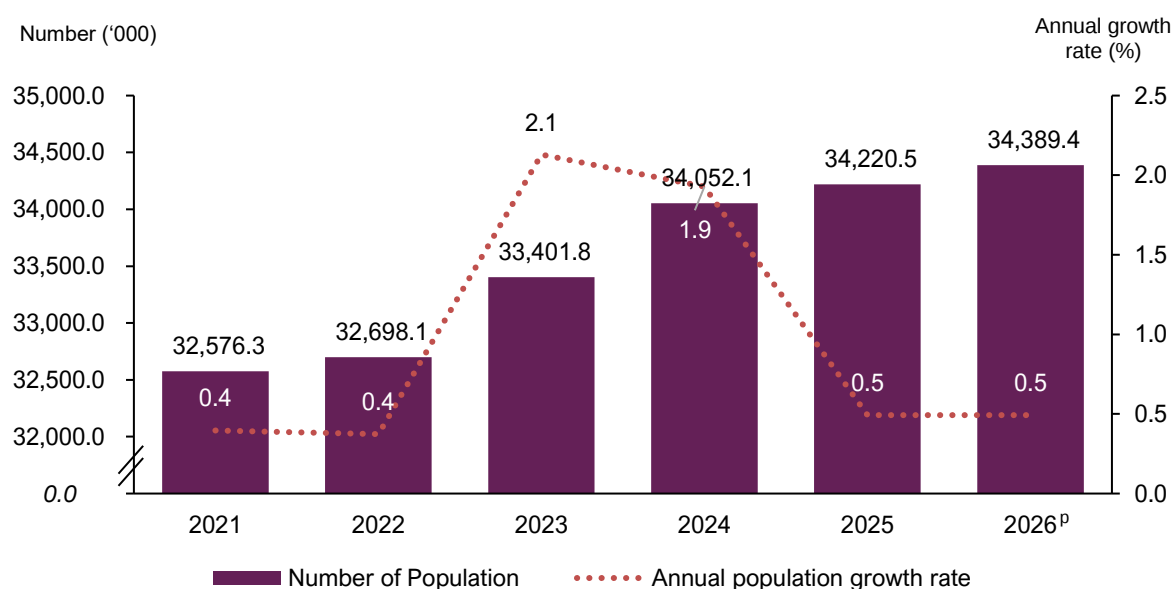


Table 1: Number and annual growth rate of population by state, Malaysia, 2025 and 2026

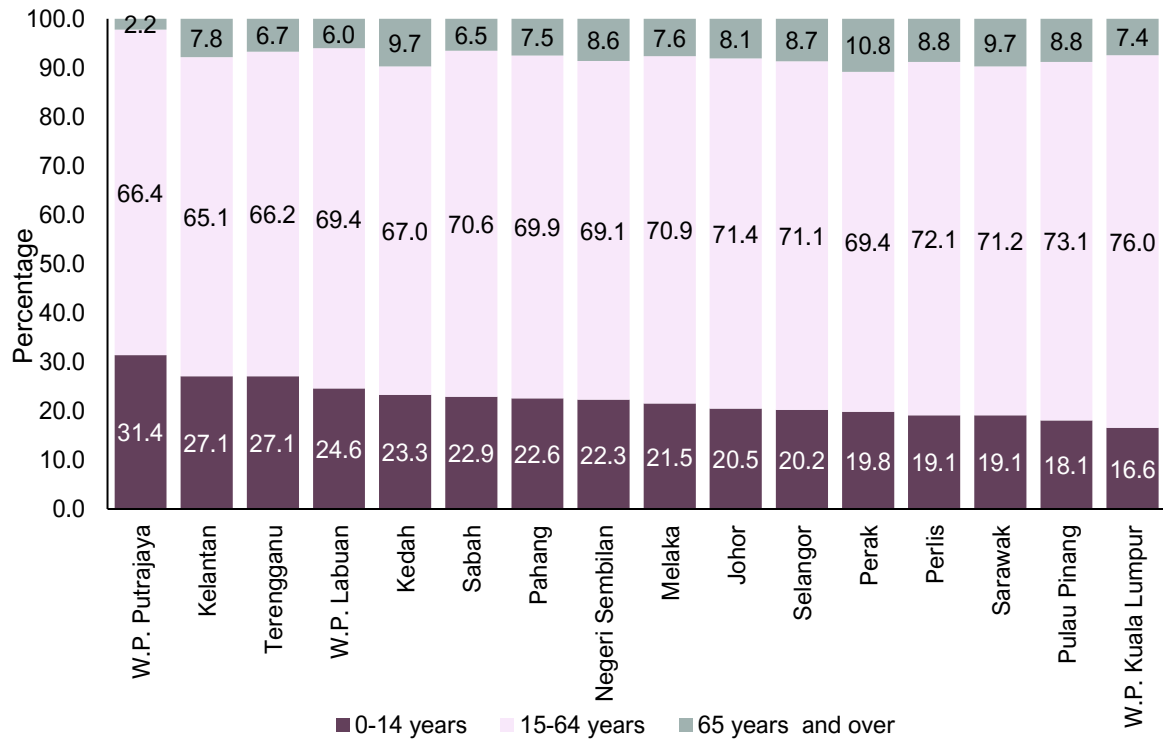
State	Number of population (million)		Annual growth rate (%)	
	2025	2026 ^P	2025	2026 ^P
Malaysia	34.2	34.4	0.5	0.5
Johor	4.2	4.2	0.5	0.5
Kedah	2.2	2.2	0.4	0.5
Kelantan	1.9	1.9	1.0	1.0
Melaka	1.1	1.1	0.5	0.5
Negeri Sembilan	1.2	1.2	0.4	0.4
Pahang	1.7	1.7	0.5	0.6
Perak	2.6	2.6	0.2	0.2
Perlis	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1
Pulau Pinang	1.8	1.8	0.2	0.2
Sabah	3.8	3.8	0.3	0.3
Sarawak	2.5	2.5	0.5	0.4
Selangor	7.4	7.5	0.6	0.6
Terengganu	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.2
W.P. Kuala Lumpur	2.1	2.1	0.4	0.3
W.P. Labuan	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
W.P. Putrajaya	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.6

Notes:

2021 - 2026^P : Mid-year population estimated based on Population and Housing Census, Malaysia 2020

^P Preliminary

Chart 2: Percentage of population by age group and state, Malaysia, 2026



Notes:

2026^P : Mid-Year Population Estimates based on Population and Housing Census Malaysia 2020

^P Preliminary

Table 2: Sex ratio and population density by state, Malaysia, 2025 and 2026

State	Sex ratio		Population density (km ²)	
	2025	2026 ^P	2025	2026 ^P
Malaysia	110	110	103	104
Johor	115	115	218	219
Kedah	104	104	232	233
Kelantan	101	101	127	128
Melaka	112	112	622	625
Negeri Sembilan	108	108	187	187
Pahang	114	114	47	47
Perak	109	109	121	121
Perlis	99	99	344	345
Pulau Pinang	105	105	1,559	1,562
Sabah	109	109	51	51
Sarawak	106	106	20	20
Selangor	115	114	889	894
Terengganu	105	105	96	97
W.P. Kuala Lumpur	117	117	8,544	8,574
W.P. Labuan	105	105	872	873
W.P. Putrajaya	97	97	2,453	2,466

Notes:

2025-2026^P: Mid-Year Population Estimates based on Population and Housing Census Malaysia 2020

^P Preliminary